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Russian Air Force Plane Lands in Venezuela – Reports

By Reuters

June 25, 2019



Youtube

A Russian air force plane landed on Monday in Venezuela's main airport, according to a witness and a website that tracks plane movements, three months after a similar arrival spurred a war of words between Washington and Moscow.

Two Russian air force planes landed in Venezuela in March carrying Russian defense officials and 100 troops, leading the United States to accuse Russia of "reckless escalation" of the situation in the struggling South American nation.

An Ilyushin 62 jet with tail number RA-86496 on Monday was parked at Maiquetia International Airport, according to a Reuters witness.

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That tail number is registered to a Russian Air Force jet, according to website Flightradar24, and matches the tail number of the plane that arrived in March.

U.S. President Donald Trump in March ordered Russia to remove all troops from Venezuela, while Russia's foreign ministry said the planes were only carrying specialists who were servicing arms sales contracts.

Venezuela's information ministry and Russia's defense ministry did not immediately reply to requests for comment.

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