

Honduran Court Changes Constitution, OKs Presidential Re-election



Tegucigalpa, April 24 (teleSUR-RHC)-- The Honduran Supreme Court voted on Thursday to change wording in the country's constitution to allow re-election. The controversial decision came six-years after a U.S.-supported military coup ousted former President Manuel Zelaya over his supposed attempts to convene a constitutional assembly in order to seek re-election.

Lawmakers from the Libre Party, born out of the resistance movement against the 2009 coup, called the court's decision illegal and said that the Congress should convene a trial against the court's magistrates.

The move to eliminate term limits for the office of the president was promoted by members of the ruling National Party of President Juan Orlando Hernandez. Though Hernandez has not definitively said whether he would run again if permitted, a lawmaker from his party said he would not.

In December 2014, National Party lawmakers presented a petition before the Supreme Court arguing a ban on re-election was a violation of human rights. The court supported petition and annulled article 239 of the Honduran constitution, which states that anyone who has served as president may not serve again.

Former President Rafael Leonardo Callejas, also of the ruling National Party, backed the petition before the Supreme Court and is expected to seek the presidency in upcoming elections. "The resolution makes clear that no law may restrict the rights of Hondurans," said a court spokesperson. Article 239 of the Honduran constitution is one of that country's infamous "set-in-stone" articles that specifies any attempt to modify it would result in the automatic loss of their post and would ban that person from seeking public office for 10 years. The court also annulled that clause as well as the penal code that also prohibited any attempts at reforming that article of the constitution.

The President of the National Congress said that the legislature would not debate the decision by the court, meaning it would be published immediately and become law.

<https://www.radiohc.cu/en/noticias/internacionales/53818-honduran-court-changes-constitution-oks-presidential-re-election>



Radio Habana Cuba