
US Military Sexually Abused at Least 54 Colombian Children

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Vega detailed a case in 2004 in which military contractors sexually abused 54 girls and filmed [the abuse] and sold the films as pornographic material. The families of the victims received death threats and the victims fled the central Colombian town of Melgar.

The report also reveals that in 2007 U.S. Army Sergeant Michael J. Coen and defense contractor Cesar Ruiz drugged and raped a 12-year-old girl inside their military base. Prosecution officials were not allowed to arrest the alleged rapists because of the immunity agreements between the U.S. military and Colombia.

Coen and Ruiz were flown out of the country and were never indicted in the U.S. The victim and her family were forced to flee from the region because people linked to the suspects were threatening them.

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The 800-page report was commissioned by the government and the FARC rebel group to

ascertain the causes and breadth of the 50-year internal conflict as part of the historic peace talks between the two sides.

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