

# DDR AND CHILD SOLDIER ISSUES

This monthly review, produced by IOM, provides a summary of news related to the implementation of the peace accord in Colombia, including disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) processes. Also included are statics on people in the process of reintegration and former child soldiers, the former of which are sourced from the Agency for Reincorporation and Normalization (ARN), and the latter from the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF).



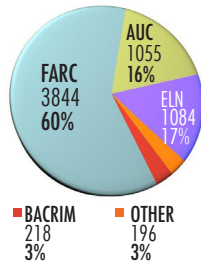
## FIGURES & TRENDS

### Disengaged Children & Adolescents

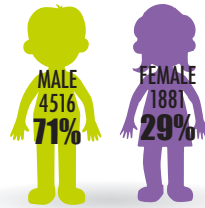
\*The data for November 2017 have not yet been made available

TOTAL 6,397

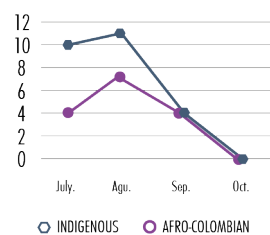
#### 1. Armed Group



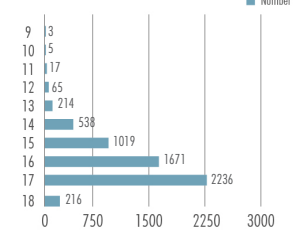
#### 2. Gender



#### 3. Ethnicity

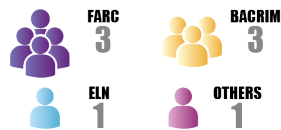


#### 4. Age



#### THIS MONTH: OCTOBER 31, 2017

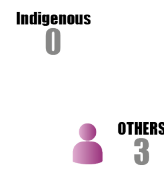
Based on new information, six additional individuals were re-categorized to other armed groups



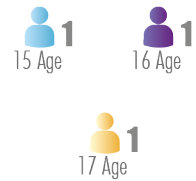
#### THIS MONTH: OCTOBER 31, 2017



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#### 5: Victims of Forced Recruitment

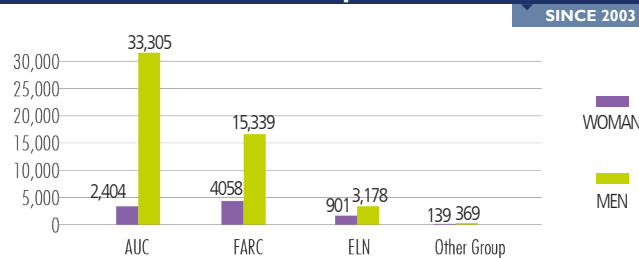
Total 8,488\*\* / Month to month 61\*\*

\*\* Number of cases of child recruitment reported to the Victims Unit.

#### Demobilized Adults

TOTAL 69,693

#### 5. Armed Group & Gender



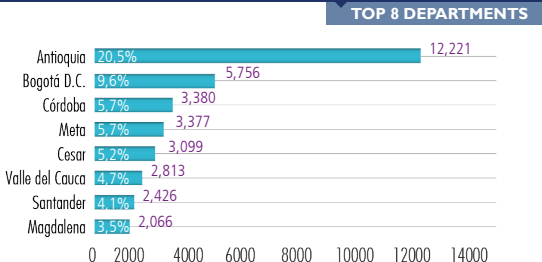
#### 6. Ethnicity



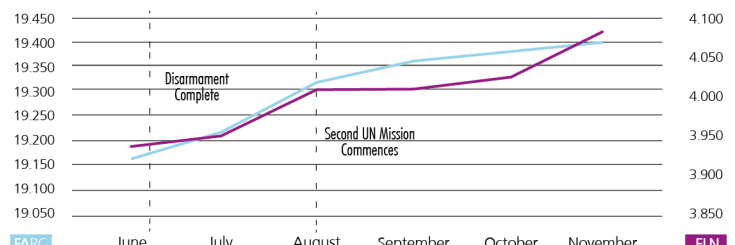
#### 7. ACR Participants



#### 8. Area of Relocation



#### 9. Accumulated Demobilization



Data up to september<sup>th</sup> 30, 2017

Figure 1: Total number of disengaged minors grouped by gender. Boys have historically been more frequently recruited than girls.

Figure 2: Numbers of minors who disengaged from each IAG. Most disengaged children were recruited by the FARC.

Figure 3: Total number of disengaged minors by ethnicity. Indigenous

groups are disproportionately affected by recruitment.

Figure 4: Numbers of disengaged minors in each age group. The average age of recruitment is between 15 and 18 years old. Sources for figures 1-4: ICBF Database, Unified Beneficiary Registry (RUJ)

Figure 5: Total number of male and female adults who demobilized from each IAG.

Figure 6: The eight departments to which the highest numbers of ex-combatants

Figure 7: Demobilized Adults

Figure 8: Total number of demobilized adults by ethnicity. Sources for figures 5-7: ICBF Database and ACR Reintegration Information System (SIR)

Figure 9: Accumulated Demobilization

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) passes Congress

On Wednesday, November 15th, the Senate approved the legal project structuring the JEP with various changes to the original content stipulated in the Final Accord.<sup>1</sup> On Monday, November 27th, with a vote of 84 votes in favor and 0 against, the plenary session of the House of Representatives approved the statutory law for the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), resolving a deep source of uncertainty for the implementation of the peace accords moving forward. Proposed changes in both cases will be reconciled in a final version of the legal project.<sup>2</sup>

### Fast track legislative mechanism ends

The fast track legislative mechanism designed to facilitate implementation of peace accord initiatives ended on Thursday, November 30th. Nine initiatives in total were approved in the year of the mechanism's functioning, principle among these are the JEP structures, the Amnesty Law, and the Political Reincorporation of the FARC as a political party. In all, the first year has been a challenge for developing the legal framework, even with the fast track mechanism in place, with more anticipated challenges to come given the 2018 election cycle already in play.<sup>3</sup>

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE ACCORD

FARC-EP

### Truth Commission members selected

The 11 members of the Truth Commission have been selected, and the Commission will be chaired by the Jesuit priest, Francisco de Roux. The Truth Commission is part of the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparations, and Non-Repetition delineated in the Final Accord. The mandate of the commission is to clarify the crimes that were committed within the framework of the armed conflict by all actor groups, and will have juridical, administrative, budgetary, and technical autonomy.<sup>4</sup>

### Committee members selected for National Peace Council

Ten committee members were selected for the National Peace Council's National Committee. The Committee is charged with coordinating policies and initiatives throughout the territories in order to consolidate a political orientation towards reconciliation and a culture of peace in Colombia. The National Committee mandate includes putting into action the pedagogy of the peace accord through trainings on a culture of peace and the creation of a framework for a political culture of reconciliation.<sup>5</sup>

### FARC announces political candidates for the 2018 election cycle

On Wednesday, November 1st, the National Electoral Council approved the political party (6 in favor, 2 opposed) of the Revolutionary Alternative Force for the People (FARC). Following, the nascent political party announced its presidential candidate for the 2018: Rodrigo Londoño Echeverry (former alias "Timochenko"), accompanied by Vice Presidential candidate, Imelda Daza Cote. Candidates for the Senate include Iván Márquez, Pablo Catatumbo, and Carlos Antonio Lozada. The House of Representative candidates include Marco Calarcá and Jesús Santrich, among others.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/aprueban-reglamentacion-de-la-jep-en-senado-y-pasa-a-la-camara-151780>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.mininterior.gov.co/sala-de-prensa/noticias/ley-estatutaria-de-jep-pasa-conciliacion>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/asi-queda-el-marco-legal-del-acuerdo-de-paz-con-las-farc-157252>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.elnuevosiglo.com.co/articulos/11-2017-arranca-comision-de-verdad-del-conflicto>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/eligen-a-los-10-integrantes-del-comite-del-consejo-nacional-de-paz-147958>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.farc-ep.co/comunicado/comunicado-anuncio-de-candidaturas-farc.html>

## PEACE PROCESS-ELN

### Official Verification Mission report for first month of ELN bilateral ceasefire released

The Episcopal Conference of Colombia and the Verification Mission of the U.N. released a joint communiqué about the first month of their work monitoring the bilateral GoC-ELN ceasefire. The 33 regional teams are operational. The Mission reports that, although there has been a degree of relief in certain areas of the country, the situations in Chocó and Tumaco – and in particular the specific October incidents of the rural farmer killings and indigenous leader assassination reported previously – are particularly worrying. They also name Catatumbo, Norte del Cauca, and Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca as other zones that should be monitored closely.<sup>7</sup>

## INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

### FARC removed from EU Terrorist List

On Monday, November 13th, the Foreign Ministers of the European Union announced that the FARC have been removed from their list of terrorist organizations. They had previously been suspended from the list in September of last year. Now, members of the political organization that has replaced the armed insurgent one will no longer be at risk of sanctions such as having their assets frozen or other restrictive measures.<sup>8</sup>

### UAE donates \$45 million for Colombia's Postconflict

The support will be used to invest in the construction of Centers for Infant Development (CDI) and hospitals. This contribution is the largest to Colombia from a Middle Eastern country and follows on an additional \$7 million support offered after the tragic mudslide that killed hundreds in Mocoa in April of this year.<sup>9</sup>

## INSTITUTIONAL PROGRESS

### FARC political party participation assured

On Monday, November 27th, with a vote of 88 in favor and 7 against, the norm for former FARC guerrilla participation in Colombian politics was approved in the plenary session of the House of Representatives. Convictions will be suspended for former guerrillas so that they may participate in the upcoming 2018 election cycle. However, in order to assume their role as a Congressperson, the individual will be required to submit himself or herself to the JEP once it is completely functioning, should they be named in a case under consideration by the transitional justice mechanism. Should the individual be sentenced to any deprivation of liberty after having been named to Congress, they will be required to step down in order to fulfill their sentence.<sup>10</sup>

### Legislative Act for Peace deemed constitutional

On Tuesday, November 14th, the Constitutional Court determined that the Legislative Act for Peace is enforceable, with the exception of eleven elements. This Act is the legal instrument that resulted in the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) and created the framework for the legislative "fast track" processes used in this first year of implementation.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>7</sup> <https://colombia.unmissions.org/comunicado-de-prensa-conjunto-conferencia-episcopal-de-colombia-y-misi%C3%B3n-de-verificaci%C3%B3n-de-la-onu>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/farc-salen-de-lista-de-terroristas-de-la-union-europea-150762>

<sup>9</sup> <http://es.presidencia.gov.co/noticia/171111-Oficializan-aporte-de-45-millones-de-dolares-por-parte-de-Emiratos-Arabes-para-el-posconflicto>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/participacion-politica-de-exguerrilleros-de-farc-155990>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.razonpublica.com/index.php/conflicto-drogas-y-paz-temas-30/10697-la-jep-debilitada-por-la-corte-constitucional.html>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.mapp-oea.org/comunicados/comunicado-conjunto-grupo-de-garantes-celebra-el-acuerdo-de-la-minga-indigena-y-el-gobierno-nacional-de-colombia/>

## DIVERSITY ISSUES

### Indigenous Minga and GoC reach agreement on implementation

On November 9th, the GoC and an indigenous minga achieved a set of agreements related to the implementation of the ethnic component of the Final Accord. The agreed upon measures will be monitored by a group of external guarantors, and come as a response to a massive indigenous mobilization of more than 100,000 indigenous persons across 16 departments who sought GoC fulfillment of content included in the peace accords related to territoriality, education, health, and other affairs related to indigenous populations in Colombia.<sup>12</sup>

### Challenges for implementing the gender component of the Accord

Advances over the first year of implementation in this domain include a Special Instance – created at the end of July – to guarantee the implementation of a tailored approach to gender, and equal participation of men and women in some key strategic spaces (e.g., the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, and the Truth Commission). However, despite the pivotal role that women and LGBTI organizations played in advocating for the peace process, the real conditions that they have faced for implementing the agreed upon content has not been favorable in the aggregate. Concerns include weak institutional architecture and precarious security conditions for social leaders, both of which have contributed to growing mistrust between these organizations and the GoC.<sup>13</sup>

## FURTHER READING

### Balance of accounts on coca substitution programs

After one year of accord implementation, Pacifista.com offered a balance of the coca substitution program advocated by President Santos. Among the strong positive points are the following: 1) focus on the most impacted territories, 2) offers that genuinely result in individuals giving up coca production, 3) support achieved from the FARC, 4) greatest impact on rural farmer families, and 5) good inter-sector collaboration. Among the challenges and pitfalls of the program are the following: 1) the solution is a small stop-gap to a much larger-scale systemic problem, 2) follow-up sustainability strategies are weak, 3) there is not sufficient budget for guaranteeing sustainability, 4) there are still no workable solution in ethnic territories and national parks, and 5) violence in many of these zones is increasing.<sup>14</sup>

### “Public Works for Taxes” program involves private sector in peace building

Private Sector actors investing in the Zones Most Affected by the Armed Conflict (ZOMAC) will receive a tax break for projects of “projects of social importance,” which include, among others, drinking water, sewage, energy, public health, public education, and construction or repair of road infrastructures. In order to access the mechanism, investors or groups of investors will need to present their initiative to the Agency for Territorial Renewal (ART), register the project in a database, present the application, create the financial architecture, and then subsequently execute the project. This initiative is intended to benefit 344 municipalities, representing 53.4% of the national territory.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.ideaspaz.org/publications/posts/1605>

<sup>14</sup> <http://pacifista.co/programa-sustitucion-coca-santos-informe-fundacion-ideas-paz-proyecto-coca/>

<sup>15</sup> <http://es.presidencia.gov.co/noticia/171122-Preguntas-y-respuestas-sobre-mecanismo-Obras-por-impuestos>