



US must respond to Nord Stream accusations – Mexican president

Description

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has called on Washington to answer claims about the pipeline sabotage

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has argued that the US should respond to allegations that it sabotaged the Nord Stream pipelines. The remarks came as the Mexican leader hit out at Washington following criticism of his country.

“If we are talking about acts of violence, how is it that an award-winning journalist in the United States claims that the US government sabotaged the gas pipeline from Russia to Europe?” Lopez Obrador asked during a press conference on Tuesday.

The Mexican president was referring to claims by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Seymour Hersh that the Biden administration blew up the Nord Stream pipelines linking Russia and Germany last year.

Lopez Obrador’s remarks came as part of a rebuttal to accusations of “*violence*” by Mexican authorities, made in an annual human rights report issued by the US State Department this week. The report alleged “*significant human rights issues*” in Mexico and cited “*credible reports*” of unlawful or arbitrary killings by the police, as well as torture and forced disappearances.

Lopez Obrador rejected the findings as “*lies*,” and noted Washington’s own list of alleged wrongdoings. According to the Mexican president, that includes the US extradition demands against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who remains in detention in the UK.

In addition, Lopez Obrador pointed to failed American efforts to halt the opioid crisis plaguing the country, which caused over 71,000 deaths in 2022 alone from fentanyl-linked overdoses and drug poisonings.

The Mexican leader went on to argue that “*lying*” and “*politicking*” is in Washington’s nature, and asserted that the US “*do[es] not want to change, so they believe they are the government of the world, and they only see the speck in someone else’s eye and not the beam in their own.*”

State Department deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel responded to Lopez Obrador's remarks by insisting that the US has *"never been ones to indicate that we are the government of the world or some kind of edict like that."*

Patel suggested that the Mexican police, military, and other government structures were responsible for serious acts of corruption and unlawful killings, which is why these issues were highlighted in the State Department report.

Lopez Obrador, however, has repeatedly insisted that there is an *"anti-Mexico"* conservative element within the US government that is trying to inflame tensions between the two countries. *"Mexico is safer than the United States,"* the leader stated earlier this month.

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