

## Abbas for Peace, Maduro-Petro for Terror

by Fernando Mora<sup>1</sup>

*President Abbas condemned Hamas's violence, called for peace, and recognized Israel. In stark contrast, Maduro and Petro support Hamas, Hezbollah, and armed groups like FARC dissidents and ELN, enabling a criminal-controlled zone on the Colombia-Venezuela border—fueling regional instability and undermining democracy through alliances with terrorist networks.*

President Mahmoud Abbas, in his address to the United Nations General Assembly, unequivocally condemned the Hamas attacks against Israeli civilians and the taking of hostages, making it clear that such actions do not reflect the will of the Palestinian people. He firmly stated that neither he nor the Palestinian people support or justify these acts of violence.

President Abbas emphasized that Hamas has no place in the present and future of Palestine. He called on Hamas and other armed factions to immediately lay down their weapons and surrender to the legitimate Palestinian authorities, reaffirming the need for national unity under a single, lawful leadership.

He also firmly rejected any attempt to conflate solidarity with the Palestinian cause with antisemitism, stressing that the pursuit of justice for Palestinians must never come at the expense of the Jewish people or any other community. He reaffirmed his full recognition of the State of Israel as a sovereign nation. In a 20 minutes 12 seconds, the Palestinian leader told the world how he sees the current situation and the future of the Palestinian people. While not surprising, his measured tone and intelligent rhetoric clearly reflected a commitment to peace.

For Colombians—his resilience and moderation stand in stark contrast to the divisive narratives promoted by Venezuela's dictator Maduro and Colombia's authoritarian leader Petro - who since almost three years became Maduro's official spokesperson at the international arena - regarding the Gaza Strip and the future of Palestine.

First, Maduro, Petro, and their political allies have openly supported Hamas and Hezbollah—groups they falsely present, through state-sponsored propaganda, as legitimate voices of the Palestinian and Lebanese people. These organizations terrorize civilians and use them as human shields—tactics Maduro and Petro have adopted under the banner of “revolution” and “peace.”

In both Venezuela and Colombia, illegal armed groups and organized crime sustain their regimes by instilling fear, silencing opposition, and exploiting the very people they claim to protect.

Secondly, both Maduro and Petro have exhibited blatant antisemitism. Petro has repeatedly used his media platforms and public speeches—both in Colombia and abroad—to demean Jewish people and incite hatred against them. Far from promoting peace in Palestine, both leaders have invested millions in fueling aggressive propaganda campaigns, often driven by bot armies, to spread division and violence. Their support for Hamas and Hezbollah is ideological—it is strategic.

These terrorist groups provide training and logistical support to the illegal armed groups and criminal networks that help sustain the regimes of Maduro and Petro. In Colombia, it is crucial to note that many of these criminal factions are now formal associates of Petro through his controversial “Total Peace” deal.

In exchange for their allegiance, Hezbollah and Hamas operatives are granted access to vast territories along the Venezuelan Colombian border. There, they exploit natural resources illegally and operate extensive trafficking networks in drugs, weapons, and human beings—deepening instability across the region.

Third—and this is a crucial point—President Abbas does not recognize Hamas as a legitimate partner. He has publicly rejected any intention to govern alongside them, either now or in the future. In stark contrast, Maduro has been co-governing for years with a network of terrorist and criminal organizations, including FARC-EP (now FARC dissidents), ELN, Hezbollah, Hamas, and his own

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Cartel de los Soles, which oversees Venezuela's cocaine trade. Added to this criminal alliance are the Tren de Aragua and numerous other violent gangs that operate freely under his protection.

Petro and his political coalition, *El Pacto Histórico*, following in the footsteps of his mentor Maduro, is attempting a similar strategy through his so-called "Total Peace" deal. Rather than dismantling armed groups, this policy has empowered them. Petro seeks to govern Colombia not through democratic institutions, but by ceding control to illegal armed groups and criminal networks such as the Clan del Golfo, ELN, FARC dissidents, and more than 30 other criminal factions.

Since taking office on August 2022, Petro's primary goal through Total Peace has been to legitimize and expand the influence of these groups. They now hold *de facto control* over at least 75% of Colombian territory, enriched by drug trafficking, illegal mining, extortion, and smuggling. With their loyalty secured, Petro has not just allies—but a shadow government capable of keeping him in power, even if indirectly.

With Colombia's congressional and presidential elections approaching in March and May 2026, the stakes are higher than ever. Petro and its network of criminal and ideological partners [in the Total Peace] now have unprecedented influence across Colombian territory. If the current trajectory continues, they could tighten their grip on Colombia—not just through armed groups and illicit economies, but through electoral manipulation, political alliances, and territorial control. What is at risk is not just Colombia's democracy, but the security and stability of the entire region.

Fourth, while Mr. Abbas demands Hamas surrender, President Petro chooses a different path—aligning himself with illegal armed groups and criminal networks. Since taking office, he has remained deliberately silent on the atrocities committed by his allies under the so-called "Total Peace".

When civilians are used as human shields, Petro deflects attention to the Gaza Strip. When underage girls are forced into marriage with those criminal adults, he distracts the public by launching attacks on Donald Trump.

While Colombians are being displaced and vast regions fall under the control of violent groups, Petro is busy touring the world—racking up over 71 international and 800 national trips. Even his civil servants and congressional allies have taken more than 900 trips to Cuba and Venezuela.

Meanwhile, over 25% of Colombians live in poverty and face hunger. Yet instead of addressing these urgent needs, Petro diverts public funds to pay Venezuelan bot army and build a state-funded propaganda machine—prioritizing digital warfare over the welfare of his own people.

And finally, President Abbas's unwavering dedication to the Palestinian cause is rooted in principle and decades of consistent leadership. His commitment is clear, enduring, and untainted.

In stark contrast, Petro has repeatedly aligned himself with the authoritarian Maduro regime in Venezuela. According to statements from both Chávez and Maduro, Petro has benefited from their financial support for over two decades. His loyalty is unmistakable—he formally recognizes Maduro as the legitimate president of Venezuela, disregarding the widespread international condemnation of the regime.

But this alliance is not merely symbolic. Individuals closely associated with Petro have been included in the so-called "Total Peace Agreement," alongside members of *El Cartel de los Soles*—a notorious criminal organization. This blurs the line between legitimate political dialogue and the normalization of criminal entities.

Even more alarming is the joint initiative to create a "binational zone" along the Colombia-Venezuela border. Promoted by both Petro and Maduro, this plan effectively cedes control of key territory, creating a safe haven for illicit actors. It has enabled *El Cartel de los Soles*, Hezbollah, and Hamas to entrench their operations in the area with minimal resistance—turning the region into a hub for transnational crime and terrorism.

The Bogotá-Caracas axis is not a partnership for peace or solidarity with the Palestinian people, as Petro claims. It is a strategic alignment with armed groups and criminal networks—at the direct expense of regional stability and security.