## The OAS and its sponsors



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## By María Josefina Arce

It did not take long for the OAS, Organization of American States, to express its support to the president of Ecuador, Guillermo Lasso, who is being called upon by a large part of the citizens to resign due to the situation of the country, marked by the high cost of living, insecurity and drastic cuts to basic social services, in addition to being in the spotlight in a notorious corruption case.

The pronouncement of the questioned OAS took place just after Ecuador's National Assembly approved a report recommending an impeachment trial against Lasso for crimes against public administration and state security.

Many voices have been raised in the Andean nation to criticize the interference of the regional organization, which, they emphasize, is linked to destabilization in several Latin American nations and is characterized by ignoring the interests of the people.

Assemblyman Ricardo Ulcuango, from the Union for Hope party, quoted by Prensa Latina news agency, pointed out that this time the Organization of American States supports a president accused of having links with drug trafficking and for compromising the security of the state. Just like that, he emphasized.

Lasso is involved in the so-called "El gran padrino" case, which refers to the links of his brother-in-law Danilo Carrera, and his close friend Rubén Cherres, with drug trafficking and a corruption network that was woven through bribes for contracts in strategic public companies such as telecommunications and electricity.

Now the OAS is calling for respect for the constitutional order, when the popular demand for Lasso to leave power continues to gain ground. Apparently, it has forgotten its historical support to coups in the region, such as the one in 2019 in Bolivia against the then president Evo Morales, democratically elected at the polls by Bolivians.

Luis Almagro, secretary general of that bloc, ignored allegations of egregious human rights violations during the de facto government of self-proclaimed president Jeanine Áñez. He even went further and described the general elections of October 2019, in which Morales was reelected, as fraud.

The organization led by Almagro, supported by the United States, has also given its support to Dina Boluarte, appointed president of Peru after the coup against Pedro Castillo last December, even though her resignation is a demand of the Peruvians, violently repressed by the police and the army.

Many also remember the reception of the regional bloc, following in the footsteps of the United States, to Juan Guaidó, who in 2019 proclaimed himself interim president of Venezuela, ignoring the legitimacy of Nicolás Maduro, democratically reelected at the polls in the 2018 elections.

But the OAS led by Almagro decided to ignore the constitutional order in the South American nation and allied itself with Guaidó, from whom the United States finally distanced itself for no longer serving its interests, which led the Venezuelan opposition itself to eliminate his fictitious government.

These are the characters that the Organization of American States sponsors, ignoring the claims of the peoples. But nothing else can be expected from this entity that was born in 1948 as a mechanism for the domination of the United States in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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