



## Communique Committee of Experts

### **The Committee of Experts expresses its concern over the situation of Patricia Pamela Hermosa Gutierrez, former chief of staff and legal representative of former president Evo Morales**

Washington DC, June 23, 2020.- The Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the [Belém do Pará Convention](#) (MESECVI) expresses its concern over the reported events, which, if proven, would affect the right of all women to a life free from violence as stated by the Convention, and would constitute violations of sexual and reproductive rights, liberty, personal integrity, health, due process and judicial protection against Patricia Pamela Hermosa Gutiérrez, former Chief of Staff and legal representative of the former President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Evo Morales.

Mrs. Patricia Pamela Hermosa would have been detained on December 3rd, 2019, in alleged state of gestation, under the charges of “sedition and terrorism”. She would have been released for a lack of significant evidence against her. On January 31st, 2019, she was apprehended again “when she tried to register Morales as a candidate for the first senator of Cochabamba by the Movement for Socialism (MAS).”<sup>1</sup>

According to the information received by the Committee, the medical report that Dr. Jose Ignacio Quisbert would have carried out indicate that after 10 days of bleeding, the former official suffered a spontaneous abortion while in prison. This would have occurred without receiving proper medical attention, until the date.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, Nadia Cruz, the Ombudsperson, publicly denounced that government authorities had made “statements that promote the stigmatization of [Patricia Pamela Hermosa], which denote covert symbolic violence, reflecting macho and misogynistic attitudes.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Página Siete. (2020, June 10th). Defensoría pide liberación de Patricia Hermosa ante detención «ilegal» (Ombudsperson asks for the release of Patricia Hermosa before "illegal" detention). Retrieved on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020, from <https://www.paginasiete.bo/sociedad/2020/6/10/defensoria-pide-liberacion-de-patricia-hermosa-ante-detencion-ilegal-258043.html>

<sup>2</sup> Martinez, H. (2020, 9 junio). Patricia Hermosa ex Jefa de Gabinete del Presidente Evo Morales pierde su embarazo en la cárcel (Patricia Hermosa former Chief of Staff of President Evo Morales loses her pregnancy in prison). Retrieved on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020, from <https://www.sinmordazadigital.com/2020/06/09/patricia-hermosa-ex-jefa-de-gabinete-del-presidente-evo-morales-pierde-su-embarazo-en-la-carcel/>

<sup>3</sup> Defensoría del Pueblo Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia. (2020, 10 junio). Defensoría de Pueblo pide liberación de Patricia Hermosa ante detención ilegal y persecución política (Ombudsman calls for the release of Patricia Hermosa from illegal detention and political persecution). Retrieved on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020,

In this sense, the Committee requests the Plurinational State of Bolivia the following: a) to immediately provide the required medical attention to the victim; b) to carry out a serious and impartial investigation of the failure to provide such medical care and, where appropriate, to identify the responsibilities of the state actors involved, and to grant adequate reparation to the alleged victim; c) to respect the rules of due process and judicial protection in the case under study; and d) that authorities refrain from making degrading expressions against the alleged victim based on gender stereotypes, if applicable.

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*The Committee of Experts is the technical body of the MESECVI that is responsible for the analysis and evaluation of the implementation process of the Belém do Pará Convention. It is made up of independent Experts, designated by each of the Member States among their nationals, who carry out their functions at a personal capacity.*

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from <https://www.defensoria.gob.bo/noticias/defensoria-de-pueblo-pide-liberacion-de-patricia-hermosa-ante-detencion-ilegal-y-persecucion-politica>