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## Popular government on the move and ultra-right lurking



**Sources:** Rebellion

*Analysis. One month after the inauguration of President Gustavo Petro*

The government of President Gustavo Petro faces a complex situation in which it seeks to consolidate governability, initiate its strategic social reforms and achieve peace.

His administration began long before the massive act of August 7 in Bogotá, when a hopeful people flooded the streets, renewed their support and took possession of him.

The victory in the second round, on June 19, was the result of a powerful urban and rural mobilization against the Uribista regime, corrupt and violator of human rights.

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It also meant majority support for proposals for solutions to problems historically denied by the governments of segregating, voracious and repressive elites.

That popular support avoided the automatic reaction of the extreme right: faced with the forcefulness of the 11,300,000 votes for Gustavo Petro, she was forced to accept defeat.

Almost 700,000 votes ahead of Rodolfo Hernández, the discredited candidate of the establishment, were enough to stop those who pretended to ignore the result.

They had already tried in the legislative elections of March 13, when the electoral mafias cheated to keep 4 seats of the Historical Pact and were discovered.

Anyway, on the night of June 19, the oligarchic conspiracy received the flag, with its media artificially shooting up the price of the dollar in the country.

They launched all kinds of infuriations about the fall in foreign investment, the alleged massive flight of Colombians abroad and the depreciation of the Colombian Oil Company.

None of this was true, but the offensive continues against the popular government, which is simply assumed to be a transition, in the construction of a new power, democratic and social.

It is clear that economic power remains in the hands of the oligarchy that owns the means of production, and that most of the legal and legislative apparatus continues to represent it. On March 13 and June 19, there was a qualitative leap from social resistance to politics, conquering a strong bench in Congress and achieving the National Government, but much remains.

Most of the regional powers remain in the hands of spokesmen of the bourgeoisie and landlords, and extensions of those powers, such as the media, as well.

The construction of a popular hegemony is just beginning, it will take four years, and it will be vital to consolidate what has been achieved and avoid as much as possible one's own mistakes, which are beginning to emerge.

### **THE MEDIA SIEGE**

Between June 19 and August 6, Petro managed to defuse political tensions by holding meetings with elite leaders to provide democratic guarantees to his future opposition.

He also developed an intense task of contacts to reach consensus that would allow the Historical Pact, his coalition, to preside over the legislative chambers and key commissions of them.

Once the Head of State was assumed, the media siege was accentuated against Petro and his entire political environment, with the usual campaign: manipulation, intrigues and disinformation.

While the press of the system hides the purulence bequeathed of the corrupt regime of Iván Duque, it enlarges and exploits to the maximum the false exits, which are not lacking in the Historical Pact.

The traditional media now stand as double standard judges against the government and its caucus in Congress. They seek to discredit them, to open the way to destabilization.

One of the many matrices with which they manipulate is to enlargeto the new mandate the infinity of problems and irregularities left in inheritance by the misgovernment of Iván Duque.

They encourage community actions in relation to issues for which the new government is not responsible, such as the high cost of the family basket or energy tariffs.

And they tend smokescreens about Duque's corruption with the houses of Providencia, the resources of peace, the tanks of the Police or the expensive parallel payroll in the House of Nariño.

There is no day when the uribismo (Democratic Center), the fascist sector of conservatism (Enrique Gómez) and other widows of power, with their battery in networks and media, do not express themselves.

Billionaire media such as Semana (Gilinsky Group), RCN (Ardila Group), El Tiempo (Sarmiento Group), Caracol (Santo Domingo Group) and more are almost opposition parties.

Extensions of the far right on social media, grouped in well-funded propaganda warehouses, irrigate hatred with crude lies about government reforms.

And after them, General Enrique Zapateiro and other retired fascist soldiers are preparing blows, although, so far, without a major audience: their discredit prevents it...

### **THE FAILURE OF THE CONSPIRACY**

Although the coup pretensions of lunatics and fans of the old establishment cannot be dismissed, there are factors that must be taken into account to identify their failure:

The forcefulness of Petro's triumph, the immense popular support he retains, the deactivation of tensions fostered by his dialogues with political leaders.

Likewise, the discrediting of components of the military and police high command, investigated for corruption, state crimes ("false positives") and violation of human rights.

The brutal repression ordered by the Duque regime against the people in the National Strike of 2021, which left more than 80 young people murdered, has an impact on that discredit.

Withdrawing 28 generals from the Military Forces and 24 from the Police, with the compliance he received, can only be done by a president endowed with courage, conviction and popular support.

Where he arrives, Petro is greeted by crowds, especially in remote towns, never before visited by any president, such as La Mojana, El Tarra, Santa Lucia and others.

However, rural gamonales (supported by the Cattlemen's Federation, Fedegan), urban neo-Nazi sects and nostalgic armed with power are lurking.

For this they have the benches of Uribismo, Radical Change, sectors of conservatism and others that, although minority today in Congress, will not stop generating darkness.

The failure of the conspiracy must also consider the new international climate, with the US intervening in Ukraine, and the advance of alternative governments in Latin America.

It is worrying whether Joe Biden's eagerness to try to draw the line with the Petro government: the presence in Colombia of General Laura Richardson, head of the Southern Command, is an attempt at it.

It is reassuring that the President has firmly set the fundamental lines of his international policy, and has clearly expressed them to so many gringo envoys in a month.

The failure of the war on drugs and the need for a new drug policy, as well as on climate change and FTA with the US, are part of those initiatives.

Only an independent president does what Petro did: restore relations with sister Venezuela and end submission to the orders of the empire typical of Uribismo.

In the deactivation of the conspiracy, Petro's Total Peace policy will have a fundamental value, aimed not only at achieving the demobilization of the guerrillas but also at multicrime.

This is his great commitment and his great commitment, one of the most complex challenges, against which the ultra-right will not stop attacking, which lives on fear, insecurity and war.

## **CONGRESS AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT**

In all the panorama that we have drawn, the Legislative Branch comes into play, in which, although it has a large bench of 49 congressmen of its own, the government is not a majority.

Already in the parliamentary elections of March 13, the vote for the Historic Pact had been unprecedented, thanks to the strategy of closed lists and zipper drawn up by Petro.

Twenty seats in the Senate and 29 in the House are a historic achievement for a progressive and left-wing coalition in the country, but it does not guarantee majorities in the Legislature.

And much of the success of the new government in Colombia depends on how the laws necessary to materialize the reforms proposed by President Petro are processed.

Several of them are already under study by the legislative body, starting with taxation, economic support for the fight against hunger, for education, the countryside and health.

The presidential victory of Petro caused political rearrangements of partisan sectors of the establishment very far from the ideology of the Historical Pact that, however, approached him.

Although in this we must not call for deception, because they arrive with their clientelist ballast: they are structures that fear operating without bureaucracy and make opportunistic calculations, politicians.

Thus, since the election in the second round, a majority bench began to be configured in the Legislature, which necessarily has its extension with ministers in the Executive.

Of 18 ministries, 4 were assigned to representatives of 3 traditional parties that are now defined as "government", within the framework of the law that requires this type of classification.

### **THE CORRELATION OF FORCES**

On Wednesday, September 7, the spectrum of opposition, independent and governing parties was finalized.

Of government are all those that make up the Historical Pact: Human Colombia, Patriotic Union, Communist Party, Democratic Pole and Broad Democratic Alliance, ADA.

Likewise, Movimiento Alternativo Indígena y Social, Mais, and Autoridades Indígenas de Colombia, Aico, Comunes and 10 more, constitutive of the broad alternative spectrum.

To this caucus, the largest in nominal terms, the Green Alliance adheres and 9 of the 16 seats of the peace constituencies, plus 3 of indigenous communities.

The Liberal, Conservative and U. parties assume government, although they did not support Petro in the presidential campaign: they do not want to be out of power, and they claim bureaucracy.

As independents, the parties Radical Change, New Liberalism, Mira, 1 without party and 7 of peace were defined. There are 29 seats in the House and 17 in the Senate, for a total of 46.

As opposition, only the Democratic Center (uribismo) and the Anti-Corruption League were defined, with 17 in the Chamber and 14 in the Senate, for a total of 31.

Thus, the government of President Petro now has 75 of 108 senators and 140 of 188 representatives to the House. In total, 215 out of 296 congressmen. 72% of the Legislature. If the caucuses functioned with absolute compliance, reforms would be guaranteed, but that is not certain: the interests of the allied establishment parties will pressure and maneuver.

The President begins his government with unprecedented support in the Legislature for the passage of laws with a view to fulfilling the popular hopes with which he was elected.

The correlation of forces is in their favor, but with the doubts pointed out by the behavior of liberalism, conservatism and the U, parties of the right and opportunism.

The tax, agrarian, political, environmental, health, police, Ministry of Equality and labor laws, to recover rights usurped by Álvaro Uribe, are at stake.

And much more, the initiatives to achieve Total Peace, with all the generators of violence, and the implementation, finally, after 6 years, of the Havana Accords.

The people who took office with President Petro on August 7 will be mobilized and vigilant that the new Congress is in correspondence with the new Government and complies.

The construction of a popular power in Colombia, after 203 years of solitude, has begun. At least, that is the noble goal. But the road is long and stony.

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