

Mexican Journalist Says President Peña Nieto Backed Her Firing



Mexico City, March 20 (teleSUR-RHC) Acclaimed Mexican journalist Carmen Aristegui suggested Thursday that her dismissal could only have come with the Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto's blessing.

Aristegui was fired on Sunday following a controversy over the dismissal of two journalists from her investigative team. Her former employer, MVS, said the journalist was fired because they would not tolerate her ultimatum demanding the rehiring of her colleagues as a condition to continue her radio show, which is the most listened to in Mexico.

However, when asked by a reporter if she believed her dismissal had been orchestrated by Peña Nieto's office, the 51-year-old said, "It looks that way because I can't imagine something of this magnitude without at least some kind of consent from the highest presidential power."

Last year, Aristegui and her team revealed that Peña Nieto and his wife purchased a luxurious house owned by a major government contractor with ties to the president. That revelation, dubbed the white house scandal, prompted accusations of corruption and caused a major headache for the Mexican

president who was already facing heavy criticism over his handling of the case of the 43 forcibly disappeared students from Ayotzinapa.

Aristegui stated that she had a cordial relationship with the Vargas family, owners of MVS, and that their recent behavior came as a surprise to her. "Who asked them to do this? What is behind all this?" asked Aristegui.

Aristegui added that she believes her coverage of the white house scandal is the real reason she was fired. Officially the Mexican government, through a statement from the Interior Ministry, urged MVS and Aristegui to resolve their differences. However, Aristegui's dismissal came shortly after Peña Nieto promoted Eduardo Sanchez to director for Social Communication for the Presidency of the Republic in an effort to improve his image domestically.

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