

# French police arrest 473 as ‘Block Everything’ sweeps France

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
September 11, 2025



A protester holds a placard that reads, “let’s tax the rich,” during a rally of the “Block Everything” movement in Strasbourg, eastern France, Sept. 10.

French police reported 473 arrests by 5 p.m. as over 250,000 protesters (number provided by the CGT labor federation) rallied nationwide on Sept. 10.

In the Paris region alone, 203 people were arrested as authorities deployed 6,000

officers; nationwide, 80,000 police were mobilized as nearly a thousand actions took place.

Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu, a Macron loyalist and former defense minister, took office after François Bayrou's government collapsed on Sept. 8, toppled by a no-confidence vote over a 2026 budget plan featuring more than \$50 billion in cuts, the scrapping of two national holidays, a 2026 pension freeze, and reduced health care spending.

### **Transport and city centers snarled**

Protesters targeted transport arteries across the map. They blocked the Toulouse-Auch rail line and tried to storm tracks at Paris' Gare du Nord, where police fired tear gas as hundreds chanted "Step down, Macron."

Ring roads and major highways in Paris, Lyon, Marseille, and Rennes saw rolling blockages. Parts of central Paris were closed to traffic. In the east of the capital, protesters set garbage bins ablaze and attempted to halt highway traffic, while students blocked entry to a local high school. Graffiti hit luxury storefronts, including a Jean Paul Gaultier shop tagged: "People are hungry, Death to luxury!"

### **Austerity backlash fuels anger**

Endorsed by Jean-Luc Mélenchon, leader of the left-wing France Unbowed party, the "Block Everything" strategy was driven on the ground by unions like SUD-Rail and militant sectors of the CGT, who targeted strategic infrastructure like railways and oil refineries. France's more moderate union federation, CFDT, mobilized only for the marches.

The "Block Everything" actions had wide working-class support.

"This is the frustration we've felt all summer — fed up and angry since the Bayrou

budget plan,” said Eric Challal of SUD Rail-Paris. “We’re working hard and barely staying afloat. Being told the deficit is our fault is unbearable.”

Crowds massed at Place de la République, cordoned off by police, for one of the day’s biggest gatherings. An 18-year-old student compared today’s politics to the grievances of 1789: “The government doesn’t listen to us and acts as it pleases.”

Rachid, a 56-year-old contractor draped in Lebanese, Palestinian, and Algerian flags, blasted the wealth divide since 2017: “There’s money in this country, but it’s badly distributed. The same people get richer and richer while ordinary citizens can’t make it to the end of the month.”

### **Echoes of the Yellow Vests**

Like the 2018 Yellow Vests, “Block Everything” is nonpartisan, organized outside party structures, and powered by social media. With unions calling fresh strikes for Sept. 18, protesters are already gearing up for the next round.



# **In Los Angeles, as militarized, racist federal agents attack: The significance of Japan's Kantō Massacre**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
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On Sept. 1, 1923, a magnitude 7.9 earthquake struck the Kanto region of Japan, claiming the lives of more than 105,000. Conveniently concealed behind the death toll of the Great Kantō Earthquake was the massacre of over 6,000 Koreans and more than 800 Chinese, based solely on their ethnicity.

In the aftermath of the quake, false rumors were spread by the Japanese authorities that the Koreans were poisoning wells and rioting, which incited civilian vigilantes to take up arms and slaughter anyone who did not look or sound Japanese.

The large-scale killing spree ravaged Tokyo and the surrounding region and lasted for three weeks, encouraged and aided by the Japanese military and police. A few hundred arrests were made in connection with the massacre, but most, if not all, were given only light sentences. The Japanese government has denied or significantly minimized the massacre to this day.

## **The Empire of Japan**

Leading up to the state-sanctioned mass killing known as the Kantō Massacre, Japan had been steadily paving the way toward further nationalism and militarism. The colonial expansion of the Empire of Japan began in 1895 with Japan's victory over the Chinese Qing dynasty in the first Sino-Japanese War.

Japan continued to assert itself as a military power through the Russo-Japanese War and World War I, colonizing Taiwan (1895) and Korea (1910) in the process. Thus, in 1923, many Korean and Chinese laborers lived throughout the Kantō region; the Empire of Japan regarded them as disposable labor and enslaved them under heinous living and working conditions.

One could argue that, by the time the quake happened, a sense of racial superiority had been firmly implanted into the minds of the Japanese populace, giving them the moral and racial justification to oppress and even kill Koreans and Chinese, whom they saw as inherently criminal and a threat to the Japanese people.

### **International solidarity commemorations**

In Los Angeles and Vancouver, international solidarity commemorations were held with two main objectives: to condemn efforts by the Japanese government and some Japanese immigrant communities to deny the history of the Kantō Massacre, and to raise the voice of active opposition to Japan's increasing militarization in East Asia.

The actions were initiated by the Nikkei Decolonization Tour, a network of diasporic Nikkei grassroots organizers with diverse backgrounds, including people of Japanese ancestry, as well as the diaspora of all subjects of the Japanese Empire and their descendants in Japan today.

As such, NDT rejects nostalgic identifications with imperialist Japanese history, but instead strives to strengthen solidarity with those oppressed by Japan and their continued struggle for truth and justice.

The Kantō Massacre commemoration and teach-in in Los Angeles was co-hosted by J-TOWN Action とSolidarity (JAS) and Trans Rescue Action (TRA), and endorsed by Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice. It was held on Aug. 30 in Little Tokyo, the site of a highly militarized, racist, and unlawful raid staged by federal agents a little

more than two weeks ago.

Currently, in the name of ridding the streets of “criminal aliens,” masked kidnappers are committing daily acts of terrorism against communities of color. The racially motivated nature of the state violence, with the participation of civilian vigilantes, made the act of commemorating, remembering, and denouncing the historical event in Japan 102 years ago all the more significant and urgent.

The crowd that took part in the commemoration was people who gathered for JAS’s weekly mutual aid program, consisting largely of immigrants, descendants of immigrants, people of color, the unhoused, and queer / trans people who are often the target of state violence and dehumanization. The convergence of marginalized groups and struggles at the action in L.A. mirrored the social climate of Japan in 1923 as well.

In the 1920s, Japan was experiencing a social awakening of sorts. Certainly not the entire nation, but the people’s movement who were pushing back against the surging nationalism, militarism, and imperialism that ruthlessly oppressed and impoverished those who were at the bottom of the social ladder.

After World War I ended, Japan went into a post-war recession; people were struggling. In 1919, inspired by the March First Movement (a series of protests against Japanese colonial rule throughout Korea and internationally by the Korean diaspora beginning on March 1, 1919), Korean laborers in Japan started to organize labor strikes with increased frequency.

1922 saw the first human rights declaration in Japan published by Suiheisha (the Levelers Association), a group of undercaste activists who challenged discrimination and demanded emancipation. Also in 1922, a Chinese student activist by the name of Wang Xitian founded the Mutual Aid Association of Chinese Workers in Japan to improve Chinese migrant workers’ lives.

Wang himself was born into an affluent family; however, he became a tireless advocate for workers' rights, blurring the socioeconomic borders between students (the elite) and migrant workers, and uniting the two. In his social circles were also Japanese socialists, anarchists, and labor organizers.

Intersectional organizing work, such as Wang's, was seen as a threat to the stability of the Empire and had to be exterminated. On Sept. 9, 1923, Wang Xitian, concerned about the condition of workers, traveled to Oshima-machi (a district in Tokyo highly populated with Chinese migrant workers at the time) on a bicycle and never returned. He was abducted and assassinated by the Japanese police on Sept. 12.

In the midst of mind-numbing violence that's being launched against our communities, if hope can be found, it is in the people gathering our forces and fighting back. There is nothing more threatening to the state than all of us marginalized and oppressed people recognizing our rights and reclaiming our power. That is why we are seeing the attacks on our communities increasing in scale and cruelty every day. They want us to be paralyzed with fear, give up hope, crawl up in the corner and / or die. The persecution may grow more brutal, but may we continue to stand firmly by and for each other. "We protect us."



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# Indonesia: Responding to the demonstration on August 28 and violent and brutal actions by police

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
September 11, 2025

**Statement by Gabungan Serikat Buruh Indonesia (GSBI) [the Federation of Indonesian Labor Unions]**

**Responding to the Demonstration on August 28, 2025 and Violent and Brutal Actions by Police  
Democracy Greetings!**

Gabungan Serikat Buruh Indonesia (GSBI) strongly condemns the brutal actions, repression, and arrests carried out by police against demonstrators in front of the DPR-RI building in Jakarta on August 28, 2025. The police's decision to direct a Brimob (police) tactical vehicle into the midst of the demonstrators, which crushed and killed a platform driver named Affan Kurniawan (21 years old). This incident is clear evidence of the brutality and barbarity of the authorities in handling every



demonstration and public outcry. And this is yet another time the government has shown its fascist side, choosing to harm its own people to serve elite interests, rather than listen to and meet their demands.

Affan's death was not a mere incident or the work of "individuals," but rather part of the state's repression of its own people. From cities to villages, those defending their rights have consistently faced batons, tear gas, guns, bullets, armoured vehicles, arrests and imprisonment, and even loss of life.

This is not the first time that violence has led to killings by authorities during demonstrations. According to YLBHI (Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation) records, 55 people died in the past year (July 2024-June 2025), including 10 deaths from torture, 37 from extrajudicial killings, and 8 from mistaken arrest.

Meanwhile, the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) recorded 739 cases of violence by authorities against demonstrators, farmers, indigenous peoples, and labourers between 2019 and 2023. According to the Agrarian Reform Consortium (KPA), more than 2,300 agrarian conflicts occurred between 2015 and 2023, with the disputed land area reaching over 5 million hectares. Data from the Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy (ELSAM) shows that since 2020, more than 400 activists have been arrested, intimidated, or criminalized.

However, GSBH believes the actual number of victims is even greater. The constitutional mandate that assigns the police and military (TNI) to protect the people has been thrown away.

The claim that Indonesia is one of the largest "democracies" in the world seems to be just a figment of the imagination. In fact, the quality and practice of Indonesian democracy has continued to decline (de-democracy), especially since the 10 years of the Jokowi era.

Restrictions on freedom of expression and opinion have fuelled violence. Over the past six years, data shows that two to three people are victims of state-led violence perpetrated by the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) and the Indonesian National Police (Polri). This confirms the official release of the Early Warning Project, an initiative run by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington, DC, which ranked Indonesia as the 14th country in the world at risk of committing mass murder of its citizens.

## **The People Are Getting Poorer, the Rulers Are Getting Richer.**

From the time of Suharto's leadership until today, Indonesia has fallen into the clutches of a global monopoly capitalist system, or imperialism. Indonesia has been treated purely as a supporting country for the success of the superpowers, especially those in the G7: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, and Italy. Indonesia functions only as a provider of raw materials, an abundant source of cheap labour (both domestic and international), and a market for foreign-made products. The state is no longer a representative of the people but a profit-making machine tasked with smoothing out policies that benefit a small elite.

World Bank data (2024) shows that the richest 1% of Indonesians control 50% of the nation's wealth, and nearly 195 million Indonesians live below the poverty line. At the same time, the majority of the population is being strangled by detrimental policies, including rising prices of basic necessities; a 12% increase in VAT; the removal of subsidies for energy, food, education, and health; an increase in the Land and Building Tax (PBB), and much more. Nearly all natural resources and public services have been privatized.

The gap between the rich and the poor in Indonesia is getting wider, more severe and more obvious. The Central Statistics Agency (BPS) announced Indonesia's Gini ratio at 0.379 in March 2024, and 0.381 in September 2024. In a study by the Centre of Economic and Law Studies (Celios), titled "Indonesia's Economic Inequality Report 2024: Jet Planes for the Rich, Bicycles for the Poor," the Centre found that the wealth of the 50 richest people in Indonesia is equivalent to the wealth of 50 million Indonesians. The wealth tax on the top 50 billionaires in Indonesia is equivalent to 2.45 percent of the 2024 Indonesian State Budget (APBN). Meanwhile, various policies were issued, one of which was Law - The Omnibus Law- on Job Creation, was legalized as a tool to serve, facilitate business efficiency, and facilitate foreign investment, comprador entrepreneurs, and big landowners. It also provides forgiveness for the crimes of big business owners and landlords who have plundered natural resources and oppressed and exploited cheap labour. It also ensures that low wages, contract work, outsourcing, and more flexible labour flows smoothly. Land, rice paddies, fields, and forests are being displaced for large-scale investment and

national projects. By 2023, 60% of nickel mines will be controlled by foreign companies, primarily China, while thousands of indigenous villages will lose their land to palm oil and smelter expansion. What remains for the people? Poverty, hunger, and underdevelopment.

### **Officials enrich themselves from public money.**

The state budget, which should be an instrument for improving the people's welfare, has instead become a breeding ground for corruption, exploited by officials for personal enrichment. In addition to their salaries, every official, especially high-ranking officials, receives various allowances and benefits. The monthly income of central officials can reach hundreds of millions of rupiah. These central officials are even exempt from paying taxes.

This reality clearly demonstrates that the Prabowo-Gibran regime is not much different from the Jokowi era. Today, the state is not run to serve the interests of the people, but rather to accumulate wealth for officials and protect the interests of landlords, big businessmen, and foreign capitalists. All of this is done by pawning the nation's sovereignty, which was so painstakingly fought for by the heroes of independence.

### **Affan Kurniawan's Death: A Symbol of the Flame of Resistance**

Affan Kurniawan is not just a victim; he is a symbol of the millions of people who are oppressed daily. Affan's blood is the most concrete evidence that this regime will not hesitate to sacrifice the lives of its people to defend its interests and its masters.

The death of Affan Kurniawan should not be seen as just an ordinary event. This must be a turning point for the people's struggle. If we remain silent, more and more victims will fall. But if we unite, the death of Affan and other victims will become the fire of struggle that burns the people's consciousness, expands the resistance, and forces the state to side with the people, with us, the workers.

GSBI stated that it stands and walks with the people, taking the stance that the people's actions and demonstrations defend and demand their democratic rights for genuine democracy, national sovereignty, a clean country free from collusion, corruption and nepotism, for the welfare and justice, that is currently continuing to occur and develop must be supported as widely as possible.

Therefore, at this moment, GSBI calls on all workers, labour unions, and all

oppressed people in Indonesia to build strength and close ranks. Let us rise together and raise our demands from all corners of Indonesia and even abroad, wherever Indonesian citizens may be.

1. Stop Repressive Actions, Terror, and Intimidation against the People Who Fight for Their Democratic Rights! Uphold Justice and Thoroughly Investigate the deaths of Affan Kurniawan and all victims of brutal violence by the authorities and other deceased, bring the perpetrators to justice, end the impunity of the authorities and provide a guarantee of a decent living (clothing, food, shelter, education, health, savings, employment, etc.) to all families of the deceased, and provided until an unspecified time limit.
2. The President of the Republic of Indonesia and the Chief of Police must be held accountable for the violence and brutality of the authorities, which resulted in the deaths of civilians. Stop Fascism! Remove the Chief of Police and implement total police reform: end its role as a tool of repression of power.
3. Fulfil all the people's demands. And immediately stop all forms of violence, arrests, intimidation, shootings, and criminalization against all elements of the people who defend and fight for their rights.
4. Release all demonstrators arrested and detained throughout Indonesia. Obstruction of demonstrations, intimidation, violence, arrests, and detention violate the people's constitutional right to express their opinions in public.
5. Cancel all tax increases and subsidy cuts that burden the people. Tax the rich, not the poor.
6. Cancel the salary and allowance increases for members of the Indonesian House of Representatives. Dismiss all government officials and members of the House of Representatives who insult and demean the people.
7. Immediately pass and enforce the Asset Forfeiture Act.
8. Repeal the omnibus law on Job Creation, the National Strategic Projects (PSN), the Mineral and Coal Mining Law, and large-scale mining and

- plantation expansion. Immediately enact and ratify a new Employment Law.
9. Repeal the new TNI Law, return the TNI to the barracks!
  10. Review all national and international cooperation in the economic, political and military fields that is detrimental to the people, results in dependency and mortgages the nation's sovereignty.

Let us strengthen unity and solidarity against repression, seize democracy and realize the people's welfare.

Long live the people's struggle!!

Long live the struggle of the Indonesian working class!!

Jakarta, August 29, 2025

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(DPP. GSBI)

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# France: Unité CGT says ‘Block everything!’ on Sept. 10

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
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*In this [translated article](#), Unité CGT — the left wing of France’s General Confederation of Labour (CGT) — has issued a call to action. Representing a significant portion of the CGT’s industry federations and departmental unions, the Unité CGT urges workers and their organizations to adopt the slogan “Bloquons tout!” (“Block everything!”) and paralyze France on Sept. 10. The strategy advocates for broadening the mobilization to include factory occupations and a general strike.*

A new cycle of class warfare is opening this September. The date of Sept. 10, announced back in July for a “total blockade” of the country, is rallying a vast number of grievances. In reality, this mobilization echoes the powerful Yellow Vest movement of 2018 and the social mobilizations against the pension reforms.

Two years after the abject failure of the inter-union coalition’s strategy in 2023, this season of social unrest is bringing together different segments of the working world

in a single movement.

Already, thousands of workers in the electrical and gas industries have been on a renewable strike since Sept. 2. This massive, offensive strike for wages and fair prices could be the engine that gives strength and confidence to all workers. Even better, this strike aims to coincide with Sept. 10, which could mark a new stage in the spread of strikes.

“We won’t take it anymore”: the 2026 budget proposal, a monstrously anti-social measure, was the last straw for many. The list of planned measures is of shocking violence against our social gains, our wages, and our working conditions: elimination of 2 public holidays, freezing retirement pensions and social benefits, de-listing medications from reimbursement, revision of long-term illness status, bleeding funding for local governments and thus our Public Services, attacks on labor law and unemployment insurance. ...

The Prime Minister is expected to fall on Sept. 8, the date of a confidence vote in Parliament. It doesn’t matter if this government falls; it doesn’t matter if the President appoints a new Prime Minister from the Socialist Party, the right, or the far right, or declares a new dissolution of the National Assembly.

The time is for class struggle: let’s change the playing field, desert the bosses’ and institutional calendars, let’s make events overflow their course, let’s ignite an atmosphere of social uprising everywhere against those who are butchering our lives.

Let’s anchor the strikes in the workplaces, let’s occupy our worksites, let’s block the economy! For France is in a regime crisis: even more, after 10 years of Macron, legitimate resentment is exploding against the political and economic elites who are pillaging the country and exploiting the workers: “Those at the top can’t govern anymore and those at the bottom won’t take it anymore.” Incidentally, the best



antidote against the far-right is the struggle of workers, side by side in the class war against the common enemy.

Forward to block everything through the unity of the workers' camp, by spreading strikes, offensive actions, and workplace occupations! Forward to make the social movement overflow all bounds until final victory!

Forward to put an end to the status quo, institutionalism, and capitalism and its world of exploitation, misery, famine, genocide, and horrors!

End of the world, end of the month: same fight!

[This slogan — “Fin du monde, fin du mois, même combat” — from the gilets jaunes movement is saying “Climate collapse or paycheck shortfall — it’s the same struggle.”]



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## **U.S.-backed Syrian government is**

# rebranded Al-Qaeda, kicks out Palestinian groups

written by Struggle - La Lucha

September 11, 2025

Earlier this year, the new government of Syria – now under the rule of a rebranded Al-Qaeda sect known as Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham – announced that it would expel all individuals affiliated with Palestinian resistance organizations.

Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa and his government specifically targeted the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and Palestine Islamic Jihad (PIJ). Both of these organizations have active resistance fighters inside Gaza. More broadly, these organizations have played a crucial role in organizing international outcry against the U.S.-Israel genocide.

Nonetheless, President al-Sharaa and HTS have made it clear that, well, they just don't care. Since taking power in January of this year, the HTS government has taken extreme and rapid steps to attack Axis of Resistance institutions in Syria. Previously, the Syrian Arab Republic served as a sanctuary for anti-Zionist Palestinian political groups.

These new anti-Palestine policies are already taking hold. As of Aug. 25, the Egyptian government confirmed that it had approved resident visas for Ziad Nakhleh, Secretary-General of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and Jamil Mazhar, Deputy Secretary-General of the PFLP.

Naji is 79 years old and has lived in Syria since the Nakba forced his family to flee Bethlehem in 1948, 77 years ago. He now has to move across a gulf to a different country, even farther from his ancestral home.

The U.S. wants the world to believe that the end of the Assad government in Syria means a new era of democracy and freedom. Where is the democracy in undermining people who would organize against genocide? Where is the freedom in expelling liberation fighters who have spent most of their lives in Syria?

Once again, this new Syrian “democracy” demonstrates that it isn’t a democracy at all, but a proxy dictatorship for Western imperialists who want Palestine and the entire Axis of Resistance completely isolated.



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## **Post-Morales era: Bolivia’s 20-year MAS cycle ends, rightward shift begins**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
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*No other country in Latin America has as intense a way of doing politics as Bolivia. The official end of a 20-year political cycle, which began last Sunday, will soon enough prove this once again.*

The process led by the Movement Towards Socialism (MAS) goes back long before its 20 years in power. Under the leadership of coca growers' union leader Evo Morales, it can be seen as the most successful grassroots political alliance and social movement instrument of 21st-century Latin America — at least so far.

That's the reign that ended on August 17. The indigenous-farmer-union alliance that ruled the Plurinational State of Bolivia— as the country came to be officially known under the Constitution that rewrote Bolivia's social contract in 2009—met its final stage of collapse with an astounding electoral defeat.

Although dramatic, the intoxicating mix of economic hardship and blunders,

infighting, and political paralysis—hitting hard at the entire political process and policymaking—had already been a harbinger of this electoral outcome.

## **What numbers tell**

We still have to wait until October 19 to see whether Jorge “Tuto” Quiroga or Rodrigo Paz Pereira will become Bolivia’s new President. Either way, it will mark a sharp political shift to the right for the first time in 20 years—discounting the 11-month dictatorship that emerged after the November 2019 coup.

Quiroga is a well-known figure in establishment, comprador-elite Latin American politics. The IBM executive and U.S.-trained politician has occupied all the classic seats to fit the bill: IMF, World Bank, and so on.

He is currently part of the activist former presidents meddling in every Latin American government that didn’t go Washington’s way, particularly through the Madrid Club—a sort of second-hand regional Davos for presidential has-beens.

A U.S.-loyal, low-budget hemispheric pressure group with no other purpose.

Rodrigo Paz Pereira made an unexpected breakthrough, emerging as the main front-runner. Hailing from a political family—the son and nephew of two former presidents—and a Senator with the Christian Democrat Party, Paz Pereira built his platform and profile on his tenure as mayor of the southern city of Tarija before becoming a senator, presenting himself as a successful manager.

Despite his progressive family background, a brand of middle-class populism allowed him to surpass Quiroga and the favored candidate, Samuel Doria, another old face also opposed to MAS.

Paz Pereira currently leads with 32.08 percent of the votes, followed by Quiroga with 26.94% and Doria with 19.93%.

It is only in fourth place that the first candidate from the left, Andrónico Rodríguez, appears with a meager 8.15%. MAS' "official" candidate and Interior Minister, Eduardo del Castillo, fared even worse, finishing sixth with a mere 3.2%, behind yet another old face in Bolivian politics.

Spoiled votes appear to have reached 19.2%, making them effectively the third-largest bloc in the election—another key element. In over 20 years of electoral history, spoiled ballots had ranged between 2% and 3%. The reason for the unprecedented jump was Evo Morales' call to spoil ballots as a form of protest.

Barred from running, Morales proved—at significant cost, though not entirely of his own making—to remain the most popular political leader on the left, with spoiled ballots concentrated mostly in rural and indigenous areas, especially in Cochabamba, Morales' stronghold.

This picture, with no one reaching the 50% threshold to win in the first round, depicts the current political fragmentation across the spectrum, underscored by the dramatically poor performance and deep divisions within the MAS coalition—highlighting structural and willful political decisions that proved profoundly self-destructive.

### **The tragic essence**

Until 2019, Bolivia had the fastest-growing economy in the entire hemisphere. The process was astounding.

By re-nationalizing strategic assets like hydrocarbons, along with other mineral and agricultural commodities, Bolivia grew at an average of 4.9% for 13 years, with strong public investment in roads and electrification, creating a comprehensive welfare network, and providing subsidies for education, fuel, and the elderly.

A wealth and land distribution policy reduced poverty (from 60% in 2005 to 35% in

2019, with extreme poverty dropping from 38% to 15%), bringing social and economic stability (the longest period in the nation's history) and expanding the middle class to 58%.

Political successes notwithstanding, and always facing powerful and historically violent opposition groups closely tied to the U.S., Israel, drug cartels, and an actual hardcore neofascist tradition, none of these landmarks prevented a successful coup d'état in late November 2019.

In the wake of counting the votes that would have given Morales a first-round victory, unrest and fraud accusations emerged from the usual suspects.

An OAS report denouncing fraud enabled the final act of the insurrectionary process, which brought together a cabal of military leaders, Santa Cruz provincial elites—the most restive and hardcore opposition stronghold—Christian fundamentalists, and ever-opportunistic establishment figures. The MAS leadership was overwhelmed and ousted, forcing Evo Morales and his vice president to flee into exile in Mexico.

Nevertheless, the Morales government failed to recognize the warning signs already visible in the “color-coded” young, professional middle class that, on allegedly environmental grounds—based on misleading arguments during a year of extensive forest fires—mobilized.

Groomed by the NGO industrial complex, these groups and individuals set up a narrative of mismanagement and authoritarian tendencies by the Morales government—running for a “controversial” fourth term—that set the tone for the violent phase of November.

The 2019 coup in many ways resembled the one of 1980 and its immediate aftermath. Driven by an alliance of School of the Americas-trained military officers,

big rural landlords from the eastern provinces, a powerful drug lord, and a neofascist militia organized by Nazi fugitive Klaus Barbie, the García Meza coup—like the November one—unleashed terror and persecution as the final official act of the Condor years.

Just as in the 1980s, the dictatorship's international legitimacy was thin from the outset. With Senator Jeanine Añez as its mouthpiece, the unstable and chaotic cabal was unable to govern effectively, and the economy rapidly deteriorated.

In what can now be seen as the last powerful feat of the MAS cycle, Bolivia's return to democracy came through ballots in the general elections held on October 18. With Morales leading from exile, the movement designated Luis Arce, the former economy minister—widely associated with the successful policies—who won with 55% of the vote, making a spectacular democratic comeback.

But many cracks were already showing. A very early rift between Arce and Morales set the stage for further conflict, infighting, and confrontation. MAS fragmented into factions—and factions within factions—such as Rodríguez's candidacy vis-à-vis Evo, with the party splintering along what some describe as class lines.

The middle-class faction led by Arce and the grassroots campesino/indigenous faction led by Evo translated into mutual political blocking and sabotage at every level of the state. Evistas and Arcistas clashed in parliament, disrupting Arce's attempts to implement policies.

At the same time, the Arce faction banned Morales from politics through legal and political maneuvers. An acrid struggle led to deep divisions. (Ollie Vargas' account explains this in greater detail.)

Moreover, Morales' hubris also played a role—not only in his conflict with Arce but also within his own base—by positioning himself simultaneously as leader of both the



process and the government, blocking other viable options.

Neither Arce nor Morales built proper channels between them, and relations soured further. In a way, it resembles the Ecuadorian experience, with Lenín Moreno's about-face on Rafael Correa's political legacy and his alignment with the U.S.—though this final step, at least for now, has not been taken by Arce's faction.

Perhaps class divisions, to some extent, explain the political fragmentation, but they become insufficient once mixed with personal motivations, circumstances, and external players.

The 2019 coup had backing from the U.S., Israel, and European countries like Germany. Lithium interests—Bolivia holds the world's largest reserves—played a decisive role, underscored by Elon Musk's infamous "we coup whoever we want" tweet.

An allegedly leaked audio of Debra Hevia, the current U.S. head of mission in Bolivia, reportedly stated in 2023 that they had been working for a long time to bring "real change" to Bolivia by strengthening "allies, organizations, and collaborators"—especially youth, whom they called "agents of change."

For this scenario to succeed, she allegedly added, "Evo and Arce must relinquish power" in order to "close this chapter." Will we see clearer signs of this coming from either the Evo or Arce camp—or perhaps from Andrónico?

In any case, along with political deterioration, the economy went downhill, with the classic features of depleted foreign reserves, inflation, and a parallel currency market. This poisonous combination led to hardship and struggles, driving the majority into political disenfranchisement and forcing them to focus primarily on their own subsistence.

## **What 's next for Bolivia?**

Be it Spanish-born Paz Pereira or long-time U.S. resident Quiroga, some things are already certain. Landmark sociopolitical achievements enshrined in the Constitution will most likely undergo a—probably violent—rollback process.

This will certainly include Bolivia's current foreign policy stance. A fierce critic of Israel—La Paz joined South Africa's genocide case at the ICJ—and a defender of Palestinian rights; a key, dynamic Global South player, including through the ALBA alliance in the region, and recently a BRICS partner, all of this will be reversed, with realignment toward Westocratic structures once again, most likely taking an aggressive stance against non-U.S.-aligned countries in the region.

The same can be expected regarding domestic conflict. After two decades of indigenous, grassroots leadership, Bolivia will be pulled back to its previous setting. Late neoliberal reforms must be expected, along with further criminalization of everything surrounding Morales' followers in the Tropic region and the Andes, including many forms of political and legal revanchism. Will actors from the Arce camp suffer the same fate?

On the other hand, Bolivia's longer historical trend is not only one of upheaval but also of efficient and feisty organizing. No other country in the region has gone through so many confrontations ending in overthrows and government replacements, in a region historically plagued by violent coups and every textbook regime-change maneuver. After all, Latin America has long been a testing ground in this field.

So, overall, the main lines up to this point, sadly, are not hard to predict, at least in their basic features.

Bolivia lies at the geographical heart of South America—but also its spiritual one. A creation of Liberator Simón Bolívar in 1826, its uneven composition in many ways represents South America's complex mosaic.

Ever a staple statement, this may also signal possible manifestations of highly effective resistance, if its instrument is able to withstand what is coming and endure another round of hardship and probable brutality. Very few nations have endured what Bolivia has and lived to tell the story.

One that, for sure, will once again prove both intense and extensive.

**Diego Sequera** is a writer and journalist based in Caracas, Venezuela.

Sources: [Press TV](#) and Radio Havana Cuba (RHC) / [Resumen Latinoamericano - English](#)



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# Los Angeles 2028 under the shadow of Uncle Sam

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
September 11, 2025



Los Angeles, the mecca of film and the entertainment industry, is preparing to write a new chapter in its Olympic history by becoming, in 2028, the third city in the world—after London and Paris—to host the Summer Games for the third time.

Under the glitz of Hollywood and the power of big corporate sponsors, the Californian city promises an unprecedented media spectacle. However, behind the glitz of the Olympic rings that will soon crown the iconic sign on the hill, a disturbing question lurks: **will Cuba, the small Caribbean island that has defied the longest blockade in history for decades, be able to participate in this sporting event?**

The collective memory still remembers the anti-communist spectacle orchestrated on the eve of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games by Reagan, the mediocre actor who became president of the United States, which culminated in the regrettable absence of the Soviet Union and several socialist nations, including Cuba.

The shadow of exclusion once again looms over Cuban athletes, who are recurring victims of a US immigration and sports policy that has escalated in recent years to levels of intolerable absurdity. The recent cases of Cuban delegations being denied visas—including the embarrassing episode of the girls' softball team being prevented from competing in a qualifying tournament in Puerto Rico—are not mere “bureaucratic errors,” but pieces of a political framework designed to marginalize Cuba from the international stage.

The Cuban delegation that was supposed to participate in the Caribbean qualifying tournament for the Little League World Series for girls' softball, ages 9-10, was prevented from traveling to the venue due to the denial of visas for several of its members.

The US Embassy in Havana granted visas only to the 14 players, denying that right to the seven adults responsible for conducting the competitive process and ensuring the integrity of the girls, according to the Cuban Baseball and Softball Federation (FCBS). And this has not been an isolated incident.

The hypocrisy of the United States is evident when, while sprinkling its rhetoric with the colors of “inclusion” and “universal human rights,” it engages in practices that contradict those principles and flagrantly violates the Olympic Charter, which requires host countries to guarantee the participation of all nations without discrimination. How can we trust that Los Angeles 2028 will be a celebration of unity, peace, and friendship among the peoples of the world when the US government continues to use sports as a weapon of political pressure?

The silence of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in the face of these events completely undermines Olympic values. While acting with a heavy hand against other countries on geopolitical grounds, it looks the other way when its main sponsor, the United States, applies sports apartheid against Cuba and other countries. The question inevitably arises: **Where are the Olympic principles of**

## neutrality and fair play?

From its opulent headquarters in Lausanne Switzerland, the IOC maintains a silence that is not diplomatic, but political and deeply biased. While sanctioning Russian and Belarusian athletes with exclusion—even under a neutral flag—for the conflict in Ukraine, it has not issued a single condemnation when Washington denies visas to Cuban delegations, flagrantly violating the principle of universality enshrined in the Olympic Charter. **Worse yet, it remains silent on the Israeli genocide in Gaza.**

The hypocrisy reaches the extreme of allowing Israeli athletes to compete under their flag without restrictions. The underlying message is clear: the IOC does not punish war crimes, but those who are not aligned with the West. Meanwhile, it prefers to navigate the calm waters of corporate diplomacy, where million-dollar contracts with US sponsors take precedence over the rights of athletes from the global South.

If the IOC does not demand that the US respect the Olympic principles without restriction—as it does with other nations—Los Angeles 2028 will not be remembered as a Games of unity, but as the consecration of universal sport hijacked by geopolitical interests.

The anti-Cuban obsession of [Marco Rubio](#), who whispers into the ears of the current occupant of the Oval Office, has turned sport into yet another hostage of his hostile agenda. During the Donald Trump administration, this policy became more radical, disfiguring the Olympic spirit and transforming the symbol of unity into a mechanism of exclusion.

With three years on the horizon, the world is watching. Los Angeles 2028 will not only be the greatest celebration of sport, but also a mirror of its time. The legacy and spirit of Pierre de Coubertin will be put to the test, as will the foundations of Olympic ethics, in the face of the challenges of an era marked by extreme political

polarization. And Cuba, as it has had to so many times before, will have to face them with the same tenacity and fortitude with which its athletes face adversity and conquer podiums.

We can only hope that Los Angeles 2028 will not be hijacked by the spirit of ***“Make America Great Again,”*** in an emulation of the supremacist madness that marked Berlin 1936. Worse still, let us hope that anti-immigrant policies and the deep contempt they engender do not repeat the regrettable scenes of horror witnessed in Centennial Park during the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Source: [Cubadebate](#), translation [Resumen Latinoamericano - English](#)



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# Washington's escalating war on Venezuela: Narco myths and imperial designs

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
September 11, 2025

Since the election of Hugo Chávez in 1998 Washington has waged a relentless war against the Bolivarian revolution. The Trump administration continues to deploy political, economic and military measures aimed at the overthrow of Venezuela's government and the reversal of advances in regional independence and integration: the two pillars of the Bolivarian cause. At the present juncture, it is critically important to make no mistake about Washington's duplicitous policy towards the Maduro administration of simultaneous negotiation and intensifying aggression. This aggression is not a mere show to placate the Trump administration's hard line anti-Chavista allies in Miami; it is an imminent threat to Venezuela's national security and part of a strategy to recuperate U.S. domination of the Americas.

On June 12, 2024, newspapers astonishingly published Donald Trump's incredibly candid admission: "When I left, Venezuela was ready to collapse. [We would have taken all the oil.](#)" This is why it comes as no surprise when Miami-based Venezuelan opposition journalist Carla Angola comments that [Donald Trump is interested in having absolute control of Venezuela's oil](#) reserves. She adds that the opposition leader, Maria Corina Machado is promising the United States government absolute control of these natural resources, not because this radical sector of the Venezuelan opposition is interested in managing them, but rather in privatizing them.

### **Orchestrating Regime Change in Venezuela**

The threat to Venezuelan security is no exaggeration. Last week Venezuelan intelligence [discovered three kilograms of TNT planted in Caracas's Plaza de la Victoria](#), a location of significant public importance. Officials said the bomb, which was found near gas pipelines, could have caused catastrophic destruction and an incalculable loss of life. [Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello announced that a coordinated investigation](#) with several security agencies successfully dismantled this plot, revealing a sinister connection between far-right opposition elements and their international allies.



This terrorist plot cannot be written off as an isolated incident. Washington is pulling out all the stops to prepare public opinion for new acts of aggression by portraying President Nicolas Maduro, through U.S. corporate media, as a narcotrafficker with a price on his head.

The most recent and series of attacks against the Bolivarian Revolution began with a press release by the [U.S. Treasury Department](#) on July 25 of this year. Titled “Treasury Sanctions Venezuelan Cartel Headed by Maduro,” the release designated the so-called “Cartel of the Suns” as a terrorist entity and named President Maduro as its head. It further pointed to his alleged relationships with both the Tren de Aragua and the Sinaloa Cartel, and accused them of being “violent narco-terrorists.” A few days later President Donald Trump directed the Pentagon to prepare options for the possible use of [U.S. military force against drug cartels](#) designated as terrorist organizations authorizing military intervention in countries with drug trafficking. This came weeks after Secretary of State Marco Rubio publicly [accused Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro of being the head of the “Cartel of the Suns.”](#) In a further escalation, Rubio stated that the recent designation of the “Cartel of the Suns” as a “terrorist organization” [now provides a pretext for Washington to use military and intelligence tools against Maduro and his allies.](#)

All of these accusations sound very ominous, but there is no evidence for them. This narco-mythology is viewed by some political analysts as political cover for eventual attacks on not only Venezuela but also its regional allies like Nicaragua, Cuba, and Bolivia. For this reason Venezuelan security forces have issued strong statements of loyalty and defiance in the face of threats from the North. The Trump administration is doubling a reward to [\\$50 million](#) for the arrest of President Maduro, accusing him of being one of the world’s largest drug traffickers and working with cartels to flood the U.S. with fentanyl-laced cocaine. Historically, rewards of this magnitude for political leaders are rare. The first similar historical case was the reward for the apprehension of [Pancho Villa](#) after his raid on Columbus, New Mexico, on March 9,

1916. The reward for Pancho Villa was \$5,000, while a smaller reward of \$1,000 was offered for his lieutenants. More recently, the State Department formalized its “Rewards for Justice” program in 1984. Its first high-profile case was Manuel Noriega of Panama in 1989, accused of drug trafficking. The reward for Saddam Hussein in 2003 was \$25 million.

### **Drug trafficking ruse for U.S. intervention**

Washington demonstrates its contempt for the people of the Global South by treating their presidents as pawns, making accusations without any evidence, and imposing unilateral and illegal sanctions against those who resist imperial domination. This latest bizarre accusation should remind us of the allegations of the existence of weapons of mass destruction that served as an excuse to destroy Iraq, murder a million people, displace thousands from their homes, and deprive the nation of control over their natural resources.

The hypocrisy of the narco-mythology could not be more blatant. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has publicly supported former Colombian President Álvaro Uribe, particularly in the context of Uribe’s recent conviction for witness tampering and bribery. Rubio’s statements have drawn criticism from some who view it as interference in Colombia’s judicial system. Rubio’s defense of the former Colombian president is nonetheless troubling given that the same entity he leads designated Alvaro Uribe in 1991 as a [major drug trafficker](#), a member of the [cartel of Medellín](#) and a personal friend of Pablo Escobar. .

Colombian President Gustavo Petro affirmed that his Venezuelan counterpart, Nicolás Maduro, has backed the fight against drug trafficking on the border and that this “support has been forceful and must continue.” Petro warned last Sunday that a military operation against Venezuela without the approval of “brother countries” [would be an act of aggression against Latin America and the Caribbean](#).

There have also been a series of strong pronouncements from [Tegucigalpa](#), [Havana](#), [Managua](#), La Paz and the Caribbean countries against this designation that seeks to stigmatize the Bolivarian Revolution. After the U.S. attorney general accused the Venezuelan president of working with the Sinaloa Cartel, Mexican President [Claudia Sheinbaum](#) responded, “Mexico has no investigation under way and no proof that Maduro is linked to the Sinaloa Cartel.”

The statements by Secretary of State Rubio and Attorney General [Pamela Bondi](#) are extremely ridiculous, especially considering that the U.S. has been engaged in a “war on drugs” in Colombia for over 50 years. Since the 1990s, this war has resulted in over [450,000 deaths](#). Far from diminishing drug production, this war has seen Colombia become the world’s largest drug producer.

It is notable that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in its most comprehensive annual report on the subject, [the 2023 World Drug Report](#), states that Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia are the main cocaine producers. The same report identifies Australia, New Zealand, U.S., and Spain as the largest cocaine consumers worldwide. Curiously, Venezuela is not mentioned in any of these reports, neither as a producer nor as a major consumer.

At a press conference on August 9, Interior Minister Cabello reported that a foiled plot was sponsored by “narco-gangs” of the far-right Venezuelan opposition, in direct coordination with the U.S. government. The plot involved a criminal group from the Zulia region, led by Francisco Javier Linol, and a representative from Colombia’s Guajira Cartel. The authorities arrested José Daniel García, who confessed to being offered \$20,000 to carry out the attack. This confession led to the capture of 13 other individuals in Venezuela and an additional suspect in Colombia.

[Cabello said](#) “This proves the ties between narco-paramilitarism, the fascist far-right, and the U.S. government... It confirms the script we’ve long warned about.” This underscores the Venezuelan government’s perspective that these are not

isolated incidents but part of a larger, orchestrated plan. Two days later, in Monagas state, Cabello displayed a new, massive cache of explosives, including various types of explosives and electric detonators, found in boxes inside a warehouse.

## **History of U.S. attacks on the Bolivarian Revolution**

These actions are paralleled by diplomatic attacks. On August 6th of this year, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States (OAS), an organization from which Venezuela withdrew, launched a [virulent attack](#) on Venezuelan democracy. The Rapporteur on the Rights of Afro-Descendants, [Gloria Monique de Mees](#), accused the government of a systematic violation of human rights and the imprisonment of more than 900 political prisoners. This accusation, coming a day before the foiled attack and Rubio's militaristic rhetoric, adds another layer of coordinated pressure and raises questions about the political motivations behind such reports.

Since its inception in 1998, the Bolivarian Revolution has endured a large number of attacks. The first major blow was the 2002 coup d'état against the elected leader Hugo Chávez. This coup, which was widely celebrated by [the corporate media](#), was ultimately reversed thanks to the massive public support that saw people take to the streets, risking their lives to defend the constitution and demand Chávez's return to power. This was an unprecedented situation in Latin American history. The celebratory tone of the U.S. media at the time is revealing. For example, the *New York Times* initially welcomed his removal before being forced to retract its triumphant narrative just a day later when Chávez was reinstated. Shortly after, at the end of that year and beginning of 2003, a brutal oil strike occurred, causing losses of billions of dollars.

After President Nicolás Maduro assumed the presidency, the attacks evolved into multiple hybrid forms, including assassination attempts. One of the most audacious was a drone attack on August 4, 2018, during a live-streamed military event in

Caracas. [Two drones loaded with explosives](#) were detonated near the platform where Maduro was speaking. This event set a grim precedent as the first assassination attempt using commercial drones against a head of state.

In 2019, a virtually unknown congressman named [Juan Guaidó](#) swore himself in as interim president of Venezuela with the immediate support of the U.S. and the European community. This was followed in 2020 by another attack on Venezuelan democracy through a mercenary invasion known as “Operation Gideon.”

Following the 2024 presidential elections, [rioters \( comanditos \)](#), some with firearms, took to the streets to demand foreign intervention, leading to small skirmishes in Caracas. The attacks against the Bolivarian Revolution are innumerable, and what has been truly amazing is its capacity to resist and reinvent itself in the face of every challenge.

### **Current threat**

Despite this history of attacks, there is a belief among some supporters of the Bolivarian Revolution that relations with the U.S. are improving. They point to dialogue and the continued operation of Chevron in Venezuela as evidence of an evolving more cooperative relationship. The reality is that it is in Washington’s interest to maintain a foothold in the Venezuelan oil business.

The Trump administration, however, has so far carried out only symbolic actions at détente. Concrete actions would involve dismantling the sanctions and eliminating the bounty on the president and members of his cabinet. They are not going to eliminate them. They do not want Venezuela to stand on its own two feet. The talks underway between Washington and Caracas do not preclude an attack on the constitutional government of Venezuela..

The proximity and interconnectedness of these events—the terrorist plots in Caracas

and Maturín, the alleged links to Colombian paramilitary forces and the Venezuelan far-right, and the explicit threats from the United States—serve as a grave warning.

For Venezuela and its supporters, these incidents are not coincidental; they represent a coordinated effort to destabilize the nation through a combination of domestic terrorism, international political pressure, and the looming threat of military intervention. The government's successful dismantling of these plots has, for now, averted major disasters, but it also confirms the ongoing and complex nature of the threats facing the country.

The Bolivarian Revolution is a project of Latin American integration that represents the search for social justice; it is a project of liberation. Washington commits a huge injustice by deploying more than a [thousand unilateral and coercive measures against Venezuela](#), as these only bring hardship and death to the nation's most humble citizens.

It is essential to reflect on the fate of Augusto Sandino, who, after leading a 21-year guerrilla war against the U.S. military occupation of Nicaragua, successfully expelled foreign forces from his homeland. A revered revolutionary and emblem of anti-imperialist resistance, Sandino was tragically assassinated by the Somoza regime shortly after initiating a dialogue with representatives of the North American government, following a dinner at the national palace—a dinner with the enemy.

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Source: [Council on Hemispheric Affairs](#)



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# **Colombia's Petro backs Maduro, labels unapproved U.S. military ops 'aggression' in Latin America**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
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Through a message posted Sunday, August 10, on social media, Colombian President Gustavo Petro reaffirmed his strong support for Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. This followed recent threats from the Trump administration against the Venezuelan government, which is trying to link Maduro with drug trafficking, and the discovery by Bolivarian authorities of arsenals of weapons belonging to terrorist groups linked to the extreme right.

Petro emphatically declared that "Colombia and Venezuela are the same people, the same flag, the same history." He emphasized that "any military operation that is not approved by our sister countries is an aggression against Latin America and the Caribbean." This came after it was leaked to the US press that US President Donald Trump had authorized the use of armed forces against Latin American nations he

believed were linked to cartels.

Some analysts worry Petro's message might imply knowledge of US destabilization plans in the making. For that reason, Venezuelan security agencies have raised alert levels, especially after The New York Times report about an alleged "covered" US anti-narcotic operation in Latin America.

[embedpress]<https://x.com/petrogustavo/status/1954571651959435595>[/embedpress  
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Evoking the legacy of the independence war, the Colombian president made a resounding call: "'Freedom or death,' shouted [Simon] Bolívar, and the people rose up," highlighting the defense of Venezuelan sovereignty and self-determination.

The Colombian head of state also [shared](#) a message of the Venezuelan president's Presidential Honor Guard. In it, General Javier José Marcano Tabata, commander of the Presidential Honor Guard (GHP) and director general of military counterintelligence (DGCIM), declared loyalty to the government of Nicolás Maduro as the constitutional president of the nation. He affirmed that his forces are ready to defend the people of Venezuela when the president orders it.

President Petro also showed support for his Venezuelan counterpart regarding persecution by US authorities. He categorically denied accusations by US Attorney General Pam Bondi against Nicolás Maduro, in a repeat of a dirty trick that Donald Trump already attempted in 2020, during his previous term, against the Venezuelan constitutional president.

According to the Colombian president, the solution to Venezuela's political problems should not lie in violence nor in the persecution of its leaders, but rather in open dialogue that guarantees free and peaceful elections.

Along these lines, Petro [called](#) for a multinational and coordinated fight against drug



trafficking involving the governments of the US and Venezuela, but always without undermining national sovereignty.

The Colombian president publicly acknowledged the valuable support of Venezuela and President Maduro in the fight against this scourge, stating that “it has helped us decisively defeat drug trafficking along the border.”

Other Latin American leaders and governments have expressed support for the Venezuelan president. The governments of Cuba, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Honduras, and Iran also expressed their rejection of a possible US unilateral military operation, interpreting it as a form of political pressure rather than a genuine effort against organized crime.

([Telesur](#)) with Orinoco Tribune content

Translation: Orinoco Tribune



# The warmonger in chief

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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Donald Trump's claim of stopping "six wars" since January 2025 — boasting he's "averaging about a war a month" — is a farce meant to obscure his actual warmongering. Fact-checkers rate his sweeping declaration as "Mostly False."

The president's bombastic rhetoric reached its peak during his July 28 meeting with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer in Scotland, where he theatrically announced solving his "sixth" conflict with the Cambodia-Thailand ceasefire.

Trump cited several conflicts, including those between India and Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, Serbia and Kosovo, Egypt and Ethiopia, Israel and Iran, as well as Thailand and Cambodia.

Fact-checkers note that while Trump claims to have had a hand in temporary ceasefires, there are no permanent resolutions or direct U.S. intervention in any of the cited cases. Indian officials, including External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, have explicitly denied any U.S. involvement in the India-Pakistan ceasefire, stating there was "no third-party intervention."

And Trump has not ended the major U.S. wars in Gaza and Ukraine or the massive military buildup against China in the Pacific.

The farce is revealed in the reports that President Donald Trump and his supporters have coined a new nickname for him: the "[peacemaker-in-chief](#)," saying that he deserves a [Nobel Prize](#) for this.

**The U.S.-NATO proxy war expands**

President Trump said he will be meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Aug. 15 in Alaska. [NBC News](#) reports that Trump is considering inviting Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky to Alaska.

As background, the U.S.-NATO proxy war against Russia was triggered by the expansion of NATO surrounding Russia, with NATO's 2008 Bucharest pledge to incorporate Ukraine and Georgia.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, NATO expanded to nearly every country in Eastern Europe, aiming to lock in capitalist retrenchment in the formerly socialist countries.

The countries put under NATO include Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Albania, Romania, Bulgaria, Montenegro, and North Macedonia.

In 2008, NATO put the inclusion of Ukraine and Georgia, both bordering Russia, on the table.

The threatened expansion of NATO's military force to Ukraine, on the border of Russia, along with NATO naval operations in the Black Sea, were direct provocations aimed at Russia. As Leon Panetta — White House Chief of Staff under Bill Clinton, CIA Director and Secretary of Defense under Barack Obama — explained, the conflict in Ukraine is a NATO "proxy war" against Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's special military operation in Ukraine was primarily motivated by NATO's eastward expansion, a strategic concern that continues to shape Moscow's demands for Ukrainian neutrality.

In December 2021, Putin formally demanded that NATO roll back its presence in Eastern Europe, viewing the imperialist alliance's expansion as an existential threat. His draft treaty, presented to President Joe Biden, explicitly called for "pushing

NATO away from Russia's borders."

The "Special Military Operation" (SMO) in 2022 was aimed at denazification (neo-Nazis governing Ukraine) and demilitarization, as well as the protection of Donbass.

The Ukraine regime was imposed in February 2014 by a U.S.-backed coup that overthrew the elected government. The far-right regime represents Western imperialist interests, local oligarchs and neo-Nazis. The residents of Ukraine's Donetsk and Lugansk regions did not recognize the new regime. In April 2014, in the Donbass mining region, the autonomous Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics (DPR and LPR) were declared.

The Kiev regime, backed by U.S. military and political advisers, never recognized the autonomous republics and began military operations against Donetsk and Luhansk. Bombing and air raids targeted the civilian population, killing at least 15,000. Kiev massed an occupation army in the region. In February 2022, the DPR and LPR asked Russia for aid. That's when Russia began its Special Military Operation, sending troops into DPR and LPR to secure their territorial integrity.

What Russia has demanded is the demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine and the removal of NATO. That's nonnegotiable.

That's not what Trump is offering. Instead, Trump is expanding NATO around Russia into Armenia and Azerbaijan.

On Aug. 8, the White House hosted Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev for a U.S.-brokered agreement that will expand NATO's presence in the strategic South Caucasus region bordering Russia.

The two countries will withdraw from the Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). And the Russian news agency TASS reports that the U.S. privately offered both Armenia and Azerbaijan a path to NATO membership.

TASS also reports that U.S. troops may deploy to Armenia, ostensibly as peacekeepers or military advisers. The White House has not confirmed these claims, but if true, it would mirror U.S. tactics in Ukraine before the 2022 Russian special military operation.

## **Trump fuels Gaza genocide**

During his 2024 campaign, Trump promised to end the war in Gaza. On the campaign trail, Trump repeatedly expressed his intention to wrap up the conflict quickly and bring peace to the region. He notably said, “Get it over with and let’s get back to peace and stop killing people.”

On Aug. 9, [The Hill reported](#), President Trump gave a tacit green light for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to take over the Gaza Strip.

Actually, this fits with Trump’s long-term proposal to take over the Gaza Strip, “level the site” (i.e., total war), and transform it into a luxurious resort destination — explicitly likening it to a potential “Riviera of the Middle East.” That’s not peace for the people of Palestine, that’s total destruction and genocide.

Zionist-occupied Palestine — “Israel” — is an apartheid settler state, more like a U.S. colony. Joe Biden famously said in 1986: “If there were not an Israel, we’d have to invent one.”

Since its beginning, Israel has been a U.S.-funded and armed military outpost. Gen. Alexander Haig, Ronald Reagan’s Secretary of State, said in 1971 that Israel is “the largest American aircraft carrier in the world that cannot be sunk.”

## **Imperialist escalation against China**

The United States and its NATO allies appear determined to spark another devastating conflict, this time in the Taiwan Strait. Washington is arming Taiwan’s

military with advanced strike systems capable of hitting deep into the Chinese mainland, bringing most of China's largest cities within range of U.S.-made missiles.

The Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS- pronounced "Attack 'ems") is a long-range, precision-guided missile system developed by the United States. The arms deal includes 84 launch vehicles — both M270 tracked and M142 wheeled variants. The first batch of 11 launchers arrived in November 2024, with the first M142 units formally deployed this July. These weapons give the U.S. military new long-range strike capabilities, openly aimed at the People's Republic of China.

These mobile launchers fire compact missiles that can be deployed in large numbers, enabling the unleashing of hundreds of strikes on mainland targets. This would put major population centers such as Shanghai, Nanjing, Guangzhou, and Hong Kong directly in the crosshairs.

Washington's ATACMS systems have already been battle-tested in Ukraine, where they have been used — with U.S. and NATO satellite and targeting support — to hit Russian air defense sites, radars, ballistic missile launchers, and even civilian infrastructure such as energy pipelines as well as Russia's civilian population centers.

The island of Taiwan — internationally recognized by the UN and most of the world as part of China — has been a focal point of imperialist interference for over a century. First seized by Japan, then used by the United States after 1949 as a Cold War outpost, Taiwan has long been exploited as a lever to undermine Beijing's sovereignty. While the opposition Kuomintang acknowledges that Taiwan cannot survive without economic and political ties to the mainland, the ruling Democratic Progressive Party has aligned itself with Washington's imperialist agenda.

Washington's militarization of Taiwan goes beyond missiles. U.S. arms manufacturer Anduril Industries is supplying "Altius-600M" loitering munitions — AI-driven

kamikaze drones — under a new deal with Taiwan’s defense ministry. Anduril’s partnerships with other Pentagon-linked tech firms, including Palantir, are accelerating the integration of advanced U.S. military technology into Taiwan’s forces. Similar AI-based systems have already been used in Ukraine.

