

Sexual abuse and exploitation of women by UN peacekeepers: a comparative analysis of recent years and the consequences for victims and mission

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INTRODUCTION

The present work is aimed at analyze the sexual abuse and exploitation of women committed by UN peacekeepers in the peacekeeping operations from United Nations. The vast number of cases of sexual violence perpetrated by peacekeepers in recent years has been the subject of intense debate in the main media, where it has been discussed why the United Nations has so far allowed such human rights violations to occur within its operations. The research aims to discuss the sexual abuse and exploitation of women by UN peacekeepers in peacekeeping operations. The theme was chosen because the sexual violence of women in by UN soldiers is a latent reality that denounces the difficulty faced by UN in establishing effective restrictive and punitive measures by its personnel.

OBJECTIVES

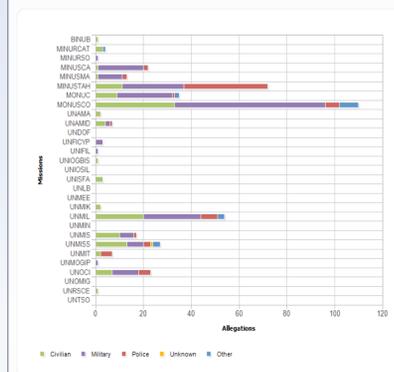
In this study it is sought to present a comparative analysis between the years 2010-2016, demonstrating the number of allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation of women by peacekeepers in missions, as well as the reason for this increase, through the use of data provided by the UN. The research has also outlined which soldiers are involved, the record missions in cases, and the consequences for victims and missions.

MATERIALS & METHODS

The research has as theoretical groundwork the international criminal law and gender literature, using domestic and international books and articles, as well as consultations of primary sources, such as UN documents. From methodological view, the adopted procedure was historical, through the analysis of past events of great repercussion occurred in the peacekeeping operations.

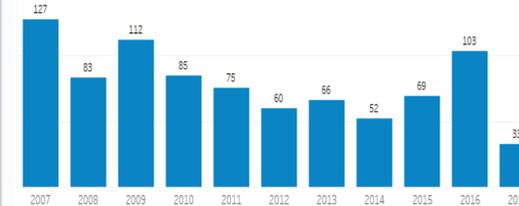
RESULTS

As results, there has been an increase in the number of allegations registered of sexual abuse and exploitation of women between 2014 and 2016, which is mainly attributed to the establishment in 2014 of the mission in Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and the increase of cases occurred in the operation settled in Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO).



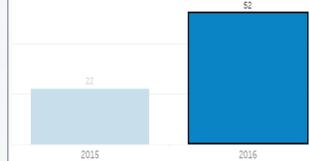
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE OVER TIME

This graph provides information on the total number of allegations reported by year.



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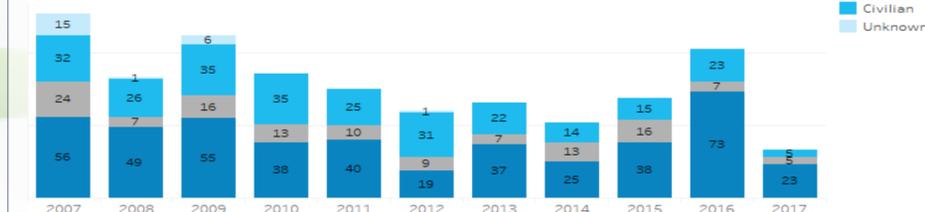
This graph provides information on the total number of allegations reported by year.



Regarding to the categories of the implicated soldiers, the military contingents were always the peacekeepers who became most involved in sexual abuse and exploitation of women and children. In 2016, for example, the involvement of military troops reached a total of 70.8%.

Category of personnel (by allegation)

This graph provides information on the number of allegations by year, separated by the category of the implicated personnel.



Among the uniformed personnel, most of the alleged soldiers come from African nations, with the Democratic Republic of Congo at the top of the list. However, peacekeepers from developed countries are also involved with sexual abuse and exploitation, like Canada and Germany.

Finally, it was obtained that the committing of this type of violence brings severe and lasting consequences for victims, besides maculating the image of the Organization, and hindering effectiveness of the operation.



CONCLUSION

It is concluded that over the years 2000, the number of SAE of women committed by UN peacekeepers has been decreasing. However, even with low rates, the SAE of women continues to be a significant problem, with new cases been recorded each year, which makes the numbers remaining unacceptably expressive.

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