



RUSSIA'S ACTIVITIES IN LATIN AMERICA

August 2021

The following is a summary of open-source media reporting on Russia's presence and activities in Latin America and the Caribbean in August 2021. This is not a complete list of media reports on Russia's activities in Latin America but are some of the most relevant articles and reports selected by SFS researchers and fellows. The monitor does source a limited amount of media reports from state-owned or -controlled media outlets, which are carefully selected and solely intended to report on news that is not reported on by other media and is relevant for understanding VRIC influence in the region. This report is produced as part of our VRIC Monitor published monthly by the Center for a Secure Free Society (SFS), a non-profit, national security think tank based in Washington D.C.

RUSSIA

- Argentina's gamble on Sputnik V vaccine has left it in a "very critical situation" because of Russia's failure to fulfill delivery commitments, according to an official letter to Moscow leaked. Russia owes Argentina 18.5m doses of its Sputnik V jab, over two-thirds of them vital second-component doses. - [The Guardian on 22-JUL](#)
- Two Iranian ships that once appeared to be headed to Venezuela are now in the Baltic Sea approaching the Russian city of St. Petersburg, according to MarineTraffic. The position of the ships, including the floating military base called the Makran, indicate they are likely headed to St. Petersburg to participate in Russia's Navy Day events. - [CNN on 22-JUL](#)

- Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov, denounced the attempt of other countries to “interfere in Nicaraguan affairs.” He did not comment on the repressive escalation initiated by the Daniel Ortega’s regime at the end of May, which has left 26 opponents under arrest, and has led to international condemnation a few months before the presidential elections. - [Havana Times on 21-JUL](#)
- State media reports Russia and Nicaragua have signed an inter-governmental agreement on international information security. The signing ceremony was held following negotiations between Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his Nicaraguan counterpart Denis Moncada Colindres. - [TASS on 19-JUL](#)
- State media reports new Ecuadorian President Guillermo Lasso is interested in personal and direct contact with Russian President Vladimir Putin and hopes to hold talks, according to Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Mauricio Montalvo. - [TeleSUR on 05-JUL](#)
- State media reports Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his Venezuelan counterpart Jorge Arreaza met in Moscow on June 22 to discuss bilateral relations and the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. - [Sputnik on 22-JUN](#)
- State media reports Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov confirmed that his country will continue to support Venezuela in the defense sector, as specialists have traveled to the Latin American country to maintain various types of military equipment. - [TeleSUR on 22-JUN](#)
- State media reports Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko appointed Belarus' ambassadors to Iran, Mongolia and Cuba on June 18. The current Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Lithuania Valery Baranovsky will take charge of the Belarusian embassy in Cuba. - [BelTA on 18-JUN](#)
- Russia's intentions to install nuclear power plants in Argentina took a new step. Rosatom's deputy director Kirill Komarov sent a letter to José Luis Antúnez, CEO of Nucleoeléctrica Argentina, the state-run agency in charge of the local Atucha I, II and Embalse plants, to see the floating nuclear power plant off the port of Pevek, on the Arctic shores. - [MercoPress on 15-JUN](#)
- State media reports on June 4, Bolivian Minister of Hydrocarbons and Energies Franklin Molina Ortiz met with senior managers of state atomic energy corporation Rosatom during his official visit to Russia. They discussed what progress had been made to date in the implementation of the joint CNTRD endeavor and projected that the operations of its first component – the Multipurpose Irradiation Centre (MIC) – would begin before the end of 2021. - [Sputnik on 10-JUN](#)
- A new chapter adds to the difficult relationship between Colombia and Russia. The Moscow embassy in Bogotá issued a statement rejecting the statements of Defense Minister Diego Molano, who accuses Russia of interfering in social networks during the

demonstrations. Spies expelled, air raids, and now interference are the latest signals to the Russians. - [HCH TV on 22-MAY](#)