Resolution on Bolivia and the arrest of former President Jeanine Añez and other officials

2021/2646(RSP) - 29/04/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 396 votes to 267, with 28 abstentions, a resolution on Bolivia and the arrest of former President Jeanine Añez and other officials.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by the EPP, Renew and ECR groups.

On 13 March 2021 Jeanine Áñez, two of her ministers, former Energy Minister Rodrigo Guzmán and former Justice Minister Álvaro Coimbra, and other individuals who made up the interim government from 2019 to 2020 were detained on charges of ‘terrorism, sedition and conspiracy’, and are accused by prosecutors of taking part in a coup in 2019.

At least 35 people have died and 833 have been injured in the context of widespread and violent protests, and many others have been detained in breach of the rules of due process, amid reports of widespread human rights violations and abuses.

Parliament denounced and condemned the arbitrary and illegal detention of former interim President Áñez, two of her Ministers, and other political prisoners. It called on the Bolivian

authorities to release them immediately and drop the politically motivated charges against them.

The resolution stressed that former President Áñez fully complied with her duty under the Bolivian Constitution as Second Vice-President of the Senate when filling the presidential vacuum caused by the resignation of former President Evo Morales following the violent riots that were triggered by attempted electoral fraud.

Judicial system

The credibility of the Bolivian judicial system is being affected by continuing reports of lack of independence, widespread political interference and corruption.

Parliament denounced the political pressure on the judiciary to persecute political opponents and underlined the importance of upholding due process guarantees and ensuring the judiciary is free of all political pressure.

Bolivia is urged to:

- undertake structural changes and reforms to the judicial system, in particular its composition, without delay, in order to ensure guarantees of fair and credible trials, impartiality and due process;

- undertake structural changes and reforms, including the appointment of an independent and impartial Ombudsperson, to address the root causes of the crises that flared up in the country;

- address the widespread issue of corruption in the country.