

Spanish Elections

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With the rhetoric of Maduro and Delcy Rodríguez in Venezuela, Gustavo Petro in Colombia, the Castros in Cuba, and the Ortegas in Nicaragua as the backdrop, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez announced Monday, October 5, the dissolution of Parliament and the decision to move up the general elections to Sunday, November 29.

It was Sánchez's alliance with the Catalan independence movement that ultimately enabled him to form a government. Sánchez, along with other political leaders and members of his party, has also faced allegations and investigations relating to corruption in Spain and abroad. Critics have accused them of using political influence and international relationships to benefit personally from economic opportunities involving Cuba's tourism industry, Colombia's coffee and natural resources, and Venezuela's wealth.

Internationally, Sánchez has emerged as a strong ally of Iran. The Maduro-Delcy Rodríguez economic support network has been linked to Iran and Hezbollah-Hamas, which maintain close ties to today's Venezuelan dictatorship. Millions of euros from Spanish taxpayers have been used to pursue policies against Israel and the United States, rather than to protect Palestinians from Hamas or Iranians from Hezbollah.

Like other Latin American leftists, Sánchez has been buying time by promoting false conflicts with the United States. European media and columnists have embraced the Iranian-Hamas and authoritarian narratives promoted by Sánchez largely because they are framed as "anti-American" or "anti-Israel," while overlooking how the Spanish Socialist Party has maintained itself in power.

Venezuelan and Iranian money has bought powerful advocacy for Pedro Sánchez and for virtually anything that can deepen divisions within Spain and across Europe. More recently, confronted with this reality, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has publicly reaffirmed the Union's colonial-era

borders as the only way, in her view, to demonstrate a strong and united Europe. This is yet another political mistake for which Europeans could ultimately pay a very high price.

But the truth is that the money the Spanish Socialist Party is alleged to be collecting through networks in South America, Iran, Hamas, and other left-wing movements around the world makes Sánchez a formidable political adversary.

It is a subject that much of the Spanish media appears reluctant to address—and even more reluctant to investigate in depth. Instead, allegations of corruption within the Socialist Party are often treated as isolated or anecdotal, rather than being examined for what they might reveal about a broader and more systemic problem.

Illegal networks in Venezuela and Colombia have played a role in bringing Gustavo Petro to power while helping sustain Nicolás Maduro and Delcy Rodríguez, Sánchez's close friends and allies.

Yet in Spain and across Europe, the pursuit of "political stability" is too often invoked to justify silence—making silence itself the preferred response to allegations of corruption, illegality, and political misconduct.

The question is no longer simply whether Pedro Sánchez can remain in power. The deeper question is whether Spain and Europe are still willing to investigate where political power, international money, ideological alliances, and transnational networks intersect.

If political stability becomes an excuse for avoiding those questions, then stability itself becomes part of the problem.

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