



Bogota bus driver fabricated gang-rape story

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A bus driver in Bogota who reported being the victim of a gang rape was found to have concocted the whole story, apparently to force a change in her working hours, and must now answer in court for her false complaint, the police and Attorney General's Office of Colombia said Monday.

Last Friday the bus driver, 35, the mother of three children, reported being sexually assaulted the night before by at least three people who got on the bus, which was empty of any other passengers, and forced her to go off her route.

Police revealed on Monday, however, that there was no evidence of the driver being sexually abused and added that she apparently made up the whole story so the bus company would change her work schedule.

"After three days of investigations, the 35-year-old woman confessed to police that there had been no sexual assault as she originally reported, and that to the contrary, she had lied for her own personal benefit," the police force reported in a communique.

The chief of police, Gen. Rodolfo Palomino, told a press conference Monday that "the alleged rape never happened and for that reason she will be charged in court for making a false complaint."

The police investigation found inconsistencies in what the woman told the authorities and a lack of clarity in describing the supposed rapists, the communique said.

For her part, the coordinator of the Sex Crimes Unit of the AG's office, Claudia Gonzalez, said on the radio that "the sexual assault of which (the bus driver) said she was the victim did not exist."

"When questioned, the alleged victim replied that it was all a product of her imagination, that she had not been sexually assaulted, that she had not been injured and none of this had occurred," Gonzalez said on Caracol Radio.

Gen. Palomino also said that due care will be given the woman, mother of three children, but that she will not be exempted from being tried in court. EFE

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