

Venezuela rejects U.S. mediation in dispute with Colombia

By [Global Research](#)

Global Research, November 19, 2009

[Xinhua News Agency](#) 19 November 2009

Region: [Latin America & Caribbean](#)

Theme: [Militarization and WMD](#)

CARACAS: The Venezuelan government rejected on Wednesday a U.S. proposal to mediate in a dispute between Venezuela and Colombia over Colombia's military cooperation agreement with the United States.

"The mediation proposal has a clear aim of distracting the attention of its primary responsibility in the crisis and it is rude for the people of the world who are aware of it," the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The ministry said that the best way for the United States to collaborate on this issue is to stop intending to make Colombia an operational base for its regional strategy to dominate and control the countries in South America."

Venezuela said that the agreement signed between the United States and Colombia on Oct. 30 this year allows a disproportionate military presence of U.S. troops in Colombian territory, and this brings uncertainty to the South American region.

"These arguments (fight against drug trafficking and terrorism) are false and do not dissipate the doubt and questions, with the establishment of equipment for the electronic war, tasks of intelligence, military officers and staff of security contractor companies," the ministry added.

According to the statement the real arguments of the United States is to threaten the left-wing governments in Latin America, despite the fact that the agreement does not include actions in other countries, neither prohibits them.

Finally, the Foreign Ministry said the United States military presence in Iraq and at the Colombian border with Ecuador has violated the Charter of the United Nations and other aspects of international law.

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