

Rebel Group in Colombia Proposes Creation of a Census of Victims



Havana, October 27 (RHC-NNN)-- FARC, the rebel Colombian group, has proposed that a census be conducted to ascertain the number of people killed and missing over the last 50 years during the nation's internal conflict. The group made the proposal as peace talks resumed in Havana.

"In order for our calculation of the total number of victims, to gain the greatest possible proximity to the historical truth of this conflict, a national census regarding the victims will be carried out during the next 18 months and will be signed in an eventual agreement," explained Rubin Morro, a FARC leader who is among the combatants to recently join the talks.

The FARC also proposed that both parties work in collaboration on this project, in order to better recognize the victims and guarantee their rights.

"To this end, the 'National Census Commission of Conflict Victims' comprising representatives from national victim organizations, academic experts and officials of DANE (National Department of Statistics of Colombia) will be satisfied," said Cruz, one of four members of the FARC's Central Staff recently selected to comprise the rebel group's negotiating team.

The FARC presented five complementary proposals on victims, an issue presently being discussed in the peace talks.

The peace talks, which began over two years ago, seek an end to the Colombian armed conflict that has left some 220,000 dead and 5.3 million displaced over the last five decades, according to official statistics.

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