

Press Release

BOLIVIA: ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY NOW!

The Wiphalas Across the World Manifesto (Wiphalas En El Mundo - <https://www.wiphalasacrosstheworld.com/european-support>), issued by Bolivian communities in Europe and the rest of the world, receives growing support from prominent figures on the European political spectrum, including Jeremy Corbyn MP, former leader of the Labour Party, internationalist Spanish judge Baltazar Garzón, Maité Mola, vice-president of the United Left (PIE), Jean Ziegler, advisor to the United Nations Human Rights Council and Jean-Luc Mélenchon, French national deputy, president of the parliamentary group of France Insoumise.

The Manifesto denounces the systematic repression of the Bolivian people at the hands of the de facto and racist government of Janine Añez, which is directed against the indigenous movement, particularly indigenous women, rural campesinos, workers, social, neighbourhood associations and other organisations.

These attacks have the function of preventing Bolivians from exercising the sacred right to express opposition to the de facto government's brutal program of neoliberal counter-reforms, which seeks to demolish all the conquests of the MAS-IPSP governments, and which has already set Bolivia back decades.

The Manifesto also highlights the sinister and systematic judicial and police persecution of the MAS-IPSP party with the unspeakable aim of making it illegal and thus preventing it from participating in the elections scheduled for September 6, 2020. The de facto government is also trying to postpone the elections in order to perpetuate itself in power in the same way it appropriated it: undemocratically.

The Manifesto calls on public opinion worldwide to demand that the de facto government respects the sacred constitutional principles on human rights, such as the right to freedom of expression, opinion, organization and political mobilization, and adherence to due process in the judicial sphere; the cessation of the criminalization of individuals and organizations for their political and ideological beliefs and convictions; and finally the holding of free, fair and transparent elections, which is the unique function of the transitional government of Añez.





FOR FREE, FAIR AND TRANSPARENT ELECTIONS IN THE PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA

Concerned about the deep political, social, economic and health crisis and the systematic violation of Human Rights experienced by the citizens of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the authorities and former authorities of some European countries wish to express:

Several international missions such as the Argentine Delegation in Solidarity with the Bolivian People, the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR) and the Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, have verified and corroborated the reality of selective and racist violence, which was unleashed in the context of the social protests before and after the elections in October-November 2019, which converged in a coup d'état, giving rise to a highly questionable presidential succession establishing a transitional government, on November 12 of the same year.

Since the assumption of the Transitional Government, there has been the implementation of systematic police, military and judicial persecution of former authorities and officials of the previous government, as well as of militants and sympathizers of the Movement Towards Socialism (MAS-IPSP) and of any person who disagrees with the politics and ideology of the current government. This persecution persists today.

The political, social, economic and health crisis that Bolivia is experiencing has worsened the situation of workers, indigenous, rural campesinos and people in general, threatening the right to life, free expression, freedom of association and the right to express social criticism.

The Covid-19 health crisis, due to the deficient management of the de facto Government, has led to inhuman treatment, arbitrary detentions and racial discrimination, where repression takes precedence over prevention, and there is no attention or social support to allow the most vulnerable population to live in acceptable conditions under the Government imposed quarantine. Bolivia has the world's largest informal economy.

We salute the agreement and consensus reached between the different political forces that will allow the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) to propose before the Plurinational Legislative Assembly, the call for general elections on September 6, 2020.

Therefore, we suggest the imperative need to:

- The realization of free, fair, transparent and democratic general elections, accompanied by international observers before, during and after the electoral process, developing the application of necessary measures that preserve the health of the voter.
- Guarantee the respect of human rights, safeguarding social and political rights with an emphasis on the right to freedom of expression, opinion, freedom of the press, political participation with gender equality and protecting a democratic rule of law
- Cease the criminalisation of people for their political-ideological beliefs and convictions. In cases of ongoing judicial proceedings, impose respect for judicial impartiality and due process.

June 2020



SPAIN

- **Baltazar Garzón Real**, *Jurista Internacionalista*
- **Maïté Mola**, *vicepresidenta del Partido de la Izquierda Europea (PIE)*
- **Manu Pineda**, *Euro Diputado PCE, responsable de relaciones internacionales del PCE*
- **María Eugenia Martínez Palop**, *eurodiputada de Unidas Podemos*
- **Enrique Santiago**, *Diputado y Secretario General del Partido Comunista*
- **Gerardo Pisarello**, *Diputado y Secretario primero del Congreso de los Diputados*
- **Idoia Villanueva**, *Diputada de Podemos, miembro del Parlamento Europeo*
- **Vicent Garcés**, *ex-Diputado Europeo, Izquierda Socialista-PSOE.*
- **Licia Muñoz**, *Diputada de Unidas Podemos*
- **Roberto Uriarte**, *Diputado*
- **Francisco José Pérez Esteban**, *Responsable de Política Internacional de Izquierda Unida*
- **Mauricio Valiente Ots**, *Coordinador del Grupo Parlamentario IU*
- **Roser Maestro Moliner**, *Diputada de Unidas Podemos*
- **Unai Sordo Calvo**, *Secretario General de CCOO de España*
- **Cristina Faciabén Lacorte**, *Secretaria de Internacional de CCOO*
- **Ramón Górriz Villalta**, *Presidente de la Fundación Primero de Mayo*
- **Félix Ovejero Torres**, *Responsable de Cooperación al Desarrollo y América Latina de CCOO*
- **Inmaculada Nieto Castro**, *Portavoz del Grupo Parlamentario de ADELANTE ANDALUCÍA en el Parlamento Andaluz*
- **Sol Sánchez Maroto**, *Diputada de IU-Unidas Podemos en la Asamblea de Madrid*
- **Marcos Roitman Rosseman**, *académico y profesor de Sociología en la Universidad Complutense de Madrid*
- **Jaime Pastor Verdú**, *profesor de Ciencia Política de la UNED (Universidad Nacional Educación a Distancia)*
- **Heriberto Cairo Carou**, *exDecano Facultad de Ciencias Políticas de Universidad Complutense de Madrid*
- **Ángel Cappa Polchi**, *psicopedagogo y ex entrenador adjunto del Real Madrid*
- **Eduardo Sánchez Iglesias**, *Profesor de Ciencias Políticas y Sociología de la Univ. Complutense de Madrid*



UNITED KINGDOM

- **Jeremy Corbyn MP**, *former Leader of the Labour Party*
- **Richard Burgon**, *former Shadow Secretary of State for Justice and Labour MP*
- **Claudia Webbe**, *Labour MP*
- **Apsana Begum**, *Labour MP*
- **Belgica Guaña**, *Councillor Labour Party*
- **Patrick Spence**, *Councillor Labour Party*
- **Aydin Dikerdem**, *Councillor Labour Party*
- **Dr Francisco Dominguez**, *Middlesex University, UK*

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SWEDEN

- **Malin BJÖRK**, *parlementaire europe Groupe de la Gauche unitaire européenne - Gauche verte nordique*
- **Hakan Svenneling**, *portavoz del partido de la Izquierda en Suecia*

SWITZERLAND

- **Stéphanie Prezioso**, *diputada nacional Suiza, Ensemble à gauche*
- **Jean Ziegler**, *sociólogo, asesor del Consejo de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas, Ginebra, Suiza*
- **Erica Deuber Ziegler**, *historiadora de Arte, Ginebra*
- **Alfred de Zayas**, *UN Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order 2012-2018*
- **Alexandre Eniline**, *presidente Parti du Travail*



FRANCE

- **Jean-Luc Melenchon**, *diputado nacional francés, presidente del grupo parlamentario France Insoumise*
- **Cristian Rodriguez**, *relations internationales, Un Monde en Commun*
- **Joël Perichaud**, *secrétaire national aux Relations internationales du Pardem.*

D'AUTRES SIGNATURES SOLIDAIRES D'EUROPE ET DU MONDE.

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- **Prof. Dr. Luiz Carlos Susin**, *Advisory Board Concilium international Journal of Theology, World Forum on Theology and Liberation, General Secretary*
- **Julio Zumaeta**, *Comunidad Óscar Romero de Valparaíso, Chile.*