

PEACE MAIL

February 6-12

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 and the FARC in Colombia.

FARC political reintegration suffered a significant setback this past week, when **the party announced on February 9th that it would be required to temporarily suspend the presidential campaign** of party leader Rodrigo Londoño due to ongoing attacks against him, and a reported lack of security guarantees on the part of the government. Party leaders announced that they would regroup in the coming week in order to reevaluate possibilities for continuing and urged their own members not to respond in kind with violence.¹

ELN mounts armed strike, suffers organizational blows

True to the erratic nature of the peace process with the ELN, the guerrillas announced their sense of urgency with regards to restarting the peace talks despite mobilizing a national armed strike in the first full week of February (10-13).² For his part, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos stated that it would be “very difficult” to resume dialogues with the guerrilla group, given the ongoing attacks on civilians and infrastructure throughout the country.³ Since the end of the temporary bilateral ceasefire with the group in January, the Public Forces have captured or killed 90 members of the group, and have worked to protect major transportation corridors throughout the country.⁴ Additionally, the Attorney General released the arrest warrants for 10 members of the central command of the ELN for the illegal recruitment of 45 minors in the department of Chocó.⁵ Separately, the United Nations concluded in their verification report released on February 9th, that the ELN had violated International Humanitarian Law when they attacked a police station in Barranquilla last month, leaving eight police officers dead and 40 individuals injured.⁶