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Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

September, 2013

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1. Background

On September 4, 2012, President Santos announced the signing of a General Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict between the Government of Colombia and the FARC, setting in motion the fourth official peace talks with this group. The initial agenda includes: 1) integrated rural reform; 2) the guarantee of functional political opposition and civic participation; 3) the end of the conflict (laying down arms and reintegration into civilian life); 4) drug trafficking; and 5) rights of victims. Preparatory talks started in Oslo on October 17, 2012 and substantive negotiations, in Havana, on November 19, 2012. An agreement on the first point on the agenda, integrated rural reform, was announced on May 26, 2013.

2. Key Developments from August 28 to September 3

Discussions of ELN peace talks progress

Canadian hostage Gernoc Wober was freed by the ELN last week, after more than six months of being held hostage. The release was facilitated by a special unit of the Colombian army and the International Committee of the Red Cross.¹ ELN-GOC peace talks were conditioned on Wober's liberation, so the act has provoked much discussion of such possible negotiations. President Santos declared his hope that peace talks with the ELN will begin soon.² The ELN released a communiqué stating their readiness to start such negotiations.³ Meanwhile, the Catholic church expressed its belief that a GOC-ELN peace process must begin soon.⁴

Most experts believe that although the GOC-ELN process will be separate from the GOC-FARC process, the agenda topics, debate model, and negotiating team composition will be similar.⁵ Brazil has been reported as a possible host country for GOC-ELN talks,⁶ and President Mújica of Uruguay has been rumored as a possible mediator.⁷ Horacio Serpa, liberal party senator and supporter of the GOC-FARC process, has been rumored as the possible chief negotiator.⁸

The last exploratory peace talks between the GOC and the ELN were held between 2002 and 2007 under Alvaro Uribe's administration. GOC and ELN negotiators met in a series of dialogues in Mexico and later Cuba, but the possibility of entering a formal peace process was eventually discarded in 2007 as the parties failed to agree on terms and conditions.

¹<http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/eln-anuncia-liberara-canadiense-wober/354616-3>

²http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/santos-abre-opcin-de-dilogo-con-eln_13026985-4

³<http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/nadie-debe-dudar-nuestra-disposicion-dialogo-eln/356220-3>

⁴<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/iglesia-catolica-considera-imperativo-negociar-paz-eln-articulo-443270>

⁵<http://www.elnuevosiglo.com.co/articulos/9-2013-paz-%C2%BFconfluir%C3%A1n-farc-y-eln.html>

⁶<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/gobierno-inicio-acercamientos-de-paz-eln-articulo-438753>

⁷<http://www.rcnradio.com/noticias/destacan-posible-mediacion-de-presidente-mujica-en-eventual-proceso-con-eln-84516>

⁸<http://www.lafm.com.co/noticias/serpa-no-confirma-si-sera-134642>



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Legal Framework for Peace declared constitutional

The Constitutional Court declared the Legal Framework for Peace (LFFP) constitutional. The approval comes with conditions including measures to ensure compliance with international norms regarding investigation and judicial processing (even with reduced sentences) of grave human rights violations.⁹ The GOC stressed that the LFFP will only be implemented in the case that the FARC definitively leaves aside weapons and recognizes responsibility in the conflict.¹⁰

GOC negotiator Humberto de la Calle stated in a recent Semana forum that the greatest challenge for the LFFP is the definition of crimes against humanity and political crimes. These definitions will impact the legal ability of ex-FARC members to participate in politics.¹¹

Context note: The LFFP is the transitional justice foundation for the demobilization of illegal armed groups, their sentencing, and the victims' exercise of their right to truth and justice. It would guide judicial processing of ex-FARC members who demobilize after a peace agreement.

3. Negotiations & Agenda

Negotiations will move on to illegal crops

A GOC communiqué summarized the main successes of the peace process so far, including progress on political participation, and the agreement on integrated rural reform. It also outlined points to be discussed in the near future, including continuing discussions of political participation, and consideration for agenda point 4 - illegal crops and narco-trafficking.¹²

Legal foundation for referendum starts passage through Congress

The legal foundation for a referendum for citizens to vote on the content of a peace accord was publically debated in Congress on Tuesday. This was the first in a sequence of discussions required to implement the mechanism.¹³ This topic is causing debate at the negotiating table, as the FARC support a constituent assembly model while the GOC backs the referendum.¹⁴ Both sides have presented their ideas on popular approval, verification, and implementation of a final agreement, and will continue to discuss the topic in future rounds of talks.¹⁵

De la Calle outlines several peace process challenges

At a Semana forum, GOC negotiator Humberto de la Calle discussed the peace process and challenges it confronts. He asserted the GOC's disagreement with the FARC suggestion of a

⁹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/corte-constitucional-declararia-exequible-marco-juridic-articulo-442954>

¹⁰ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/aplicacin-del-marco-de-paz-depende-de-dejacin-de-armas-gobierno_13030862-4

¹¹ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/los-alcances-del-delito-politico-nudo-del-proceso-paz/356275-3>

¹² <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/gobierno-espera-farc-colaboren-una-colombia-sin-coca-articulo-442996>

¹³ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/arranca-tramite-de-referendo-para-acuerdos-de-paz_13040508-4

¹⁴ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-mecanismo-de-referendacin-enfrenta-a-gobierno-y-a-farc_13023869-4

¹⁵ <http://www.cedema.org/ver.php?id=5814>



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ceasefire during the talks, and on using a referendum to gain popular agreement to a final peace accord. De La Calle said that such a vote is not often used in peace processes, but that the GOC wants to be transparent about the content of a final agreement. In talks on political participation, one of the main concerns are guarantees for opposition candidates, something that is necessary in all democracies and has been lacking in Colombia's 1991 Constitution.¹⁶

4. Other Voices

Victims should not participate in negotiations: Clara Rojas

Kidnapping victim and now victims' rights advocate Clara Rojas asked the GOC and FARC to focus on the topics outlined in the negotiations agenda. After recent discussions of the victims being invited to participate in the dialogue, Rojas stated that as the victims were not invited at the start of the process, it was better to continue to focus on the initially agreed topics.¹⁷

5. Emerging Challenges & Responses

Government Accountability Office to oversee FARC reparation contributions

As the FARC begin to recognize their victims, the Government Accountability Office announced that it will provide oversight for the FARC's contributions to victims' reparations funds.¹⁸ This function depends on the outcome of the peace process, but follows current requirements for ex-combatants to contribute to such funds as part of their reintegration process.

6. Timeline

¹⁶ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/los-alcances-del-delito-politico-nudo-del-proceso-paz/356275-3> and internal notes.

¹⁷ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/clara-rojas-pide-victimas-no-participen-mesa-de-habana-articulo-443922>

¹⁸ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-contralora-vigilar-que-farc-den-bienes-para-reparacin_13024122-4



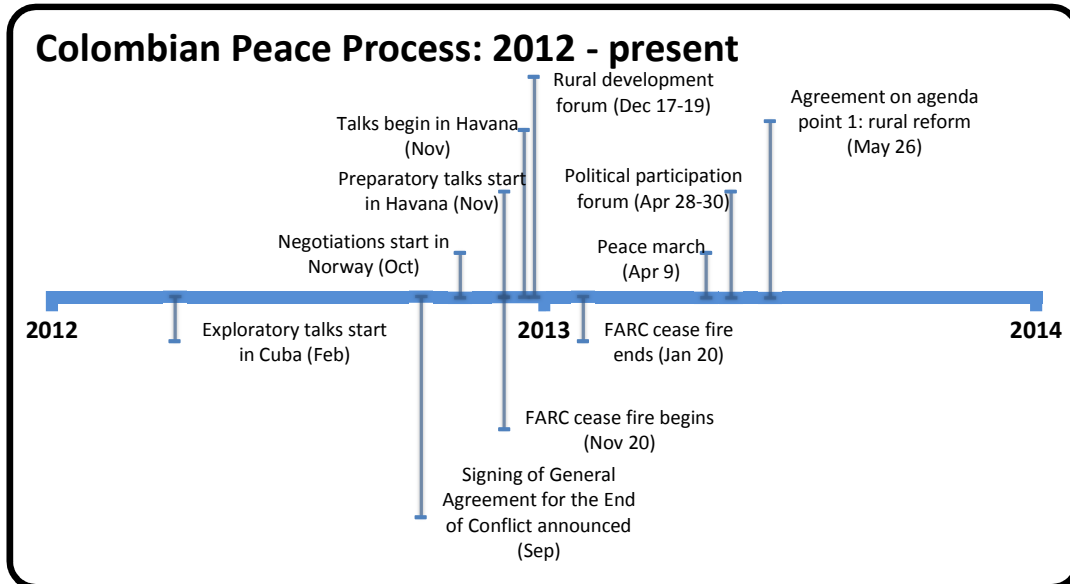
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7. Further Reading

Militarization of Bogotá will foment social conflicts

President Santos announced a heightened military presence in Bogotá and other parts of the country after national strikes and protests turned violent last week. The FARC voiced their support for the strikes, and are rumored to be behind the violence in the protests. The guerrilla group warned against militarizing Bogotá as this contradicted the GOC's supposed desire to facilitate democratic participation and political reform.¹⁹

Conflict report contradicts GOC figures

The Institute for Development and Peace Studies (Indepaz) released a report showing that "Bacrim" or criminal groups, are present in 30% of Colombian municipalities. This figure contradicts the Ministry of Defense's November report that the groups were present in 10% of municipalities. The report also details the nationwide presence of the FARC and ELN.²⁰

Crisis Group releases report on transitional justice in Colombia

International Crisis Group released a report on transitional justice in Colombia. The document discusses the Legal Framework for Peace, the Justice and Peace Law, and other transitional justice

¹⁹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-dice-militarizacion-de-bogota-aviva-conflictos-soc-articulo-443734>

²⁰ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/bacrim-409-municipios-articulo-442897> and <http://www.indepaz.org.co/?p=3764>



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mechanisms. It also makes recommendations to the GOC and international parties regarding the design and implementation of such mechanisms in Colombia.²¹

²¹ <http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/latin-america/colombia/049-transitional-justice-and-colombia-s-peace-talks.pdf>



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2. Key Developments from September 4 to September 10

Fourteenth round of talks begins

The GOC and FARC began the fourteenth round of peace talks on Monday. The topic is the first sub-point of the second agenda item – opposition guarantees and access to media.²² As in other rounds, the FARC made nine “minimum proposals” aiming to facilitate political participation by ethnic and other minorities. These include oversight of the voter census, an I.D. campaign to ensure that every citizen is registered, and eight seats in Congress for peasants and their representatives.²³

Constitutional Court adds condition to Legal Framework for Peace

After finding the Legal Framework for Peace (LFFP) to be constitutional last week, the Constitutional Court added a condition to its ruling: the prohibition of total suspension of sentences for crimes against humanity and crimes of war. Although those responsible for these crimes may receive judicial benefits, they will not be able to avoid jail altogether. Human Rights Watch praised the decision as a victory for victims’ rights.²⁴ The final document detailing how the LFFP is to function within constitutional guidelines is expected in the next few weeks.²⁵

Context note: The LFFP is the transitional justice foundation for the demobilization of illegal armed groups, their sentencing, and the victims’ exercise of their right to truth and justice. It would guide judicial processing of ex-FARC members who demobilize if a peace agreement is signed.

Legal challenge to referendum law

²² <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/negociadores-de-gobierno-parten-cuba-retomar-dialogo-de-articulo-445093>

²³ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-piden-depurar-el-censo-electoral-articulo-445462> and <https://anncol.eu/index.php/colombia/insurgencia/farc-ep/comunicados-de-las-farc-ep/4176-sep-10-las-farc-entregan-nueva-propuesta-del-punto-7-de-10-propuestas-minimas-de-participacion-politica>

²⁴ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/human-rights-watch-celebra-decision-de-corte-constitucional-sobre-penas-para-mximos-responsables-de-delitos_13050322-4

²⁵ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/sentencia-del-marco-juiridico-para-la-paz/357092-3>



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After the proposal for a referendum to approve a final agreement with the FARC passed through Congress, two citizens presented a legal challenge. Their basis for contestation is that some Congress members who voted on the law could benefit from it in the future, suggesting a conflict of interest. The law will go to the Senate Ethics Committee for review.²⁶

3. Negotiations & Agenda

Congressional delegation will meet with FARC

Senate President Fernando Cristo proposed that a delegation of presidents of various political parties, the Senate, and Congress go to Havana to present their ideas on political participation and referendum of a final peace agreement to the FARC. President Santos has expressed his approval of this idea.²⁷ Chamber President Hernán Penagos suggested that FARC negotiators travel to Bogotá for such a meeting.²⁸ The guerrilla group expressed hope that the Unión Patriótica, which has strong ties to the FARC, will be represented in the GOC delegation.²⁹

4. International

International justice and peace process to be discussed at UN session

At the end of September, President Santos will ask the 68th session of the United Nations to address the topic of international justice's role in the Colombian peace process. He expressed hope that such a discussion will help to find the balance between national judicial sovereignty and Colombia's commitment to international justice norms. Such a balance, he stated, is necessary for the FARC and the GOC to reach an agreement.³⁰

Institutional transparency is key for peace

Transparency International held a forum on peace in Colombia. Experts including Transparency International Colombia Director, Elizabeth Ungar, and Minister of the Interior, Fernando Carrillo, highlighted the importance of institutional transparency, accountability, citizen participation, and the fight against corruption in a successful negotiated end to the conflict.³¹

5. Other Voices

'Peace Week' supports the peace process

²⁶ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/primer-tropezamiento-tramite-del-referendo-paz-articulo-445504>

²⁷ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/santos-da-va-libre-para-que-comisin-se-rena-con-farc_13045858-4 and

<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/solo-viajaran-habana-los-presidentes-de-los-partidos-articulo-445515>

²⁸ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/propuesta-para-que-farc-viajen-de-la-habana-a-bogot_13047174-4

²⁹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-esperan-visita-de-partidos-habana-union-patriotica-articulo-445210>

³⁰ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/colombia-busca-blindar-en-la-onu-el-proceso-con-las-farc_13052532-4

³¹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/transparencia-institucional-clave-paz-de-colombia-articulo-444608>



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Annual nationwide 'Peace Week' lasts from Monday the 9th to Sunday the 15th of September. The tradition started in 1987, and aims to draw attention to the need for a negotiated end to the conflict. This year, civil society organizations and the Catholic Church will hold a series of events to support the GOC-FARC peace process.³²

6. Emerging Challenges & Responses

ELN peace process speculation continues

The commission currently planning the approach to ELN negotiations met with President Santos. This group includes ex-Inspector General Jaime Bernal Cuellar, liberal politician Horacio Serpa, and political science analyst Alejo Vargas.³³ They agreed that such talks should occur outside Colombia – perhaps in Venezuela or Uruguay - but not in Cuba. The GOC may ask UNASUR (Union of South American Nations) to provide a meeting space for initial dialogues.³⁴

Ex-ELN member Carlos Arturo Velandia, previously alias Felipe Torres, expressed optimism about the possible GOC-ELN talks, and believes that the GOC-FARC negotiations agenda should serve as the starting point for ELN negotiations. He also believes that the ELN, similar to the FARC, will push for a constituent assembly to approve a final peace agreement.³⁵

ICBF readies public policy for post-conflict

ICBF Director Adriana Gonzalez confirmed that the agency is preparing public policy for post-conflict reconciliation for minors who demobilize as a result of the GOC-FARC peace process. She said that Antioquia, Putumayo, Arauca, Tolima, and Cauca are the departments where the highest numbers of children are expected to demobilize.³⁶ In a meeting with the UNOHCHR, UNICEF, UN Women, and other international organizations, Inspector General Alejandro Ordóñez highlighted the need to protect children's rights during and after the conflict.³⁷

7. Timeline

³² http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/apoyar-el-proceso-de-la-habana-el-gran-eje-de-la-semana-por-la-paz_13053647-4

³³ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-con-el-eln-se-debera-dar-fuera-de-colombia_13045705-4

³⁴ <http://anncol.eu/index.php/colombia/proceso-de-paz-en-colombia/4074-sep-4-mesas-separadas-es-la-modalidad-gubernamental-ante-el-proceso-de-paz-con-eln>

³⁵ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/ex-comandante-del-eln-dice-que-eln-pedira-constituyente_13053762-4

³⁶ <http://www.caracol.com.co/noticias/actualidad/icbf-alista-politica-publica-para-elpostconflicto/20130609/nota/1965260.aspx>

³⁷ <http://www.procuraduria.gov.co/portal/> Si-

[el drama del reclutamiento de niños no se visibiliza la sociedad colombiana va a permanecer silenciosa y cómplice](#) [procurador Alejandro Ordóñez Maldonado.news](#)



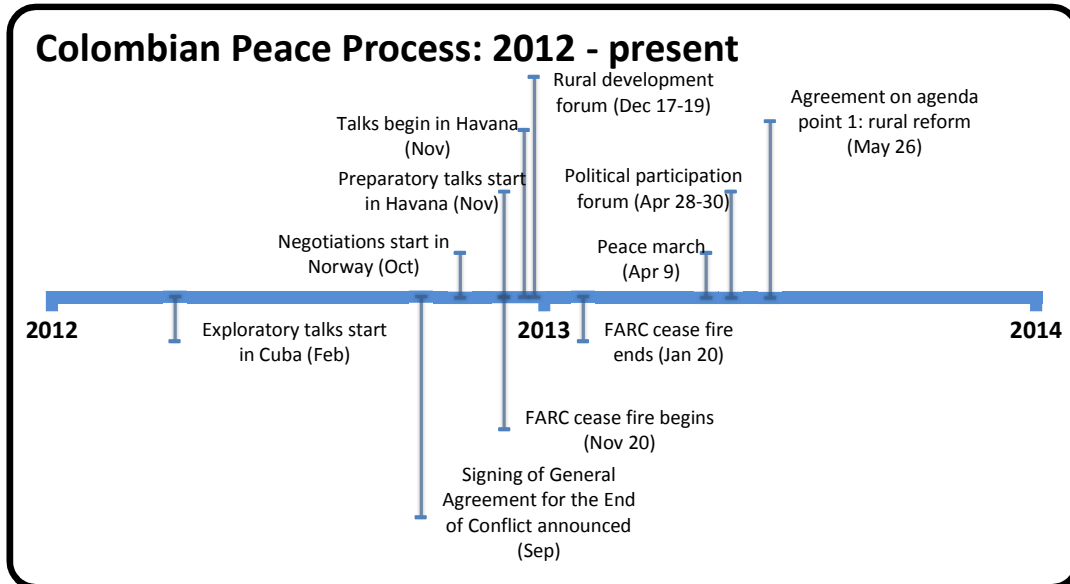
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8. Further Reading

Economist analysis of peace process

The Economist analyzed the peace process, focusing on last week's pause in talks, which they say was brief as the FARC realized they could not be away from the negotiating table for long.³⁸

Gallup poll reveals historic drop in approval

The most recent Colombia Gallup poll, conducted between the 27th of August and the 2nd of September, revealed 71% disapproval for the Santos administration. Approval for the GOC-FARC peace process has dropped from 66% in June 2013 to 57% currently.³⁹

Opinion: The FARC will not all demobilize

Sociologist and conflict expert Daniel Pécaut was interviewed by El Colombiano newspaper. In the conversation, he talks about the politics behind the conflict, the fragmentation of the FARC after a possible final agreement, or even if the process fails, and the guerrilla group's political participation.⁴⁰

³⁸ <http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21584384-hiccup-serves-confirm-government-and-farc-are-making-progress-edge-and>

³⁹ <http://www.elpais.com.co/elpais/colombia/noticias/encuesta-gallup-imagen-y-gestion-santos-muestran-caida-historica>

⁴⁰ [http://www.elcolombiano.com/BancoConocimiento/C/con la paz las farc pueden dividirse/con la paz las farc pueden dividirse.aspx](http://www.elcolombiano.com/BancoConocimiento/C/con%20la%20paz%20las%20farc%20pueden%20dividirse/con%20la%20paz%20las%20farc%20pueden%20dividirse.aspx)



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2. Key Developments from September 11 to September 17

Referendum law progresses

Congress has approved a change to electoral rules to allow the proposed referendum of a possible GOC-FARC peace agreement to be held on the same day as Presidential or regional elections. Each voter will be asked if he or she wants to vote on the content of the agreement in addition to participating in the regular political elections, and the GOC will be required to widely disseminate information about the content of the GOC-FARC agreement upon which the public is asked to vote.⁴¹ The law itself has almost completed its passage through Congress.⁴²

The legal challenge to the proposed referendum law was rejected. However, the two lawyers who presented the challenge have appealed.⁴³

New Minister of Justice will be responsible for post-conflict justice

Alfonso Gómez Méndez, the new Minister of Justice, was sworn in on Friday. The task he highlighted as being his immediate priority is the definition of transitional justice norms for the implementation of a GOC-FARC peace agreement.⁴⁴ In another speech, Gómez Méndez also emphasized the vital role of establishing the truth as part of victims' reparations.⁴⁵

3. Negotiations & Agenda

FARC requests Congressional delegation to arrive promptly

The FARC have requested the prompt arrival of the delegation of Congress members and political party leaders set to travel to Cuba to discuss political participation with the guerrilla group. They

⁴¹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/congreso-aprueba-cambio-reglas-electorales-votar-refere-articulo-445821>

⁴² http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/referendo-para-la-paz-pasa-primer-debate-en-el-congreso_13067798-4

⁴³ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/radicacion-nuevo-recurso-judicial-contras-referendo-por-la-paz_13059414-4

⁴⁴ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/alfonso-gomez-mendez-se-posesion-como-nuevo-ministro-de-justicia_13062850-4

⁴⁵ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/ministro-de-justicia-pide-verdad-total-del-conflicto_13065745-4



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want the delegation to arrive before this round of talks ends on Thursday.⁴⁶ President Santos has countered that the delegation will arrive when the GOC sees fit.⁴⁷

FARC make proposals on security

On Monday morning, the FARC made nine security-related proposals. These included the overhaul of national counterinsurgency doctrine, which the guerrilla says was designed by the USA in the Cold War era. Another suggestion was to get rid of “ESMAD”, Colombia’s riot police squad recently accused of excessive use of force against protesting peasants in rural areas.⁴⁸

4. International

Peace is only possible without impunity: Luis Moreno Ocampo

The former ICC Chief Prosecutor, Luis Moreno Ocampo, expressed his admiration for Colombia’s transitional justice efforts and the peace process. He praised Colombia’s successful work in processing the cases of the ultimately responsible paramilitary members. Ocampo also reiterated current ICC Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda’s concern that FARC leaders could be allowed impunity for crimes they committed in the conflict. He said that the guerrilla commanders and the GOC must understand that these crimes cannot go unpunished.⁴⁹

Discussions of the Peruvian Truth Commission (TC) relevant to Colombia

Salomón Lerner, who was a member of Peru’s Truth Commission, celebrated ten years since that entity’s report was published. He discussed public reception of the document and the similarities and differences between the Peruvian TC and a possible similar body in Colombia.⁵⁰

5. Other Voices

Afro-Colombians highlight their post-conflict needs

At the Third Global Summit of Mayors and Leaders of African Descent, Afro-Colombian leaders emphasized the need to take into account Afro-Colombian economic and social needs in the post-conflict phase in order for peace to be stable and lasting.⁵¹

Reverend Jesse Jackson was present at the event, and advised the GOC and FARC to continue dialogues until an agreement is reached. Jackson stated that even though peace is a challenge, the cost of war is greater.⁵²

⁴⁶ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/farc-piden-agilizar-viaje-de-delegacin-de-partidos_13064620-4

⁴⁷ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/politicos-habana-sera-cuando-gobierno-considere-conveni-articulo-446410>

⁴⁸ <http://www.elnuevosiglo.com.co/articulos/9-2013-las-farc-proponen-eliminar-el-esmad.html>

⁴⁹ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/entrevista-con-el-ex-fiscal-jefe-de-la-corte-penal-internacional-luis-moreno_13064207-4

⁵⁰ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/legitimidad-dan-victimas-articulo-446806>

⁵¹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/afrodescendientes-piden-espacio-proceso-de-paz-articulo-446412>



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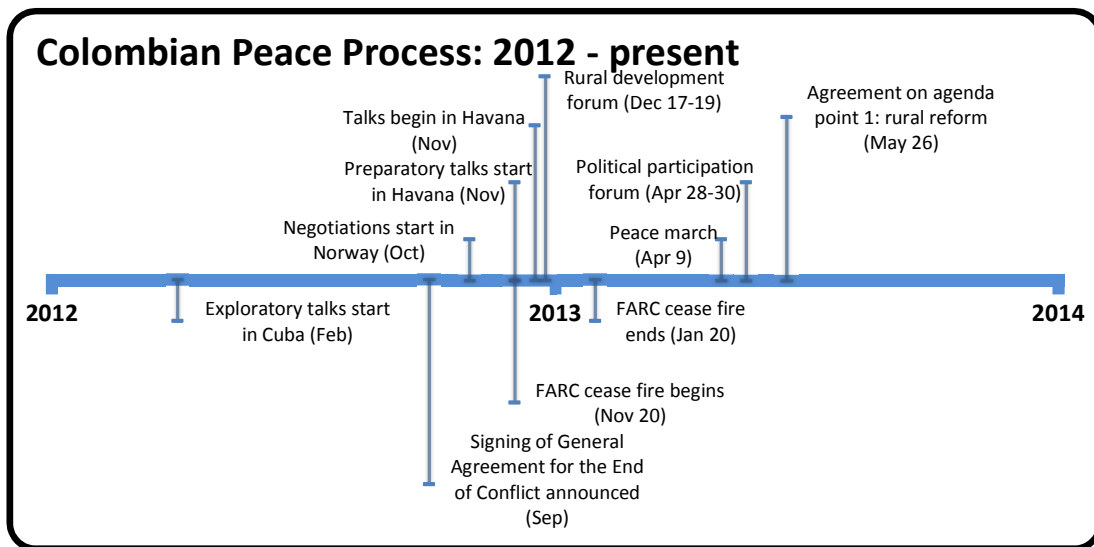
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6. Emerging Challenges & Responses

3,000 documented cases of FARC child recruitment

The armed forces and AGO have analyzed the secret diaries of the FARC, as well as manuals used by the guerrilla group to indoctrinate militia members and new members. The analysis resulted in the documentation of 3,000 cases of children who demobilized from the FARC.⁵³

7. Timeline



8. Further Reading

Majority of conflicts end in negotiated agreements

El Espectador analyzed information from the Escola de Cultura de Pau in Barcelona, highlighting the fact that 80% of modern conflicts end in a peace agreement. The article examines some of these agreements, including Northern Ireland and South Sudan.⁵⁴

Antonius Mockus discusses peace

Former Mayor of Bogotá and ex-Presidential candidate Antonius Mockus wrote an article for El Espectador in which he discusses the need for residents of urban areas to remember how serious the conflict is in rural areas.⁵⁵

⁵² http://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/cartagena/declaraciones-de-jesse-jackson-sobre-colombia_13067578-4

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⁵⁵ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/tiempo-de-reformar-nuestro-sentido-comun-articulo-446375>



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1. Background

On September 4, 2012, President Santos announced the signing of a General Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict between the Government of Colombia and the FARC, setting in motion the fourth official peace talks with this group. The initial agenda includes: 1) integrated rural reform; 2) the guarantee of functional political opposition and civic participation; 3) the end of the conflict (laying down arms and reintegration into civilian life); 4) drug trafficking; and 5) rights of victims. Preparatory talks started in Oslo on October 17, 2012 and substantive negotiations, in Havana, on November 19, 2012. An agreement on the first point on the agenda, integrated rural reform, was announced on May 26, 2013.

2. Key Developments from September 18 to September 24

Demobilizations make frequent news

In efforts to encourage rank-and-file members of illegal armed groups to demobilize, Defense Minister Juan Carlos Pinzón highlighted the “bourgeois” living conditions of guerrilla leaders. He stated that the leaders of the groups force the low-ranking combatants to live in poverty and risk their lives fighting while the leaders maintain a luxurious lifestyle outside the country.⁵⁶ Demobilization is considered a useful tool to weaken the FARC, and has increased by 20% in the last year. On average, one guerrilla member dies every day, and four demobilize.⁵⁷

Meanwhile, alias “El Negro Tomás”, a FARC leader who was originally set to be part of the FARC negotiating team, has demobilized. The FARC’s 18th Front began to do business with the BACRIM, and he disagreed with these operations and decided to leave. He also said that the FARC’s strategy is to infiltrate protests and try to gain peasant support for illegal activity.⁵⁸

In addition, a Brazilian indigenous man demobilized with one indigenous minor. He said that the FARC had recruited them by force in the Colombia-Brazil border region, and there were 30 other indigenous people in the front with which he was made to fight.⁵⁹

Tentative details of the ELN peace process

Five countries offered to serve as the host of a GOC-ELN peace process: Brazil, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Cuba. A start-date for dialogues has not been confirmed. Each negotiating team will have five members. On the GOC side, the delegation includes ex-Inspector General Jaime Bernal Cuellar, the Rector of the Military University General (r) Eduardo Antonio Herrera Berbel, and un-named others. The ELN side will include alias “Pablo Beltrán”,

⁵⁶ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/mindefensa-critica-jefes-guerrilleros-viven-burgueses-e-articulo-447293>

⁵⁷ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/desmovilizacion-principal-arma-contra-las-guerrillas_13077339-4

⁵⁸ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/se-desmoviliz-guerrillero-que-haba-sido-llamado-a-participaren-dilogos-en-cuba_13071529-4

⁵⁹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/farc-habrian-reclutado-fuerza-mas-de-30-indigenas-articulo-447989>



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“Comandante López”, and un-named others. Topics on the pre-negotiations discussion agenda include exploitation of oil, foreign investment, labor reform, and education.⁶⁰

Concerns over unauthorized visit to Havana

Congress President Juan Fernando Cristo said that the GOC, through the Office of the Inspector General, suspects that a group of politicians made an unauthorized visit to the FARC negotiators in Cuba, and is investigating the issue.⁶¹

3. Negotiations & Agenda

FARC question proposed transitional justice mechanisms

The Legal Framework for Peace and the proposed referendum of a final peace agreement have received further criticism from the FARC, who say that the legal proposals have not taken into account the insurgent group’s suggestions and criteria.⁶²

Forums to discuss illegal drugs

1,200 civil society representatives are meeting in Bogotá this week to discuss solutions to the fourth point on the negotiations agenda: illegal drugs. The sub-points for this topic include: 1) illegal crops; 2) the prevention of illegal drug consumption; and 3) drug production and trafficking. Another forum on this topic will be held next week (Sept 30th – Oct 4th) in San José del Guaviare, an area particularly affected by these issues. Both forums are organized by the United Nations and the Universidad Nacional at the request of the negotiating teams in Havana.⁶³

The GOC has asked the FARC to ensure that progress towards a “Colombia without cocaine” is made in the next round of talks, beginning on the 3rd of October.⁶⁴ The FARC have vehemently denied involvement in drugs trafficking. However, a recent military operation revealed financial transfers to the FARC as a result of drug trades in January and August 2013.⁶⁵

4. International

Santos meets with international representatives at the UN

President Santos is in New York this week, highlighting issues including the peace process to representatives from the UN and various countries around the world. His meetings include José Mújica, who has demonstrated support for the GOC-FARC dialogues and for possible negotiations

⁶⁰ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/cinco-paises-se-ofrecieron-ser-sede-de-dialogos-de-paz-articulo-448131>

⁶¹ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/piden-al-procurador-decir-qu-funcionarios-pblicos-fueron-a-cuba_13074080-4

⁶² <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/marco-juridico-y-referendo-son-un-estorbo-alcanzar-paz-articulo-447351>

⁶³ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/sociedad-civil-formulara-propuestas-de-paz-lucha-antidr-articulo-448160>

⁶⁴ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/gobierno-pide-farc-menos-retorica-y-mas-avances-articulo-447418>

⁶⁵ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/el-narcoinforme-de-farc-articulo-448318>



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with the ELN. Representatives from Norway, who is guaranteeing the GOC-FARC process, are also on the list. Santos will also meet with ICC Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda to discuss Colombian transitional justice.⁶⁶

5. Emerging Challenges & Responses

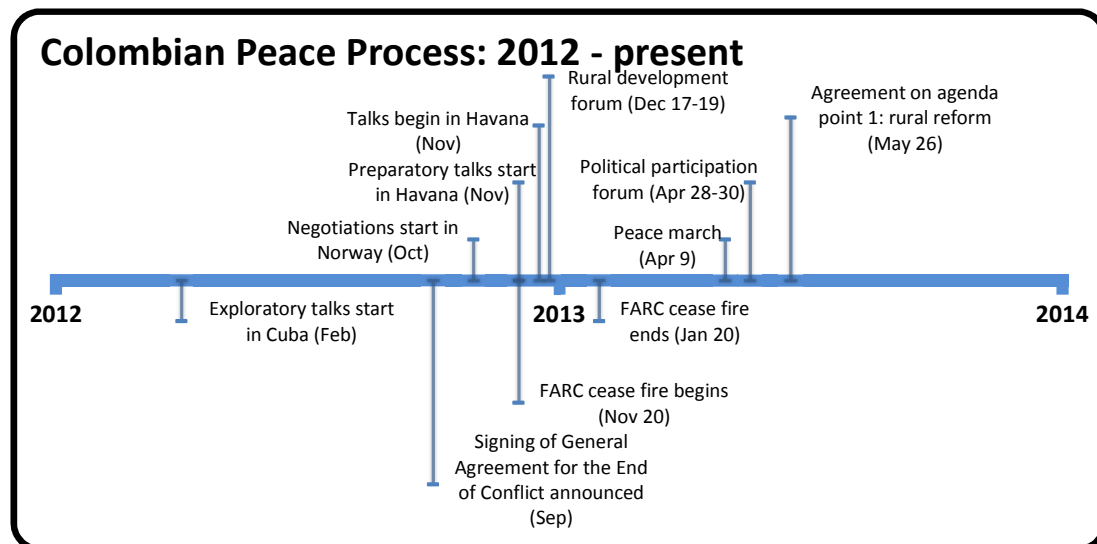
Amnesty International pressures Colombia to defend human rights

Amnesty International published a statement praising the GOC's verbal response to UN recommendations on human rights, but worried that Colombia has not supported this attention with concrete actions. Of particular concern were proposed military justice reforms that would allow military members to be processed in military, not civilian courts.⁶⁷

FARC must take responsibility for child recruitment: Justice and Peace Unit

The AGO's Justice and Peace Unit Coordinator, Leonardo Cabana, stated that the charges against the FARC for child recruitment are already prepared and will be implemented as soon as a peace agreement is signed. He said that GOC information shows that the FARC have recruited children in all departments of the country apart from San Andrés and Providencia.⁶⁸

6. Timeline



⁶⁶ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/santos-y-mujica-se-reunirn-en-la-vspera-de-los-dilogos-de-la-asamblea-nacional-de-la-onu_13073057-4 and http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-y-nicaragua-temas-de-santos-en-la-onu_13077347-4

⁶⁷ <http://www.elspectador.com/noticias/paz/amnistia-pide-colombia-defienda-acciones-los-derechos-h-articulo-447365>

⁶⁸ <http://www.elspectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-deben-responder-reclutamiento-de-menores-articulo-448048>



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7. Further Reading

Land and peace in Colombia

Alejandro Reyes Posada is a researcher for the GOC. In this article, he discusses why he believes that all of the conditions are right for concrete transformations to be made to rural Colombia. He also talks about the GOC-FARC integrated rural reform agreement.⁶⁹

FARC weaker than the public perceives them

Recent FARC attacks seem to imply that the guerrilla group is stronger than it was a few years ago. However, a report by Fundación Ideas para la Paz shows that recent FARC attacks are smaller and not as well-equipped as they were 10 years ago.⁷⁰

Possible results of negotiations on drugs and illegal crops

Ricardo Vargas, an expert on drug production and trafficking in Colombia, does not believe that putting this topic on the GOC-FARC negotiations agenda and taking the FARC out of the illegal business will make a difference to levels of production and trafficking in the country. In this article, he discusses his ideas about drugs, the peace process, and the conflict.⁷¹

⁶⁹ <http://www.elspectador.com/noticias/paz/tenencia-de-tierra-y-paz-colombia-articulo-447455>

⁷⁰ <http://www.elspectador.com/noticias/paz/debilidad-de-farc-articulo-447259>

⁷¹ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/ricardo-vargas-estar-en-foro-de-cultivos-ilcitos_13075692-4