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By Vijay Prashad, José Carlos Llerena Robles 21.12.2022

## The United States and its role in the coup d'état in Peru



Sources: Globetrotter

The United States quickly legitimized last week's coup against President Pedro Castillo, the culmination of Fujimori's attempts to destabilize his government.

The December 7, 2022, Pedro Castillo sat down to work on his office, during what would be his last day as president of Peru. His lawyers reviewed documents showing that Castillo would triumph over a motion in Congress to Remove him. It was going to be the <u>third</u> Once Castillo faced a congressional challenge, but his lawyers and advisers – including

former Prime Minister Anibal Torres – he was told he had an advantage over Congress in the <u>polls of opinion</u> (his approval rating had risen to 31%, while that of the Congress was barely around 10%).

Since A year ago, Castillo had been under enormous pressure from part of an oligarchy that does not He looked kindly on this former professor. Surprisingly, on December 7 he announced to the press that he was going to "temporarily dissolve Congress" and "establish an exceptional emergency government". This measure sealed his fate. Castillo and his family ran to the Mexican Embassy but were detained by the military. on Avenida España, before they could reach their destination.

Why did Pedro Castillo take the fatal step of trying to dissolve Congress when it was clear to his advisers – such as Luis Alberto Mendieta – that he would prevail in the afternoon vote?

The pressure could with Castillo, despite the evidence. From your election in July 2021, her opponent in the presidential election, Keiko Fujimori, and her associates have tried to block his ascent to the presidency. She worked with men who have close ties to the State Government United and its intelligence agencies. A member of the Fujimori, Fernando Rospigliosi, for example, had tried in 2005 to implicate the US embassy in Lima against Ollanta Humala, who He ran in the 2006 Peruvian presidential election. Vladimiro Montesinos, former CIA agent serving time in Peruvian prison sent messages to Pedro Rejas, former commander of the Peruvian army, to go "to the U.S. Embassy and speak with the U.S. Embassy and speak with the embassy intelligence", to try to influence the 2021 Peruvian presidential election. Just before elections, U.S. sent a former CIA agent, Lisa Kenna, as ambassador in Lima. He met with Peru's Defense Minister Gustavo Bobbio on 6 December and the next day he sent a tweet denouncing Castillo's move to dissolve Congress (the December 8, after the dismissal of Castillo, the Government The U.S. – through Ambassador Kenna – recognized the new government of Peru).

A key figure in the pressure campaign appears to have been Mariano Alvarado, an operations officer for the Military Assistance and Advisory Group (MAAG), which effectively functions as a U.S. Defense Attaché. Officials like Alvarado, who are in close contact with Peruvian military generals, are said to have given them the green light to act against Castillo. It is also known that the last phone call Castillo took before leaving the presidential palace came from the U.S. Embassy. He was likely warned to flee to the embassy of a friendly power, which would make him look weak.

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