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Argentina

Promising results and challenges for left

- News from around the world -

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On Sunday 11 August there were primary elections to determine the candidates for the elections to the senate and legislature. Lists must get 1.5% to be able to stand in the elections next October.

Overall the results showed a total defeat of "Kirchnerism", a recomposition of the rightwing opposition in different forms, and an important space for the left.

The Workers and Left Front (FIT-EI Frente de Izquierda y los trabajadores (PO / PTS /IS) got a very good result winning almost one million votes at national level from 30 million voters, that is about 4.5% of the total, and in some places their score reached 15%.

Adding the votes of other left currents brings a total of 1.2 million votes, 5.4%

In Buenos Aires, the political centre of the country, the FIT won 4.2%, and 10% for the left as a whole. The reappearance of Luis Zamora on the political scene should be noted, which is a clear link to the events of 2001 with 3.3% and Camino Popular (Popular Way) with 2.2%

The MST-New Left which had made an electoral front with Camino Popular (centre-left) from which it was excluded at the last minute (for which it does not bear the political responsibility) was therefore obliged to stand independently and won, thanks to a very good campaign, 1.2% in Buenos Aires but unfortunately it will not be able to go beyond the primaries as its overall score is 0.9%.

In general the primaries are considered to be favourable to the smaller parties, as voters do not systematically vote left in the definitive elections. It is therefore likely that in October the results will not be as good. However this in no way diminishes the excellent results of last Sunday.

The challenge now facing this left – class-struggle, militant, anti-imperialist and anticapitalist – which defended a programme of sovereignty over natural resources and public services, which fights to save the environment and biodiversity, which puts forwards a change in the relations between humankind and nature and between humans being themselves – is that of its own reorganisation. There must be a united expression within which will coexist all the different currents, and will be seen as a political alternative which act in the daily struggles which contests the political space and poses the question of power.