
Mauricio Macri to Go Before a Judge Over Link to Panama Papers

08/04/2016



Argentina President Mauricio Macri announced he would appear before a judge Friday to address allegations regarding his links to an offshore company cited in the "Panama Papers," after being accused of "maliciously hiding" his offshore accounts during his sworn statement regarding his properties and wealth.

"I know there are some people concerned about these allegations in the Panama Papers that have come out and involve me," he said during a televised address on Thursday. "I have nothing to hide."

However, Macri assured the Argentine public that he had "acted in accordance with the law," and that he had "nothing to hide."

Macri was listed as a director of Fleg Trading, a Bahamas-based company managed by Mossack-Fonseca, the Panamanian law firm from which the Panama Papers originated. In asset declarations in 2007 and 2008, made when he was mayor of Buenos Aires, Macri did not disclose his connection to the company.

The son of an Italian-born business tycoon, Macri has said he was not legally obliged to declare his connection with the offshore company named in the "Panama Papers" as he never had a stake in it.

Argentine prosecutor asked the judiciary on Thursday to investigate if Macri's failure to declare his connection with the offshore company meant he had "maliciously failed to complete his tax declaration," a crime which carries a sentence of 15 days to two years in jail.

The case was assigned to Judge Sebastian Casanello, who must now decide if there is sufficient evidence to open a probe.

Macri's appearance in the Panama Papers and the way his administration has handled the matter has cast some doubts over his 2015 campaign pledge to fight corruption.

A prosecutor has asked the Argentine courts to begin a trial against the president for maliciously hiding money in tax havens, including Panama.

Argentina President Mauricio Macri announced he would appear before a judge Friday to address allegations regarding his links to an offshore company cited in the "Panama Papers," after being accused of "maliciously hiding" his offshore accounts during his sworn statement regarding his properties and wealth.

"I know there are some people concerned about these allegations in the Panama Papers that have come out and involve me," he said during a televised address on Thursday. "I have nothing to hide."

RELATED:

Argentina: Macri To Ask Judiciary About 'Panama Papers'

However, Macri assured the Argentine public that he had "acted in accordance with the law," and that he had "nothing to hide."

Macri was listed as a director of Fleg Trading, a Bahamas-based company managed by Mossack-Fonseca, the Panamanian law firm from which the Panama Papers originated. In asset declarations in 2007 and 2008, made when he was mayor of Buenos Aires, Macri did not disclose his connection to the company.

The son of an Italian-born business tycoon, Macri has said he was not legally obliged to declare his connection with the offshore company named in the "Panama Papers" as he never had a stake in it.

Argentine prosecutor asked the judiciary on Thursday to investigate if Macri's failure to declare his connection with the offshore company meant he had "maliciously failed to complete his tax declaration," a crime which carries a sentence of 15 days to two years in jail.

RELATED: Panama Papers Fallout: Massive Protests Rock Argentina, Demand Macri Resign

The case was assigned to Judge Sebastian Casanello, who must now decide if there is sufficient evidence to open a probe.

Macri's appearance in the Panama Papers and the way his administration has handled the matter has cast some doubts over his 2015 campaign pledge to fight corruption.

This content was originally published by teleSUR at the following address:

<http://www.telesur.tv/english/news/Mauricio-Macri-to-Go-Before-a-Judge-Over-Link-to-Panama-Papers-20160408-0012.html>

". If you intend to use it, please cite the source and provide a link to the original article. www.telesur.tv/english