

# LATIN AMERICAN NETWORK OF SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE SECURITY

NEWSLETTER | NUMBER 8 | MARCH 2022



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

In recent weeks, matters of global security have been gravely impacted by Russia's military invasion of Ukraine. Although geographically distant from Latin America and the Caribbean, this situation has a serious impact on the international order, respect for State sovereignty and the use of force. In addition, the geopolitical, economic, commercial and technological battle led by the United States, China and Russia is increasingly being waged in different countries in our region.

For the Latin American Network of Sustainable and Inclusive Security, the events that are taking place in Ukraine demand an in-depth debate about security models, in both the conventional sense of States, but also in terms of internal security in each society. It also raises questions about the role of multilateral organisations, in particular regarding the reach and limits of the United Nations.

In future issues, the Newsletter will address the impact the Russia-Ukraine crisis has on the reflections and practices that take place in our region. In this issue we address the following matters:

- » **Security Sector Reform remains distant in Colombia**
- » **Reports on militarisation**
- » **The use of lethal force in Latin America and the Caribbean**
- » **Cross-border corruption in the Northern Triangle of Central America**
- » **Peacebuilding in Latin America**
- » **Environmental crisis and nuclear weapons**
- » **The recruitment of children for armed conflicts**
- » **Chile: a new take on Allende's politics**
- » **Chile, the relationship between civil and military power**
- » **Violence and justice systems**
- » **Migration and violence**
- » **Security and civil coexistence**
- » **Community protection and international actors**
- » **Democracy in decline**
- » **News**

Our invited author is Adam Isacson, expert on matters of defence and security at the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), who writes about the delay in starting a security sector reform in Colombia and how this impacts the implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreement.

From this issue onwards, the Newsletter will be published in Spanish and English. Previous issues, information about the Network, its publications and Congresses can be found [here](#).

If you would like to receive it, free of charge, please subscribe [here](#).

Boletín de la Red Latinoamericana de Seguridad Inuyente y Sostenible

Editado por Mariano Aguirre

Traducido por Róisín Allen Meade

Más información: [mariaalejandra.rico@fes.de](mailto:mariaalejandra.rico@fes.de)

Calle 71 # 11 - 90, Bogotá, Colombia

© 2022 FES



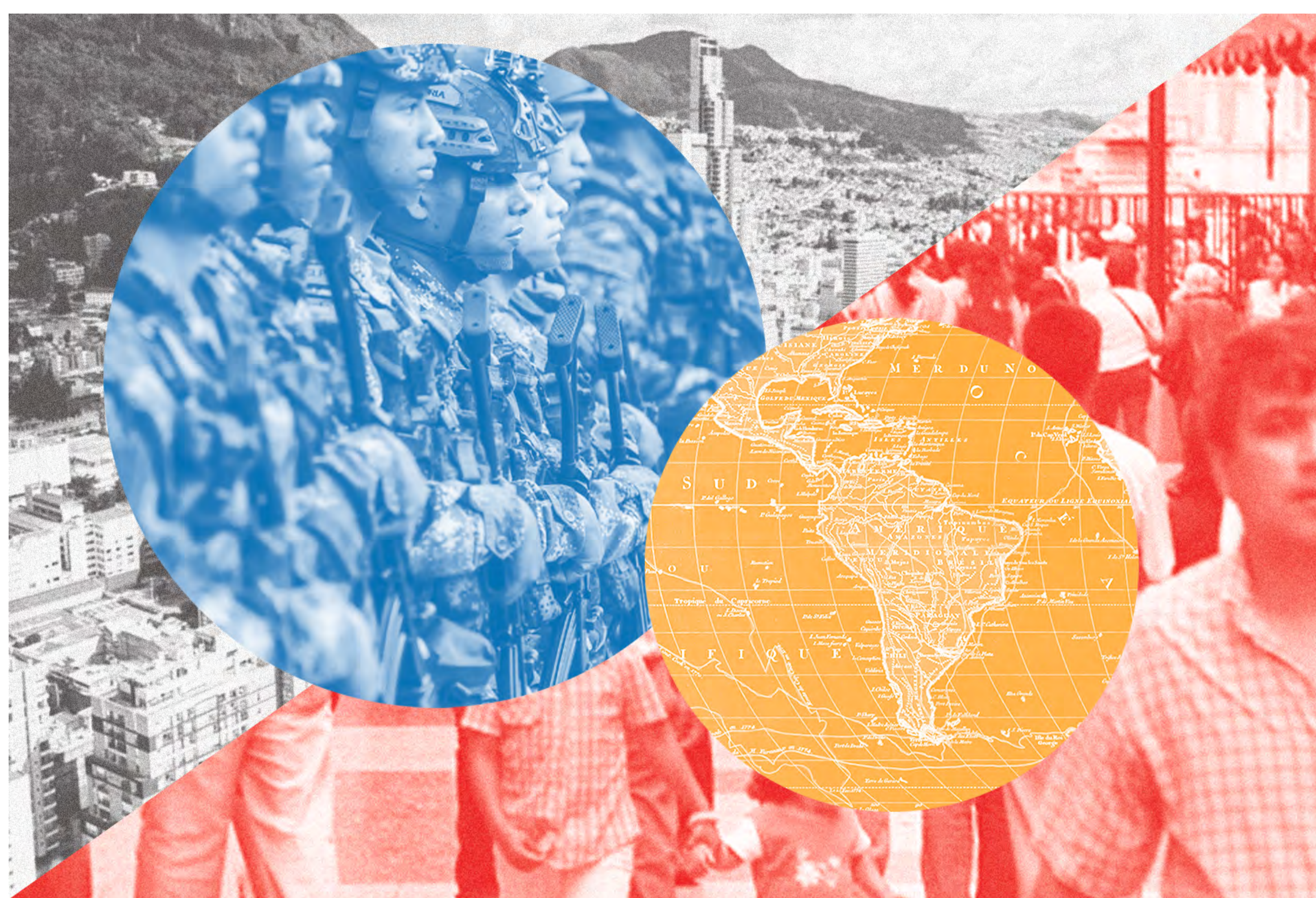
Guest author

## Security Sector Reform remains distant in Colombia

**Adam Isacson, Director for Defense Oversight, Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)**

When they debated what would become Colombia's historic 2016 peace accord, negotiators from the government and the FARC guerrilla group avoided discussing the future of the country's large security sector. "The armed forces' future will [not](#) be negotiated with the FARC," Juan Manuel Santos, who would win the Nobel Peace Prize for guiding the talks, [said often](#). This reflected power realities: military and police opposition could have sunk the peace process.

[Read more here.](#)



## Reports on militarisation

Arlene B. Tickner (Professor at Universidad del Rosario and member of the Latin American Network of Sustainable and Inclusive Security) [analyses](#) militarisation and its ties to the ideology of militarism from different angles critical of security. The study, published by the Carolina Foundation (Spain), gives several definitions of these two terms, with the aim of providing clarity about their general meaning, the interconnection between them and their ties to state security policies. The text explores the civil-military relationship present in most analyses about militarisation processes, to evidence their shortcomings as practical guides and to limit military influence in political and civilian life.

On another note, Francine Jácome, executive director of the Venezuelan Institute of Social and Political Studies (INVESP for its acronym in Spanish) and member of the Latin American Network of Sustainable and Inclusive Security, [addresses](#) militarism and the militarisation of Venezuela in a study published by the Carolina Foundation in which she identifies four indicators: i) military participation in government bodies; ii) partisanship and loss of professionalism and institutionalism; iii) the role of military actors as business people and, iv) the militarisation of public safety.

## The use of lethal force in Latin America and the Caribbean

The abuse of lethal force by the State is a major problem in many Latin American and Caribbean countries. Despite the systematic nature of this abuse, many cases are never investigated. Nine organizations in the region, including the Ideas for Peace Foundation (Colombia), the Center for Citizen Security Studies at the University of Chile and the Laboratory for Violence Analysis at the State University of Rio de Janeiro, produced the second edition of the *Monitor of the Use of Lethal Force in Latin America and the Caribbean*. The [study](#) compared a series of indicators to assess the use of lethal force by State security bodies in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Jamaica, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

## Cross-border corruption in the Northern Triangle of Central America

In a [publication](#) by the Woodrow Wilson Center programme on Latin America, Gloria Porras, Magistrate-Elect of the Constitutional Court of Guatemala, examines the effects of corruption on the justice system of the Northern Triangle and how it affects judiciary independence in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. The activities led by criminal organisations and structures of power affect many territories and countries. Corruption has strong ties to organised crime. Since 2016, attacks against judges, lawyers and prosecutors in the Northern Triangle have become gravely concerning.

---

## Peacebuilding in Latin America

The German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) published the report *From Ending War to Building Peace – Lessons from Latin America*, by professor Sabine Kurtenbach, member of this Network. The [study raises the issue](#) that Latin America and other post-war societies tend to receive decreasing international attention after wars have ended and initial post-war elections have taken place. At the same time, there has been a shift in emphasis from peacebuilding to stabilization at the international level. Latin American experiences show how short-term success can be forfeited through the re-creation of path-dependent developments, which reproduce old problems in new forms.

---

## Environmental crisis and nuclear weapons

In an [article](#) published in Open Democracy (UK), Swedish diplomat Pierre Schori links environmental crime to the need to prohibit nuclear weapons. Schori recalls the words of politician and diplomat Hans Blix: “the stocks of nuclear weapons still suffice to end human civilization in a quick suicide, while we have added the risk of a slow suicide through global warming”. Last September, Chile became the 56<sup>th</sup> nation in the world and the 13<sup>th</sup> in Latin America to ratify *The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)*.

---

## The recruitment of children for armed conflicts

The Colombian Organized Crime Observatory (OCCO for its acronym in Spanish), a partnership between the Universidad del Rosario’s Faculty of International, Political and Urban Studies and the NGO Insight Crime, has published Mathew H. Charles’ [study](#) *Childhood recruited*. The participation of children and teenagers in organized crime and conflict after the Peace Agreement. The study shows that the children and teenagers (NNA, for its acronym in Spanish) who live in the poorest and most marginalised communities in Colombia are being exploited to fuel the criminal expansion of the country’s armed actors. The levels of recruitment and exploitation of children and teenagers triggered by this situation had not been seen since before the signing of the Peace Agreement in 2016. Among other conclusions, the report also argues that there is a direct link between the level of illicit recruitment and other criminal dynamics, particularly massacres and cocaine production, as well as the murder of social leaders and former FARC combatants.

Boletín de la Red Latinoamericana de Seguridad Incluyente y Sostenible

Editado por Mariano Aguirre

Traducido por Róisín Allen Meade

Más información: [mariaalejandra.rico@fes.de](mailto:mariaalejandra.rico@fes.de)

Calle 71 # 11 - 90, Bogotá, Colombia

© 2022 FES

FRIEDRICH  
EBERT  
STIFTUNG  
RED DE SEGURIDAD  
INCLUYENTE



## Chile: a new take on Allende's politics

The election of Gabriel Boric as president of Chile on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December of 2021 has three implications that evidence a new cycle in Chilean politics, explains Marcos Robledo, member of this Network, in *The new Allendist left: the political majority underlying Chile's social unrest*, a [study](#) published by the Carolina Foundation.

## Chile, the relationship between civil and military power

The political shift that has taken place in Chile over the past two years has led the institutional relationship between the armed forces and civil power to be questioned again. "The new Constitution, [voices](#) Augusto Varas, president of the Equitas Foundation, should assign the Legislative branch the responsibility of authorizing a war declaration initiated by the President of the Republic; approve the National Defence Strategy, the allocations for the Armed Forces in times of peace and war, and the criteria to regulate the entrance of foreign troops and the departure of national troops from the country. (...) All matters regarding the organisation of defence, the roles and institutional procedures of the Armed Forces, must be a matter of common law", declares the security expert.

## Violence and justice systems

The authors of *Local perspectives and regional security problems in Latin America* (Coordinated by Verónica Martínez-Solares, Markus Gottsbacher and Martha Lucía Gutiérrez and [published](#) by the Pontifical Javeriana University) offer an invitation to review and transform the relationship of the inhabitants of the countries of Latin America with the state system of administration of justice and with community and ancestral manifestations of justice. The starting point, on the one hand, is the negative impact that conflicts, violence and crime have on people's lives; and on the other hand, a reflection on social resistance processes and innovative community and state practices to seek material equity and justice.

In the introduction to this study, Alberto Brunori, representative of the Regional Office for Central America and the anglophone Caribbean of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), poses the question: "What is justice and what does it mean for the people who live outside the protected environments of large cities?"

## Migration and violence

Internal migration in Latin America and the Caribbean has become a complex issue due to many countries' lack of infrastructure to adequately receive these populations, an increase in the illegal trafficking of human beings, inadequate local regulations and a growing social rejection encouraged by extreme right parties, groups and individuals. In addition, in some countries in the region, governments tend to treat migration as a security issue. At the same time, civilian and academic initiatives to reflect and report the situation faced by immigrants have increased. The following [activities](#) have been carried out:

- *The Migrations, population control and strategies of resistance conference cycle, organized by the Study Group on Migrations, Politics and Resistances (MiPres) of the Gino Germani Research Institute, University of Buenos Aires. Coordinated by Sandra Gil Araujo and Carolina Rosas*
- *The "South American Migration and Border Regime", led by Dr. Eduardo Domenec, CONICET/ National University of Córdoba (UNC for its acronym in Spanish), Argentina. December of 2021.*
- Both events can be viewed [here](#).
- **Deportation of migrants in Chile.** [Podcast](#) n°3 of the CLACSO Working Group South-South Migrations. February of 2022.

---

## Security and civil coexistence

Researcher and member of this Network Lilian Bobea is the author of *Guidelines for the creation of security and coexistence plans at the national level. Lessons and challenges for the Dominican Republic*, [published](#) by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The viability of promoting national strategies and sustainable civil security public policies, says the study, depends on the feasibility of executing institutional reforms, especially in the criminal justice sector, which, in most cases in the region, cannot be delayed any longer.

For his part, Hugo Acero Velásquez is the [author](#) of *Planning civil coexistence and security: guidelines for local governments*, also published by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. In the face of insecurity, violence and the need to ensure the protection and wellbeing of citizens, argues the author, local administrations must act in coordination with the security and justice agencies under their jurisdiction.

---

## Community protection and international actors

How can international humanitarian actors support civilians in their attempts to protect themselves during armed conflict? [asks](#) researcher Oliver Kaplan in *The International Committee of the Red Cross and support for civilian self-protection in Colombia*. [Published](#) in *International Interactions Empirical and Theoretical Research in International Relations*, it analyses interactions in times of war among international organisations and communities, with a special focus on community protection actions led by the International Committee of the Red Cross. Civilians are generally considered non-combatant, weak and vulnerable. But the ICRC and other humanitarian organisations can provide essential support to communities for implementing non-violent self-protection strategies.

The book *Confronting Peace. Local Peacebuilding in the Wake of a National Peace Agreement* speaks about the role of communities in peacebuilding. (Editors: Susan H. Allen, Landon E. Hancock, Christopher Mitchell, and Cécile Mouly. [The book](#) addresses the challenges that local peace initiatives face when a national peace is signed. It includes chapters on Colombia, African experiences and Mindanao.

Communities and non-violent action in Latin America are the subject matter of an online [course](#) organised by FLACSO, the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador and CEMPROC. The course *The power of people: the strategic dynamic of non-violent resistance* is part of the regional programme on strategic non-violent action in America. The programme also includes [a blog](#) with new articles published every month.

## Democracy in decline

The Democracy Index 2021, published by the Economist Intelligence Unit (United Kingdom), [indicates](#) that Latin America suffered a big setback in 2021. The change was the biggest year-on-year decline experienced by any region since the start of the Democracy Index in 2006. It was accompanied by five country downgrades in terms of regime types (one from “full” to “flawed”, three from “flawed” to “hybrid” and one from “hybrid” to “authoritarian”). The region’s score across all categories of the index worsened in 2021, led by a sharp decline in the political culture score.

---

## News

Two members of the Latin American Network of Sustainable and Inclusive Security have been appointed to positions in Gabriel Boric’s new administration in Chile: Eduardo Vergara (of the Chile 21 Foundation) is the new undersecretary for Crime Prevention; and professor Lucía Dammert is the new Chief Government Advisor in the Boric administration. Both have extensive experience in security matters. From the Network, we salute and congratulate them for their new positions.

The Latin American Network of United States Research (RELEU for its acronym in Spanish) publishes a monthly newsletter with suggestions for books, essays, articles and events about the relationship between the United States and Latin America. RED was born during the FLACSO-ISA Conference in Quito in 2018, on the one hand, from the observation of the contrast between the huge influence that the United States exercises over Latin America in every way, and on the other hand, from the dispersed and fragmented nature of the studies led in the region about this country. The Network is made up of almost 70 researchers from several Latin American countries that receive the newsletter. The Network’s coordination is led by the National Science and Technology Institute for Studies on the United States (INCT-INEU for its acronym in Spanish). To receive the newsletter and send information, contact Tatiana Carlotti [tcarlotti@gmail.com](mailto:tcarlotti@gmail.com)

Boletín de la Red Latinoamericana de Seguridad Incluyente y Sostenible

Editado por Mariano Aguirre

Traducido por Róisín Allen Meade

Más información: [mariaalejandra.rico@fes.de](mailto:mariaalejandra.rico@fes.de)

Calle 71 # 11 - 90, Bogotá, Colombia

© 2022 FES

The logo for Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, featuring the text 'FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG' in black and red, with 'RED DE SEGURIDAD INCLUYENTE' in red below it. A small globe icon is integrated into the 'T' of 'STIFTUNG'.