

# Presidents Obama and Santos Give Colombia to the FARC Narco-Terrorists

By Frank de Varona

*Editor's Note: This important article, edited for reasons of brevity and timeliness, was written by Frank de Varona before Colombian President Santos rammed a revised version of the FARC agreement, which was rejected by the people, through the country's Congress.*



A young communist Juan Manuel Santos appears in this photo next to his idol, Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, when he was recruited by the Cuban intelligences services.

As expected, the Colombian Marxist traitor, President Juan Manuel Santos, has concluded the peace of the cemetery with the bloody communist guerrillas on August 24, 2016 in Havana, Cuba after nearly four years of negotiations. The agreement is a complete and shameful surrender to

the bloody communist rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia known as FARC), who are responsible for more than 200,000 deaths, tens of thousands of injuries, and millions who were forced to abandon their homes during a more than half-century of conflict assisted in every way by the Cuban regime. The agreement will not bring peace but a future communist take over as it happened in El Salvador.

President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia stated in a televised speech, "We have reached a final accord, complete and definitive, to end an armed conflict with the FARC."

Juan Forero wrote an article titled "Colombia and FARC Rebels Conclude Peace Deal" which was published in the *Wall Street Journal* on August 27, 2016. The reporter explained that the negotiations began openly in November 2012 in Havana, Cuba, but secretly for a year and a half. Santos said he would present the accord to Congress on August 25 and then request electoral authorities to organize a nonbinding referendum asking Colombians if they approve of the deal with the FARC on October 2, 2016. "With negotiations and the accord concluded, it's in your hands, that of all Colombians, to decide with your vote if you support this accord," said Mr. Santos, speaking in Bogotá. He said the five points of the pact give Colombia, riven by various guerrilla forces in recent decades, the chance to "construct a stable and long-lasting peace." Luciano Marín, a top guerrilla negotiator best known to Colombians under the nom de guerre Iván Márquez said, "I think we have won one of the most beautiful battles, peace in Colombia." said Luciano Marín, a top guerrilla negotiator, best known to Colombians under the nom de guerre Iván Márquez.

Forero explained that the accord contemplates for the Colombian government to work with the FARC to mitigate drug trafficking in areas where the guerrillas had influence, permits the FARC to transform into a political party, establishes a system to investigate war crimes by both rebels and military personnel, and lays out how to compensate victims. According to the agreement, the FARC would congregate their 7,000 fighters in 23 hamlets and eight 10-acre encampments scattered across rural Colombia. There, they would turn in their weapons to a United Nations verification commission over a six-month period.

**The timeline for the final peace deal and disarmament is tricky. The Obama administration, which has given the bloody Castro regime a series of shameful unilateral concession and has done nothing to help the opposition in Cuba and Venezuela, has helped Santos to turn Colombia to the killers of the FARC. "They will vote on it," said Bernard Aronson, the U.S. envoy who helped find common ground between the two sides in the talks.**

Forero said the following: "The Santos administration, which leaves office in 2018, is also racing to win congressional approval in the coming weeks for a tax overhaul to finance what economists here say would be a multibillion-dollar program to implement the peace accords, including an ambitious modernization of long-forgotten rural regions. Congress will also be asked to approve a proposed amnesty law, which took shape during the Havana talks, for low-level rebels accused of rebellion or taking up arms against the state. Guerrilla commanders accused of war crimes, though, will go before special tribunals. If rebel chiefs admit to their role in war crimes, their punishment could include restrictions on their movements, reparations to victims' families and providing information on how victims died."

Opponents of the talks, led by former President Álvaro Uribe, said the Santos administration had ceded to terrorists. "What they have done in four years in Havana, with waste and exaggerated spending by the state, they could have done in one day: Santos ceded everything," said Senator Ernesto Macías, who is in Mr. Uribe's coalition.

The bloody FARC communist guerrillas, who are responsible for the deaths and injuries of tens of thousands of Colombians with the help of the Cuban regime, will be guaranteed five seats in Colombia's 102-seat Senate and five seats 166-seat House of Representatives, a representation of respectively 5% and 3%.

Shamefully, under the signed deal, three former rebels would serve in the House of Representatives and in the Senate in a nonvoting capacity, permitting the ex-combatants to have a say in the implementation of the accords. In the 2018 congressional elections, the FARC would be guaranteed at least five seats in the House and five in the Senate. The mechanism to permit former rebels to have that many seats will necessitate a constitutional reform that was agreed upon in Havana.

Adriaan Alsema wrote an article titled "FARC to take part in Colombia's 2018 elections, but with guaranteed seats" which was published in *World Affairs* on August 25, 2016. The reporter explained that the peace agreement presented to the public on August 24, 2016 will facilitate the communist guerrilla's transition from an illegal armed group to a political party. The Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) will receive five seats in both the Senate and the House of Representatives until the 2026 elections. After that, the former guerrillas will have to obtain votes like any other political party.

**FARC bloody rebels will take part in the 2018 elections as a formal political party, but this is mainly a political warm-up. Before the 2018 elections, the FARC cannot be involved in political violence and will have to have comply with electoral regulations that demand for it to have a party statute and be formally registered with electoral authorities. However, the FARC's road to their 2018 political participation is long and uncertain.**

First, the FARC will hold their 10th guerrilla conference in which it will dissolve itself as a self-proclaimed armed insurgent group. If the deal is approved, it will be formalized by President Juan Manuel Santos and FARC commander-in-chief "Timochenko."

### **Colombians need to reject this terrible accord**

Juan Forero and Kenjal Vyas wrote an article titled "Colombian Peace Plan Heads for Vote" which was published in the *Wall Street Journal* on August 26, 2016. The reporters explained that President Juan Manuel Santos presented Congress on August 25, 2016 with the 297-page agreement that calls for the dismantlement of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia as a fighting force and its transformation into an unarmed political movement. The main problem is getting Colombians to approve the deal in an October plebiscite meant to give the deal political legitimacy. Santos, as he handed the accord to the president of Congress, Mauricio Lizcano, stated the following: "We are giving the public the last word about peace in Colombia, and it will be the people who on October 2 will say, 'Yes, we want peace. Peace is always better than war. Peace will take away the fear that all Colombians have grown up with after so much armed conflict.'"

The Marxist Santos is very unpopular. The president's approval rating is around 25% in a poll released earlier this month by Ipsos due to his appeasement in negotiating with the FARC, a slow economy, and high inflation. Colombians remain skeptical on the accord. Indeed, 75% of those questioned in the Ipsos poll said demobilized guerrillas should not be permitted to participate in politics, as the accord would allow them to do.

Many critics of the shameful accord feel it is too lenient with these criminals. None of them will go to prison in spite of the massacres and other atrocities committed by these assassins. Moreover, each guerrilla will receive over \$200 a month salary without working. The Colombian government does not know how much the peace accord will cost since FARC guerrillas in the field are estimated to be between 7,000 to 9,000 fighters with as many as three times that number of urban guerrillas.

The bloody killers will escape prosecution for their many serious crimes. A system of justice set up by the accords can punish those who committed atrocities but only via "extremely modest" sanctions, said José Miguel Vivanco, the Americas director of Human Rights Watch.

**Since 2018, the FARC's political movement will be assured at least 10 seats in Congress. Demobilized guerrillas will get a \$200 monthly stipend, with former combatants who start a business receiving more. The party the FARC founds will receive funding. This is insanity! Outrageous, money to start a communist party led by killers!**

For over 50 years the FARC has been involved in narcotics trafficking and the profits are estimated to be over \$30 billion. More than likely FARC leaders have their funds in foreign banks or invested in businesses. The FARC should pay the salaries of its fighters, money for its future political party, and for any new business it wishes to create. Certainly not the people of Colombia, and even less the tens thousands victims or their relatives of the terror and violence done by the terrorists of the FARC, should give a cent to these killers. When the FARC criminal leaders are able to run for president, governor, and Congress with billions earned by selling drugs to America and the world, these terrorists can be elected to high office, as it happened in El Salvador. The United States Marxist president participated in the shameful negotiations and has already pledge millions of U.S. taxpayers' funds to subsidize the peace accord. Obama must be very proud to participate in another accord similar to the Iranian deal which is nothing more than appeasement to terrorists.



President Juan Manuel Santos shakes the bloody hands of the leader of Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), Rodrigo Londoño Echeverri, alias "Timochenko," while the Cuban bloody dictator Raúl Castro (center) watches.

Forero and Vyas said that Luis Alfonso Muñoz, a 54-year-old agricultural entrepreneur, is very aware of the violent acts the FARC have committed in Colombia's far-flung rural regions. Like many Colombians who oppose the pact, he said he rejects provisions that would likely spare rebel commanders from facing time in jail while the government provides monthly wages to rebels as they disarm. "It's not just," he said. "There are many doubts about that. I'm voting no because I disagree with the benefits the government is providing the guerrillas." The biggest hurdle may be Santos' former boss, Senator Álvaro Uribe, a former president who has made the turning back the plebiscite his calling. Uribe, who calls the deal a sellout to the FARC, is vowing to fight on.

With help from the tyrannical Cuban regime the FARC rebels have been responsible for 260,000 deaths, the disappearance of 45,000 individuals, tens of thousands of injuries, and between 6 and 8 million who had to abandon their homes. Fidel and Raúl Castro have helped the FARC for more than 50 years.



Presidents Juan Manuel Santos and Barack Obama share the Marxist ideology and friendship with the serial assassin dictator Raúl Castro.

Former President Álvaro Uribe calls the deal a sellout to the FARC. It is appeasement of the worse kind. The accord is too lenient with these bloody criminal guerrillas who none of them will not go to prison in spite of the massacres and other atrocities that the assassins committed. Nothing involving the bloody Castro regime which has financed and directed the FARC can be good for Colombians. Awarding 10 seats of Congress to the FARC and financing the establishment of a communist party led by killers and monsters are pure insanity!



## Colombia's Questionable Peace

The world is hailing the prospective end of the 52-year Colombian insurgency announced Wednesday night by President Juan Manuel Santos and the FARC guerrillas, and we'd like to believe in peace, too. But skepticism toward the deal inside Colombia and the emerging details make clear that keeping the peace won't be as easy as announcing it.

The agreement is a product of nearly four years of talks hosted in Cuba by the Castro regime that was for decades a military supplier and political patron of the Marxist-Leninist FARC. On paper, the deal sets out a six-month timetable for the FARC to lay down its arms and turn itself into a political party. Ten seats in Colombia's Congress will be guaranteed to FARC representatives for eight years, a galling concession to terrorists who spent a lifetime waging war on democracy. The FARC has also pledged to get out of the drug trade that is its main source of funding, in exchange for promises of rural development.

Most controversially, FARC leaders won't spend time in jail, provided they attest truthfully to their crimes in special truth-and-reconciliation tribunals. That's an especially bitter pill for the millions of Colombians who had a relative or friend killed, abducted or brutalized during the FARC's long reign of terror.

No wonder Colombians are having second thoughts about endorsing the deal in October's national plebiscite. Polls show diminishing levels of approval, along with a large number of undecided voters, and Mr. Santos's approval rating barely cracks 25%. Leading the opposition is his predecessor, Álvaro Uribe, the architect of Colombia's renewed prosperity and its

most decisive military victories over the FARC between 2002 and 2010.

Another worry is that breakaway factions in the FARC have announced that they won't lay down their weapons, no matter what the negotiators in Havana have decided. Part of the reason may be ideological, but the larger incentive is the

FARC's lucrative cut of the drug business. Hardened killers aren't likely to trade their percentage in the cocaine trade for government-sponsored development schemes in remote Andean provinces.

If Colombians do approve the deal, the longer-run danger is that the guerrillas will exploit the political concessions to undermine democracy. They will use the tribunals to accuse police and military officers of abuses, no matter how false. Mr. Uribe turned the military into a far more professional force with U.S. help, and the FARC will want to weaken or dismantle it.

The example of similar peace deals in other Latin American countries doesn't bode well. As our Mary Anastasia O'Grady has noted, the Colombian deal is modeled on El Salvador's 1992 settlement with its Marxist insurgency, which allowed guerrillas to participate in politics and included a general amnesty. But now that amnesty has been ruled unconstitutional—an especially tricky problem given that the current Salvadoran president is himself a former guerrilla comandante.

After five decades of war, it's hard to fault Colombians for hoping this deal gives them the best chance of achieving a durable peace. But trusting hope over experience means taking a risk on the goodness of terrorists who have never had to pay for their crimes.

August 26, 2016