



Bogotá, January 30 2018

Peace Discussion Table

**GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA
NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY - ELN**

As communities of faith that have a long tradition of working for peace, human rights and reconciliation, we write you with grave concern for the challenges facing the peace talks between the Government of Colombia and the National Liberation Army (ELN) taking place in Quito, Ecuador. These current challenges are deeply impacting the peace talks and even more so the civilian population that enjoyed the peace dividends of the previous bilateral ceasefire.

Events such as the attack on the police station in Barranquilla (Soledad – Atlántico), the bombing of an indigenous reservation in Chocó province and the recent wave of assassinations of social leaders erodes trust in the possibility of a sustainable and lasting peace accord.

In light of President Juan Manuel Santos' decision to suspend the fifth round of negotiations , we encourage:

- Both sides to return to the negotiations and continue with the agreed upon agenda.
- A bilateral ceasefire agreement, that can be verified and bring peace to the Colombian people.
- A show of political will from each side to facilitate the continuation of the negotiations.

Similarly, we invite the guarantor and accompanier nations to maintain their support for the peace talks as a means to achieving peace in Colombia.

Based on our spiritual commitments, we will continue to demand, pray for and accompany this effort for a holistic peace that leads to life, social justice, and environmental safety for Colombia.

May the God of life accompany you and bless you always.

Fraternally,

- ✓ Diálogo Intereclesial por la Paz - DiPaz
- ✓ Mesa Ecuémica para la Paz - MEP
- ✓ Iglesia Presbiteriana
- ✓ Teusaquillo Territorio de paz
- ✓ Comunidad Franciscana de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes
- ✓ Michael Joseph
- ✓ Cafepaz – Unibautista
- ✓ Global Ministries
- ✓ Rev. Teresa “Terry” Hord-Owens - General Minister and President Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S.A. and Canada
- ✓ Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer - General Minister and President United Church of Christ in the

U.S.A.

- ✓ Rev. Julia Brown Karimu - President, Division of Overseas Ministries Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S.A. and Canada, Co-Executive of Global Ministries
- ✓ Rev. Dr. James Moos - Executive Minister, Wider Church Ministries United Church of Christ in the U.S.A. Co-Executive of Global Ministries
- ✓ Rev. Angel L. Rivera-Agosto - Area Executive for Latin America and the Caribbean, Global Ministries
- ✓ Rev. Teresa "Terry" Hord-Owens - Ministra General y Presidenta Iglesia Cristiana (Discípulos de Cristo) en los Estados Unidos y Canadá
- ✓ Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer - Ministro General y Presidente Iglesia Unida de Cristo en los Estados Unidos
- ✓ Rev. Julia Brown Karimu - Presidenta, División de Ministerios de Ultramar Iglesia Cristiana (Discípulos de Cristo) en los Estados Unidos y Canadá Co-Ejecutiva de Ministerios Globales
- ✓ Rev. Dr. James Moos - Ministro Ejecutivo de los Ministerios de la Iglesia más Amplia Iglesia Unida de Cristo en los Estados Unidos Co-Ejecutivo de Ministerios Globales
- ✓ Rev. Angel L. Rivera-Agosto - Ejecutivo de Área para América Latina y el Caribe Ministerios Globales