

## **Santos demands that the FARC set a date for their disarmament**

The GOC and the FARC have explained the delays in reaching a final peace accord by March 23, the deadline agreed upon by both parties. President Santos stated that the delay is due to lack of an agreement on disarmament. The GOC insists on the protection of all Colombians around the FARC concentration areas, and will not allow the FARC to take part in politics or move around Colombia before the disarmament process is complete<sup>1</sup>. FARC negotiating teams responded that delays are due to the absence of guarantees for their safety once they lay down their weapons. FARC leaders stated that agreement on a final ceasefire is 70% complete, but concerns still remain about “neo-paramilitary” groups and measures for the group’s safety<sup>2</sup>.

## **ELN releases a hostage held for six months**

An adviser of the Governor’s Office of Norte de Santander, held hostage by the ELN since September 2015, was freed on March 23 and has been reunited with his family<sup>3</sup>. The release, mediated by a committee of representatives of the International Red Cross and the Catholic Church, was a precondition for continuing the peace process with this guerrilla group<sup>4</sup>.

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