

U.S. CSO Statement Denouncing U.S. Interference in Colombian Elections

June 17, 2026

We, the undersigned organizations, denounce recent partisan statements by the Trump administration and Republican lawmakers on Colombia's presidential elections. These statements, which include public remarks and social media posts in support of criminal defense attorney and far-right political outsider Abelardo de la Espriella, are an affront to both the principle of non-interference in foreign elections that has traditionally guided U.S. foreign policy and to the integrity and independence of Colombia's democratic process.

On Tuesday, June 2nd, President Trump posted an effusive [endorsement](#) of De la Espriella on Truth Social. He then doubled down on his endorsement on [June 10th](#), stating that “The results of this Election are very important to the future of Colombia and its relationship to the United States, which, if Abelardo wins, and because of his competence and love of his Country, will have the total support and strength of the United States behind him.”

Since President Trump publicized his initial endorsement, other lawmakers, including Congressman Carlos [Gimenez](#) (R-FL-28) and Senator Bernie [Moreno](#) (R-OH), have followed suit.

Some lawmakers explicitly endorsed De la Espriella even before the May 31st first-round election. On May 27, Congresswoman María Elvira Salazar (R-FL-27) announced her [endorsement](#) of De la Espriella. Rep. Salazar, who received more than [\\$90,000](#) in campaign donations from De la Espriella, has continued to voice her support for the right-wing candidate on [social media](#).

These interventions by President Trump and Republican lawmakers are in direct contravention of [Article 19](#) of the Organization of American States (OAS) Charter, to which the United States is a signatory.

This intervention in the Colombian election is not an isolated incident. The Trump administration has demonstrated a troubling pattern of using U.S. political and economic leverage to seek to tilt electoral outcomes in favor of allies across the hemisphere:

- In Argentina, ahead of the October 2025 midterm legislative elections, the Trump administration extended a [multi-billion-dollar financial package](#) to the government of President Javier Milei after the latter's party suffered a landslide defeat in a key provincial election, and then publicly [threatened](#) to pull U.S. financial support if Milei's party lost the midterms. Milei's party went on to win a significant [victory](#).
- In Honduras, ahead of the November 2025 presidential election, President Trump [endorsed](#) right-wing National Party candidate Nasry "Tito" Asfura and threatened to cut U.S. aid if Asfura did not win. Trump also [pardoned](#) former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández, who had been criminally convicted by a U.S. federal jury and was serving a 45-year sentence for drug trafficking. When preliminary results showed a near-

tie and the vote-counting system experienced disruptions, President Trump [posted](#) that Honduras was "trying to change the results" of its election and warned, "there will be hell to pay." Asfura was ultimately [declared the winner](#) after a weeks-long count marred by irregularities, with opponents maintaining that Trump's intervention had [swung](#) the election outcome.

Colombia is the latest front in a [deliberate strategy](#) to reshape Latin America's political landscape in favor of ideologically aligned governments, with little regard for the sovereignty or democratic integrity of the nations involved. If left unchallenged, this pattern of interference threatens to institutionalize the use of U.S. political and economic power as a tool of electoral manipulation across the region, to the detriment of U.S. standing and influence in the long run.

We call on all Members of Congress, regardless of party affiliation, to condemn the Trump administration's blatant interference in the Colombian electoral process before the second-round runoff on June 21st, and to reaffirm the United States' commitment to non-intervention and respect for the sovereignty of Latin American republics and their electoral independence. President Trump and all officials in the U.S. government must respect the voice and vote of Colombians and refrain from further meddling in their elections. The right of people to choose their own leaders, free from foreign interference, is a cornerstone of democracy—in the United States and abroad.

Sincerely,

Amazon Watch
Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR)
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America (CRLN)
Colombia Human Rights Committee (CHRC)
FOR Peace Presence
Latin America Working Group (LAWG)
Latin America/Caribbean Committee of the Loretto Community
MADRE
Oxfam America
Quixote Center
United Church of Christ
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)