

Argentinean Activist Milagro Sala to Be Transferred to House Arrest



Buenos Aires, August 16 (RHC)-- Argentinean Judge Gaston Mercau has ruled that Indigenous leader Milagro Sala will be transferred from jail to house arrest at an apartment in the town of El Carmen in Jujuy province.

The lawyers of the activist will present a brief to carry out the transfer in consideration of the seriousness of the situation the activist faces in prison, where her safety and physical well-being are not guaranteed.

The decision came after the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ordered the Argentinean government to release Sala from jail, to grant her house arrest or electronic-controlled detention pending the urgency, seriousness and irreparable harm it was causing her in jail.

Last year, the United Nations demanded that the government release Sala, while the U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention described her incarceration as "arbitrary."

The address to which Sala will be transferred was apparently built not as housing but as a drug rehabilitation center that was never finished. After construction was stopped, the place was reportedly

ransacked, according to sources.

As head of Argentina's Tupac Amaru neighborhood association, part of the Association of State Workers of Jujuy, Sala won a seat in 2015 in the regional parliament of the MERCOSUR trade group of South American nations, PARLASUR.

She was arrested on January 16, 2016, after being accused of "inciting criminal acts" linked to a protest she led against authorities. The Jujuy provincial government in northern Argentina then broadened the charges, alleging her movement "embezzled public funds" meant for the construction of housing for low-income people. Sala has denied any wrongdoing.

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