

News

Colombia in Uncharted Territory with Peace Deal's Defeat

Defying polls, voters defeat peace accord with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia

By *Joshua Goodman and Andrea Rodriguez*
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — A stunning referendum defeat for a peace deal with leftist rebels leaves Colombians with no Plan B to save an accord that sought to bring an end to a half century of hostilities.

Instead of winning by an almost two-to-one margin on Sunday as pre-election polls had predicted, the accord with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia lost by a razor-thin margin, 49.8 percent to 50.2 percent.

Both President Juan Manuel Santos and leaders of the FARC, after four years of grueling negotiations, vowed to push ahead, giving no hint they want to resume a war that has already killed



Supporters of the peace accord between the Colombian government and rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, follow on a giant screen the results of a referendum to decide whether or not to support the peace accord, in Bogota, Colombia, Sunday, Oct. 2, 2016. Colombia's peace deal with leftist rebels was on the verge of collapsing, with those opposing the deal leading by a razor-thin margin with almost all polling stations reporting results.

But it's not clear how the already unpopular Santos can save the deal following the political earthquake, comparable to Britain's vote to exit the European Union. His chief negotiator,

nounced, send him to Cuba with other negotiators to confer with FARC's top leaders, who watched the results with disbelief after ordering drinks and cigars at Club Havana, once Cuba's most exclusive beach club.

"The FARC deeply regret that the destructive power of those who sow hatred and revenge have influenced the Colombian people's opinion," the FARC's top commander, a guerrilla known as Timochenko, told reporters.

The loss for the government was even more shocking considering the huge support for the accord among foreign leaders, who have heralded it as a model for a world beset by political violence and terrorism. Many heads of state as well as U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry were present when Santos and Timochenko signed the deal less than a week ago in an elaborate, emotion-filled ceremony in the historic city of Cartagena.

"In Cartagena, I witnessed the profound desire of the Colombian people to end the violence," Ban Ki-moon told reporters in Geneva, adding that he

urgently dispatched his representative to the peace talks to Cuba for consultations. "I count on them to press ahead until they achieve secure and lasting peace."

U.S. State Department spokesman John Kirby also expressed backing for Santos' plan for "a broad dialogue" in the search for peace.

"Colombians have expressed their commitment to settle their differences through institutions and dialogue rather than violence," he said.

Santos' former boss and chief rival, former President Alvaro Uribe, led the grass-roots campaign against the accord. With none of the government's huge PR machine, an angry Uribe gave voice to millions of Colombians, many of them victims of the FARC like him, who bristled at provisions in the 297-page accord sparing rebels jail time if they confessed their crimes and instead reserved them 10 seats in Congress.

Uribe, in prepared remarks from his ranch outside Medellin after the results were in, insisted on "correc-

See COLUMBIA on page 10

“I won't give up. I'll continue search for peace until the last moment of my mandate.”

220,000 people and displaced 8 million. "I won't give up. I'll continue search for peace until the last moment of my mandate," Santos said in a televised address appealing for calm.

Humberto de la Calle, offered his resignation Monday, assuming what he called "complete responsibility" for the defeat.

It's unclear whether Santos will accept the offer or, as he previously an-

Is it Wrong to Dress my Dog in a Halloween Costume?

By *Dr. Jasmine Shanelle Streeter, Veterinarian*
For *The Skanner News*

Ahhh - the fresh smell of fall is in the air, and the overwhelming boom of pumpkin spice everything is making its rounds (much to the chagrin of those of us who prefer chai tea and sweet potato pie, like myself).

With the fall comes Halloween - last stop before Santa Claus and baby Jesus make their appearance. In Portland, Halloween could easily be mistaken for every day of the year, so it wouldn't be right to have your pet miss out on the festivities. Whether you are for or against Halloween, we can all agree that seeing a Dachshund dressed as a Chicago Style Hotdog or a terrier dressed as a T-Rex is hilarious. The fact of the matter is, if you and your pet enjoy dressing up, go for it!

There are couple of questions to keep in mind when shopping for the perfect princess gown or lion costume, though. Does it hurt? Is it scary? Can your pet choke on it? Even though we all feel we know what is best for our pets, simple observations will truly tell you if both of you are getting enjoyment from playing dress up.

1. Does it hurt? Make sure the costume fits. Pet costumes can be



Dr. Jasmine and her dog Sheba

handmade, purchased from commercial pet stores, local boutiques or online. Common sizes range from XXS to 3X just like with humans or are sized by weight. There is nothing worse than having shoes that are too tight or a shirt that rubs underneath your armpits. Try your pet costumes in advance or as soon as possible and let your pet walk around to see if they look comfortable. If they're moving funny, return the costume and get a new one. You want your princess to glide, not limp from pain.

2. Is it scary? You may be thinking Halloween is supposed to be scary. That would be a yes for humans but definite no for pets. Animals should be happy in their costumes or around people dressed in them. Comfort can

depend on breed, age, health and how socialized your animal is to the environment. If your dog barks incessantly, growls, tries to run and hide or shows the whites of its eyes, take off the costume and give the pet time to acclimate.

3. Can they choke on the costume? This issue is more common for handmade, reused, or children's costumes that have been modified to fit a pet. Small parts, loose strings or fibers and add-on attachments present a choking hazard. Remember, never leave a pet unattended while in costume to decrease the risk of entanglement, entrapment, or strangulation.

Whatever season or holiday you choose to celebrate, there is a dog costume that's just right for you. For you cat lovers, don't feel shy about dressing up your little ones too. Just make sure you to have a Howlin'/Meowin' good time and take lots of pictures.

Feel free to submit your questions and pet costume pictures to dr.jasmine@theskanner.com for a chance to be featured in the next column.

Do you have a pet topic you'd like to learn more about? I'd love to hear from you! Write me at drjasmine@theskanner.com.

We honor the many accomplishments of African Americans.



It is our primary goal as a labor union to **better the lives of all people working in the building trades** through advocacy, civil demonstration, and the long-held belief that workers deserve a "family wage" - fair pay for an honest day's work.

A family wage, and the benefits that go with it, not only strengthens families, but also **allows our communities to become stronger**, more cohesive, and more responsive to their citizens' needs.

Our family wage agenda reflects our commitment to people working in the building trades, and to workers everywhere. In this small way, we are doing our part to **help people achieve the American Dream**. This dream that workers can hold dear regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, creed, or religious beliefs.

Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters

Representing more than 5,000 construction workers in Oregon State.

Do you want to know more about becoming a Union carpenter?

Go to www.NWCarpenters.org



PORTLAND OFFICE

1636 East Burnside, Portland, OR 97214
503.261.1862 | 800.974.9052

HEADQUARTERS

25120 Pacific Hwy S, Suite 200, Kent, WA 98032
253.954.8800 | 800.573.8333