

Colombians Take to the Streets in Support of Peace



Bogota, October 6 (RHC)-- Hundreds of thousands of Colombians took to the streets to demand the peace accord be respected, as President Manuel Santos met with right-wing former president, Alvaro Uribe, to discuss changes to the peace deal with the FARC-EP.

About 150,000 in the capital of Bogota flooded Plaza Bolivar, as thousands more protested in major cities around the South American nation, including Barranquilla, Cali, Cartagena, Quibdo, Bucaramanga, Santa Marta, Manizales and Medellin.

Social movements in Colombia have expressed their opposition to what they call "a pact between elites," following Sunday's "No" win in the peace plebiscite.

The Patriotic March said that Sunday's vote cannot be seen as a victory for the "No" campaign or those against peace. The group said that the peace deal negotiated and signed in Havana was the best option to move towards peace. The Patriotic March also called for national mobilizations in support of peace for October 14th.

The People's Congress, an organization made up of hundreds of Colombian campesino groups, said in a statement Tuesday that Santos' negotiating with Uribe equated to a "pact between elites."

The coalition said: "We firmly reject the path of a closed and elitist pact of the right wing, which again excludes the common people and it is a sure way to a new cycle of violence."

The congress said that Santos' government was not representing their interests in its negotiations with Uribe, leader of the "No" campaign, who said the peace deal with the FARC-EP was allowing criminals to be granted immunity. The congress blasted Uribe as a warmonger.

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