

'My Worst Fears Came True': Cristina Fernandez Shows How Police Stole, Damaged Items in Her Home

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In a video released on Sunday, Senator Cristina Fernandez shows how investigators damaged and stole items from her Calafate home in an August raid.

Former President Cristina Fernandez released a video Sunday from her Calafate country house condemning last month's raids made on her three homes in connection to the 'Bribery Notebooks' corruption case against Fernandez.

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"This house three weeks ago was more than raided. (It was) literally taken by the people that (Judge) Bonadio sent here," the current Senator said in the video in front of her Calafate home.

In late August Judge Claudio Bonadio ordered search warrants for the three Fernandez homes, one of which is located in Calafate and another in Buenos Aires, to look for information in connection to alleged payments Fernandez received in exchange for political favors and public works contracts during her presidencies (2007-2015).



In her video, Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner (CFK) <u>denounced the raids</u> saying they were not carried out to "gather information" but were actually "another chapter of humiliation and persecution" against the Citizens Unity coalition leader.

The former president went through her home detailing how for three days officials drilled dozens of holes in the walls of the home, removed stones and took an original painting.

In the <u>video</u>, Fernandez said she tried to mandate protections of her belongings in the house, but those were denied by her fellow Senators who narrowly voted on Aug. 22 to allow the searches to take place.

"My worst fears came true. ... What I thought would happen really happened," Senator Fernandez said referring to the items stolen from her house she says have nothing to do with the investigation against her. "They came to find, God knows what, millions of dollars, I do not know," stressed the former president.

"They broke everything, took personal items in the house that have nothing to do with the investigation. In Buenos Aires they did not let my lawyer in, people who were then intoxicated," added the former head of state referring to the cleaning staff of her Buenos Aires home suffering from "dizziness, itchy throats, and eyes, and difficulty breathing" immediately after the home was raided nearly a month ago.

Fernandez added that the current situation in Argentina "is very disturbing."

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She said the government (under President Mauricio Macri) is "violating rights and constitutional guarantees," and denounced the torture against the Buenos Aires teacher who last week was hooded and tattooed with 'no more pots' written in Spanish on her stomach.

"What happened to the teacher in Moreno (Buenos Aires) is very serious because it is a kind of <u>harassment</u>, <u>persecution</u>, <u>and intimidation</u> of against policies that question what is happening in Argentina."

Last Wednesday three male attackers scratched out the words 'no more pots' (olla no) on the stomach of teacher Corina De Bonis with a sharp object as she was walking home from work. De Bonis was a part of a group of Buenos Aires teachers who were feeding kids hot meals as the Cambiemos-lead government initiative to drastically <u>cuts education funds</u>, <u>subsidies</u> in social spending trying to plug its deficit.



The <u>case against Fernandez</u> emerged after Argentine newspaper La Nacion published photocopies of eight notebooks belonging to Oscar Centeno, the driver of Julio de Vido, federal Planning and Public Investment Minister between 2003 and 2015 during the Kitchener and Fernandez administrations.

According to the newspaper, the driver kept records of alleged bags of money business executives gave to the Kirchner administration. CFK has repeatedly denied the claims of corruption.

In the video, Fernandez condemned Macri's "borrowing policy."

In June the administration took on a US\$50 billion International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan hoping it would stem the country's down-spiraling economy as the peso devalued to 40 to the dollar and inflation rests at 35 percent, after hovering between 25 and 30 percent for a year.

Bloomberg analysts predict inflation to hit 40 percent by year's end bringing Argentina into a full-blown recession. The government "has gutted the state in the most sensitive areas and that must change," said Fernandez from Calafate.

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