

Colombian Government and FARC Rebels Agree to Form Truth Commission



Bogotá, June 5 (RHC) — The Colombian government and Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels have agreed to establish a Truth Commission to investigate crimes committed throughout the country's half-century conflict.

Both sides agreed that the commission would be “extra-judicial” and its establishment relies only on a final peace deal.

According to a joint statement read out at the end of the latest round of peace talks in Havana on Thursday, the commission “will not be judicial in nature nor be able to impose penalties on those who appear before it.”

And the information uncovered by the Commission cannot be used in a court of law, according to the agreement by the Colombian government and the FARC.

“The parties pledge to contribute decisively to clarifying the truth on everything that has taken place during the conflict, including grave human rights violations and infractions of international humanitarian

law," the statement read.

The Commission will have 11 members and will exist for a period of three years. Its members will be chosen by a seven-member committee named by both parties.

The peace talks have so far produced partial accords on several issues, but have yet to yield a final deal on ending decades of conflict between the rebels and the government.

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