



**Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia People's Army**  
Always fighting for the dignity of the Colombian people

¿Sexual false positives? We need the truth

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Havana, Cuba, site of the peace talks, August 1, 2015.

"The FARC-EP rejects sexual crimes against women"

Regarding the counterinsurgency campaign disguised as "news reports" published by different media we declare the following:



**We emphatically reject the ongoing media campaign against the FARC-EP in order to demonize us and present us as systematic violators of women's rights.** Nothing could be further from the reality of an insurgency that counts with the valuable contribution of many women who make up 40% of its members.

**It would be illogical for an insurgent organization that has resisted one of the strongest military onslaughts in Latin America and the world for more than 51 years, to assault civilians, or even worse, sexually abuse their guerrilla combatants and women from the population,** as the Prosecutor's Office spuriously presents it.

In this regard we wish to clarify the following:

1. In all regions, our general rule for moving in the midst of the civilian population, is showing us to them; **we do not hide our faces.** This allows us to build trust with the people and guarantee the support of the community, without which we could not survive, neither we nor any revolutionary guerrilla movement in the world. That is why improper behavior by our guerrilla combatants has always been denounced by the civilian population to the respective comandante, who takes the disciplinary measures facing the communities.

2. **The use of bracelets by guerrillas is restricted to battles and public events.** None of our comrades works among the civilian population with this type of identification.

<http://theirwords.org/>

3. **It is well known that criminal groups have used and use our name and our logos to commit crimes, kidnappings and rapes against civilians.**

4. Whether against civilian women or female guerrilla fighters in the FARC-EP, **rape is a crime that is punished with the maximum penalty contained in our regulations**, through a decision taken at a revolutionary war council in which the guerrilla combatants play the role of judge. Any cases that may have occurred since our founding as a revolutionary organization, which in more than 50 years has been joined by thousands of fighters from all classes and social strata, do not represent a systematic policy of the FARC-EP, as some media want to make us believe.

5. Undoubtedly, in the Colombian armed conflict **there has been a systemic policy to attack the civilian population through massacres, serious human rights violations against women and men, forced displacement and especially a policy of violence against women. But the FARC-EP hasn't been the victimizer.** On the contrary, it is public knowledge that in Colombia for more than 30 years in the most complete and absolute impunity, a dirty war against the people has been implemented by the government and in this context we speak from a victim's point of view.



6. It is undeniable that the **Prosecutor's Office and the State's traditional intelligence sources - in more than one case - have accepted false testimonies**, which have sent tens of political, syndical and social organization's leaders to prison. They now seek to stigmatize the insurgency and that doesn't help to move the peace process forward.

7. On several occasions we have expressed and given our reasons for the fact that we don't trust the Colombian justice system. Therefore, **we propose a serious and independent investigation that should describe the whole universe of victims of sexual violence in Colombia** and discover the way, the time and the place in which the events took place. Particularly, we propose the creation of a technical research team, created by the talks and the Commission for Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repetition that should specifically focus on conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence.

8. In addition, **we formally request the Attorney General to submit to the Delegation of the FARC-EP in Havana, the cases of legal complaints, collated by evidence** that suggests the involvement of members of our organization.

**We categorically affirm that in the ranks of the FARC-EP there's no place for violence against women;** there is only place for love, camaraderie, respect and recognition towards them. Proof of this is the broad participation of women in our Delegation. Together, men and women are now fighting for an integral system of justice, truth, reparation and non-repetition that should allow satisfaction of the victim's demands as soon as possible.

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