

UN Confirms 60 Percent of FARC-EP Weapons Have Been Received



Bogota, June 17 (RHC-teleSUR)-- The Mission of the United Nations in Colombia has confirmed that it received 60 percent of the weapons from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC-EP.

“Finishing this second phase of the process, the Mission has taken under its custody 60 percent of the approximately 7,000 individual weapons that were registered, monitored, and verified since March 1st of 2017,” the UN's statement said.

According to the timeline agreed upon by FARC-EP, the Colombian government, and the UN, the third phase of disarmament is scheduled to take place Tuesday, and the formal end of the process will occur on June 27th. The event will be attended by President Santos, and FARC-EP leader Rodrigo Londoño, also known as Timochenko.

The completion of disarmament will be a landmark achievement for the ongoing peace process. While speaking in Oslo, Norway on Thursday, Colombia's foreign minister reiterated the government's commitment to peace, but acknowledged that the process “has been more difficult” than was expected.

FARC-EP members have expressed concern at the pace with which the government has implemented key legislation to provide protection and amnesty to former guerrillas, as well as at the political uncertainty arising from upcoming elections in Colombia.

After decades of armed struggle, the FARC-EP will transition to acting as a registered electoral political party in Colombia.

“With this act, the FARC-EP wishes to show Colombia and the rest of the world that we leave behind war to begin writing a new chapter of peace (...) that our commitment is complete and that we are going to give everything for the peace of our country,” Pablo Catatumbo, a member of the FARC-EP Secretariat said about the development.

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