

 PEACE MAIL

December 13-19, 2016

### **Court approves 'fast track' to implement peace agreement**

On Tuesday the 13th was the key day in which the constitutional court said YES to the fast track, a mechanism that allows a **fast track** in Congress to approve the laws and constitutional reforms that are needed to implement the new peace agreement with the FARC .

There were eight votes against one so that this mechanism could be approved, which in turn will allow the reduction of the times in which the Legislative would process the necessary rules to implement the agreement with the guerrilla.

This approval was very important because it is intimately linked to the success of the peace process. In addition, the FARC is being demobilized, disarmed and returned to civilian life, which is why they need urgent rules to give legal security to the agreement, such as the amnesty and **pardon laws**, which will benefit the majority of members of That guerrilla, and the creation of the Special Justice for Peace<sup>i</sup>.

### **Voices of Peace and Reconciliation, commissioned of implementing the agreement in Congress**

On Thursday, December 15, in the National Electoral Council, the political group called "Voices of Peace and Reconciliation" was inscribed, which was created to accompany the FARC in its transit to political life and will be responsible for ensuring citizen oversight of the correct implementation of The peace accords in the Congress of the Republic.

The members of the new group began their presence in Congress since last Monday, December 19, when the debate on the Amnesty Law began. As a political grouping they will be able to do politics freely, but in order to have official recognition and registration of their statutes, they must first pass through the approval of the Plenary Room of the National Electoral Council<sup>ii</sup>.

### **First step of the implementation of peace: amnesty law released the "fast track"**

During the first debate on the amnesty and **pardon law**, the special "fast track" legislative procedure was used. This was the first step in the implementation of the peace agreement with the FARC and next week the project will go to the plenaries of both corporations, being the last step to subsequently receive the presidential signature and enter into force.

At the same time the constitutional reform was debated, which structures the legal benefits for those members of the guerrillas who committed crimes in the development of the armed confrontation. The initiative was not agreed at the dialogue table, but was built from the Ministry of Defense. The legislative act contains the basis for the prosecution of members of the Public Force, granting benefits such as the suspension of criminal action, and emphasizes how the responsibility of the command operates over the actions of its subordinates. In any case, it is clear that **the political will of Congress to support the government in the implementation of the peace agreement is a fact**<sup>iii</sup>.

