

Colombia's Peace Talks Resume, Hoping to End 50-Year Conflict



Havana, January 3 (RHC-teleSUR) -- Peace talks between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the Colombian government resumed in Havana on Monday, hoping to put an end to more than half a century of violence.

The two sides will continue to discuss the rights of the victims and will receive a report from the historic commission of the conflict and its victims, created last August to investigate the origin and causes of the war that has left more than 200,000 dead and close to six million internally displaced.

This cycle of negotiations, the first of 2015, will be conducted with the FARC holding an indefinite, unilateral cease-fire. Talks have been ongoing since 2012.

The delegates will also address the end of the armed conflict, for which a technical sub-commission will be required. The process implies the surrender of arms and a plan on how to deal with jailed guerrillas.

Despite the complexity of the debates and Colombia's internal politics, the peace talks already reached some agreements, first in 2013 over rural reforms and political participation and again in May 2014 over drug cultivation and trafficking.

However, the FARC has warned that continued military offensives and President Juan Manuel Santos' refusal to agree to a bilateral cease-fire have put the negotiations in danger.

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