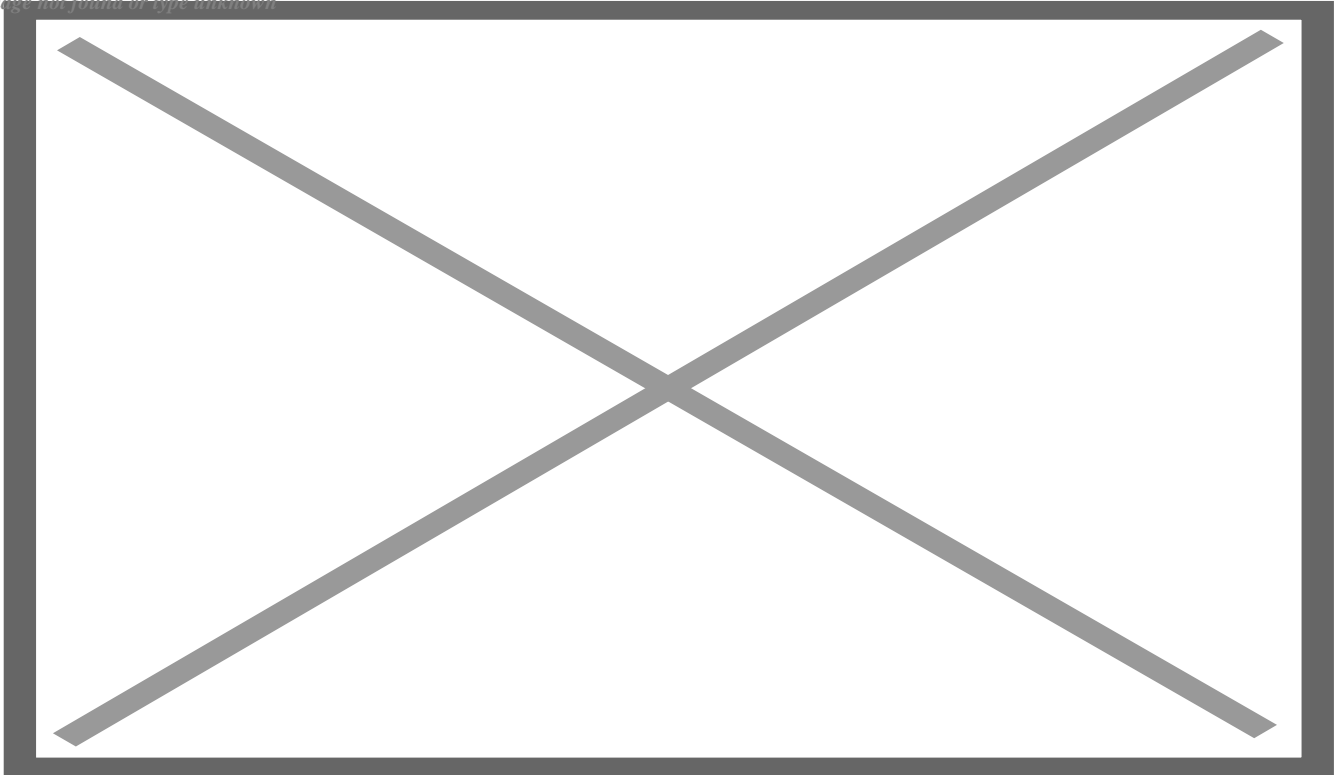


Milei on tour, while Argentina passes through difficult days

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By María Josefina Arce

President Javier Milei went on tour to Israel, Italy and the Vatican, while in Argentina his unpopular reforms that imply the weakening of the state are being implemented and popular unrest is growing.

Milei promised during his electoral campaign the privatization of state-owned companies and in the last hours it was announced the intervention for one year, with the option of extension, of media outlets such as the TELAM news agency and Radio y Televisión Argentina.

According to reports, the interveners appointed by the authorities are associated with large business groups and the political movement of former President Mauricio Macri, whose management from 2015 to 2019 and subordination to the IMF, International Monetary Fund, meant a worsening of the country's economic situation.

The Argentine Federation of Press Workers immediately condemned the measure, which, it warned, seeks the privatization of those media that have their own management structure, established by the laws that created them.

In this context, the Chamber of Deputies will have to debate again the controversial Omnibus Law, which had already been approved last Friday in general, but which as from this Tuesday was to be analyzed chapter by chapter.

However, since the ruling party La Libertad Avanza did not have the necessary consensus to sanction articles such as the privatization of state-owned companies and the aggravation of penalties for social protests, it maneuvered to send it back to committee, so that it will have to be analyzed again.

The Omnibus Law, together with the so-called Decree of Necessity and Urgency, has generated numerous protests in the country and the first general strike of President Milei last January. In fact, its first debate in the Lower House was marked by the concentration of thousands of Argentines in front of the Congress, in rejection of the ultra-liberal president's adjustment policy.

The demonstrators were violently repressed with rubber bullets, baton shots and tear gas. In the midst of this panorama, discontent continues to grow, and the most vulnerable sectors see their needs increase and do not have the proper governmental support. It was reported that the authorities stopped sending funds and food to the community kitchens, where more and more people are attending every day, due to the critical economic situation.

The action, which was denounced as a criminal offense, also caused numerous people to protest in front of the Ministry of Human Capital, which groups together the former Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labor and Ministry of Social Development. Argentina is going through difficult days. President Milei's government continues with its adjustment plan, praised by the IMF, more than known in the country.

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