

Colombian President Calls for ‘International Army’ to Liberate Palestine

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- Colombian President Gustavo Petro has called for armed intervention in Palestine, emphasizing the need to build an international army to “liberate Palestine” and stand up to “tyranny and totalitarianism” propagated by the United States and NATO.

Petro made the appeal in his speech before the United Nations General Assembly, urging countries that oppose genocide to join forces as a united front and form a strong international coalition to protect the lives of the Palestinian people.

“We need a powerful army of the countries that do not accept genocide. That is why I invite nations of the world and their peoples more than anything, as an integral part of humanity, to bring together weapons and armies. We must liberate Palestine,” he said.

Petro further asserted that it is time for action rather than mere words, stressing that “they will not just bomb Gaza, not just the Caribbean as they are doing already, but all of humanity that demands freedom.”



Colombian President Gustavo Petro speaks at the United Nations General Assembly on September 23, 2025.

He also expressed concern that the actions of Washington and NATO are undermining democracy and contributing to the resurgence of tyranny and totalitarianism on a global scale, emphasizing the need to raise the flag of liberty or death.

Petro’s call for armed intervention in Palestine resonated with a similar proposal by Indonesia’s President Prabowo Subianto, who expressed willingness to provide 20,000 soldiers for an armed force that could be deployed in Gaza.

Separately on Tuesday, Chilean President Gabriel Boric expressed his desire to see Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu brought before an international tribunal for genocide in the Gaza Strip, drawing parallels with cases in the Balkans and Rwanda.

“I don’t want to see Netanyahu destroyed by a missile along with his family,” he said during his address to the UN General Assembly in New York. “I want to see Netanyahu and those responsible for the

genocide against the Palestinian people brought before an international court of justice.”

Boric also condemned Israel’s attack on Qatar and its aggression against Iran, highlighting the need for the international community to combat hate and strengthen the multilateral system.

Regarding the situation in Gaza, he acknowledged the difficulty in finding new words to express the ongoing tragedy.

In a poignant reflection, Boric underscored the tragic loss of innocent lives in the Palestinian crisis and drew a parallel to historical atrocities, characterizing the crisis as a global humanitarian issue.

“Thousands of innocent human beings are losing their lives just for being Palestinians ... rather than talking about numbers, condemnations, or demands, I would like to talk about humanity today,” the Chilean president said.

When children lie under the rubble, “there is a genuine pain in our country, in Chile,” which has the largest Palestinian community in the world outside Arab states, he added.

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organizations that showed solidarity with Iran during the war.

Turning to the broader West Asia, Pezeshkian condemned the ongoing violence in Gaza as “genocide” and denounced Israel’s repeated violations of neighboring countries’ sovereignty, including Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen.

He denounced the “forced starvation” of Palestinian children and the destruction of essential infrastructure, attributing such actions to an abuse of the self-defense narrative.

He warned that the so-called “Greater Israel” plan, openly promoted by Israeli leaders, threatens the entire region’s security and peace.

“This plan encompasses many lands and is a clear declaration of Israel’s aggressive and expansionist intentions,” he said, urging the international community to recognize the grave dangers posed by such ambitions.

Highlighting Iran’s commitment to peace, Pezeshkian stressed the country’s support for a region free of weapons of mass destruction.

“Iran has long been a staunch advocate for a Middle East free of nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction,” he said, contrasting this stance with the possession and expansion of nuclear arsenals by other powers in blatant violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

He welcomed recent developments towards regional cooperation, including the peace efforts between Azerbaijan and Armenia, hopes for a fair resolution to the conflict in Ukraine, and defense pacts among Muslim nations such as Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

Pezeshkian closed his speech by calling for renewed commitment to international law, multilateralism, and regional cooperation grounded in mutual respect and trust.

“True security arises not through coercion or unilateral force, but through confidence-building, respect for sovereignty, and regional cooperation,” he stated. “I urge all to listen to each other, reject polarization and political violence, and embrace the common values that unite humanity.”

Invoking the poetry of Iran’s great classical poets such as Rumi, Hafez, and Saadi, he reminded delegates that “human beings are members of a whole, in creation of one essence and soul” — a call for empathy and solidarity transcending national and ideological divides.

“We reject the brutal tyranny that kills innocent children and wreaks havoc in the name of power,” he concluded.

“Iran, rooted in its ancient culture of compassion, stands as a steadfast partner for all peace-loving nations — not out of convenience, but out of dignity, trust, and shared destiny.”

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by the United Kingdom, France, and Germany as a politicized attempt to undermine Iran’s economic development and diplomatic progress.

Tehran has warned that the reimposition of sanctions would jeopardize cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and threaten regional stability.

Amid escalating tensions in the region, including recent military aggression targeting Iranian nuclear facilities, Iran’s leadership has reiterated its peaceful intentions.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has firmly ruled out direct negotiations with the United States, underscoring Tehran’s resolve to protect its sovereignty and pursue technological advancement independently.

The Rosatom-Iran agreement signals a deepening partnership between Moscow and Tehran, reflecting mutual interests in energy security and regional stability.

Russian officials have condemned recent Israeli and U.S. strikes on Iranian nuclear sites as destabilizing actions, reaffirming support for Iran’s right to peaceful nuclear development under international law.

As Iran moves forward with its ambitious nuclear energy plans, the collaboration with Russia is expected to play a crucial role in bolstering the country’s energy independence and contributing to global efforts for clean, sustainable power generation.

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food, medical supplies, and other humanitarian aid.

“The blockade is illegal and strangling

an entire population,” said Stefano Bertoldi, an Italian activist aboard the flotilla representing the climate group Ultima Generazione (Last Generation).

He described the explosions from the drone attacks as “dangerous acts that put all of us at grave risk,” adding that the drone detonations knocked off his boat’s jib and threatened the stability of the mast, prompting urgent mayday calls.

Despite Israel’s repeated justifications of its blockade and interceptions under the guise of security, the reality is a humanitarian catastrophe unfolding daily in Gaza.

According to Gaza’s health ministry, Israeli military aggression has killed more than 65,400 Palestinians since the regime launched an onslaught on the territory nearly two years ago — mostly civilians, including women and children. These figures are considered reliable by the United Nations.

Italy’s Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani has urged Israel to ensure the safety of Italian citizens on board the flotilla and called on the Israeli regime to abide by international law and exercise “absolute caution” in its operations against civilian vessels.

The pro-Palestinian Global Sumud Flotilla remains an independent movement, unaligned with any government or political party. Its very name — “Sumud” — is an Arabic word meaning “resilience,” embodying the steadfastness of Palestinians in the face of decades of occupation and siege.

The flotilla currently numbers 51 vessels mostly anchored near the Greek island of Crete, awaiting safe passage. The activists’ peaceful mission faces continued aggression, including previous suspected drone attacks on flotilla vessels off Tunisia.

Calls from Italy’s Five Star Movement for the European Union to intervene with maritime escorts and protective measures underscore the urgency of safeguarding humanitarian aid efforts.

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hypersonic missile strikes against key Israeli locations, including Tel Aviv and Haifa.

Larijani previously said that U.S. demands to restrict Iran’s missile program “set a path that negates any talks.”

In his latest post, Larijani criticized Western countries for their handling of the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

“First America withdrew from the JCPOA, then Europe reneged on its promises, and finally they bombed [Iran], and now they are the ones acting as creditors,” he said.

He added, “Iran will zealously defend its national security and will not allow humiliating conditions such as limiting the range of its missiles to be imposed.”

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He stressed the need to reaffirm commitment to multilateralism and reject unilateralism, which he said undermines global peace and development.

The minister also highlighted the role of the Global Development Initiative in advancing the interests of developing countries and fostering a favorable environment for sustainable development.

Araghchi criticized Western countries for imposing unilateral sanctions on developing nations at a time when eliminating poverty and food insecurity remains a critical challenge.

“Eradicating poverty remains the greatest challenge for policymakers in many developing nations. Hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity are increasing, with serious risks of famine in many parts of the world,” he said.

He said some developed countries are neglecting their commitments and enforcing coercive measures and protectionist policies that violate fundamental rights and hamper economic growth and poverty reduction.

The Iranian minister emphasized the importance of the Global Development Initiative as a forum for enhanced cooperation and pledged Iran’s continued support for its goals.

On Sept. 19, the UN Security Council failed to adopt a resolution to block the reactivation of sanctions on Iran after Germany, France, and Britain triggered the “snapback” mechanism, accusing Iran of violating the 2015 nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Iran has rejected the move as illegitimate, accusing the European trio of disregarding their commitments and supporting unlawful sanctions.

Turkey Inks \$43 Billion LNG Deal With U.S. for 20 Years

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- Turkey’s Energy and Natural Resources Minister Alparslan Bayraktar announced that state-run BOTAS and Swiss-based energy firm Mercuria have signed a 20-year liquefied natural gas (LNG) import agreement in New York, providing for annual deliveries of around 4 billion cubic meters starting in 2026 and a total supply of nearly 70 billion cubic meters.

Bayraktar said the deal was signed in New York and would be among the topics raised during President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump at the White

House. In a message shared on social media, the minister described the contract as a milestone for Turkey’s energy policy.

The LNG will be sourced not only from loading terminals in the United States but also through re-gasification facilities in Turkey, Europe, and North Africa, the minister added.

The agreement’s total worth tops \$43 billion, which is expected to run until 2045, and will involve annual LNG imports valued at around \$2.15 billion, according to information obtained by Turkish columnist Vahap Munyar from sources related to the

matter.

Officials involved in the talks said the arrangement would serve as a central pillar of Turkey’s long-term energy security strategy, while also contributing to the \$100 billion bilateral trade target set by Erdogan and Trump.

Industry sources noted that the agreement reflects the steady rise of U.S. participation in Turkey’s energy imports, as older “take-or-pay” oil and gas contracts with Russia and Iran approach expiration.

A “take-or-pay” contract is a long-term supply deal that requires the buyer to either purchase a set volume of

gas or pay for it even if it is not taken, a model Turkey has used in pipeline agreements with Russia and Iran that are due to expire in 2026.

Bayraktar also announced that Turkey signed a preliminary agreement with Australian company Woodside Energy for a long-term LNG supply contract, set to begin in 2030 and last for nine years.

The deal covers the delivery of around 5.8 billion cubic meters of natural gas equivalent in LNG, primarily sourced from the Louisiana LNG Project in the United States, to state-run energy firm BOTAS.

Sheikh Abdulaziz, Champion of Wahhabism in Saudi Arabia, Dies

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (Dispatches) — **Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Abdullah al-Sheikh, Saudi Arabia’s longtime grand mufti and the kingdom’s top cleric for over two decades, died Tuesday in Riyadh.**

He was in his 80s. While he denounced militant groups like Daesh and Al-Qaeda, his tenure was marked by deeply controversial and often extremist views that reinforced Saudi Arabia’s hardline Wahhabi interpretation of Islam and fueled sectarian and religious intolerance.

Appointed in 1999 by King Fahd, Sheikh Abdulaziz served

as grand mufti during a period of sweeping change in the kingdom.

Blinded in youth, he rose through the ranks of the religious establishment, becoming a leading voice of Wahhabism — an austere form of religion that shaped Saudi society for generations. He once condemned mobile phone cameras as tools for “spreading vice”. He had also previously ruled that girls as young as 10 could be married and labeled chess “haram” — or religiously forbidden — comparing it to gambling.

His views on non-Muslims and

Shia Muslims drew widespread condemnation. In 2012, he reportedly said it was “necessary to destroy all the churches of the region” in response to a question about Christianity in Kuwait.

After the 2015 Hajj disaster, where more than 2,400 pilgrims died, he dismissed criticism from Iran’s Supreme Leader by declaring that Shias “are not Muslims” but “descendants of Majuws.”

Though he publicly denounced takfiri groups as misguided, many critics say his rigid teachings contributed to a broader climate of intolerance in the kingdom. While his influence



diminished under Crown Prince Muhammad’s reform campaign, his legacy remains tied to the institutionalization of ultraconservative dogma in Saudi society.

Israeli Forces Kill Palestinian Teen in Jenin Raid

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) -- **Israeli forces have shot dead a 19-year-old youth during a raid near Jenin, marking the second killing in the occupied West Bank in two days as Israel accelerates its annexation plans in the territory.**

The military confirmed the killing of the young man, identified as Ahmed Jihad Barahmeh, in the town of Anzah on Wednesday, claiming its forces shot him after he “threw an explosive device” at them.

The victim was reportedly picked up by a Palestine Red Crescent Society crew after being shot in the chest, but later died

of his wounds.

Barahmeh’s death follows the killing of Saeed Murad al-Nasan, who was 20, by armed settlers in the village of al-Mughayyir, north of Ramallah.

Israeli forces have carried out near-daily raids in the West Bank since the start of their war on Gaza, with a sharp escalation of violence this month following Israeli finance minister Bezalel Smotrich’s call to annex the territory.

Since Israel began its genocidal war, it has killed more than 1,000 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

Israeli settlers have also been embold-

ened, rampaging in Palestinian communities with impunity, backed by the military, attacking and killing residents and burning property and olive groves. There is rarely, if ever, any legal recourse for Palestinians.

Two Israeli settlers assaulted the mayor of Beita, a Palestinian town near Nablus, in the West Bank, on Wednesday, according to the Wafa news agency.

Attacks by Israeli settlers have injured 540 Palestinians in the West Bank this year, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).