

## Elections in Peru

# Keiko Fujimori: “I will respect the no presidential reelection”

In 1996, Alberto Fujimori enacted a policy of “authentic interpretation” of the Constitution and presented himself for reelection.

The 10 presidential candidates of Peru celebrated/held Sunday an electoral debate before the elections this week. The favorite, Keiko Fujimori (Popular Force) assured that she will respect “the no presidential reelection”. In accordance with the Constitution, the presidential mandate is five years and an ex-president can only return to stand after another presidential period has transpired. In 1996, her father, Alberto Fujimori, enacted a policy of “authentic interpretation” of the Constitution and presented himself for reelection.

In her final intervention of the presidential debate which occurred Sunday in Lima, a week before the general elections in Peru, the favorite in the polls, Keiko Fujimori, leader of Popular Force, signed a commitment in which she guaranteed the “unrestricted respect to the democratic order and human rights and never again an April 5th” alluding to the coup of her father, Alberto Fujimori, 24 years ago, closing Congress and the Judicial Power, as a preamble of eight years of authoritarianism.

Fujimori was attacked by several of the other nine candidates, they alluded to Government of her father. “She has little working experience and is the first daughter of the most corrupt Government of Peru” said the economist and only indigenous aspirant Miguel Hilario, from the political organization “Peru Progressing”.

The leftist leader of the Large Front, Verónica Mendoza, cited figures from the Legal Defense Council of the State and she recalled the 6 billion dollars that were lost under Fujimori. In the debate, Mendoza and Gregorio Santos (Direct Democracy) proposed the modification of the current Constitution, approved in 1993 by a Congress comprised of a Fujimori majority, since without that it won't be possible to renegotiate the contracts of Camisea, the main project of gas deposits in Peru, located in the department of Cusco.

The ex-first daughter defended the norm: “I want to ratify the great part of the economic growth owed to the Constitution”, but the retort arrived in the voice of Mendoza: “The growth of Peru isn't owed to the Fujimori Constitution, but to the effort of the Peruvians.

“I'm looking for reconciliation, I will not use the political power to benefit any members of my family, I pledge to make good with the the women affected by the program of reproductive health”, added Fujimori referring to some [tíos prófugos de la justicia] and the almost 3,000 women that suffered forced sterilization in the Government of her father, who serves a sentence of 25 years in prison.

The ex-deputy and ex-minister of Justice Fernando Olivera, [sorteado en las duplas] with his political enemy the ex-president aprista Alan García, star of the most controversial moment. In less than two minutes, he remembered a

dozen of cases of corruption and human rights violations committed in the two presidential periods of the aprista leader. García didn't respond.

## Debate over gas

A monitoring of the public data registered, at the end of the debate, the higher increment of followers on the social network Facebook for the candidate of Popular Force (with 2,356 new fans) and for the leader of the Large Front (with 2,051 new fans). Mendoza and the ex-banker Pedro Pablo Kuczynski (Peruvians for Change) appear in a technical tie in second place according to the latest poll by Ipsos.

The ex-president Alejandro Toledo also pronounced about Camisea and his ex-minister of the Economy, Kuczynski, who is also a presidential candidate. “We have had disagreements that I can't disclose. In the gas of Camisea I have great frustration”, he expressed. The leader of Peruvians for Change left the portfolio of the Economy in 2002, advised the United States company Hunt Oil, one of the companies of the consortium that obtained the production concession of Camisea, and returned to the cabinet of Toledo en 2004.

Kuczynski argued that the project was done so that there was more gas production, but “the energy framework has changed: the raw materials go down, and gas has collapsed. The tube has to be taken advantage of [the gas pipeline under construction] to the south to get access to everybody.

The candidate of Popular Action, Alfredo Barnechea, third in the polls, declared that he has been attacked in the campaign because he “confronted the big gas interests” and offered “a million new houses”. Today in Lima and another 15 cities there was the so-called Great national march Keiko does go, a rejection of the coup of April 5th.

## Mistrust toward the institutions

According to a poll conducted from the 11th to 14th of March, 83% of Peruvians don't believe in the political parties, 62% don't believe in the National Jury of Elections (the authority in charge), and 59% distrust the polling companies. The national poll of the Institute of Public Opinion of the Catholic University indicates that only 1% of those consulted have much confidence in Congress, and 2% in the Judicial Power.

Furthermore, 39.6% hopes that the government that is elected makes radical changes in economic issues, and 36% hope that the reforms are partial.