

Petro betrayed Colombia

by Fernando Mora¹

Behind the rhetoric of “Total Peace,” President Gustavo Petro has *forged* dangerous alliances with Colombia's most violent and entrenched enemies. Rather than pacifying the nation, his administration has *empowered* a resurgence of armed groups and transnational criminal networks, many directly linked to dictator Nicolás Maduro, his best amigo.

At the center of this *alliance* is the Cartel de los Soles—a powerful drug-trafficking syndicate led by Maduro, Diosdado Cabello, and Vladimir Padrino—which Petro has repeatedly denied exists. This unholy *partnership* between Caracas and Bogotá has emboldened criminal factions to expand their influence, diversify illegal economies, and tighten their grip on vast territories. These groups have become not only wealthy but virtually untouchable.

Petro's political allies include the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN), a notorious guerrilla group long protected by the regimes of Castro and Maduro. Alongside them operate the Clan del Golfo, Tren de Aragua—also denied by Petro—and multiple FARC dissident factions, including Iván Mordisco's group, Segunda Marquetalia, Guerrillas Unidas del Oriente, Los Pelusos, Comandos de la Frontera, and Frente 28. Together, they drive a nationwide surge in violence, drug trafficking, and lawlessness.

The ELN was responsible for the 2019 terrorist attack on Bogotá's General Santander Police Academy, killing 22 cadets and wounding over 65. Instead of condemning this atrocity, Petro and his coalition, El Pacto Histórico, reframed it as a *political* attack against then-President Iván Duque's government, *shielding* the perpetrators and *distorting* the facts.

Adding to this threat is the presence of foreign terrorist organizations like *Hezbollah and Hamas*, active along the Colombian-Venezuelan border since at least 2010. These groups provide training and logistical *support* to Petro's illegal armed allies, applying Middle Eastern guerrilla tactics, psychological warfare, and the *weaponization* of

civilian suffering to destabilize democratic institutions.

This infiltration jeopardizes Colombia's sovereignty. Hezbollah and Hamas export chaos, dismantle local governance, and spread indoctrination. While the *people of Lebanon and Gaza*² have resisted these organizations, their struggles have often been *ignored or mischaracterized* internationally. Now, Colombia faces the same nightmare.

In regions such as Catatumbo, Chocó, Nariño, Guaviare, Antioquia, Valle del Cauca, armed groups and organized crime operate as de facto authorities. Civilians face coercion, state institutions are paralyzed, and democratic order erodes under Petro's policies. These territories serve as bases for criminal operations while Bogotá minimizes the violence or blames vague “structural problems.”

Even more alarming is the government's *systematic* concealment of critical security information. Attacks are downplayed, perpetrators obscured, and casualties hidden from the public—but not from Maduro's regime.

On August 24, 2025, 34 military personnel were kidnapped in Guaviare by FARC dissidents under the command of Iván Mordisco. This alarming event is yet another example of the dangerous pattern emerging under Petro's “Total Peace” policy. Disguised in civilian clothing, the kidnappers employed a tactic long used by Petro and his allies during their time in opposition—now tolerated, if not quietly endorsed, by his administration.

This deliberate blurring of the line between civilians and combatants serves to fabricate grassroots support for a failing peace agenda. Even more concerning, despite being fully aware of the incident, the government chose silence—and went further by actively misleading the public.

On August 26, the Minister of Defense claimed in a radio interview that the situation was under control, omitting any mention of the crisis. The truth only surfaced later that day, revealed not by the government, but by the Ombudsperson's Office.

¹ Fernando is a leading human rights expert specializing in high-risk environments and conflict zones. He leverages his expertise in international law and conflict resolution to focus on peacebuilding, gender equality, and preventing conflicts over natural resources. Fernando has advised political leaders and global institutions across four continents, holding senior positions at the UN, the Council

of Europe, the OSCE, and the International Crisis Group. He has also partnered with organizations like the ICRC, OECD, WHO, and national governments to provide strategic solutions for complex political and humanitarian challenges.

² The author has worked in Lebanon, Israel and Palestine.

This deliberate deception undermines public trust and cripples Colombia's response capabilities. In conflict zones like Caquetá and Catatumbo—where over 70% of the country is contested by armed and criminal groups—official narratives *sanitize violence and omit key actors* like the ELN and FARC dissidents. This is not peace; it is impunity disguised as dialogue. Colombia is paying a heavy price.

Despite repeated denials, mounting evidence confirms that between 2019 and 2022, Gustavo Petro and his political allies—including former mayors of Bogotá, Cali, and Medellín—collaborated with illegal armed groups operating under the guise of “civil society actors.” This tactic, now widespread among Petro's network, enabled these militias to orchestrate violent uprisings during the *estallido social*, paralyzing major cities with the support of far-left political elites and extensive funding structures.

Using slogans like “*Nos están matando*” (“They are killing us”), Petro and his allies—amplified by Nicolás Maduro's propaganda apparatus—*constructed* a global narrative of victimhood. The international community embraced this narrative without *scrutiny*, overlooking the true architects of the violence. In doing so, they not only misread the nature of the unrest, but also helped *legitimize* the tactic itself and *empower* those who employed it.

The reality is undeniable: the Petro-Maduro axis, protected by the “Total Peace” policy, the Cartel de los Soles, and the Pacto Histórico, is fueling the very violence it claims to end. This *alliance* kills Colombians and silences them through fear, distortion, and impunity.

“Petro's disciples in the 2026 presidential election will inherit not only his power but also alliances with Maduro's regime and criminal networks strengthened under the ‘Total Peace’ policy. There will be no real autonomy, only a project that perpetuates dark and dangerous interests. It is not change; it is the continuation of a corrupt and dangerous legacy.”