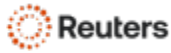



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Colombia turns away two US military flights with deported migrants, official says

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By Phil Stewart and Oliver Griffin

WASHINGTON/BOGOTA (Reuters) -Colombia on Sunday turned away two U.S. military aircraft with migrants being deported as part of President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown, a U.S. official said, in at least the second case of a Latin American nation refusing U.S. military deportation flights.



L FILE PHOTO: Colombian President Gustavo Petro speaks at the opening of the 16th United Nations Biodiversity Summit in Cali, Colombia October 20, 2024. REUTERS/Luisa Gonzalez/File Photo
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Colombian President Gustavo Petro condemned the practice, suggesting it treated migrants like criminals. In a post on social media platform X, Petro said Colombia would welcome home deported migrants on civilian planes, saying they should be treated


Colombia's decision follows one by Mexico, which also refused a request last week to let a U.S. military aircraft land with migrants.

"The U.S. cannot treat Colombian migrants as criminals," Petro wrote, noting that there were 15,660 Americans without proper immigration status in Colombia.

Petro's comments add to the growing chorus of discontent in Latin America as Trump's week-old administration starts mobilizing for mass deportations.

Brazil's foreign ministry late on Saturday condemned "degrading treatment" of Brazilians after migrants were handcuffed on a commercial deportation flight. Upon arrival, some of the passengers also reported mistreatment during the flight, according to local news reports.

The plane, which was carrying 88 Brazilian passengers, 16 U.S. security agents, and eight crew members, had been originally scheduled to arrive in Belo Horizonte in the southeastern state of Minas Gerais.

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