LATIN AMERICAN NETWORK OF
SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE SECURITY

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG

Hello! Welcome to Friedrich Ebert Stiftung's Latin American Network of Sustainable and Inclusive Security's newsletter.

Since it began last February, the war in Ukraine has been the focus of most international attention. In addition to the global consequences of this serious conflict and its ramifications for the region (analyzed in this newsletter), Latin America and the Caribbean are in the midst of complicated processes, such as elections —in the case of Brazil and Colombia—, conflicts at the United States-Mexico border over migration, political instability in Peru and the constitutional process in Chile.

Among the events in the region, the chain of assassinations of social leaders who defend environmental causes, transgender identities or the Peace Agreement (Mexico, Brazil, Honduras and Colombia) is especially serious. The murder of Paraguayan prosecutor Marcelo Pecci while on his honeymoon in Colombia is an indication of the reach and levels of coordination of organized transnational crime in the region.

The murders, in June, of British journalist Dom Philips and Bruno Pereira, a former employee of the Brazilian agency for indigenous communities (FUNAI), (practically dismantled by Jair Bolsonaro's government) are an example of the attacks on social activists and the impunity enjoyed mainly by the instigators of these crimes. Philips and Pereira were investigating illicit activities against the environment in the Javarí valley (Amazon), a region with practically no state presence but a strong presence of criminal organizations.

This edition of the Newsletter focuses on the recent Summit of the Americas, feminicides by firearms in Mexico, the links between conflict and the environmental crisis, new publications on peacebuilding and revisions of the concept of security.

Invited authors

The impact of the Ukraine war on Latin America

The war in Ukraine has global consequences. In the case of Latin America, up until now, these consequences have been political (countries that support sanctions against Russia and five that abstained) and economic (a rise in inflation and food prices).

In the long term, if a new bloc politics emerges around the United States, China and Russia, the countries in the region could be pressured to align. This context may prove to be an opportunity to establish a different relationship with the European Union, as the Carolina Foundation suggests.

Érika Ruiz Sandoval (Colegio de México and Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas –CIDE) and Marcos Robledo (former Undersecretary of Defense of Chile) analyze the factors at play and the lack of joint responses to the war in Ukraine in the region. In addition, we interview Nils Schmid, a member of the German Social Democratic Party (SPD), on his view of the implications the war will have for the world order.

Armed violence and feminicides in Mexico

Another serious problem in the region is violence against women. Estefanía Vela and Adriana E. Ortega, Executive Director and Data Coordinator of Intersecta, analyze how the use of firearms has evolved in feminicides in the home in Mexico.

Publications

The Summit of the Americas

The meeting of the Heads of State from almost every American nation in June generated many analyses about who the United States did not invite to participate, discrepancies about the topics for debate and the outcomes. Juan Gabriel Tokatlián (University of Torcuato di Tella, Buenos Aires) explains in *Nueva Sociedad* the stagnation of inter-American relations, the way in which Latin America is not relevant for the United States, and the effects this may have.

The new director of the Inter-American Dialogue organization, Rebecca Bill Chávez, testified before the U.S. Senate prior to the Summit, indicating the need for Joe Biden's administration to adopt a holistic approach to Central America and not only towards Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

Before the event, the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) analyzed the topics that should be broached and its director, Carolina Jiménez Sandoval, made an assessment after the event.

Environmental crisis, human security and justice

The environmental crisis, direct or indirectly linked to issues related to human security, is increasingly being addressed in the region.

The Regional Escazú Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean is of great relevance. Several Mexican organizations, partners of FES, are developing the project "Challenges and opportunities for the inclusive implementation of the Escazú Agreement in Mexico". In this debate, the issue of environmental defenders in this country is analyzed.

The magazine Íconos (FLACSO Ecuador) publishes "The figures of environmental injustice: measuring impunity in Mexico". The article refers to the Mexico 2020 Environmental Impunity Index, elaborated by the Study Center for Impunity and Justice (CEIJ)

Also in Mexico, the Autonomous Metropolitan University has published *When it rains, it pours: socio-environmental conflicts in the context of extractivism and megaprojects in times of multiple crises*, coordinated by Aleida Azamar Alonso and Carlos Rodríguez Wallenius. The book includes methodological analyses, case studies and studies on resistance in socio-environmental conflicts.

FES Colombia publishes Violent conflict and environmental decline in the Catacumbo region, a study by Andrés Felipe Aponte, Bram Ebus and Jennifer Vargas Reina about the relationship among illicit economies, lack of state presence and presence of armed groups in that part of Colombia.

Environment for Peace. Security in a New Era of Risk is a comprehensive report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which is part of the project by the same name. To access the report and activities free of charge, follow this link.

SIPRI has also published *The Human Security Case for Rebalancing Military Expenditures*, about how to free resources from growing military expenditure in the face of pressing social needs. It proposes further negotiations on arms control, a security sector reform and conflict prevention, and responsible forms of military spending.

Peacebuilding, militarism and security alternatives

Researcher Cécile Mouly (FLACSO Ecuador) is the author of *Peace and conflict studies. Theory and practice* (Peter Lang, Bristol, 2022). It can be accessed free of charge at this link. The book presents theories on the emergence and evolution of conflict through to peacekeeping, negotiations and mediation, peacebuilding and non-violent action. A discussion with the author is now available at this link.

Rut Diamint (University of Torcuato di Tella, Buenos Aires) wrote *The role of the Armed Forces in the Latin America of the 21st Century*, Center for Political Studies, Madrid, 2022. The author analyses the use of the armed forces for missions far removed from their traditional functions, but necessary for the State, and the discussion among theorists of civil-military relations.

The International Catalan Institute for Peace (ICIP) published An alternative security framework. Its authors, Olga Batallé; Teddy Baker; and Francesc Teodor, argue that the more traditional versions of discipline often aggravate the violent situation they seek to curb. As a result, a series of alternative theories have developed that open up new perspectives on security and on the means necessary to ensure it. This document can be downloaded free of charge.

Pedro Arenas analyzes the negative consequences of extraditing leaders of organized crime groups in Revista Sur.

News

"European Union – Latin America: views, agendas and expectations" is a study based on a survey of 12,000 respondents in 10 Latin American countries. The project is supported by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and Nueva Sociedad magazine with the participation of Latinobarómetro. Monica Hirst is one of the researchers from the team that elaborated it, and she wrote this summary.

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