

# The Daily News Line by Faraz



## Rodrigo Duterte, former Philippines president, charged with crimes against humanity at ICC

**Three charges against Duterte stem from his years-long campaign against drug users and dealers that rights groups say killed thousands**

Prosecutors at the international criminal court (ICC) have charged former Philippines president Rodrigo Duterte with three counts of crimes against humanity, alleging his involvement in at least 76 murders as part of his "war on drugs".

A heavily redacted charge sheet dated 4 July but made public on Monday laid out the accusations against the 80-year-old former leader, who is in ICC detention in The Hague.

The first count concerns his alleged involvement as a co-perpetrator in 19 murders carried out between 2013 and 2016 while Duterte was mayor of Davao City.

The second count relates to 14 murders of so-called "high value targets" in 2016 and 2017 when Duterte was president.

And the third charge is about 43 murders committed during "clearance" operations of lower-level alleged drug users or dealers.

These took place across the Philippines between 2016 and 2018, the prosecution alleged.

"The actual scale of victimisation during the charged period was significantly greater, as reflected in the widespread nature of the attack," said the ICC prosecutors.

"The attack included thousands of killings, which were perpetrated consistently throughout the charged period," they alleged

The charges against Duterte stem from his years-long campaign against drug users and dealers that rights groups said killed thousands.

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The arrest warrant issued for Duterte on 7 March contained one charge of crimes against humanity relating to 43 alleged murders.

The prosecutors' charges came on the eve of what was scheduled to be Duterte's appearance at the ICC to hear the accusations against him.

However, that sitting was postponed as the court weighs whether Duterte is fit to hear the charges.

His lawyer Nicholas Kaufman has said his client is not able to stand trial "as a result of cognitive impairment in multiple domains".

Kaufman has urged the ICC to postpone proceedings against Duterte indefinitely.

Duterte was arrested in Manila on 11 March, flown to the Netherlands that same night and has been held at the ICC's detention unit at Scheveningen prison since.

At his initial hearing, he followed by video link, appearing dazed and frail, barely speaking.

*Shorts*

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Former President of the Philippines Rodrigo Duterte has been formally charged with crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court for the murders of 78 people during the war on drugs when he was in office, in which over 6,000 people were killed. Duterte is currently in the court's custody in The Hague



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## NETANYAHU SAYS DEFEAT OF IRANIAN AXIS WITHIN ISRAELS' MEANS

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu discussed war objectives for the coming year in an address to Defense Minister Israel Katz, IDF Chief-of-Staff Lt.-Gen. Eyal Zamir, during a meeting with members of the IDF General Staff Forum in Tel Aviv on Monday.

Netanyahu urged that in pursuit of achieving security and overcoming Israel's enemies, "we need to destroy the Iranian axis...

this is what stands before us in the coming year, which could be a historic year for the security of Israel."

### War objectives are 'within our means'

The defeat of the Iranian axis of terror proxies across the region "is within our means," said the prime minister.

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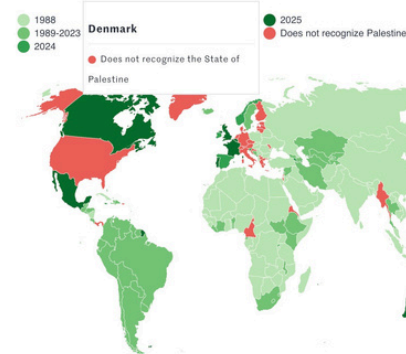


## Map: The countries that recognize a Palestinian state

With the announcements by France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Malta and Andorra on Monday, 156 countries officially recognize the State of Palestine.

Map

174 countries recognize the State of Palestine



On Monday, September 22, during the United Nations General Assembly in New York, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Malta, and Andorra declared they were recognizing the State of Palestine. The day before, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and Portugal had also recognized Palestine.

These historic decisions bring to 156 the number of countries that currently recognize the Palestinian state.

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In June 2024, Armenia and Slovenia had taken the same step, amid the deadly war in the Gaza Strip.

A month earlier, Spain, Ireland, and Norway had joined the list in a similar attempt to revive talks on a two-state solution.

The European Union (EU) remains divided on the issue. Before Sweden's recognition in 2014, the few member states that had recognized a Palestinian state – mainly countries from the former Soviet bloc – had done so before joining the EU.

Since the creation of the State of Israel in 1948, various Palestinian political movements have made the establishment of an independent Palestinian state one of their main demands. In 1988, the unilateral declaration of independence by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) led 82 countries to officially recognize Palestine. Among them were a majority of African and Middle Eastern countries, as well as some from what was then the Soviet bloc.

### Nine additional countries in 2024

Many other countries gradually followed suit, particularly in South America in the early 2010s (Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Uruguay, among others). Against the backdrop of Israel's war in Gaza, which has claimed over 55,000 lives, an additional nine countries recognized the State of Palestine in 2024. The 156 countries that now recognize Palestine amount to more than three-quarters of the UN member states.

## Thank You Dickie Bird – Cricket was all the better for your presence.



The iconic umpire Harold 'Dickie' Bird who entertained generations with his eccentricities and love for the noble game – cricket – passed away 23/9 aged 92

Dickie Bird, the iconic cricket umpire, passed away on September 23, 2025 at the age of 92, leaving behind a legacy that will be remembered for generations to come. Born on April 19, 1933, in Barnsley, Yorkshire, Bird's life was a testament to his passion, dedication, and love for the sport.

Bird's cricketing journey began as a player, signing for Yorkshire Cricket Club in 1956 and later joining Leicestershire in 1959. Although his playing career was cut short due to injury at 32, he went on to become one of the most recognizable and respected umpires in the game. His umpiring career spanned over two decades, during which he officiated in 66 Test matches and 69 One-Day Internationals, including three World Cup finals.

One of Bird's most notable traits was his distinctive style, which made him a "must-watch" part of the game. He was known for his no-nonsense approach, his twirling of the bails, and his iconic bobble hat. His charisma and sense of humour endeared him to players and spectators alike, and he remains one of the most beloved figures in cricket.



Throughout his career, Bird was known for his fairness, integrity, and commitment to the sport. He was a true professional who always conducted himself with dignity and respect. His contributions to cricket went beyond his on-field performances, as he worked tirelessly to promote the game and support young cricketers.

Bird's legacy extends far beyond his umpiring career. He was a devoted philanthropist who set up the Dickie Bird Foundation to help financially disadvantaged young people participate in sport. He also donated generously to various charities, including £125,000 to Yorkshire County Cricket Club to build a new player's balcony at Headingley, which was named after him.

Bird's commitment to charity work was recognized through numerous awards and honors, including his MBE in 1986 and OBE in 2012. He was also awarded honorary doctorates from Huddersfield, Leeds, and Sheffield Hallam Universities, and was granted the Freedom of Barnsley in 2000.

Despite his passing, Bird's legacy will live on through his charity work, his umpiring career, and the countless memories he created in the cricket world. He will be deeply missed by the cricket community, but his impact on the sport will be felt for generations to come.

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## Thank You Dickie Bird...

In the words of former England captain, Michael Vaughan, "Dickie Bird is a true cricket legend. His passion, enthusiasm, and commitment to the game are an inspiration to us all." Bird's love for cricket was evident in everything he did, and his legacy will continue to inspire and motivate future generations of cricketers and fans.

As the cricket world mourns the loss of this cricketing icon, we remember Dickie Bird's infectious smile, his twinkling eyes, and his unwavering dedication to the sport. He may be gone, but his spirit will live on, and his legacy will continue to be celebrated for years to come. Rest in peace, Dickie Bird – thank you for enhancing our international cricket experiences.

## The digital euro is becoming a reality, with the European Union taking concrete steps toward its implementation.

**Progress:** The European Central Bank (ECB) has been working on the digital euro project since 2021, with a focus on developing a fast and secure electronic payment instrument. In October 2023, the ECB decided to move forward with the preparation phase, which includes finalizing the rulebook and selecting providers to develop the required platform and infrastructure.



- **Legislative Framework:** The European Commission proposed legislation to establish the digital euro in June 2023. The proposal is currently being reviewed by the European Parliament and the European Council, with a potential launch date of 2029.

### • Key Features:

- **Offline Functionality:** The digital euro will have offline capabilities, allowing users to make transactions without an internet connection.
- **Holding Limits:** There will be limits on the amount of digital euros individuals can hold, to prevent disruption to traditional banks.

- **Privacy:** The digital euro is designed to protect user privacy, similar to cash, without extra oversight of individual transactions by governments.

### • Benefits:

- **Reduced Reliance on Foreign Payment Providers:** The digital euro aims to reduce Europe's reliance on foreign payment providers like Visa and PayPal.



- **Increased Sovereignty:** A digital euro would strengthen Europe's financial independence and reduce its dependence on American payment giants.

- **Unified Payment Solution:** A digital euro would provide a single, continent-wide payment solution, resolving issues with cross-border transactions.

- **Timeline:** ECB board member Piero Cipollone expects the digital euro to be launched around 2029, with the legislative process expected to be completed by June 2026.

While there are still concerns and criticisms surrounding the digital euro, the project is gaining momentum, and its potential implementation could significantly impact Europe's financial landscape.

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