



BOLIVARIAN THREAT NETWORK

March & April 2022

The following is a summary of open-source media reporting on the Bolivarian Threat Network's activities in Latin America and the Caribbean in March & April 2022. 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.



- The Vice President of Bolivia, David Choquehuanca held a formal meeting with Venezuela's Foreign Minister Félix Plasencia, with the aim of strengthening relations between the two countries. - [Vice President of Bolivia on 05-MAY via Twitter \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- The foreign ministers of Bolivia, Rogelio Mayta, and Venezuela, Félix Plasencia, announced that they had reached various agreements to strengthen various areas of mutual interest, such as the ALBA Bank, the promotion of the Decade of Indigenous Languages, and the defense of multilateralism and the no "exclusion" of nations. - [Banca Y Negocios on 05-MAY \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- The Foreign Minister of Venezuela, Félix Plasencia, arrived in Bolivia this Thursday around 2:30 p.m. Meetings are even planned on the diplomat's agenda, first, with the representation of his country and then with national authorities, with former president Evo Morales. - [Eju! TV on 04-MAY](#)
- Venezuela's opposition aligned with Juan Guaido will continue to demand significant political reforms before supporting any U.S. plans to lift oil sanctions on the South American country as a way to ease supply concerns. - [Argus Media on 27-APR](#)
- Venezuela's ruling party-controlled National Assembly named 20 magistrates to the country's revamped Supreme Justice Tribunal after several weeks of unexplained delay. The assembly, which is majority-controlled by Nicolás Maduro's United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV), approved a judicial reform in January which reduced the number of judges on the court to 20 from 32. The court is broadly seen by the opposition and several non-governmental organizations as an extension of the government. - [U.S. News on 27-APR](#)
- In light of the Venezuelan authorities' attempt to obstruct accountability for alleged crimes against humanity, the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor's signal that he intends to move forward with his investigation sends an important message to victims, Human Rights Watch said. - [Human Rights Watch on 22-APR](#)
- Some U.S. oilfield firms whose Venezuelan operations were frozen by sanctions are joining an appeal to Washington for authorizations to restart oil drilling in the South American country, according to eight sources with knowledge of the talks. - [Reuters on 21-APR](#)
- A Venezuelan think tank, Centro de Documentación y Análisis Social (Cendas), has calculated that the price of the basic basket of food products in Venezuela stood at US\$471.16 in March, representing a year-on-year increase of 46%. The price of the basket rose by 3.6% compared to February, driven by price increases for dairy products and eggs (+4.9%), grains (+4.0%), and meat (+3.0%). - [LatinNews Daily on 21-APR](#)
- The U.S. government reiterated its request to representatives of the Nicolás Maduro regime in Venezuela and the interim government of Juan Guaido to resume negotiations

in Mexico to find a solution to the political crisis in the Caribbean country. - [Infobae on 15-APR](#)

- The government of Venezuela affirmed that since 2018, 28,521 Venezuelans from 21 countries have returned to the country with the so-called “Plan Vuelta a la Patria” after a last repatriation of 247 citizens from Peru this weekend. “Number of Venezuelans benefited from the Return to the Homeland Plan amounts to 28,521 passengers, from 21 countries, through 165 flights and a maritime transfer”, pointed out the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry on his Twitter account. - [24 News Recorder on 10-APR](#)
- After the commander of the Colombian Air Force (FAC), Ramses Rueda, referred to Venezuela's indifference to drug trafficking, in conversation with the newspaper *El Tiempo*, the vice president of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV), Diosdado Cabello, in his television program *El Mazo Dando*, hinted that the drug traffickers are partners of FAC and stated that their accusations are due to the fact that they fell out of business. - [Infobae on 07-APR](#)
- The Observatorio Venezolano de Finanzas (OVF), an independent economic think tank established by Venezuela's political opposition, has reported monthly inflation of 10.5% in March, bringing the annual inflation rate to 251%. According to the think tank, prices increased the most in the categories of domestic goods (105.9%), services (15.9%), communications (8.7%), and food (3.1%). - [LatinNews Daily on 05-APR](#)
- Saturday, April 2, a complaint was released by the Nicolás Maduro regime against the president of Colombia, Iván Duque, where he accused him of "deepening terrorist attacks and sabotage of social life" before the Colombian president finished his presidential term. - [La Semana on 03-APR \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- On the outskirts of the eastern Venezuelan port town of Guanta, hundreds of trucks line up everyday to unload tons of scrap metal, part of the government's attempt to turn waste into a source of foreign currency. - [Reuters on 01-APR](#)
- Venezuela is reportedly looking for oil tankers in anticipation of sanction relief from Washington. Reuters cited three unnamed sources and a document as saying the state-owned oil company PDVSA was in talks to buy several oil tankers after Washington earlier this month sent a high-level delegation to Caracas to discuss potential sanction relief. - [Oil Price on 01-APR](#)
- Diosdado Cabello, the first vice president of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV), believes that Colombia must be “decocainated,” just as Russia demilitarizes and denazifies Ukraine. - [BluRadio on 22-MAR \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- A senior diplomat from Mexico's Foreign Affairs Ministry, Efraín Guadarrama, met with Venezuelan government and opposition representatives in Caracas this week amid signs that the U.S. is willing to negotiate a loosening of sanctions on Maduro's regime. - [BNN Bloomberg on 15-MAR](#)

- Venezuela's oil production increased by 4% in February compared to pumping in January, according to a report released by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Venezuelan authorities informed the international organization that in February the country produced a total of 788,000 barrels per day (bpd), which represents an increase of 33,000 bpd compared to January. - [Infobae on 15-MAR](#)
- The regime of Nicolas Maduro is seeking meetings with political and business groups, and unions, among others, so that they can join negotiations alongside opposition politicians led by Juan Guaido. - [Reuters on 15-MAR](#)
- Two U.S. citizens who were “wrongfully detained” by the Venezuelan government have been released, days after a delegation of senior U.S. officials visited the South American nation in an apparent effort to smooth relations between the two countries. - [VOA News on 09-MAR](#)
- Venezuela’s main industrial lobby, Confederación Venezolana de Industriales (Conindustria) has said that the country’s industrial sector was operating at 27% of its capacity in Q4 2021, which according to local media is its highest level since 2018 and up from 23% in Q3 2021. - [LatinNews Daily on 03-MAR](#)

BOLIVARIAN THREAT NETWORK

- Peru's Congress on Friday rejected a bill presented by President Pedro Castillo to call a referendum to change the constitution, a campaign promise he had made with the aim of boosting the state's role in the economy. - [Reuters on 06-MAY](#)
- Peru’s prosecutor’s office has said it is investigating President Pedro Castillo and his wife for alleged plagiarism after a television station said an investigation showed the couple may have copied more than half the master’s thesis they co-authored. - [ABC News on 05-MAY](#)
- Mexico’s President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has revealed that he is seeking to create a lithium association with Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile. His announcement, which was made in his daily press conference, follows the approval last month by Mexico’s federal senate of his proposal to nationalise the lithium industry. López Obrador confirmed that he had spoken directly with Bolivia’s President Luis Arce, who in turn had communicated with the governments of Argentina and Chile, to propose “*creating a mutually beneficial association*” to work together developing the production of lithium through exploration and new technologies. - [LatinNews Daily on 04-MAY](#)
- Members of a Guatemalan peasant farmers' organization blocked more than 17 roads nationwide for the second consecutive day as part of their latest anti-government protest. “No more corruption. No more looting of our territories. No more privatization of goods and services,” that group known as Codeca said on its media channels of the demonstrations. - [EFE on 27-APR](#)

- On April 21, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague ruled that Colombia must “*immediately cease*” its efforts to control maritime activity in disputed waters off the Colombian archipelago of San Andrés and Providencia, which the ICJ ruled are part of Nicaragua’s exclusive economic zone (EEZ). - [LatinNews Daily on 22-APR](#)
- Juan Orlando Hernández, the former President of Honduras, will make his initial appearance on April 22 before Magistrate Judge Stewart D. Aaron in federal court in New York after being extradited from Honduras. A federal court unsealed drug-trafficking and weapons charges today in a superseding indictment against Hernández. - [U.S. Department of Justice Press Release on 21-APR](#)
- Mexico’s Senate approved an amendment to the country’s mining law that nationalizes lithium, a day after it was passed by the Congress. “With 87 votes in favor, 20 against and 16 abstentions, (the bill) and the non-reserved articles of the opinion that reforms various provisions of the Mining Law regarding the exploration and exploitation of lithium is approved in general,” the president of the Senate, Olga Sánchez Cordero, said. - [Fresno Bee on 20-APR](#)
- The Argentine firm Grupo Mirgor and the provincial government of Argentina’s Tierra del Fuego have announced plans to construct a multimodal port in Río Grande municipality, the industrial hub of Argentina’s most southerly province. Mirgor will be investing approximately US\$210m in the construction of the port. - [LatinNews Daily on 20-APR](#)
- In a marathon voting session to restructure Chile's political system, the country's constitutional assembly voted to replace its 200-year-old senate with a new “chamber of regions.” The assembly has been working on a new draft constitution that will go to a referendum on September 4, and eliminating or reforming the senate has been a key goal of left-wing members, who say it stalls or halts progress and laws. - [Reuters on 14-APR](#)
- On April 13, Peru’s congressional commission for constitutional accusations opened an investigation into President Pedro Castillo over allegedly treasonous comments in which he suggested Peru could provide Bolivia with sea access. - [LatinNews Daily on 14-APR](#)
- Peruvian President Pedro Castillo lifted a curfew imposed on the capital, Lima, hours before it was due to expire in the face of angry and defiant protests. The curfew, which took effect at 2 a.m. local time and was due to expire at 11:59 p.m., was ordered to quell the growing wave of violent protests across Peru over soaring prices of fuel, food and fertilizer. - [VOA News on 06-APR](#)
- El Salvador’s congress has authorized prison sentences of 10 to 15 years for news media that reproduce or disseminate messages from gangs, prompting accusations of censorship from press freedom groups. The vote was the latest in a flurry of legislative action against the gangs after 62 suspected gang killings on March 26 led President Nayib Bukele to seek and win a state of emergency. Harsh measures against imprisoned gang members and increased prison sentences followed, as well as the arrests of some 6,000 people accused of being gang members. - [The Guardian on 06-APR](#)

- On April 5, Costa Rica's president-elect Rodrigo Chaves met with his defeated rival in the April 3 run-off vote, former president José María Figueres (1994-1998) of the traditional right-of-center opposition Partido Liberación Nacional (PLN). - [LatinNews Daily on 06-APR](#)
- Peruvian President Pedro Castillo has imposed a curfew in the capital, Lima, and the port city of Callao following nationwide protests over rising fuel and fertilizer prices. The government announced it would temporarily scrap the fuel tax in an attempt to stabilize petrol prices. But lorry drivers and farmers blocked roads in much of the country again. The government says four people have died in the protests. - [BBC News on 05-APR](#)
- Chilean President Gabriel Boric, visiting Argentine President Alberto Fernandez on his first trip abroad since taking power last month, vowed to work with his cross-Andean neighbors on economic, energy, and cultural issues. - [Reuters on 04-APR](#)
- Former World Bank economist Rodrigo Chaves won Costa Rica's presidential election pledging to cut the deficit and attract foreign investment. His rival Jose Maria Figueres conceded, and Chaves led with 53% to 47% for Figueres, with 98% of the votes tallied. Long an oasis of stability in a region plagued by violence, Costa Rica had a choice of president between two investor-friendly candidates, setting it apart from neighbors led by fiery radicals such as El Salvador's Nayib Bukele and Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega. - [Bloomberg on 03-APR](#)
- Peru's leftist president survived the second attempt to impeach him in four months, sparing the politically volatile nation another crisis -- at least, for now. After a marathon eight-hour debate, 55 of 128 lawmakers voted on Monday night for impeaching President Pedro Castillo, short of the 87 needed. Fifty-four voted against, while 19 abstained. - [Bloomberg on 29-MAR](#)
- Honduras' Supreme Court approved the extradition of former President Juan Orlando Hernández to the United States to face drug trafficking and weapons charges. Melvin Duarte, spokesman for the court, said the justices rejected Hernández's last appeal. Duarte said there were no further routes of appeal available to him. - [NPR on 29-MAR](#)
- Hours after the president of Bolivia, Luis Arce, made the normalization of diplomatic relations with Chile conditional on the solution of the maritime issue, the president responded through the undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, Ximena Fuentes, who said "we had hoped that the countries could put the maritime issue aside and resume diplomatic relations." - [Página Siete on 24-MAR \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- On March 23, Ecuador's main labor federation, Frente Unitario de Trabajadores (FUT), organized protest demonstrations in the capital Quito and other key cities in opposition to what it says are government plans for fiscal austerity and privatizations. - [LatinNews Daily on 24-MAR](#)
- Nicaragua's ambassador to the Organization of American States has launched an extraordinary verbal attack on the authoritarian government he is employed to represent,

castigating Daniel Ortega's "indefensible" dictatorship for its assault on human rights and democracy. - [The Guardian on 23-MAR](#)

- Honduras might be the next nation to formally recognize Bitcoin (BTC) as legal tender, following El Salvador, if various internet sources are to be believed. The country's President, Xiomara Castro has reportedly said that El Salvador shouldn't be the only country "escaping dollar hegemony." - [Finbold on 21-MAR](#)
- A group of Bolivian carriers and inhabitants blocked for the fourth consecutive day one of the main routes leading to Peru demanding the construction of a double-track highway that they have been demanding for years. The protesters closed the passage at different points on the highway that runs from La Paz to the border town of Desaguadero, demanding that construction of this double-track route be started, a project that has been paralyzed since 2018. - [Infobae on 21-MAR](#)
- Peru's constitutional court has approved the release from prison of former president Alberto Fujimori, who is serving a 25-year sentence for murder and corruption charges. Judge Eloy Espinosa-Saldana confirmed the 4-3 ruling in remarks broadcast on local channel Canal N. It was unclear when Fujimori could leave prison or if new legal challenges could halt the decision. - [Guardian on 17-MAR](#)
- Paraguay was experiencing its second day of road blockages by truck drivers and other drivers, who demanded a drop in fuel prices. The protest continued today after freight carriers, taxi drivers and motorcycle delivery people rejected the government's proposal to apply discounts on fuels purchased from state-owned Petroleos Paraguayos (Petropar). - [Infobae on 15-MAR](#)
- Peru's Congress approved the start of impeachment proceedings against President Pedro Castillo, the second such attempt to oust him in four months. The motion was presented by opposition lawmaker Jorge Montoya and was approved by 76 votes, not far from the number needed to actually impeach a president. - [Bloomberg on 14-MAR](#)
- The newly inaugurated president of Chile, Gabriel Boric, urged Bolivian President Luis Arce to resume diplomatic relations that were broken in the 1970s. "We have many elements of integration that we can work on (with Bolivia). The resumption of diplomatic relations is a point of arrival, I would love to move towards it, it only depends on the will of both parties," Boric said during his first meeting as president. - [Página Siete on 14-MAR \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- Joe Biden told Colombian President Ivan Duque he plans to designate Colombia as a major non-NATO ally, granting the strategic status to a key country in a turbulent region as the United States seeks to isolate Russia. - [Reuters on 10-MAR](#)
- The U.S. government barred nine Nicaraguan lawmakers, officials and judges from entry into the United States, accusing them of undermining democracy in the Central American country, the State Department said. The nine Nicaraguans were added to the Corrupt and

Undemocratic Actors list, which generally makes those named ineligible for visas and admission to the United States. - [Yahoo Finance on 09-MAR](#)

- IMF staff and the Argentine authorities have reached a staff-level agreement on the economic and financial policies to be supported by a 30-month Extended Fund Facility (EFF) Arrangement. The EFF, with requested access of SDR 31.914 billion (equivalent to US\$ 45 billion or 1000 percent of quota), aims to provide Argentina with balance of payments and budget support to address the country's most pressing economic challenges. - [International Monetary Fund Press Release on 03-MAR](#)
- Former Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva oversaw the signing of a pact between his leftist party and Mexico's ruling Morena party, and promised closer ties if he wins Brazil's presidential election later this year. - [Reuters on 02-MAR](#)
- The president of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, dismissed Orlando Salvador Solórzano Delgadillo as Minister of Development, Industry and Commerce (Mific), who during a television interview did not recall the cost of the basic food basket, which was a source of criticism and resignation requests at the time. - [EFE on 02-MAR](#)
- Paraguay's president dismissed two ministers who were allegedly linked to organized crime. The move came after police dismantled a gang allegedly responsible for shipping about 21 tons of cocaine to Europe. Paraguay's President Mario Abdo Benítez sacked the head of the National Emergency Agency, Joaquin Roa, who had bought a yacht from one of the suspects arrested during the police operation that was carried out with the help of Europol, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and an Anti-Drug Unit from Uruguay. - [OCCRP on 01-MAR](#)
- State media reports Peruvian President Pedro Castillo accepted the resignation of Transport Minister Juan Silva, whom entrepreneur Karelím López accused of allegedly accepting bribes in exchange for public works with Castillo's authorization. - [TeleSUR on 01-MAR](#)
- On February 24, an operation by Colombian security forces reportedly led to the death of Jorge Eliecer Jiménez Martínez, alias "Arturo," the leader of the 10th Front, a dissident group of the extinct Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), according to a post by Colombia President Iván Duque's on his official Twitter account. According to Semana, another 21 members of the 10th Front, also known as the Martín Villa Front, were also killed during the operation, which was carried out in the Puerto Rondón municipality in the Arauca department. - [InSight Crime on 25-FEB](#)
- Guerrillas of the leftist National Liberation Army (ELN) blew up a bridge, set fire to vehicles, blocked roads, and set off bombs that injured eight people during the first day of a so-called "armed strike," the Colombian government said. - [Reuters on 23-FEB](#)
- The president of Honduras, Xiomara Castro, asked the United Nations (UN) for support to install the International Commission Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (CICIH). - [CNN Español on 17-FEB](#)

- On February 16, Chile's constituent convention voted to support a proposal declaring Chile to be a "regional, plurinational, and intercultural state, formed by autonomous territories" but which also "preserves the unity and integrity of the state." - [LatinNews Daily on 17-FEB](#)
- Honduran ex-President Juan Orlando Hernández has been arrested on drug charges. Police were deployed to his house in the capital Tegucigalpa hours after the U.S. requested his extradition to prevent him leaving. He surrendered and was escorted from his home in handcuffs. Hernández is accused of having been involved in a drug-trafficking ring which included his younger brother, Tony Hernández, who last year was sentenced in the U.S. to life in prison. During Tony Hernández's trial, prosecutors alleged that the infamous Mexican drug lord Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán had personally handed Tony Hernández \$1m. - [BBC News on 15-FEB](#)

ICC

- Diosdado Cabello, first vice president of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela, questioned Karim Khan, prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, for investigating the alleged commission of crimes against humanity in the country. The ruling party, also a deputy to the 2020 National Assembly, justified his criticism with the decision of the international court to close the case of Colombia, which was open for 17 years for the crimes committed during the conflict with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). - [El Nacional on 28-APR \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- State media reports Nicolás Maduro welcomed the opening of an International Criminal Court (ICC) office in Caracas after a three-day visit by prosecutor Karim Khan. At a joint press conference, Maduro said "the doors of Venezuela were open" to the court's lead prosecutor and his team. Khan's visit to the Caribbean country is the second since he announced his decision to open a full-scale investigation into alleged human rights abuses in Venezuela. During his visit in November, the government of Venezuela and Khan signed a memorandum of understanding to facilitate cooperation. - [Venezuela Analysis on 04-APR](#)
- The prosecutor's office of the International Criminal Court said that it will open an office in Venezuela as it investigates allegations of torture and killings by the South American country's security forces. In a televised appearance alongside Nicolás Maduro, Khan said he welcomed the commitment of the Venezuelan government to explore cooperation and technical assistance as part of the efforts to investigate alleged crimes against humanity. - [NBC News on 01-APR](#)
- ICC prosecutor Karim Khan said he will open an investigation into possible crimes against humanity in Venezuela, with the country's government saying it respects the decision but does not share his opinion. - [Reuters on 04-APR](#)
- State media reports the President of Colombia, Iván Duque, went to the International Criminal Court where he ratified his support for the process against Nicolás Maduro's dictatorship for crimes against humanity. "I denounced Nicolás Maduro in the

International Criminal Court 5 years ago and we have seen progress in the international criminal system,” said President Duque after holding a meeting with Prosecutor Karim Khan. - [Venezuela National Assembly Press Release on 17-FEB](#)

COLOMBIA ELECTIONS

- On February 4, two senior Indra officials attended an event organized by the Euroamerica Foundation to promote the presidential campaign of Gustavo Petro. Journalist Lina María Peña revealed that members of Petro's campaign participated in that meeting, which was entitled “colloquium with Gustavo Petro,” including his adviser in Spain, Xavier Vendrell, a former militant of the terrorist organization Terra Lliure. - [La Gaceta on 09-MAY \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- Colombia is 25 days away from the first presidential round and doubts about the results of the legislative elections on March 13 have not dissipated. The Ministry of Finance has already approved the resources for \$3,277,248,189 for an international audit of the software contracted by the registry to guarantee transparency in the electoral process, but now new elements appear to which RCN MUNDO had access and which are in the possession of the authorities that will have to rule on its veracity and conclude what corresponds. - [RCN Radio on 04-MAY \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- Investigators from intelligence agencies have been struck by a name that appears on the list of visits to La Picota prison by the senator elected by the Historical Pact, Piedad Córdoba. This is a renowned Venezuelan businessman who was issued an arrest warrant in that country in 2013 for the crimes of money laundering, criminal association, aggravated smuggling and obtaining foreign currency through fraudulent means. - [El Tiempo on 27-APR \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- Colombian presidential candidate Gustavo Petro extended his lead over his main rival in the latest poll, with just over one month to go until the election. In the most likely runoff scenario, leftist Senator Petro would get 44.8% of votes versus 36.9% for former Medellín mayor Federico “Fico” Gutierrez, according to a poll by the National Consulting Center, or CNC, published by Semana magazine. - [Bloomberg on 22-APR](#)
- The Historical Pact political coalition issued an official statement in which it announced that the Ethics and Guarantees Commission will open an investigation against the senator-elect, Piedad Córdoba, as a result of the allegations she has received about alleged funding from private individuals in her campaign to the Congress of the Republic. - [Infobae on 21-APR](#)
- On the morning of Wednesday, April 20, the presidential candidate for the left-wing coalition Pact Histórico, Gustavo Petro Urrego, asked Piedad Córdoba, an elected senator of the same collective, to suspend her campaign activities while solving her judicial problems. - [Infobae on 20-APR](#)

- Colombia will investigate the “irregularities in the selection and hiring of the company Indra Sistemas S.A., due to the existence of situations that would compromise the transparency of the selection and in the hiring procedure of said company.” - [La Semana on 11-APR \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- Should Gustavo Petro gain more than 50% of the vote in either the first or second round of the presidential elections would be Colombia’s first leftist candidate in modern history. In an interview with Colombian network Blu Radio, he promised that the first thing he would do is to declare an emergency and rule by decree, bypassing congress. Petro says that the move would allow him to take control of the agricultural and food supply chain, something that neighboring Venezuela has done, leading to a humanitarian crisis. - [Finance Colombia on 14-MAR](#)
- The president's visit with Attorney Margarita Cabello, the Ombudsman, Carlos Camargo, the Minister of the Interior, Daniel Palacio, and the Registrar, Alexánder Vega, took place just when the electoral software of the multinational Indra has become a horse battle of those who question the votes of March 13 (Congress and coalition consultations) and May 29 (presidential). - [Vanguardia on 02-MAR \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- President Iván Duque spoke again on February 21 about the alleged threats that exist around the possible intervention that a group of Russian cybercriminals could be planning in the networks responsible for organizing and storing the country's digital information, in relation to the processes elections that will take place in Colombia on March 13 and May 29. - [La Semana on 21-FEB \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- Senator Gustavo Petro, who leads all voting intention polls for the May elections in Colombia, met in Madrid with the former president of the Spanish government, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, while 24 hours before he had done the same with Pope Francisco in the Vatican. He is also one of the few Colombian politicians who was invited to the act of possession of Gabriel Boric in Chile and strengthens its link with the prestigious French economist Thomas Pickett, perhaps outlining the course of his hypothetical government. - [Blaze Trends on 06-FEB](#)
- Gustavo Petro fulfilled another of his commitments on his tour of Spain: meeting with the head of the government Pedro Sánchez and secretary general of the PSOE. Petro attended the meeting with Senator Armando Benedetti, from Colombia Humana. At the end of the meeting at the headquarters of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE), Petro “We have discussed three major issues: to set up a great coalition of Ibero-American political and social forces In the fight against climate change, join all the efforts of the communities to face the main problem that the community has: the climate crisis.” - [California 18 on 10-JAN](#)

BRAZIL ELECTIONS

- Former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva retains a 14-percentage-point lead against far-right incumbent Jair Bolsonaro if an October election goes to a run-off between them as expected, a new opinion poll showed. - [Yahoo News on 10-MAY](#)

- Former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's lead in Brazil's election race shrank to its smallest margin this year, according to the latest poll. A PoderData survey showed the leftist opposition leader with 40% of first-round voting intentions, down from 41% at the end of March. Support for his main rival, incumbent Jair Bolsonaro, rose to 35% from 32%. Brazilians vote for their president in October. - [Bloomberg on 13-APR](#)
- Brazil's top election authority, the Supreme Electoral Court (TSE), said it has invited the European Union for the first time to observe its general elections this year, when Jair Bolsonaro will seek reelection. - [Reuters on 11-APR](#)

ALEX SAAB

- A United States appeals court said that it has declined to rule on whether Alex Saab, an ally of Nicolas Maduro awaiting trial for money laundering, should receive diplomatic immunity, leaving the decision to a lower court in Florida. - [Reuters on 02-MAY](#)
- An attorney for a businessman enriched by Venezuela's government argued in federal court that his client's continued detention on corruption charges sets a dangerous precedent that could endanger the free movement of U.S. officials around the world. The hearing held before an appeals panel in Miami centered around the politically thorny issue of whether Alex Saab is a Venezuelan diplomat and entitled to immunity from prosecution under U.S. law and numerous international treaties. - [Associated Press on 06-APR](#)