

Colombia's Rebel Group Urges Government to Take Concrete Steps Towards Peace



Havana, September 25 (RHC-XINHUA) -- The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) Wednesday called on President Juan Manuel Santos to take "concrete steps" toward peace.

Santos, whose administration initiated peace talks with the rebels to end five decades of fighting, is currently in the United States, attending the United Nations General Assembly session and events on the sidelines.

"Undertaking a tour in the name of peace, as the one the president is on now in the United States, would go beyond rhetoric," chief FARC negotiator Ivan Marquez said prior to the start of the latest round of talks in Havana, Cuba.

He said Colombian authorities should reflect on their stated desire for peace with "concrete steps," such as an "armistice that could put us on the final stretch toward our reconciliation."

Marquez urged Santos to address the politically "sensitive issues," such as "interference" in the conflict by "foreign powers".

Throughout the peace talks, which began in November 2012, the two sides have reached at least partial agreements, including agrarian reform, political participation for the rebels, and drug trafficking, but a definitive deal has yet to take shape.

The peace talks, meanwhile, helped Santos win reelection to a second term.

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