

8-18-1992

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## Recommended Citation

Harding, Erika. "Colombia: Government Official Condemns Use Of Street Children For Drug Smuggling." (1992).  
<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur/9997>

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## **Colombia: Government Official Condemns Use Of Street Children For Drug Smuggling**

*by Erika Harding*

*Category/Department: General*

*Published: Tuesday, August 18, 1992*

In an interview published in Bogota daily newspaper El Tiempo, Fernando Pacheco, Colombian consul in the Venezuelan border city of San Antonio de Tachira, condemned the use of street children by drug smugglers. According to Pacheco, numerous injuries have resulted from the rupture of drug- filled plastic bags swallowed by the children in order to transport the drugs across the border. Pacheco said that, on average, eight children are caught each week attempting to smuggle drugs across the Colombia-Venezuela border. He added that, in many cases, the same children are apprehended three or four times. (Source: Agence France-Presse, 08/10/92)

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