

# **PEACE MAIL**

April 24-30

## **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.

Luciano Marín Arango, better known as ‘Iván Márquez,’ has declared that he **will not occupy one of the five Senate seats allocated to the FARC come 20 July**. The decision comes two weeks after the capture of “Jesús Santrich” for drugs trafficking, and the implication of Márquez’s nephew Marlon Marín’s involvement. He once again declared his support for Santrich, and claimed that as a Senator he would be labeled as a drugs trafficker, raising concerns about the sufficiency of political participation guarantees. He also said he would remain in Miravalle, Caquetá, overseeing Government commitments to finance productive projects in the ETCR abandoned by el ‘Paisa’.<sup>1</sup>

Amid the confusion caused by the capture of Jesús Santrich, former combatants have requested **protections for the implementation of the Peace Accord**, including infrastructural works and economic opportunities in the Territorial Training and Reintegration Spaces (ETCR). Many have abandoned these spaces due to a perceived lack of progress in the implementation of the agreements made in Havana.<sup>2</sup> In contrast, an analysis of the implementation of the Peace Accord presented by President Santos was positive, suggesting that the 80 indicators outlined for the first two years of implementation are now 70 percent fulfilled, and highlighting the achievement of six constitutional reforms, several laws, and 49 decrees for the implementation of the Accord. President Santos also suggested that FARC dissidents only account for seven percent of the total, a figure below other peace processes around the world. According to the Armed Forces, the 1,200 dissidents are mostly the result of forced recruitment, and not returning former combatants.<sup>3</sup>

**A law to define the procedural rules for the Special Peace Jurisdiction (JEP)** was delivered to the Senate on 25 April. The project is the result of a transitory article of 2017, which states that the JEP magistrates will compile the regulations for the functioning of the JEP.<sup>4</sup>

International organizations have expressed their **concern over the worsening crisis in Venezuela**, and called on presidential candidates to make it a priority in their agendas. According to Jozef Merx, a UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) representative, there is an urgent need for precise migration statistics to inform strategic decisions. He also suggested that 10 percent of immigrants are children, who require special attention.<sup>5</sup>

‘Guacho,’ the leader of the FARC dissident group operating along the Ecuadorian border has requested the establishment of a **humanitarian corridor for the delivery of the bodies of the three Ecuadorian journalists** who were kidnapped on 26 March, and later confirmed dead. A pair of kidnapped Ecuadorian businesspeople would also be released at the same time. In addition to kidnappings and murders, the group has also been responsible for attacks against the electrical network around Tumaco, and car bombs that have killed members of the Colombian military.<sup>6</sup> The situation led Ecuador to withdraw their support for the ELN peace talks last week, leaving them without a host at present.