

# **U.S. Lethal Strikes on Suspected Drug Traffickers, Operation Southern Spear, and Operation Absolute Resolve: “In Focus” Syllabus Supplements (2025-2026)**

August 2026

*Overview: This supplement includes materials that focus on the legal, strategic, and human rights dimensions of U.S. lethal strikes on suspected drug-trafficking vessels as well as the U.S. military operation to capture former Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro (last updated August 2026; additional relevant analysis may also have been published since then, available on Just Security’s [website](#)). As with all articles on Just Security, the articles represent the views of the individual authors.*

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### B. International Humanitarian Law / Law of Armed Conflict / Law of State Responsibility

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11. See also Schmitt, *Striking Drug Cartels Under the Jus ad Bellum and Law of Armed Conflict*, listed above in Section I.A

## C. Accountability and Remedies

1. Chimène Keitner, [Head of State Immunity and Maduro on Trial](#) (January 2026)
2. Daniel Maurer, [How to Choose Which Military Members to Hold Accountable for Illegal Boat Strikes](#) (July 2026)
3. Tracey Begley, Benjamin R. Farley and Sarah Harrison, [International Accountability for U.S. Crimes in the Caribbean and Pacific](#) (May 2026)
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## E. Analysis and Opinions

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2. Marty Lederman, [\*The Many Ways in Which the September 2 Caribbean Strike was Unlawful ... and the Grave Line the Military Has Crossed\*](#) (September 2025)
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10. Marty Lederman, [Legal Flaws in the Trump Administration's Notice to Congress on "Armed Conflict" with Drug Cartels](#) (October 2025)
11. Stephen R. Weissman, [Will the Intelligence Committees Meet the Challenge of CIA Covert Action in Venezuela?](#) (October 2025)
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