

Bolivian senator declares herself acting president

15th November, 2019



Bolivia has a new leader. She is opposition senator Jeanine Áñez, who has declared herself interim president following the resignation of former-president Evo Morales on Sunday. Ms Áñez said she was next in line to be president under

Bolivia's constitution and vowed to hold elections as soon as possible. She said: "I assume the presidency immediately and will do everything necessary to pacify the country." Lawmakers endorsed Ms Áñez's appointment but senators from Mr Morales' socialist party boycotted the vote. Morales' allies branded Ms Áñez as, "a coup-mongering right-wing senator". Mr Morales condemned what he called a takeover as being the, "sneakiest, most nefarious coup in history".

Mr Morales has fled to Mexico, saying he was in fear for his life had he stayed in Bolivia. He released a photo on Twitter of himself having to sleep on a concrete floor under a blanket at an undisclosed location before fleeing to Mexico by private jet to seek asylum. He said he had been forced to stand down but had done so willingly, "to ensure there would be no more bloodshed". Morales stepped down at the weekend following weeks of social turmoil and violent protests. Bolivians took to the streets over allegations of election fraud during a presidential election in October. He tweeted: "It pains me to leave Bolivia for political reasons, but I'll always be concerned. I'll return soon, with more strength and energy."

Sources: bbc.com / foxmews.com / nytimes.com

Writing

All elections should always be respected. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

leader / opposition / resignation / president / pacify / senator / vote / coup / history / fear / photo / concrete floor / blanket / asylum / bloodshed / protests / election

True / False

- Bolivia's new leader is an interim president. T / F
- The new leader has not said anything yet about new elections. T / F
- The socialist party in Bolivia endorsed the new leader. T / F
- Evo Morales said it was the sneakiest coup of the decade. T / F
- Evo Morales is now seeking asylum in Paraguay. T / F
- Mr Morales slept on a concrete floor after stepping down. T / F
- Mr Morales stepped down to avoid further bloodshed. T / F
- Mr Morales said he would never return to Bolivia. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. declared | a. escaped |
| 2. former | b. evil |
| 3. vowed | c. accusations |
| 4. condemned | d. ex- |
| 5. nefarious | e. site |
| 6. fled | f. proclaimed |
| 7. location | g. promised |
| 8. bloodshed | h. saddens |
| 9. allegations | i. criticized |
| 10. pains | j. killing |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about Evo Morales?
- What do you think of your country's leader?
- What makes a good leader?
- Who is the best leader in the world today?
- What do you think of coups?
- How much should a president get paid?
- What would you do as president?
- What advice do you have for the people of Bolivia?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Ms <u>Áñez</u> said she was next | a. pacify the country |
| 2. vowed to hold elections | b. me to leave |
| 3. do everything necessary to | c. location |
| 4. Mr Morales' socialist party boycotted | d. as soon as possible |
| 5. the sneakiest, most nefarious | e. more bloodshed |
| 6. he was in fear | f. the vote |
| 7. at an undisclosed | g. in line to be president |
| 8. ensure there would be no | h. and violent protests |
| 9. social turmoil | i. coup in history |
| 10. It pains | j. for his life |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Would you like to go to Bolivia?
- How much danger do you think Morales was in?
- Who is the worst leader in the world today?
- What social turmoil has taken place in your country?
- Would you take to the streets?
- How sad would you be to leave your country?
- What questions would you like to ask Evo Morales?

Spelling

- She is siopoioint senator Jeanine Áñez
- following the gioarntsnei
- do everything necessary to aypcif the country
- Lawmakers endorsed Ms Áñez's pptnoeaimtn
- Morales' allies reanddb Ms Áñez
- the sneakiest, most rafousnie coup
- sleep on a coenterc floor
- at an dcoidesnlus location
- seek lsayum
- had done so winliygll
- following weeks of social orlmuti
- allegations of election fardu

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. g	4. i	5. b
6. a	7. e	8. j	9. c	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Corruption

You think corruption is the best reason to take to the streets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their reasons. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the price of food, global warming or war.

Role B – Food Prices

You think the price of food is the best reason to take to the streets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their reasons. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): corruption, global warming or war.

Role C – Global Warming

You think global warming is the best reason to take to the streets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their reasons. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the price of food, corruption or war.

Role D – War

You think war is the best reason to take to the streets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their reasons. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the price of food, global warming or corruption.

Speaking – Take to the streets

Rank these with your partner. Put the best reasons to take to the streets at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| • food prices | • immigration |
| • corruption | • global warming |
| • war | • nuclear power |
| • higher tax | • crime |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.