



Taken Question

Office of the Spokesman

Washington, DC

January 24, 2005

[Question Taken at the January 24, 2005 Daily Press Briefing](#)

Capture of Colombian Terrorist (Taken Question)

Question: Any comment on allegations that the United States helped Colombia capture a Colombian FARC leader in Venezuela?

Answer: These allegations are baseless and unfounded. We had no role in the capture of senior *Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia* terrorist Rodrigo Granda. President Chavez has never presented any evidence to support his claim of U.S. government involvement – because there is none.

The United States supports Colombia's efforts to confront terrorist groups, and we urge other countries to cooperate with the administration of President Alvaro Uribe. We also urge the government of President Chavez to explain why it allowed a senior *Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia* terrorist to freely move within its territory and even obtain a Venezuelan passport. The elements of the Chavez government who are alleging U.S. involvement are attempting to divert attention from the Venezuelan government's apparent tolerance of terrorist groups using its territory with impunity.

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