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PEACE MAIL

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#### 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.

**Chancellor Trujillo confirmed the GOC's four planned changes to the Peace Accord** on 27 August, covering the removal of the connection between rebellion, kidnapping, and drug trafficking; limiting the political participation of those convicted of crimes against humanity; removing benefits for those who continue trafficking weapons, laundering, and drug trafficking; and the obligatory eradication of illicit crops.<sup>1</sup> These issues are unlikely to affect former FARC guerrillas, but will be relevant to the ELN.<sup>2</sup> As a counterbalance, the Senate created a new Peace Commission comprising 15 senators, with the aim of supporting the Peace Accord, and working on the ELN peace process, the dismantling of criminal groups, and the assassination of social leaders.<sup>3</sup> The peace bench, including the FARC party, also presented a project for the differential penal treatment for small-scale growers of illicit crops, fulfilling one of the standards of the Peace Accord designed to ensure they, being the first and weakest link, are not disproportionately affected by anti-drugs laws.<sup>4</sup>

**The Military Forces delivered their first report on FARC violations** of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights to the Truth Commission on 27 August. The report's 50 volumes cover the killing of protected persons, forced disappearances, sexual violence, kidnapping, recruitment of minors, and the use of unlawful warfare methods committed against civilians and Public Forces.<sup>5</sup>

Similarly, the **Attorney General's Office made their third delivery of reports to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP)** on 24 August. The reports include cases of gender-based violence perpetrated by FARC and State agents, an issue which now comes under the remit of this transitional justice mechanism following a ruling by the Constitutional Court last week.<sup>6</sup> Former congressmen David Char and Álvaro Ashton will be the first to be investigated by the JEP for para-politics, on the condition that they commit to telling the truth, victims' reparations, and non-repetition. The JEP also accepted the case of former DAS agent Martín Sierra D'Alemán, convicted of the abduction, torture, and murder of five members of the M-19 guerrilla group in 1994.<sup>7</sup>

**The number of people who have been forcibly displaced this year has reached 20,000**, surpassing the 2017 total, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). The situation is particularly critical in the Pacific coastal region, Catatumbo, and the Bajo Cauca of Antioquia, where confrontations between the ELN, EPL, FARC dissidents, and paramilitary groups has intensified since the signing of the Peace Accord. Despite comprising 90% of victims of the armed conflict, internally displaced persons (IDP) often go unrecognized, and many seek refuge in informal and marginalized settlements where they do not have access to basic rights and are prey to illegal armed groups.<sup>8</sup> The Constitutional Court has called for the legalization of these settlements so that their inhabitants can access public services.<sup>9</sup>

Although the **anticorruption consultation carried out on 26 August did not reach the required number of votes** to achieve a legally binding mandate, the almost 11.7 million votes in favor will likely be recognized by the GOC. Those at the head of the process will present five projects for debate in the legislature, covering five of the consultation's seven points, with two further projects already having been filed at the beginning of the month.<sup>10</sup>