

Colombia: Independent but not free

From Bolívar's Dream to Petro's Authoritarian Regime
by Fernando Mora¹

On July 20, 1810, the people of Santa Fe de Bogotá boldly rejected Spanish rule, igniting Colombia's struggle for independence. This was the start of a national movement driven by courage, sacrifice, and an unwavering demand for *freedom*.

A turning point came on August 7, 1819, when Simón Bolívar led patriot forces to a decisive victory at the Battle of Boyacá. The Spanish crown was defeated, and the path to independence for the Viceroyalty of New Granada—now Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Panama—was secured.

On June 19, 1822, Colombia gained international recognition when Manuel Torres, frail but resolute, became the first Latin American envoy received by a U.S. president. His mission affirmed Colombia's commitment to *liberty, justice, and republican ideals*.

Yet 215 years after that first uprising, *Colombia is not free*.

Under Gustavo Petro, the country is a de facto authoritarian regime. Elected to defend democratic values, Petro rules as a viceroy, relying on strategic alliances with criminal organizations and illegal armed groups. His so-called *Total Peace* initiative is not a peace process; it is a blatant *surrender* to violence and lawlessness.

Foreign *interference* has fractured Colombia's sovereignty. Authoritarian regimes like Venezuela and Iran, some European governments, and terrorist groups including Hezbollah and Hamas have infiltrated Colombia's highest offices. These actors seek full control of electoral processes through firms like Indra, dominate military aviation via figures such as Saab, and ruthlessly exploit Colombia's resources alongside Venezuela and its allies.

Meanwhile, Portugal claims to provide Colombia's passports but must covertly secure outsourcing agreements with France to do so. Colombia's sovereignty is under a *calculated* and relentless assault.

With backing from this *transnational alliance*, Petro and his allies—operating under the guise of the Total Peace agenda—are estimated to exert control over as much as 75% of Colombia's territory. More than six million Colombians now live under the *daily* threat of violence, extortion, and forced displacement, abandoned by a state that has forsaken its duty to protect.

A sophisticated propaganda apparatus sustains this regime. Since 2019, coordinated disinformation campaigns—driven by Maduro's digital networks and Petro's media operatives—have crafted a false narrative of democratic reform and social progress. This *illusion* conceals a harsher reality: Colombia is now governed by a regime aligned with anti-democratic forces and foreign interest's hostile to freedom.

While *violence* has long plagued Colombia due to partisan conflict and drug trafficking, under Petro, it has become a *central instrument* of governance. His administration *uses* violence to consolidate territorial control, suppress dissent, intimidate institutions, and instill fear.

Since assuming office in 2022, Petro has adopted hostile and divisive rhetoric—*explicitly* targeting political opponents, judicial institutions, and key groups, especially women journalists. Vice President Francia Márquez has intensified societal divisions with inflammatory discourse, actively weakening national unity and social cohesion.

Most alarmingly, Petro's government has *institutionalized violence as a political tool*. It has systematically undermined the rule of law, demonized judicial and electoral authorities, and fostered a *climate of fear and repression*. His

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administration is *defined* by antisemitic rhetoric, racial antagonism, and relentless verbal attacks against women, journalists, and dissenters.

During the 2022 campaign, Petro's team reportedly struck *secret deals* with illegal groups and criminal organizations *promising* them impunity, territorial autonomy, and continued freedom to conduct illicit activities. This so-called *Pacto de la Picota* became the *cornerstone* of the Total Peace initiative.

The consequences have been catastrophic. Organized crime has surged, and Colombia has, for the third consecutive year, become the world's top producer and trafficker of cocaine. Political violence has escalated.

Human rights organizations have recorded a spike in abuses, particularly in regions dominated by criminal groups aligned with the government. In 2024 alone, Colombia saw 200 massacres—many ignored by national media. Violence against women and children has reached *record highs*, and armed groups *increasingly* recruit minors with impunity.

Petro's open support for Maduro's regime, as well as for Hezbollah and Hamas, underscores his *allegiance* to authoritarian and violent actors. These alliances pose serious threats not only to Colombia's internal stability but also to regional and global security.

Together with the Historic Pact coalition and powerful criminal networks, Petro's administration has launched a *systematic* attack on Colombia's sovereignty. The state has ceded vast swaths of territory to illegal actors, refusing to confront them and plunging the nation into a *state of siege*.

This is not *failed* leadership—it is a *deliberate* strategy. Petro's government thrives on chaos, consolidating power by fostering fear while enabling criminal allies to operate unchecked.