

PEACE MAIL

December 20-December 26, 2016

WEEKLY UPDATE: Implementing the Peace Accords

The final peace accord contains a three-pronged approach to ensuring fulfillment of commitments included in the text: the *Commission for Monitoring, Promotion, and Verification of the Implementation of the Peace Accord* (CSIVI), the *National Reincorporation Council* (CNR) and the GOC-FARC-UN tripartite *Monitoring and Verification Mechanism* (MM&V). This callout box includes a weekly update on releases and work related to these supports for implementing the peace accords in Colombia.

FARC leader Rodrigo Londoño reports alleged harassment by the Colombian Army

Rodrigo Londoño (alias, 'Timochenko') reported to the MM&V an alleged violation of the bilateral ceasefire in Meta by nine members of the Colombian Army on the 20th of December. Londoño asserts that they had visual contact with the soldiers for two hours after they had entered, unauthorized, into one of the FARC pre-grouping zones.¹ Army commander, General Alberto José Mejía, responded Thursday, saying that no such event occurred, and that the only Army movements in the area were in order to capture seven members of the "Clan del Golfo" – an operation which did not occur within the FARC pre-grouping zones, according to the General. Mejía also called for the events to be brought before the MM&V in order to clear the Army of any wrong doing in this instance.²

GOC prepares the names of individuals eligible for amnesty

Minister of Defense, Luis Carlos Villegas, announced on December 20th that the GOC and the Office of the Attorney General are developing a list of both state and non-state actors who will be charged with crimes related to the internal armed conflict with the end goal of determining who among them will be eligible for amnesty provisions. One important goal of this process is to ensure that those who benefitted personally from illegality in the armed conflict (e.g., drug traffickers or common criminals) do not likewise benefit from the amnesty provisions in the peace accord. These lists, which will eventually end up in the hands of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace - delineated within Point Five – Victims of the final accord - are to be evaluated on a case by case basis.³ President Juan Manuel Santos had previously suggested that roughly 4,000 guerrillas would gain their freedom under the Amnesty Law by the end of the year; another 6,000 would have clearly defined juridical statuses.⁴

ELN attacks cast shadow over hoped for January 10th launch of GOC-ELN peace negotiations

The ELN guerrilla group continues to conduct attacks in certain regions of the country. Colombian Minister of the Interior, Juan Fernando Cristo, denounced such an attack against a police station on the morning of the 22nd in the department of Cesar, in which shots and explosives against the station resulted in two injured police officers.⁵ Despite these significant setbacks, both sides have expressed their desire to begin public talks on January 10th, after the original October 27th date this year came and went without a successful launch.⁶ The ELN released a message last week stating that they hoped for more flexible government positions in the coming year in order to begin the negotiations. The statement implicitly refers to the GOC demand that the ELN first release ex-Congressman Odín Sánchez before the two sides can begin

to dialog publicly.²