

Colombia Newsletter April 2019

The Peace Agreement

- The director of the Agency for Reincorporation and Normalization, Andrés Stapper, made public the results of a survey of 10415 ex-combatants in the 431 municipalities, which shows that only 96% of the ex-combatants of the FARC remain in the Territorial Spaces of Training and Reincorporation.¹
- The European Union announced that they will donate 7.7 million euros to the Integral System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition. These funds will be distributed between the Truth Commission and the Search Unit for Persons Disappeared.²
- The UN Security Council claimed that the peace process in Colombia is in a critical moment. The fifteen member countries showed their concern about the pace of implementation of the agreement, the murder of ex-combatants and social leaders. Through a statement, the fifteen countries that make up the Security Council of the United Nations Organization, agreed with the Secretary General's assessment that *"the peace process is at a critical moment today."*³
- The Institute of official follow-up to the peace agreement with the FARC states that 31% has not started its implementation and only 23 percent of the commitments have been completed.⁴
- 100 ex-combatants of the FARC have been killed since the signing of the peace agreement. On the 22th of April, the assassination of Dimar Torres, ex-guerilla, took place in the

¹ <https://colombia2020.elespectador.com/pais/el-96-de-los-excombatientes-de-las-farc-le-apuestan-al-empredimiento>

² <https://colombia2020.elespectador.com/colombia-en-transicion/la-union-europea-donara-27000-millones-para-el-sistema-integral-de-justicia>

³ <https://colombia2020.elespectador.com/pais/el-proceso-de-paz-esta-en-un-momento-critico-consejo-de-seguridad-de-la-onu>

⁴ <https://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/como-va-la-implementacion-de-los-acuerdos-de-paz-con-farc-segun-kroc-347474>

Catatumbo, which is registered as one of the most complex areas for the process of reincorporation of the FARC.⁵

- The JEP wants to deprive the freedom of “El Paisa”, the former guerilla leader. It is because he has yet to proven that “El Paisa” had complied with the commitments he acquired.⁶

General news

- 44 kids were rescued due to a raid in Bogotá, the neighborhood Santa Fé. The kids were sexually abused and used for prostitution.⁷

Mental Health

- In a letter sent to President Duque, the Colombian Association of Hospitals and Clinics ask him to take advantage of the National Development Plan to establish a “no repetition” mechanism to avoid mistakes made in the past.⁸
- In the capital of Boyacá, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, headed by Juan Pablo Uribe, presented the ‘Comprehensive Policy for the Prevention and Attention of the Consumption of Psychoactive Substances’ to reinforce the fight against the consumptions of alcohol and other substances in the country. According to the most recent National Study of Consumption of Psychoactive Substances - carried out in 2013- , Colombia went from being a producer of psychoactive substances to a consumer. The report showed that alcohol was used by 58.7% of the population. Tobacco 16.2%, marijuana 3.3% and cocaine 0.7%.

⁵ <https://colombia2020.elespectador.com/pais/en-el-catatumbo-no-hay-garantias-de-seguridad-para-la-reincorporacion-de-las-farc>

⁶ <https://colombia2020.elespectador.com/jep/jep-le-quita-el-beneficio-de-libertad-condicional-el-paisa>

⁷ <https://www.eltiempo.com/bogota/rescatan-a-44-menores-victimas-de-explotacion-sexual-en-el-barrio-santa-fe-345588>

⁸ <https://www.elespectador.com/noticias/salud/clinicas-y-hospitales-piden-mecanismo-de-no-repeticion-para-evitar-errores-del-pasado-articulo-848031>

According to the health minister, the policy will be guided by five guiding principles: human development, a dignified life, inclusion, non-discrimination and integrality.⁹

- Due to bad service, Coomeva EPS leaves Meta, Cauca and Cundinamarca and will be moved to other insurers. The decision, made by the Supersalud, also means that Coomeva EPS immediately must interrupt the affiliation activities in these districts.¹⁰

Cauca

- Social organizations and university students of Cauca has joined the national strike on the 25th of April. The reason for the strike is to protest against the government of Ivan Duque and assure that he will commit with the agreements after other demonstration. For example, he promised a higher budget for education and other agreements with ethnic communities.¹¹
- The authorities have confirmed the discovery of the corpse of the social leader, Gersaín Díaz Paz. The assassination of Gersaín Díaz Paz was one of 32 that has occurred in the village of Portachuelo de Rosas in Cauca.¹²

Meta

- The authorities captured eight members of organized armed groups in Meta.¹³
- Two years ago, as a result of the peace process the FARC left the area, that was considered the most belligerent and associated with the drug trafficking business. But nevertheless, the inhabitants of Meta and Guaviare claimed that the regions are still influenced by guerillas and coca.¹⁴

⁹ <https://www.elespectador.com/noticias/salud/asi-es-como-el-gobierno-quiere-frenar-el-consumo-de-sustancias-psicoactivas-articulo-848427>

¹⁰ <https://www.eltiempo.com/vida/salud/coomeva-deja-de-prestar-servicio-en-meta-cauca-y-cundinamarca-347282>

¹¹ <http://elnuevoliberal.com/este-jueves-organizaciones-sociales-del-cauca-se-unen-al-paro-nacional/>

¹² <http://elnuevoliberal.com/encuentran-el-cadaver-de-gersain-diaz-paz/>

¹³ <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/captura-de-integrantes-de-grupos-armados-345730>

¹⁴ <https://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/conflicto-y-narcotrafico/problemas-en-meta-y-guaviare-continuan-tras-la-salida-de-las-farc-346668>

- FARC dissidents; A father, three children and a nephew were sent to prison and were charged for murder, forced displacement, terrorist attacks and extortion to farmers, ranchers and merchants.¹⁵
- Indigenous people in Meta raised the Minga after an agreement with the authorities. For eleven days, they have prevented the traffic of vehicles to the oil field of Rubiales, in Puerto Gaitán (Meta).¹⁶
- The police captured two members¹⁷ of the FARC's dissidence because they were planning to infiltrate the national protest, arranged by the labor centrals, youth, agrarian and urban organizations, on the 25th of April.
- Between 200 and 300 farmers has blocked the road to Guaviare in the south of Meta in protest. They demand to stop the assassinations of leaders and they want the government to comply with the agreements to substitute illicit crops.¹⁸

Tolima

- President Duque went for the third time to an ETCR (territorial space for the ex-combatants of the FARC) in Icnozo, Tolima. Duque reiterates his commitment to the reincorporation process.¹⁹
- The Minga reached agreements with the Government. After five days of negotiations they have agreed on some benefits for the communities among them, a corporation with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the University of Tolima, who has committed

¹⁵ <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/capturada-familia-de-disidentes-de-las-farc-348564>

¹⁶ <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/minga-indigena-en-el-meta-348978>

¹⁷ <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/capturados-en-villavicencio-que-se-iban-a-infiltrar-en-paro-353002>

¹⁸ <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/protesta-campesina-en-meta-y-guaviare-353928>

¹⁹ <https://www.eltiempo.com/politica/gobierno/duque-reitera-su-compromiso-con-el-proceso-de-reincorporacion-346048>

to sign an agreement to provide free education to students of reservations and councils of the department.²⁰

- A collapse in the emergency department of the Federico Lleras Acosta hospital in Tolima has highlighted the critical situation of the health system in the department.²¹

Bolívar

- In the framework of the commemoration of the National Day of Dignity for Victims, the Office of Reconciliation and Historical Memory of the Government of Bolívar, held the first workshop on equality and inclusion of the rights of the LGBTQ+, afro and indigenous people who were victims of the armed conflict in the department.²²
- Inhabitants of Mahates marched against a wave of violence that has unleashed during the recent months in the area. The demonstrators pointed out that the sale and consumption of drugs, thefts and rapes to minors are the most regrettable cases, and they are increasing every day.²³

Putumayo

- The search for truth has begun in Putumayo. The Truth Commission will aim to reveal the truths about coca cultivation, illegal economies, multiple armed groups, massacres, violence women and forced displacement.²⁴
- Indigenous of the Minga of Putumayo announced blockades in the department's roads as a part of the Minga protest. The reason for the blockades, according to them, was due to the

²⁰ <http://www.elnuevodia.com.co/nuevodia/tolima/regional/431218-minga-indigena-del-tolima-llego-a-acuerdos-con-gobernacion>

²¹ <http://www.elnuevodia.com.co/nuevodia/tolima/regional/431847-la-salud-en-el-tolima-urgencias-con-necesidades-y-edificaciones-abandonadas>

²² <https://www.eluniversal.com.co/regional/bolivar/primer-taller-para-poblacion-lgbti-victimas-del-conflicto-YY1001919>

²³ <https://www.eluniversal.com.co/regional/habitantes-de-mahates-marchan-contra-la-violencia-EY1067134>

²⁴ <https://colombia2020.elespectador.com/verdad/la-busqueda-de-la-verdad-en-el-putumayo-ya-comenzo>

lack of political will of the Government to negotiate a list of petitions framed in the fundamental rights of the indigenous people and communities.²⁵

²⁵ <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/indigenas-del-putumayo-bloquearan-vias-del-departamento-347104>