

Venezuela's Maduro Urges Permanent Vigil, Mobilization Against U.S. Threats



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro waves a Venezuelan flag during a demonstration for the swearing-in of Bolivarian committees in Caracas on November 15, 2025.

CARACAS (Dispatches) - Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has called for a permanent vigil and mobilization in the country's eastern region in response to the announcement of joint military exercises by the United States and Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean.

"I once again call on all the people of the eastern states -- from southern Bolivar, Delta Amacuro, Monagas, Sucre, Anzoategui and Nueva Esparta -- to maintain perfect unity among citizens, military forces and police, to stand vigil and march in the streets with the Venezuelan flag held high," Maduro said during a public event in Petare, in the northern state of Miranda.

He stressed that the call serves as a directive to all social and political sectors to remain alert and not fall for provocations.

Maduro made the remarks after Trinidad and Tobago announced a new deployment of military exercises with the

United States, "using its waters off the coast of Sucre state."

He criticized the move as an attempt to threaten the regional peace, and reiterated his call for mobilization "with patriotic fervor" to reject what he described as aggression.

On Friday, Trinidad and Tobago announced that it would resume military exercises with the United States, which maintains a deployment in the Caribbean. This marks the second joint drill in less than a month.

Maduro also addressed the American public, urging them to halt "the frenzied hand of those who order a war to be waged in South America and the Caribbean."

Speaking in Caracas on Saturday, Maduro renewed Venezuela's unwavering and unconditional support for the Palestinian struggle, calling it "the most sacred of all."

Marking Palestinian Independence Day

on November 15, he declared: "We will not abandon this sacred cause until the goal is achieved: Palestine will rise, free and independent."

Maduro emphasized that genuine peace cannot result from brief ceasefires, saying that lasting stability requires holding the occupying regime accountable for grave violations of international law.

"Real peace will only come when justice is served for the crimes and genocide committed. Only then can recovery begin," he said.

He urged the international community to speak out forcefully and end a recurring pattern of "massacres followed by agreements," criticizing global inaction in the face of Israeli genocide.

Maduro also pledged Venezuela's support for rebuilding Gaza and standing with the Palestinians throughout their resistance.

"This will be a historic moment of dignity and pride," he said, referring to the day Palestine attains full independence.

He reiterated the need for Gaza's reconstruction, recognition of al-Quds as the capital of a Palestinian state, and the establishment of full Palestinian sovereignty.

In earlier remarks, he stated Venezuela stands "on the front lines with Palestine," condemning global silence over Israel's mass killing of Palestinians as a "moral crime," and urging immediate international action to halt the genocide.

Responding to the Sharm el-Sheikh ceasefire in October, Maduro again called the Palestinian cause "the most sacred cause of humanity," cited the devastating Gaza death toll, and warned that any agreement without holding the Israeli regime accountable would amount to a "peace of rubble."

Thousands March at COP30 to Demand End to Deforestation, Fossil Fuels



Branded the 'Great People's March' by organizers, the Belem rally comes at the halfway point of contentious COP30 negotiations.

BRASILIA (AFP) - Thousands of people marched through the streets of Belem to press for action from negotiators holding tough talks at the UN's COP30 climate conference in the Amazonian city.

Under a baking sun, Indigenous people mixed with activists gathered in a festive atmosphere, blasting music from speakers, carrying a giant beach ball of Earth and holding a flag of Brazil emblazoned with the words "Protect the Amazon".

It was the first major protest outside the annual climate talks since COP26 four years ago in Glasgow, as the last three gatherings were held in locations with little tolerance for demonstrations - Egypt, Dubai and Azerbaijan.

Branded the "Great People's March" by organizers, the Belem rally comes at the halfway point of contentious negotiations and follows two Indigenous-led protests that disrupted proceedings earlier in the week.

"Today we are witnessing a massacre as our forest is being destroyed," Benedito Huni Kuin, a 50-year-old member of the Huni Kuin Indigenous group from western Brazil, said.

"We want to make our voices heard from the Amazon and demand results," he said. "We need more Indigenous representatives at COP to defend our rights."

Their demands include "reparations" for damage caused by corporations and governments, especially to marginalized communi-

ties.

Another Indigenous protester, Cristiane Puyanawa, joined the march to call for greater land rights.

"Our land and our forest are not commodities. Respect nature and the peoples who live in the forest," she said.

Addressing the crowds, Brazil's environment minister Marina Silva said: "This is a place for us to march and draw up a roadmap for what needs to be done at this COP: a transition away from deforestation and the use of fossil fuels."

After a 4.5-kilometre march through the city, the demonstration stopped a few blocks from the COP30 venue, where authorities had deployed soldiers to protect the site.

On Tuesday, Indigenous protesters forced their way into the Parque da Cidade - the COP30 compound built on the site of a former airport - clashing with security personnel, some of whom sustained minor injuries.

Then on Friday, dozens of Indigenous protesters blocked the entrance for roughly two hours to spotlight their struggles in the Amazon, prompting high-level interventions to defuse the situation.

Negotiators shared their progress in a plenary meeting on Saturday before they hand their work over to national ministers to grapple with remaining political obstacles.

"As negotiators approach week two, they need to remember that climate action isn't about abstract numbers or distant targets. It's about people," said Katharine Hayhoe, chief scientist at The Nature Conservancy non-profit.

Storm Claudia Kills Three in Portugal, Causes Flooding in Britain

LISBON (Reuters) - Violent weather brought on by Storm Claudia killed three people and injured dozens in Portugal, authorities there said, while in Britain rescue workers were organizing evacuations due to heavy flooding in Wales and England.

Portugal and parts of neighboring Spain have faced days of extreme conditions brought on by Storm Claudia, which had reached parts of Britain and Ireland by Saturday.

Rescue workers found the bodies of an elderly couple inside their flooded home in Fernao Ferro, across the River Tagus from Lisbon, on Thursday. They had apparently been sleeping and were unable to flee as the water rose during the night.

On Saturday, a tornado struck Albufeira in southern Portugal, emergency services said. Footage shot from a distance that was posted

online showed the tornado damaging and destroying caravans at a camping area, where regional civil protection commander Vitor Vaz Pinto said an 85-year-old British woman was killed.

Twenty-eight people were injured at a nearby hotel, he said, adding that two of them were in hospital with serious injuries.

In a statement on Saturday, Portugal's President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa expressed "his solidarity with the family of the victim who died" in Albufeira and wished a speedy recovery to those injured.

Portuguese weather service IPMA placed the entire Algarve and districts of Beja and Setubal on amber alert, its second-highest alert level.

In Britain, severe flooding hit the town of Monmouth and surrounding areas in south-

eastern Wales on Saturday.

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service said it was conducting rescues, evacuations, and welfare checks.

"Storm Claudia has caused significant flooding in parts of Wales overnight, which continues to affect homes, businesses, transport and energy infrastructure," a spokesperson for the Welsh government said.

Aerial footage showed widespread flooding in Monmouth, with water inundating the town center and residential areas after a nearby river burst its banks overnight.

Natural Resources Wales has issued 11 flood warnings, four of which are severe, as well as 17 flood alerts.

In England, according to the Environment Agency's latest update, there were 49 active flood warnings and 134 flood alerts.

Caribbean Countries to Hold Slavery Reparations Talks on UK Visit



In this file photo dated March 22, 2022, people calling for slavery reparations protest outside the entrance of the British High Commission during the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in Kingston, Jamaica.

LONDON (AFP) - A delegation from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) reparations commission will hold talks this week with officials and politicians in Britain on addressing the historical injustices of slavery and colonialism, as well as their lasting impacts.

At least 12.5 million Africans were kidnapped, forcibly transported by European ships and sold into slavery from the 15th to the 19th centuries. Advocates say action is needed to confront the enduring legacies, such as racism.

Calls for reparations have gained momentum worldwide, particularly among CARICOM, a group of 15 member states that includes Barbados and Jamaica, and the African Union (AU).

CARICOM has a reparations plan, which includes calls for a full and formal apology, education programs, debt cancellation and monetary compensation, while the AU is developing its own.

A backlash against reparations has also been growing, and many European leaders have opposed even talk-

ing about them, with opponents arguing that today's states and institutions should not be held responsible for historical wrongs.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said ahead of the Commonwealth summit in Samoa last year that he preferred to look forward rather than engage in "very long, endless discussions about reparations on the past".

However, at the end the summit, leaders of the 56-nation group headed by Britain's King Charles agreed to include in their final communique that the time had come for a discussion on the issue.

The CARICOM commission's visit will take place from November 17 to 20 and aims to "strengthen strategic partnerships and promote a joint program of public education and engagement on the reparations agenda", a media advisory said.

A 2025 poll commissioned by The Repair Campaign revealed gaps in public knowledge about the Britain's role in slavery and colonialism, with 85 percent of respondents unaware the country had forcibly transported over 3 million Africans to the Caribbean.

Clashes Erupt in Mexico City Anti-Crime Protests, Injuring 120



Many protesters carried the pirate flag emblematic of the Japanese manga 'One Piece,' which has become a symbol of global youth protest.

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - More than 100 people were injured and 20 arrested during a massive protest in Mexico City against the president's handling of violent crime, local government officials said.

Thousands marched on the capital's historic main public square, the Zocalo, in a demonstration fueled by young Mexicans as well as supporters of the domestic "Sombrero Movement," which emerged after the recent assassination of a mayor known for his fight against organized crime.

Media observed participants of all ages taking part in the rally in front of the National Palace, where President Claudia Sheinbaum lives and works.

Several protesters, some wearing balacavas, toppled the metal barriers protecting the palace and threw paving stones at riot police, who responded with tear gas, according to AFP journalists.

"For many hours, this mobilization proceeded and developed peacefully, until a group of hooded individuals began to commit acts of violence," Pablo Vazquez, Mexico City's security chief, told reporters.

Twenty protesters and 100 police were injured, with 40 officers hospitalized for cuts and bruises, he added.

Police arrested 20 people for theft and assault, Vazquez said, and had also launched an investigation into the assault of a journalist from La Jornada newspaper, which alleged police officers were behind the incident.

Sheinbaum, in power since October 2024, maintained approval ratings above 70 per-

cent in her first year in office but faced growing criticism of her security policies in the wake of several high-profile murders.

"This is one of the most corrupt governments we've ever had," said Valentina Ramirez, a student interviewed by AFP. "It's a corrupt narco-government that wants to defend the corrupt and the cartels instead of the people."

On Saturday, several protesters wore sombreros similar to the style of hat made famous by Carlos Manzo, a mayor in western Michoacan state who was assassinated on November 1. He had been known for his crusade against drug-trafficking gangs in his hometown Uruapan.

The assassinated mayor's widow, however, distanced her husband's movement from the demonstration on Saturday.

Bernardo Bravo, a leader of lime producers in the same region, had also been shot dead in late October.

Earlier this week, Sheinbaum questioned the motivations for the demonstration and said at her regular morning news conference that the protest was "inorganic" and "paid for."

"It is a movement promoted from abroad against the government," she said.

Demonstrators displayed banners bearing messages such as "We are all Carlos Manzo" alongside the iconic pirate flag from the Japanese manga One Piece, which has become a symbol of youth protest around the world, from Madagascar to the Philippines and Peru.

News in Brief

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain said it would launch the largest overhaul of policy on asylum seekers in modern times, drawing inspiration from Denmark's approach, one of the toughest in Europe. The Labour government has been hardening its immigration policies, particularly on illegal small-boat crossings from France, as it seeks to stem the surging popularity of the populist Reform UK party, which has driven the immigration agenda and forced Labour to adopt a tougher line. As part of the changes, the statutory duty to provide support to certain asylum seekers, including housing and weekly allowances, will be revoked, the Home Office (interior ministry) said in a statement.

TOKYO (Reuters) - The Japanese public is divided on whether Japan should exercise its right to collective self-defense if China attacks Taiwan, a Kyodo news agency poll found on Sunday. The survey found 48.8 percent in favor and 44.2 percent against, while 60.4 percent backed Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's plan to beef up the country's defense spending. The opinion poll comes at a time when a diplomatic spat between Tokyo and Beijing has intensified following Takaichi's remarks related to Taiwan. The Japanese premier said on November 7 that a Chinese attack on Taiwan could amount to a "survival-threatening situation" and trigger a potential military response from Tokyo.

LONDON (AFP) - An MP has withdrawn from the new left-wing political movement in the UK called Your Party over "infighting" and "veiled prejudice" against Muslim men. Adnan Hussain, an MP from Blackburn in northern England, made the announcement less than two weeks ahead of the party's founding conference in Liverpool, amid internal fights over finance and its leadership. Hussain said he was drawn to Your Party, headed by former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and Coventry MP Zarah Sultana, to build "a political home with mass appeal" and "a force capable of challenging the rise of far-right rhetoric."

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia said on Sunday that its forces had moved forward sharply in Ukraine's south-eastern Zaporizhzhia region, taking two settlements as part of a major push aimed at taking control of the entire Zaporizhzhia region. With a smaller army than Russia's, Ukraine has been grappling with how to bolster defenses in the Donetsk region while keeping the rest of the front stable under intense artillery and drone attack from highly mobile Russian units. Since advancing into the Dnipropetrovsk region in late June, Russian forces have been pushing there and, in the neighboring, Zaporizhzhia region where its forces have moved forward along a relatively broad front by at least 30 km (19 miles) over the past six weeks, according to pro-Ukrainian maps. Russia controls about 19% of Ukraine, or 115,476 square km, up just one percentage point from two years ago. Moscow wants to gain control of all of the Donbas, which includes Donetsk and Luhansk, as well as the whole of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia.

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Republican lawmaker Marjorie Taylor Greene accused U.S. President Donald Trump of putting her life in danger, saying his online criticism has triggered a wave of threats against her. Greene, once a longtime Trump loyalist who has more recently taken positions at odds with the president, said she has been contacted by private security firms warning about her safety. "Aggressive rhetoric attacking me has historically led to death threats and multiple convictions of men who were radicalized by the same type (of) rhetoric being directed at me right now," Greene, a U.S. House of Representatives member from Georgia, wrote in a post on X. "This time by the President of the United States." Trump broke with Greene on Friday night in a withering social media post in which he referred to Greene as "Wacky" and a "ranting lunatic" who complained he would not take her calls.

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of Filipinos gathered Sunday in the capital in the largest rally so far to demand accountability for a flood-control corruption scandal that has implicated powerful members of Congress and top government officials. Various groups have protested in recent months following the discovery that thousands of flood defense projects across one of the world's most typhoon-prone countries were substandard, incomplete or simply did not exist. Government engineers, public works officials and construction company executives have testified under oath in hearings by the Senate and a fact-finding commission that members of Congress and officials at the Department of Public Works and Highways took kickbacks from construction companies to help them win lucrative contracts and avoid accountability. Most denied the allegations.