

Girls Sold for Defloration in Colombia

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Illegal armed groups and organized crime in Colombia have experienced significant *expansion* in both manpower and financial resources—a trend linked to the Total Peace deal passed with President Petro's and Senator Iván Cepeda.

Over the past year alone, illegal gold mining is estimated to have generated nearly \$9 billion USD, alongside significant profits from drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and human trafficking. At the same time, these groups have *tripled their recruitment of children and adolescents*, marking a 300% increase¹.

Yet, despite their considerable growth, their ambitions continue to outpace available resources. The department of Chocó has emerged as a severe hotspot of violence, with multiple armed groups implicated in the *trafficking and sexual exploitation of girls*².

The ELN³ and the Clan del Golfo⁴ are active in Chocó and Pereira, targeting indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities⁵. Families are frequently confined and powerless, *while girls approaching adolescence are sold to sexual predators*.

The market value for such transactions ranges from approximately \$250 to \$1,250 USD. Human trafficking networks operate along key corridors, including Medellín-Quibdó and Pereira-Quibdó, encompassing municipalities such as Puerto Rico, Guarato, and Yuto.

In Bajo Baudó, the ELN has imposed an indefinite strike, affecting 16 Afro-Colombian communities—comprising 530 families—and 9 indigenous communities, including Unión Pitalito, Puerto Piña, Puerto Chincillano, Bajo Grande, Santa Rosa, Playa Linda, Puerto Galves, Bella Vista, and Puerto Ismarek, impacting a total of 886 families.

These operations have precipitated severe *violations of sexual and reproductive rights* in conflict zones, further exacerbating the vulnerability of children.

The scope of human trafficking and sexual exploitation *extends* beyond Chocó, with similar violations documented in Buenaventura, the Catatumbo subregion, and the departments of Arauca, Guainía, Vichada, Amazonas, Cauca, Nariño, Putumayo, and Chocó.

Victims include girls as young as 10 to 12 years old, including migrants. Criminal groups often restrict access to medical care and humanitarian assistance, leaving victims without essential support or protection.

These findings are corroborated by multiple sources, including reports from the Office of the Ombudsperson and CINEP studies on the Ejército Gaitanista de Colombia or Clan del Golfo. The documented patterns reveal systematic and ongoing violations of human rights, particularly the sexual and reproductive rights of girls, in conflict-affected areas of Colombia.

These abuses persist amid the inaction of Petro's administration and the complicit silence of Senator Iván Cepeda. Meanwhile, partners in the "Total Peace" deal demonstrated their alignment by supporting Petro-aligned candidates in the legislative elections held on 8 March 2026—just as they did during the 2022 legislative and presidential elections⁶.

It is crucial to recognize that since Petro took office, international aid has financed films, books, articles, conferences, and exhibitions that cast as heroes the very individuals responsible for recruiting, abusing, and trafficking boys and girls for sexual exploitation—both before 2016 and continuing to the present.

Meanwhile, reports by 360° Geopolítica on these issues⁷ account for a very negligible share of the resources involved. They are eclipsed by the millions the international community has spent downplaying these crimes, thereby evading responsibility for narratives that, for nearly 25 years, have portrayed criminal groups as romantic guerrillas.

Bogotá, March 29, 2026.

¹ Colombian Ombudsperson Office; UNICEF, CINEP.

² See full report in *Semana*, March 21, 2026, p. 41-42

³ Which President Petro call his brothers.

⁴ They control the cocaine trafficking in the Caribbean, as well as the illegal gold exploitation around Colombia.

⁵ Petro's government paid their silence. At least 31 COP billions between 2025-26.

⁶ On 24 March 2024, Iván Mordisco, a FARC dissident leader of about 5,000 men, released a video in which he reminded President Petro of the group's support during the 2022 elections.

⁷ FARC -EP Abused 18,677 children in Colombia; Colombia 253 Children Have Died for lack of Medicines in 2026; Colombia's Escalating Child Soldier Crisis; Colombia Child Soldiers of the FARC EP in 2025.