

Sexual violence, phantasm and subjective position: The case of a FARC-EP former combatant

Violencia sexual, fantasma y posición subjetiva: El caso de una excombatiente de las FARC-EP

Ana Lucía Arango-Arias* 

Universidad Católica de Pereira, Colombia (ana.arango@ucp.edu.co)

John James Gómez Gallego 

Universidad Católica de Pereira, Colombia (john3.gomez@ucp.edu.co)

Manuela Orozco Giraldo 

Universidad Católica de Pereira, Colombia (manuela.orozco@ucp.edu.co)

Vanesa Castaño Ocampo 

Universidad Católica de Pereira, Colombia (vanesa.castano@ucp.edu.co)

*Corresponding author.

Received: March 31, 2023

Accepted: November 10, 2023

Published: November 15, 2023

Recommended citation: Arango-Arias, A. L., Gómez Gallego, J. J., Orozco Giraldo, M., & Castaño Ocampo, V. (2023). Violencia sexual, fantasma y posición subjetiva: El caso de una excombatiente de las FARC-EP. *Psicoperspectivas*, 22(3).

<https://dx.doi.org/10.5027/psicoperspectivas-vol22-issue3-fulltext-2945>

Background

Since the last century, there has been talk of armed conflicts and sexual violence against women, finding two main modalities: opportunist practice or war strategy. The first refers to sexual violence practices not ordered by the high command of the armed group, but tolerated as compensation to their subordinates for their obedience. The latter operate for organizational purposes in an institutional framework; their purpose is to set a precedent, a message for a particular group. This is a problem of very high relevance and to which important research efforts have been devoted, especially in the social sciences and law. The first are mainly authored by women who are committed to providing knowledge with the aim of supporting the most vulnerable communities, and who can develop coping strategies in the situations they face, product of violence by different armed groups, both illegal and State. In the latter, the publications are the legal responsibility of the offenders, to establish the objective correspondence between crime and punishment, leaving aside the subjective responsibility that involves the psychic processes of the actors, question concerning psychoanalysis as a discipline of subjectivity. This is crucial in the Colombian case, where women often take a passive position in the face of violence, and religion appears as the only coping strategy. When it comes to sexual violence in the context of the conflict, the effects increase compared to those of everyday life. Thus, not only research and processes are required to provide knowledge on the forms of legal reasoning in cases of sexual violence in the conflict, but also on the importance of social and community processes, relevant because they provide information on aspects related to social subjectivity and social representations; to which psychoanalysis can add new perspectives addressing the implications of unconscious subjective positions.

Aims

This research aims to analyze the subjective position of a female former combatant of FARC-EP from the psychoanalytic categories of identification, fantasy and aggressiveness, with respect to sexual violence exercised by members of the armed group.

Method & procedures

This research analyzes the testimony obtained through an interview with a female former combatant of FARC-EP in the process of reintegration, who joined the guerrilla group at the age of 15 and demobilized at 26 years old. It was possible through the link established with the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization. Their participation was voluntary and formalized by signing an informed assent. The semi-structured interview was based on thematic themes relating to the history of life and the entry, passage and disassociation of the armed group. A complete

transcription was made in which signifiers and statements taken as evidence were identified and analyzed to account for their identifications, fantasies and aggressiveness linked to their history of sexual abuse and the place that is made in the Other in relation to these issues.

Results & discussion

The fragments of this interview allow to understand the position of a subject that is located from the vulnerability in relation to the Other. The armed group functions as a means of believing that the ideal of revenge. The weapon of endowment, later, would become the object interposed between his body and the body of the other aggressor, which means that, in addition to this protective function, it also serves as a tamponade for the subject's lack of being. The identifications present in the speech of the interviewee, give account of scenes that allow to place the Other enemy as recipient of the passion of hate and reveal, in this particular case, something that goes beyond a defense or a revenge, and that gives account of a violation of the body, demonstrated by the choices that the subject makes in combat, the contemplation of suicide and the elaboration of fantasies of transgression scenes and waste of the body. Although what has been found in relation to the subjective position reveals matters proper to the place of the subject as a participant in his own suffering, this does not eliminate, nor does it detract from, the importance of taking into account the subjective responsibility of the abusers, also, of course, their legal and social responsibility.

Conclusion

Our findings reveal that it is because of the place the subject has as an agent that could produce a subjective arrangement with which he put a limit to the circularity of abuse as an expression of the compulsion repetition compulsion. Research such as this can help those who work and investigate with women who have suffered abuse, take into account their place as victims, but their subjectivity and the possibility of placing them as people of change in ways of building ways of knowing-Do with that impossible to bear, that traumatic of her story.

Keywords: FARC-EP, former combatant, identification, phantasm, trauma

References

- Cabrera, J. (2019). Para una crítica de la violencia en psicoanálisis: De la violencia originaria de la ley a su tramitación trágica. *Artigos*, 42(1), 101-122. <https://doi.org/10.1590/0101-3173.2019.v42n1.06.p101>
- Fernández, D. & González-Martínez, N. (2019). La paz sin las mujeres ¡No va! El proceso de paz colombiano desde la perspectiva de género. *Revista CIDOB d'Afers Internacionals*, 121, 113-133. <http://doi.org/10.24241/rci.2019.121.1.113>
- Freud, S. (1986a). "Pegan a un niño": Contribución al conocimiento de la génesis de las perversiones sexuales. *Obras Completas* (tomo 17). Amorrortu.
- Gallo, J., & Quiñonez, A. (2020). Verdad y psicoanálisis en la justicia especial para la paz. *Integración Académica en Psicología*, 8(24), 47-56. <https://integracion-academica.org/37-volumen-8-numero-24-2020/284-verdad-y-psicoanalisis-en-la-justicia-especial-para-la-paz>
- Lacan, J. (1967). *Logique du fantasme: Le seminaire, livre 14*. STAFERLA. Versión inédita. <http://staferla.free.fr>

Financial support: Dirección de Investigaciones e Innovación, Universidad Católica de Pereira, Colombia. Código interno CI-021-0.

Conflict of interests: The authors declare to have no conflict of interests.

Credit: Conceptualization: ALAA, JJGG, MOG, VCO; Validation: ALAA, JJGG, MOG, VCO; Methodology: ALAA, JJGG, MOG, VCO; Data curation: ALAA, JJGG, MOG, VCO; Formal analysis: ALAA, JJGG, MOG, VCO; Writing (original draft): ALAA, JJGG, MOG, VCO; Writing (review & editing): ALAA, JJGG, MOG, VCO; Funding acquisition: ALAA, JJGG, MOG, VCO; Project administration: ALAA, JJGG, MOG, VCO.



Published under [Creative Commons Attribution International 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)