

COLOMBIA: IN FOCUS

A WEEKLY UPDATE FROM THE EMBASSY OF COLOMBIA

Colombia Celebrates 202 Years of Independence

July 24, 2012

On **July 20**, Colombians all over the world celebrated the 202nd anniversary of Colombia's independence from Spain. Colombian-Americans celebrated during festivities, which took place in cities across the United States, including Boston, Miami, New Jersey, New York, Los Angeles and Washington, DC, among others.

Many Colombian-Americans in the Washington, DC metropolitan area attended an Independence Day celebration at the Organization of American States (OAS). The event, which was organized by the Colombian Embassy, the Colombian Mission to the OAS and the Consulate of Colombia in Washington, was held in the OAS's Hall of the Americas.

President Santos Addresses Colombians Abroad, Highlights Achievements

During the celebration in Washington and others organized with the support of Colombian consulates, attendees watched a [recorded message from Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos](#), in which he highlighted the nation's progress and its steady movement in the right direction. President Santos also highlighted the successes of his Administration over the past two years since winning the presidency in June 2010, including reducing the Colombian unemployment rate, improving security and securing free trade agreements with the United States and Canada, among other accomplishments.



Photo: Members of the Colombian military and police force pay honor to the flag of Colombia, during the celebration in Washington, DC.



Photo: Colombian-Americans in the DC area celebrate at the OAS.

What's News

Secretary Clinton Highlights U.S.-Colombia Partnership in Independence Day Statement

In a statement delivered on behalf of President Obama and the U.S. Government, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton congratulated the people of Colombia and highlighted the strength of U.S.-Colombia relations.

"... This year in Cartagena, I was able to experience firsthand the hospitality of the Colombian people and join Colombia as it hosted the Sixth Summit of the Americas and reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the region. This year also marked a historic year in U.S.-Colombia relations as we reinforced our already strong relationship with the May 15 entry into force of the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement. Colombia has been a champion of democracy and freedom throughout the hemisphere. As you celebrate this special day with family, friends and loved ones, know that the United States stands with you as a partner and friend."

Click [here](#) to read Secretary Clinton's full statement.

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