

## PROSTITUTION SCANDAL TAINTS SECRET SERVICE INDELIBLY – SHAMES COUNTRY



Secret service and members of the military have cast an awkward and discomfoting shadow over President Obama's impending Colombia economic summit. In a scandal that could have embarrassing repercussions, it was alleged that eleven secret service men and ten military personnel, brought prostitutes to the hotel. However, investigators believe that not eleven, but twenty one women were brought by the US Secret Service and military personnel to their rooms in the Hotel Caribe in Cartagena, Colombia for a night of fun and revelry. Investigations are revealing that the matter is much more serious than it being a one-off case of naughtiness. It appears that there was much more immorality and depravity involved. It included trips to a night club and heavy drinking. Their shameless and blatant ways suggested that they had no fear of being caught. Apparently they had even boasted that they work for the president and were there to protect him. And perhaps they would not have been caught, but for the minor matter of not paying one of the prostitutes her full price for servicing two of them – a princely sum of around \$50. Dennis Hof, owner of the Moonlite Bunny Ranch, termed the Secret service behaviour as awful and called them morons. He told the Huffington Post, "It's a national security risk. These guys were morons. There's an old saying, 'loose lips sink ships,' and these agents are supposed to be trained to keep secrets, but if you're dumb enough to argue with a hooker over a \$47 bill, you're dumb enough to leave the plans where the president is going to be by the bedside." Investigators in Cartagena are checking the women's identification cards and are attempting to solicit more information. Homeland Security Chairman Rep. Peter King confirmed that all investigations so far have revealed no security breach, "They have all their IDs and are conducting an extensive background check to make sure they aren't affiliated with any narco-trafficking or terrorist group or that they could be minors." NBC News reported that the secret service members included two high-level Secret Service supervisors, three counter assault officer and three sniper-team members. All those alleged to be involved in the scandal have been stripped of their security clearances and have been asked to hand over their official blackberries. President Obama making his first comments about the scandal said, "If it turns out some of the allegations that have been made in the press are confirmed, then, of course, I'll be angry because my attitude with respect to Secret Service personnel is no different than what I expect out of my delegation sitting here." "We represent the United States. When we travel to another country, I expect them to observe the highest standards because we're not just representing ourselves. We're here on behalf of our people and that means we conduct ourselves with the utmost dignity and probity and obviously what's been reported does not match up with those standards." Ron Kessler, author of "In The President's Secret Service," told NBC News, "This really is the biggest scandal in the history of the Secret Service. There's a culture in the Secret Service that's fostered by the management of just nodding, winking, favouritism. What the agency needs is an outside director who can come in, clean house, change the standards."