

FARC Urges Colombia to Include ELN Rebels in Peace Talks



Bogota, May 14 (teleSUR-RHC)-- Colombia's FARC leftist guerrilla organization stressed in a statement on Wednesday the importance of Colombia's smaller rebel group ELN being included in the ongoing peace process with the government that seeks to bring an end to over 50 years of armed conflict in the country. "We believe that not only for us as a revolutionary movement is it urgent and necessary that the ELN is brought into the peace talks," said FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) leader Rodrigo Londoño Echeverri, also known as Timoleon Jimenez or Timochenko, in an on-line statement.

"It is also urgent for the government and for the Colombian people. It is the right and a practical thing to do." Timochenki added in the statement that ELN (National Liberation Army) leader Nicolas Rodriquez, also known as Gabino, is "deeply convinced" of the importance of the peace process.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos confirmed this week that Timochenko met with Gabino in Havana to urge the ELN to join the peace talks. While ELN has not confirmed it will participate, the head of the FARC peace delegation Ivan Marquez commented in a tweet that the sister guerrilla organization shares a common aspiration of working through the same peace process.

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