

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL - PUBLIC STATEMENT

17 April 2020 AI Index Number: AMR 41/1832/2020

BOLIVIA: MINISTER ARTURO MURILLO MUST PUBLICLY CLARIFY CHARGES OF "DESTABILISATION" AND "MISINFORMATION" AGAINST 67 PEOPLE

Amnesty International is concerned about the [public statements](#) made by government minister Arturo Murillo on 15 April this year in relation to the arrest and criminal prosecution of "67 political actors" charged with participating in "destabilisation and misinformation movements" and engaging in a "virtual war", 37 of whom have already been convicted by the use of "summary proceedings".

In this respect, the organization calls on the government minister to publicly clarify if the criminal proceedings against these 67 people have article 13.II of Supreme Decree 4200 as a legal basis; the facts and criminal offences that they are accused of and the circumstances of their arrests.

Amnesty International believes that given the history of public threats issued by current government authorities against political leaders accused of "misinforming" and against journalists accused of "sedition", the language used by the government minister could unduly restrict freedom of expression in the country by censoring political leaders, journalists and human rights defenders, including healthcare workers.

On 8 April of this year, [Amnesty International called on](#) the Bolivian government to repeal article 13.II of Supreme Decree 4200 for violating the right to freedom of expression by establishing that those who "misinform or create uncertainty among the public" will be prosecuted for crimes against public health, without specifying the acts that will be classified as such. This will also allow the authorities to criminally prosecute healthcare workers, journalists or political leaders who express opinions critical of government policies.