

FARC Reject Army-led 'Transition Command'

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Colombian peace talks continue in Havana today, with negotiators for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rejecting President Juan Manuel Santos's proposals to create a "Transition Command" within the Colombian army to transition Colombia towards peace.

"FARC rejects the idea that a military hierarchy can resolve political matters," said Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC) chief negotiator Luciano Marín Arango (also known as "Ivan Marquez"). The spokesman for the rebel group also expressed concern about disarmament, saying that "important issues such as the surrender of arms, also involve the demilitarization of society and the State."

Taking this tack puts the country back on the old road of blaming guerrillas and arms for the fighting, rather than thinking more holistically about the social, economic and political changes that the country desperately needs, FARC reps explained.

FARC are calling for an emergency meeting to discuss the terms of the Accord to "revise and clarify" terms to ensure that the bilateral, equal footing between the parties is maintained.

Since the start of peace negotiations in November 2012, the parties have reached agreement on three of the five points of the agreed agenda, including land reform and rural development, participation in politics as well as drugs and illicit crops.

This is the 28th round of the current peace talks which look to resolve the 50 years of internal

conflict between guerrillas and government forces and paramilitaries, which has left over 200,000 dead and over 5 million displaced.

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