

FARC Considering Unilateral Christmas Truce



Havana, December 17 (teleSUR-RHC)-- The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) announced Tuesday that in the upcoming days the group might announce another unilateral Christmas cease-fire.

“Yes, we are studying the possibility of announcing another unilateral cease-fire. If we reach a consensus we will announce it in upcoming days,” said Pablo Catatumbo, one of the group’s spokespersons, speaking from the peace talks in Havana. “We don’t want to announce it yet.”

This would not be the first time the guerrilla group has declared an unilateral cease-fire.

In 2012 and 2013, the guerrilla group temporarily halted its offensive operations during Christmas festivities, despite the government refusal to also cease hostilities. The FARC also called a cease-fire during the country’s elections earlier this year.

Nevertheless, the government of President Juan Manuel Santos has continued military operations against the FARC, with nine guerrillas killed by Colombian army bombs this Monday.

Some of the victims of the country’s 50-year internal conflict who traveled to attend the Havana talks backed the idea of agreeing to a bilateral truce.

The FARC and the Colombian government have engaged in peace talks before, however this latest attempt has advanced further than any previous effort.

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