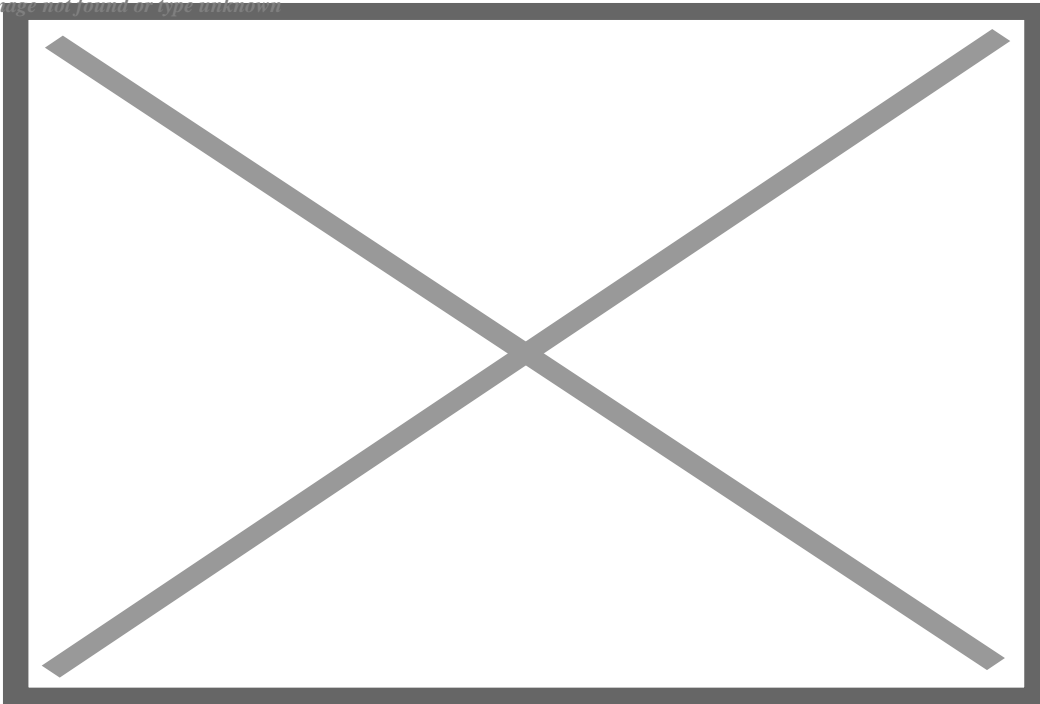


Cuba reiterates commitment to peace in Colombia

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Cuba's Ambassador to Colombia, Jose Luis Ponce. PL Photo.

Bogotá, November 24 (RHC)-- The Cuban Ambassador to Colombia, José Luis Ponce, reiterated on Tuesday the island's commitment to peace in the South American country, which celebrates this November 25, the fourth anniversary of the signing of the so-called New Final Agreement.

Ponce recalled that Havana was the venue for the talks between the delegations of the government of President Juan Manuel Santos and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). This dialogue concluded with the pact signed in Cartagena de Indias on September 26, 2016.

However, the opposition's disagreements led to a popular plebiscite that forced to modify points of the document that was signed again on November 25 in the Colon Theater of Bogota.

In this way, the dialogue between the parties, with Cuba and Norway as guarantors, put an end to more than five decades of civil war, although other guerrilla groups remain active in Colombia.

The diplomat recalled the interest that the Cuban Revolution leader, Fidel Castro, had always shown in the subject and quoted him in one of his reflections where he proposed the island as a venue for negotiations.

Ponce quoted the Cuban leader again when he said in 1999 that 'as Latin Americans, what we have to do is try to collaborate with Colombia, with the country, to help the country reach a just peace that benefits all.

The Cuban ambassador was invited to reflect on peace in Colombia in a virtual forum organized by the Compaz Foundation in connection with the signing of the New Final Agreement at the Colon Theatre.

Four years after the event, considered a milestone in Colombia's history, the Peace Accord has still not been implemented in the way it was originally agreed, a claim that the former guerrillas make to the current government, presided by Ivan Duque.

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