



TOP

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You see a lot claims that Venezuela has nothing to do with drugs because most of the fentanyl comes from elsewhere. I want to address this: First off, fentanyl isn't the only drug in the world and there is still fentanyl coming from Venezuela (or at least there was).

Second, cocaine, which is the main drug trafficked out of Venezuela, is a profit center for all of the Latin America cartels. If you cut out the money from cocaine (or even reduce it) you substantially weaken the cartels overall. Also, cocaine is bad too!

Third, yes, a lot of fentanyl is coming out of Mexico. That continues to be a focus of our policy in Mexico and is a reason why President Trump shut the border on day one.

Fourth, I see a lot of criticism about oil. About 20 years ago, Venezuela expropriated American oil property and until recently used that stolen property to get rich and fund their narcoterrorist activities. I understand the anxiety over the use of military force, but are we just supposed to allow a communist to steal our stuff in our hemisphere and do nothing? Great powers don't act like that.

The United States, thanks to President Trump's leadership, is a great power again. Everyone should take note.

@VP

02



Cervical cancer could be the first cancer EVER in the world to be eliminated, if: 90% of girls are vaccinated. 70% of women are screened. 90% of women with cervical cancer receive treatment

@WHO

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stance)

Palestinian embassy in UK officially inaugurated

UK announced it would recognise Palestine in September 2025

● It was previously known as the Palestinian Mission to the UK in west London

AFP | London, United Kingdom

The embassy of Palestine was officially inaugurated in London in a short ceremony yesterday, hailed by its ambassador as a "profound milestone" in British-Palestinian relations.

"We gather today to mark a historic moment - the inauguration of the embassy of the State of Palestine to the United Kingdom, with full diplomatic status and privileges," said ambassador Husam Zomlot in a speech outside what was previously known as the Palestinian Mission to the UK in west London.

The official upgrading of the mission to embassy status came after the UK announced it would recognise the State of Palestine in September 2025, along with several other countries, including Australia and Canada, at a time of major international concern about the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Sporting a traditional black and white keffiyeh scarf, Zomlot told the ceremony this is "not merely a change of name", but a "change of direction" towards Palestinian statehood.

"What a way to begin a new year together, marking a profound milestone in the British-Palestinian relations, and in the Palestinian people's long journey to freedom and self-



Head of the Palestine Mission to the UK, Husam Zomlot reacts as he holds a plaque with the words 'Embassy of the State of Palestine', during a flag-raising ceremony outside their Mission in west London

termination," Zomlot said, before unveiling the embassy's new plaque. "This is a day of hope, a day of steadfastness, and a day that reminds the world that peace is not only possible, it is inevitable... when rooted in justice, dignity, equality and mutual recognition."

The UK's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to an AFP query on whether the UK planned to follow suit by open-



As of 2025, a large majority of the world's nations recognise the State of Palestine – approximately 157 of the 193 United Nations member states have formally recognised Palestinian statehood. This means more than 80 % of UN members officially acknowledge Palestine as a sovereign state.

ing a British embassy in the Palestinian territories.

Speaking just after Zomlot at a lectern flanked by Palestin-

ian and British national flags, UK diplomatic representative Alistair Harrison said the occasion represented a "moment

of hope". "This is the beginning of a step change in our bilateral relationship," he said.

"I wish you ambassador, and your team, a very happy stay in what is now your embassy, and congratulations."

A fragile ceasefire has been in place since October in Gaza, following a devastating war waged by Israel in response to Hamas's unprecedented deadly October 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

EU urges respect for 'territorial integrity' after Trump Greenland threat

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The EU said Monday it expects its partners to "respect" the principle of territorial integrity, after President Donald Trump reiterated calls for Greenland to become part of the United States.

"The EU will continue to uphold the principles of na-

tional sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of borders," EU foreign policy spokesperson Anitta Hipper told reporters.

"These are universal principles, and we will not stop defending them, all the more so if the territorial integrity of a member state of the European Union is questioned," she added.

UK starts ban on junk food ads on daytime TV and online

AFP | London, United Kingdom

New regulations come into force Monday in Britain banning daytime TV and online adverts for so-called junk foods, in what the government calls a "world-leading action" to tackle childhood obesity.

The ban -- targeting ads for products high in fat, salt or sugar -- is expected to remove up to 7.2 billion calories from children's diets each year, according to the health ministry.

Impacting ads airing before the 9:00pm watershed and anytime online, it will reduce the number of children living with obesity by 20,000 and deliver around £2 billion (\$2.7 bln) in health benefits, the ministry added.

The implementation of the

measure -- first announced in December 2024 -- follows other recent steps, including an extended sugar tax on pre-packaged items like milkshakes, ready-to-go coffees and sweetened yoghurt drinks.

Local authorities have also been given the power to stop fast food shops setting up outside schools.

The government argues evidence shows advertising influences what and when children eat, shaping preferences from a young age and increasing the risk of obesity and related illnesses.

It notes 22 percent of children starting primary schooling

in England -- typically aged around five -- are overweight or obese, rising to more than a third by the time they progress to secondary schools aged 11.

Tooth decay is the leading cause of UK hospital admissions for young children, typically aged five to nine, according to officials.

