



PEACE MAIL

September 18-24

WEEKLY UPDATE: Implementing the Peace Accords

This callout box includes a weekly update on releases and work specifically related implementing the Final Peace Accord between the Government (GOC) and the FARC in Colombia.

The Comptroller's Office and the High Commissioner for Stabilization (previously Post-Conflict) announced that there are **insufficient funds for the implementation of the Peace Accord** with the FARC.¹ The consequences of this lack of budget will most likely be felt in the implementation of Integrated Rural Reform (Point 1), the National Integrated Illicit Crop Substitution Program (PNIS, Point 4), and the integrated reparation of victims (Point 5). The Comptroller's Office also called attention to the lack of capacity of institutions implementing peace funds.²

The **ELN has announced that they, being an insurgent group, are not obliged to abide by the law** until peace negotiations with the GOC recommence and a solution to the armed conflict is agreed. They also called on President Duque to name his negotiating team and return them to Havana, Cuba. President Duque has called on the group to cease all "criminal activities" and free all hostages as a condition for talks to resume, and has withdrawn the negotiating team set up under the Santos administration. Over recent weeks, the guerrilla group has released the nine hostages kidnapped in Arauca and Chocó in early August, as well as a further minor they suspected of being an Armed Forces informant.³ The GOC, however, insists that the ELN still holds 10 hostages.⁴

Three Continental Gold geologists were murdered in northern Antioquia on 19 September, raising concerns about the resurgence of violence in the region following the withdrawal of the FARC. The attacks are thought to be the work of a FARC dissident group led by alias 'Cabuyo,' which has alliances with the 'Pachelly' criminal group and the 'Caparrapos' Clan del Golfo dissident group.⁵ 'Cabuyo' acted as spokesperson for the FARC's 36th Front during the peace negotiations, and led the pilot plan for humanitarian demining in Briceño before abandoning the peace process six months ago. The Clan del Golfo, which murdered a Continental Gold engineer in Buritacá two weeks ago, is also present in the region, and may be interested in its illegal coca crops and gold mines.⁶ Armed confrontations between the 'Caparrapos' and the Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia (AGC) have also affected civilians and the land restitution process in the Bajo Cauca, Antioquia.⁷

In a report issued on 24 September, **Somos Defensores documented 609 assassinations, 2,646 threats, and 328 attacks against social leaders** between 2010 and June 2018 (covering Juan Manuel Santos' two terms as President). The report shows an increase in murders after the start of peace negotiations, and again after the signing Peace Accord with the FARC in 2016. Somos Defensores also highlights the high level of impunity which preceded the signing of the Peace Accord, and continues today,⁸ with only 48 sentences having been issued in almost a decade.⁹