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Advocacy Network
Red de Incidencia

Brussels, March 14th, 2025

THE EU-LAT NETWORK URGES THE EU TO REJECT THE APPROVAL OF THE RULING AMENDING THE LAW OF THE PERUVIAN AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The EU-LAT Network expresses its utmost consternation at the Peruvian Congress' approval of the [ruling to amend the Law creating the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation \(APCI\)](#) on 12 March, and expresses its concerns about the possible effects these may have on the work of Peruvian civil society, putting also at risk the system of international cooperation in Peru. This decision was taken ignoring the concerns expressed by Peruvian civil society organisations¹ and an important part of the international community,² who have repeatedly denounced the potential arbitrary use of these modifications with the aim of silencing the defence of fundamental human rights of the most vulnerable sectors.³

Through the APCI, Congress will grant the government the power to **'control, supervise and oversee'** organisations that receive funding resources from international technical cooperation, monitoring the **'correct use of the resources they receive'** (art. 3.3). Organisations would now be obliged to **register all their programmes, projects, objectives, funding amounts, plans and activity execution reports with the government agency** (Art.4m). In order to carry out these projects and activities and use the resources from international cooperation, **the organisations must request the prior authorisation of the government agency** (Art.4u). Carrying out activities without the prior approval from APCI, including any modification and/or use of funds without "due justification", will be considered a grave infraction, and will be penalised.

We are particularly concerned about the provision that seeks to establish as a **'very serious' offence the use of international cooperation resources to 'advise, assist or finance, in any form or modality, administrative, judicial or other actions (taken) before national or**

¹ [Organizaciones afectadas por la 'ley anti ONG' se pronuncian: "La reforma es un grave retroceso democrático" - Infobae](#)

² [Embajadas de EEUU y la Unión Europea expresan preocupación por dictamen que busca ejercer un mayor control a las ONG - Caretas Política](#)

³ Including the victims of human rights violations, indigenous peoples, peasant communities, journalists, members of the judiciary, and victims of excessive use of force during social protests.



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international mechanisms against the Peruvian State' (Art.21c.2). As a result, legal entities that receive funding from international cooperation in Peru are prevented from resorting to administrative or judicial courts at the national and international level, leaving them unprotected against any arbitrary action, omission or error on the part of governmental entities. This violates several international human rights treaties signed by the Peruvian state, blocking access to justice for human rights organisations and victims, and perpetuating impunity for cases of excessive use of force and other serious acts of violence, discrimination, criminalisation and censorship committed by state actors.

Among its provisions, it is considered as a **serious infringement or offence the use of cooperation resources** for activities that have been declared, administratively or judicially, **'acts that affect public order, public safety, the internal order, or damage public or private property'** (Art.21c.4). Depending on the seriousness of the offence, the APCI could impose **sanctions** of up to 500 UIT (approximately 2 million soles/**600 thousand euros**) or **cancel the registration of the organisations**, preventing them from operating altogether. This mechanism would be a clear intimidation tool against those who defend human rights and access to justice. The criteria for determining *'correct use'*, *'due justification'*, *'improper use of resources'*, as well as *'damages to public order, citizen security and private property'* would be left to the complete arbitrariness of the government agency APCI, whose Executive Director will be appointed directly by the President of the Republic.

In recent years, we have observed a worrying trend towards authoritarian actions by the Peruvian Congress and the executive, under the leadership of Dina Boluarte. Congress and its representatives have recently been linked to illegal gold mining,⁴ drug trafficking,⁵ prostitution,⁶ sexual abuse,⁷ influence peddling and corruption.⁸ The APCI directive approved by Congress is an attempt to silence dissenting voices, avoid accountability and repress acts of protests against

⁴ [Minería ilegal: ¿quiénes son los congresistas que ayudaron a suspender el decreto que combatía la actividad ilícita? - Infobae.](#); [Gustavo Adrianzen promete luchar contra la minería ilegal, pero políticas del Congreso siguen devastando la amazonía peruana. Infobae.](#)

⁵ [Eduardo Salhuana, presidente del Congreso, admite que defendió a acusado de narcotráfico - Infobae](#); [Cinco años de los Cuellos Blancos: la mayoría de los implicados todavía no tiene acusación | Ojo Público](#)

⁶ [La Fiscalía de Perú recoge información en el Congreso sobre presunta red de prostitución - SWI swissinfo.ch](#); [Un ex alto funcionario del Parlamento de Perú niega ante congresistas encabezar presunta red de prostitución en el Congreso | CNN](#)

⁷ [Fiscalía de Perú investiga por presunta violación sexual a congresista | AP News](#)

[Congresista José Jerí fue denunciado por violación sexual luego de una fiesta por fin de año - Infobae](#)

⁸ [De los 'mocha sueldos' a una presunta red de prostitución: los 10 escándalos más sonados del Congreso de la República - Infobae](#)



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its activities. **This is a serious blow to democratic principles that not only affects NGOs in the country, but all Peruvian citizens and the exercise of their fundamental rights.**

The executive branch has 15 days to show its approval or rejection of the directive. If opposed, the law would be sent back to Congress, where it could be approved again with a minimum majority of 67 votes. **At this moment it is essential that the international community urgently speaks out against this initiative, echoing the concerns of Peruvian civil society,**^{9 10} and making visible the dangers of provisions that, if implemented, would further reduce civic space in Peru, putting at risk the ability of civil society to exercise its legitimate functions of defending human rights in a safe environment.

EU-LAT asks the European Union, the Embassies of Member States and the international community in general to continue voicing their opposition to this directive, and urge the Peruvian government to reject it, and request that it is sent back to the Foreign Relations Commission of the Peruvian Congress for a more thorough analysis, that is transparent and truly participatory.

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⁹ Pronunciamiento del CNDDHH. (2025, March 13). X. https://x.com/cnddhh/status/1899984162813038753?t=ZO_m8mlwOCbdeoaaG4nBVw&s=19

¹⁰ Pronunciamiento del ANC - Asociación Nacional de Centros. (2025, March 13). Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1050247667147148&set=a.557125389792714>