

TEXTO

Unasur leaders to debate Venezuela and Colombia crisis

The South American regional group Unasur has called a special meeting to address the breakdown in relations between Venezuela and Colombia.

Foreign ministers will meet in Ecuador next week to discuss the crisis, triggered by Colombia's claim that Venezuela harbours Colombian rebels.

Venezuela denies this, and has broken off diplomatic relations with Colombia.

President Hugo Chavez also ordered the military to be on maximum alert on Venezuela's border with Colombia.

Mr Chavez has accused Colombia of trying to create a pretext for US military intervention against him.

However, Colombia says it has detailed evidence that Farc and ELN rebels are operating from bases inside Venezuela.

Bolivian President Evo Morales, who called for the Unasur meeting, said relations had deteriorated to such a point that "a war is in the making", and that Unasur "should not allow that war to happen between brother countries".

US State Department spokesman Philip Crowley told reporters that Mr Chavez' decision on Thursday to sever all diplomatic relations with Colombia and put border troops on alert was "a petulant response".

But Venezuela's Defence Minister Carlos Mata said the army was ready to "give a robust response" if Colombian forces attacked.

The issue over whether Venezuela has rebels on its territory has dogged ties between the two South American nations for the past eight years.

The latest exchange plunges bilateral relations to a new low.

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Líderes da Unasul debatem crise da Venezuela e Colômbia

The South American regional group Unasur has called a special meeting to address the breakdown in relations between Venezuela and Colombia.

A Unasul, grupo regional da América do Sul, convocou uma reunião especial para discutir a quebra nas relações entre a Venezuela e a Colômbia.

Foreign ministers will meet in Ecuador next week to discuss the crisis, triggered by Colombia's claim that Venezuela harbours Colombian rebels.

Os Ministros das Relações Exteriores encontrar-se-ão no Equador na próxima semana para discutir a crise, disparada pela reclamação da Colômbia de que a Venezuela abriga rebeldes colombianos.

Venezuela denies this, and has broken off diplomatic relations with Colombia.

A Venezuela nega isso, e quebrou as relações diplomáticas com a Colômbia.

President Hugo Chavez also ordered the military to be on maximum alert on Venezuela's border with Colombia.

O Presidente Hugo Chavez também ordenou os militares para estarem sobre alerta máximo na fronteira da Venezuela com a Colômbia.

Mr Chavez has accused Colombia of trying to create a pretext for US military intervention against him.

O Senhor Chavez acusou a Colômbia de tentar criar um pretexto para uma intervenção militar americana contra ele.

However, Colombia says it has detailed evidence that Farc and ELN rebels are operating from bases inside Venezuela.

Contudo, a Colômbia diz que ela detalhou evidências que rebeldes das FARC e ELN estão operando desde bases dentro da Venezuela.

Bolivian President Evo Morales, who called for the Unasur meeting, said relations had deteriorated to such a point that "a war is in the making", and that Unasur "should not allow that war to happen between brother countries".

O presidente boliviano Evo Morales, que convocou a reunião da Unasul, disse que as relações deterioraram-se a tal ponto que “uma guerra está se fazendo”, e que a Unasul “não deveria permitir que uma guerra aconteça entre países irmãos”.

US State Department spokesman Philip Crowley told reporters that Mr Chavez' decision on Thursday to sever all diplomatic relations with Colombia and put border troops on alert was "a petulant response".

O porta-voz do Departamento de Estado dos EUA, Phipip Crowley, disse aos repórteres que a decisão do Senhor Chavez na quinta-feira de quebrar todas as relações diplomáticas com a Colômbia e colocar tropas na fronteira sobre alerta era “uma resposta petulante”.

But Venezuela's Defence Minister Carlos Mata said the army was ready to "give a robust response" if Colombian forces attacked.

Mas o Ministro da Defesa da Venezuela, Carlos Mata, disse que o exército estava pronto para “dar uma resposta robusta se as forças da Colômbia atacarem”.

The issue over whether Venezuela has rebels on its territory has dogged ties between the two South American nations for the past eight years.

O problema sobre se a Venezuela tem rebeldes em seu território cortou os laços entre as duas nações da América do Sul por oito anos.

The latest exchange plunges bilateral relations to a new low.

A última mudança mergulha as relações bilaterais para uma nova queda.