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Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

August, 2013

1

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 FA RC, 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 July 31 to August 6

FARC request independent conflict analysis commission

The FARC negotiators in Havana responded to the report published by the Center for Historical Memory two weeks ago. They stated that as the document was backed by the State, an independent commission of national and international members should now be established to conduct the same analysis of the number of victims, disappeared people, and other data.¹ The Center for Historical Memory's report was supported by IOM and USAID among others.²

Detention of US ex-marine "not a kidnapping": FARC

Despite having stated they would free Kevin Sutay, the US ex-marine captured by the FARC in June, the guerrillas have not done so. Defense Minister Juan Carlos Pinzón accused the FARC of failing to fulfill their promise to stop kidnapping. The FARC replied that the capture was not kidnapping as they consider the ex-marine to be a mercenary who entered a war zone.³

FARC reject Legal Framework for Peace

The FARC have criticized the Legal Framework for Peace that has been debated in the political arena over the last few weeks. They reject the document on the grounds that it was a unilateral legal project proposed by the GOC, and did not take their perspective into account.⁴

3. Negotiations & Agenda

FARC recognize responsibility to victims, but with conditions

¹ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-farc-piden-comision-para-analizar-el-conflicto_12974544-4

² <http://www.centrodehistoriahistorica.gov.co/micrositios/informeGeneral/descargas.html>

³ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/secuestro-de-exmilitar-estadounidense_12963945-4

⁴ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-rechazan-el-marco-paz-articulo-438326>



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UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA



Organización
Internacional
para las
Migraciones

Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

August, 2013

President of Congress Fernando Cristo suggested that a delegation of victims be sent to Havana to participate in the dialogues. That proposal seems almost a reality, as the negotiating table is said to be preparing for the arrival of the victims in August.⁵ This week, the FARC made the surprising admission that they have committed grave errors in the conflict, and expressed openness to asking the victims for forgiveness. However, FARC negotiator alias 'Pablo Catatumbo' stated that if the FARC are to ask the victims for forgiveness, other actors including the State, paramilitaries, the media, and various ex-Presidents should also admit their responsibility for funding or directly participating in violent acts suffered by victims.⁶

FARC insist on Simón Trinidad's physical participation in dialogues

The FARC insist that alias 'Simón Trinidad' be allowed to travel to Havana to participate in the peace talks. In October 2012, Minister of Justice Ruth Stella Correa stated that Trinidad could participate via Internet from prison in the USA. However, the FARC have said that as the US government intercepts Internet and phone communications, this option is unacceptable.⁷

Context note: Simón Trinidad was extradited to the USA in 2004. He was condemned to 60 years in jail for kidnapping three US citizens, who were freed in 2008 in a military operation.

FARC request media channels

The FARC have requested state funding to establish radio, written, and television media channels, thereby guaranteeing equal conditions for their participation in politics.⁸

FARC proposed entry to Congress meets positive response

The FARC proposed that they be assigned seats in Congress and given access to departmental assemblies and councils in order to facilitate their participation in politics. This proposal was met with approval from some liberal politicians.⁹

4. Emerging Challenges & Responses

Inspector General states need for child recruitment measures

In a letter to President Santos, Inspector General Alejandro Ordóñez stated the need to create mechanisms that effectively confront child recruitment and violence against children in the armed conflict. His statement responded to the recent release of the UN Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict, which states that current measures in Colombia are ineffective.¹⁰

⁵ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/llego-hora-de-victimas-articulo-437831>

⁶ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/farc-hemos-cometido-errores-algunos-graves/352695-3>

⁷ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-insiste-presencia-fisicade-simon-trinidad-habana-articulo-437890>

⁸ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-piden-financiacion-estatal-crear-un-medio-de-comun-articulo-437616>

⁹ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-partidos-ven-viables-peticiones-politicas-de-farc_12969510-4

¹⁰ <http://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/annual-report-of-the-secretary-general-on-children-and-armed-conflict/>



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DEL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS
UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA



Organización
Internacional
para las
Migraciones

Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

August, 2013

Ordóñez' ten recommendations included: the incorporation of the victimization of children into the peace talks; the adoption of measures to guarantee the rights of child victims; the revision of current policies dealing with child victims; the fulfillment of the Victims' Law Infancy and Adolescence Code; and the investigation of grave violations of children's human rights.¹¹

Paramilitaries could be tried for crimes against humanity

A Justice and Peace Law report on crimes committed by members of the AUC details their actions in raping and otherwise violating the rights of 39 women between 1999 and 2004. Their crimes have been called "generalized, systematic, and reiterated", opening the door for them to be tried as crimes against humanity.¹² This could feed debates on the kinds of crimes that will be considered crimes against humanity in a possible peace agreement with the FARC.

FARC use Internet to fashion explosives

Alias 'Hugo', a demobilized FARC explosives technician who was wanted for almost 12 years for his activity building high-power rockets, has admitted that the guerrilla group uses Internet guides to build explosives. He also said that the FARC do not have an anti-aircraft missile, but rather a rocket-like device built using one of these guides.¹³

Post-conflict tax for businesses?

The Congressional Peace Commission is debating a proposal that would create the option for businesses to make voluntary tax payments for post-conflict peace building efforts.¹⁴

5. Timeline

¹¹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/procurador-solicito-medidas-frente-reclutamiento-infant-articulo-438088>

¹² http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/violaciones-de-paramilitares-en-catatumbo_12976448-4

¹³ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/farc-fabrican-cohetes-con-gua-de-internet_12969508-4

¹⁴ <http://www.caracol.com.co/noticias/actualidad/comision-de-paz-estudia-propuesta-para-buscarque-empresas-paguen-impuesto-al-posconflicto/20130208/nota/1943744.aspx>



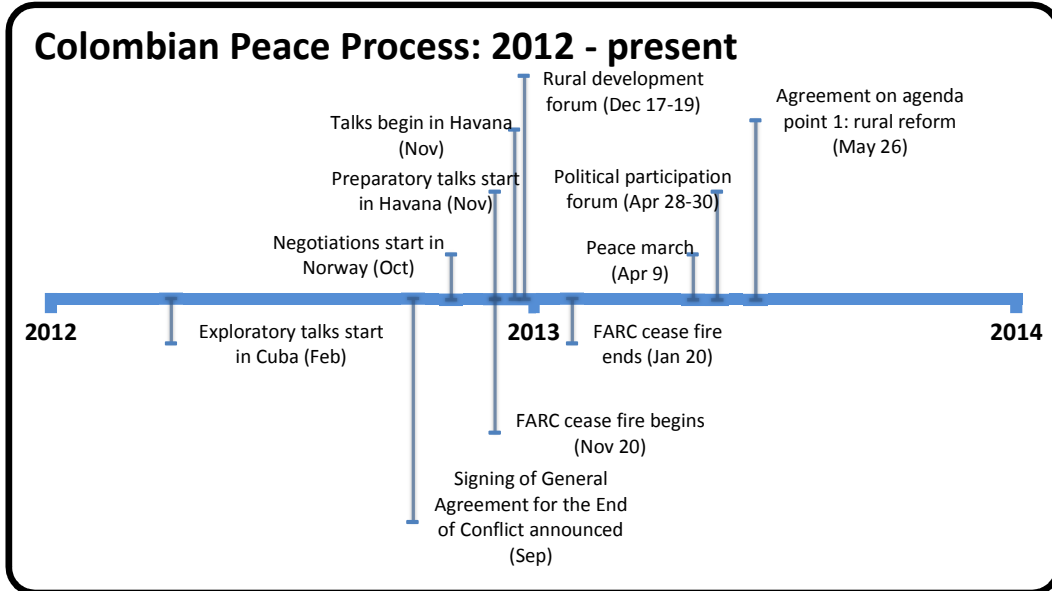
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UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA



Organización
Internacional
para las
Migraciones

Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

August, 2013



6. Further Reading

Initial summary of Semana's forum on the Legal Framework for Peace

Semana's forum for debate on the Legal Framework for Peace highlighted the tension between justice and peace, whose limits on flexibility are based on victims' rights. Semana wrote a brief article on the principal topics of debate, and their proponents.¹⁵

¹⁵ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/el-gran-debate-sobre-justicia-transicional/353136-3>



USAID
DEL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS
UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA



Organización
Internacional
para las
Migraciones

Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

August, 2013

2

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2. Key Developments from August 7 to August 13

GOC begins initial discussions with ELN

The GOC confirmed that it has begun initial discussions that aim to lead to a peace process with the ELN. It was also reported that Brazil will be the mediator country in such talks. Announcement was made by President Santos, in an interview with Caracol news, in the commemoration of the third year of his administration.¹⁶

Military shake-up provides new military support for peace process

President Santos announced changes in the leadership of the Colombian armed forces. The GOC attributed these changes to a need for new commanders to commit to increased results in terms of security strategy. Analysts speculate that Santos brought in commanders who represent military support for the peace process and will be effective post-conflict leaders.¹⁷

If peace agreements are not approved, the conflict will continue

President Santos stated that if the Colombian public does not vote in favor of agreements reached as a result of the peace process, the conflict will continue as it is now.¹⁸

Departments prepare for post-conflict

On August 15, the governors of 32 departments will meet in Medellín as part of the "Preparing for Peace" Commission. The goal of the meeting is to begin preparations for the post-conflict transition, specifically the demobilization and reintegration of the FARC.¹⁹

¹⁶ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/gobierno-inicio-acercamientos-de-paz-eln-articulo-438753>

¹⁷ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/las-razones-santos-para-cambiar-cupula/353992-3>

¹⁸ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/si-colombianos-no-aprueban-acuerdos-farc-seguiriamos-gu-articulo-438756>

¹⁹ <http://confidencialcolombia.com/es/1/105/8456/Departamentos-se-alistan-para-Posconflicto-gobernadores-departamentos-conflicto-posconflicto.htm>



USAID
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UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA



Organización
Internacional
para las
Migraciones

Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

August, 2013

3. Negotiations & Agenda

GOC and FARC end twelfth round of talks

In a joint communiqué at the end of the twelfth round of negotiations on Saturday, GOC and FARC negotiators stated that they have begun to define agreements on political participation.²⁰ The FARC also released a list of eight proposals to stimulate regional political participation. These include: decentralization of political processes to increase regional participation; a fund to tackle regional inequality; a Territorial Chamber of Congress to replace the current Chamber of Representatives; measures to assist regions they consider to be “abandoned” by the State.²¹

Feasibility assessment of FARC proposals

La Silla Vacía evaluated the feasibility of FARC proposals. These include: a Constituent Assembly to implement FARC-proposed reforms; their facilitated participation in Congress; and financing for their political party.²²

FARC media regulation proposal rejected

The FARC proposed increased oversight to regulate communications media. This proposal was rejected by the Freedom of the Press Foundation (FLIP) and other media representatives.²³

4. International Context

US Secretary of State Kerry discusses peace process in Bogotá

US Secretary of State John Kerry was in Bogotá on Monday. He met with President Santos and other government representatives to discuss cooperation between the US and Colombia, and reaffirm US support for the peace process. He also met with Defense Minister Juan Carlos Pinzón to discuss the peace process and regional security.²⁴

GOC congratulates Ecuador for efforts against FARC

An Ecuadorian soldier was killed in a clash between the FARC and the Ecuadorian army in Ecuador. Colombian Minister of Defense Juan Carlos Pinzón thanked the government of the neighbor country for its successful battle tactics and support in fighting the guerrilla group.²⁵

5. Emerging Challenges & Responses

Colombia coca crop decreases by 25%

²⁰ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/gobierno-y-farc-inician-acuerdos-sobre-participacion-po-articulo-439193>

²¹ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/nunca-habia-llegado-tan-lejos/353701-3>

²² <http://www.lasillavacia.com/historia/lo-viable-y-lo-innegociable-de-las-propuestas-de-participacion-politica-de-las-farc-45349>

²³ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/rechazo-a-propuesta-de-las-farc-para-regular-a-los-medios_12979602-4

²⁴ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/agenda-de-john-kerry-en-bogota_12986880-4

²⁵ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/gobierno-lamenta-muerte-de-oficial-ecuatoriano-en-combates-con-las-farc_12983724-4



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UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA



Organización
Internacional
para las
Migraciones

Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

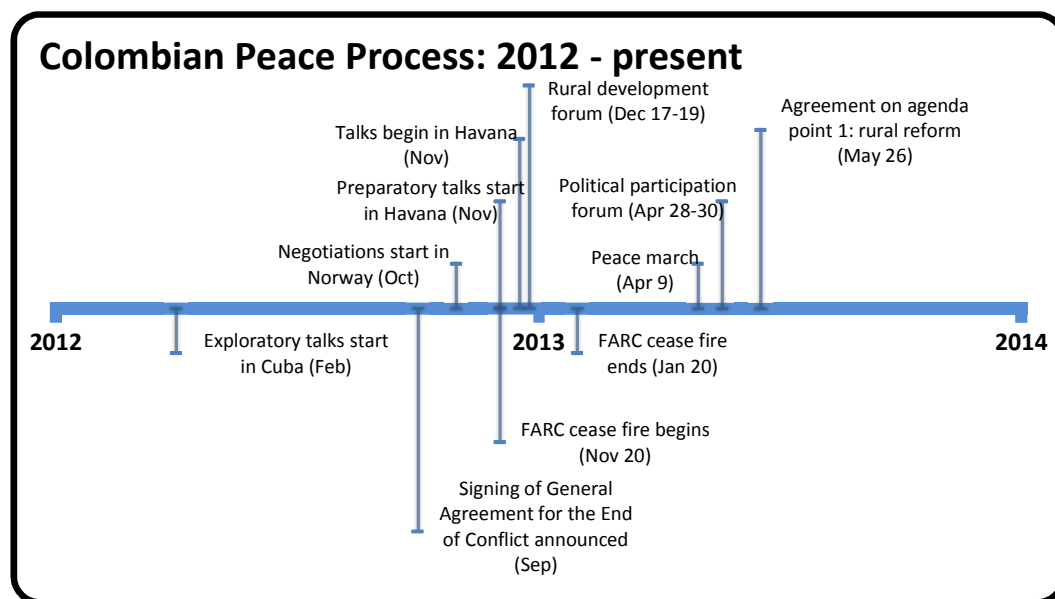
August, 2013

A joint GOC and UNODC report on coca in Colombia showed that its cultivation dropped from 64,000 hectares in 2011 to 48,000 hectares in 2012. Coca cultivation occurred in 23 of the country's 32 departments, decreasing in 17 departments, remaining unchanged in three, and increasing in Norte de Santander, Caquetá and Chocó.²⁶ Coca is used to make cocaine, making this report relevant to the point about narco-trafficking on the negotiations agenda.

Demobilizations increased by 18%

The ACR stated that demobilizations increased by 18% between January 1 and August 9 of 2013 compared with the same period in 2012. In Chocó this increase was 147%, in Valle 110%, in Cauca 108%, Nariño 80%, and Caquetá 78%. Demobilizations from the ELN guerrilla group have increased by 86% at the national level and from the FARC by 8%.²⁷

6. Timeline



7. Further Reading

Public perception survey of elections

²⁶ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2013/August/colombia-grows-quarter-less-coca-crop-according-to-unodc-2012-survey.html>

²⁷ http://www.reintegracion.gov.co/Lists/Contenido/DispForm1.aspx?ID=1204&InitialTabId= Ribbon.Read&m=VXNOZVWQgZXN0w6EgZW46Jm5ic3A7Jm5ic3A7PGEgaWQ9J2UwYWI3O TU1LTdhZGUtN DcxZS04MGQzLT Y5YWJ2NDJlZDgzMScgaHJlZj0naHR0cDovL3d3dy5yZWludGVncmFjaW9uLmdvdi5jbyc%2b5W5pY2lvPC9hPIA%2b1DxhlGikPSdmYmJlNGY4Ni1hZWVhLT RIMjltY TE4MS1INDIKNDUxZnZiMnIghyZWY9J2h0dHA6Ly93d3cucmVpbnRIZ3JhY2lubi5nb3YyY28vUHJlbmNhZ5TYWxhIGRIIHByZW5zYTtwYT4gPIA8c3Bhb1BpZDOnZGMxZGJlZDktZjBl M500OWRlLWlxNWUtniAONzI1NjFiYmFhZ5Ob3RyZ2lhc2wvc3Bhb1Bj4%3d&idweb=48007a94-81bc-4ac2-babd-fd8b0b232684#_UppMmNLVbc0



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DEL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS
UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA



Organización
Internacional
para las
Migraciones

Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

August, 2013

A Caracol News public perception survey found that: 35% of those surveyed favored a negotiated solution to the conflict, while 32% preferred a military solution; 76% do not support FARC participation in politics; and 87% do not support total amnesty for FARC leaders.²⁸

Security expert: FARC are doing business with Hezbollah

In an interview with *Semana*, US security expert Matthew Levitt discussed Hezbollah's interaction with illegal armed groups in Latin America. Evidence shows that the FARC and Hezbollah exchange weapons and have joint money laundering ventures.²⁹

Elections in the post-conflict transition

El Espectador analyzed the proliferation of political parties with interests in the March 2014 elections. The article says that the range of political views represented by the parties is the result of intra-party divisions and fall-outs that have fragmented the political landscape.³⁰

An analysis of the Orinoco River Basin

After Colombia and Venezuela agreed on a joint strategy to combat drug trafficking, illegal armed groups, and illegal mining on their shared border, *Semana* analyzed the security and living conditions in the area.³¹

²⁸ <http://www.las2orillas.co/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/ENCUESTAelectoralCIFRAS.pdf>

²⁹ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/las-farc-si-estan-haciendo-negocios-hezbollah/353954-3>

³⁰ <http://www.elespectador.com/opinion/elecciones-y-posconflicto-columna-438625>

³¹ <http://www.semana.com/especiales/la-otra-frontera/index.html>



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UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA



Organización
Internacional
para las
Migraciones

Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

August, 2013

3

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2. Key Developments from August 14 to August 20

ELN will release Canadian hostage

The ELN asked that the Red Cross mediate the imminent release of Canadian hostage Gernot Wober. ELN-GOC peace talks are conditioned on Wober's liberation, so the act could open the door to a start to such negotiations.³² The army will facilitate the hostage release.³³

Peace agreement could be signed this year

High Commissioner for Peace Sergio Jaramillo and President of Congress Juan Fernando Cristo stated in separate events that a final peace agreement could be signed by the end of this year.³⁴

3. Negotiations & Agenda

Thirteenth round of talks begins

GOC negotiators traveled to Havana this Sunday to begin the 13th round of negotiations with the FARC. Santos sent a message reiterating his commitment to the talks, but emphasizing that the army will not weaken its efforts to combat the FARC in the continuing conflict.³⁵

The FARC opened the round with comments about the nationwide strikes currently occurring in various regions and sectors. The guerrilla group called for Free Trade Agreements and other economic policies to be revised in order to benefit the Colombian population more widely.³⁶ In addition, the FARC for the first time admitted their responsibility in causing the suffering of thousands of victims. They stated that victims' reparation will be a central focus of the

³² <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/eln-anuncia-liberara-canadiense-wober/354616-3>

³³ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/santos-ordena-facilitar-liberacion-de-canadiense-secues-articulo-440938>

³⁴ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/tecnicamente-posible-firmar-paz-ano-articulo-440381> and <http://www.caracol.com.co/noticias/actualidad/presidente-del-congreso-crea-que-en-noviembre-firmara-el-proceso-de-paz/20130816/nota/1952122.aspx>

³⁵ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/gobierno-renueva-compromiso-dialogos-de-paz-sin-aflojar-articulo-440761>

³⁶ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/farc-dicen-revisar-tlc/354619-3>



USAID
DEL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS
UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA



Organización
Internacional
para las
Migraciones

Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

August, 2013

negotiations in Havana. The guerrilla group also suggested that a truth commission be created to investigate the causes of the conflict and the origins of the illegal armed groups.³⁷

4. International Context

ICC Chief Prosecutor criticizes Legal Framework for Peace

International Criminal Court Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda sent a letter to the President of the Colombian Constitutional Court expressing concern over the Legal Framework for Peace's implication that sentences against grave infractions of international law could be suspended. This could invalidate national judicial processing of such cases and thereby open the door to the ICC's involvement in Colombia's transitional justice processes. Bensouda added that conditional reduction - not suspension - of such sentences is allowed under international law.³⁸

The Legal Framework for Peace provides the groundwork for transitional justice mechanisms to be used in the post-conflict period. It has received national criticism for implying that FARC high commanders could be given impunity when it comes to grave human rights violations.

Mújica volunteers as FARC-GOC mediator

Uruguayan President José Mujica identified himself as an "ideal mediator" in GOC-FARC peace talks and expressed his desire to aid the negotiations. Mujica was part of the Uruguayan guerrilla National Liberation Movement in the 1970s, and spent 14 years in prison as a result.³⁹

5. Other Voices

Peace is not sustainable without social inclusion

More than 600 people will meet in Cali this Thursday to discuss and draw attention to the need to facilitate the social inclusion of ethnic minorities in order to create sustainable peace.⁴⁰

6. Emerging Challenges & Responses

Emphasis on regional preparation for post-conflict

As part of a peace-building initiative organized by the Medellín Mayor's Office, President Santos met with regional governors, who stated unanimous support for the peace talks. Santos asked that they work to increase regional tolerance for demobilized people, which will be key for the

³⁷ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-admiten-responsabilidad-parte-de-victimas-del-conf-articulo-441014>

³⁸ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/una-carta-bomba/354430-3>

³⁹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/jose-mujica-se-perfila-mediador-ideal-proceso-de-paz-fa-articulo-440949>

⁴⁰ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/foro-en-cali-de-incluin_12992248-4



USAID
DEL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS
UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA



Organización
Internacional
para las
Migraciones

Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

August, 2013

successful reintegration of ex-FARC.⁴¹ Congress President Juan Fernando Cristo reiterated the need to strengthen regional institutions to prepare for the post-conflict phase.⁴²

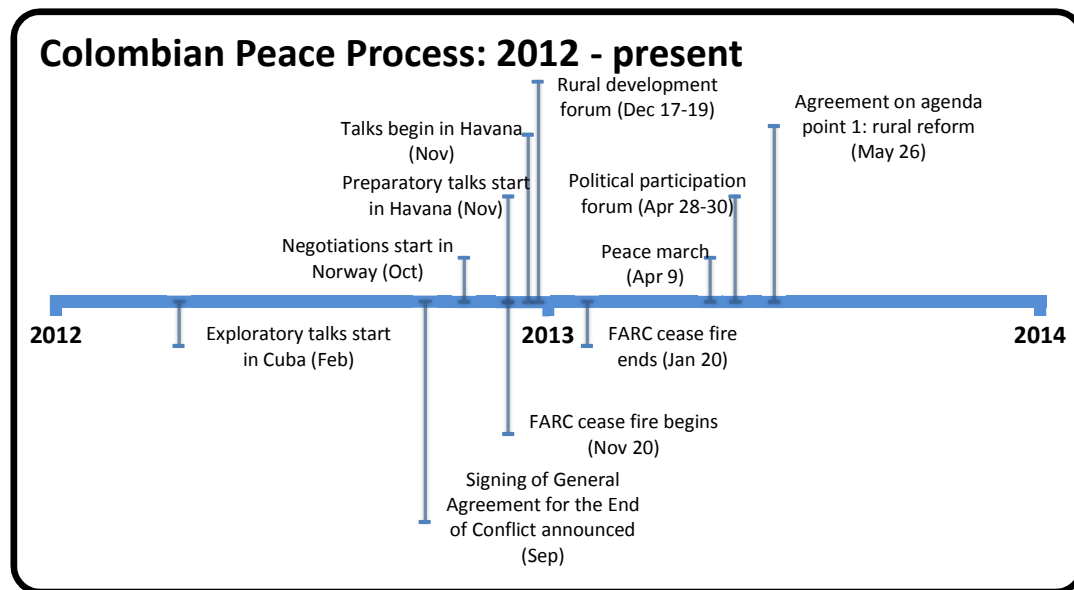
Justice Houses to facilitate demobilizations?

The Ministry of Justice has proposed the use of ‘Justice Houses’ in the demobilization of the FARC and ELN in the case of a peace agreement. These houses would be places where the ex-combatants could fulfill processes with the Public Defender’s Office, Attorney General’s Office, social workers, and others required for their demobilization.⁴³

New leaders of the armed forces speak of post-conflict

Army Director General Juan Pablo Rodríguez stated support for the peace talks and declared that the armed forces will continue strong offensives against the FARC until the conflict ends.⁴⁴ Police Director General Rodolfo Palomino said that a focus on security must extend into the post-conflict phase, when non-conflict security issues may be worsened.⁴⁵

7. Timeline



⁴¹ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/presidente-santos-pidi-a-gobernadores-prepararse-para-la-paz_12994862-4

⁴² <http://www.caracol.com.co/noticias/actualidad/presidente-del-congreso-cree-que-en-noviembre-se-firmara-el-proceso-de-paz/20130816/nota/1952122.aspx>

⁴³ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/proponen-casas-de-justicia-para-agilizar-desmovilizaciones_12994461-4

⁴⁴ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/entrevista-con-el-general-juan-pablo-rodrguez_13000942-4

⁴⁵ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/hay-garantizar-seguridad-ahora-posconflicto/354292-3>



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DEL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS
UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA



Organización
Internacional
para las
Migraciones

Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

August, 2013

8. Further Reading

El Tiempo readers opine on FARC political participation

El Tiempo readers were given the opportunity to state their opinions on the proposal that the FARC should be allocated 14 congressional seats as a result of the peace process. The majority believed that if the FARC want to participate in politics, they should do it through elections.⁴⁶

UN Resident Humanitarian Coordinator speaks about peace process

In an El Espectador interview, UN Resident Humanitarian Coordinator Fabrizio Hochschild discusses Colombia's efforts to serve conflict victims, and human rights issues in the country.⁴⁷

Alias 'Timochenko' in interview with El Espectador

FARC leader and negotiator alias 'Timochenko' affirmed that the guerrilla group will not go to jail as a result of the peace process, but will hand over their weapons. He discussed President Santos' policies and reelection, and the release of U.S. ex-marine hostage Kevin Sutay.⁴⁸

⁴⁶ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/curules-de-farc-para-la-up-opinin-de-los-lectores_12992611-4

⁴⁷ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/podemos-ayudar-verificacion-de-los-acuerdos-de-paz-articulo-440865>

⁴⁸ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/timochenko-ratifica-farc-no-quieren-ir-carcel-tras-proc-articulo-440430>



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DEL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS
UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA



Organización
Internacional
para las
Migraciones

Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

August, 2013

4

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2. Key Developments from August 21 to August 27

FARC briefly pause negotiations

The FARC announced a pause to talks on Friday morning to study the GOC's proposed model for referendum of a final agreement.⁴⁹ By Friday evening, the guerrilla group had confirmed a return to the dialogues on Monday.⁵⁰ The FARC's communiqué announcing the pause said that they realize the need to define aspects of the implementation of a final agreement.⁵¹ See below for more information on Friday's pause to negotiations.

Warnings against issuing Congressional seats to FARC

Experts have warned against a proposed Presidential decree issuing Congress seats to the FARC, as discussed in recent weeks in talks on political participation. The experts say that such a decree would be unconstitutional, as Congress seats cannot be allocated by the President.⁵²

3. Negotiations & Agenda

Forum on illicit drugs to be held

A forum for debate on agenda point 4 – illicit drugs - will be held on 24-26 September in Bogotá. Forum sub-topics include production of drugs, substitute crops, and illicit drugs as a public health issue. The United Nations and the Universidad Nacional support the event, as they have prior forums on rural reform (agenda point 1) and political participation (point 2).⁵³

FARC make "minimum proposals" on public policy

The FARC presented "minimum proposals" on topics related to civil society involvement in the design and implementation of public policy. These include a regulatory body that allows public

⁴⁹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-anuncian-una-pausa-los-dialogos-de-paz-articulo-441995>

⁵⁰ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-anuncian-lunes-retomaran-los-dialogos-de-paz-articulo-442084>

⁵¹ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/urgente-farc-retiran-temporalmente-mesa/354929-3>

⁵² <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/advierten-prohibicion-decreto-se-otorguen-curules-farc-articulo-442665>

⁵³ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/foro-sobre-drogas-ilicitas-sera-en-septiembre_13014258-4



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Organización
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para las
Migraciones

Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

August, 2013

review of budget and policy plans and a national public policy council that allows vulnerable populations to participate in public policy design.⁵⁴

Details of the proposed referendum

The proposed referendum would take place on March 9 2014 (the day of Congressional elections), or May 25 2014 (the day of Presidential elections). The timeline for referendum starts with Congress' approval of the referendum questions. The ballot must then see participation by 25% of the voter base - approximately 7.5 million. At least half those must approve its content, in general by responding to yes/no questions.⁵⁵

Opinions on GOC legal model for referendum

Ex-president Uribe said that holding a referendum on election days would present candidates as if some were "in favor of peace, and others in favor of war", creating voter bias.⁵⁶ Inspector General Ordóñez criticized the proposal for implying that voter choice would be between peace and war, rather than between impunity and justice.⁵⁷

The FARC also rejected the proposed referendum model because they were not consulted in its design, and believe that a peace agreement should be approved by constituent assembly. The group disagreed with the fact that the referendum would be held on election days.⁵⁸

President Santos refutes the claim that the FARC were not informed of the planned referendum proposal.⁵⁹ The GOC also reminded critics that point 6 of the negotiation agenda deals with mechanisms to approve a final agreement.⁶⁰

4. Other Voices

Church responds to FARC statements

FARC leader alias 'Pablo Catatumbo' accused the Catholic Church of a lack of commitment to reconciliation and peace. Monsignor Dario de Jesús Monsalve, archbishop of Cali, recognized that the Church has more work to do in terms of the conflict. However, he emphasized the Church's more than 700 social projects to benefit the victims. He also reminded the FARC that many clerics have been threatened and even killed as a result of their conflict-related work.⁶¹

Victims request that FARC be judicially processed

⁵⁴ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-proponen-crear-contraloria-social-vele-presupuesto-articulo-442724>

⁵⁵ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/por-que-referendo/355262-3>

⁵⁶ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/referendo-sobre-acuerdos-de-paz-una-trampa-democracia-u-articulo-441963>

⁵⁷ http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/referendo-sin-conocer-los-acuerdos-seria-un-salto-al-vacio-procurador_13010302-4

⁵⁸ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-no-aconsejan-referendo-tiempos-electorales-articulo-442463>

⁵⁹ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz-santos-dice-que-la-paz-tiene-precio-pero-no-cualquier-precio_13016502-4

⁶⁰ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/gobierno-analizar-situacin-en-la-habana-proceso-no-se-ha-roto_13011090-4

⁶¹ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/iglesia-responde-a-las-farc_13006762-4



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Organización
Internacional
para las
Migraciones

Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

August, 2013

After the FARC announced their desire to repair the victims of the conflict, the Terrorist Guerrilla Victims' Association responded that they do not need the guerrilla group to recognize them, but rather wish the FARC to be submitted to a minimum of judicial processing.⁶²

5. Emerging Challenges & Responses

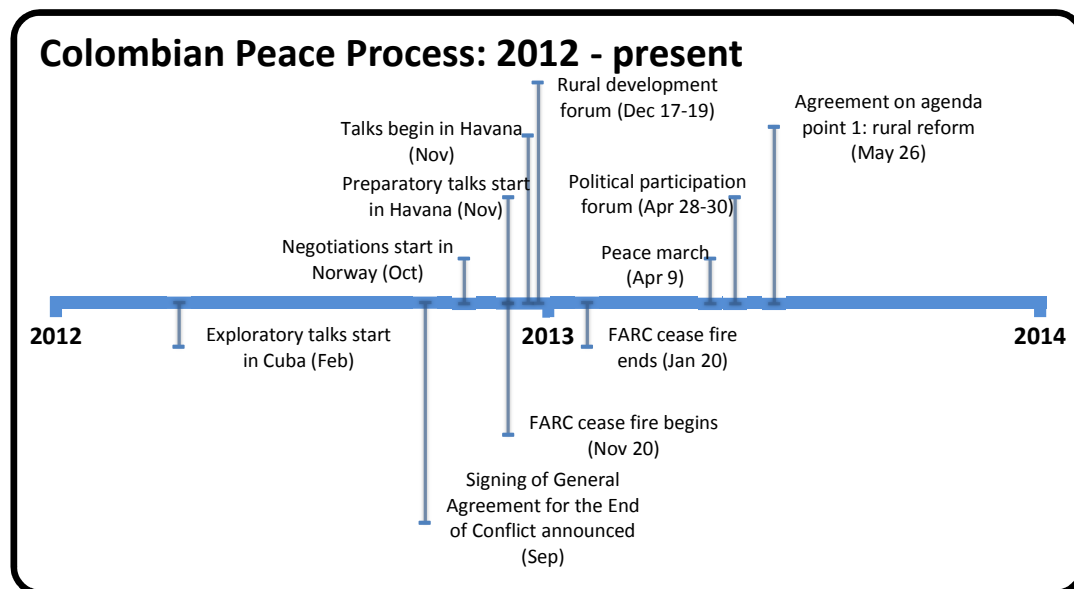
ELN and FARC join forces in Arauca

An attack in Arauca left 14 Colombian soldiers dead this weekend. Although the FARC were the main illegal armed actors in the incident, evidence shows that the ELN provided support. Both alliances and violent outbreaks between the two groups have been revealed in the past.⁶³

86% of child soldiers experienced domestic violence

A report by UNICEF and the Public Defender's Office found that 86% of child soldiers in Colombia experienced some sort of domestic violence before their recruitment.⁶⁴

6. Timeline



⁶² http://www.elcolombiano.com/BancoConocimiento/V/victimas_piden_someter_a_las_farc_a_la_justicia/victimas_piden_someter_a_las_farc_a_la_justicia.asp

⁶³ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/arauca-macabra-alianza-del-eln-farc/355272-3>

⁶⁴ <http://www.unicef.org/colombia/pdf/boletin-8.pdf>



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para las
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Colombian Peace Process: IOM Weekly Report

August, 2013

7. Further Reading

The Inspector General's criticism of the Legal Framework for Peace

Inspector General Ordoñez has filed a complaint against the Legal Framework for Peace, taking issue with Transitory Article No. 67. Ordoñez supports the view recently expressed by ICC Prosecutor Fantou Bensouda, who stated that the article opens the door to impunity for crimes against humanity and other grave violations of human rights.⁶⁵

FARC and Uribistas support widespread strikes

Peasants, transport workers, and others began strikes all around the country last week, adding roadblocks to their strategy aiming to motivate the government to provide them support in the form of subsidies and other benefits. Most sectors claim low wages, rising prices, and other negative effects of the Free Trade Agreement with the USA. The left-wing FARC and right-wing Uribe supporters represent two usually opposing sides of the political spectrum who have supported the strikes, which have turned violent in some parts of the country.⁶⁶

FARC negotiator in interview with El Tiempo

Iván Márquez, one of the FARC's negotiators in Havana, was interviewed by El Tiempo. He discusses the pause in negotiations over the weekend, the FARC's opposition to the Legal Framework to peace, the guerrilla group's political aspirations, the need to wait for the right moment for the FARC to listen to victims' needs, and other topics.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/el-motivo-ordonez-contra-marco-juridico-para-paz/355271-3>

⁶⁶ <http://www.economist.com/blogs/americasview/2013/08/protests-colombia>

⁶⁷ http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/entrevista-a-ivn-mrquez_13011964-4