

## Petro-Maduro Alliance

by Fernando Mora<sup>1</sup>

The ties between Colombia's authoritarian leader, Gustavo Petro, and Venezuela's dictator, Nicolás Maduro, trace back to 1994. That year, Petro, through a so-called "foundation," invited then-Commander Hugo Chávez to Colombia and financed his visit. This marked the beginning of a deep, long-lasting ideological alliance. Since 1999, both Chávez and Maduro have openly claimed they supported Petro's political rise—financially and strategically.

These weren't offhand remarks. They were admissions of a coordinated, transnational project. For decades, Petro and Maduro have used hate speech, class resentment, and violence as political weapons. Racism, discrimination, personal attacks, and even physical aggression against opponents are not random outbursts—they're deliberate tactics designed to silence dissent.

Both leaders have spent millions in public funds crafting a global image as climate advocates, peace brokers, and intellectuals. But their words betray them.

Their rhetoric is riddled with contradictions, falsehoods, and distortions that reveal the truth behind the facade. Now, Petro increasingly edits and retransmits his speeches using artificial intelligence—an effort to conceal inconsistencies and reshape his image.

Since taking office, Petro has become Maduro's chief apologist, defending Venezuela's dictatorship both at home and on the world stage. He whitewashes human rights abuses under the guise of diplomacy, turning a blind eye to suffering in the name of political loyalty.

### A Transnational Criminal Alliance

Maduro, Chávez, and Petro have built their political power with the support of illegal armed groups and organized crime. All three have openly praised terrorist and guerrilla organizations such as the FARC-EP, FARC dissidents, the ELN, Hezbollah, and Hamas—portraying them as revolutionaries rather than violent actors.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Petro traveled to Havana under the pretext of "medical treatment." The visit served a political purpose: paying tribute to ELN leaders and reinforcing his ties to Maduro's inner circle. It was a symbolic act of loyalty, cloaked as illness.

Petro's rhetoric increasingly mirrors Maduro's, while key allies—like Senator Iván Cepeda—echo the words and tactics of Venezuelan strongmen such as Diosdado Cabello. These are not coincidences. They are calculated moves in a broader strategy to align Colombia's government with Venezuela's regime.

This alliance is also global. Petro and Maduro have expanded ties with Hezbollah, Hamas, Russia, Iran, Nicaragua, Cuba, Spain, and organized criminal networks throughout Latin America and Europe. Millions are funneled into digital propaganda campaigns—bot-driven networks that distort truth, silence opposition, and entrench authoritarian control.

Investigations by *Noticias Caracol* reveal that intelligence on Venezuelan dissidents in Colombia is being shared with Caracas. This coordination reportedly involves Venezuelan intelligence services and criminal groups like the ELN and el Clan del Golfo, both actively participating in Colombia's so-called "peace" process.

Petro has even suggested formalizing military intelligence cooperation with Maduro's regime. What is being sold as diplomacy and peace increasingly looks like a criminal pact—one that endangers Colombia's democracy and regional stability.

### Co-opting Human Rights and Silencing Dissent

The Petro government is systematically co-opting Colombia's human rights NGOs, compromising their independence through state funding and political appointments. Once vocal defenders of justice, many now remain silent on the persecution of Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado—2024 Sakharov Prize laureate and 2025 Nobel Peace Prize. Their refusal to condemn her persecution—or even acknowledge her global recognition—reveals a

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disturbing shift: from upholding universal rights to shielding authoritarian allies. This silence speaks volumes.

Since 2022, major human rights violations in both Colombia and Venezuela have gone largely unchallenged. Instead, NGOs aligned with the Petro-Maduro axis have redirected their outrage toward critics, labeling them “paramilitaries,” “Nazis,” or “human rights violators.”

This blatant politicization is eroding the credibility and moral authority of civil society. When human rights are no longer universal—but selectively defended based on ideology—democracy, accountability, and justice become the true casualties.

#### Collapse of Security and the Rise of “Total Peace”

Petro’s “Total Peace” policy has empowered violent groups by legitimizing them as political actors—even as they traffic drugs, extort civilians, and expand territorial control. This strategy doesn’t bring peace; it entrenches chaos.

Inspired by Hezbollah and Hamas, Petro and Maduro are working to establish a binational zone along the Colombia-Venezuela border, dominated by armed groups loyal to both regimes. This is not a border dispute—it’s a coordinated, state-enabled criminal takeover.

The line between traffickers, illegal groups and politicians has all but disappeared. A transnational criminal alliance, protected by the highest levels of power, is actively dismantling democracy and silencing dissent.

Despite public denials, Petro’s government has held secret talks with El Tren de Aragua—a brutal gang tied to Maduro’s security forces. Meanwhile, it turns a blind eye to the Cartel de los Soles, a military-run drug empire embedded in Venezuela’s regime. This is not peace. It’s state-sponsored criminality.

#### Institutional Decay and the Drug Trade

For the third consecutive year, Colombia leads the world in cocaine production, cultivation, and trafficking. This is no longer just a drug crisis—it’s a national emergency.

The cocaine economy is destroying Colombia’s environment, displacing Indigenous communities, fueling violence, and corroding institutions. Yet eradication efforts fulfill less than 30% of official

targets, while Petro, Maduro, and their lobbyists promote a false narrative of progress.

No PR campaign can hide the reality: Petro’s government is not fighting the drug trade—it’s enabling it. What we’re witnessing is a partnership between power and crime, not a policy of peace or reform.

Human Trafficking, Child Exploitation, and Hunger  
Human trafficking surged 62% last year, fueled by open-border policies that allow traffickers to exploit migrants. In one shocking case, Colombian migration officials hid an African child in an airport restroom, a stark symbol of institutional corruption.

At the same time, 14,000 children were sexually assaulted in 2024, and 409 minors were recruited by armed groups—up from 342 the year before. Criminal organizations now use platforms like TikTok for large-scale recruitment. While these tragedies unfold, one in four Colombians faces hunger, driven by Petro’s failed economic policies and government mismanagement and glorious expenses (81 international trips).

#### Crisis of Governance

Illegal armed groups now control 75% of Colombia’s territory. In 2025 alone, 458 combat incidents erupted across 25 departments—a staggering 40% rise from the previous year. Drone attacks have surged, massacres have quadrupled, and homicide rates are climbing in major cities.

Colombia is entering one of the darkest chapters in its modern history. The press faces relentless attacks, institutions are collapsing, and the rule of law is unraveling under relentless pressure from the Maduro-Petro alliance. This is no longer a mere security crisis—it’s systemic decay.

As the 2026 elections approach, criminal-political networks linked to Petro and Maduro are set to influence the outcome—not through democracy, but through fear, manipulation, and coercion. The authoritarian playbook from Venezuela is already in full effect.

#### The Warning

The Maduro-Petro alliance hides a criminal agenda behind the lie of “Total Peace.” Backed by armed groups and organized crime, it seeks to destabilize Colombia and the region, erode democracy, and expand its power under a false mask of legitimacy.