

 **PEACE MAIL**

October 4-10, 2016

GOC and ELN announce October 27th start to peace negotiations

On Monday, October 10th, the GOC and the National Liberation Army (ELN) announced from Caracas, Venezuela, that the peace talks would begin between the two parties in Quito, Ecuador on the 27th of this month.¹ The ELN is the second oldest guerrilla group in Colombia and is currently thought to have roughly 1,500 members, 1,400 supporters, and five fronts across eight departments in Colombia.² The two sides had been at an impasse largely over the subject of kidnappings. On one hand, the ELN viewed their hostages as topics for the peace negotiations, while on the other, the GOC asserted that their release was a prerequisite for beginning the talks. The ELN showed evidence of concessions on this theme over the last few weeks, and just a few hours prior to Monday's announcement, the guerrilla group released their third hostage in 15 days to representatives from the ICRC, the Office of the Ombudsman, and the Catholic church. In the joint announcement, guerrilla leaders promise to release their remaining two hostages by the start of the peace talks. The initial conversations will include discussions on civil society participation in peacebuilding (point one), and humanitarian actions and dynamics (sub-point 5f).

Uribe releases proposals for the peace accords

Since the October 2nd plebiscite vote, in which the NO votes won by a narrow margin, President Juan Manuel Santos has been meeting with opposition leaders in order to determine next steps for a quick resolution to the concerns with the proposed document. On Sunday morning, opposition leader ex-President Alvaro Uribe released his set of proposals for consideration. Among other things, Uribe first proposes that any land restitution or redistribution programs not affect those who can show that they legally hold their lands. Second, he argues that post-conflict programs should occur within the financial capabilities of the GOC without impacting other areas of investment and social programs. Third, Uribe has softened his stance on jail time for FARC members convicted of atrocious crimes, and instead said that they should be submitted to "effective reclusion" and "privation of liberty." Fourth, although he suggests that those guerrillas who have committed crimes against humanity or other atrocious crimes should be ineligible for political participation, he does not directly challenge the automatic seats in the legislative branch or reject political participation entirely. Fifth, he proposes to apply the Justice and Peace law to the FARC rather than create the Transitional Tribunal proposed in the accords.⁴ These proposals are still under review at the time of this Peace Mail.

<http://equipopazgobierno.presidencia.gov.co/prensa/noticias/Paginas/instalacion-negociaciones-gobierno-eln.aspx>

<http://www.semana.com/nacion/multimedia/proceso-de-paz-asi-es-la-guerrilla-del-eln/498593>

<http://pacifista.co/bitacora-de-la-incertidumbre-dia-8-se-abre-la-puerta-de-la-paz-con-el-eln/>

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