

 PEACE MAIL

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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.

One day after Iván Duque won the presidential elections, the **Congress indefinitely delayed its study of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace's (JEP) procedural laws** on 18 June, leaving this transitional justice system unable to operate fully.¹ This decision followed a proposal by the Centro Democrático party, which suggested that a ruling by the Constitutional Court should be issued, and the president-elect should be able to review the proposal before a decision is made. While the current government continues to insist on the urgent nature of this legislation, the new government has shown marked reticence towards the transitional justice system and the political participation of the FARC, which could put the implementation of the Peace Accord in jeopardy.²

The discussion of the **fate of the FARC Territorial Training and Reincorporation Spaces (ETCR)** continued this week, with the governor of Antioquia, Luis Pérez Gutiérrez, confirming his intention of closing those in Antioquia, describing them as isolated, badly designed and insecure. The National Government issued a decree for the closure of Vidr  in Antioquia and Gallo in C rdoba on 7 June, stating that they had fulfilled their function. However, while P rez Guti rrez has asked for all ETCRs to be handed over to regional and local authorities,³ the FARC has denounced the lack of consultation and the uncertainty the decree has generated amongst former combatants.⁴

The **Centro Democr tico party candidate Iv n Duque won the second round of presidential elections** on 17 June, with 53.98% and a record 10,369,210 votes. Colombia Humana candidate Gustavo Petro gained 41.81% of the total with 8,031,249 votes and wins along the Pacific coast, Vaup s, Sucre, Atl ntico, and Bogot . He also set a new record for the leftist candidate with the greatest number of votes in Colombia's history, and represents a strengthened opposition position.⁵ The President-elect will enter office in August with a majority in Congress, which he will use to implement his proposed adjustments to the Peace Accord, and reforms in the political and judicial spheres, and pension system.⁶

The **Fifth Round of negotiations between the ELN guerrilla group and the GOC ended** on 15 June, without an agreement on a new ceasefire having been reached. The Sixth Round of talks will begin on 25 June in Havana, Cuba,⁷ and both sides have reaffirmed their intention of reaching an agreement on a bilateral ceasefire and a framework agreement which they hope will oblige the new government to continue the conversations beyond 7 August.⁸ The ELN also implemented a unilateral ceasefire over the second round of presidential elections from 15 to 19 June, without incident.