URGENT ACTION

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AT RISK

On 12 March 2025, the Peruvian Congress approved amendments to Law 27692, the law that established the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation (APCI). These amendments include measures that allow undue control over the activities of civil society organizations in Peru that receive international development funding, thereby opening the door to unjustified restrictions, arbitrariness and censorship. This violates the rights to freedom of association and expression and undermines civic space in Peru. We call on the Office of the President not to enact this law.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE YOUR OWN APPEAL OR USE THE LETTER BELOW

Ms Dina Boluarte
President of the Republic of Peru
Office of the President:
Jr. De la Unión S/N, cuadra uno
Lima (Peru) - 15001
Email: dboluarte@presidencia.gob.pe

I am deeply concerned about the recent approval of the resolution to amend Law 27692, the law that established the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation (APCI). The resolution now approved allows for undue state control over civil society organizations that receive international development funding, violating the rights to freedom of association and expression and putting Peru's civic space at risk.

Among other things, the resolution requires the state to approve in advance the work that civil society organizations receiving international funding intend to carry out, thus creating an administrative barrier to the work of any civil society organizations that receive foreign funding, which is contrary to international human rights law.

Moreover, the resolution classifies as a "very serious" offence the use of development funds to "advise, support or finance, in any form or modality, administrative, judicial or other actions in national or international instances against the Peruvian state". This will jeopardize access to justice for victims of human rights violations by limiting the ability of civil society organizations to provide legal advice and assistance for their cases.

For all the above reasons, I urge you not to pass the law that would endorse such amendments.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation (APCI), established by Law 27692, is the state body responsible for managing international development resources in Peru. Over the past few years, lawmakers have submitted six bills to the Peruvian Congress that seek to change the way the agency operates.

These bills have raised concerns among local human rights organizations and the international community, as they promote measures that violate the right to freedom of association and represent an attack on civic space.

In June 2024, a group of United Nations experts, including the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and the Special Rapporteur for the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, among others, sent a letter to the Peruvian authorities expressing their concern regarding these initiatives. These experts pointed out that the amendments to the law posed numerous risks, including the risk of undue interference in the structure and operation of civil society organizations, their possible removal from the APCI register, increased and unjustified monitoring of their activities and their members, and the risk of stigmatization of their legitimate activities.

On 12 March 2025, Congress approved a resolution promoting these amendments to Law 27692, with 82 votes in favour, 16 against and 4 abstentions. Following this approval, the Executive has 15 days to enact the law that would endorse the resolution.

International human rights law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of which Peru is a signatory, recognizes the human right to freedom of association and imposes obligations on the states. In accordance with agreed standards on the issue, the authorities would be in breach of this right if they were to place unjustified restrictions and barriers on the activities of non-governmental organizations. Similarly, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association established that the right of associations to freely seek national and foreign funding is inherent to the right to freedom of association and an essential element for the existence and meaningful functioning of any association. Moreover, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights determined that measures restricting the functioning and funding of civil society can be considered a deliberate strategy by the authorities to undermine civic space.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE FOR APPEALS: [Spanish] You may also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND NO LATER THAN: 12 April 2025. **Please contact your Amnesty International country office if you wish to send an appeal after this date.**

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUNS: Peruvian NGOs (they)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: N/A