

Colombian Government and FARC Resume Peace Talks in Cuba



Havana, August 13 (Xinhua-RHC) -- Colombia's government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebel group Tuesday resumed peace talks in Havana.

The latest round of talks is set to tackle the polemic issue of reparations for victims of the five-decade long conflict between state security forces and the armed leftist rebels.

"We are opening the debate on the important issue of the victims," head of FARC negotiators, Ivan Marquez, told reporters.

A 12-member delegation representing the victims is expected to arrive in Havana on Saturday "to be heard without suffering any kind of discrimination."

A total of 60 people representing victims of the conflict, which has left 220,000 dead, are scheduled to speak at the talks.

The FARC negotiator also rejected a "Legal Framework for Peace" that was proposed and approved by the government of Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos without consulting the rebels.

The law, according to the government, aims to ensure the peace process complies with existing legislation, but the rebels say it allows officials to make unilateral decisions without the FARC's approval.

Marquez called on officials to "respect the spirit and the letter of the General Agreement for Ending the Conflict, signed in August 2012 in Havana, establishing that the two sides cannot claim the right to decide issues not discussed at the negotiating table."

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