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Embassy of Colombia in the United States

Update on the Status of Colombia's Peace Agreement

As a key stakeholder in the U.S.-Colombia bilateral relationship, we want to keep you up to date on implementation of the Peace Agreement. Since our last update, the UN Mission in Colombia removed the final containers of FARC weapons, setting in motion the next phase of Peace Agreement implementation – reincorporation of former FARC members into civil society. In the coming month, the UN will lead a second mission in Colombia focused on reintegration.

August 16, 2017

Following the removal of the final container of FARC weapons by the UN, the government of Colombia began efforts to reincorporate former members of the FARC into civil society. The government released plans to transform what were Transitional Standardization Zones during the disarmament phase of Peace Agreement implementation into Territories for Training and Reincorporation now that the FARC has disarmed.

August 15, 2017

In the La Guajira Department (state), the UN removed and closed the final container with weapons from former FARC combatants. Upon removal of the final container of weapons, President Santos stated:

"Today begins the construction of a new country. ... Eight months after signing the agreement we are seeing the end of the abandonment of the arms. That is a record time. ... Today is indeed the last breath of that conflict, with the abandonment of arms, with the last containers, the conflict really ends and a new phase begins in the life of our nation."



Photos (L to R): President Juan Manuel Santos talks with Head of the UN Mission in Colombia Jean Arnault and other UN officials moments before closing the final container of FARC weapons. President Santos delivers to UN officials the key to the padlock to seal the last container containing FARC weapons. August 15, 2017. Photos taken by the Presidency.

July 10, 2017

The UN announced it will lead a second mission, which will begin on September 17, to oversee former FARC members' reintegration into civilian life and civil society.

June 27, 2017

- As of June 27, 7,132 individual weapons had been handed over to the UN.
- National and international best practices for demobilization have been implemented in six steps:
 1. Registration and identification of weapons.
 2. Monitoring and verification of who had possession of the weapons.
 3. Collection and storage of weapons.
 4. Certification of individual arms removal by the UN and each individual FARC member signing an act of commitment administered by the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace.
 5. Extraction of armaments stored in containers held by the UN in remote rural areas.
 6. Final disposition and final certification of the process of arms abandonment by the UN.
- The last two steps will be taken by August 1, 2017.
- The weapons will be melted down and used to construct three monuments – one in Colombia, one in the United States and one in Cuba.

In an address to the nation, President Santos stated:

“...Today, June 27, for me - and I think for the vast majority of Colombians - is a very special day, a day that we will never forget: the day the weapons were changed by words! ... The abandonment of weapons is the symbol of the new country that we can be and we are beginning to be.

“A country where opportunities reach all Colombians; in the cities, in the towns and in the most remote paths, where the State could not arrive because of the armed conflict. A country where we can advance much more - now without the burden of internal war - on the issues of education, health, housing, provision of public services, construction of roads connecting us.

“We have achieved a lot - despite the conflict - and now we can do more, much more, to continue reducing poverty and inequalities and generating prosperity for all.”

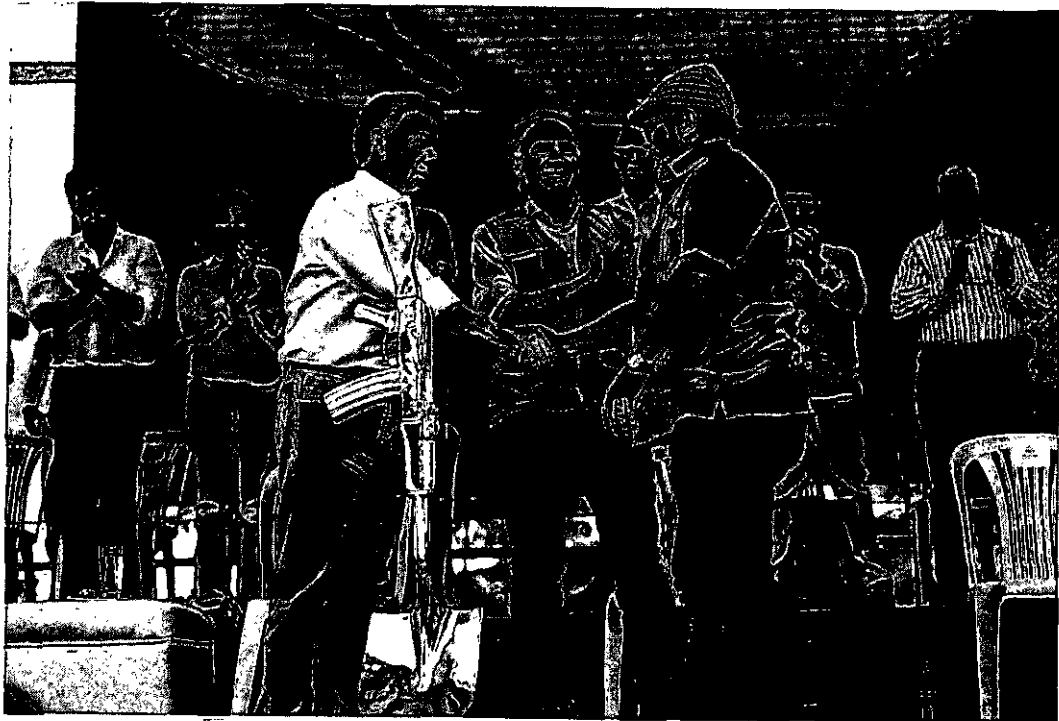


Photo: President Juan Manuel Santos, Head of the UN Mission in Colombia Jean Arnault and FARC leader Rodrigo Londoño in front of a sculpture symbolizing the progress from the end of war to the construction of a country in peace. June 27, 2017. Photo taken by the Presidency.

We will continue to update you as implementation progresses.

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