

# افغانستان آزاد – آزاد افغانستان

AA-AA

چو کشور نباشد تن من مباد  
همه سر به سر تن به کشتن دهیم

بدین بوم و بر زنده یک تن مباد  
از آن به که کشور به دشمن دهیم

[www.afgazad.com](http://www.afgazad.com)

[afgazad@gmail.com](mailto:afgazad@gmail.com)

European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

Sergio Rodriguez Gelfenstein  
06.03.2023

## *NATO's growing military presence in Latin America and the Caribbean (Part Two)*

Sergio Rodríguez Gelfenstein continues the description of the extension of NATO's tentacles in Latin America. Extension that heralds other military aggressions?



Colombia

As a "global partner" of NATO, Colombia enjoys privileged attention from the warmongering alliance. As an expression of this, in recent times, the United States is making great efforts to install a naval base on Gorgona Island in the Colombian Pacific do not stop despite the great rejection of scientists and civil organizations in the region that propose to safeguard a set of rights that would be violated.

[www.afgazad.com](http://www.afgazad.com)

[afgazad@gmail.com](mailto:afgazad@gmail.com)



The island is not only a jewel of nature, it is an area of great geostrategic interest for the United States Navy. An area of interest as a military base that would guarantee the control and security of interoceanic communication

These organizations consider that the US agency that finances the works of the base (International Bureau of Anti-Narcotics Affairs and Law Enforcement of the United States) generates a loss of sovereignty since it would put the island under the power of another State.

According to the State Department, the Biden administration also contemplates the purchase of ship engines for an amount of 2.6 million dollars to improve the operational capacity of the Coast Guard on the island.

[Piedad Córdoba](#), senator for the ruling Historical Pact, spoke out in early December against any interference by the United States in Colombia through the installation of military bases or through the deployment of its armed forces, and has asked President Petro to cancel the work. Córdoba has stated that it would be strange for the United States to pay so much attention to a work like this, if it is not understood that for the United States the Pacific Rim region has a strategic character which is "expressed through the deployment of the Fourth Fleet and the Southern Command with the installation of military bases, among them, that of Gorgona Island".

Likewise, the senator said that the completion of the works in Gorgona that in fact would mean the installation of the ninth US military base in Colombia could cause damage similar to those that occurred in the Philippines, Panama and Puerto Rico, where Washington has managed to install military bases.

Also in Colombia, in early December, the president invited the armed forces of the United States and NATO to the Amazon to cooperate in safeguarding the territory and combating drug trafficking. It was argued that the machinery, equipment and personnel introduced to carry out the work could be reused as "police to protect" the environment by changing the traditional logic of fighting drugs. To this end, he proposed the use of American Black Hawk helicopters to put out fires, arguing that such an action would symbolize a "complete change of what has always been U.S. military aid."



The head of the U.S. Southern Command, Laura Richardson, came to sell Petro the idea of the desirability of a U.S. military base in Gorgona

In this context, already in the government of Gustavo Petro, at the end of August of last year, the armed forces of the United States and Colombia carried out joint exercises within the framework of NATO. In this context, Petro received General Richardson who made a five-day visit to the country. Richardson was full of praise for "our number one security partner in the region," describing Colombia as the "hub of the entire southern hemisphere" that she said was "free and secure thanks to Colombia's stabilizing efforts."

In this regard, Petro affirmed – it is not known if with innocence or feigned ignorance – that he had "achieved some things: the conversation with NATO – of which we are members, I do not know, a very rare status there, but there we are, I think it is the only Latin American country in that – which is to take that alliance to the care of the Amazon rainforest, providing technological collaboration on this."

The struggle for the defense of the Amazon as a subject of military intervention. The idea of using the fight for the environment as an instrument of intervention is quite

old. As early as 1989, Al Gore said: "The Amazon is not your property. It belongs to all of us."

[In that vein, in 2019, in the midst of the fires in the Amazon, French President Emmanuel Macron urged the G7 countries to intervene:](#) "It's an international crisis," he said, which was echoed even by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, recalling his time as leader of a NATO member country. The question-and-answer social network Quora rhetorically asked: "Why doesn't NATO invade Brazil to save the Amazon?"

But President Petro is not so innocent as to assume that the United States and NATO have good intentions in the Amazon. He has publicly criticized America's drug war policy, pointing to its obligations as the world's largest consumer. Petro said: "What I try is to take the dialogue with the United States to a different axis that is the issue of the climate crisis and hence the importance of the Amazon rainforest. With the United States, we have achieved the creation of the first military unit with Black Hawk helicopters."



Richardson's visit to Colombia was part of a tour of several countries in the region with the express purpose of countering the influence of China and Russia, and promoting the isolation of Nicaragua, Cuba and Venezuela.

In November, Petro reported that French President [Emmanuel Macron offered him "help to preserve the Amazon.](#) It should be remembered that France has an overseas department in French Guiana, bordering Brazil and just 500 kilometers from the mouth of the Amazon River. In that territory is located the launch base of spacecraft used by the country and by Europe. Without knowing the content of the offer or the consideration that Colombia

should grant, the agreement between the two countries places France in a position of influence at both ends of the strategic basin.

Ecuador



Last December, the United States passed a law aimed at strengthening defense cooperation with Ecuador. This instrument, called the [Ecuador-United States Association Act of 2022](#), is part of the National Defense Spending Authorization Act of the United States and is subsequent to the also recently approved agreement on open skies, with a view to reducing tariffs, increasing travel and commerce and stimulating the creation of jobs related to air bridges between the two countries.

All this is intended to be understood as a strategy to promote trade, but the resources committed by the United States (858,000 million dollars) will be under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense, which clearly establishes its orientation.

Earlier, in September of last year, General Richardson also visited Ecuador where she met with President Lasso and led for two days the South American Defense Conference Southdec 2022, in order to coordinate "mechanisms for the fight against organized crime and drug trafficking."

Uruguay

On February 3, the prominent Uruguayan political analyst [Julián González Guyer](#) [published an](#) article in Montevideo's Brecha magazine in which he reported that the US Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) Stone, the most modern of the United States Coast Guard, would enter the port of Montevideo for 10 days. According to the writer, the US ship would remain about ten days in Uruguayan waters under the argument of "carrying out

training exercises in search and rescue operations at sea and control of jurisdictional waters with the National Navy."



[Arrival of the Cutter Stone, of the United States Coast Guard, to Uruguay.](#)

But in reality the objectives of the USCGC Stone are different, namely "to obtain information on the South Atlantic and, in particular, the activity of Chinese fishing vessels in the area".

This is the ship's second trip to Uruguay, after the first, made two years earlier to carry out activities of "patrolling and support for illegal fishing interdiction activities in the waters of Guyana, Brazil and Uruguay" although the scheduled visit to Argentina was canceled.

On this occasion, as in the previous one, the public explanation about the objectives of the visit has been surrounded by contradictions between what the national government and the US embassy in Montevideo have reported.

González Guyer concludes by pointing out that while the learning that the Uruguayan Navy could have obtained is negligible, the US ship would collect "a significant volume of information about our coasts, jurisdictional waters and adjacent areas. Also, about our Navy and its officers."

For several decades, the Uruguayan Navy was trained by the United States to act as a force dedicated to "protecting" the entrance to the Río de la Plata, giving the US Navy privileged space in this regard. In this logic can be inscribed the two visits of the Stone to Uruguay in such a short space of time.

But along with this, the Stone developed patrol missions of the South Atlantic, along with three other ships, establishing in fact greater control over a strategic triangle in the South Atlantic and the Strait of Magellan between Montevideo, Malvinas and the 3rd. Naval Zone of the Chilean Navy based in Punta Arenas.



*CONTINUE*

*Sergio Rodríguez Gelfenstein for La Pluma*

*Edited by [María Piedad Ossaba](#)*

*Read also: [NATO's growing military presence in Latin America and the Caribbean \(Part One\)](#)*

La Pluma. Net 02.03.2023