
USA: Another Chapter of a Historical Scandal

By: Nicanor León Cotayo
05/01/2022



Almost twelve months after the assault on the Capitol, several judicial and political processes continue to search for the culprits, and it seems the loop is closing around Donald Trump.

Investigations include several people who carried out violent acts.

At the same time, Congress executes a political process against people close to the former president.

So far, the District of Columbia Attorney's Office has filed charges against another 700 for attacking police officers and impeding their functions, and destroying property in the Capitol.

Stephen Gillers, a law professor at New York University, told EFE: "Entering the Capitol without permission is a very minor charge, but physical violence can lead to several years in prison, especially if it's against a Capitol Police officer."

In his opinion, of all the charges, this is the one that can carry the strongest sentences.

Professor Gillers clarified that the trial takes place where the event took place, but if the defendant pleads guilty, and is not in Washington, the sentence can occur in any other part of the country.

EFE indicates that according to data from the Department of Justice of the more than 700 detainees so far, some 150 have pleaded guilty.

Among them, Jacob Chansley, the man disguised as a bison who reached an agreement with the Prosecutor's Office, and was sentenced to 49 months in prison.

The Court investigating the attack on the Capitol is made up of nine members, and only two belong to the Republican Party.

That news agency points out that if someone summoned to testify refuses, the Court can hold them in contempt, as it happened with Steve Bannon, Mark Meadows, and Jeffrey Clark, all former Trump advisers.

If guilty, they could be sentenced to several months or a year in prison.

On the subject, George Mason University Law Professor Ilya Somin told EFE that "relatively low penalties could have very damaging consequences for the reputation of these high-level professionals and in many cases lawyers."

Observers warn of the existence of questions about the request for criminal charges of the Court against Trump.

On the sidelines, the magnitude of the historical scandal at hand is tangible.

Translated by Amilkal Labañino / CubaSí Translation Staff
