



ARBITRARY DISMISSAL OF THE MAYOR OF BOGOTA GUSTAVO PETRO.

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***Unofficial translation done only for the purpose of being understood.**

The Permanent Secretariat of Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (REDLAD) warning about the removal of the current Mayor of Bogota Gustavo Petro, by decision of the Attorney General's Alejandro Ordóñez, who also disqualified to Petro to perform functions public for over 15 years.

Mayor Petro, came to occupy this position by popular vote as a result of a political career in which , after demobilization of the guerrilla group M -19, was chosen as representative of the democratic left Colombian first as Senator, then as Mayor of Bogotá . As part of its campaign presented a government program which raised the need to strengthen the management of public resources, recovering to the state administration some services that were in private hands, such as the handling of waste, which it had become a very lucrative business for private hands.

In his popular mandate, one of his most controversial decisions was the restructuring of the management scheme of city waste , dismantling exerting control coming exclusively private companies, and giving this responsibility to the public company with schemes of social inclusion.

The decision of the Attorney Ordoñez has awakened a profound rejection in many different sectors of Colombian society, who consider arbitrary decision, because the mayor was elected by popular vote as the act Ordoñez is political rather than institutional .



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Moreover, in a context of negotiation to end the internal conflict that Colombia has lived for decades this situation darkens the path to peace, because it would indicate that the democratic path is no guarantee that the leftist political views can be applied in a constitutional setting.

The Permanent Secretariat of REDLAD, a platform of more than 520 organizations that advocate for democracy and human rights in the region , Official Member of the Civil Society Forum of the OAS (Organization of American States) and Regional Chapter of WMD (World Movement for Democracy) :

- Rejects the arbitrary dismissal of the Mayor Petro, which seriously undermines Colombian democracy, not only breaking the balance of power , but because it eliminate the value of the vote .
- Warns that the decision threatens the peace process because the removal of a Mayor of democratic left that was the result of a process of demobilization , can negatively impact the peace process and close the path of moderate democratic ideologies to be part of the government.
- Urges the Colombian government to review the facts and avoid such decisions that are made for political reasons rather than functions.
- It calls for the Bogota civil society to demand respect for the vote and request reinstatement of their democratic rights violated in this controversial dismissal.

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