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The fear is that discontent will boil over



Sources: CLAE - Rebellion

Before his speech at the opening of the legislative sessions, far-right Argentine President Javier Milei argued that "as long as Congress has its current composition, we believe it is difficult to approve reforms," which left a taste that he plans to govern by decree, bypassing the institutions.

Milei downplayed the impact of his adjustment by trying to dispel doubts about stability on which international organizations insist: "there is zero chance of a social uprising, unless there is a politically motivated event or foreign infiltrators."

For a week, Argentina experienced an unprecedented escalation that pitted Milei's government against almost all the governors, starting with the withholding of co-participation funds from the Patagonian province of Chubut, a situation finally solved by a court ruling, but which is still latent.

Provincial governor Ignacio Torres (of Propuesta Republicana, a neoliberal party allied with Milei) retorted that "if they don't take the leg off us by Wednesday, not one more barrel of oil will leave Chubut for Argentina."

But the shock did not occur and the oil continued to flow: a court ruling (by a judge in Rawson, the capital of Chubut) ordered the national government to "cease withholding" the funds until progress is made "in a refinancing of the debt."

Surely this will not be the first or the last time that the Judiciary intervenes in this hot political scenario, The ruling gave Torres breathing room to avoid carrying out a threat that he probably did not want or could not fulfill.

Milei, from the social network of his friend Elon Musk (to whom he has already granted access to satellite telephony and promised him lithium), had endorsed a discriminatory publication that sought to mock Torres by portraying him in a photo with the features of a person with Down Syndrome.

How much hatred can there be in a person who sarcastically tweets laughing at a boy with Down syndrome? What could have happened to that person in life to have so much hatred and resentment?" "This Argentina will never move forward if we put imaginary enemies in the ring, fomenting hatred and contempt to remove the real problems from the agenda," the governor responded.

For her part, the Minister of Security Patricia Bullrich did not want to lose prominence, after the failure of the idea of a co-government with the neoliberal Mauricio Macri and made a brutal disqualification of all Chubutenses. The repressive minister and president of the PRO attacked the governor and pointed out that "no one lives in Chubut, there are a million guanacos" (an artiodactyl mammal of the Camelidae family typical of Patagonia), the minister fired.

Milei insists on his provocative strategy, with the apparent objective of concentrating the public agenda on trifles, on matters of irrelevant order, distancing public opinion from the serious facts that his administration generates. His public fight with Lali Espósito managed to get people on the singer's side who didn't even know her songs. Lali was not intimidated: at the Cosquín Rock Festival she dedicated "Who are they?" to "the liars, the giles, the bad people, those who don't value, the anti-patriots".

Concerns

In Argentina, a contest of nonsense seems to be underway, in which the millennial government is winning, by far, while senior officials of the United States and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) fear that this bombardment of austerity measures and

other repressive measures to calm dissent will end with a social explosion or the balkanization of the country.

The outbreak of 2001 is still in the minds of Argentines, the corollary of a political, economic, social, and institutional crisis, which led to the popular revolt generalized under the slogan "Let them all go," and caused the resignation of President Fernando de la Rúa, who left the Casa Rosada by helicopter. The outbreak was followed by a period of instability: five people held the presidency in a few months.

Just days after her visit to the country and holding a meeting with the libertarian president (but also with the military, businessmen and union leaders), the deputy managing director of the IMF, the Indian-American economist and academic Gita Gopinath, objected to the dollarization that President Milei is promoting, at least in words, when evaluating and analyzing his economic program.

Although there were some conversations between the Americans and IMF officials with local politicians, businessmen, exporters, representatives of banks and investment funds interested in keeping the Argentine wealth that Milei promised to privatize, little was known about the talks with the military, in which Vice President Victoria Villarruel did not participate. close to the military commanders, since the time of the genocidal civil-military dictatorship.

"For any exchange rate regime, including dollarization, good preconditions are needed (...) you need a sufficient amount of reserves and good macro policy frameworks," Gita Gopinath said, after warning that "what we see from the experience of other countries is that dollarization does not solve all the problems." "If you don't have fiscal discipline, even if you don't have dollars, you can end up in trouble if you're not able to control, contain your fiscal policy, so it's not a panacea," he said.

Confidencial, a monthly bulletin that usually reaches foreign embassies, points out that the idea of the military consulted would be to "intervene only if there is an uprising or social or subversive outbreak." What worries the U.S. government (and other Europeans) and the IMF is the impoverishment and destabilization produced by the government's regressive economic measures.

From Rome, Pope Francis sent a message to judges in Argentina, in which he assured that the State "is called to exercise that central role of redistribution and social justice" today "more important than ever," while warning of "dehumanizing and violent models" and maintaining that, in public office, "legitimacy of origin is not enough."

"Social rights are not free. The wealth to sustain them is available, but it requires adequate, rational and equitable political decisions," said the Catholic Supreme Pontiff. For his part, presidential spokesman Manuel Adorni said that in the government "we respect and listen to the word of Pope Francis," but pointed out that, "with some of them we do not agree and it is very good that this is the case."

Continuing with the string of libertarian nonsense, Adorni surprised (some) by announcing on Tuesday that Milei had ordered "the elimination of the use of inclusive language in the State" and everything "related to the gender perspective in public administration."

Sometimes the systems of leaking economic information that the government makes to paid accounts on the social network X enter into crisis, as happened with a message that Milei himself had to deny: the pre-announcement of an imminent dollarization, with the opening of stocks, bank holidays and corralito.

But the president's rejection was not because of an alleged false content of the shipment; Almost everything that was mentioned in the account of Emilio Raiden, Milei's informal adviser on economic matters, is a topic of conversation not only in the Ministry of Finance, but also with the authorities of the IMF and, above all, with the Minister of Economy, Luis Caputo. But the data was explosive for a government that has no foreign currency and is under pressure all the time to devalue again, and that could bring forward an explosion.

"Sorry President, it was an expression of wishful thinking," Raiden wrote on his X account, after being pressured by the uproar his message caused. But the impact had already been made.

In their troll and bot farms, they try to create the collective imagination that in government they feel comfortable in the conflict, and that to back down or give in would mean losing initiative, disenchanting their electoral base. And they fear that their power will be liquefied in negotiations where they would lose.

Milei wants to perpetuate the image of the lion willing to do anything with the presidential pen to compensate for all his other weaknesses, starting from the premise that what goes well, will be his merit and what doesn't, surely the fault lies with "the caste". This adventurous policy has no guarantee against failures and that is why it is feared that some great conflict or social discontent will get out of hand...

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