

Rome, 21 February 2023

Madam Dina Ercilia Boluarte Zegarra
Constitutional President of the Republic of Peru
Lima

Subject: Letter from the International Land Coalition regarding human rights violations committed against citizens of Peru during the present Government.

Dear Madam President,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Director of the International Land Coalition (ILC). ILC is a global alliance of more than 300 civil society organizations and intergovernmental institutions working together in 78 countries around the world to achieve land governance that puts the rights of people living on and from the land at its centre.

With this letter, we express our **deep concern about the critical level of violence unleashed in Peru in response to the legitimate right to citizen protest. We call on the Government of the Republic to put a stop to the serious violations of human rights**, which have worsened since last December.

The global community has witnessed from afar with great regret the deterioration of Peru's rule of law, as it takes a position among a list of countries with defective democracies. So far, the violence has claimed the lives of 60 people, with the State allegedly being directly responsible for 48 of those deaths¹, which have occurred in clashes with police and the country's military forces². The majority of victims come from members of rural indigenous and peasant communities, Quechua and Aymara from the South Andean region of Peru. The violent and authoritarian action that has taken place in this region of the country, with a population that is systematically excluded, shows a decline in democracy and a crisis of governance and peace that we have not seen in the country for more than two decades.

In light of the above, we believe that the recently declared State of Emergency - in seven regions of Peru - where control has been ceded to the Armed Forces in Puno, places the lives of the residents of this region at serious risk, while disproportionate army intervention against citizen mobilization is infringing on their legitimate right to protest.

In the context of the crisis, recently approved measures to limit the free expression of Peruvians across different virtual platforms, violates their individual liberties and encourages indiscriminate persecution of citizens. Along the same lines, the widespread and arbitrary detention of those who have not participated in the mobilizations are worrying, including students, the elderly, people with disabilities; as well as

¹ Source: Daily Report of the Adjuntía para la Prevención de Conflictos Sociales y Gobernabilidad de la Defensoría del Pueblo del Perú, 15 February 2023.

² Amnesty International documents 12 emblematic cases of deaths by gunshots to the chest, torso or head, which they point to as a possible indication of intentional use of lethal force by the state.

Source: <https://www.amnesty.org/es/latest/news/2023/02/peru-lethal-state-repression/>

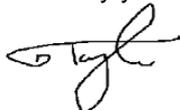
repression exercised against those who provide solidarity support to the protesters, including independent journalists or alternative media.

As such, we call on your government to provide a solution in which:

1. The deaths and violent acts that have occurred over the past 60 days are fairly and impartially investigated, with the intention of reaching the truth; identifying those responsible; implementing justice and reparations for the victims from an intercultural approach, considering that the majority of the deceased are members of rural indigenous and peasant communities of the Andean South in Peru.
2. The State of Emergency is lifted, an undemocratic measure that puts the lives of the people from the South Andean region at risk - the population hit with the highest number of murders since December.
3. Puts an end to the human rights violations and criminalization of the citizens exercising their right to peaceful protest and free expression.
4. End the political crisis that persists, by recognizing the legitimacy of the demands of the citizens who have mobilized in the country.

As the International Land Coalition, we reaffirm our willingness to collaborate with all sectors to contribute to a peaceful solution to the political crisis, to restore peace and promote the well-being of peasant and indigenous citizens who have been mobilizing with courage and dignity in defense of life and democracy.

Sincerely yours,



Michael Taylor
Director, ILC Secretariat