

## Colombia Newsletter February 2019

### The Peace Agreement

- The government of President Iván Duque wants to eradicate the cocaine farms, while peasants fear that the forced eradication by the public force will increase social conflicts.<sup>1</sup>
- FARC claimed that they have delivered more than double amount of money than what the government says. SAE (la Sociedad de Activos Especiales) says they have received 10.000 million pesos, while the ex-guerrilla said that the amount exceeds 25.000 million pesos.<sup>2</sup>
- Consejo de Reincorporación approved two new projects for a value of two billion pesos, which will benefit 80 former ex-guerrillas of the FARC in the process of reincorporation and their families. With these two projects, the number of approved productive projects amounts to 185 since the members of the organization laid down their arms in 2017.<sup>3</sup>
- The EPL is suspected for committing a guerilla attack on an oil pipeline, which is causing a major environmental disaster as the oil spillage threatens the waterways and vegetation.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://colombia2020.elespectador.com/pais/prioridad-del-gobierno-duque-mas-erradicacion-menos-sustitucion-de-cultivos-de-coca>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/farc-dice-que-ha-entregado-mas-del-doble-de-lo-dicho-por-el-gobierno-329570>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/los-proyectos-productivos-para-exguerrilleros-de-las-farc-llegan-a-185-331074>

<sup>4</sup> <https://colombiareports.com/el-attack-on-oil-pipeline-causes-environmental-disaster-in-northeast-colombia/>

- Human Rights Watch has accused Duque of promoting nine alleged war criminals in top army positions.<sup>5</sup>

### **Mental Health**

- Supersalud has initiated an operation against EPS. Meta, Cauca and Cundinamarca will no longer have EPS Coomeva services due to a recent decision taken by Superintendencia de Salud.<sup>6</sup>

### **General new**

- According to a study by the University of Washington, Colombia is the fifth country where the most people die by firearms. The analysis shows that 13.000 people were shot in the country during 2016.<sup>7</sup>
- Violent clashes on the border between Colombia and Venezuela occurred when vehicles carried American food supplies and medicine, which were stopped by the border agents.  
*“Last weekend, the world saw directly that the terror regime, whose main characteristic is violation of human rights, burned food and medicine being sent to hungry, famished people in Venezuela,”* said Colombia’s representative.<sup>8</sup>
- Violent clashes on the border between Colombia and Venezuela have heightened tensions between the two neighboring countries. A possible war between Colombia and Venezuela is feared. Venezuela’s President Maduro stopped all negotiations with Duque and closed the border between the countries.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> <https://colombiareports.com/duque-put-nine-alleged-war-criminals-in-top-army-positions-hrw/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/vida/salud/revocarian-operacion-de-coomeva-en-meta-cauca-y-cundinamarca-322094>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/vida/salud/muertes-por-armas-de-fuego-en-el-mundo-y-colombia-segun-estudio-325384>

<sup>8</sup> <https://colombiareports.com/colombia-asks-un-for-increased-action-on-venezuela/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://colombiareports.com/risks-for-colombia-of-a-military-intervention-in-venezuela/>

## Cauca

- The government of Cauca has donated instruments to children and youngsters for a value close to 250 million pesos. The purpose is to consolidate scenarios of peace and reconciliation. More than 120 children benefited from this donation of instruments.<sup>10</sup>
- The 16 development programs with territorial approach (PDET) will begin their first year of development in 2019. In Cauca various proposals were generated to change the territory during the next ten years. Those are proposals are, among others, on land, health, rural education, food, housing, roads and water.<sup>11</sup>

## Meta

- 2.000 hectares of coca leaves in Guavira was found and destroyed.<sup>12</sup>
- Three dissidents of the FARC voluntarily surrendered in Guaviare. They were part of a group led by Ivan Mordisco in Miraflores.<sup>13</sup>
- The army managed to capture four dissidence of the FARC and recovered seven minors.<sup>14</sup>

## Tolima

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<sup>10</sup> <http://elnuevoliberal.com/con-instrumentos-donados-por-la-gobernacion-del-cauca-ninos-de-puerto-tejada-le-apuestan-a-la-paz/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://elnuevoliberal.com/los-pdet-en-el-cauca-aun-estan-en-el-papel/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/destruccion-de-cultivos-de-coca-en-guaviare-323562>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/entrega-de-disidentes-de-las-farc-325398>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/liberan-siete-menores-que-tenian-las-didencias-328222>

- Farmers protested for their rights in the center of Ibagué. In 2015 they started a plan of collective reparation and the Government has failed to comply with the agreements.<sup>15</sup>
- Teachers from Tolima marched to demand better working and health conditions.<sup>16</sup>

## **Bolívar**

- Habitants of Tiquisio fear the presence of armed groups after a threatening pamphlet began to circulate through the streets.<sup>17</sup>
- The EPS from Bolívar reached payment agreements with five hospitals and a clinic in the department for a sum of 16.542 million pesos.<sup>18</sup>

## **Putumayo**

- They are looking for those responsible for an oil pipeline attack in Orito, Putumayo.<sup>19</sup>
- In less than 48 hours, four women were killed in Putumayo. The authorities will offer rewards for those who provide information in order to identify and prosecute those who committed the crimes.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> <http://www.elnuevodia.com.co/nuevodia/tolima/regional/428587-campesinos-del-tolima-protestan-en-el-centro-de-ibague-por-sus-derechos>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.elnuevodia.com.co/nuevodia/tolima/regional/428900-maestros-del-tolima-marchan-para-exigir-mejores-condiciones-laborales-y-de-sa>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.eluniversal.com.co/regional/bolivar/temor-en-tiquisio-por-panfleto-de-grupos-armados-NX761593>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.eluniversal.com.co/regional/eps-y-hospitales-de-bolivar-acordaron-pagos-por-16-mil-millones-YL814881>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/ecopetrol-activa-plan-de-contingencia-tras-atentado-en-orito-putumayo-325952>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/asesinan-a-4-mujeres-en-putumayo-331538>