



Colombia may soon have a pro-Israel Trumpian president

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Abelardo de la Espriella Candidate for President of Colombia

A brash Trump- and Israel-aligned millionaire – Abelardo De la Espriella – has come out ahead in the first round of Colombia’s presidential election. Colombia’s left-wing government has [strongly criticised](#) Israel’s [genocide](#) and resisted Trump’s [attempts to reassert US influence in Latin America](#). Meanwhile, De la Espriella has vowed to reverse these results and restore ties with Israel.

Far-right candidate sides with Israel

As Latin America’s [fourth largest economy](#), this could be a pivotal. Colombia has stood for decades as [a key US ally in Latin America](#). It’s also been [one of Israel’s staunchest partners](#) in the region. But its [first left-wing president Gustavo Petro](#) has [severed ties with Israel](#) over its genocidal crimes in Gaza, and criticised [intensifying US crimes](#) against Latin American governments under Donald Trump.

Far-right presidential candidate De la Espriella has pledged to:

- Renew an [alliance](#) with the [apartheid state of Israel](#), putting an embassy in Jerusalem and building [a direct, firm and strategic relationship with Israel](#).
- [Align with Trump](#) and his [aggressive expansionism in Latin America](#)
- [End peaceful attempts](#) to consign Colombia’s dark history of military conflict to the past. Instead, escalate confrontation and boost military funding through a hardline [iron fist](#) approach. He would buy [military equipment from the US and Israel](#)
- Set up [ten mega-prisons](#) as part of an intensifying drug war – the kind that has [failed](#) consistently both in Colombia and elsewhere.
- [Give police permission to shoot protesters](#) if they deem it appropriate.
- [Expand the exploitation of natural resources](#)

- Embrace the [capitalist extremism](#) of [neoliberalism](#) again, [slashing private-sector taxes](#) and [gutting public spending](#)

De la Espriella [lived in Miami](#) before the election campaign, and [will probably leave again if he loses](#). And for years, he had served as a [lawyer to prominent criminals](#). His supporters have been [flying the Israeli flag alongside campaign banners](#). [Propagandists](#) at United with Israel! have expressed [excitement about](#)

the possibility of reversing one of the most dramatic diplomatic ruptures in Latin America.

Israeli foreign minister Gideon Sa'ar, meanwhile, has celebrated the momentum behind his [friend](#):

Congratulations to my friend El Tigre [@ABDELAESPRIELLA](#) on his victory in the first round of Colombia's Presidential elections.

Good luck in the next round!
Firme por la patria! 🇮🇸 [pic.twitter.com/u9mTAZEDCc](#)

Gideon Sa'ar | [May 31, 2026](#)

Another rich misogynist for the far-right

De la Espriella has [modelled himself after Trump](#) learning how [leaders can](#) successfully exploit algorithms and public anger to amass power. While pushing ["conservative family values"](#), he has been openly [misogynistic](#) [unapologetically sadistic](#). And he's come from outside politics to lead the presidential race relying [on](#)

aggressive use of social media, support from charismatic Evangelical pastors, and backing from key conservative figures across Latin America.

The [mining industry](#) has been pushing people to back him. [US politicians](#) have been doing the same, while [Ecuador's far-right president](#) tried to bolster his campaign with a [dodgy promise to cancel tariffs](#)

Despite all the personal disagreements on the Colombian right, they share a common hatred of the left in the end. So it's unsurprising that they've been [uniting behind de la Espriella](#). Fellow far-right candidate [Paloma Valencia](#) for example, wasted no time in backing him to ["oppose communism"](#).

Recently, meanwhile, Colombia's left paid particular attention to a [scandal showing the Trump regime, drug traffickers, Israel, and the Latin American far right collaborating to undermine progressives in the region](#). So the prospect of underhand tactics is absolutely on the cards too.

The peace-building, left-wing alternative

De la Espriella got 43% of the vote in the first round. But main left-wing candidate Iván Cepeda was close behind with 40%. So the left is still very much in the race.

Cepeda and Petro's Pacto Histórico coalition faced [consistent congressional opposition](#) to its programme. But it still managed to [reduce poverty](#) [inflation and unemployment](#) And its [gains in congress in March's elections](#) suggested it remained popular.

Drug-related violence has long been a [pervasive problem](#) in Colombia, and there has been a slight [increase](#) coinciding with Trump's second term in the US. But Cepeda believes in continuing the [push for peace](#) rather than escalation, as does his Indigenous running mate, human rights activist Aida Quilcuá.

Cepeda has also been [critical of Israel's genocide and apologism for it on Colombia's right](#)

In the first round of the presidential vote, de la Espriella predictably (as a colonial cheerleader) did well in largely white and conservative areas. [Cepeda, meanwhile, won in majority Black and Indigenous communities](#)

Around 24 million Colombians voted, but there are [41 million people who are eligible to vote](#) And turnout is usually a lot higher in the second round which in this case will take place on [21 June](#)

The Latin American election is far from over. Voters on the fence will now need to decide between the brash and divisive de la Espriella and the [calmer, more pragmatic Cepeda](#) The Colombian left, meanwhile, will need to unite and make a strong case for peace in order to stop the far right and its sadistic colonial friends.

Featured image [via the Canary / Instagram](#)

By [Ed Sykes](#)

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