

# *Russia to strengthen Venezuela's military defense capabilities*

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Moscow, July 6 (RHC)-- Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov stated on Friday that his country will continue to develop international cooperation with Venezuela, which includes strengthening military defense capabilities.

"We will continue our multifaceted efforts on developing partner relations with brotherly Venezuela," Ryabkov said while attending an event honouring the 208th anniversary of the South American country's independence from Spain. "We will continue to implement projects in various areas, to hold events within the existing agreements that would strengthen the military potential of this country's armed forces."

The Russian minister rejected the speculative reports about the Russian military personnel in Venezuela and held that they are technical specialists responsible for the maintenance of equipment.???? Nevertheless, he said that his country is determined to counter any attempt to destabilize the situation in Venezuela.

Ryabkov "stressed the U.S. keeps on devising ways to further destabilise the situation in the country... their efforts fail due to public support for the legitimately elected authorities," Sputnik reported.

Ryabkov also announced that he will address bilateral cooperation issues during his next visit to Venezuela, which will take place between July 20th and the 22nd.

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