

FARC-EP Demands Probe into Para-militarism in Colombia



Havana, September 24 (PL-RHC) -- Delegates of the insurgent Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP) insisted Tuesday on the appropriateness of discussing as soon as possible the issue of para-militarism during peace talks underway in Havana with the Colombian Government. At the start of the 29th round of talks at Havana Convention Center, the head of the FARC-EP delegation to the talks, Ivan Marquez, recalled that the issue was included in the agreed general agenda.

Marquez suggested a declassification of files, lifting legal bans that protect those responsible for militarism, preventing the destruction of documents and the prosecutors' explanation to the country about hours of incriminating recordings that are missing.

Ivan Marquez also reiterated the need to agree on a ceasefire to stop bloodshed, and he rejected the pretext used by the government that a truce might be used by FARC-EP to gain political and military strength.

The FARC-EP's chief negotiator described as "false" recent remarks by Police General Rodolfo Palomino linking the FARC-EP with paramilitary forces in an action against a counter-insurgent patrol in northern Colombia during which several police officers were killed.

Delegations of the Colombian Government and the FARC-EP are discussing in Havana the issue of the

victims of the armed conflict after having reached consensus on the topics of rural reform, political participation of the guerrilla and illegal drugs.

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