

## Colombia newsletter October 2018

### The peace agreement

- On the 5<sup>th</sup> of October the president, Ivan Duque, visited the village, Pondoires, in la Guajira where there is a reincorporation of ex-guerrillas of the FARC. The purpose of this visit was to “*Saludar y dialogar con líderes de la comunidad y desmovilizados de Las Farc*”, quoted by Duque “*Les vamos a cumplir a los que genuinamente estén en este proceso, a los que tengan voluntad genuina de desmovilización, desarme reinserción y no repetición*”.<sup>1</sup>
- The political party ‘FARC’ announced that 124 minors, belonging to its ranks, began the process of reincorporation into civilization. The process is a part of a strategy defined in the implementation of the peace agreement called, ‘Camino Diferencial de Vida’ for the transition of children under 18. The program is led by the ‘Alta Consejería para los Derechos Humanos, la Agencia para la Reincorporación y Normalización, ARN’. It is oriented towards minors, to reconstruct and consolidate their lives via projects.<sup>2</sup>
- President Duque was welcomed by the representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs. Iván Duque visited Europe for three days and returned from Brussels with important news for the Peace Agreement with the ex-guerrillas, FARC. Federica Mogherini, the EU representative for Foreign Affairs, announced that they will continue to support the implementation of the Peace Agreement, which already has been granted approximately 100 million euros, and will be increased by 60 million euros. Another fundamental issue that marked the president’s agenda in Brussels, was the border crisis with Venezuela.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/duque-visita-por-primera-vez-zona-reincorporacion-de-exguerrilleros-280562>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-anuncio-que-124-menores-iniciaron-su-proceso-de-reincorporacion-articulo-819981>

<sup>3</sup> <https://colombia2020.elespectador.com/politica/duque-logra-concretar-mas-recursos-para-la-paz>

- Dissidents of FARC are accused for an armed assault using explosives at a police station in the municipality of Harací. This would be the first violent act perpetrated by the illegal group, if their assumed responsibility is correct, in the Catatumbo region where approximately 300 members of this ex-guerrilla left their weapons in order to reintegrate into civil life.<sup>4</sup>
- The murders of ex-Farc and social leaders concerns the United Nations. The general secretary of the UN presented the fourth report on the implementation of the peace agreement. The number of assassinations since the signing of the Peace Agreement has reached 71. According to 'La Unidad Especial de Investigación de la Fiscalía General', these murders are concentrated in five departments: Nariño (16 victims), Antioquia (14 victims), Cauca (12 victims), Caquetá ( 8 victims) and Norte de Santander (7 victims).<sup>5</sup>
- There was a meeting between the Office of the Prosecutor and the JEP. Both jurisdictions agreed that civilians who were part of the armed conflict, should go to the JEP. It was established that the value of the assets seized from the FARC would be divided equally, 50% for the JEP and 50% for government funds. Now the Office of the Prosecutor and the JEP agree that 100% of the value of these assets be given to the victims of the armed conflict.<sup>6</sup>
- Iván Duque asked JEP to certify, if an ex-combatant of FARC is not in the process of reincorporation to society. *"Si no están y adicionalmente están en actividades criminales, tendrán que ser llevados a la justicia ordinaria", que tendrá que ser "ejemplarizante"*.<sup>7</sup>

## General news

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/disidencia-de-farc-estaria-detras-de-ataque-a-la-policia-en-el-catatumbo-285974>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/cuarto-informe-de-secretario-de-onu-sobre-proceso-de-paz-en-colombia-277204>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/acuerdos-entre-la-fiscalia-general-y-la-jep-para-mejorar-relaciones-282398>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/duque-pide-a-jep-certificar-si-lideres-de-farc-continuan-en-el-proceso-284750>

- Approximately 400.000 students gathered across the country in protest to the deficit in public education. They were asking for an addition of 4,9 trillion pesos to the budget for 2019 and an addition of 700,000 million pesos for science and technology. *“Le hemos dicho al Gobierno Nacional que, así como hay plata para la guerra también debe haber para la educación”*, said Carlos Prasco, rector of Universidad del Atlántico, who was leading the protest. The protest was followed by a chain of smaller protest, and public universities are still on strike.<sup>8</sup>

## **Mental health**

- Minsalud launched a new national policy on mental health. The minister of health, Juan Pablo Uribe Restrepo, presented five axes of action; Promotion of coexistence, prevention of disorders, comprehensive care, inclusive rehabilitation and coordination with other sectors. According to the World Health Organization, depression alone, affects 4,7% of the population in Colombia.<sup>9</sup>
- It reveals that illegality and corruption have been affecting health in Colombia. Regarding parafiscal evasion, health in Colombia loses eight billion pesos. The Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic and the Attorney General announced, that they are preparing a plan to attack the problem of corruption.<sup>10</sup>
- Eva Katherine Carrascal, the former deputy superintendent for Institutional Supervision of the Superintendence of Health, and Guillermo Grosso Sandoval, Auditor of Saludcoop and former President of Cafesalud, have been arrested and accused of corruption by the Office of the Prosecutor.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.elespectador.com/noticias/nacional/asi-van-las-marchas-por-la-educacion-en-el-pais-articulo-817228>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.elespectador.com/noticias/salud/minsalud-lanza-su-politica-nacional-de-salud-mental-articulo-817185>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.elespectador.com/economia/salud-en-colombia-pierde-ocho-billones-de-pesos-por-ilegalidad-contralor-articulo-819979>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/vida/salud/capturan-a-eva-katherine-carrascal-exsuperintendente-delegada-de-salud-285922>

## Cauca

- With the purpose of generating a strategy to help the female victims of the armed conflict in Popayán, a group has presented a project by the Anne Frank Corporation. The first phase of the project consists of the emotional recovery of 80 victims, where women are going to be seen by a psychologist to deal with issues such as historical memory and given tools to overcome the tragic events that they experienced during the conflict. The second stage consists of five workshops and will be held on memory, peace and corporality techniques, with the purpose of telling their experiences from a positive perspective and translating them into a book, that will be published.<sup>12</sup>
- The governor of Cauca, Óscar Rodrigo Campo Hurtado, signed the decree, that strengthens the ‘Consejo Territorial de Reincorporación (CTR)’ and the reincorporation process that is being carried out with the ex-members of the FARC-EP in the department.<sup>13</sup>
- The territorial director for ‘La unidad para las Víctimas’ en Cauca, resignes after six years.<sup>14</sup>
- A progress of the public policy of human rights was made known; an initiative that seeks to guarantee to ensure the defense of human rights and the work of the leaders and social leaders in the department.<sup>15</sup>
- Popayán was the headquarter of the first national meeting of the “*Primer encuentro nacional de líderes víctimas por el hecho victimizante contra la integridad física y psicológica*”. The representatives of all the departments from the whole country and the national delegates intended to create a document, that will later be presented to the government and Iván Duque. The meeting was requested in the department of Cauca, because the national average of

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<sup>12</sup> <http://elnuevoliberal.com/las-victimas-superando-la-tragedia-del-conflicto/>

<sup>13</sup> <http://elnuevoliberal.com/gobernador-del-cauca-firmo-decreto-para-fortalecer-el-proceso-de-reincorporacion-en-el-departamento/>

<sup>14</sup> <http://elnuevoliberal.com/renuncio-director-territorial-de-la-unidad-para-las-victimas-en-cauca/>

<sup>15</sup> <http://elnuevoliberal.com/avances-de-la-politica-publica-de-derechos-humanos/>

victims of the conflict, are highest? in this region of the country. The purpose of the meeting was to construct the proposal to the national government and submit it to the new development plan.<sup>16</sup>

- Six people were murdered and two disappeared in López de Micay. One of the murdered was a former member of the FARC. The hypothesis is that the massacre was a confrontation between the ELN and FARC dissidences.<sup>17</sup>

## Meta

- A cocaine laboratory, which belonged to FARC, was destroyed in Miraflores. The laboratory had the capacity to produce approximately 1.700 kilos of cocaine.<sup>18</sup>
- 16 people were arrested for microtrafficking in Meta.<sup>19</sup>
- Supersalud proposes the reopening of two clinics and the financial saving of four hospitals in the department.<sup>20</sup>
- FARC dissidents killed two soldiers during a mission. Three other soldiers were injured and three FARC dissidents were captured during the action in the rural area of La Macarena.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> <http://elnuevoliberal.com/victimas-buscan-ser-incluidas-en-el-gobierno-de-duque/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://colombia2020.elespectador.com/pais/masacre-en-cauca-ocurrio-en-el-epicentro-de-una-guerra-por-el-narcotrafico>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/destruyen-laboratorio-de-coca-en-guaviare-275500>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/a-la-carcel-expendedores-de-drogas-275982>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/la-crisis-de-la-salud-del-meta-277692>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/muerte-de-dos-soldados-en-la-macarena-281668>

## **Tolima**

- The departmental Government of Tolima has supported public hospitals with an investment close to \$16 billion pesos. El Hospital Regional del Líbano is the fourth institution to receive financial support from the Government. The government of Tolima has taken important steps to improve the health of the people in the department, especially to help the inhabitants of certain specific rural areas.<sup>22</sup>
- Former participants of FARC in Tolima are holding an artistic and cultural festival on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October. Maria Helena Gonzalez, coordinator (e) of the ARN territorial group Tolima, pointed out that the purpose of this type of festival is to create and maintain peace *“contribuyen a la reconciliación entre los excombatientes de las FARC-EP y la comunidad. Además de esto, este tipo de festivales son la oportunidad perfecta para que la comunidad en general tenga la oportunidad de conocer el trabajo que realizan las personas en proceso de reincorporación”*.<sup>23</sup>

## **Bolívar**

- Overcrowding in cells of the police station ‘El Carmen de Bolívar’ is causing health problems for those accused who have been deprived of their liberty. The small cells are five meters wide and three meters long and house 30 people, who must share a single bathroom. Among the arrested, one person has the beginning of tuberculosis and pulmonary problems, and they fear, that the diseases will spread.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> <http://www.elnuevodia.com.co/nuevodia/tolima/regional/423005-con-inversion-en-salud-fortalecemos-el-tejido-social>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.elnuevodia.com.co/nuevodia/tolima/regional/422894-excombatientes-de-las-farc-en-tolima-realizaran-el-primer-festival-artistico->

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.eluniversal.com.co/regional/bolivar/denuncian-hacinamiento-de-detenedos-en-el-carmen-289526>

## **Putumayo**

- Two attacks on an oil pipeline were confirmed in the Costayaco sector. The attack is causing serious damage to the environment. According to the report, those responsible were part of a gang dedicated to steal fuel.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> <https://www.elnuevosiglo.com.co/articulos/10-2018-emergencia-ambiental-por-ataque-oleoducto-putumayo>