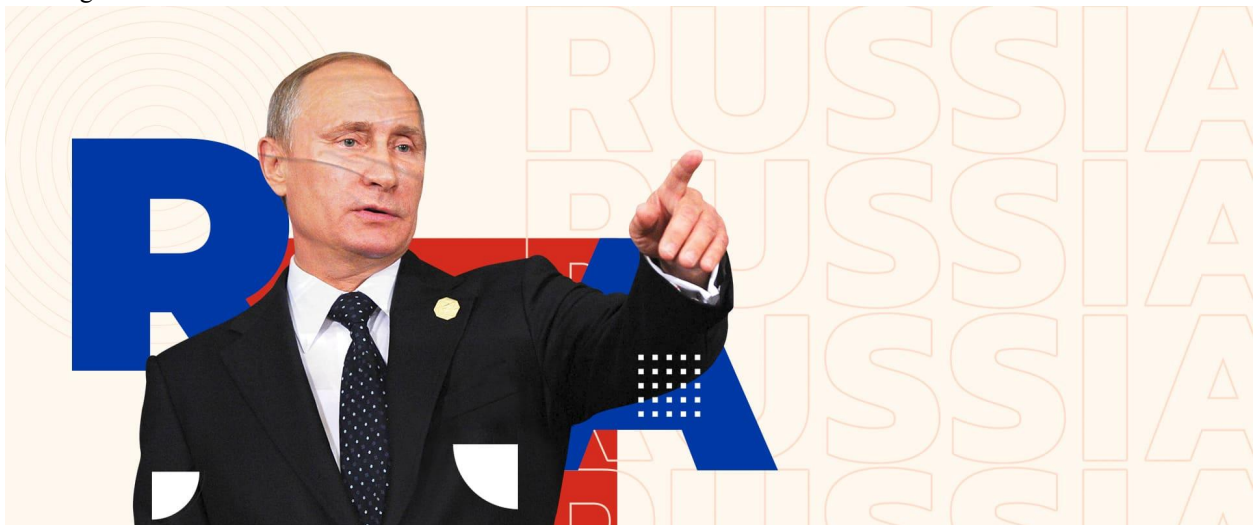




## RUSSIA'S ACTIVITIES IN LATIN AMERICA

November & December 2021

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



- State media reports Russian officials insisted the launch of the plant to manufacture Kalashnikov rifles in Venezuela had to be postponed during 2021 as a consequence of sanctions imposed by the United States, but the final works have been gaining pace lately

thanks to cooperation from local authorities. The Russian government expects to start producing Kalashnikov rifles in Venezuela next year. - [MercoPress on 29-DEC](#)

- State media reports the directors and members of the Fidel Castro Foundation of Russia spoke in a recent meeting about actions to support Cuba, which will be the focus of the work of the organization in 2022, as reported by the Cuban embassy in Moscow. They also shared details about the monument that will be placed in the place that bears the name of the revolutionary leader, in the Sokol district of Moscow. - [Prensa Latina on 27-DEC](#)
- State media reports the Peruvian government has now put in force an agreement on mutual protection of classified information within the scope of technical-military cooperation with Russia, previously approved by Parliament. The published legislative resolution approving the agreement has the objective of ensuring the protection of intellectual property, within the framework of bilateral technical-military cooperation. - [Prensa Latina on 22-DEC](#)
- The government of Alyaksandr Lukashenka and the Maduro regime held a meeting of the high-level Mixed commission on December 15. While the Belarusian state media ignored the event, the “Venezolana de Televisión” channel covered it. Maduro asked Sheyman to convey to Lukashenka “a firm determination to move forward, to restore the projects we have been implementing and to launch new ones.” - [Belsat on 19-DEC](#)
- Two vehicles that attempted to speed past a California border crossing before an officer opened fire were carrying a total of 18 Russian immigrants including young children. The “use of force incident” shut down several lanes at the San Ysidro Port of Entry for about eight hours. In the two vehicles were 18 undocumented immigrants from Russia — 12 in the SUV and six in the car — including children younger than a year old. The adults were between 21 and 53 years old, and the oldest child was 14. - [Border Reports on 14-DEC](#)
- Two sons of Daniel Ortega and Rosario Murillo headed an official delegation to Russia, whose ultimate goal is to strengthen relations with the Kremlin. The sons of Ortega and Murillo began their work agenda with a meeting with Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister, Sergei Ryabkov and continued with the signing of a cooperation agreement “to promote the peaceful use of applied nuclear technologies in energy, agriculture and medicine.” - [Confidencial on 09-DEC](#)
- State media reports Argentina's President Alberto Fernandez met with Russian diplomats and entrepreneurs at his government headquarters to strengthen bilateral trade agreements. Russian representatives promised to support scientific, academic, mining, and agro-industry cooperation projects with Argentina to improve this country's infrastructure and fight the economic recession prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic. - [TeleSUR on 06-DEC](#)
- State media reports Ecuador's President Guillermo Lasso is expected to visit Russia in 2022, Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Mauricio Montalvo wrote on Twitter. In August, the

Kremlin press service reported about Russian President Vladimir Putin's telephone conversation with Lasso, saying that the parties had discussed ways to step up efforts to boost political, trade and economic cooperation, interaction in other fields, as well as the fight against the coronavirus pandemic - [TASS on 02-DEC](#)

- State media reports Brazil's membership in the United Nations Security Council will create new opportunities for the country to boost cooperation with Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a meeting with his Brazilian counterpart Carlos Alberto Franco Franca. - [TASS on 30-NOV](#)
- State media reports Russia will supply pharmaceuticals, food and essential goods to Cuba by the end of this year, the Government said on its website after the meeting between Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Borisov and Cuba's Deputy Prime Minister Ricardo Cabrisas. - [TASS on 26-NOV](#)
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection confirmed that a group of people attempting to run across traffic lanes and into the U.S. at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry were Russian migrants. The attempt was captured on video that circulated on social media. A CBP representative confirmed that seven people exited their vehicle at the border crossing at about 7 p.m. and tried to run past the inspection booths and enter the United States. - [NBC San Diego on 17-NOV](#)
- Russia will lift its COVID-19 ban on flights to countries including Bangladesh, Brazil, Mongolia, Costa Rica and Argentina from December 1, the government coronavirus task force said. - [Reuters on 16-NOV](#)
- State media reports Venezuelan Foreign Minister Felix Plasencia arrived in Russia to hold talks with his counterpart Sergey Lavrov and strengthen cooperation between the two countries. Plasencia said that he is in Moscow in response to a working invitation from Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov "with the instruction of Maduro to strengthen our unconditional alliance with the people and the Government of the Russian Federation," he said. - [TeleSUR on 07-NOV](#)
- Moscow is ramping up its efforts to export military hardware around the world. Venezuela and Uruguay were specifically named as two of the nations that have expressed interest in both the wheeled armored personnel carriers (APCs) and armored vehicles. "We are working with the Uruguayan side, as well as with other countries in the region," the VPK chief explained. "We offer almost the entire range of our hardware to supply in the region." - [National Interest on 03-NOV](#)