

## Petro's Presidential Reelection

[www.360geopolitica.org](http://www.360geopolitica.org)

Presidential reelection is constitutionally prohibited in Colombia. Anyone who has held the presidency "in any capacity" may not be elected again. Since taking office in August 2022, President Petro has repeatedly shown disregard not only for this rule, but for the broader constitutional and legal order, including court rulings.

Upon taking office in 2022, President Petro used state resources and public institutions to sustain a permanent political campaign<sup>1</sup>. Beginning in 2025, he pursued it openly, intensifying attacks on the political opposition while aligning himself with illegal armed groups and organized crime through his "Total Peace" policy.

The consequences were laid bare in the legislative elections of 8 March 2026. Verified reports from 124 municipalities indicate such criminal groups allegedly delivered 2.4 million votes to Petro's party—53.9% securing nearly 23% of the seats in Congress for 2026–30. Petro's government and actors tied to his "Total Peace" policy may also have financed candidates from the Green Alliance, Conservative Party, and Liberal Party. These are not just numbers. They are a warning<sup>2</sup>.

Critics of President Gustavo Petro argue that "Total Peace" is not peace, but a strategy that grants criminal groups concessions, protection, and political legitimacy while violence persists. Under the policy, one actor was given special status and freedom of movement across Colombia, only to later be accused of ordering the assassination of Senator and presidential candidate Miguel Uribe Turbay. After the attack, he was allowed to flee to Venezuela before the government revoked his status. Not an oversight, critics argue, but a pattern.

Terror in the countryside. Murder of opposition figures. Civilian deaths. And, critics insist, political advantage extracted in return. They argue further: this is not peace. It is managed impunity. And they warn of consequence. Rising insecurity in opposition-leaning regions suppresses turnout. Fear replaces participation. Democracy weakens—not suddenly, but steadily. And in that weakening, they say, advantage shifts.

The "Total Peace" led by President Petro have, under the guise of dialogue, been involved in threats and intimidation and assassination against opposition figures, including Senator and presidential candidate Paloma Valencia, raising questions about President Petro's responsibility.

President Petro, Senator Iván Cepeda, and the Pacto Histórico are accused of calculated silence amid escalating political violence—not only against opponents, but against voters themselves. Petro's appointment of leading Gulf Clan Terrorist Group figures as "peace mediators" has deepened concerns over the normalization of criminal power in the name of peace<sup>3</sup>.

The accusation is not only action, but omission: critics point to Senator Iván Cepeda as the channel through which President Petro seeks to govern directly and advance his agenda.

In 2022, Gustavo Petro assumed the presidency amid allegations that his campaign was backed by forces operating outside the law and democratic legitimacy. His eldest son testified that narco-traffickers supported the campaign. His brother went further.

He alleged that more than one million votes were delivered through illegal armed groups and criminal networks—linked to "La Picota Pact."

Additional charges have since emerged. From Calarcá, commander of a FARC dissident faction and a figure involved in the "Total Peace" policy framework, came claims that funds linked to narco-trafficking networks entered Petro's campaign through Vice President Francia Márquez. Iván Mordisco, another dissident commander, released a video stating that he supported Petro's election.

Critics also point to allegations involving money associated with "Pitufo," described in some reports as the "king of smuggling." These concerns are further linked to findings by the National Electoral Council, which identified irregularities suggesting illicit or undeclared financing in campaign accounts.

From this, opponents draw a single conclusion. That Petro's rise was never politically pure. That from the beginning, it was shadowed-by criminal structures, unlawful money, contraband networks, and armed actors whose interests were not aligned with the Republic.

The pattern continues: President Gustavo Petro and his political proxy, Senator Iván Cepeda, now face the same accusations—repeating the methods that first brought them to power: alliances with criminal structures, tolerance of illicit actors under "Total Peace," and the use of fear and insecurity for electoral gain.

They claim up to 27,000 members of illegal armed groups and organized crime<sup>4</sup> have acted as operatives within the Petro-Cepeda campaign during the presidential race. A design, they say, first visible in the March 8 legislative elections.

Beyond Colombia, allegations extend further. Some European actors benefiting from multimillion-euro contracts with the Petro administration are accused of offering political backing to the Petro-Cepeda camp, driven not only by ideology but by economic strategic interests.

Critics also point to alleged links reaching into Venezuela under Chávez and Maduro, as well as Russia, Iran, and networks associated with Hezbollah and Hamas—arguing that these actors seek to preserve influence in Colombia amid declining leverage elsewhere.

The Petro-Cepeda campaign is accused of undermining democratic norms by weakening judicial independence, eroding Congress, and concentrating power under "the people," a term critics say refers to "Total Peace" allies—illegal armed groups and organized crime—while seeking to control Colombia by rewriting the Constitution<sup>5</sup>.

360° Geopolitica.

<sup>1</sup> "Never before had we seen such a blatant use of the public apparatus for electoral purposes", Germán Vargas Lleras, former Colombian Vice-president, *Semana*, 9 May 2026, p. 13  
<sup>2</sup> 20260501 Colombia Presidential Election; 20260313 Colombia Decides; 20260119 Illicit Power Structures in Colombia, [www.360geopolitica.org](http://www.360geopolitica.org)

<sup>3</sup> Status refused by the Attorney General Office on 12 May 2026.

<sup>4</sup> The same partners of president Petro who turn Colombia into the world's leading producer and exporter of cocaine, 20260303 Colombia # 1, [www.360geopolitica.org](http://www.360geopolitica.org)

<sup>5</sup> J. Mauricio Gaona, *La Constitución soy yo* (Editorial Crítica, 2026)