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Peru

In defence of the popular vote against the Mafia

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The far-right mafia managed to reach the second round. To achieve this, they and the entire mafia pact in Congress forged a strategy to avoid being defeated again, as had happened in 2021. The strategy employed consisted of a series of measures that express the decay of bourgeois democracy as we know it and, at the same time, reflect anti-popular authoritarianism.

Part of this strategy included the takeover of key institutions (Constitutional Court, Ombudsman's Office, Comptroller's Office, National Board of Justice, etc.), changes in electoral laws, constitutional counter-reforms, bicameralism, and re-election.

A plan that not only changed the regime for a much more anti-democratic one at the service of the neoliberal model and its allies, the business sector of the Confederación Nacional de Instituciones Empresariales Privadas (CONFIEP or the National Confederation of Private Enterprise Institutions), but also served to create conditions favourable to their main objective: capturing the State in order to continue to apply this impoverishing economic model and generate more crises, poverty, pollution, and corruption.

Added to this: the complicity of the mass media, the distorted polls seeking a trend despite their being none, and to make matters worse, an ONPE (Oficina Nacional de Procesos Electorales or National Office of Electoral Processes, the body responsible for organising elections in Peru), that contributed its own share of inefficiency, inoperability and questionable practices.

This uphill battle is further complicated by the negative fragmentation within the popular movement. The VENCEREMOS Alliance [\[1\]](#), aware of this situation, has made a strong call for unity among those fighting against the mafia-like pact and all it represents. Unfortunately, fragmentation has also taken hold on the left, in some cases placing personal ambitions and interests ahead of the need for unity.

VENCEREMOS, the second round of the election - the struggle continues

As VENCEREMOS, we faced anti-democratic and completely unfair electoral laws and were unable to pass the electoral threshold imposed by this Congress.

VENCEREMOS together with our presidential candidate Ronald Atencio, had a left-wing programme focused on fighting for structural changes, proposing a Constituent Assembly as one solution to the crisis. This was far removed from the centrist proposals that only sought to give this rotten regime a facelift, with patches and cosmetic fixes, like trying to cure cancer with just aspirin.

We consider the votes we received to be courageous, rebellious, and conscious, reflecting the need for a popular, democratic, and constituent government. Our leadership and members are currently discussing an assessment that will reflect external factors as well as the successes obtained and failures we have made. This assessment will be objective and will not gloss over anything.

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But now there is a scenario for the second round, which would be the dispute between Keiko Fujimori, the head of the mafia pact, and comrade Roberto Sanchez from Juntos por el Perú (Together for Peru or JP). First, we hope that the comrade recognises that calling for unity should not be just a call for public consumption which he then refuses to carry out. For us, as we stated publicly more than once, it is a necessity.

However, we at VENCEREMOS are prepared to defend the popular vote against Fujimorism [2] by supporting JP in this possible scenario. Therefore, we must propose support based on 6 or 7 programmatic points such as the repeal of pro-crime laws, the annulment of tax exemptions for agro-exporters, justice and reparations for the families, a review of concessions, and a Constituent Assembly.

We understand that the central task is to block Fujimorism, which represents the most lumpen and authoritarian sector of the Peruvian bourgeoisie. As part of the SÚMATE (Join Us) movement within Nuevo Perú, we are convinced that mobilisation and struggle remain our most powerful tools, and that the changes we need will happen if we organise in unity in every corner of Peru and take to the streets to fight for our demands and for political power.

Supporting JP doesn't mean we trust a potential JP government. Its limitations and adaptations to the regime will be one of its main obstacles, especially the tendency to negotiate with different right-wing sectors.

Therefore, whoever wins, we will mobilise the very next day because the struggle continues for our most pressing demands and to build a better future.

20 April 2026

Translated by David Fagan for *International Viewpoint* from [Resumen Latinoamericano](#).

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[1] VENCEREMOS (We Will Win) is a coalition of Voces del Pueblo (Voices of the People or VP) and Nuevo Perú por el Buen Vivir (New Peru for Good Living or NP).

[2] Fujimorism is the policies and the authoritarian, neo-liberal and socially conservative political ideology of former President of Peru Alberto Fujimori and especially his eldest daughter Keiko Fujimori.