



IRAN'S ACTIVITIES IN LATIN AMERICA

May & June 2022

The following is a summary of open-source media reporting on Iran's presence and activities in Latin America and the Caribbean in May & June 2022. This is not a complete list of media reports on Iran'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.



- Iran has submitted an application to become a member of the group of emerging economies known as the BRICS. Iran's membership in the BRICS group, which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, "would result in added values for both sides," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson said. - [Al Jazeera on 28-JUN](#)
- An Iranian citizen with false documentation was detained in Concepción del Uruguay. He was arrested last Thursday, June 23, with different Argentine documents and had already been detained months ago; the circumstances are being investigated by the federal justice of Entre Ríos. - [La Nación on 27-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- A tanker built by an Iranian shipyard for Venezuela plans to depart next month from the Middle Eastern country with a cargo of fuel components for the gasoline-thirsty nation, three sources with knowledge of the deal told Reuters. - [Reuters on 15-JUN](#)
- State media reports Uruguayan lawmakers of the opposition Frente Amplio (FA - Broad Front) announced they would summon Defense Minister Javier García before Congress' Defense Committee to explain why he had banned from national airspace the Venezuelan-Iranian Boeing 747-300 now held in Buenos Aires. FA lawmakers Mario Bergara, Sandra Lazo, and Alejandro Sánchez, who are members of the Defense Committee, argue that the only information they have on the incident was that released through the media. - [MercoPress on 15-JUN](#)
- Venezuela received tour operators and influencers from Iran, in a visit that has as its purpose promote tourism between Caracas and Tehran, according to the tourism minister Ali Padrón. "Compliance with the 'Implementation Program in Tourism Cooperation between MINTUR and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of the Islamic Republic of Iran 2021-2023' today they arrive at the island of Margarita 23 Iranian tour operators", announced the Venezuelan official on his Twitter social network account. - [Zyri on 14-JUNE](#)
- An Iran-flagged tanker carrying about 1 million barrels of crude from the Middle Eastern country arrived in Venezuelan waters over the weekend, according to a shipping document seen by Reuters. The cargo is the third of Iranian crude supplied by Iran's Naftiran Intertrade Co (NICO) to Venezuela's state-run oil firm PDVSA following a supply contract providing the South American nation with lighter crude. Venezuela has been processing the Iranian oil in its refineries. - [Reuters on 13-JUN](#)
- In an elaborate handover ceremony conducted on June 11, Iran reported that it delivered its second domestically built oil tanker. The unnamed vessel which is only referred to in the reports as "Aframax 2" was built in defiance of international sanctions and delivered to Venezuela during a visit by Maduro to Iran. - [Maritime Executive on 13-JUNE](#)
- State media reports direct flights between Tehran and Caracas will start on June 18, the Iranian envoy to Caracas said, adding that no visa will be needed for traveling to the Latin American country. Speaking on the IRIB TV program, the Iranian Ambassador to

Venezuela Hojjatollah Soltani hailed that political relations between Tehran and Caracas are at the best possible level. - [Mehr News on 12-JUN](#)

- Iran traded 5,585 tons of non-oil goods worth \$12.75 million with Latin American countries in the first month of the current fiscal year (March 21-April 20), the latest data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration show. Trade with Brazil stood at 5,329 tons worth \$12.26 million, for the Latin American country to top the list of Iran's partners in the region. - [Financial Tribune on 12-JUN](#)
- State media reports Nicaraguan Ambassador to Iran Isaac Lenin Bravo Jaen made the comments in a meeting with the president of the Tehran-based Iran University of Medical Sciences Abdolreza Pazouki. Isaac Lenin Bravo Jaen said at the meeting, "We seek to expand bilateral cooperation in education, medicine and education of our country's students in Iran." - [Mehr News on 01-JUN](#)
- State media reports Brazilian Ambassador to Iran Laudemar Goncalves de Aguiar Neto said in addition to the agricultural sector, Brazil is developing relations with Iran in petrochemicals, nanotechnology and industry fields. Goncalves de Aguiar Neto made the remarks in a meeting with the CEO of Iran Tractor Manufacturing Industrial Group Mostafa Vahidzadeh. - [IRNA on 31-MAY](#)
- State media reports Iran will own shares in 3 oil refineries in Venezuela and Nicaragua in return for supplying crude and equipment. Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji signed major energy deals with authorities in Venezuela and Nicaragua during his recent visits to the two countries. The agreements signed with Venezuelan energy authorities stipulate that Iran will supply its heavy crude grades to two refineries in Venezuela in addition to providing equipment and technical services to the refineries in return for owning shares in the facilities. Iran will also partner with Venezuela in construction works at an unfinished refinery in Nicaragua in return for owning shares in the 100,000-bpd facility - [Fars News on 31-MAY](#)
- State media reports Iran has exported four million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Venezuela, Iranian Health Minister Bahram Einollahi announced. In a relevant development, Einollahi said that the Iranian and Cuban nations gained self-sufficiency in different fields faced with the US sanctions. Einollahi made the remarks in a meeting with his Cuban counterpart José Angel Portal Miranda on the sidelines of the 75th edition of the World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva. - [Fars News on 29-MAY](#)
- Iranian state firms have started preparations to revamp Venezuela's largest oil refinery, the 955,000-barrel-per-day Paraguana Refining Center, four people close to the talks said, following a contract to repair its smallest facility. - [Reuters on 23-MAY](#)
- Conviasa will launch a flight between Caracas (CCS) and Tehran (IKA) every two weeks. The 7,315-mile flight is blocked at 13hr30min in each direction, and is scheduled to be operated by an Airbus A340-300. Conviasa has a single 25-year-old Airbus A340-300,

which used to fly for Air China and Cathay Pacific, among other airlines. - [One Mile at a Time on 23-MAY](#)

- State media reports Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi has said that Iran and Cuba enjoy various capacities and should use them to boost their cooperation in different fields such as trade, economy, agriculture, and health. The Iranian president also said that there are grounds for his country's cooperation with Latin American states, adding that the cooperation will help both Iran and those nations achieve economic growth. - [IRNA on 19-MAY](#)
- State media reports Bolivian Ambassador to Iran Guadalupe Pérez Ramon said that Iran's capabilities in vaccine development and treatment are valuable, adding that an example of which was COVIran Barekat that provides good immunity. In her meeting with head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) Pirhossein Kolivand, Romina Perez Ramos Ramos said that Bolivia is ready to become a hub in Latin America to provide pharmaceutical and medical services to other countries of the region. - [IRNA on 18-MAY](#)
- An agreement on a barter trade roadmap was signed between Iran and Cuba on the sidelines of a Joint Economic Commission meeting held between the two countries' officials in Tehran. The agreement was signed by Iranian Deputy Industry Minister for Trade Mohammad Sadeq Mofatteh and visiting Cuban Deputy Prime Minister Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz. The signing ceremony was also participated by senior officials from the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO). The 18th Iran-Cuba Joint Economic Commission was held in Tehran on May 15-17. - [Fars News on 18-MAY](#)
- State media reports Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Iran's foreign minister, has condemned the broad and unilateral sanctions of the U.S. against Iran and Cuba, saying the two nations should use their expertise to oppose the draconian measures. The statements were made during a meeting between Amir Abdollahian and Cuban Deputy Prime Minister Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz, who is in Tehran for the 18th session of the Iran-Cuba Joint Economic Committee. - [Tehran Times on 18-MAY](#)
- A Venezuelan cardiologist who taught himself computer programming sold software that was used by an Iranian hacking group to attack Israeli companies, US prosecutors said in bringing criminal charges against him. Moises Zagala, 55, licensed his software to cybercriminals who deployed it to extort victims for money, according to a complaint filed in federal court in Brooklyn, New York. - [Jerusalem Post on 16-MAY](#)
- Venezuelan oil production is set to get a boost from record inflows of Iranian crude used to improve the quality of the Latin American nation's supplies. Iran has delivered 6.8 million barrels of oil to beleaguered Venezuela this year, a 48% increase over the full-year 2021 figure. Most of the Iranian shipments involved a lightweight type of oil known as condensate that the Venezuelans mix with the local sludgy crude to produce Merey 16, the country's most-exported crude grade. - [BNN Bloomberg on 12-MAY](#)

- A Venezuela-owned tanker in March sailed to a remote spot in the Indian Ocean and met an Iran-flagged vessel, took on a cargo of Iranian condensate and sailed home, according to monitoring services and shipping documents. The ship-to-ship transfer off The Maldives was the latest tactic by the two countries to keep their oil flowing to markets despite U.S. sanctions. The widening energy cooperation between the nations is helping cash-strapped Venezuela obtain supplies to convert its extra heavy oil and boost exports. - [Reuters on 12-MAY](#)
- State media reports Iran will study investing 6,216 million euros (\$6,558 million) in a refinery in Nicaragua, Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji announced. The announcement was made during a visit to the El Supremo Somni de Bolívar industrial complex in the Nicaraguan Pacific, where he received information about the refinery's installed capacity. The refinery, located near Puerto Sandino in the Pacific Ocean, will have the capacity to refine 150,000 barrels of crude oil daily, of which Nicaragua will consume 50,000 barrels and the rest will be exported to Central America, according to the government. - [Fars News on 10-MAY](#)
- State media reports Venezuela has begun shipping in heavy crude oil from Iran to use as feedstock in domestic refineries, Reuters reported citing documents from Venezuela's state-run oil company PDVSA. The import of Iranian heavy crude is going to expand the two country's energy cooperation as the two U.S.-sanctioned nations have already agreed on swapping Iran's gas condensate for Venezuela's crude oil. The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) last year reached a deal with PDVSA to swap Venezuelan crude for Iranian condensate, which PDVSA would also use as a diluent and mix it with the tar-like crudes from the Orinoco oil belt for transportation and export. - [Tehran Times on 10-MAY](#)

MADURO MIDDLE EAST TRIP

- State media reports President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has met in the format of a video conference with Maduro, who is on a working visit to Azerbaijan. During the conversation, the sides highlighted the successful joint activities of the two countries within the framework of international organizations, including the Non-Aligned Movement. - [Trend News Agency on 17-JUN](#)
- State media reports Venezuela is eyeing joint cooperation with Qatar, especially in energy, agriculture and tourism sectors, as the South American country seeks to broaden horizons that serve the common interests of the two countries. This was highlighted by Nicolas Maduro who is leading a high-power delegation of ministers of tourism, transport, agriculture, science and technology, at a meeting with the Qatari Businessmen Association (QBA) in Doha. - [Gulf Times on 16-JUN](#)
- Venezuela's Maduro, announced that direct flights between Caracas and Doha, the capital of Qatar, will begin from October. Maduro's tour of Qatar lasted two days and he is now

in Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, to discuss the two countries' "bilateral agenda," he said. - [Reuters on 16-JUN](#)

- State media reports Maduro visited Kuwait and spoke with the oil-rich Gulf state's crown prince, as part of a bid to expand on ties between the two countries, who were both part of the original members of the OPEC oil cartel. - [The New Arab on 14-JUN](#)
- State media reports Venezuela First Lady Cilia Adela Flores de Maduro met with Vice President for Woman and Family Affairs Ensiyeh Khazali. The two sides exchanged views on the shared concerns of the two countries' women and some laws related to safeguarding women's rights in the two countries. It was also agreed in the meeting that in the next meeting the Venezuelan culture minister and minister of women's affairs will be present to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU). - [IRNA on 13-JUN](#)
- State media reports Maduro paid a visit to Pardis Technology Park, accompanied by Iran's Vice President for Science and Technology Sorena Sattari and the park's head Mehdi Safarinia. Maduro said after the visit that he was inspired by the park and interested in receiving Iran's help to develop similar technology parks in Venezuela. - [IRNA on 13-JUN](#)
- Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro and Iran's hard-line president signed a 20-year cooperation agreement, a day after Maduro praised the Islamic Republic for sending badly needed fuel to his nation despite U.S. sanctions. In an interview with President Maduro after his arrival in Tehran for a two-day visit, Iranian state media reported that Maduro hailed Iran's move to send fuel tankers to his energy-hungry nation. - [The Blaze on 11-JUN](#)
- Maduro arrived in the Iranian capital of Tehran on a two-day state visit, the country's state-run media reported. A high-ranking political and economic delegation from Venezuela, which like Iran is under heavy U.S. sanctions, is accompanying Maduro on the visit, following an invitation from Iran's hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi. - [Yahoo News on 10-JUN](#)
- Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune hosted Maduro in Algiers. The South American leader arrived in the North African nation, for what Algeria's state news agency called a two-day "working and friendship visit." Both countries agreed to reinforce their economic cooperation. Tebboune announced at a joint press statement that direct flights between Algiers and Caracas would soon be launched. - [Africa News on 10-JUN](#)
- Direct flights between Algiers and Caracas will begin in the coming months, Algeria President Abdelmadjid Tebboune said during a visit by his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolas Maduro. - [Reuters on 09-JUN](#)

PLANES

- Strong response from Paraguay to the Iranian regime for the case of the plane: “We will adopt the measures that are necessary for the security of the State.” The Foreign Ministry of the South American country rejected Tehran's comments on the heads of the Interior and Intelligence, Federico González and Esteban Aquino, respectively, whom they called “Zionists.” - [Infobae on 28-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- The Paraguayan government replied to the note from the Iranian Embassy stating that the government does not accept or abide by foreign directives and that it will take the necessary measures to “preserve the security of the State and its inhabitants.” - [Oscar Acosta on Twitter on 27-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- The pilot of the Venezuelan-Iranian plane had made thirteen flights between Caracas and Tehran, before the craft was registered by Conviasa. Justice seeks to reconstruct the history of Gholamreza Ghasemi before his arrival Ezeiza and the confusing links between the airlines of Iran and Venezuela, under the shadow of terrorism. - [Clarín on 27-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- The scandal of the Venezuelan-Iranian plane in Paraguay grows: “He had authorization to stay eight hours and stayed three days.” In an interview, Senator Enrique Riera demanded to know what the 18 crew members did in Paraguayan territory last May. - [Infobae on 25-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- Another Venezuelan plane sanctioned by the US landed at a South American airport. The Conviasa Airbus in Chile that was used by Nicolás Maduro for his recent tour of Turkey, Algeria, Iran, Kuwait, Qatar and Azerbaijan is located at the Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport. - [Infobae on 22-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- Iranian pilot Gholamreza Ghasemi had photos of tanks, missiles and a flag repudiating Israel on his cell phone. Also an image in which he is seen when he was young as part of the Quds Force of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps. The investigation is headed by Judge Federico Villena. - [Infobae on 22-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- Argentine Justice will maintain the ban on leaving the country for the crew of the Venezuelan plane and will send a warrant to the United States. These are some of the measures requested by prosecutor Cecilia Incardona when formally charging the five Iranians and 14 Venezuelans who traveled on the Emtrasur plane. The warrant is to expand the FBI report. - [Infobae on 22-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- The Uruguayan Ministry of Defense released the communication between the pilot of the Venezuelan-Iranian aircraft and the air traffic controller. After the rejection, the flight returned to Argentina where it is stranded while the investigation into the trail of illegal espionage or terrorism progresses. - [Infobae on 21-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)

- The Argentine Justice charged the Iranian pilot of a Venezuelan plane stranded in Buenos Aires with terrorism. The Argentine prosecutor Cecilia Incardona asked to investigate the relationship of the pilot of the Emtrasur plane, Gholamreza Ghasemi, with possible acts of terrorism. She also charged the rest of the crew members of the aircraft held in Buenos Aires. - [Infobae on 21-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- Paraguay questioned the identity of the co-pilot of the Venezuelan-Iranian plane. After the links of the pilot of the aircraft held in Argentina with terrorist groups were confirmed, the official warned about the rest of the crew and confirmed that they used to turn off the transponder to avoid transmitting information about their routes. - [Infobae on 20-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- Last week an unusual plane was grounded at the Ezeiza international airport near Buenos Aires, having already covertly flown across part of Argentina. The Boeing 747-3B3(M), registration YV3531, was owned by the Iranian company Mahan Air until January 2020, when it was transferred to the Venezuelan state-owned Emtrasur Cargo. Onboard was a mixed Venezuelan and Iranian crew, including a man named Gholamreza Ghasemi and several reported members of the Quds Force. - [Iranwire on 20-JUN](#)
- The first vice president of the PSUV, Diosdado Cabello, broke the silence on the case of the Venezuelan-Iranian plane that has been in Argentina for two weeks. "We are respectful. The national government, as it corresponds, is doing all the pertinent procedures before the Argentine authorities, delivering what corresponds to us... Are they putting together a false positive? Of course!" he said. - [Monitoreamos on 20-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- The Venezuelan Consortium of Aeronautical Industries and Air Services (Conviasa) has been operating in Bolivia since 2019 and has sanctions imposed by the United States (USA), in addition to many complaints from its users for poor service. Recently a pilot of one of its cargo planes, from its subsidiary Emtrasur, was linked to terrorism and arms trafficking. - [Página Siete on 19-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- The FBI provided evidence to federal justice to confirm that the pilot of the Venezuelan plane belongs to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard of Iran. The information sent from Washington assures that Gholamreza Ghasemi is an international terrorist and revealed the different operations carried out by his unit under the orders of Tehran. - [Infobae on 19-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- The plane is "marked" for arms trafficking; has flight and assistance restrictions in several countries around the world due to a series of sanctions applied by the United States since 2011. It is an Airbus 340-642 that less than a week ago had the registration EP-MMI of Iran, since it belonged to MahanAir. On June 15, that device was on the Viru Viru platform for 12 hours. - [El Deber on 19-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)

- Joseph Humire: “Iranian plane likely to have been part of covert military transfer action.” In an interview with Infobae, this security specialist and executive director of the Washington-based Center for a Secure Free Society says that it is very easy to confuse auto parts with elements to build military drones. - [Infobae on 18-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- Argentina reportedly failed to register crew member with possible terrorist connections on plane detained due to US sanctions. Humire, who has been studying Iranian influence in the region for more than a decade, revealed that although the immigration record in Argentina mentions only 5 Iranian nationals, there were actually 6. - [El American on 18-JUN](#)
- Alberto Fernández broke his silence on the Venezuelan-Iranian plane and accused the opposition. President Alberto Fernández affirmed that the opposition “tried to take advantage” of the issue of the plane with Venezuelan-Iranian registration held at the Ezeiza airport, and said that “they wanted to show something dark that it is not.” - [Monitoreamos on 18-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- President Alberto Fernández insisted that a cargo plane with Iranian and Venezuelan crew members had been grounded due only to fuelling difficulties, not because of any alleged link to Iran's elite Quds Force. There is “no irregularity” with the Venezuelan plane, Fernández told Radio 10, adding that the sole problem was refueling difficulties linked to US sanctions on Venezuela. - [Buenos Aires Times on 18-JUN](#)
- One of the men aboard a plane grounded near Buenos Aires is a member of Iran's Quds Force, Paraguay's intelligence chief said, despite claims by Argentina that no evidence links the case to the elite branch of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Intelligence chief Esteban Aquino told AFP that Captain Gholamreza Ghasemi did not merely share a name with a member of the Force — an expeditionary arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards that carries out kidnappings and assassinations outside of Iran — but is in fact the same man. - [Times of Israel on 18-JUN](#)
- A mysterious plane visited Russia and Venezuela in the weeks before the Iranian-linked aircraft was impounded in Argentina. The Boeing 747 plane was held in Buenos Aires this week where Argentinian authorities searched it and seized it on suspicion of intelligence activities - detaining 19 crew members. Among the crew were five Iranians, alleged to have links to the Quds Force, the shadowy wing of Iran's terrorist-designated Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) responsible for clandestine foreign operations. - [The Sun on 17-JUN](#)
- One of the crew members of the Venezuelan-Iranian plane, who remains held in Argentina, is a senior member of the Quds Forces, an elite group of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. - [El Deber on 17-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)

- State media reports following the case of the Boeing 747-300 belonging to Venezuelan cargo airline Emtrasur (a Conviasa subsidiary), the second aircraft bound for Buenos Aires landed in Santa Cruz de la Sierra and would not complete its flight out of fear that it might also be seized by local authorities at the request of the United States, where all Mahan Air and Conviasa units have been blacklisted for their alleged involvement in military intelligence operations. - [MercoPress on 17-JUN](#)
- Judicial and police officials were night searching a cargo plane owned by Venezuelan airline Emtrasur, which has been held at Ezeiza International Airport since last week, for clues about the intentions of the crew of 14 Venezuelans and five Iranians, whose passports have also been detained. The search was being carried out on a disused secondary runway at the airport on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, away from public view, at the rear of the air station. An official from Federico Villena's federal court in Lomas de Zamora and members of the Federal Police are taking part in the search. - [Buenos Aires Times on 17-JUN](#)
- Five of the Venezuelans who came on the plane held in Ezeiza are military. One of them participated in the coup attempt against Carlos Andrés Pérez in which the late Hugo Chávez became known. - [Clarín on 16-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- Flight VO9502 of the Venezuelan state airline Conviasa, which was supposed to land at the Ezeiza international airport, will not arrive in Argentina. Official sources consulted by this newspaper explained that the plane would end in Bolivia, where the technical stopover was planned. - [Clarín on 16-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- Israel expressed its "concern" about the plane with Venezuelan and Iranian crew that was retained in Ezeiza, and warned about the airlines that operate in Latin America and are dedicated to arms trafficking and the transfer of people. - [Clarín on 16-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- Police officers searched the hotel where the Venezuelan and Iranian crew of a mysterious plane that remains stuck at Buenos Aires' main international airport have been staying as authorities blocked its exit amid suspicions about its crew and US sanctions against Iran. Federal Judge Federico Villena ordered the raid at Hotel Plaza Canning, outside Buenos Aires, which housed the crew of the Venezuelan-owned Boeing 747 cargo plane loaded with automotive parts. - [Washington Post on 14-JUN](#)
- Five Iranian members of the crew of the Venezuelan-Iranian plane are being investigated by the federal justice system in Lomas de Zamora. Federal judge Federico Villena prohibited them from leaving the country. After the measure, the Minister of Security of the Nation, Aníbal Fernández, spoke of a possible link with the Quds Force, the Revolutionary Guard of Tehran, which is considered by the United States as a terrorist group. - [Clarín on 14-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)

- A judge in Argentina has blocked five Iranian crew members from a grounded Venezuelan cargo jet from leaving the country, temporarily seizing their passports pending a probe into possible links to Iran's Revolutionary Guards. Federal Judge Federico Villena ordered that the passports of the Iranian crew members be withheld “for a period of 72 hours” and that the police at Ezeiza International Airport “report on any movement” related to the Venezuelan Emtrasur Boeing 747 cargo plane that was grounded on June 8. - [Buenos Aires Times on 13-JUN](#)
- State media reports Iran's Mahan Air has dismissed reports that a plane belonging to the airline has been seized in Argentina, saying the plane in question is operated by Venezuela. Amir-Hossein Zolanvari, a spokesman for Mahan Air, told Iranian media that the seized plane, identified as Boeing 747, had been leased to Venezuela a year earlier and had thus nothing to do with the Iranian airline. - [Iran Front Page on 12-JUN](#)

HEZBOLLAH

- The Venezuelan-Iranian plane raises questions about the meeting of the Paraguayan vice president with Hezbollah leaders. In 2015, when he was in charge of the Chamber of Deputies, the Vice President of the Republic of Paraguay, Hugo Velázquez, went to Lebanon to meet with political and religious leaders of the powerful Islamic movement Hezbollah, although he later denied it several times. - [Aurora on 23-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- Hezbollah activities against George Chaya. The Argentine courts investigate a terrorist threat to a journalist and an interview with Patricia Bullrich, president of Pro, in El Noticiero. - [La Nación on 21-JUN \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- The assassination of a prominent Paraguayan organized crime prosecutor in Colombia, who was involved in a series of high-profile investigations into transnational criminal networks operating in South America, sparked fears that organized crime's power in the region is rising once again. That is fueling further fears of rising regional insecurity and heightened geopolitical risk, thereby impacting foreign investment inflows and economic growth. - [OilPrice on 24-MAY](#)

SYRIA

- The Syrian –Venezuelan Friendship Committee at the People's Assembly discussed with the Chargé d'affaires of the Venezuelan Embassy in Damascus, Joaquín Gómez, ways of enhancing and developing mutual parliamentary relations. Chairman and members of the committee stressed the importance of the deeply-rooted Syrian-Venezuelan relations. - [SANA on 07-JUN](#)

TURKEY

- In an effort to curb concerns over food security, Turkey plans to lease farmlands in various countries to boost agricultural production, it emerged this week. For years now,

Turkish authorities have been exploring such opportunities in ten nations in Africa and Latin America, including Venezuela and Sudan. - [Greek Reporter on 20-JUN](#)

- State media reports Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro offered Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to turn Venezuela into a port of entry into Latin America. “It's time for Turkish investors in Venezuela, for them to arrive in tourism, mining, industry, logistics, banking, oil, gas, gold, coal,” the South American ruler told Erdogan during a state trip to Ankara. He added that Turkish investors would enjoy “all the guarantees” for “a process of expansion in the relationship between both countries.” - [MercoPress on 09-JUN](#)
- State media reports addressing a joint press conference after talks with his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolas Maduro in the capital Ankara, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said: “Our trade volume with Venezuela was about \$150 million in 2019. We doubled it by 2020 and took it up to \$850 million in 2021.” He added that Turkey's aim is to boost the figure to \$3 billion in the near future. - [Daily Sabah on 08-JUN](#)
- Venezuela's Maduro was welcomed in the Turkish capital just as the foreign minister of Russia, a key ally of the ostracized Latin American regime, was also visiting the city. Maduro is on a Eurasian tour after being rebuffed by Washington, which decided not to invite him to the Summit of the Americas. - [Associated Press on 08-JUN](#)
- State media reports a court in Istanbul ordered Samir Handal back into custody as the man accused of involvement in the assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moise sought release in a hearing. Handal was detained at Istanbul Airport in November 2021 as he was traveling to Jordan on a connecting flight. He was one of the suspects wanted with an international “red notice” by Interpol over Moise's assassination on July 7, 2021. - [Daily Sabah on 30-MAY](#)
- State media reports Turkey and Colombia are keen on boosting their bilateral relations, the president of the South American country praised Ankara for declaring Bogota a “strategic partner.” He continued, “I certainly applaud it and we're very pleased and honored,” Ivan Duque told Anadolu Agency in an interview while on a visit to Istanbul. Duque's visit, at the invitation of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, marks the first visit to Turkey by a Colombian president since 2011, when his predecessor Juan Manuel Santos came to the country. - [Yeni Safak on 21-MAY](#)
- State media reports producing Turkey's first unmanned helicopter Alpin, Titra Technology strengthened its presence in both civil aviation and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) fields by striking a strategic cooperation deal with Cicare, one of the world's leading sportive helicopter companies. The signed agreement also marks a new collaboration that has been established between Turkey and Argentina in various fields of technology. - [Daily Sabah on 11-MAY](#)

QATAR

- State media reports Qatar Chamber discussed with a commerce delegation from Brazil, relations of economic and commercial cooperation, especially in the fields of agriculture, construction, mining, food security, and energy. The meeting touched on economic and commercial relations between both countries and ways to enhance them and ways to enhance cooperation between private sectors in Qatar and Brazil, in addition to exploring investment opportunities galore on both sides and promoting Brazilian products in Qatar. - [Gulf Times on 30-MAY](#)
- Minister of People's Power for Foreign Affairs of Venezuela Carlos Faria met with ambassador of Qatar to Venezuela Rashid bin Mohsin Fetais. During the meeting, they reviewed relations of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. - [Gulf Times on 26-MAY](#)