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"The whole problem has to do with lithium. Imperialism wants lithium and my government wanted to give it to the people." – Pedro Castillo

I am the victim of a plot. It has been organized mainly by the Peruvian right that serves the interests of the international right, the neoliberal and imperialist groups. They have and have used all their machinery of economic and political power. Among this, there is the Peruvian press that also responds to these interests. The exclusive of El Salto is on the covers of the main media in the rest of Latin American countries. Telesur, the first audiovisual group in the continent, highlights the demand by Pedro Castillo for a constituent assembly



Revealing interview with Peruvian President Pedro Castillo Terrones from his place of confinement, conducted by journalists from the web platform [El Salto Diario](http://ElSaltoDiario.com).

In prison since December 7, Pedro Castillo continues to consider himself Peru's legal president. [El Salto Diario](http://ElSaltoDiario.com) has been able to transfer a series of questions that the Chota

politician has answered from the prison in which he is. Castillo demands a constituent process for his country and denounces the repression carried out by Dina Boluarte.

The *El Salto* team has exclusively interviewed President Pedro Castillo (Puña, 1969) in Barbadillo, the maximum security prison where Alberto Fujimori, convicted of crimes against humanity by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, is also held.

In recent days, President Castillo was visited by Eugenio Zaffaroni, judge of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and Guido Croxatto, director of the School of the Corps of Lawyers of the State of Argentina. Both will be part of Castillo's defense team. Zaffaroni and Croxatto were accompanied by the President's legal team, attorney Indira Rodriguez Paredes, and attorney Wilfredo Robles.

Although the National Penitentiary Institute focused on putting obstacles and inconveniences so that this meeting did not take place, the meeting was finally able to take place: from this meeting have come the notes that constitute this interview, carried out orally and handwritten between the last days of January and the first week of February. All recording equipment, including mobile phones, was expressly prohibited.

The Argentine team that will be part of Castillo's defense team in international forums considers that Castillo's preventive detention violates human rights and goes against the most recent jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court.

The Barbadillo prison received the delegation under a suffocating sun. Officials from Peru's National Penitentiary Institute waited for the visits. Castillo's cell lacks windows and natural light, though he is allowed access to a small orchard where he is growing potatoes and corn. Inside the cell there is a small stove for cooking and a desk with a book. The President is currently reading Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*. Inside, little more than the bed and a television that has become his main relationship with the outside apart from that provided by his legal team.



"They present me as a monster. I am the President of Peru."

Are you afraid for your life right now?

Yes, I fear for my life right now. In Peru there is no legal, political or civil security. I must say that I do not fear for my life from now on, I fear for my life since the second round of the campaign to be president. There was political persecution since I was campaigning, the right wing was cruel to me and my family, especially to my younger children and my wife. They defamed us, they *terrified* us [accusations of terrorism against left-wing militants], they did not allow us to develop personally or in my government. The harassment was constant, daily and disturbing. These actions incited hatred and racism.

I have received death threats from unknown numbers. My children and wife too. That is why I tried, at all times, that my children have security, since they are the most precious thing I have. Safety for my young daughter, for my young son, for my eldest daughter and for my wife.

There have been several times when I have been mistreated by right-wing people who rebuked me as a *"terrorist"*. They wanted to hurt me, I would say even murder. For example, in Tacna I suffered a situation in which several people from the extreme right beat me with bolts and irons [pieces of metal], I was injured but I did not denounce. That is one of the most vivid memories I have of the runoff campaign.

I have also received threats publicly, for example, from Rafael López Aliaga [a far-right businessman and mayor of Lima], who called for me to be killed openly. He said at his rally: *"Death to Castillo."*

Have you been able to communicate with your wife and children? Do you know how they are?

No, I have not been able to communicate with my family. I know little about how they are doing and I hope they are well. I do not have access to communication, nor to the right to video call with them. They are refugees in Mexico. I would like to talk to them.

Yes, I fear for their lives because when they were in Peru they also suffered episodes of racism. For example, in the case of my children, they never got used to living in the Government Palace because it was moving to a Lima of which they were not part and did not feel a part.

In my son's case, he has been denied access to schools because they found out he was my son. They were schools I chose for safety. I wasn't allowed to do it. My son turns 18 on Wednesday, February 8, and it hurts me not to be with him right now.

In the case of my youngest daughter, she was bullied after her mom and I threw her birthday party. Like every girl at that age, we threw her a party to make her feel happy. That party was in the media and she was later harassed at school and also after school. When she went for a walk, still with the security, they shouted at her: "*You are the daughter of the donkey*", and she cried and felt bad. They attacked my younger children to attack me.

In the case of Yenifer, whom I consider my daughter, she is the oldest and very brave [Yenifer Paredes, Castillo's sister-in-law, is accused of alleged crimes of money laundering and criminal organization]. She is facing this situation as the strong woman she is. She was also unjustly imprisoned, she is a victim of all the mistreatment of my whole family. Now they are also opening unsubstantiated tax folders, she has lost her freedom and I just want her to be a normal young woman who can have a life free of attacks, I want her to be happy.

In the case of my wife Lilia, she is the one I thank for the resistance in all this time because it has not been easy for her. Many times he wanted to go to Chota [city in the department of Cajamarca where Castillo comes from] with my children because he could not stand the attacks of this entire region. They made fun of their dress, our Andean roots, the way we spoke, there was racial discrimination. At all times he received attacks on his person.

About my parents, they are suffering because my mother does not know that I am imprisoned. She has been lied to telling her that I am in another region and that I will return to Chota. It's the only way it doesn't affect their health because they're older adults. About my father, he does know that I am imprisoned, but he has not yet been able to visit

me. I miss them very much and I would like to see them soon, but I know that if they come they will receive attacks from the press.



Argentine jurist Eugenio Zaffaroni talks with lawyer Indira Rodríguez Paredes, from President Pedro Castillo's legal team, at the door of the Barbadillo prison.

What happened on December 7? Was it an attempt to subvert Peruvian institutions? If not, what did he intend to do as president of Peru that day?

It is complicated and complex to explain. It cannot be explained only in a political way. I never tried to subvert Peruvian institutions. I wanted to get closer to the village. It was a day of echoing for the "*nobodies*". I took the flag of the People's Constituent Assembly and gave my speech remembering and being faithful to the peoples who voted for me, who trusted me.

It was a vindication on my part. I wanted to make the political class understand that popular power is the maximum expression of societies. I did not want to obey the social economic power groups. I wanted to put the people above all else.

A lot was said: I was not escaping as the press has said, I was going to leave my family at the Mexican embassy, everything was very fast. It was my decision. No one else's. I was nervous, but I did. After the message to the Nation, Aníbal Torres [former president of the Council of Ministers of Peru, at that time, advisor to Castillo] was very confused, he had a distorted face, because he did not understand why I did what I did. Also all the ministers who were there, who arrived when I was already reading the message.

After the message, the first thing I thought about is my family. I went to leave them at the Mexican embassy, at no time did I want to escape. I was going to come back. I wanted to get my family safe. We took the "*Cofre*" car from Palacio and were on the road when the

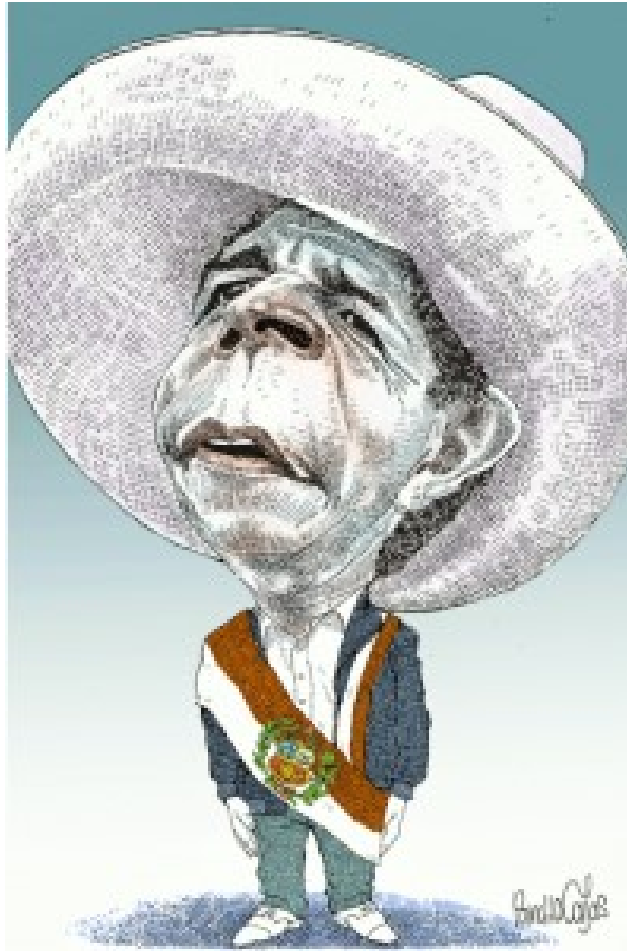
same police stopped us. A very illegal situation because I was still the president. My little daughter started crying as she was sitting on my lap, I hugged her and calmed her down so she wouldn't cry.

The police arrived with machine guns and stopped the car. There were many police officers and there is evidence that has come out in the media. It was very traumatic and violent for my children. That's when I asked the officers not to intimidate my family, that I was going to go down and that violence was not necessary. So it was, I got out of the car, Anibal Torres too and bravely assumed my defense. I felt very confused, I no longer thought as president, I only thought as a father. Aníbal Torres at all times showed firmness and knew how to guide me. I thank you very much for that. Then I remember moments in parts, my sugar went up. I have a problem in my ear, I use a device to be able to listen, I did not listen to the indications they told me, there was a moment when I only heard silence. It was very confusing, I didn't feel myself. I was only thinking about my family.

It should be noted that the prosecutor at no time was in my detention and there was no legal process as a Peruvian with rights and less as president because I was still president and I am still president. All this violent attitude was the responsibility of [Harvey] Colchado. They took me to Diroes [National Special Operations Division] the next day and that's when the prosecutor arrives.

What do you think of those who consider that yours was a 'self-coup'?

Which is a discourse that the right has created. They do not know the reality of things, they are so ignorant that they create their own stories and they themselves repeat and repeat without doing a correct job of investigative journalism. The traditional press in Peru is a disgrace. They have tried to destroy my family, they are destroying many other people opposed to this de facto government. Those responsible for the press seem to me to be the true ignoramuses and it is they who say that it has been a self-coup, not the people.



Are you the victim of a plot? Who organized this plot?

Yes, I am the victim of a plot. It has been organized mainly by the Peruvian right that serves the interests of the international right, the neoliberal and imperialist groups. They have and have used all their machinery of economic and political power. Among this, there is the Peruvian press that also responds to these interests.

Ordinary people who enter politics to change things have clashed with their interests from the first moment. This is a fact. I am the first rural president, teacher and peasant. They never wanted me in the government and I was elected by the people in popular election, my election was democratic. They never forgave me.

Since when did you feel that the Peruvian right wanted to see you out?

They wanted to destroy me from the beginning of the second round of the Peruvian elections. All the time, every day, I suffered attacks on my honor and image as a candidate. Therefore, I never wanted to give interviews to the traditional press. Those who I gave interviews are the real journalism of the regions and the alternative press, who did ask real questions with content and not only to occupy their time in insults and baseness of that type.

All the economic and political power created the narrative of an electoral fraud lying to the people. They hired law firms that respond to the interests of the right to ask for nullity of the votes of my brothers in the south and the people fought for their votes, holding marches, vigils and sit-ins outside the National Jury of Elections in my country.

We all achieved that popular power is respected. However, they never let me govern and always tried to destroy my government.

They were always afraid that we would take power because they knew they could lose their privileges. You can have money, the media, but they do not have and will never have the heart of the people.



Note of thanks from Pedro Castillo Terroenes, constitutional president of Peru, to the web platform 'El Salto Diario' from the prison where he has been held since December 7, 2022.

What is the role of the extractive, neoliberal and capitalist oligarchy?

They have played a coup role for fear that we will review their contracts. I was about to review all the contracts of the extractive, neoliberal and capitalist mining companies. All of them have played a coup role. There are several examples.

The budget that before all governments used to pay the press, in my government we use it to be able to allocate it to education. I was firm with it and we delivered. That's why the press attacked me and continues to do so.

The press has large debts to SUNAT [National Superintendence of Customs and Tax Administration]. They do not pay their interest and so they can review it on the platforms: Panamericana, America TV, Latina TV, ATV and Willax, which is the channel with the most defamation crimes in this country. They are a "pirate" channel.

On the collections, I managed to collect from customs, oil and sea. On contract renewal, I had to make sure there were minimum parameters. There are many contracts that I have not been able to renegotiate because the Constitution does not allow me, because they are

contracts-law that the previous governments made, such as that of Francisco Sagasti, of the Purple Party, who renewed the Peru Rail contract when the people of Cusco did not want to renegotiate. Peru Rail is owned by Rafael López Aliaga. I and my government wanted to return the contract to the people of Cusco by making an association.

In Puno, my government and I wanted to rescue Camisea Gas and lithium from the region. The whole problem has to do with lithium. Imperialism wants lithium and my government wanted to give lithium to the people.

I also wanted to renegotiate contracts so that we can give national and non-transnational companies a chance. We also wanted to allocate more fertilizer budget to all livestock and agricultural regions, they did not let us either. Many examples.

70% of Lake Titicaca is owned by a company, as well as airports, roads, tolls. It's all about transnational corporations. They have kidnapped him and subjected everything to a Constitution and decree-laws that have given legality to this kidnapping of our territories, our lands and our public roads.

My Government produced more than 76 bills to vindicate the country, and none were approved by Congress. So much so that my Government's proposal to establish the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation was not approved. They wanted to promote a national flag airline, the creation and budget of three airports and put many obstacles to it. They never let me rule.



Pedro Castillo, in the electoral campaign that gave way to his Presidency.

To what extent has your position on concessions to mining and oil companies influenced events? Have European multinationals, specifically Spanish ones, played any role in harassing your mandate?

On multinationals, especially in Europe, foreign ministers and ambassadors come to mind. It is a space of sacred cows. Embassies are an elite world different from the people. My government wanted to promote the change of requirements to access Peruvian diplomacy, but they did not allow it. There is a lot of elitism and power in this space. There are few ambassadors who really have a sense of protection for the Peruvian people. To them my deep respect and admiration. However, embassies have also colluded with transnationals and in Europe even more. Of the transnational corporations that pollute the most are Chinese companies and they are also the ones that owe and exploit the most.

Who, in light of events, is Dina Boluarte? How was your relationship with her before December 7?

I met Dina Boluarte because Free Peru proposes her as vice president. I met her virtually. She did not campaign in the first round, I know her in person only in the second round. Everyone told me that she didn't have people who supported her, but that she was taxing and [Vladimir] Cerrón elected her. I didn't know what kind of person I was, in the course of which is when I realized the evil of this woman.

They assured me that I was a Democrat, but it was pure appearance. Afterwards, the interests were really noticed. She was and is calculating, ambitious. She had no bases as I repeat again, nobody knew her, nor in her region they wanted her because later I found out that she was an extremely racist and classist woman. She hung up on the fight. I made it known, because I did reach the bases of the town. She clung to being a minister of the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion, she never wanted to let go. We had a lot of fights because of that. She cried so as not to be removed from office, she said she had a family and she manipulated us with that. He always managed not to remove it.



The de facto regime of Dina Boluarte has been characterized by its authoritarianism and brutal repression since it assaulted the Executive Power of Peru, last December 2022.

What is Boluarte's relationship with Fujimorismo and the Peruvian oligarchy? Have they allied themselves?

She works with Fujimorismo, they all organized the plot. She has the support and I know it very well. Everything was prepared with the Police and the Armed Forces. She, the Prosecutor's Office, the Peruvian right, especially Fujimorismo. I know now that she had rapprochement with the Peruvian right since before December 7, 2022. She had and still has friendship with the right. They have allied, talked and that was before, as I know now. She hired people from Fujimorismo in the Ministry, she never gave the opportunity to those who are from the people and the regions. And now she has been exposed, she has called the entire right most violative of human rights to a cabinet. The list is known. She only appeared to be a democrat until her true personality is now evident: dictator.

Is it time to reform the Fujimori Constitution of 1993?

It is the constituent moment. We are not going to look for it, history is looking for us. Changing the constitution is the feeling of the people, to get out of the Fujimori legacy. I reaffirm that we need a People's Constituent Assembly.

What do you think of Congress' decision not to rush the elections?

Congress is delegitimized. Their actions are not in sync with the peoples. Most follow the scripts that the press says in the media. For example, why don't they hold a plenary session in a region? Let's see that they go to Ayacucho, Puno, Apurimac, Ica, Cusco, regions with murders at the hands of the police and the armed forces. The people would tell them what they think. Let them get out of the congressional bubble and get to know what the people really think.

What is the role you think racism has had in the events in the social explosion in Peru?

The historical racism that Peru has experienced and continues to live, as well as classism and social and economic inequality is the reason why today there is a massacre and multiple violations of rights in Peru that, I am sure, lawyers with firmness and courage will take to international instance.

How do you assess the role of peasant women in the protests? Do you think that the power of social leaders has a weight today?

Women's participation in this context is historic. I know there are many women self-summoning to be able to say what they think. The struggle of women is permanent. Women are visionaries. The woman is a fighter, the women of the countryside, the women of the city who show solidarity with the people and the countryside, all have millenary strength with the identity of defending their homeland. They are tawantinsuyanas [reference to the Quechua word for the Inca empire].

What are the steps that, in your opinion, must be taken to put an end to political violence against opponents of Boluarte?

The Constitution must be changed in the period that is necessary, it is the path that the people need and that is why I made that message to the Nation [in reference to the events of December 7]. I vindicated the most forgotten peoples, the peoples who for 500 years have lived in oppression.

The right is always going to haunt us, it's always going to want to eliminate us. And it is something that, being here where I am, secluded, imprisoned, without family, I think and reflect more. With my persecuted family I also internalize it as president and as a person. It is also important to say that political violence will continue if this dictatorship continues. Dina Boluarte is a toy of the right, she is someone like Keiko Fujimori, who is

calculating, agreed, without values, who is sold to the highest bidder and now has sold herself to the right, to the most rancid and dirtiest right. She is a woman who will be imprisoned for human rights violations and especially for crimes against humanity. She will go to jail and international justice will do its thing because the people ask for it.



Have you felt the support of Latin American leaders since the beginning of this process? Do you think that your protests against the coup you have suffered can reverse the situation?

The brothers leaders of the different countries have expressed solidarity with Peru and it is important to thank democratic countries such as Bolivia, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Ecuador, as well as the peoples of Guatemala, Cuba, Italy, Greece, France, Germany and various other countries. I do believe that international solidarity can reverse this situation.

How do you assess the coverage that is being done from Spain?

About Spain... first to thank Brother Pablo Iglesias for his letter of solidarity sent from Podemos as a political party, we know of his trajectory. We also thank the newspaper *El Salto* who are being brave for telling my story in Europe. I have learned that your journalist Julio L. Zamarrón was injured by the police, so I want to show my solidarity with all the people who are suffering these abuses.

What message would you like to send to Spain, especially to your compatriots living in our country?

To my compatriots in Spain to tell them to spread everything that is happening in our country. Not only the injustices that occur with me as president but the great human rights violations that this de facto and illegal government is committing. Let there be solidarity and not indifference. I also take this opportunity to ask the brother people of Mexico to welcome my family with great humane treatment. They have prevented me from talking to them, I have no communication, with them they do not allow me a virtual call, absolutely nothing. They, my children, Yenifer, my younger children and Lilia, my wife, have

suffered persecution and harassment from all the power of the press and the Peruvian right.

How has the reaction of the international community, especially the United States and the European Union, been to your case? Also, how do you see the participation of these organizations in the face of the systematic violation of human rights in Peru?

The United States is pushing hard with the European Union to oppress our countries, the peoples, the communities. That is why they want me imprisoned and that is why the power embedded in those spaces is silent in the face of the systematic violation of human rights in Peru: murders, detentions, injuries and political persecution of leaders as in my case and so many others.

As a former president of Peru... What way out do you see from this current situation of social explosion in your country?

I believe that I am still President of Peru, as a Peruvian I do not recognize this genocidal Government as the representative of Peru. I speak not only as president, I speak as Peruvian, this dictatorial government does not represent us.



The protests against the usurper government of Dina Boluarte do not cease in various cities of Peru.

Do you think he will be President of Peru again one day?

I still consider myself the legitimate President elected by the will of Peruvians.

What do you think of the excessive use of force by state agents? Do you think Peru is a dictatorship today?

The excessive use of force... That is not what is happening anything else. It's massacre. They are killing my compatriots. Brothers with whom I toured Peru, Arequipa, Cusco,

Ayacucho. Yes, I believe that Peru lives state terrorism by this government and yes it is a dictatorship.

What do you think about the mass arbitrary detentions that are happening in Peru?

The arbitrary detentions are a sign of the dictatorship of Dina Boluarte. Her hands are stained with blood and also those of political prisoners. Brothers and sisters leaders, precisely from the most affected regions, today have their leaders persecuted or imprisoned, as is the case of Ayacucho. This de facto government has wounded Ayacuchoans, imprisoned Ayacuchonos and murdered Ayacuchonos. That is why I ask for solidarity with this region that has been stricken.

How do you assess the accusations of terrorism promoted by the Government of Boluarte?

Terrorism is a psychosocial and a lie that this government uses to silence us opponents. I have been called a terrorist since the second round. Being president they have insulted and mistreated us, they called us terrorists in the press and now they imprison me for a crime of rebellion that I have not committed.

How would you explain, for a European community, the term "*terruqueo*"?

The *terruqueo* is any action that calls terrorist who criticizes the system and that comes from the Peruvian right of power groups: press, police or prosecutor's office. It starts with insults and can end with trials for terrorism of innocent people as is my case and all the cases of leaders. They see me as a monster, that's what the international press has constructed as a story. I am the president elected by all Peruvians by popular vote. I am not a terrorist and I have not committed the crime of rebellion or conspiracy of which I am accused, I have never touched a weapon in my life.

What do you think of people who are being imprisoned for calling for a new constitution?

I am imprisoned in this prison, incommunicado, they persecute my family, my lawyers, everyone. I am here for what I believe, I said at the national level in the message to the Nation that a Popular Constituent Assembly is necessary to have a New Constitution and I do not renounce this dream and I admire the courage of all my compatriots and brothers imprisoned and killed for asking for the same. They are the heroes of the country and I show my solidarity with the families in debt.



Pedro Castillo, constitutional president of Peru, today in prison for a legal war organized against him by the extreme right.

"There is no rule of law in Peru"

What is their current status?

I am imprisoned for 18 months of unjustly pre-trial detention for a crime of rebellion that I did not commit. The Public Ministry and the Judiciary of Peru have me behind bars. They have opened many processes for me that have no reason to exist. All the fiscal files and files respond to the application of the judicial system in an erroneous and illegal way, they use the judicial apparatus to criminalize people who want to change Peru and we are considered enemies of the apparatuses of power. I have more than 60 folders for the same fact that, according to the Prosecutor's Office, is corruption. All for a single fact, which is illegal. They will keep opening folders for me. However, I am not imprisoned for that, I am imprisoned for the criminal process that the Prosecutor's Office and the National Police of Peru have accused me of rebellion and conspiracy. They say I've taken up arms when it's a lie. I have never touched a gun and never will. I have not committed any crime. This happens in many other countries, with former presidents, such as Cristina Kirchner in Argentina, Lula in Brazil, Rafael Correa in Ecuador and more.

On what do you base your defense?

From the beginning, I have suffered the violation of my rights to due process. My lawyers are fighting for my freedom and a fair trial. I want to thank my legal team, which has been consolidated little by little, national and international lawyers with prestige: the main legal team is made up of the National Human Rights Network in charge of Venezuelan lawyer Asdrubal Gonzales. I am also assisted by Peruvian lawyer Wilfredo Robles and recently criminal and human rights lawyers Indira Rodríguez, Eugenio Zaffaroni and Guido Croxatto. All of them specialists committed to human rights, with experience in the

defense of criminal cases that have violations of rights. They have defended complex cases and that is why I have convened and elected them. They have a lot of professionalism and also firmness that what is happening in Peru is more serious than what is known. The rule of law no longer exists in Peru. All my rights were violated.

I am also accompanied by lawyers Nicolás Bustamante, Eduardo Pachas, Sifuentes and Walter Ayala in the defense of the fiscal folders on false accusations of corruption. I am grateful that they have filed habeas corpus in defense of my freedom, the protection of rights and also nullity about my vacancy [dismissal]. Each of them, from the constitutional and criminal areas, are in charge of my defense and freedom. All my lawyers in coordination for the defense of my rights. Much has been said in a tendentious way about my lawyers, about the number of lawyers there are, about the fact that there are many. It is true, it is clear that, having so many violations of my rights, I need a courageous legal team for my defense and my freedom. They are suffering persecution and defamation, they are being harassed by the traditional press that responds to the Peruvian right.

Judge César San Martín was the judge who imprisoned Alberto Fujimori, the greatest dictator in recent years, guilty of crimes against humanity. He was admired for it. Today, this judge loses all credibility and independence because he is judging me as a criminal and is not up to the fair judge he should be. I am the president of Peru and I am being imprisoned for a crime of rebellion that I did not commit.



Julio Zamarrón-Irene Zugasti Hervás and Pablo Elourdy

[El Salto Diario](#) / [CronicÓN](#), February 8, 2023

Stir in Peru and throughout Latin America after El Salto's exclusive interview with Pedro Castillo

The Peruvian Congress calls to chapter the prison officials for the interview published by this media. Castillo's legal team denounces the violation of Pedro Castillo's fundamental rights.

El Salto's interview with Pedro Castillo, the [first](#) that the deposed president grants from the military prison in which he has been in preventive detention since December, has had repercussions throughout Latin America, starting with Peru, a country that is in a state of emergency as a result of strong social protests against the Government of Dina Boluarte.

As a result of the interview, the Peruvian National Penitentiary Institute (INPE) initiated disciplinary proceedings against the Andean country, who continues to be considered president of the Andean country, for conducting an interview not authorized by the penitentiary institutions. Both the head of INPE and the director of the Barbadillo prison where Castillo is being held have been summoned to Congress to give explanations.

Pedro Castillo ["They present me as a monster. I am the president of Peru."](#)

[Julio Zamarrón](#)

In exclusive communication with El Salto, Guido Croxatto, director of the School of the Corps of Lawyers of the State of Argentina, which is part of the legal team that supports the defense of Pedro Castillo, denounces how his client "is restricted rights that any other person deprived of his liberty is recognized. Obstacles of different types are put in place and that is part of the administrative discretion of the State, which in general plays in favor of the powerful and against the poor and those who represent them, as is the case of Castillo in Peru."

For Croxatto, the situation in which Castillo finds himself "is not an exception, it is another chapter of political persecution in Latin America. As in the cases of Lula, Correa, Evo or Castillo, this is the price paid by leaders who do not kneel before economic and financial power."

El Comercio, the oldest and second most widely read newspaper in the country, takes the issue to the front page and examines what possible repercussions Castillo may face from the interview. Castillo, the newspaper says, could face a punishment of up to 30 days

without visitors. This is the second process of its kind after Castillo's Twitter account reproduced a letter from the inmate on January 26.

Trome, the most widely read digital in Peru, echoes the content of the interview and highlights the conditions of isolation in which Castillo finds himself. [La República](#), another of the country's traditional media, also carries to its front page the possible reprisals against Castillo by the prison system.

The content that is having the most impact is everything related to the events of December 7, specifically these reflections: "I wanted to get closer to the people. It was a day of echoing for the 'nobodies'. I took the flag of the People's Constituent Assembly and gave my speech remembering and being faithful to the peoples who voted for me, who trusted me. It was a vindication on my part. I wanted to make the political class understand that popular power is the maximum expression of societies. I did not want to obey the social economic power groups. I wanted to put the people above all else."

The Peruvian alternative media [Wayka](#) highlights another of the answers, referring to the links with Fujimorism of the current president, Dina Boluarte, who was part of the Free Peru ticket in the elections that gave way to Castillo's mandate.

The exclusive of El Salto is on the covers of the main media in the rest of Latin American countries. It is also carried by Telesur, the first audiovisual group in the continent, which highlights the demand by Pedro Castillo for a constituent assembly, a demand that he shares with the thousands of people who are protesting against Boluarte and the traditional Peruvian political system. Página 12, in Argentina, reproduces in full Julio Zamarrón's interview for El Salto, which is also referenced in [Sin Embargo](#), a media outlet in Mexico, a country that has welcomed the wife and children of Castillo and La Tercera, from Chile, among other media.

Pablo Elorduy , 8 February 2023

Edited by [María Piedad Ossaba](#)

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