

ICRD Monthly Update

October 6, 2015

Peacebuilding Beyond Havana



President Santos shakes hands with FARC commander Timoleón Jiménez.

Last week in Havana, there was a **major breakthrough in the peace process** between the Colombian government and the FARC rebel group, with an announced agreement on the most sensitive element of the talks, i.e. the penalties that would await those who had committed major crimes during the course of the 50 year conflict.

At the same time this was taking place, ICRD was working in Bogota with a diverse group of religious leaders from around the country to develop a practitioners' guide for **training a contingent of spiritual peacemakers** prior to full-scale demobilization of the guerillas. We were also coordinating with the Colombian government's Agency for Reintegration to **bring former combatants together with religious & other leaders from conflict-impacted communities**, with a goal of effectively reintegrating them into civil society (rather than seeing them join the narco networks or other criminal groups because they are unwelcome in their home communities or have inadequate skills to find honest employment). Havana should thus be viewed as a beginning, with much of the heavy lifting yet to be done in **establishing a culture of peace**.

Link [here](#) for the latest addition to our blog site, a **brilliant piece crafted by James Patton**, our Executive Vice President and Director of the Colombia project, which captures the flavor of the challenges that lie ahead.



With best wishes,

Douglas Johnston
President, ICRD



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International Center for Religion & Diplomacy
1003 K Street, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 331-9404

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