

PEACE MAIL

April 10-16

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.

The implementation of the Peace Accord reached perhaps its most critical moment this week, following the arrest of Jesús Santrich, a member of the FARC leadership, for involvement in dispatching 10 tons of cocaine to the United States. The FARC leader, Rodrigo Londoño, confirmed both his party's support for Santrich and their continuing commitment to the Peace Accord, whilst also calling on his followers to continue working for peace and social justice.¹ The case is now under review by the JEP, which will decide whether the former guerrilla should be tried through this transitional justice system or through the ordinary system.²

In an open letter, members of the La Paz Querida (LPQ) initiative this week called on presidential candidates to commit to the implementation of the Peace Accord with the FARC. They highlighted the need for a rapid and effective functioning of the Special Peace Tribunal, the Missing Persons Search Unit, and the Truth Commission.³

Ecuadorian journalists confirmed dead

The three Ecuadorian journalists kidnapped by alias "Guacho" and the FARC dissident group under his control, were confirmed dead on 12 April after 19 days in captivity. The dissidents had demanded the release of members of their group imprisoned in Ecuador in exchange for the journalists' freedom, a demand the authorities did not meet.⁴ The Ecuadorian government announced the resumption of military operations in the border region and offered a reward of USD 100,000 for information leading to Guacho's capture.⁵ Estimates suggest that there are now approximately 1,200 dissidents in the country, which have particularly threatened the stability of peace in the regions bordering Ecuador and Venezuela.⁶

Eight police officers killed in Urabá, Antioquia

The UN Verification Mission this week condemned the murder of eight members of the Colombian police force following an attack in Urabá, Antioquia, on 11 April. The police officers were accompanying a commission of government officials working for the Land Restitution Unit in the Caribbean region.⁷ Although the perpetrators of the attack have not yet been identified, the Clan del Golfo do operate in the area, and 10 attacks have already been made against military and police infrastructure so far this year.⁸