



RUSSIA'S ACTIVITIES IN LATIN AMERICA

September 2021

The following is a summary of open-source media reporting on Russia's presence and activities in Latin America and the Caribbean in September 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

- Nicaragua's National Assembly ratified a security agreement signed with Russia, that aims to establish areas of collaboration to prevent threats to international information security and to guarantee security of State information for both parties. - [Havana Times on 09-SEP](#)
- Peruvian President Pedro Castillo said that the government has reached an agreement with Russia to install a plant to produce the Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine. - [Reuters on 06-SEP](#)
- State media reports the leaders of China, Argentina, India and Thailand will deliver video speeches at the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF), scheduled to open in Russia's

Vladivostok, the Rossiya 1 broadcaster reported on August 30. - [Sputnik News on 30-AUG](#)

- State media reports the presidents of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel, and Vladimir Putin of Russia held a telephone conversation, classified as fraternal by the president of the Caribbean nation. In his Twitter account, the Cuban head of state commented on the dialogue, in which he took the opportunity to thank his counterpart for the solidarity aid sent to his country. - [Prensa Latina on 25-AUG](#)
- State media reports Argentina's health minister and presidential adviser visited Russia to discuss delays in the supplies of the Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine, the state-run TASS news agency reported. - [The Moscow Times on 17-AUG](#)
- State media reports Moscow welcomed the beginning of negotiations between the political actors of Venezuela and is ready to help facilitate that process, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. Delegations of Venezuela's regime and the opposition began talks in Mexico in order to find a way out of the crisis. - [TASS on 14-AUG](#)

RUSSIAN INTELLIGENCE

- The Committee on Foreign Relations and Defense of the Brazilian Senate held an open session with the presence of Defense Minister Walter Braga Netto, who was accompanied by the commanders of the Army, Navy and Aeronautics. Braga Netto confirmed that the Venezuelan government, together with the Russian military, had carried out monitoring and electronic warfare operations on the border with Brazil. "The exercise at the border took place and the armed forces (of Brazil) have the capacity to counter cyber threats. Every time they mobilize in an exercise we follow up on them," stated Braga Netto. - [Diario Las Americas on 21-MAY \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- Venezuelan and Russian military personnel have installed antennas to intercept electronic signals and communications in Santa Elena do Uairén, a Venezuelan city bordering Brazil. Such equipment would have the ability to hack, staple and interfere in the data encryption structures of the Army and the Brazilian Air Force in Roraima and Amazonas. In addition, the carrying out of reconnaissance flights by the Venezuelan military aviation was confirmed, carrying Russian-made tactical air surveillance systems along the Brazilian-Venezuelan border. - [Marcel van Hattem via Facebook on 10-MAY \(content in Portuguese\)](#)
- The Defense Minister confirmed that the Venezuelan government, together with the Russian military, had carried out monitoring and electronic warfare operations on the border with Brazil. - [Diario Las Americas on 21-MAY \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- The National Intelligence Directorate DNI headed by Admiral Rodolfo Amaya won the hand of an experienced group of 23 Russian spies, who from the embassy in Colombia

and camouflaged in cooperation agreements with the National Army, had been carrying out espionage operations in Colombia. - [El Expediente on 26-DEC \(content in Spanish\)](#)

- Operation Enigma, of the Colombian National Intelligence Directorate, began two years ago, when they detected unusual movements of personnel at the Russian Embassy in Bogotá. According to national researchers, the diplomatic representation of the Vladimir Putin government began to grow and went from having 11 people to 41, something that raised suspicions. - [El Espectador on 23-DEC \(content in Spanish\)](#)