

AMERICAN TASK FORCE ARGENTINA
PURSUING A FAIR RECONCILIATION OF THE ARGENTINE DEBT DEFAULT

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Protest in front of the Argentine embassy in Washington

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Last Wednesday there was a protest space in front of the Argentine embassy in the U.S. capital. The protesters carried signs with messages repudiating the policies of President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner and in particular her tax measures.

The protest in Washington DC took place 80 days from the start of the dispute between the populist government of Fernández de Kirchner and an indignant citizenry over the lack of results from the government's programs. The alliance between the Kirchner couple and the regime of Hugo Chávez has pushed the application of 21st century socialism in Argentina. The whole world is now asking: who will pay the bill for all these "social programs"?

The government plans to finance them by increasing export taxes on agricultural products. For their part, the agricultural producers consider the measure confiscatory (public spending today is more than 60% of Argentina's GDP), and they don't see that more taxes will bring any benefit. They see, in turn, the rapid enrichment of the Kirchner couple and of the people that make up their inner circle.

The measure is part of an extensive list of acts repudiated by civil society, such as those which took to the streets of the city of Rosario on May 25th where 300,000 people spontaneously demonstrated against the Fernández de Kirchner administration. Today the president can count on less than 25% approval in her management at a time when the government is accused of having dictatorial attitudes such as: governing by presidential decree, arbitrarily manipulating the inflation index, underestimating the importance of foreign investment and taking humiliating measures on freedom of the press.

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