

Chronology of the fall of Jamil Mahuad (November 25 1999 - January 22 2000)

November 25. Congress approves the 2000 budget with the votes of the president's DP, Bucaram's PRE and other small parties (EIU 2000, p. 11).

December 13. The prospect of Bucaram's return from exile draws criticism from the media and political parties (DH 1999a; DH 1999b).

December 13. Mahuad meets with the congressmen of his party DP to assuage opposition to the political deal with PRE (DH 1999c; DH 1999d).

December 20. Colonels meet to discuss ongoing contacts between leaders of CONAIE, the joint command of the armed forces, and lower-rank officers. They agree to step in if their superiors fail to act (Hernández et al. 2000, pp. 84-85).

December 21. CONAIE's assembly convenes Popular Parliaments at provincial and national levels, in preparation for a national uprising on January 15 (EC 1999a; EC 1999b; EC 1999c).

December 27. Mahuads meets with armed forces' high command to discuss the crisis. The generals reaffirm their support but express reservations about the political deal deal with Bucaram's PRE (EC 1999d; Hernández et al. 2000, pp. 41-43).

December 27. The Federation of Agricultural Chambers demands Mahuad's substitution (DH 1999e).

January 6. Popular organizations of the Frente Popular, influenced by the MPD, stage a day of protests. Popular response is weak. CONAIE does not participate (EC 2000a; EC 2000b).

January 6. Osvaldo Hurtado, historic leader of the DP, tells Mahuad that it is time to step down. PSC leader León Febres Cordero calls for constitutional succession without chaos (EIU 2000, p. 11).

January 9. Mahuad announces that Ecuador will abandon its currency and adopt the dollar in order to regain economic stability. The military declare that as long as president Mahuad continues in power, they will support him (EC 2000c; DH 2000a; DH 2000b; DH 2000c).

January 11. A Popular Parliament is installed in Quito by CONAIE and other organizations. Rejecting dollarization and the authority of the three branches of government, it announces the beginning of a national uprising, calls for the formation of a Junta of National Salvation and appeals to the military for support (EC 2000d; DH 2000d).

January 19. After days of highway blockades in the provinces, about 10000 Indians arrive in Quito and march to the Ministry of Defense, where CONAIE's leaders meet the generals to propose the formation of a military-civilian government. January 20. While Indian demonstrators surround the congress and the Supreme Court, defense minister and chief of the armed forces General Carlos Mendoza reaffirms the military's commitment to the constitutional order (EC 2000e; EC 2000f).

January 21. Junior officers and Indian activists occupy congress, where Colonel Lucio Gutiérrez and CONAIE's president Antonio Vargas announce that they have formed a ruling junta along with former Supreme Court president Carlos Solórzano. After negotiations with the military high command, Colonel Gutiérrez is replaced by General Mendoza in the new ruling junta. Escorted by generals, Mahuad leaves the presidential palace EC 2000g; EC 2000h; Hernández et al. 2000, pp. 27-34, 37-44, 57-69).

January 22. General Mendoza resigns from the junta. Vicepresident Gustavo Noboa is brought to the Ministry of Defense, where he signs a decree removing Mahuad from office

(because of permanent absence) and elevating himself to the presidency. The decree is ratified by a special session of congress (EC 2000g; EC 2000h; Hernández et al. 2000, pp. 57-69, 73-79).

References

DH - Diario Hoy (Quito daily newspaper).

- 1999a. Rechazan el acuerdo entre Mahuad y el Roldosismo (December 18).
- 1999b. Lo dejarán volver (December 20).
- 1999c. Mahuad reconcilia a la DP (December 13).
- 1999d. Reclamo de la DP se queda sin piso, no habrá oxigenación del gabinete (December 15).
- 1999e. Amenazas de los gremios ante la crisis (December 27).
- 2000a. He pisado el acelerador (January 10).
- 2000b. La moneda bajo nuevas reglas (January 10).
- 2000c. Camaras apoyan dolarización (January 10).
- 2000d. Parlamento indio empieza hoy (January 11).

EC - El Comercio (Quito daily newspaper).

- 1999a. Los indígenas le ponen plazo al presidente para que rectifique (December 20).
- 1999b. La CONAIE analiza un nuevo movimiento (December 21)
- 1999c. La CONAIE radicaliza su posición política (December 22).
- 1999d. Las FF.AA. se pronuncian a favor de la democracia (December 27).
- 2000a. Las protestas empezaron con el Frente Popular dividido (January 6).
- 2000b. Las manifestaciones no tienen consenso popular (January 7).
- 2000c. Mahuad anuncia la adopción del sistema de dolarización (January 9).
- 2000d. La postura indígena se radicaliza (January 13).
- 2000e. Las manifestaciones campesinas obstaculizaron las vías (January 18).
- 2000f. Los indígenas ocupan Quito tras largas caminatas (January 19).
- 2000g. Un país incierto y tres gobiernos distintos (January 21).
- 2000h. Una junta de gobierno que duró solo tres horas (January 22).

EIU - Economist Intelligence Unit

- 2000. *Country Report Ecuador - February 2000*, London: Economist Intelligence Unit.

Hernández, J. et al. 2000. *21 de Enero: La Vorágine que Acabó con Mahuad*, Quito: El Comercio.