

Colombian Report on US Military's Child Rapes Not Newsworthy to US News Outlets

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An 800-page independent report commissioned by the US-friendly Colombian government and the radical left rebel group FARC found that US military soldiers and contractors had sexually abused at least 54 children in Colombia between 2003 and 2007 and, in all cases, the rapists were never punished—either in Colombia or stateside—due to American military personnel being immune from prosecution under diplomatic immunity agreements between the two countries.

The report was part of a broader historical analysis meant to establish the “causes and violence aggravators” of the 50-year-long conflict between the government and rebels that’s presently being negotiated to an end. AsColombia Reports ([3/23/15](#)) would spell out:

US troops, contractors sexually abused Colombian girls with impunity – report

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RT report on accusations of child rape in Colombia by US military personnel.

In his report, the historian [Renan Vega] cited one 2004 case in the central Colombian town of Melgar where 53 underage girls were sexually abused by nearby stationed military contractors “who moreover filmed [the abuse] and sold the films as pornographic material.”

According to Colombia’s leading newspaper, El Tiempo, the victims of the sexual abuse practices were forced to flee the region after their families received death threats.

Other Americans stationed at the Tolemaida Air Base allegedly committed similar crimes, but possibly also never saw a day in court due to an immunity arrangement for American soldiers and military contractors agreed by Washington and Bogota.

One case that has called most attention in Colombian media was that of a 12-

year-old who in 2007 was raped by a US Army sergeant and a former US military officer who was working in Melgar as a military contractor.

Colombian prosecutors established that the girl had been drugged and subsequently raped inside the military base by US sergeant Michael J. Coen and defense contractor Cesar Ruiz.

However, prosecution officials were not allowed to arrest the suspected child rapists who were subsequently flown out of the country.

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US Military Sexually Abused at Least 54 Colombian Children



Telesur's coverage of the Colombian report on US military sexual abuse.

Thus far, however, these explosive claims seem to have received zero coverage in the general US press, despite having been reported on Venezuela's Telesur ([3/23/15](#)), the British tabloid Daily Mail ([3/24/15](#)) and Russian RT ([3/25/15](#)).

But why? These aren't fringe claims, nor can the government of American ally Colombia be dismissed as a peddler of Bolivarian propaganda. Indeed, the Miami Herald ([9/3/09](#)) documented the case of US Sgt. Michael Coen and contractor César Ruiz in 2009:

The US government has made little effort to investigate a US Army sergeant and a Mexican civil contractor implicated in Colombia in the raping of a 12-year-old girl in August 2007, according to an El Nuevo Herald investigation.

The suspects, Sgt. Michael Coen and contractor César Ruiz, were taken out of Colombia under diplomatic immunity, and do not face criminal charges in the United States in the rape in a room at Colombia's Germán Olano Air Force Base in Melgar, 62 miles west of Bogotá.

So why no coverage? Certainly one of Washington's staunchest Latin American allies co-authoring a blistering report about systemic US military child rape of a civilian population should be of note—if for no other reason than, as the report lays out, it undermined American military efforts to stop drug trafficking and fight leftist rebels:



Photo of troops accompanying Daily Mail story on Colombian abuse report.

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The case has caused major indignation among Colombians for years....

The special envoy will possibly have to deal with the role of the US military and its members in the alleged victimization of Colombians.

Yet here we are, over 72 hours since the [Colombian](#) and [foreign](#) press [first reported](#) on the allegations, and there's a virtual media blackout in America over the case. Nothing on [CNN](#), nothing on [MSNBC](#), nothing in the [New York Times](#) or [Miami Herald](#). Nothing in [Huffington Post](#). Nothing in [Fusion](#) or [Vice](#). Why?

As [UK authorities](#) and [NATO officials](#) stress the importance of clamping down on "[false Russian](#)" narratives in the media, perhaps our own media could stop providing a shining example as to why such anti-Western narratives are so often the only outlet for certain ugly truths.

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