

The Daily News Line by Faraz



The 2025 Nobel Peace Prize Rewards Militarism, Defies Alfred Nobel's Will

The board of the Transnational Foundation for Peace & Future Research (TFF) strongly condemns the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Venezuelan opposition figure María Corina Machado.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has once again violated Alfred Nobel's original mandate by honouring a figure who openly advocates foreign military intervention.

In a CBS News interview, Machado declared: "The only way to stop the suppression is by force—U.S. force."

She has also appealed directly to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, asking him to use "force and influence" to help dismantle Venezuela's government—a move documented in her 2018 letter and widely circulated among peace researchers.

In CNN-aligned reporting, Machado praised U.S. naval deployments off Venezuela's coast and described the Maduro government as a "criminal organization" threatening regional stability. She warned military leaders:

"Either they sink with Maduro and his criminal system, or they contribute to saving Venezuela and save themselves as well." [CiberCuba coverage](#)

What Nobel Actually Intended

Alfred Nobel's will, signed in 1895, defines that his peace prize shall go to work:

"...the person who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, the abolition or reduction of standing armies, and the holding and promotion of peace congresses."



Machado's record violates all three – while the Committee chairman twisted it beyond recognition to make it look like Ms Machado was relevant. Her calls for foreign military pressure, silence on the humanitarian impact of sanctions, and alignment with interventionist agendas stand in stark contradiction to Nobel's vision.

Militarising Ourselves to Death

Global military expenditures are rising faster than at any point since 1945. Europe now invests more in weapons than in anything else. The Trump regime openly proposes military deployment to suppress domestic dissent. We are, de facto, militarising ourselves to death.

In this perilous moment, the Nobel Committee rewards someone who calls for military force. It deliberately ignores Nobel's intent to reduce war and militarism.

From Laureates to Lobbyists

Machado joins a troubling lineage of laureates whose actions contradict the spirit of peace: Kissinger, Obama, the EU, and the Ukrainian human rights activists who advocated for more weapons imports.

Each award diluted the meaning of peace, replacing it with strategic symbolism and, as usual and without exception, aligned with US/NATO interests.

A Prize in Crisis – Time for an international legal investigation

The Nobel Peace Prize was meant to uplift those dismantling the machinery of war—not those seeking to recalibrate it.

By honouring Machado, the Committee sends a dangerous message: that peace can be pursued through coercion, that sovereignty is negotiable, and that militarised resistance is worthy of global acclaim.

This year's award is not just a misstep. It is a betrayal.

TFF calls for an independent legal investigation into the Nobel Committee's repeated violations of its mandate.

The Committee must be held accountable—and its work suspended until a verdict is reached.

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DIMO Share Price Surge Causes Speculation Ahead of Bus Tender

The recent and dramatic surge in the share price of Diesel and Motor Engineering PLC (DIMO) on the Colombo Stock Exchange has sparked intense debate among market participants and financial observers.

While a significant government procurement process for buses appears to be driving this increase, growing concerns suggest the possibility of underlying financial misconduct.

DIMO's share price, which stood at approximately Rs. 1,400 only a few weeks ago, has now surpassed Rs. 2,400 — an all-time high for the company.

At the heart of this market frenzy is a government tender for the supply of low-floor buses, scheduled to be opened on October 17. The market widely anticipates that DIMO is the frontrunner to secure this multi-billion-rupee contract. Many investors are betting that winning such a substantial project would greatly enhance the company's future earnings and profitability.

However, the legitimacy of this sharp price escalation has come under scrutiny. Several industry competitors are reportedly preparing to formally challenge the tender process.



Serious Allegations Levelling

They allege that the tender's technical specifications have been tailored to align exclusively with the models supplied by DIMO, effectively excluding other qualified bidders. According to these critics, this represents a serious breach of competitive fairness and raises the possibility of collusion or procedural bias.

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Australia's role in bringing international criminals to justice

Late last month, a [United Nations General Assembly High-level Conference](#) renewed attention on the continuing persecution of the Rohingya and other ethnic minorities in Myanmar. Julie Bishop, now Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar, [noted that accountability for crimes against the Rohingya was "critical for reconciliation"](#). Marking the eighth anniversary of attacks against the Rohingya, now alleged in the [International Court of Justice \(ICJ\)](#) and the [International Criminal Court \(ICC\)](#) to amount to genocide, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade [reaffirmed Australia's support for accountability](#).

As Australia calls for accountability for international crimes, our credibility depends on whether we act at home. Last week, the UN Human Rights Council [extended the mandate](#) of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights [Sri Lanka Accountability Project \(OSLap\)](#).

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Australia's role...

The High Commissioner urged states to ensure that individuals could safely share information with OSLap and to support diaspora-led truth-telling. In Australia, politicians have expressed solidarity with the Tamil community's pursuit of justice following the discovery of new mass graves at Chemmani in northern Sri Lanka.

As Australia calls for accountability for international crimes, our credibility depends on whether we act at home.

Australia has long contributed to accountability efforts abroad. We advocated for a strong ICC at Rome Statute negotiations, financially supported the hybrid Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), and more recently backed an important innovation: the UN's evidence-gathering mechanisms, including for North Korea, Sri Lanka, Syria and Myanmar. These bodies collect, analyse and preserve information for use in legal proceedings. Notably, the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) has already provided information for cases before the ICJ, ICC and courts of Argentina.



Expanding the capacity of Australian Federal Police to identify the nexus between atrocity and transnational crimes would be a valuable step (Basma Alghali/Unsplash)

At home, however, our record is inconsistent. Between 1945 and 1951, Australia conducted military trials of World War II war crimes. Decades later, after investigative reporting revealed Australia as a "safe haven" for alleged Nazi war criminals, the Hawke government created the Special Investigations Unit in 1987.

Three individuals were charged; none was convicted, and the unit was dissolved in 1992. In 2009, the Lowy Institute warned that Australia likely remained home to suspected perpetrators from Yugoslavia, Cambodia, Rwanda and East Timor "among others".

In 2023, the Australian Centre for International Justice renewed calls for permanent capacity to investigate and prosecute international crimes. This has yet to be a political priority.

This is despite Australia having incorporated genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity into the Commonwealth Criminal Code, with section 15.4 granting Australian court's jurisdiction regardless of where such crimes occurred or who committed them. Few legal systems are as potentially effective, yet these provisions remain unused.

Given our support for efforts abroad and a strong legal framework at home, Australia has every reason to do more.

Legally, treaties including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the UN Convention against Torture, oblige us to investigate credible allegations and to prosecute or extradite suspects.

Diplomatically, "doing more" would reinforce Australia's standing as a principled middle power. Tangible action would give credibility to our commitment to "a world guided by the rules that are agreed between nations", complement our humanitarian reputation, and demonstrate leadership in a system too often paralysed by great power politics.

Domestically, Australia is home to significant numbers of Afghan, Burmese, Sudanese, Sri Lankan and Syrian Australians, among many other atrocity-affected communities. Among them are survivors and witnesses whose knowledge of atrocities is vital for truth-telling and, in some cases, for future prosecutions.

Therefore, "doing more" means stepping up efforts to investigate and, where possible, prosecute perpetrators on Australian soil. It also means investing in the machinery that makes prosecutions possible: credible investigations, survivor and witness engagement, and evidence preservation.

Australia can enhance our contribution by strengthening cooperation with the IIMM and OSLap (as well as the newly established mechanism for Afghanistan) by safely identifying and referring individuals with relevant information. We could also fund more protection for survivors and witnesses assisting prosecutions abroad.

Further, existing expertise can be leveraged. The Australian Federal Police (AFP), for example, has significant experience tackling cross-border trafficking, fraud and corruption. Expanding that capacity to identify the nexus between atrocity and transnational crimes, or integrating atrocity-crime investigation training into the AFP's Pacific Policing Development and Coordination Hub would be valuable steps.

Finally, Australia could contribute in contexts with significant numbers of missing persons by seconding forensic and legal experts, facilitating training and exchanges, or funding local authorities to engage independent specialists. Even modest technical or financial contributions can make a tangible difference.

As the broader system experiences strain, Australia's role in international criminal justice matters especially now. Accountability for international crimes was never meant to operate solely at the international level. From the Singapore War Crimes Trials to the ECCC and prosecutions under universal jurisdiction in Europe and South America, domestic jurisdictions have always been central.

By "doing more", Australia can both uphold the principles it promotes globally and help ensure accountability for international crimes, both here and abroad.

NOBEL PRIZE REWARDS...

Peace cannot be entrusted to those who confuse force with fraternity.

PS1 The Lay Down Your Arms Foundation has just awarded its true-peace prize aligned with Nobel's spirit and words to UN Special Rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories to *Francesca Albanese*.

But *that* does not get anything like the media attention this peace-betraying Committee does. You guess why...

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DIMO Share...

In parallel with these accusations, there is increasing suspicion that the market may be experiencing manipulation by parties with advance, non-public knowledge of the tender's likely outcome. The implication is that individuals within government circles, DIMO, or associated entities might be engaging in insider trading — acquiring shares ahead of the official tender announcement in order to benefit financially from confidential information.

Under Sri Lankan law, such behaviour constitutes a grave financial offence. Insider trading compromises the integrity of the market, undermines investor trust, and violates the principles of transparency and fairness.

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka (SEC), together with the Colombo Stock Exchange, is anticipated to launch a formal investigation into the unusual trading activity and share price volatility.

Meanwhile, two opposition political figures are reportedly gathering information to publicly address the matter, and have sought the input of several automotive industry specialists, confirmed knowledgeable sources.

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Indonesia's bold move to re-engage with North Korea sends a clear signal: it will not be dictated to by global powers.

Indonesia's decision to renew diplomatic engagement with North Korea this month is more than a nostalgic gesture recalling the Sukarno–Kim Il-sung era. Foreign Minister Sugiono's visit to Pyongyang on 11 October 2025, at the invitation of North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, marked a new phase in Indonesia's quiet but deliberate diplomacy. At a time when China, Russia, and North Korea are forging a closer axis of cooperation, Indonesia is positioning itself as a middle power capable of engaging all sides without compromising its independence.

Prabowo sees foreign policy as an instrument of sovereignty and interests, not as a field for value-driven alignment.

Sugiono affirmed Jakarta's readiness to facilitate closer engagement between North Korea and ASEAN, including through mechanisms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). The minister also attended the 80th anniversary celebration of the Workers' Party of Korea, a symbolic gesture underscoring respect for an old partner and Indonesia's quiet ambition to act as a diplomatic bridge amid Pyongyang's isolation.

The relationship between Jakarta and Pyongyang, rooted in the spirit of the Bandung Conference and the Non-Aligned Movement, never collapsed even during decades of global tension. The two nations first established diplomatic relations in the 1960s. Yet the renewed MoU now takes on new resonance in an era of sharpened rivalry and shifting power balances across East Asia.

Jakarta continues to maintain defence cooperation with the United States and Australia while deepening economic and technological ties with China. By reopening communication with Pyongyang, Indonesia signals that it can speak to all parties without asking permission from any.

By encouraging North Korea's participation in ASEAN-led forums, Indonesia is reviving its traditional role as a bridge-builder, a hallmark of its "bebas aktif" (independent and active) foreign policy doctrine.

Prabowo's brand of diplomacy is grounded in realism rather than ideology. He sees foreign policy as an instrument of sovereignty and interests, not as a field for value-driven alignment.

Economically, the relationship between Indonesia and North Korea remains minimal, yet carries symbolic weight. Jakarta's engagement reinforces its image as a dialogue-oriented actor in an increasingly divided region, one willing to talk where others prefer to isolate. Discussions between the two nations on agriculture, technology, and sports cooperation are politically neutral but diplomatically significant. They underscore Indonesia's desire to build bridges rather than walls.

While many countries are pressured to choose sides between Washington and Beijing, Jakarta continues to pursue its own path, strengthening ASEAN's centrality while keeping constructive ties with all major powers, from the United States to North Korea. Still, this approach is not without risk. Any attempt to deepen cooperation with Pyongyang must remain compliant with UN sanctions, a line Jakarta is careful not to cross. Indonesian officials have repeatedly stressed that the engagement focuses solely on humanitarian, socio-cultural, and technical cooperation, not on military or financial collaboration. The visit to Pyongyang will not transform the Korean Peninsula overnight, but it underscores a conviction that engagement, especially from middle powers, can still carve out space for diplomacy in an era of confrontation. Whether this quiet diplomacy succeeds will depend on Jakarta's ability to balance symbolism with substance.

One thing is clear: for Indonesia, the true measure of sovereignty lies not in choosing sides, but in maintaining the freedom to speak with all.

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The former French president Nicolas Sarkozy

has been ordered to go to jail in Paris next week after a court last month sentenced him to five years in prison for criminal conspiracy over a scheme to obtain election campaign funds from the regime of the late Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi.

Sarkozy, who was the rightwing president of France between 2007 and 2012, was summoned to meet state prosecutors on Monday. They told him he must present himself at the entrance of La Santé prison in the south of Paris on 21 October to begin his sentence.

The 70-year-old will be the first French postwar leader and the first former head of a European Union country to go to jail. He had already become the first former French head of state forced to wear an electronic tag after being convicted in a separate case of corruption and influence peddling over illegal attempts to secure favours from a judge. In that case, he was given a one-year jail term but was able to serve it with an electronic tag worn around the ankle. He wore the tag for three months before being granted conditional release.

Sarkozy, who denied wrongdoing and having being part of a criminal conspiracy, to seek election funding from Libya for his victorious 2007 presidential campaign, has appealed against his conviction. A new trial is expected in about six months. But the nature of Sarkozy's prison sentence means he must go to jail as his appeal process plays out.



Sarkozy was reported to have hosted 100 friends and former collaborators in Paris last week at a sort of goodbye party before going to prison. Le Figaro said he had told guests he was innocent and should never have been found guilty. Talking about prison, he reportedly said: "I will ask for no advantages. When there is a cross to bear, you must bear it to the end."

Sarkozy is expected to have his own individual prison cell, with one hour's exercise a day and three visits a week.

La Santé prison has held some of France's most famous prisoners in its 158-year history, including the terrorist Carlos the Jackal and the war criminal Maurice Papon. Sarkozy is likely to be held in a special wing for vulnerable prisoners, which some call the VIP wing.

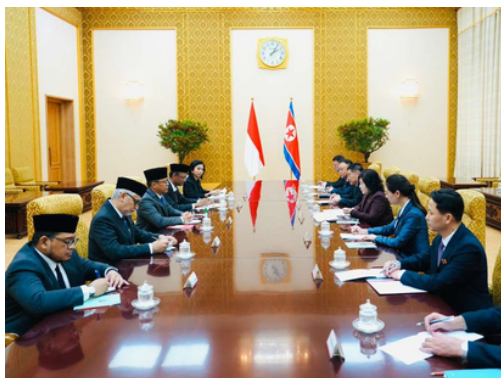
It affords more privacy to prisoners, who are placed in individual cells of 9 sq metres and kept separate from other prisoners when exercising. Patrick Balkany, the former rightwing mayor of Levallois-Perret and one-time friend of Sarkozy, was held in that wing in 2019 after a conviction for tax fraud. He described to Paris Match how the isolation was psychologically demanding, but it spared him from being photographed by other prisoners.

Sarkozy was found guilty of criminal conspiracy but acquitted of three separate charges of corruption, misuse of Libyan public funds and illegal election campaign funding. The public prosecutor had told the court that Sarkozy entered into a "Faustian pact of corruption with one of the most unspeakable dictators of the last 30 years" to gain election funding from Gaddafi.

Outside court, after judges handed down their guilty verdict, Sarkozy had said: "If they absolutely want me to sleep in jail, I will sleep in jail, but with my head held high."

After he enters jail, Sarkozy has the right, like any prisoner, to petition the appeals court for his release. But he will remain in prison until judges give their decision, which could take about two months.

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This initiative also reflects Jakarta's longstanding aspiration to act as a regional mediator.