

PEACE MAIL

April 3-9

WEEKLY UPDATE: Implementing the Peace Accords

This callout box includes a weekly update on releases and work specifically related to implementing the Final Peace Accord between the Government (GOC) and the FARC in Colombia.

Lack of transparency in the implementation of post-conflict resources

Gloria Ospina was removed as director of the Colombia Peace Fund on 9 April, amid accusations of corruption in the use and implementation of post-conflict resources. The Norwegian, Swedish, and Swiss Ambassadors to Colombia first made their concern known at the end of March, when they questioned the management of the almost 200 million dollars they have contributed to post-conflict Colombia.¹ The newly configured directive committee will now carry out an evaluation of the funds' structure and processes in order to improve the speed of implementation and transparency standards.² In the same week, The FARC handed over 100,116 grams of gold to the Society of Special Assets (SAE), as part of their declared assets for the reparation of victims of the armed conflict.³

Former leader of the FARC, Jesús Santrich, captured for drugs trafficking

Jesús Santrich was detained by the district attorney's office following an extradition order issued by the United States for drugs trafficking between June 2017 and April 2018.⁴ Santrich was a key member of the FARC's negotiating team in Havana, and was set to occupy one of the 10 seats in Congress reserved for the FARC political party.⁵ The arrest was quickly denounced by his colleagues, who claimed it put the implementation of the Peace Accord at risk.⁶

The ELN this week invited the presidential candidates to a meeting in Quito in order to explain the progress and perspectives of the peace process. They stated that peace should be at the center of every presidential candidate's agenda, as the political solution to the conflict is the surest way of moving towards peace and equality in Colombia.⁷ If elected, Petro and Fajardo would continue the dialogues, Duque and Vargas would not.⁸

The registration of undocumented Venezuelan immigrants began on 5 April, and will continue until June this year. The census will be carried out by the Risk Management Unit (UNGRD), and aims to understand how many currently unregistered Venezuelans are living in Colombia, as well as their conditions and needs. To this end, 523 registration points have been set up in 51 municipalities. Immigrants will answer 19 confidential questions, which will inform the design of an integrated humanitarian response policy and the possible expansion of institutional services. GOC figures show there are at least 600,000 Venezuelans living in the country, but this figure may be higher.⁹