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Colombia sends troops to the Ukrainian War to demonstrate its loyalty to NATO

Certainly, Washington can send Colombians to Ukraine – by appearance and by form – but the White House does not need the Colombian military for it.



Colombian army troops will travel to Ukraine in July or August. The bogota government puts the stupidest of pretexts to justify itself: they are going to support the Ukrainian army

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in demining operations. Just as it sounds, mocking the world. In the Ukrainian War, the Ukrainians are the ones who lay the mines (because they go backwards) and those who remove them are the Russians (because they advance). Therefore, the Colombians' operation in Ukraine is secret.

Colombian troops intend to travel first to one of Ukraine's neighboring countries. The total stay of foreign troops outside their country will last from five to nine months. According to Colombian Defense Minister Diego Molano, the aid to Kiev is part of the status of "key non-NATO ally." The collaboration was previously agreed with U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.



U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin (right) receives his counterpart Colombian Defense Minister Diego Molano in Washington on May 20, 2022.

Colombia has no military interest in Ukraine, but the Pelele government has an interest in strengthening its relationship with its protector. The South American country is a privileged partner of the Atlantic Alliance. Last October, [NATO and Colombia announced the consolidation of their cooperation in defense and security matters](#), after the fourth meeting of political dialogues between the South American country and the Alliance.

Colombia is becoming an essential tool of the United States in Latin America, like Kosovo against Serbia, Ukraine against Russia or Taiwan against China. It participates in the creation of a Latin American NATO to face Venezuela, Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina, Nicaragua and other countries of the continent that do not bow to the United States.

Colombia was the first country in the Latin American region to join NATO's Tailor-made Individual Partnership Program and to receive the status of International Partner of the Alliance.



The President of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos (left) and the Secretary General of NATO, Jens Stoltenberg, during the act in which their country became official as a global partner of NATO. May 31, 2018. Yves Herman / Reuters

[The Individual Cooperation Plan between Colombia and NATO was signed on May 31, 2018](#) during the visit of former President Juan Manuel Santos Calderón to Brussels and his meeting with the Secretary General of NATO, Jens Stoltenberg. Santos Calderon said at the time that Colombia's inclusion on the alliance's list of international partners was an "enormous privilege" for his country.



[What does NATO do in Latin America?](#) : In this struggle for governance, NATO has an active role in the region that is often not very visible. Colombia, NATO's only "global partner" in Latin America and the Caribbean

NATO now has nine partners with this status. In addition to Colombia, they are Australia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand and Pakistan. However, the Alliance remains true to its principle that only one European country can become a new member. However, Brussels considers each individual agreement with its partners in the context of creating the most favorable conditions for NATO in that country: the deployment of troops and equipment, their free movement on the territory, the work of the Alliance's intelligence services, diplomatic immunity and the possibility of conducting training exercises.

NATO's international partnerships underscore the trend of U.S. foreign policy in recent years, namely increased attention to the Indo-Pacific region to deal with China. The same could be said of Central and South Asia. However, the Middle East and Latin America have not disappeared from the U.S. sphere of interest. Therefore, NATO has an "international partner" in each region. Colombia acts as a "regional police" for Latin America.

In return, signatories receive security guarantees that are not backed by anything concrete, as well as certain preferences in the arms trade and financial benefits. It was "transparency in access to the latest weapons" that Colombian political and military leaders cited as the main benefit of the NATO treaty.

Colombians also had access to specific programs, seminars and training for the military that were previously only available to member countries. "Increasing links between our armed forces and NATO aims to mitigate natural disasters caused by climate change, cyber defense and demining territories. The rapprochement with NATO will allow the country to save resources," said former Colombian President Santos Calderon.

The Colombian army is a "junk regiment" for Washington. It is even less suitable for Ukraine. Colombia does not depart one iota from the principles of the United States strategy towards Latin America: the countries of the region must unconditionally recognize the hegemony of the United States, carry out reforms in the economy and in the social sphere, offer the most comfortable conditions to US capital, ensure its domination of its markets for the sale of its goods and services. This includes the arms market.

Colombia is thus a certain model of capitalism in a turbulent and volatile region, where many countries have reformist governments in power. Certainly, Washington can send Colombians to Ukraine – by appearance and form – but the White House does not need the Colombian military for it.

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