

Currently Living and Active Dictators (June 2025)

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Abstract

This OSINT report provides a current and verified list of heads of state or de facto rulers who exhibit authoritarian, totalitarian, or dictatorial control as of June 2025. Criteria include suppression of opposition, elimination of democratic processes, human rights abuses, and concentration of power. The report does not equate popularity with legitimacy and includes leaders of hybrid regimes where applicable.

Top Authoritarian/Dynastic Leaders (2025)

- **Vladimir Putin** (Russia)
- **Alexander Lukashenko** (Belarus)
- **Xi Jinping** (China)
- **Kim Jong-un** (North Korea)
- **Bashar al-Assad** (Syria)
- **Abdel Fattah el-Sisi** (Egypt)
- **Isaias Afwerki** (Eritrea)
- **Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo** (Equatorial Guinea)
- **Emomali Rahmon** (Tajikistan)
- **Serdar Berdimuhamedow** (Turkmenistan)
- **Min Aung Hlaing** (Myanmar)
- **Nicolás Maduro** (Venezuela)
- **Daniel Ortega** (Nicaragua)
- **Yoweri Museveni** (Uganda)
- **Paul Biya** (Cameroon)
- **Ilham Aliyev** (Azerbaijan)
- **Ali Khamenei** (Iran)
- **Mahamat Déby** (Chad)
- **Hun Manet** (Cambodia)
- **Hibatullah Akhundzada** (Afghanistan)
- **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** (Algeria)
- **Ismail Omar Guelleh** (Djibouti)
- **Miguel Díaz-Canel** (Cuba)

Controversial / Semi-Authoritarian Leaders

- **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** (Turkey) – Repression of opposition, media control, judicial interference.
- **Nayib Bukele** (El Salvador) – Mass incarceration, dismantling of judicial checks.
- **Mohammed bin Salman (MBS)** (Saudi Arabia) – Absolute monarchy; surveillance and suppression of dissent.
- **Narendra Modi** (India) – Democratic backsliding, minority rights concerns, media control.
- **Viktor Orbán** (Hungary) – Illiberal democracy model with weakened institutions.
- **Donald Trump** (USA) – Second-term rhetoric and actions increasingly labeled as authoritarian.

Geopolitical Summary (2025)

Europe: Lukashenko, Orbán, Erdoğan

Asia: Xi, Kim, Rahmon, Berdimuhamedow, Modi, Hun Manet, Akhundzada

Middle East: Khamenei, Assad, MBS, el-Sisi

Africa: Afwerki, Obiang, Museveni, Biya, Déby, Tebboune, Guelleh

Latin America: Maduro, Ortega, Bukele, Díaz-Canel

North America: Trump (USA, controversial classification)

Sources and References

- AP News: *Authoritarian leader of Belarus sworn for 7th term* <https://apnews.com/article/7b5d85b8400d678a19608f3054e63350>
- Washington Post: *Bukele arrests critics amid growing authoritarianism* <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2025/06/15/bukele-salvador-arrests-crackdown>
- Freedom House (2024 Report): <https://freedomhouse.org>
- Human Rights Watch: <https://www.hrw.org>
- The Economist Intelligence Unit: Democracy Index (2024)

Classification Criteria

A regime is considered dictatorial if:

1. Power is consolidated in a single leader or ruling elite.
2. Elections are not free, fair, or competitive.
3. Opposition is systematically repressed or banned.
4. Press and speech freedoms are significantly curtailed.
5. Judiciary lacks independence or is subject to executive control.