

# Maria Corina Machado calls war on Venezuela 'act of love'

The Grayzone's Max Blumenthal and Aaron Mate discuss war-crazed Nobel Peace Prize winner and Venezuelan opposition leader's latest revealing rant supporting a US invasion her country. ||| The Grayzone ||| Find more reporting at <https://thegrayzone.com> Support our original journalism at Patreon: <https://patreon.com/grayzone> Facebook: <https://facebook.com/thegrayzone> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/thegrayzonenews> Instagram: <https://instagram.com/thegrayzonenews> Minds: <https://minds.com/thegrayzone> Mastodon: <https://mastodon.social/@thegrayzone> #TheGrayzone

## #Max

The leading figure of the opposition, Maria Corina Machado. Her party, Vente Venezuela, wasn't really the top opposition party. The top opposition party was called Popular Will, and it was led by Leopoldo López. That's the party that produced Juan Guaidó. They're one of these newer parties that were created essentially through USAID, CANVAS, and the National Endowment for Democracy to produce radical opposition figures who wanted to sell out their country and have its resources stolen so they could ride to power on the back of a tank. But Maria Corina Machado was always more radical than them.

She's always been calling for U.S. military intervention, even Israeli military intervention in Venezuela. And she's sort of all that's left after Juan Guaidó's show ran out of steam. So she gets the Nobel Prize, and we report on it. We have a piece on it at The Grayzone, based on a really devastating legal brief written by Julian Assange, showing that the Nobel Committee violated its own rules by giving a prize to someone who had already expressed interest in seeing war crimes committed against their own people. You know, Obama—that was a farce—but Obama had not yet committed or overseen war crimes.

It was a, you know, "we're giving him a prize in hopes that he'll bring peace," but essentially, we're giving him a prize because we want soft power—and we're Norway, we have five million people. So she's now coming to Washington, and I think this will be a pivotal moment for her, one where we'll see her weakened emotionally, because she'll be asked questions like the kind she got on CBS \*Face the Nation\*—obviously a friendly interview with Bari Weiss's network that we'll talk about. But she was asked a few critical questions, like, "Do you support U.S. military action in Venezuela?"—which most Venezuelans don't—or, "Do you support stealing these tankers?" And her answers were absurd.

## #Speaker 02

In order to have democracy—and for democracy to bring peace—and in order to maintain and achieve freedom, you do need strength. Otherwise, the country would have the peace of the dead, a nation under absolute oppression, simply giving in. And that's not the case. It's absolutely absurd that you see a criminal regime like Maduro's getting support from Russia or Iran, and then people say it's somehow wrong to ask for support from democratic countries and democratic leaders. That's absolutely absurd. We don't have arms; we have our will, the power of organization, and the power of love—which, in the end, I have to say, means that peace is ultimately an act of love.

**#Max**

So basically, bombing Venezuela is an act of love.

**#Aaron**

If you watch the whole interview, there were a couple of challenging questions. For example, is there a contradiction between receiving a Nobel Peace Prize and advocating war? But still, she's treated with such kid gloves because she's seen as the new face of Venezuela, the next leader. So she's on this constant media tour, being promoted as some lover of democracy. Yet even people like Francisco Rodriguez say the Venezuelan opposition isn't fully behind her. It's not as if she's this big unifying force for the opposition. In fact, I don't know—you tell me—it strikes me that Juan Guaidó was more of a unifying force for the Venezuelan opposition than she is.

**#Max**

Well, the question is really, what does Trump think? And remember what Trump said about Guaidó—he called Guaidó a joke. He said his wife looked like a little girl, that he couldn't even believe she was a grown woman. And, you know, Guaidó didn't have gravitas. María Corina Machado, on that balcony in Oslo, looked dictatorial and crazed. And then, you know, the whole ceremony clearly upset Trump. The Trump administration—he had his press secretary denounce the Nobel Committee for giving her the prize. They wouldn't have done that if they'd taken her seriously.

And I don't think the Trump administration takes her seriously. I think that even while Rubio is listening to these regime-change maniacs like Claver-Carone and Marshall Billingslea, he understands that Maria Corina Machado doesn't command anything. It's not just the Venezuelan population—she just doesn't have what it takes to come into power and last more than 48 to 72 hours. Because there's the military, there are guns, there are the colectivos—not cooperativos, the colectivos, sorry. And who controls those? Who really has the credibility and the backing of the military? It's not her.

So if anything—and I just get this vibe when I read the mainstream media coverage and hear what Trump officials are saying—they're not really pumping up Maria Corina. So they must be trying to finagle some kind of deal where Maduro leaves, and then they claim they'll get some more moderate

figure from within the Chavista realm, who they can then begin whittling down. But that's not going to happen without the involvement of a figure like Diosdado Cabello, who is in the Maduro administration but really holds so much sway among the military, and has not been very inclined to make a deal with the U.S. because the U.S. screws them again and again and again.

And every time he had been involved in any deal-making process with the U.S., they came in with a new round of sanctions, and now they've come in with this naval siege. So I don't think the U.S.—the Trump administration—actually knows what to do or has a strategy beyond Maduro that can really work, because the military is rock-solid behind this government and its system. So Maria Corina Machado can talk all she wants, but she's eventually going to go the way of Guaidó. By the way, I heard he was actually kicked off a flight to Oslo. He wanted to be part of the ceremony, and he was edged out because they consider him such an embarrassment now.

## **#Aaron**

Well, what's he doing now? He's in Florida, teaching some classes or something like that on governance.

## **#Max**

Florida International University. They have this thing called the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom, which is like some Koch brothers Potemkin village. They bring all these washed-up Latin American vassals and stooges there—local comprador stooges for the U.S., or what Bari Weiss would call toadies—and they get to teach classes. Can you imagine what Guaidó's class is? Like, Coup Plotting 101: here's how you get a cartel to bring you over the border so you can gather your forces with USAID. I mean, his English isn't even that good, so I don't know what he does there. I've seen some pictures of him sitting in a classroom, but you never see a class. He's just kind of chilling there. It's all a real joke. I mean, the Latin American right is a joke.

They completely rely on U.S. bailouts and the U.S. military, and they fail at every step of the way. Javier Milei is a perfect example. I mean, he was going to get demolished in the parliamentary elections, and then Trump comes in with this \$40 billion bailout. We paid for at least half of it as U.S. taxpayers—a complete repudiation of everything Milei had ever said when he was a so-called anarcho-capitalist. I mean, it's basically what he would have called corporate communism. And Trump says to the Argentine public, "I'm going to destroy your economy unless you vote Milei's party back in. I will not bail you out, and the peso will continue to be devalued." And so the Argentines have to do that. Same thing in Honduras, where Tito Asfura, the right-wing Trump candidate, has been certified by the National Election Council as president.

Trump basically said, "I will destroy the Honduran economy if you don't put him into power. I will sanction you." He's trying to do the same thing in Colombia. So the Latin American right—there's nothing they can do without Washington. Their entire job is to install neo-banana republics. We

have a documentary coming out—later today I'll post it, it's ready—on Daniel Noboa and his role in the international drug trade in Ecuador. This is the president of Ecuador, a key U.S. ally, who just hosted Marco Rubio and Kristi Noem. And this will tell you all you need to know about the Latin American right. It features an interview with an Ecuadorian journalist, Agustín Durán, who had to flee Ecuador because he exposed this dark alliance between the Noboa family and the cartels.