



Anticolonial Struggles from Latin America to Palestine

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“The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has been a stalwart friend of the Palestinian people. In all international arenas and forums and through practical support and material solidarity, the Venezuelan people and state have stood with the Palestinian people, confronting imperialism and Zionism.

Venezuela’s rejection of diplomatic ties with the Israeli colonial regime stands as an example in the world of principled solidarity and boycott, especially as the Palestinian movement, including the Palestinian prisoners’ movement, urges international boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel.”

Ahmad Sa’adat

imprisoned General Secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.¹⁸



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A Common Oppressor: The US-Israeli Empire



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01

A Common Oppressor: The US-Israeli Empire

Like Palestinians, Latin American peoples have suffered greatly under the US-Israeli empire's attempts to subjugate and dominate the region.¹⁹

Military operations

Much like the US' support for the Israeli occupation forces' attacks and genocide in Palestine to protect their colonial interests in the Middle East, the US has carried out military or covert operations in over 25 Latin American countries, causing over 41 regime changes from 1989 to 1994.²⁰ This does not include the numerous other incidents in which the US attempted to cause regime change, but failed to do so.²¹

Since the late 1800s, the US carried out the 'Banana Wars' – a series of military interventions to protect its interests and corporations in the region.²³

After the founding of the CIA in 1947, the same year the UN voted for the colonial "partition" of Palestine, the US began a series of covert operations designed as regime change or control.²⁴

The US has intervened in:²⁵

- **1950s:** Guatemala
- **1960s:** Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador
- **1970s:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay
- **1980s:** El Salvador, Grenada, Panama

Due to the US' unpopularity, Israel has often acted as a proxy for US interests in the region.²⁶

During the 1970s and 1980s, Israel's main export to Latin America was weapons, which amounted to a third of all Israeli weapons exports in the 1980s.²⁷

During this period, Israel also collaborated with oppressive Latin American regimes in intelligence and diplomatic spheres.²⁸ These weapons were used around the region to kill, disappear, and injured many Latin American communities.²⁹

Moreover, Israel armed and trained authoritarian regimes and death squads in Latin America, often at the US' behest.²²

Water Colonisation

Much like Israel's colonisation of water resources across the Levant, including Syrian, Palestinian, Lebanese, and Jordanian water, Israel is colonising water resources in Latin America.³⁰

Mekorot, Israel's national water company, which uses water apartheid as a means to enforce Israeli occupation and supplies water to illegal Israeli settlements being constructed on stolen Palestinian land to enable their expansion, is also embedded in Latin America.³¹

A Common Oppressor: The US-Israeli Empire continued...

The company has multi-million dollar projects in Mexico, Colombia, Uruguay, Chile, the Dominican Republic, and Argentina.³² Mekorot has exploited Latin America's water resources under the guise of 'modernisation', to push privatising schemes that reduce Latin American sovereignty over their own water.³³

These projects are often made through back-door deals with no competition, whilst local communities are excluded.³⁴ The projects also ignore socio-environmental concerns and assessments, masking the risks to local communities and ecosystems.³⁵

Many socio-environmental collectives in the region have denounced these agreements with Mekorot due to their lack of transparency and scrutiny, links to pollutive industries, and negative impact on already water scarce and drought-prone areas.³⁶

In Argentina's Bahia Blanca port, Mekorot designed a wastewater reuse plant using millions of dollars in public funding to supply a petrochemical complex – prioritising the industrial use of water over the local population's needs.³⁷

Civil society groups have described these acts as "liquid colonialism" – a Zionist blueprint of control and dispossession exported from Palestine to Latin America and the rest of the world, where indigenous rights are ignored and ecosystems are sacrificed for profit.³⁸

“The State of Israel has become a murderous lackey at the service of imperialism...It’s a genocidal government. I condemn that Zionist government that persecutes the heroic Palestinian people.”

Hugo Chávez
former President of Venezuela.³⁹



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Indigenous People's Resistance in Latin America and Palestine



Indigenous People's Resistance in Latin America and Palestine

Palestinians and indigenous peoples in Latin America have shared experiences of colonial violence, ethnic cleansing, genocide, and the theft and dispossession of their lands.⁴⁰

In Latin America, indigenous peoples continue to experience state repression, racism and the murder of indigenous persons by non-indigenous settlers and state forces.⁴¹

Indigenous lands are under continued threat from the farming, mining and logging industries, as well as projects to build dams and oil and gas pipelines.⁴² Many of these industries lobby governments to open indigenous territories to legal settlement by colonists, or turn a blind eye to their illegal settlement.⁴³

In both Latin America and Palestine, settler violence has been met with resistance rooted in indigenous peoples' deep relationship to their land and community, and transnational solidarity against settler colonialism.⁴⁴

In the 1990s, for example, prominent indigenous movements emerged in Ecuador, Bolivia, Guatemala, Mexico and Chile.⁴⁵ Many of these indigenous organisations began to express solidarity with Palestinians, mainly with reference to concepts of indigeness, colonialism, dispossession and racism.⁴⁶

Latin American states' labelling of these indigenous movements as 'terrorist organisations', and the inspiration of the Palestinian resistance in confronting armed settlers, further cemented indigenous solidarity with Palestine.⁴⁷

Since the 2000s, Palestinian and indigenous organisations in Latin America have regularly staged joint events, such as protests, informational events, exhibitions and music festivals.⁴⁸

Since the beginning of Israel's genocide, indigenous nations have continued to express solidarity with Palestine, such as the signatories of a public letter by the Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca, which encompasses eight Indigenous groups in southwest Colombia. The statement read: "We want to express our total and deepest solidarity to the Palestinian people, who have been suffering for 56 days a true genocide at the hands of the Zionist State of Israel".⁴⁹

Similarly, in Brazil, various Indigenous groups have expressed solidarity with the Palestinians, such as the Guarani Kaiowa from Mato Grosso do Sul state, who released a video in which activists salute Palestinians in Gaza in their original Guarani language. In the video, they state: "They (the Palestinians) have the same right to struggle that we, the Guarani Kaiowa, have. Long live Palestine".⁵⁰

“The Axis of Resistance exists throughout the world; it exists in Africa, in Asia, in the Middle East, in Latin America and in the Caribbean. The Resistance also belongs to the people who are fighting against neoliberalism, racism and various forms of colonization.

The 21st century is our century. It is the century of the unity of the people. It is the century in which people will be liberated.”

Nicolas Maduro
Venezuelan President⁵¹



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Global Solidarities from Latin America to Palestine



Global Solidarities from Latin America to Palestine

Latin American solidarity with Palestine has its roots in leftist movements' anti-imperial solidarities with colonised peoples around the world from the 1960s onwards, and Latin American peoples' experiences of oppression and subjugation at the hands of US and Israeli-supported authoritarian leaders.¹

This military alliance of oppression created a natural solidarity amongst oppressed Latin American peoples with Palestinians suffering under similar conditions of oppression.⁶ Shared experiences include genocide, land appropriation, dispossession, and the use of fear through heavy militarisation.⁷

Nonetheless, governmental shifts remained slow.⁸ In 1988, 10 Latin American countries voted to recognise the Palestinian Declaration of Independence in UN General Assembly Resolution 43/177 (1988), and only Nicaragua and Cuba had formally recognised the State of Palestine at this time.⁹

The 21st century saw the toppling of oppressive regimes and the rise of more leftwing and progressive governments in Latin America: Hugo Chávez in Venezuela (2000), Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in Brazil (2003), Néstor Kirchner in Argentina (2003), Tabaré Vázquez in Uruguay (2005), Evo Morales in Bolivia (2006), Oscar Arias in Costa Rica (2006), Cristina Fernández in Argentina (2007), Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua (2007), Fernando Lugo in Paraguay (2008), Mauricio Funes in El Salvador (2009), José Mujica in Uruguay (2010), and Dilma Rousseff in

Brazil (2011).¹⁰ Consequently, South American governments sought to articulate a regional political stance that was more independent of US influence.¹¹

By the 2010s, 16 Latin American countries had recognised the State of Palestine, and several had established embassies or diplomatic offices in Ramallah.¹²

Since the beginning of Israel's genocide in the besieged Gaza Strip, several Latin American governments, such as Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Honduras, Nicaragua and Chile, have emerged as leading supporters of the Palestinian struggle and prominent critics of Israel.¹³

These governments have severed diplomatic ties with Israel, suspended or restricted bilateral trade, promoted multilateral initiatives aimed at alleviating Palestinian suffering, and recently condemned the Israeli government's occupation.¹⁴

At the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States summit, a large majority of countries supported the UN resolution for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and demanded guarantees on access to humanitarian aid and support for UNRWA.¹⁵

In Bolivia, Chile, Brazil, Colombia, Puerto Rico, and Mexico, student encampments protesting the genocide in Gaza demanded that their universities end their complicity with Israeli occupation.¹⁶

“Governments around the world are shocked that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has become the victim and target of an attack of this nature, which undoubtedly has Zionist undertones.”

Delcy Rodriguez
Venezuela’s Acting President¹⁷



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Venezuela and Palestine



© Return to Palestine

Venezuela and Palestine

Venezuela and Palestine both have extensive natural resources that the US and Israel, respectively, have sought to exploit.⁵¹

In 2000, the Gaza Marine gas field was discovered, with an estimated value of \$4 billion.⁵² Since then the US has sponsored Israel's tightening siege on the occupied Gaza Strip, culminating in the genocide since October 2023, in order for the US and Israel to colonise the Strip and steal these resources.⁵³

Similarly, Venezuela has the world's largest oil reserves - about a fifth of the world's total - and South America's largest gold reserves.⁵⁴ Trump has made clear that this is an imperial attack for oil extraction and the colonisation of natural resources.⁵⁵

In order to extract these resources, the US has manufactured consent for colonial violence in both Palestine and Venezuela by attempting to delegitimise lawful and legitimate resistance to colonial subjugation.⁵⁶

The US has repeatedly invoked Maduro's "narcoterrorism" as a pretext for its attack on Venezuela, and falsely portrayed Palestinian resistance operations against Zionist occupation and genocide as "terrorism".⁵⁷

This narrative reverses victim and oppressor in an attempt to pacify resistance to US-Israeli imperialism.⁵⁸

By attacking both Gaza and Venezuela simultaneously, the US and Israel also hope to destabilise global anticolonial solidarities.⁵⁹

In 2009, during Israel's bombardment of the besieged Gaza Strip known as 'Operation Cast Lead', Venezuela – then under Hugo Chávez – was one of only two Latin American countries to break off diplomatic relations with Israel.⁶⁰

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has also repeatedly spoken out in support of Palestine and condemned Israel's genocide and US-Israeli imperialism.⁶¹

To destabilise these anticolonial governments, the US and Israel have supported opposition puppets.⁶² Like the US and Israel's support for the Abu Shabab militia in the occupied Gaza Strip to undermine Hamas' leadership, Israel and the US have supported the opposition leader María Corina Machado - a Western puppet prepared to destroy her nation's sovereignty and sell her nation's resources for personal gain.⁶³

In a recent speech, Machado thanked Polish-Israeli war criminal Benjamin Netanyahu, and announced her intention for a close relationship with Israel, and to move the Venezuelan Embassy to Jerusalem if she takes power.⁶⁴

Our collective failure to resist the US-Israeli genocide in Gaza, escalate effectively, and shut down business as usual has emboldened the US's imperialism and enabled Trump's illegal abduction of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores.⁶⁵

“There are those who want to hand this country over to the devils - you know who, right? The far-right Zionists want to hand this country over to the devils.”

Nicolas Maduro
Venezuelan President²



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Colombia and Palestine



Colombia and Palestine

Israel has long supplied the weapons that have funded internal conflict in Colombia.⁶¹

Military ties with Israel were critical in the establishment of the Colombian United Self-Defence Groups (AUCs) and other far-right paramilitary groups, who were responsible for the deaths of over 150,000 Colombians.⁶²

Carlos Castaño, one of the main leaders of the AUCs, even travelled to Israel for military training in 1983, and even thanked and praised Israel in his autobiography.⁶³

Similarly, in the 2000s, then Colombian President Álvaro Uribe – who unleashed a period of intensified violence and serious human rights violations against Colombians – benefited from longstanding military ties with Israel.⁶⁴ For example, Colombia had previously acquired several Israeli Kfir fighter jets, whose maintenance was, until recently, handled by Israeli companies.⁶⁵

In August 2022, Colombia elected its first left-wing government in recent history, led by Gustavo Petro, whose administration adopted a critical stance on past state violence and set the stage for the criminal conviction of Uribe.⁶⁶ This break with the past extended to foreign policy, in relation to Palestine.⁶⁷

After October 7, Petro refused to condemn Hamas and criticised genocidal statements made by Israeli officials, leading to a breakdown in economic relations and, eventually, the severing of diplomatic ties in May 2024.⁶⁸ Colombia also joined South Africa's case against Israel at the ICJ.⁶⁹

Colombia has also stopped all purchases of weapons from Israel, and suspended its coal exports to Israel.⁷⁰

In January 2025, Colombia became a founding member of the Hague Group, a group of states seeking accountability for Israel's violations of international law, and Bogota hosted the coalition's first emergency summit in July.⁷¹

This summit produced the Bogota Joint Statement, whereby 13 countries committed to measures to prevent the transfer of weapons to Israel, urgent revision of all public contracts with the Zionist entity, and the pursuit of accountability for Israeli crimes by supporting universal jurisdiction and other international legal initiatives.⁷²

In September 2025, at the UN General Assembly in New York, President Petro announced his intention to enact Uniting for Peace Resolution 377 as a mechanism to end the genocide in Gaza and provide armed protection through an international protective force.¹⁶² This force could have excluded countries complicit in the genocide, such as the US, UK, Italy, and Germany, from participating.¹⁶³

In retaliation, Trump revoked Petro's US visa, and has made several threats against him, which have heightened after the US' kidnapping of Maduro.¹⁶⁴ These threats include saying Colombia looks "ready to fall", and that Colombia was being run by "a sick man who likes making cocaine and selling it to the United States. [...] And he's not going to be doing it very long. Let me tell you." Trump also remarked that a US operation against Colombia, "sounds good to me."¹⁶⁵

“If Palestine dies, all of humanity dies with it. Therefore, every action opposing extermination, every voice that defies indifference, is an act of life...

In Colombia, we understand the weight of pain and the price of war. We know what it means to mourn those who are taken, to walk in hunger, to bury hope. And perhaps that is why we understand that silence in the face of genocide is another form of complicity.”

Gustavo Petro
Colombian President³



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Cuba and Palestine



Cuba and Palestine

For over 70 years, from well before the revolution to the present day, Cuba has stood firmly with Palestine – often as a lone voice in the Americas.⁷²

The Cuban-Palestinian relationship was strengthened by their parallel struggles against Western imperialism.⁷³ Just as Palestinians' resistance movements have been targeted by Israel, Cuba confronted US attempts to overthrow its revolution, including the Bay of Pigs invasion and numerous assassination attempts against its leaders.⁷⁴

Cuba has the longest history of solidarity with Palestine in Latin America, being the only Latin American country to vote against the colonial “partition” of Palestine at the United Nations.⁷⁵

In 1959, Cuba's Che Guevara made a historic visit to Gaza, touring the region just a few months after the revolution.⁷⁶ The City of Gaza proclaimed him “the great liberator of the peoples”, and his visit marked a crucial moment when Palestine's struggle began transforming from a regional conflict into part of a global anti-colonial movement.⁷⁷

Following Guevara's visit to Gaza, Cuba began providing practical assistance to Palestinians, including:⁷⁸

- Granting citizenship to displaced Palestinians
- Hosting solidarity conferences
- Providing thousands of university scholarships to Palestinian students
- Offering military training to Palestinian resistance fighters
- Welcoming Palestinian diplomatic missions

In 1964, Cuba recognised the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) as soon as it was founded, becoming one of the first countries to do so.⁷⁹

In 1966, Cuba played a key diplomatic and political role in forging global anticolonial solidarities, with initiatives such as the 1966 Tricontinental Conference held in Havana, which brought together revolutionary movements from Africa, Asia, and Latin America.⁸⁰

In 1967, Cuba, along with Nicaragua, were the only two Latin American countries to condemn Israel's actions after the Naksa.⁸¹

During this period, Cuba also facilitated strategic information and military training exchanges amongst guerrilla organisations from Latin America and Palestine, particularly the PLO.⁸²

Likewise, throughout the 1970s, the PLO provided training and assistance to revolutionary movements across Latin America, viewing the struggles for justice in both regions as interconnected.⁸³

By 1973, Cuba severed diplomatic relations with Israel, following the Non-Aligned Movement meeting in Algeria.⁸⁴

Despite facing severe economic challenges due to the US embargo, Cuba continued providing medical training and education to Palestinians.⁸⁵

Following the beginning of Israel's genocide in Gaza, Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel has held public demonstrations in support of Palestine in Havana.⁸⁶ Cuba has also supported South Africa's case against Israel at the ICJ, and joined the Hague Group.⁸⁷

“We want to express our total and deepest solidarity to the Palestinian people, who have been suffering for 56 days a true genocide at the hands of the Zionist State of Israel...

The struggle and resistance of the Palestinian people is the struggle of all Indigenous peoples. As Indigenous peoples, we fully identify with the suffering of the Palestinian people, because it reminds us of the genocide that we ourselves have experienced.”

The Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca
(southwest Colombia).⁴



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Chile and Palestine



Chile and Palestine

Israel was one of the main arms suppliers to Chile's violent military junta between 1973 and 1990.⁸⁸

Beyond Israel's military support for Chile's dictatorship, Palestinian people also have a shared history of struggle with Chile's indigenous Mapuche people.⁸⁹

With the return of democracy to Chile in 1990, Mapuche organisations held street demonstrations, land occupations and used arson against the private property of forestry companies and large landowners seeking to evict them from their land, bearing clear parallels to Palestinian resistance movements.⁹⁰ Several Mapuche resistance fighters, such as Alex Lemun, Matias Catrileo and Jaime Mendoza Collio, were killed by state forces.⁹¹

From 2010 to 2014, Chile's then president Sebastián Piñera, as part of his security policy and militarization, signed more treaties with Israel than any other Chilean president apart from Pinochet.⁹² Mirroring Israeli methods, indigenous Mapuche were often beaten or shot with rubber bullets during police raids.⁹³

Referencing Mapuche and Palestinian shared experiences of oppression, Pedro Cayuqueo, a journalist and director of the website Mapuche Resistance, called his people "the Palestinians of South America," a phrase that has since been adopted by several activists.⁹⁴

In July 2014, during Israel's bombardment of the besieged Gaza Strip, Cayuqueo tweeted maps depicting the shrinkage of Mapuche land since 1540 with the words: "How would you feel? No, it is not Palestine. It is Wallmapu." – drawing clear parallels with the theft of Palestinian land since 1948.⁹⁵

The shared connections between Chile's indigenous peoples and Palestinians has been further strengthened by the Palestinian diaspora in Chile, which is the largest in Latin America, numbering over 500,000 people.⁹⁶

Following the beginning of Israel's genocide in the besieged Gaza Strip, the Chilean government's previously warm relations with Israel have shifted significantly.⁹⁹

In 2024, after denouncing the genocide in Gaza, Chile joined South Africa's case at the ICJ.¹⁰⁰ The government also withdrew its military attachés from its embassy in Tel Aviv, barred Israeli companies from participating in a major defence expo in its capital Santiago, and announced its support for an arms embargo.¹⁰⁰

“For Indigenous peoples, territory is something sacred. Our rivers, mountains, woods and lands are sacred. That’s why our struggle is the same struggle of several peoples in the world, including the Palestinians.”

Soledad Ortiz Vasquez

an indigenous member of the Mixtec people, and one of the heads of the Observatory of the Peoples’ Human Rights, an international organisation founded in Mexico that monitors and denounces human rights violations of Indigenous groups.⁵



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Brazil and Palestine



Brazil and Palestine

Starting in 2000, Israeli military companies, led by Elbit Systems, became major suppliers of the Brazilian police and armed forces, signing government contracts worth around 1 billion dollars.¹⁰¹

In 2007, the Mercosur bloc countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay), signed a free trade treaty with Israel. Despite Israel's genocide in Gaza, no Mercosur government has called for the treaty's suspension.¹⁰²

Drones purchased from Israel have been used since 2010 in the militarization of Brazil's favelas and were also used during the 2016 Football World Cup.¹⁰³

In 2015, President Dilma Rousseff refused to accept Dani Dayan, a leader of the West Bank settler movement, as ambassador to Brazil.¹⁰⁴

In 2019, after coming to power due to the support of Zionist Evangelical groups, Jair Bolsonaro aligned Brazil's government with the US and ratified Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel – although the announced relocation of the embassy was never implemented due to pressures from Arab countries, who are powerful trading partners for Brazil.¹⁰⁵

In the first months of his administration, Bolsonaro signed six agreements with Israel on public security, defence, science and technology.¹⁰⁶

In 2019, Netanyahu became the first Israeli head of government to visit the country.¹⁰⁹

Following the election of Lula da Silva in 2022, Brazil's support for Israel has shifted somewhat, and Brazil has supported South Africa's case against Israel at the ICJ.¹¹⁰

In 2024, BDS Brazil and other solidarity groups also succeeded in forcing the government to cancel the purchase of Atmos 2000 howitzers from the Israeli military company Elbit Systems.¹¹¹

“We face the same kind of discrimination that they face every day. We’re confined inside our territories and there are no policies to help us. Our rights and our sovereignty are violated all the time....”

We’re peaceful, but we’ll keep fighting for our rights. We’re oppressed every day. We feel like Palestinians, surrounded by Israelis. We’ll resist like them.”

Odirlei Fidelis

an indigenous activist from the Kaingang indigenous people in Porto Alegre.¹¹²



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Bolivia and Palestine



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Bolivia and Palestine

In 2009, during Israel’s assault on the besieged Gaza Strip known as ‘Operation Cast Lead’, Bolivia under Evo Morales was one of only two Latin American countries to break off diplomatic relations with Israel.¹¹³

Following Jeanine Áñez’s military-backed coup against President Evo Morales and his Movement Toward Socialism (MAS) party in late-2019, she restored relations with Israel that Morales had cut in 2009, and sought Israeli assistance in training police units for counterterrorism, using the state’s security apparatus to repress opposition and target former MAS officials.¹¹⁴

Journalist Belén Fernández wrote that, the coup was not only for Bolivia’s right-wing, but “for Israel too”.¹¹⁵

In 2020, when elections were held in Bolivia, MAS candidate Luis Arce won a landslide victory.¹¹⁶ One of his first actions was to reinstate visa requirements for Israeli citizens due to lack of reciprocity.¹¹⁷

In late 2023, Bolivia broke diplomatic ties with Israel, following the beginning of the genocide in the besieged Gaza Strip.¹¹⁸ A year later, Bolivia also joined South Africa’s case at the ICJ and the Hague Group.¹¹⁹

In October 2025, Bolivia elected Rodrigo Paz, a centre-right candidate from the Christian Democratic Party of Bolivia.¹²⁰ Within hours of the election results, Israel congratulated Paz, calling his victory an opportunity to “open a new chapter” in bilateral relations.¹²¹

Bolivia’s political realignment opens the possibility of the reversal of some of the measures taken by the Bolivian government against Israel since 2023, with the Bolivian government already restoring full diplomatic relations with Israel.¹²²

“The Bolivarian revolution from day one stood by the side of the Palestinian people in their memorable struggle against the genocidal state of Israel that tramples on, kills and seeks to exterminate the Palestinian people.”

Hugo Chávez
Former President of Venezuela¹²³



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Mexico and Palestine



Mexico and Palestine

In 1952, Mexico established official diplomatic relations with Israel and appointed a diplomatic representative to Israel from 1956.¹²⁴

In November 1975, Mexico voted in favor of UN General Assembly Resolution 3379, which described Zionism as a form of racism.¹²⁵ In response, the Jewish community in Mexico incited a tourism boycott against the country, which caused the resignation of then Foreign Minister Emilio Rabasa.¹²⁶

Throughout the 1990s, Mexico and Israel established closer ties in the political, cultural, and commercial fields, and signed a free trade agreement in 2000.¹²⁷

Since 2006, when then-President Felipe Calderón launched the so-called “war on drugs”, Israel has supplied successive Mexican governments with repressive technologies, most notably the Pegasus surveillance spyware.¹²⁸

Using this Israeli technology, Mexican governments have carried out illegal detentions, killings, disappearances and torture, all carried out in the name of combating drug cartels.¹²⁹

Israel has also become a refuge for former Mexican officials accused of these crimes.¹³⁰ Namely, the former head of Mexico’s Criminal Investigation Agency, Tomás Zerón de Lucio, who faces charges of torture during investigations into the forced disappearance of 43 students in 2014, fled to Israel to escape persecution.¹³¹

In September 2021, the Mexican government sent a letter to Israel’s prime minister, Naftali Bennet, requesting the extradition of Tomás Zerón de Lucio.¹³² He currently faces several accusations including the manufacturing of a “historic truth” that aimed to cover up what really happened during the night of the students’ abduction, and in the illegal purchase of the Israeli spyware Pegasus.¹³³

The Israeli government has not responded to Mexico’s extradition request.¹³⁴

Mexico’s indigenous population’s experiences of repression has produced significant grassroots solidarities with Palestine.¹³⁵

For example, in June 2019, several political organisations in Mexico started mobilising against the increasing militarisation of the Zapatista territories in the southern state of Chiapas.¹³⁶ A roundtable entitled ‘From Guerrero to Palestine: conversations about militarisation’ took place at Café Zapata Vive in Mexico City.¹³⁷

There has been a notable shift in Brazil’s foreign policy towards Israel following the beginning of its genocide in Gaza.¹³⁸ In 2024, after the rise to power of Claudia Sheinbaum, Brazil vocally criticised Israeli policy toward Palestinians and Mexico joined South Africa’s case against Israel at the ICJ alleging genocide in Gaza.¹³⁹

“Placing processes of militarisation within a global context links together different forms of resistance worldwide, in a transnational movement of solidarity. It makes possible the conception of Palestinian resistance against colonialism as part of the popular struggles, especially those led by indigenous peoples, against longstanding dispossession through militarisation in Mexico.”

Erick Viramontes

Assistant Professor of International Relations at Tecnológico de Monterrey in Querétaro, Mexico.¹³⁸



The Palestinian Population of Latin America



The Palestinian Population of Latin America

The Arab diaspora in Latin America is also a major force behind pro-Palestine activism. Brazil alone has some 16 million citizens of Arab descent, and Chile has the largest Palestinian population of any country outside of the Middle East, numbering around 500,000.¹³⁹

Most Palestinians in Chile are from Palestine's Christian community, particularly the towns of Bethlehem, Beit Jala, and Beit Sahur.¹⁴⁰

The combination of forced conscription for Christians in the early 1900s and the deteriorating economic situation during World War I accelerated the number of arrivals to Chile, with most Palestinians arriving during this period and in the years following the fall of the Ottoman Empire in 1924.¹⁴¹

Emigration to Chile continued throughout the initial Nakba from 1947 to 1948, the 1967 Naksa, and the Intifadas of the late 1980s and early 2000s.¹⁴²

The majority of Palestinians have settled in Chile's capital Santiago, but significant communities reside all around the country.¹⁴³ There is even a Chilean saying that, "in every town there are three things: a priest, a policeman, and a Palestinian".¹⁴⁴

Many Palestinian social and cultural institutions have long been established in Chile, such as Club Palestino in Santiago, founded in 1939, which represents the social hub of the community – as only those with Palestinian heritage can become members.¹⁴⁵ It hosts a range of recreational and cultural activities related to Palestinian life in Chile.¹⁴⁶

In 1916, Palestinian immigrants to Chile had founded their own football team – Club Deportivo Palestino – which has retained a loyal following and stayed among the top teams in the Chilean First Division.¹⁴⁷

Palestinian communities were also instrumental in Chile's economic industrialisation and the development of Chile's textile industry.¹⁴⁸

The Centre for Arab Studies at the University of Chile, which hosts various academics of Palestinian origin, also produced critical academic work and courses on Palestine studies.¹⁴⁹

In 2008, following significant advocacy from the Palestinian Chilean community, 117 Palestinian refugees from Iraq, who had suffered greatly in post-invasion violence, were resettled in Chile.¹⁵⁰

The large Palestinian diaspora has significant political influence, with mayors, deputies, and senators consistently bringing the Palestinian cause to the front of the political agenda.¹⁵²

Politicians of Palestinian origin include Fuad Chahín (ex-president of the centrist Christian Democratic Party), Francisco Chahuán (president of the right-wing Renovación Nacional) and Daniel Jadue (recent presidential candidate for the Communist Party).¹⁵³ The Chilean-Palestinian interparliamentary group is also one of the largest in the Chilean Congress.¹⁵⁴

Palestinian Chilean advocacy has had significant impacts, for example, the Chilean delegation abstained in the 1947 United Nations vote on the partition of Palestine after pressure by the Palestinian community.¹⁵⁵ A PLO office opened in Chile in 1978, becoming an official embassy in 1991.¹⁵⁶

In 2011, the Chilean government officially recognised the Palestinian State, acknowledging the historical contributions of the Chilean-Palestinian community in its declaration.¹⁵⁷

However, some of the Palestinian diaspora in Latin America, much like the Palestinian Authority, have been co-opted by the US-Israeli empire.¹⁵⁸ El Salvador's president, Nayib Bukele, has Palestinian heritage but offered his full support for Israel's genocide in Gaza, and even repeated Israeli rhetoric, calling the Palestinian resistance "savage beasts", "animals", "criminals", "rapists", and "murderers".¹⁵⁹

“It is a war of genocide that has been imposed on us, during which it is a shame to fight dispersedly. It is either that we rise up together, or they will eliminate each one of us individually.”

Fathi Shaqaqi

Palestinian resistance fighter.¹⁶⁰



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Western Media Bias

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Blindfolded and shackled, Nicolas Maduro, the brutal dictator worshipped by the Left, after being dramatically captured by US special forces in a shock-and-awe raid. And as the world reels, a White House declaration...

TRUMP: NOW I'M RUNNING VENEZUELA

UNRIVALLED REPORTS AND ANALYSIS Pages 4,5,6,7 and 22

The Sunday Telegraph

Trump to run Venezuela

• Maduro is snatched by US special forces including helicopter raid in Caracas
 • Deposed leader and wife to stand trial in New York on drugs and weapons charges
 • US president to allow oil companies to fix infrastructure and start making money

Removing Maduro alone would be a hollow victory for America

12

Western Media Bias

Justifying Western colonialism

In both Venezuela and Palestine, Western media outlets have justified US and Israeli colonial attacks and occupation, and used language that confers awe, rather than condemnation, of these illegal actions. Euphemisms such as 'capture' and 'seizure' are used instead of occupation.

NEW YORK POST

US used powerful mystery weapon that brought Venezuelan soldiers to their knees during Maduro raid: witness account

B B C NEWS

The continued mysteries surrounding the intelligence operation to seize Maduro

B B C NEWS

Israel security cabinet approves plan to 'capture' Gaza, official says

sky news

Benjamin Netanyahu says Israel plan to seize all of Gaza and hold it indefinitely will be 'intensive'

“The movements of global resistance, whether in Latin America, Africa or the Middle East, are fighting against the same patrons of violence who have repeated themselves throughout history. What this means is that many of these groups share similar demands. We are asking for a free Palestine in the same way as we are asking for an independent Wallmapu in Chile, without police control.”

Anita Tijoux

a Chilean rapper who released the song “Somos Sur” (We Are South) with Palestinian rapper Shadia Mansour.¹⁶¹



Endnotes

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