

# Pathway to Peace: Colombia Reaches Ceasefire Agreement with ELN Rebels

written by Ezba Walayat | June 16, 2023



After countless efforts, Colombia and the ELN rebels have finally signed a ceasefire agreement on 9th June, 2023. The ceasefire agreement calls for an immediate end to hostilities and the start of a process of political dialogue. The national bilateral ceasefire will go into effect on August 3 and will be in effect for six months, while both parties aim to establish confidence. The agreement was signed in Havana, Cuba, and marks a major milestone in President Gustavo Petro's campaign for "total peace". The ELN is a Marxist-Leninist guerrilla group that has been fighting the Colombian government since the 1960s. The group has been considered responsible of carrying out bombings, kidnappings, and other acts of violence. The ELN has a long history of violence, and it remains to be seen whether the group will abide by the terms of the agreement.

The ceasefire agreement is a major victory for President Petro, who made peace a central focus of his campaign. Petro traveled to Havana for the signing ceremony, which was also attended by ELN commander Antonio Garca and Cuban authorities. Petro said at the ceremony, "Here, a new world is born, and a phase of the armed insurgency in Latin America ends." The ceasefire agreement is the culmination of months of negotiations between the Colombian government and the ELN rebels. For that matter, it is crucial to implement the deal and address the root causes of the conflict, the Colombian government and the ELN rebels will need to collaborate.



This particular agreement is a positive development for Colombia, which has been plagued by violence for decades. The Colombian conflict has been going on for over 50 years and has caused widespread death, displacement, and poverty. The ceasefire agreement is a chance for Colombia to finally put an end to this violence and start rebuilding its country. Therefore, it can be proved a major step forward in the Colombian peace process and offers hope for a more peaceful future for the country.

The potential advantages of the agreement between Colombia-ELN rebels, if effectively implemented, include:

**Reduced Violence:** The ceasefire deal will lead to a reduction in violence in Colombia. This will allow people to live in peace and security while also aiding in the rebuilding of the country.

**Economic Development:** Peace will foster an environment suitable to economic development. This will enhance infrastructure, economic opportunities and will raise living standards of people of Colombia.

**Social Advancement:** The peace will allow Colombia to make progress on social issues such as education, healthcare, and poverty eradication.