



## VRIC MEDICAL DIPLOMACY

November & December 2021

The following is a summary of open-source media reporting on the VRIC's medical diplomacy in Latin America and the Caribbean in November & December 2021. This is not a complete list of media reports on the VRIC's medical diplomacy 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.

- State media reports more than one million doses of the second component of Russia's Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine have been delivered to Guatemala. - [TASS on 27-DEC](#)
- State media reports Nicaragua received a new batch of COVID-19 vaccines donated by China, the second in a month. Nicaragua appreciates and acknowledges the solidarity of the Chinese government and people, the presidential advisor said, calling the shipment "a great Christmas gift from the Chinese people." - [China.org on 25-DEC](#)
- Venezuela has received seven million doses of the Sputnik Light booster vaccine, the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) announced, with the shipment marking the biggest one-time global delivery of the one-shot vaccine. - [Sputnik International on 21-DEC](#)
- State media reports the first shipment of one million doses of vaccines donated by China have arrived in Nicaragua, just days after the two countries announced the reestablishment of diplomatic relations. - [Global Times on 13-DEC](#)

- Argentina has approved Russia's one-dose Sputnik Light as a standalone vaccine and a booster shot, the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) said, citing Argentina's health ministry. - [Reuters on 06-DEC](#)
- U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) spoke during a Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee hearing on China and Russia's coercive vaccine diplomacy in the Western Hemisphere. Rubio asked witnesses what factors the U.S. uses to determine vaccine distribution in the Western Hemisphere, why the Biden Administration failed to invite Venezuela's Interim Government to the Summit of Democracies, and how the Western Hemisphere can be an ideal partner in strategic supply chains. - [Senator Marco Rubio Press Release on 18-NOV](#)
- State media reports Syrian and Cuban officials discussed strengthening health-related cooperation between the two countries, focusing on vaccines against COVID-19. Syria's ambassador to Cuba Dr. Idris Mayya met with biotech and pharmaceutical business leaders in Havana. They discussed cooperation in the pharmaceutical industry including the development of vaccines against the coronavirus. - [Al-Monitor on 16-NOV](#)
- State media reports the Sputnik V vaccine company reported that "over 450 thousand doses of the Sputnik V vaccine arrived on November 1 in Venezuela for the country's vaccination program." - [TeleSUR on 01-NOV](#)