

PEACE MAIL

April 18-24 2017

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.

The Colombian Army discovered a sizeable weapons cache in the department of Putumayo, which is estimated to be one of 900 belonging to the FARC-EP throughout the country. Among the decommissioned arms were 54 rifles, six machine guns, two submachine guns, three grenade launchers, three mortars, 15 grenades, 100 kilos of explosives, 200 antipersonnel mines, 16,500 ammunition, 3,600 detonators, 32,500 meters of detonating cord and 16,000 cartridges. The discovery, made not through FARC-EP intelligence, but rather through civilian reports, has created tensions between both sides and fanned the flames of opposition leaders rallying against the peace accords.¹

Luis Alberto Ortiz Cabezas has the dubious distinction of being the **first FARC-EP member killed after the peace process**. On Thursday, April 20th, 15 days after leaving the Vista Hermosa prison as a beneficiary of the **Amnesty and Pardon Law**, Ortiz was murdered in Tumaco by an alleged member of another organized armed group. The MM&V will investigate the incident.² As a result of the killing, the National Ombudsman's Office asked for increased security for demobilized FARC-EP members, stating that it should be a top priority for state institutions.³

Neither the GoC nor the FARC-EP will be permitted to select judges for the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP). Instead, the magistrates will need to have already completed a long line of public and private service that alleviates concerns about corruptibility by either side. The selection committee is looking for individuals who have a history of defending human rights and experience with International Humanitarian Law.⁴

The **GoC and the FARC-EP have requested a new UN Peace Mission for Colombia**. The current mission is responsible for monitoring the disarmament of the FARC-EP and to resolve issues related to maintaining the bilateral cease fire. The new mission would shift its focus to verifying the reincorporation of the FARC as well as the implementation of protection and personal security for the ex-guerrillas and their political party.⁵

ELN Clashes with Gaitanist Self-Defense forces in Bolívar

Residents in the area reported that on April 18th, Gaitanist Self-Defense Forces exchanged fire with ELN guerrillas in the department of Bolívar. Fortunately, no civilians were reported injured in the confrontation.⁶