



## Call of Duty Publisher Activision Moves to Dismiss Former Military Dictator Manuel Noriega's Absurd Lawsuit

*Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani Named as Co-Counsel Today - Will Be Available via Teleconference to Discuss Noriega's Claims*

LOS ANGELES--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Activision Blizzard, Inc. (Nasdaq: ATVI), the creators of the popular Call of Duty franchise, today will file a motion to dismiss the frivolous lawsuit by former dictator and convicted murderer Manuel Noriega. Former New York City Mayor and U.S. Attorney Rudy Giuliani who is now a named partner of Bracewell & Giuliani LLP, will serve as co-counsel and defend the company on the grounds that Noriega's depiction in Call of Duty is a protected right to free speech.

"What's astonishing is that Manuel Noriega, a notorious dictator who is in prison for the heinous crimes he committed, is upset about being portrayed as a criminal and enemy of the state in the game Call of Duty. Quite simply, it's absurd," said Rudy Giuliani. "I'm not interested in giving handouts to a convicted murderer and drug smuggler like Manuel Noriega who is demanding money from Activision and its popular Call of Duty franchise for simply exercising its right to free speech. Noriega's attack on the rights of Call of Duty comes as no surprise considering he's a lawless tyrant who trampled over the rights of his own people."

The stories in the Call of Duty franchise, like many movies and television shows, are ripped from headlines. From the Cold War to World War II and the advanced soldiers featured in the upcoming **Call of Duty®: Advanced Warfare**, the game is fictional, but is grounded in reality. Call of Duty regularly features characters that are ruthless dictators and iconic villains, such as Fidel Castro and Manuel Noriega, as well as vaunted heroes such as President John F. Kennedy.

The motion to dismiss will be filed this morning in the Superior Court of the State of California. Today's legal action seeks to dismiss Manuel Noriega's complaint at the outset under California's anti-SLAPP statute, a state provision enacted to protect freedom of speech against spurious lawsuits. Relevant legal documents can be found [HERE](#).

If successful, Noriega's efforts would give numerous historical and political figures - and their heirs - a veto right over their appearances in works of art, having a chilling effect on movies such as Forrest Gump and Zero Dark Thirty, TV shows such as Saturday Night Live and Boardwalk Empire, and beloved books such as Primary Colors and The Paris Wife, just to name a few.

A taped video of co-counsel Rudy Giuliani discussing the key themes of the case is available [HERE](#).

A live teleconference with Rudy Giuliani will be available for interested media today from 3:00 - 3:30 PM EDT. The following is the call-in information:

Toll Free Number: 1-800-247-5110  
International Number: 1-334-323-7224  
Passcode: 59961

### **About Activision Publishing, Inc.**

Headquartered in Santa Monica, California, Activision Publishing, Inc. is a leading worldwide developer, publisher and distributor of interactive entertainment and leisure products.

Activision maintains operations in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Sweden, Spain, Denmark, the Netherlands, Australia, Singapore, mainland China, Hong Kong and the region of Taiwan. More information about Activision and its products can be found on the company's website, [www.activision.com](http://www.activision.com).

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Activision Blizzard  
Mary Osako, 424-322-5166  
or  
Rubenstein Communications  
Farrell Sklerov, 212-843-8289

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