

<sup>th</sup> century. Indeed, to this day, the country is proud of its democratic tradition and of having held elections without interruption for more than a century. However,



straight days. In response, the Office of the President of the Federal Republic of Vadaluz issued a press release calling for the appropriate investigations to be conducted and expressing regret for what it called “an isolated event that does not reflect the integrity of health services at the national level.” It added that “This incident, although regrettable, should not be politicized or used to further polarize the country.”

13. Many people found the President’s statement to be uncharitable; they could not help but think that Maria’s death was preventable and that her fate would have been different if she had had more resources to obtain timely health care. There was a widespread public perception that, behind the call not to make these types of tragedies more political and polarizing, there was an unwillingness to remedy injustices that would not likely befall the country’s most privileged people. As a matter of fact, the press release prompted even more public outrage. Several civil society organizations called for nationwide protests to demand universal health coverage.

14. Amidst rumors of severe flu caused by a swine virus, nationwide protests began on January 15. In the country’s major cities, the protests received massive support from university students, who, in addition to calling for universal health coverage, also began to demand the elimination of compulsory military service for men over 18 years-old under the slogan “more students, fewer soldiers.” A few days later, the indigenous peoples’ alliance joined the protests in defense of their ancestral territories. And so, one after another, they were joined by truckers demanding lower gasoline prices, farmers demanding better infrastructure for the transportation of food and

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the students were being careless by continuing to protest and that Pedro's detention was meant to send a message.

23. On March 4, 24 hours after his arrest, Pedro was brought before the chief of Police Headquarters No. 3. Pedro was accompanied by his lawyer Claudia, who was only able to see him 15 minutes earlier, and then had to prepare his defense based on the lawful exercise of the right to protest and the police officer's lack of authority to arrest him, much less to punish him with up to four days' detention. However, within an hour after the proceedings were over, Pedro was served with a police order establishing: (i) that Pedro admitted to the acts committed, since he never denied that he was protesting in a public thoroughfare;

29. On March 5, Claudia tried to file a [redacted] through the official website of the judicial branch of Vadaluz. However, when she tried to do so she got an error message saying, “the server is down, please try again later.”

30. Early in the morning on March 6, Claudia managed to file the writ of [redacted] and the unconstitutionality action through the official website of the judicial branch of Vadaluz. In the writ of [redacted] Claudia requested the adoption of a precautionary measure [redacted].

31. On March 7, the urgent precautionary measure that Claudia requested in the [redacted] was dismissed as unnecessary since Pedro would be released that day. Indeed, he left the police headquarters a few hours later. The first thing he did when he got out was to send a tweet saying that an injustice had been committed and that although he had not been subjected to cruel, or inhumane treatment or torture, he should never have been deprived of his liberty for defending the right to health.

32. The writ of [redacted] was adjudicated on March 15. It was dismissed as moot since Pedro had already been released. On May 30, the Federal Supreme Court dismissed the unconstitutionality action, finding no constitutional violation. For its part, Congress made no decision regarding Decree 75/20, because the members of Congress had decided to adjourn to protect themselves from the pandemic until the minimum necessary conditions were objectively met.

### **III. Proceedings in the Interl**

