

Argentina and the Government of Hate

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In Argentina, these are challenging times of pain and powerlessness for those of us who love our people, our country. When the ultra-right won the presidential elections in December 2023, Milei took office, flying the flag of inequality, violence, cruelty, contempt for the vulnerable, and the surrender of the homeland to powerful local interests and – above all – to the global corporate elite. The president says that he is advised by his dead dog, [and he] is photographed wrapped in the flag of Israel, travels continuously to the United States, and with false reasons makes decisions that go against national interests.

Milei refuses [to have] any dialogue [due to] a messianic and authoritarian attitude, defining himself as an “anarcho-capitalist”. He blindly believes in the free market and deregulation, in the benefits of destroying the state and privatizing everything, in the plundering of our natural resources for export, and the uncontrolled imports that will eliminate national industry. He is also reducing or eliminating taxes on the rich and large multinationals and increasing them on simple citizens. He rigorously pays the illegal foreign debt to the IMF [International Monetary Fund] and other agencies while denying essential funds for education, health, social spending, etc.

He declared war on all state institutions, which he considers unnecessary or inefficient. Throughout the territory, political, economic, educational, scientific, technological, sanitary, cultural, artistic, environmental, and communication institutions are being eliminated or their roles weakened. In the name of “freedom”, these “institutional disappearances” facilitate the dismemberment of the country, the denial of rights, chaos, and the loss of democracy, instituting an extractivist, neocolonial situation.



Sisters Ana Siufi, Estela Gomez, & Moira Flynn protest in front of Congress in Buenos Aires

It becomes clear that the Executive Power – through decrees or new laws that annul hundreds of previous decrees or laws or contravene our Constitution – wants to concentrate in itself the powers of the legislature and manage the judiciary. This would ensure impunity to impose its anti-national policy, which is already causing the loss of thousands of jobs, the closure of businesses and industries, the paralysis of production and consumption, the destruction of ecosystems, and the unstoppable growth of hunger, poverty, and social inequality.

With the argument that it is the only way and that today's sacrifice will produce prosperity in 30 years, this economic plan is brutally dynamiting the social fabric, aggravating the shortages and suffering of all vulnerable sectors. Unfortunately, many of his voters still trust his speeches and the measures taken, while another part of the citizenship – very angry – is seeing the damage and protesting the uncontrolled inflation, unemployment, and the low salaries and pensions. You can feel this question in the air: Are we heading towards a social explosion? The choruses in the marches sum it all up: “This is not freedom; this is hate!” “The homeland is not for sale, it is defended!”

Faced with this process, the defeated opposition parties show divisions, disorientation, or complicit silences, and few politicians, trade unionists, social leaders, religious leaders, or

independent journalists come out to denounce with force and conviction so much destruction, proposing alternative policies focused on the common good and real democracy. Those who do not submit but resist this misgovernment with denunciations, strikes, and street protests are threatened by police repression, outrageous judicial processes, and incessant smear campaigns in the media and social networks, including insults and mockery by the president.

More than ever, in these difficult times, we need our Martyrs – who have given their lives for a more just country – to inspire and sustain us; to be boldly present alongside the victims of this inhumane system, accompanying the struggle with hope, the strength of union, the love that seeks equity, and the power of non-violence; to defend the dignified life, rights, brotherhood, and sovereignty of our nation.

“No longer shall violence be heard of in your land, or plunder and ruin within your boundaries... He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners.” (Is. 60:18; 61:1).