

Colombia to Resume Bombings Against FARC Rebels



Bogota, April 16 (teleSUR-RHC)-- President Juan Manuel Santos ordered on Wednesday Colombia's armed forces to resume bombing campaigns against the camps of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

The announcement comes after a confrontation late Tuesday between the Colombian military and the FARC that left 10 government forces dead. Despite commitments to continue the peace process currently underway in Havana between the Colombian government and the FARC, the decision by Santos threatens to shake the progress in the talks.

Pastor Alape, member of the FARC negotiating team in Havana, said in a press conference that he regretted the deaths but insisted that the government implement a bilateral ceasefire. "We express our concern for the event that occurred in the Cauca, that from any angle has its roots at the incoherent policy of the government order military operations against a guerrilla that is in truce," said Alape in a press conference.

"We express our condolences to the families of these fellow citizens and call on the nation to reflect on this matter." The FARC have been abiding by a unilateral cease-fire since December 2014. President Santos however accused the FARC of violating that cease-fire and placed the blame on the FARC for Tuesday's clash.

Colombian military officials claimed they were ambushed but provided no evidence to back up their claim. The Broad Front for Peace, which is monitoring the FARC's unilateral cease-fire, announced that they will travel on Thursday to the region where the conflict took place to determine if the Colombian army instigated the attack or if the FARC ambushed the government soldiers.

“We are going (to the region) to speak with people and reconstruct the series of events because we know that there have been army attacks that have left various (FARC) commanders dead,” said Piedad Cordoba, a member of the Broad Front for Peace.

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