



Security Council

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Letter dated 8 October 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to write to you to denounce a serious situation that threatens international peace and security, which is the joint strategy of the Governments of the Republic of Colombia and the United States of America to justify, based on a false flag operation, a military aggression against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

On 26 July 2021, the President of the Republic of Colombia, Iván Duque, affirmed the following: “The dictatorship of Venezuela harbours on its territory criminals of the worst kind, such as Iván Márquez and Romaña, and such consent deserves a declaration, from the United States, of that regime as a sponsor of terrorism to uncover that conniving and pernicious relation.”¹

For her part, the Vice-President and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia, Marta Lucía Ramírez, expressed the following, on 26 March 2021: “Venezuela not only suffers the misfortune of a dictatorship, but also the consequences of a criminal dictator who deliberately opened all doors and windows of that country to the terrorist guerrilla of Colombia that only has one purpose: to destroy the population and profit from coca.”²

Subsequently, on 9 April 2021, she asserted that “with the Maduro regime, we have a real threat to the entire hemisphere”.³

On the other hand, the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Colombia, Diego Molano, declared the following, on 28 June 2021, when referring to the rifle ammunition found at the site of the alleged attack that occurred in the city of Cúcuta against the helicopter that was transporting President Iván Duque: “The shells found at the scene were of Russian and Iranian origin.”⁴

At the same time, with regard to the authors of the alleged attack, he said the following: “It is clear that such organizations (FARC and ELN) have a presence in Venezuela and that there, in Venezuela, there is a relationship with drug trafficking and the protection of the runways used for the export of drug trafficking to the United States, the Caribbean and Central America. We have recently evidenced those criminal alliances that even include the Bolivarian Forces.”⁵

¹ See <https://twitter.com/IvanDuque/status/1419689194113409040?s=20>.

² See <https://twitter.com/mluciaramirez/status/1375302355424534528?s=20>.

³ See <https://twitter.com/mluciaramirez/status/1380553138290241547?s=21>.

⁴ See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HfxzunugVfs&t=48s>.

⁵ See <https://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/investigacion/atentado-ivan-duque-asi-va-la-investigacion-598967>.



On 6 October 2021, in the most recent statement by the Colombian Minister of Defence, a further step was taken in the dangerous narrative of Russian and Iranian weapons and the alleged Venezuelan support to Colombian armed groups operating within the Colombian territory. As such, the mobilization of 14,000 soldiers from that country's army towards the border with Venezuela was announced as follows: "The Specific Command for the North of Santander is activated with 14,000 men for neutralizing the organized armed groups that operate in Colombia but that seek shelter in Venezuela."⁶

Days before, on 30 September 2021, the Commander-General of the Military Forces of the Republic of Colombia, General Luis Fernando Navarro, made declarations in which, without presenting evidence, he affirmed that: "In total, in the [Venezuelan] States of Zulia, Táchira, Apure and Amazonas, we estimate that there could be between 1,100 and 1,200 criminals from the ELN and about 700 FARC dissidents. ... The fact that the strategic rearguard of these structures is in Venezuelan border States is a factor of instability. This obviously makes combating them difficult."⁷

Altogether, the above-mentioned remarks demonstrate that the four main speakers of the Colombian State and its military chain of command are systematically attempting to involve the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the long, internal war of Colombia through several attempts at establishing an alleged connection with the armed groups that have been operating throughout the entire Colombian territory – and not only at the border with Venezuela – for more than 60 years.

The authorities of the Colombian State are convinced that the repetition of a false warmongering narrative is sufficient argument for preparing an aggression against Venezuela, in alliance with the Government of the United States of America.

The participation of the latter country in this strategy is very clear. The main spokesperson of the military aggression is Admiral Craig Faller, Commander of the United States Southern Command, who promotes the so-called policy of "maximum pressure" against Venezuela. In his latest remarks, made on 1 October 2021, he clearly expressed the coalition of political, economic and military interests of Bogotá and Washington for perpetrating the armed aggression against Venezuela:

Our fight, the fight of Colombia and the fight of the United States is joint. We are fighting together, it is working. It is making the difference and it is putting pressure on those heinous organizations of murderers. Imagine what would be of today, should we have not exerted that pressure. First, they have a safe shelter next door, in Venezuela. Then, their capacity to operate in that lawless State, which is Venezuela, and to do business and be in coexistence with the Nicolás Maduro regime, has allowed them to have a base of operations where they can do as they please and when they please. The links of drug trafficking outside of Venezuela increased drastically during my tour and that is a problem for the hemisphere and the world. That is the first reason. The second is the business model of a narcoterrorist, which is beyond cocaine and its trade, and which thrives with illicit money from trafficking, human trafficking, illicit enrichment and even by destroying the environment, and everyone in the hemisphere should act jointly to propose maximum pressure on these organizations.⁸

In this context, it is striking how the language, the objectives and the actions of the United States Government remain constant and unchanged from the Trump

⁶ See https://twitter.com/Diego_Molano/status/1445180511148707841?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw.

⁷ See <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/exclusive-some-1900-colombian-guerrillas-operating-venezuela-says-colombia-2021-09-30/>.

⁸ See <https://twitter.com/ReporteYa/status/1443998675374641159>.

administration era to the present day. Clearly, the menace of a military attack against our country has not ceased.

The statements from high-ranking officials of Colombia and the United States of America go beyond rhetoric and have moved into concrete reality with military aggressions, terrorist attacks and the use of mercenaries, together with direct provocations from Washington's armed apparatus in Venezuela's air and maritime border.

On 4 August 2018, a terrorist attack with multiple unmanned aerial vehicles was perpetrated upon President Nicolás Maduro in the capital of Venezuela. This is the first attack in history on a Head of State and Government using drones, and the authors of the crime prepared the attack from Colombian territory. Today, the perpetrators receive protection from both the Colombian and United States Governments in their respective territories.^{9,10}

On 23 February 2019, an armed aggression took place at the border between Colombia and Venezuela, disguised as an alleged operation for the delivery of humanitarian aid but with the real purpose of illegally penetrating Venezuelan territory and unleashing an armed conflict between mercenary groups and the Armed Forces of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which would then justify the use of a multinational military force led by Colombia and the United States of America (see [S/PV.8472](#)).

On 6 August 2019, we denounced before the Security Council of the United Nations a total of 55 incursions by United States aircrafts from the Southern Command into our airspace, for espionage, reconnaissance and electronic interception purposes, which were neither authorized nor previously informed ([S/2019/641](#)). These hostile and unfriendly activities have endangered the security of both civil and commercial air navigation at the national and international levels.

On 3 May 2020, a group of terrorists and mercenaries that left from Colombian territory perpetrated an armed attack on the Venezuelan coast, just 20 km from the capital city, Caracas, to assassinate President Nicolás Maduro. The operation failed and its executors, upon being captured, confessed that they had received training and logistical support from the security agencies of the Republic of Colombia and the United States of America (see [S/2020/399](#)). The same style of mercenary attack, with Colombian and United States assassins, was subsequently repeated, with the difference that, on this occasion, it did achieve its objective: to assassinate President Jovenel Moïse of the Republic of Haiti (see [S/2021/688](#)).

On 30 September 2020, the Government of the United States of America positioned, without prior notice, the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, USS *William P. Lawrence*, at a distance of 16.1 nautical miles from the Venezuelan coast, in what is legally part of the contiguous zone of our territorial sea. This episode does not represent an isolated incident as, on 15 July 2021, the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS *Pinckney* positioned itself at 15.9 nautical miles from the main airport of Venezuela, in waters very close to the limits of our territorial sea and only 40 km from the Venezuelan capital, Caracas (see [S/2020/971](#)).

On 20 September 2021, an unmanned aerial vehicle from the Colombian Air Force committed a violation of Venezuela's airspace. The aircraft was detected at the following coordinates: 09°04'50"N – 72°53'52"W, coming from Bogotá, without the

⁹ See <https://actualidad.rt.com/actualidad/323150-primer-intento-magnicidio-drones-maduro-que-se-sabe>.

¹⁰ See <https://www.telesurtv.net/news/nicolas-maduro-extradicion-responsables-atentado-fallido--20180807-0053.html>.

proper overflight authorization or without having previously presented the corresponding flight plan to legally enter the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.¹¹

In addition, from January 2019 to September 2021, at least 90 incursions by United States military aircrafts into Venezuelan airspace have been registered, with the clear intention of escalating tensions between both countries and provoking an incident that could justify an armed attack on the sovereignty of Venezuela and its territorial integrity, thereby endangering the peace of the entire region.

The strategy of aggression of the Governments of the Republic of Colombia and the United States of America against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is driven, among other factors, by the intensification of Colombia's internal war as a result of the struggles for the control of the cultivation, production and exporting routes of cocaine. This is the largest generator of internally displaced persons in the world. According to reports from the White House itself, in 2020 coca cultivation and cocaine production amounted to 245,000 hectares and 1,010 metric tons, respectively. These two figures represent a record in Colombia's history and make it the largest producer and exporter of cocaine in the world.¹²

The war for territorial control of the cocaine business is promoted by political forces in alliance with paramilitary groups financed by drug trafficking. We do not make this assertion in a light or slanderous manner. The relationship of coordination and cooperation among politicians, the military and the paramilitaries in the assassination and disappearance of innocent civilians has been known to the security agencies of the United States of America since at least 1997 to the present date, as demonstrated by unclassified documents from the United States Central Intelligence Agency and Department of State, which were presented before a federal court in the state of Florida and which allowed the Colombian paramilitary chief Carlos Mario Jiménez to be found guilty of his responsibility in the assassination of the social leader Eduardo Estrada in 2001.¹³

There is no doubt about the complicity of the security agencies of the United States of America in the crimes committed against civilians in the dirty war carried out by paramilitaries protected by the Colombian State. This triple alliance is at the peak of its historical power and it is the reason why the number of victims of the war is similar to that at its worst moments, when the so-called "Peace Process" had not yet begun.

The dirty war in Colombia is intensifying. In 2020, there were at least 91 massacres with 251 victims, while, as at 21 September 2021, a total of 72 massacres with 258 victims have been registered.¹⁴ In 2020, there were at least 133 homicides of human rights defenders and social leaders,¹⁵ while, to date, another 133 have already been registered.¹⁶

Similarly, since the signing of the Peace Agreement in 2016, 248 former combatants who laid down their weapons and returned to civilian life have been

¹¹ See <http://www.mindefensa.gob.ve/mindefensa/2021/09/21/comunicado-oficial-de-la-fuerza-armada-nacional-bolivariana-21/>.

¹² See <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/briefing-room/2021/07/16/ondcp-releases-data-on-coca-cultivation-and-potential-cocaine-production-in-the-andean-region/>.

¹³ See <https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/briefing-book/colombia/2021-10-04/declassified-documents-key-judgment-against-colombian?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=1bd466c6-a351-4c8e-a06b-b2a17b350632>.

¹⁴ See <http://www.indepaz.org.co/informe-de-masacres-en-colombia-durante-el-2020-2021/>.

¹⁵ See "Situation of human rights in Colombia: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights" (A/HRC/46/76).

¹⁶ <http://www.indepaz.org.co/lideres-sociales-y-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-asesinados-en-2021/>.

killed.¹⁷ Today, it is not just about former combatants: innocent civilians are also being killed in the big cities. During the peaceful demonstrations that started in April 2021 throughout the Colombian territory, at least 75 persons have been killed,¹⁸ while 84 have been forcibly disappeared by the security forces of the Colombian State.¹⁹

The phenomenon of the disappeared is a truly atrocious crime in any conflict and has extraordinary characteristics in Colombia. A less considered figure of the terrible nature of the long war of that country is, precisely, the number of those disappeared. According to the National Registry of Missing Persons of the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences of the Republic of Colombia, between 2018 and 2021 there were 10,952 missing persons in that country.²⁰ In this regard, it is worth highlighting the fact that the Colombian State is a party to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which it openly violates.

Enforced disappearances constitute true crimes of war and crimes against humanity. This has been recognized by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace in a specific case against 25 members of the armed forces, responsible for 271 disappearances, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia.²¹ The rest of the thousands of disappeared persons are the victims that nobody wants to acknowledge.

All of the above demonstrates that the figures for the war in Colombia are not improving. On the contrary, they are getting worse. The Colombian Government plays a game of false declarations in favour of peace, while at the same time it promotes the industry of mercenaries that kills Heads of State and Government in other nations; protects drug-trafficking cartels, which are experiencing the best moment in their history; and sponsors paramilitary groups that assassinate innocent civilians. The war in Colombia and its victims are in danger of spilling over into the entire region, a fact to which we have previously alerted the Security Council of the United Nations (see [S/2021/330](#)).

The Colombian Government is convinced that, with the support of the United States of America, it can export its internal war to our country and achieve three objectives simultaneously: (a) exempt itself from its responsibilities for the failure of the peace process; (b) prevent the electoral and peaceful work of the democratic opposition in Colombia; and (c) violently overthrow the constitutional government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The danger is growing and the signs of despair in the Colombian Government are clear.

For its part, the Government of the United States of America believes that it can use Colombia as an instrument of war to reconquer our country, in line with its expansionist and warmongering tradition in our region.

Outside of politics there is only war and, today, the Governments of Bogotá and Washington are determined to destroy the peaceful political processes agreed upon by the Venezuelan people. The evidence is public and is there for all to see. This has been expressed by President Iván Duque himself on several occasions, including during the recent general debate of the General Assembly of the United Nations.²² It

¹⁷ See report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia ([S/2021/824](#)).

¹⁸ See <http://www.indepaz.org.co/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/3.-INFORME-VIOLENCIAS-EN-EL-MARCO-DEL-PARO-NACIONAL-2021.pdf>.

¹⁹ See <https://www.fiscalia.gov.co/colombia/noticias/335-personas-han-sido-localizadas-y-se-mantiene-activo-el-mecanismo-de-busqueda-urgente-en-84-casos/>.

²⁰ See <https://sirdec.medicinalegal.gov.co:38181/consultasPublicas/>.

²¹ [S/2021/824](#), para. 7.

²² See https://statements.unmeetings.org/statements/10.0010/20210921/AT2JoAvm71nq/1aNq25rmbwqD_es.pdf.

is therefore necessary to stop the war machinery of those Governments before they make the grave mistake of launching an armed attack against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

For the aforementioned reasons, I respectfully request that the Security Council of the United Nations, through the powers entrusted to it by Article 34 of the Charter of the United Nations, and within the framework of its upcoming quarterly meeting on Colombia, discuss the role of the Governments of the Republic of Colombia and the United States of America in the execution of a strategy of armed aggression against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, within the context of the outpouring of war in Colombia and a United States military policy on the Venezuelan border, in coordination with the Colombian authorities.

Lastly, I respectfully request that you use your good offices to have the present letter circulated to the members of the Security Council, and that it be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samuel **Moncada**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
to the United Nations
