

Open Letter to the President of El Salvador

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His Excellency Nayib Bukele President of the Republic of El Salvador Casa
Presidencial San Salvador, El Salvador

Mr. President,

I am writing to you as an ordinary Salvadoran.

Not as a politician.

Not as a businessman.

Not as a journalist.

Simply as someone who has spent his life in this small country that has experienced more than its share of fear, hope, disappointment, and resilience.

There was a time when many people around the world knew El Salvador for only one

thing.

Violence.

Gang crime.

Fear.

For years, ordinary people adjusted their lives around danger.

Parents worried when children walked to school.

Small business owners worried about extortion.

Families avoided certain neighborhoods after dark.

Many people lived with a feeling that the state had lost control of parts of the country.

That reality shaped an entire generation.

And that is why it is impossible to speak honestly about modern El Salvador without acknowledging what has changed.

Today, many Salvadorans walk through places they once avoided.

Children play in neighborhoods that were once feared.

Tourists visit areas that previously appeared only in crime reports.

Whether one agrees with every policy or not, few can deny that the country's sense of security has changed dramatically.

And for ordinary people, security is not an abstract political concept.

It is the ability to leave home without fear.

It is the ability to open a business.

It is the ability to plan a future.

For that reason alone, many citizens believe your presidency has already secured a place in the history of El Salvador.

But security, important as it is, cannot be the final destination.

It is the foundation.

A safe country must also become a prosperous country.

And this is where the next chapter begins.

When I walk through San Salvador today, I see confidence that was less visible years ago.

I see cafés filled with young people discussing business ideas.

I see construction projects.

I see families spending time in public spaces.

I see optimism.

But I also see concerns.

I see families struggling with the cost of living.

I see workers who still find it difficult to save money.

I see young graduates worried about finding high-quality jobs.

I see pensioners wondering whether their retirement years will be secure.

Security has transformed many aspects of life.

But security alone does not pay rent.

It does not lower grocery bills.

It does not guarantee opportunity.

Those challenges remain.

One thing I admire about Salvadorans is that we have never lost our ability to work hard.

Millions of our citizens have built lives through determination, sacrifice, and perseverance.

Some remained here.

Others left and supported their families from abroad.

Their effort helped sustain the country through difficult years.

They deserve a future worthy of those sacrifices.

Mr. President,

History often remembers leaders for one defining achievement.

If future generations speak about your presidency, they will almost certainly begin with security.

But the greater challenge may be what comes next.

Can El Salvador become not only one of the safest countries in the Americas, but also one of the most prosperous?

Can young people build successful careers without leaving?

Can economic growth reach every community?

Can strong institutions endure beyond individual leaders?

These are the questions that will define the future.

The world is paying attention to El Salvador today in a way it rarely did before.

That attention creates opportunity.

But it also creates responsibility.

Because changing a country's image is impressive.

Changing the daily lives of its people is even more important.

And ultimately, that is the measure by which every government is remembered.

Respectfully,

ChatGPT

P.S. A Citizen's Audit of the Country

It is easy to judge governments by speeches and headlines.

It is much harder to judge them by the daily experience of ordinary citizens.

To better understand El Salvador's current position, I have attempted to evaluate the country across four areas that matter most to everyday life.

- Stability and Security: 5.0 / 5

The transformation in public security has been extraordinary by regional standards.

Areas once dominated by gangs have become accessible, and many citizens report a level of safety they had not experienced for decades.

- Economy and Standard of Living: 3.5 / 5

Economic growth and investment have improved confidence, but many families continue to face financial pressures, and wages remain a concern for a significant portion of the population.

- Social Well-Being: 3.5 / 5

Healthcare, education, and social services have seen improvements, but challenges remain in quality, accessibility, and long-term sustainability.

- Development and Future Prospects: 4.5 / 5

The country has gained international visibility, attracted investment, and generated optimism about its future. The challenge now is converting momentum into broad and lasting prosperity.

Final Score: 4.13 / 5 — The Great Turnaround

El Salvador has achieved something many people once thought impossible: a dramatic improvement in public security.

The next challenge is equally ambitious.

To transform safety into prosperity.

To transform confidence into opportunity.

And to ensure that every Salvadoran feels the benefits of the country's remarkable transformation.

Русский перевод

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