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Russian Intel: West 'Tearing Apart' Venezuela Like Syria, Libya

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Chief of Russian Intelligence Sergei Naryshkin has denounced the "tearing apart" of Venezuela and promoting of the humanitarian catastrophe in the Latin American nation by Western countries.

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According to Naryshkin, Russia has observed signs that the United States is making preparations for a [military operation against Venezuela](#). "There are those signs, but it will be seen over time if this plan is carried out," Naryshkin said.

The intelligence official further pointed out that the United States is being duplicitous in its actions.

"The White House itself insists on the danger of uncontrolled migration, it will spend billions to reinforce the border with Mexico and at the same time [in Venezuela] it kindles the fire of a new civil conflict and provokes a new humanitarian catastrophe."

Western countries, Naryshkin highlighted, "are tearing Venezuela apart cynically and following the same patterns as in Libya and Syria. The U.S. retakes the Monroe Doctrine."

The Monroe Doctrine establishes that any intervention by European countries in the Americas would be seen as an act of aggression that would require U.S. intervention.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said all options for "restoring democracy" in Venezuela remain at the table, including military intervention.

The United States government also accused Russia of "intervening" in the Nicolas Maduro-led Venezuela and threatened intervention into the South American country despite the United Nations' disapproval.

"In the Western Hemisphere, the United States is taking up [the Monroe doctrine](#), which aims to limit the sovereignty of Latin American countries, to put pressure on those who do not follow the same [policies](#) as Washington, as an [instrument of pressure](#) they take into account all possible methods, including force," Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu stated Wednesday.

At the beginning of the 20th century, this doctrine was complemented with the thesis that conflicts in Latin America should be resolved by Washington.

The policy was previously used to combat the Soviet influence and socialism in Cuba and other countries in the region.

Russia along with China, Cuba, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Turkey, Mexico, Iran and many other countries recognize Maduro as the legitimate president and denounce any external interference in Venezuelan internal affairs.

Meanwhile, the United States, several countries in Europe and Latin America - including Brazil - back illegitimate, self-appointed leader Juan Guaido.