

Colombia

The information below is based on the Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-related Sexual Violence (S/2018/250), issued on 23 March 2018¹

34. Official statistics indicate that 73 per cent of victims of rape are girls, often leading to teenage pregnancy and school dropout. Girls between 12 and 16 years of age were subjected to targeted rape threats by members of the post-demobilization groups Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia and Clan del Golfo, in four departments in the west of the country. The United Nations verified the sexual abuse of two civilian men by members of a post-demobilization group in Putumayo province in 2017, although male survivors are generally reluctant to seek support for fear of reprisals. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons have also been harassed by armed actors, but rarely report sexual or other abuse. In the report of September 2017, the Ombudsman noted the risk of sexual violence in and around FARC-EP demobilization sites, also noting that women ex-combatants had suffered domestic and intimate partner violence, which underscores the importance of having a gender-responsive policy on disarmament and reintegration.

The information below is based on the Report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence (S/2016/361), issued on 20 April 2016²

32. The gaps in data due to underreporting notwithstanding, conflict-related sexual violence is considered to be a widespread risk in at least 10 departments of Colombia, predominantly areas under the influence of armed groups. In addition, incidents and threats of sexual violence have been reported against women leaders and activists and those associated with armed groups. Cases of forced prostitution, sexual slavery and trafficking in persons were documented. Those at risk include indigenous groups, Colombians of African descent, girls residing in remote areas and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. Service providers reported 1,973 cases of gender-based violence in 2015, and the perpetrators included post-demobilization and other armed groups and, in some cases, members of the Colombian armed forces. The National Victims' Unit registered 103 cases of conflict-related sexual violence between January and December 2015, with armed groups identified as responsible for 46 per cent of such cases. Men were recorded as victims in 3 per cent of cases, and women of African descent or indigenous women were targeted in 30 per cent of cases. The Unit awarded reparations to 5,488 sexual violence survivors. However, despite such exemplary commitment, a gap remains between the robust normative framework and the institutional capacity for its implementation, including for psychosocial assistance and services for survivors in remote areas.

The information below is based on the Report of the Secretary General on conflict related sexual violence (S/2015/203), issued on 23 March 2015³

20. Reports indicate that sexual violence has been used by non-State armed groups as a

¹ Full text available [here](#)

² Full text available [here](#)

³ Full text available [here](#)

strategy to assert social control and to intimidate civilians, in particular women leaders and human rights defenders. It has also been employed as part of extortion strategies, with women who are unable to pay being subjected to sexual violence to set an example for others. Women living in close proximity to illegal mining settlements controlled by armed groups are at heightened risk of sexual exploitation, forced prostitution and trafficking. According to the Office of the Ombudsman, there have been cases of targeted sexual assault against women's rights defenders who raise their voices in support of land restitution. Conflict-related sexual violence remains a driver of displacement in Colombia, disproportionately affecting ethnic minorities in remote rural areas. Sexual violence committed against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals, as a form of "corrective violence" or to "cleanse the population", has caused many to flee areas under the influence of armed groups.

The information below is based on the Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Colombia (S/2012/171), issued on 21 March 2012⁴

38. Reports of cases of sexual violence by members of the Colombian military forces and the police have also been received. In August 2009, in Guaviare, a 5-year-old indigenous girl was the victim of sexual abuse reportedly committed by a member of the Colombian military forces. During the same month, in Antioquia, two 15-year-old girls were raped and assaulted, reportedly by a member of the Colombian military forces. In April 2010, in Arauca, a 14-year-old girl was reportedly raped by a member of the Colombian military forces. Another 13-year-old girl was raped near her school, allegedly by members of the Colombian military forces located near the school. In October 2010, in Arauca, two girls were reportedly repeatedly raped by a member of the Colombian military forces. One of the girls and her two brothers were subsequently killed by the same member of the military forces in connection with the rapes. One of the boys was reportedly raped before he was killed.

The information below is based on the Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Colombia (S/2009/434), issued on 28 August 2009⁵

39. According to information provided by the Instituto Nacional de Medicina Legal y Ciencias Forenses, 5 girls and 3 boys were the victims of sexual violence allegedly perpetrated by the national military forces, and 18 girls and 1 boy were allegedly victimized by the national police during the reporting period. Information has also been gathered on a case in which two soldiers allegedly raped a woman and her 13-year-old niece in the department of Antioquia in November 2008.

⁴ Full text available [here](#)

⁵ Full text available [here](#)

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