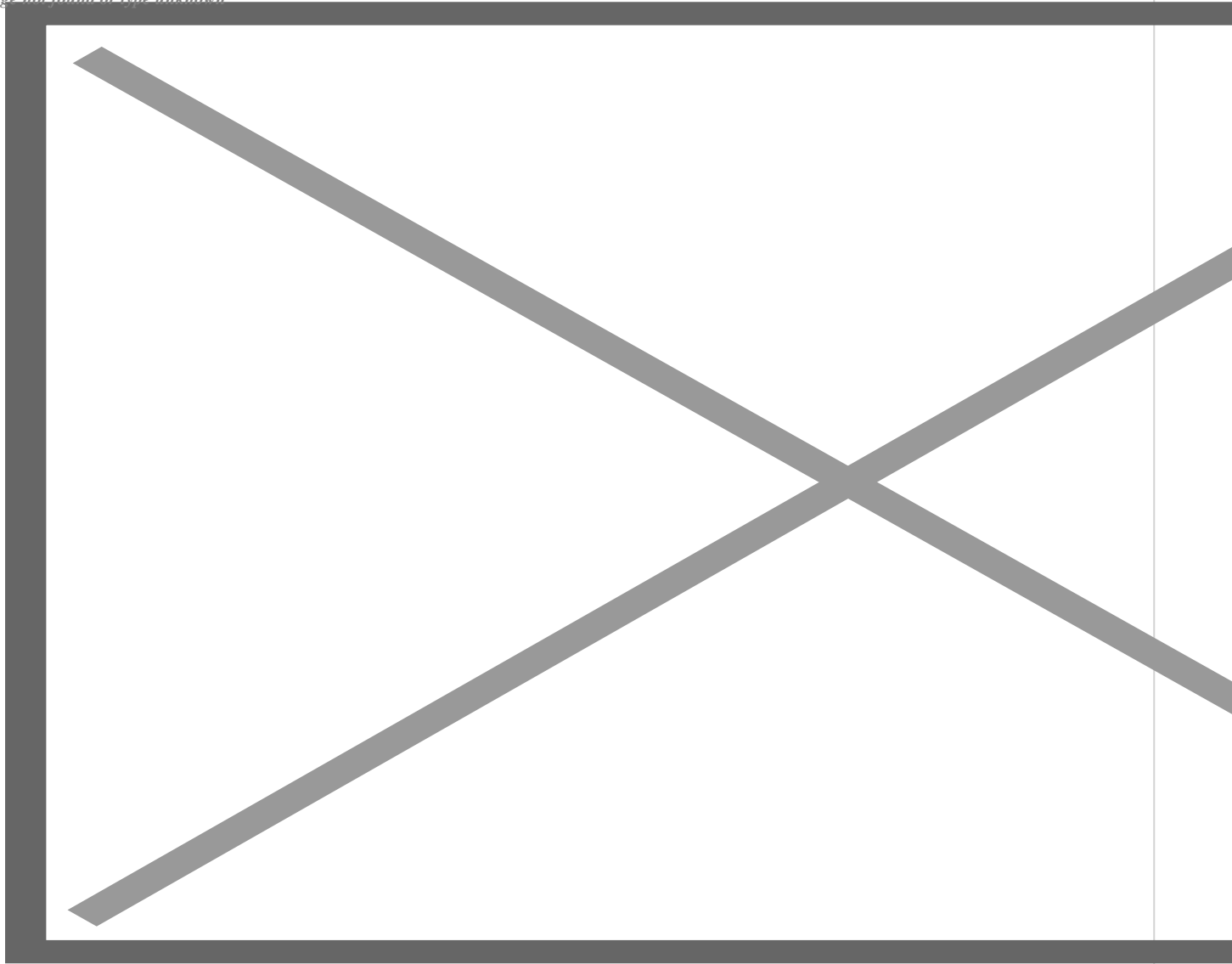


Peru orders Mexico's ambassador in Lima to leave the country

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?Peru declares Mexican ambassador in Lima persona non grata?

Lima, December 20 (RHC)-- Peru has ordered Mexico's ambassador, Pablo Monroy, to leave the Andean country within 72 hours, declaring him "persona non grata," according its foreign ministry on Tuesday, after the family of its ousted president was granted asylum by the Mexican government.

The ministry said the decision was made after Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador made comments about Peru's political situation, "which constitute unacceptable interference in internal affairs, in clear violation to the principle of non-intervention," a statement read.

It comes after Mexico's Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard said he had offered asylum to Peru's former President Pedro Castillo's family, who were already in the Mexican embassy in the capital Lima.

While Ebrard did not identify which members of Castillo's family were inside the diplomatic mission, Peru's Foreign Minister Ana Cecilia Gervasi Diaz said on Tuesday that Castillo's family, specifically his wife and children, will be granted safe passage to leave the country.

Pedro Castillo, a former teacher and union leader from rural Peru, was impeached and removed from office nearly two weeks ago after he attempted to dissolve Congress and install an emergency government – a tactic that lawmakers claimed was an attempted coup.

He was detained while making his way to the Mexican embassy in Lima, according to prosecutors. He is currently under "preventive detention" for 18 months for alleged rebellion and conspiracy – accusations that he strongly denies.

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