

LETTER FOR MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INVOLVED IN G7 SUMMIT - ITALY, 13rd to 15th JUNE

Dear [Minister],

Amnesty International would like to draw your attention to the G7 Summit in Italy, which is taking place from 13 to 15 June 2024. Argentinean President, Mr. Javier Milei, has been one of the heads of state invited to the event.

Since December 2023 Argentina new administration, under the new Presidency of Javier Milei, has affected several human rights. Milei has displayed **violent and provocative attitudes in his public speeches and on his social networks** when addressing feminism, the left, climate change, journalism, human rights in general and anyone who thinks differently from him. In some cases, his social media posts constituted plain threats to opposition parliamentarians who did not vote for his government's bill. These narratives and hate speeches are also present in other political figures within Milei's political space and his allies, who openly proposed that social protests should be repressed with imprisonment or police shootings of protesters.

While the institutional and socioeconomic crisis deepens, the Milei government has displayed **a policy of repression to pacific demonstrations that promotes the reduction of civic space**. In December, the Argentine Security Ministry passed Resolution 943/2023, establishing the "Protocol for Maintaining Public Order in the Event of Road Closures" and the additional Resolution 949/2023. Both Resolutions pose several threats to people's rights, fuels violence and social conflict and ultimately endangers lives and physical integrity. In a [letter](#) sent to the current administration, UN Special Rapporteurs jointly requested the Government to review the resolution and ensure it complies with relevant international human rights standards, without imposing undue restrictions on the right of freedom to peaceful assembly.

In Argentina, the unequal distribution of wealth, corruption, the lack of transparency and accountability, barriers to access justice and the weakening of institutions called for an urgent and necessary change, which was very much used by the new administration to justify a and put in place **a brutal fiscal adjustment** as a reflection of the need for a profound change. One of the groups that suffered a huge impact was the **older people**. In fact, the fall in pensions was one of the main drivers of the fiscal adjustment carried out by the current government. This drastic fall in pensioners' real income just adds to the sustained decline pensions benefits have suffered in the last few years based on the different formulas applied to update them. The Congress is discussing different measures regarding the social security system for older people. Several bills have been introduced to revise and redesign the pension system for older people.

During the first 200 days of this administration, the national government's initiatives and statements point towards a **regressive scenario on sexual and reproductive rights**. The president's party **introduced a bill into the Congress to repeal Law 27,610** and promote the full criminalization of abortion, reverting the country to before 1921. Finally, 2024 has been declared – through a presidential decree – as the "Year of the Defence of Life, Liberty and Property". Besides that, during his address at the 2024 World Economic Forum in Davos, President Javier Milei commented on the "bloody abortion agenda". A few weeks later, at the start of the school year at a secondary school, he said abortion is a crime, specifically an "aggravated murder" based on the relationship with the victim, a remark at odds with his legal obligations as head of state.

Amnesty International looks to your government to raise the following issues in the meetings you have with President Milei and Argentinean delegation at sidelines of G7 2024 Summit:

- Ensure the right to freedom of expression and opinion. In a context of strong polarization and confrontational rhetoric, it is urgent to refrain from persecuting, defaming, or attacking organizations, opinion leaders, journalists, opposition leaders, and other human rights defenders who hold critical or opposing views to the government.
- Establish a robust debate to strengthen laws to regulate the dissemination of disinformation and hate speech. This framework should include clear responsibilities for those who promote violence

and hate through digital platforms. In addition, it must be ensured that these laws respect human rights and are not used to arbitrarily restrict freedom of expression.

- state authorities should refrain from a) suppressing dissenting voices, causing a culture of fear to take root; b) demonizing groups and minorities; c) silencing or creating negative consequences for those who challenge the repression of demonized groups.
- Argentina state should review the Protocol (Resolutions 943/2023 and 949/2023) and ensure it complies with relevant international human rights standards, without imposing undue restrictions on the right of freedom to peaceful assembly
- Authorities should not require those wishing to organize or participate in a protest to request prior authorization for a protest to take place (at most, states can impose a simple notification procedure)
- States should ensure the protection of peaceful demonstrations wherever they take place: outdoors, indoors or on the Internet, in public or private spaces, or in a combination thereof;
- Avoid the use of mass surveillance tactics that not only invades protesters' right to privacy but also intimidates people so that they are less likely to want to attend protests in the first place.
- Deter state authorities from intervening to disrupt peaceful demonstrations making them dangerous and violent.
- The National Ministry of Security must avoid implementing the Protocol until it is reviewed and aligned with human rights standards;
- The judiciary must ensure a full investigation into the cases of all the people injured by excessive use of force by the police during the demonstrations.
- Guarantee the right to social security and an adequate standard of living for older people and ensure that any reform on pensions meets Argentina's international obligations on the matter.
- Desist from the elimination of pension moratoriums due to the risks that it represents for guaranteeing the right to social security and an adequate standard of living for older people and ensure that any reform on pensions meets Argentina's international obligations on the matter.
- Put in place a "Human rights impact assessment", that sets out a mechanism to systematically assessing the impact of economic reforms on the enjoyment of all human rights before decisions are taken to implement such reforms, as well as during and after their implementation. This is a fundamental requirement in contexts of economic and financial crises, where states focus their efforts on stabilizing the economy by reducing public spending.
- Argentina government must ensure that health services, including safe abortion care, are universally accessible without discrimination, free from any barriers, delays or restrictions;
- Ensure access to a comprehensive range of good-quality sexual and reproductive health information, goods and services, including abortion, post-abortion care, modern contraceptives and evidence-based, non-biased and non-discriminatory information on sexual and reproductive health
- Ensure the availability and accessibility of supplies and sufficient trained healthcare personnel for providing abortion services and post-abortion care through, among other measures, the allocation of sufficient budget for such purposes.
- Refrain from promoting and advancing regressive legal frameworks that question the right to access abortion.
- Guarantee, throughout the health care process, the rights to dignified treatment, confidentiality, privacy, informed consent and autonomy of women and people who can become pregnant who decide to access a voluntary, legal and safe termination of pregnancy.
- Argentina has positive obligations to create an enabling environment for people to make autonomous and informed decisions about their pregnancies, by eliminating harmful stereotypes, discrimination, and stigma.

I thank you for your attention to these matters and look forward to discussing them with you.

Yours sincerely,