



## **BOLIVARIAN THREAT NETWORK**

**September 2021**

The following is a summary of open-source media reporting on the Bolivarian Threat Network's activities in Latin America and the Caribbean in September 2021. This is not a complete list of media reports on the Bolivarian Threat Network'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.



- Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza, confirmed that he held “a cordial meeting” with Argentine Foreign Minister Felipe Solá “to strengthen brotherhood relations and future cooperation.” - [Infobae on 24-JUL \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- Venezuela's state-run PDVSA began discharging 620,000 barrels of imported condensate crude oil at the nation's largest oil port this week in an effort to boost blending operations, according to two company documents, sources and vessel tracking data. - [Reuters on 22-JUL](#)

- Police in Madrid arrested a former Venezuelan spymaster wanted on US narcoterrorism charges, capturing him in a hideout apartment nearly two years after he defied a Spanish extradition order and disappeared. - [Associated Press on 09-SEP](#)
- Venezuelan regime and opposition representatives said they reached partial agreement during talks in Mexico City as part of a roadmap drawn up to tackle the once prosperous country's long-running crisis. In a joint statement following negotiations from September 3-6, they said areas of agreement related to social measures, particularly on those affected by COVID-19, and a territorial dispute concerning neighbouring Guyana. - [Reuters on 07-SEP](#)
- Venezuela's regime and an opposition coalition will press the country's longstanding claim to an oil-rich swath of neighboring Guyana and set up joint humanitarian and sanctions review groups under two "partial accords" signed in Mexico. - [Argus Media on 07-SEPT](#)
- Nicolás Maduro has warned that there will be no impunity for the acts committed against the State by the opposition leader Juan Guaidó. - [Notimerica on 05-SEP \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- On August 31, Venezuela's main opposition parties announced that they will not boycott the regional and municipal elections on November 21. - [LatinNews Daily on 01-SEP](#)
- In an unusual and surprising operation, the Dominican State regained full control of Refidomsa, after acquiring 49% of the shares that were held by PDV Caribe, a subsidiary of the Venezuelan state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA). - [Diario Libre on 19-AUG \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- Maduro named the country's envoy to China as the new foreign minister in a cabinet shakeup that comes amid political negotiations with the opposition meant to ease a political stalemate. - [Reuters on 19-AUG](#)
- On August 15, the leading Venezuelan opposition figure, Freddy Guevara, was released from prison following the launch of negotiations in Mexico between the Maduro regime and the political opposition. - [LatinNews Daily on 16-AUG](#)

## POLITICAL CRISIS

- On September 14, Haiti's prime minister Ariel Henry fired Port-au-Prince chief prosecutor Bed-Ford Claude after calling for PM Henry to be charged in the Moïse case. - [LatinNews Daily on 15-SEP](#)
- Soon after rebels from neighboring Colombia arrived in this Venezuelan village, they started choosing students from the local high school to harvest coca, the plant used to make cocaine, the school's principal told Reuters. - [Voice of America on 04-SEP](#)

- On August 27, Peru's unicameral national congress ratified President Pedro Castillo's ministerial cabinet, despite widespread opposition from centrist and right-wing parties. - [LatinNews Daily on 31-AUG](#)
- Peruvian prosecutors and policemen raided the offices of the left-wing ruling party Peru Libre in an investigation into the financing of the electoral campaign, the same day that President Pedro Castillo turned one month in power. - [La Razón on 28-AUG](#)
- At the end of their general assembly, the bishops of Peru released a statement calling on the political class to avoid "every kind of authoritarianism." The statement came as recently elected left-wing President Pedro Castillo waited to see if the opposition-led Congress would green light or reject his cabinet. - [Crux on 27-AUG](#)
- Thousands of protesters demonstrated peacefully in Colombia to urge its congress to approve union-backed social and economic policies supporters say will benefit the most vulnerable. - [Reuters on 26-AUG](#)
- Peru's leftist President Pedro Castillo is mulling a cabinet reshuffle, a source told Reuters, less than a month after taking office and as he faces a critical confirmation vote by the opposition-led Congress. - [Reuters on 24-AUG](#)
- On August 22, hundreds of protesters marched in rejection of Peru's new President Pedro Castillo, who continues to face strong criticism for his ministerial appointments despite a new attempt to moderate his cabinet. - [LatinNews Daily on 23-AUG](#)
- The sentenced Secretary General of Peru Libre, Vladimir Cerrón, met this with the former president of Bolivia Evo Morales. Through his Twitter account, the former regional governor of Junín shared a photograph with the former Bolivian president after having "a pleasant conversation." - [El Comercio on 13-AUG](#)
- State media reports the Huánuco Supraprovincial Prosecutor's Office Specialized in Crimes of Terrorism and Against Humanity opened an investigation against Vladimir Cerrón Rojas for the alleged commission of the crime of terrorism. - [Peru Public Prosecutor's Office of the Nation on 11-AUG \(content in Spanish\)](#)

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- Arce and Castillo agree to create a binational cabinet for this year. The leaders met within the framework of the CELAC summit and discussed trade and social issues. - [Página Siete on 19-SEP \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- With the dictators of Venezuela and Cuba present at the summit, and under the watchful eye of the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, the leaders of Uruguay, Ecuador and Paraguay, denounced the human rights violations of their regimes and demanded free elections. - [Infobae on 18-SEP \(content in Spanish\)](#)

- Felipe Solá boarded an Air Force plane with a minimal delegation to participate in the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which in Mexico City planned to designate Alberto Fernández as its Pro Tempore President. - [Infobae on 18-SEP \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel will attend Mexico's 200th anniversary of independence, ahead of a summit of Latin American heads of state that will gather recently elected members of a new "pink wave" of leftist leaders. - [Reuters on 16-SEP](#)
- Vice President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner's closest allies in Argentina's cabinet offered to resign, amid mounting political pressure on President Alberto Fernandez's government following a primary midterm defeat. - [Bloomberg on 15-SEP](#)
- The latest US warning to Nayib Bukele, the president of El Salvador, came from Juan González, national security adviser and one of the men who speaks most closely to Joe Biden on Latin American issues. Washington, González said, will take action against Bukele's flirtations with reelection. It is not the first time that the United States has warned, but so far little has changed in the authoritarian script of the Salvadoran. - [Infobae on 14-SEP \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- Javier Milei is a Libertarian outsider threatening the Argentinian establishment. On September 12, the leader of La Libertad Avanza, the political space that Milei heads together with Victoria Villarruel, became the third political force in Buenos Aires after the economist exceeded 13% of the votes in the primary elections known as PASO, surpassing the expectations of opponents and allies. - [El American on 14-SEP](#)
- Ricardo López Murphy expressed on CNN Radio that in the Juntos por el Cambio internship in the City of Buenos Aires he would have liked "to have more votes, but it still went well, although I will never be happy." - [CNN Español on 14-SEP](#)
- As the date approaches for Nicaragua's presidential elections, scheduled for November 7, 2021, the Daniel Ortega regime is intensifying the persecution of opponents, the nongovernmental organization (NGO) Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in an August 5 statement. - [Diálogo Americas on 08-SEP](#)
- On 7 September over 1,000 people staged protests in El Salvador's capital, San Salvador, against a new law implementing the cryptocurrency bitcoin as legal tender alongside the US dollar, the country's official currency. - [LatinNews Daily on 08-SEP](#)
- On 3 September the constitutional chamber (SC) of El Salvador's supreme court (CSJ) issued a ruling which authorises immediate presidential re-election. - [LatinNews Daily on 06-SEP](#)
- On 28 August, Argentina's government accused Chile of trying to "appropriate" a segment of its continental shelf in the South Atlantic, a day after the Chilean government issued a decree defining its maritime boundaries. - [LatinNews Daily on 31-AUG](#)

- On 23 August Salvadorean investigative media, El Faro, published a report citing an investigation which found the Nuevas Ideas (NI) government led by President Nayib Bukele held negotiations in maximum-security prisons in 2020 with El Salvador's three main street gangs. - [LatinNews Daily on 24-AUG](#)
- The Bolivian Public Ministry sent to the Supreme Court of that country an accusatory request to initiate a trial of responsibility against the former interim president Jeanine Añez. The petition is based on events classified "provisionally as genocide, serious and minor injuries, and injury followed by death." - [BBC on 20-AUG](#)
- Former Bolivian President Jeanine Anez was briefly taken to a hospital from jail, her third hospital trip in two weeks. - [Reuters on 18-AUG](#)
- A group of opposition Congress members presented a request for a political trial against center-left Argentine President Alberto Fernández for "poor performance in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic," lawmakers said. - [Reuters on 13-AUG](#)
- Nicaragua has recalled its ambassadors to Mexico, Argentina, Colombia and Costa Rica for "consultations," the government said, deepening the Central American country's international isolation over its crackdowns on the opposition. - [Reuters on 09-AUG](#)
- Members of one of Guatemala's biggest farmers and indigenous groups blocked roads across the nation, calling on President Alejandro Giammattei and his attorney general to resign over the firing of a top anti-graft prosecutor. - [Reuters on 09-AUG](#)