

FARC: Colombian Government Must Eliminate Obstacles to Peace



Bogota, March 27 (teleSUR-RHC) The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) called on the government and President Juan Manuel Santos on Thursday to “take away all the legal weeds” and clear the path towards peace.

The demand came as the rebel group marked the anniversary of the death of its founder, Manuel Marulanda Velez, and as the 34th round of peace negotiations between the Colombian government and the rebels came to a close.

“We invite our counterpart at the table ... to use common sense, to remove all the legal weeds strewn, like a dead mule, across the path of peace,” said Ivan Marquez, chief FARC negotiator.

He warned that “rebellion is a response to the abuses of power,” and that all the people of the world reach a limit “when they try to resist the abuses and excesses of power.” Marquez emphasized that the aim for the insurgents was to reach a permanent peace for the country, for which was needed the “moral restoration of the Republic.”

“Colombians shout for the moral restoration of the Republic above solid pillars and structures of humanity, a peace that guarantees us bread, employment, land, just salaries, free health and education , dignified housing, cheap transport, public services ...” he continued.

Meanwhile, partial agreements have been reached at the peace talks on three of the five agenda points, including land reform, an end to the illegal drugs trade, and political participation for the left-wing guerrillas. Discussions on compensation for victims, as well as the demobilization of combatants, are ongoing and remain unresolved.

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