

Political Unrest in Peru

Following the impeachment and arrest of Peru's former president, Pedro Castillo, on the 7th of December 2022, Peru re-entered a period of political unrest with a series of deadly protests from pro-Castillo factions of society wreaking havoc across the country in the past few weeks. Castillo was forced out of office by Peru's Congress on the accusation of an attempted self-coup after he tried to "temporarily" suspend the legislative and "reorganise" the judiciary in the face of repeated impeachment votes centred on allegations of corruption and influence-tracking. He was arrested with the charges of rebellion and conspiracy and Dina Boluarte (his Vice-President) was sworn in as President. Since then, protesters have taken nationwide action including in Lima, Cusco, and Puno, demanding Boluarte's resignation, Congress' closure, a new constitution and Castillo's release. They have been met with violence from security forces which has only fuelled more anger at Boluarte's government, as many argue the force being used is undue and also affecting non protesters, leading to deaths. Most of the worst violence can be found in the south of the country (which has long been marginalised due to its large indigenous population) as much of Castillo's support base was built upon poorer indigenous communities hoping for change.