

# Editorial 3+

Your analysis of the global political and security situation



## GLOBAL

Guyana remains a thorn in Venezuela's side

## REGIONAL

New instruments of destruction and violence in the war between Mexican cartels

## LOCAL

What is the risk of the Petro government's decree to ban coal exports to Israel without exception?





**VENEZUELA**



Source: SEMANA, 2025

# Guyana remains a thorn in Venezuela's side

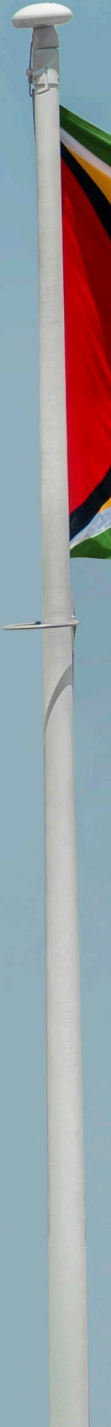
Source: France24, 2023

**G**uyana is Latin America's new petrostate, having experienced the highest growth in oil production in the world, which is key,

as it currently ranks as the third largest oil producer per capita on the planet, surpassed only by Kuwait and Qatar (BBC, 2025). Since the start of oil production in 2015, the country has seen an increase in its GDP. It grew by 63.3 percent in 2022 and 33.8 percent in 2023, and by 2024 its growth was 43.6 percent, according to information provided by the World Bank (CNN, 2025).

Guyana is extracting approximately 670,000 barrels of oil daily, and the government expects to generate US\$41 billion in five years from oil exploitation following a contract with Exxon Mobil, the company that found 11,000 barrels of oil. 000 barrels of oil daily, and the government expects to generate US\$41 billion in five years from oil exploitation following a contract with Exxon Mobil, a company that found 11 billion barrels of oil in deep waters in Guyana's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (Radar Energético, 2025). This development in key resources is attracting the attention of the world's largest powers, such as the United States and China. But it is also fueling a

territorial dispute that Guyana has had with Venezuela for more than a century over the Essequibo region, which corresponds to two-thirds of Guyana's territory. This is an area between the Essequibo and Orinoco rivers covering 160,000 km<sup>2</sup>, rich in onshore oil and minerals such as gold and manganese, but especially rich in offshore oil (La República, 2025). In 2024, Venezuela's National Assembly passed legislation to establish the State of Guayana Esequiba, which is considered by the Guyanese government as an "existential threat" and has escalated the conflict to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) (BBC, 2025). Given this situation, in the same year a British navy warship was sent to the area to support Guyana, and the US Armed Forces even carried out military exercises together with Guyana (CNN, 2025). However, the risks of military intervention are considerably high for both sides, especially considering the US energy assets that could be affected. Although, it is important to understand that currently, with the escalation of tensions between the US and Venezuela, there could be more than one compelling reason to fervently defend the Essequibo.

A tall, white flagpole stands against a clear blue sky. The Guyanese flag, featuring horizontal stripes of red, green, and yellow with a black diagonal band, is partially visible on the pole.

This is significant in that Guyanese President Irfaan Ali supported the US military deployment in the Caribbean on August 30 in the fight against drug trafficking and the so-called Cartel of the Suns, which the US government links to Nicolás Maduro (Vanguardia, 2025).

Following these statements, just one day later, Ali reported an attack by the Venezuelan Army on electoral material being transported along the Cuyuní River in the Essequibo. In addition, on Monday, September 1, presidential elections were held in which Ali was re-elected for a second term (La República, 2025). This ensures continued tensions, as the president will strengthen his country's status as an important ally of the United States, countries in the region such as Brazil, and a partner and ally of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth (SEMANA, 2025). In statements made to the press on Monday, Ali expressed his support for "anything that eliminates any threat to our security, not only in terms of sovereignty (...) to combat transnational crime" (Vanguardia, 2025). In this scenario, Guyana, backed by the United States and other neighbors, would be reaffirming its sovereignty and projecting military and political strength in the region. But it will remain a geopolitical focus, as Guyana's ability to produce oil more profitably and sustainably than many of the current producers will make it a central player in global competition.



# Regional

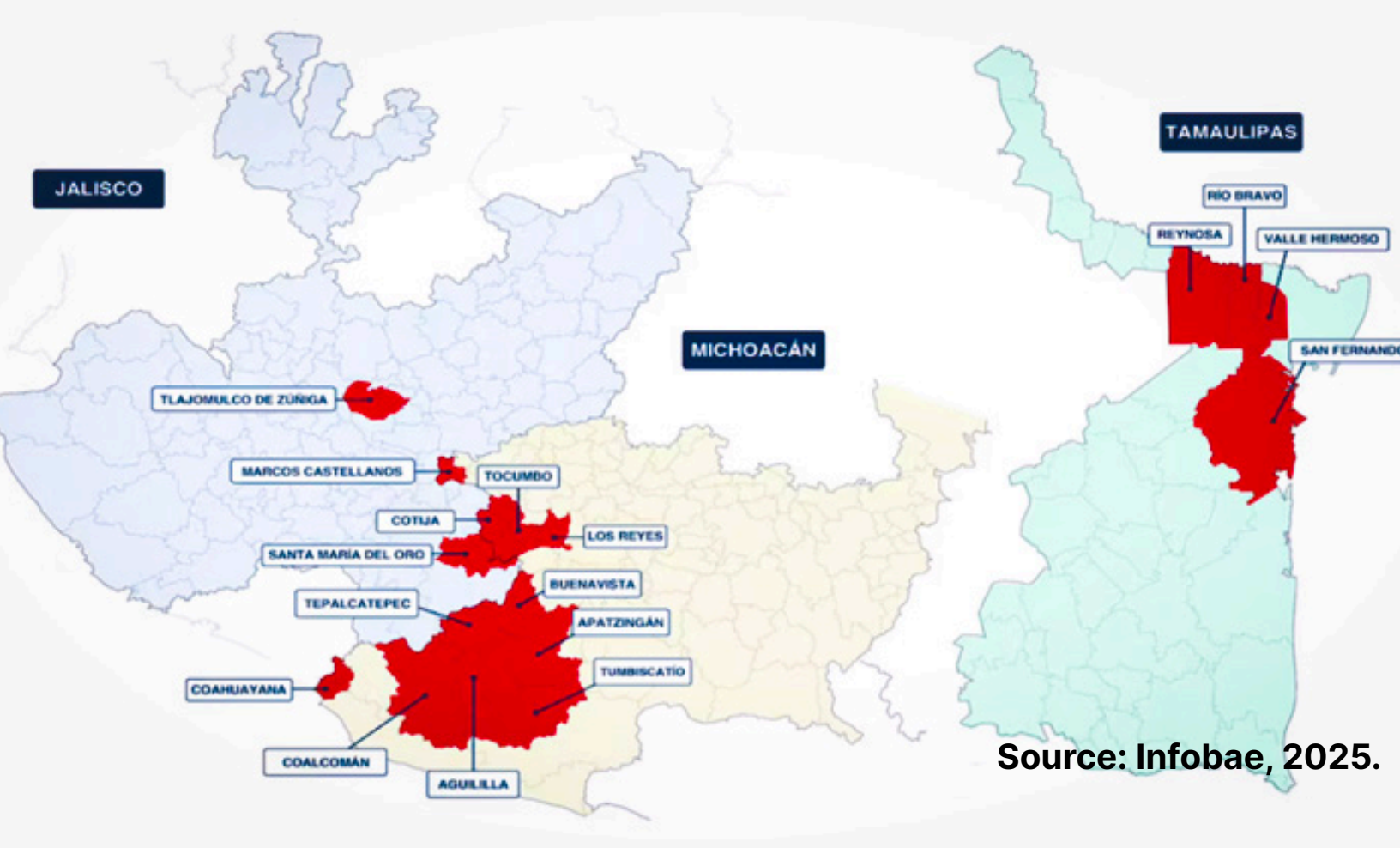
## New instruments of destruction and violence in the war between Mexican cartels

**T**he new dynamics of organized crime have led to a recent increase in the use of anti-personnel mines and other devices, such as drones, in Mexico. Recent cases

in Michoacán, Tamaulipas, and Chihuahua have authorities on high alert, who in turn face enormous challenges, as there are no public statistics available to reflect the problem. This poses great difficulties for the government, as it is difficult to know in detail where, how, when, and how much criminal groups have used these types of devices (El País, 2025). Added to this is the uncertainty surrounding the actors responsible. Although it was the Jalisco New Generation Cartel that introduced the use of anti-personnel mines in Mexico, its adversaries have been replicating the strategy (DW, 2025).

The use of mines and other devices must be understood within the context of the new criminal paradigm in the country. In the war between cartels, the objective is exclusively economic, and to achieve their goal, the groups fight for territorial control by perfecting and innovating their techniques (El País, 2025).





Regarding the installation of mines, criminal structures use them to prevent military incursions and thus limit the actions of the authorities and repel attacks from other criminal groups. Despite this, in most cases, the victims end up being civilians. Among the most affected areas are Michoacán (municipalities such as Cotija, Apatzingán, and Buenavista Tomatlán), Tamaulipas, and Jalisco (municipalities such as Tlajomulco de Zúñiga and Santa María del Oro) (DW, 2025). Although the phenomenon is not exclusive to Mexico, it does have certain peculiarities compared to the Colombian case, for example. In Colombia, mines are a long-standing problem that has been on the rise again for a couple of years.


According to the Landmine Monitor 2024, in 2023 there were twice as many mine accidents as in the previous year. Additionally, these incidents are mainly associated with the interference of Organized Armed Groups (OAGs). In Mexico, however, the situation is different. Victoria Dittmar, a researcher at Insight Crime, pointed out that although these types of devices have been used before, there has been a significant increase since 2022, indicating that this is a recent phenomenon in the country (DW, 2025).

Despite the government's efforts, the situation is complex. There is a specialized army unit responsible for clearing mines, but while the authorities “clean up” one area, criminal groups move on and plant mines in other areas.



This calls into question the effectiveness of the response. Furthermore, mines are an easy and inexpensive tool for criminals to manufacture, making it difficult to imagine that criminal structures will stop using them. In addition, organizations such as the Jalisco New Generation Cartel have been reported to have hired Colombian experts to manufacture explosives, which are illegally purchased through arms trafficking from Eastern Europe, former Soviet countries, or African countries. It should be noted that the proliferation of this type of weapon is limited to Mexican territories with high levels of conflict and violence; in regions where such levels of intensity do not exist, it is unlikely that there will be an impact (DW, 2025).





# What is the risk of the Petro government's decree to ban coal exports to Israel without exception?



## LOCAL

**T**he issuance of Decree 0949 of 2025 by the government of Gustavo Petro, which strictly prohibits exports of Colombian coal to Israel,

is a highly significant event both economically and legally. The measure is part of the international condemnation of the Israeli military offensive in Gaza, which has left more than 55,000 Palestinians dead and nearly 130,000 wounded since October 2023, according to official records. The Colombian executive branch bases its decision on three pillars: respect for international law, protection of the civilian population, and Colombia's consistency as a member of the UN Human Rights Council for the period 2025-2027 (El País, 2025). The government argues that preventing coal exports helps to ensure that the country's strategic resources do not fuel the conflict. However, beyond its ethical and political motivations, the measure raises questions about its legality, its economic impact, and the consistency of



Colombian trade policy (Infobae, 2025). From an economic perspective, the repercussions are significant. Israel was an important trading partner for coal, with average imports of 250,000 tons per month prior to the decree. After it came into effect, the figure fell to 107,000 tons, generating estimated losses of 200 billion pesos for each million tons not exported in taxes and royalties. This decline in demand, coupled with volatile international prices and production cuts of up to 50% announced by some companies in 2024, directly affects the stability of public finances and the state's ability to sustain social investment programs in producing regions.

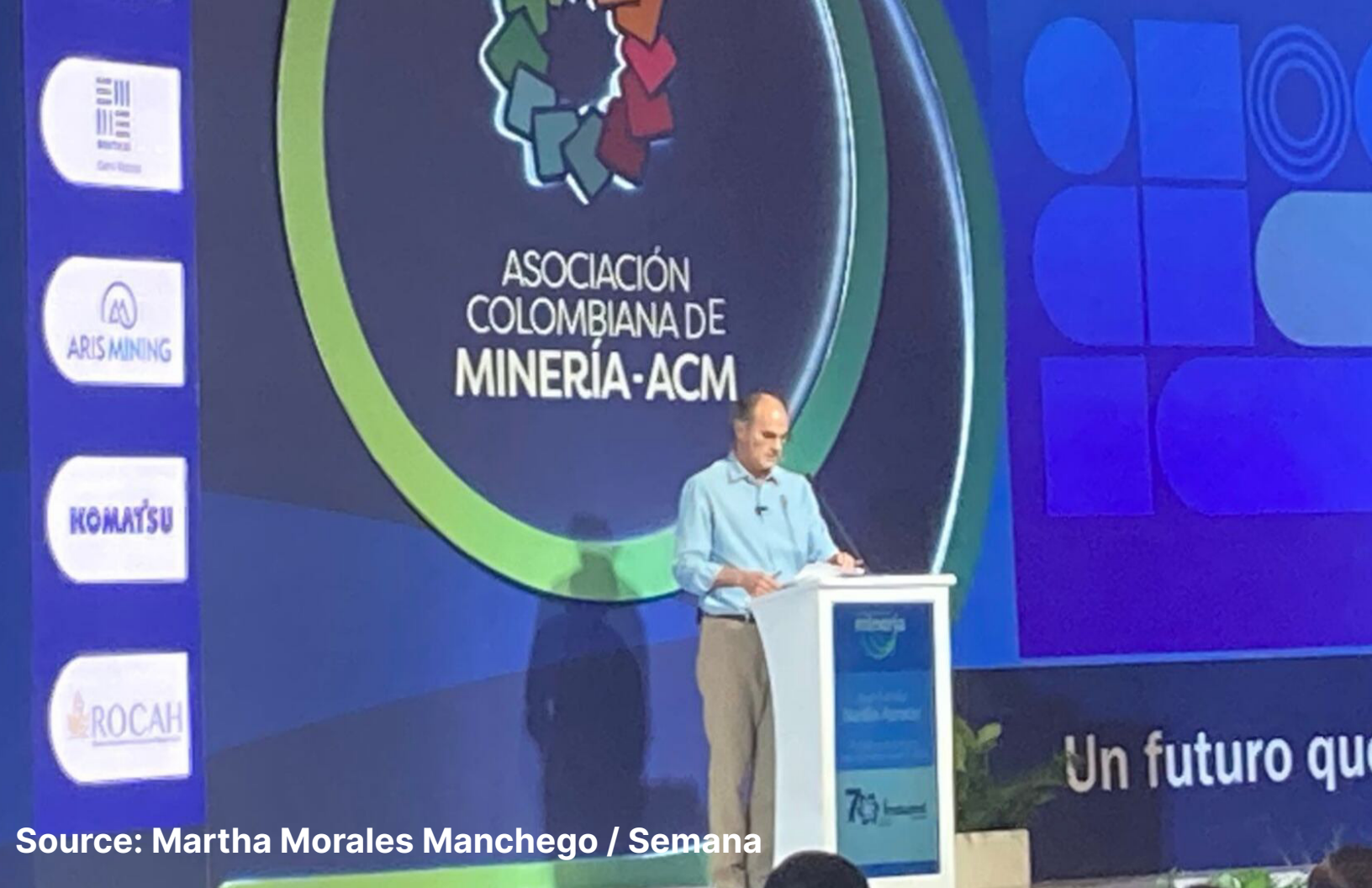
In addition, Israel quickly found alternative suppliers in Indonesia, Australia, and other markets, meaning that Colombia lost a stable customer with no immediate capacity for substitution. In this sense, the ban not only has a direct fiscal impact, but also weakens the country's international competitiveness in a highly competitive market (Infobae, 2025).

## The deepest risk, however, lies in the legal and institutional security sphere.

The most profound risk, however, lies in the legal and institutional security spheres. The Colombian Mining Association (ACM) argues that the decree disregards the bilateral trade agreement between Colombia and Israel, which was approved by Congress and endorsed by the Constitutional Court, thereby elevating it to constitutional status.








Source: Martha Morales Manchego / Semana

If an administrative act such as a decree can unilaterally restrict a treaty of such importance, it sends a message of regulatory instability and erodes confidence in the Colombian state as the guarantor of the rules of the game. This not only exposes the country to potential international litigation but could also affect its reputation among foreign investors seeking regulatory certainty when deciding on extractive megaprojects. Additionally, the fact that the decree is being challenged before the Council of State reveals the tension between foreign policy and the domestic legal framework, a standoff that will define the jurisprudence surrounding the normative hierarchy of treaties vis-à-vis short-term policy decisions (Infobae, 2025).

Looking ahead, the prospective scenarios are diverse and complex. In the first scenario, the Council of State ratifies the validity of the decree, which would strengthen the government's narrative in defense of human rights, but would consolidate a precedent of legal uncertainty with long-term effects on investment. In a second scenario, the ban is overturned, which would be a political setback for Petro, but would restore market confidence and reaffirm the primacy of international commitments over executive decisions. There is also a third, intermediate option: the court could uphold the restrictions but require the executive branch to make regulatory adjustments to bring the measure into line with the constitutional framework and trade agreements, opening the door to negotiated solutions.





In any case, experience shows the need to design control and regulatory policies that harmonize ethical principles of foreign policy with the preservation of legal certainty and economic stability. The challenge, in short, is to demonstrate that Colombia can be a consistent actor in the defense of human rights without weakening its institutions or compromising the development of its main export sector (Infobae, 2025).

Fuente: Pares, 2024



# REFERENCIAS

- Ávila Claudio, R. A. (1 de septiembre de 2025). Cómo influyen en las elecciones en Guyana el boom petrolero de la «Dubái de Sudamérica» y el conflicto con Venezuela por el Esequibo. BBC News Mundo.  
<https://www.bbc.com/mundo/articles/cj3lkl42n4o>
- Cardona, L.S. (30 de agosto de 2025). Colombia prohíbe totalmente la exportación de carbón a Israel, confirmó el Ministerio de Comercio. Obtenido de El País:  
<https://www.elpais.com.co/colombia/colombia-prohibe-totalmente-la-exportacion-de-carbon-a-israel-confirmando-el-ministerio-de-comercio-3019.html>
- CNN. (2025). Guyana, petróleo y disputa territorial: ¿Por qué a EE.UU. y la región le importan las elecciones de este país sudamericano? MSN.  
<https://www.msn.com/es-us/noticias/other/guyana-petr%C3%B3leo-y-disputa-territorial-por-qu%C3%A9-a-eeuu-y-la-regi%C3%B3n-le-importan-las-elecciones-de-este-pa%C3%ADs-sudamericano/ar-AA1LA6du>
- Escobar, N. (20 de julio de 2025). Gobierno Petro cometió un error al prohibir exportaciones de carbón a Israel y las empresas mineras aprovecharon. Obtenido de Infobae:  
<https://www.infobae.com/colombia/2025/07/21/gobierno-petro-cometio-un-error-al-prohibir-exportaciones-de-carbon-a-israel-y-las-empresas-mineras-aprovecharon/>
- Ferri, P. (11 de febrero de 2025). Drones con explosivos y minas antipersona: la realidad criminal que se asienta en México. Obtenido de El País:  
<https://elpais.com/mexico/2025-02-12/drones-con-explosivos-y-minas-antipersona-la-realidad-criminal-que-se-asienta-en-mexico.html>
- FRANCE 24. (2023). ¿Por qué la región de Esequibo está en disputa entre Venezuela y Guyana? FRANCE24.  
<https://www.france24.com/es/programas/econom%C3%ADa/20231202-por-qu%C3%A9-la-regi%C3%B3n-de-essequibo-est%C3%A1-en-disputa-entre-venezuela-y-guyana>
- Infobae. (01 de septiembre de 2025). Colombia prohíbe las exportaciones de carbón a Israel por su ofensiva en Gaza. Obtenido de:  
<https://www.infobae.com/america/agencias/2025/09/01/colombia-prohibe-las-exportaciones-de-carbon-a-israel-por-su-ofensiva-en-gaza/>
- Jiménez, E. (17 de abril de 2025). Estos son los 17 municipios donde han explotado minas terrestres del narco. Obtenido de Infobae:  
<https://www.infobae.com/mexico/2025/04/17/estos-son-los-17-municipios-donde-han-explotado-minas-terrestres-del-narco/>
- La República. (1 de septiembre de 2025). Guyana elige a su nuevo presidente en medio del boom petrolero y la histórica disputa con Venezuela por el Esequibo. La República.pe.  
<https://larepublica.pe/mundo/2025/09/01/guyana-elige-a-su-nuevo-presidente-en-medio-del-boom-petrolero-y-la-historica-disputa-con-venezuela-por-el-essequibo-28678>
- La República. (30 de septiembre de 2025). Colombia pierde cerca de 5% de rentas de carbón con el cese de envíos a Israel. Obtenido de:  
<https://www.larepublica.co/economia/colombia-pierde-5-de-rentas-de-carbon-con-cese-de-envios-a-israel-4192010>
- Mijares, V. M. (2011). Venezuela, Guyana y el problema de la soberanía selectiva por Víctor Mijares.  
<https://runrunes.org/noticias/25957/venezuela-guyana-y-el-problema-de-la-soberania-selectiva-por-victor-mijares/>
- Radar Energético. (12 de agosto de 2025). Guyana irrumpe como el nuevo petroestado de Sudamérica.  
<https://www.radarenergetico.com/guyana-irrumpe-como-el-nuevo-petroestado-de-sudamerica/>
- SEMANA. (2025). Dos aviones de combate de EE. UU. sobrevuelan país vecino de Venezuela, en medio de escalada de tensiones con Maduro. MSN.  
<https://www.msn.com/es-co/noticias/other/dos-aviones-de-combate-de-ee-uu-sobrevuelan-pa%C3%ADs-vecino-de-venezuela-en-medio-de-escalada-de-tensiones-con-maduro/ar-AA1M7Wv0>
- Traeder, V. (28 de agosto de 2025). Minas antipersonales: la silenciosa guerra entre cárteles. Obtenido de DW:  
<https://www.dw.com/es/minas-antipersonales-en-m%C3%A9xico-la-silenciosa-guerra-entre-c%C3%A1rteles/a-73801887>
- Vanguardia. (1 de septiembre de 2025). Así fue el ataque en el Esequibo que elevó la tensión entre Guyana y Venezuela. [www.vanguardia.com](http://www.vanguardia.com).  
<https://www.vanguardia.com/mundo/2025/09/01/asi-fue-el-ataque-en-el-essequibo-que-elevo-la-tension-entre-guyana-y-venezuela/>