

= Adolfo Rodríguez Saá =

Adolfo Rodríguez Saá (born July 25 , 1947) is an Argentine Peronist politician . Born in a family that was highly influential in the history of the San Luis Province , he became governor in 1983 , after the end of the National Reorganization Process military dictatorship . He remained governor up to 2001 , being re-elected in successive elections .

President Fernando de la Rúa resigned in that year , amid the December 2001 riots , and the Congress appointed Rodríguez Saá as president of Argentina . In response to the 1998 - 2002 Argentine great depression , he declared the highest sovereign default in history and resigned days later amid civil unrest . The Congress appointed a new president , Eduardo Duhalde , who completed the term of office of De la Rúa . Rodríguez Saá ran for the 2003 and 2015 presidential elections but did not win .

= = Early life = =

Rodríguez Saá was born to an important political family in San Luis . The Rodriguez Saá family is well known in the Province of San Luis and can be traced to the 19th century and to descendants of the federal caudillo Juan Saá , who fought in the battle of Pavón during the Argentine Civil War . Rodríguez Saá 's grandfather and namesake Adolfo Rodríguez Saá and his great uncle were both governors of the province , and his father was the police chief .

He attended the " Juan Pascual Pringles " school , which was associated with the National University of Cuyo . He studied law at the University of Buenos Aires , graduating in 1971 . He worked as a teacher in his former school for two years . He was an editor of the anti Peronist pamphlet " La voz de San Luis " (Spanish : The voice of San Luis) , but became a Peronist in 1969 during his studies in Buenos Aires . He joined the Peronist Youth in the year of his graduation and worked as their representative in San Luis .

The Peronist party , proscribed since 1955 , was allowed to run for the 1973 elections . The Peronist party won the elections , and Héctor Cámpora became president . Rodríguez Saá became a provincial legislator , and led the Peronist deputies in the chamber . He joined the right wing Peronist unions , led by Oraldo Britos . He opposed the governor Elías Adre , who was aligned with left wing Peronism . After the 1976 Argentine coup d'état , he left politics and worked in a law firm with his brother .

= = Governor = =

The National Reorganization Process dictatorship came to an end in 1983 , when Raúl Alfonsín won the 1983 elections . Rodríguez Saá became governor of San Luis in those elections , in a close contest with the Radical Civic Union . He was helped by the clergy of the province , who opposed the radical candidate because of his secularism .

As a governor , Rodríguez Saá attracted huge investments to the province , which led to the growth of local industries , public works , social services and tourism . Levels of employment and industrial production , as well as measures of scholastic achievement and crime fighting success were higher than those of the country at large . He was a populist and authoritarian governor who was accused of nepotism , corruption and restricting freedom of the press . He united the governors of the smaller Argentine provinces in a front , called Frente Federal Solidario .

He ran in the primary elections of the Justicialist Party (PJ) for the 1989 presidential elections . Carlos Menem , governor of La Rioja , prevailed in both the primary and the main elections and became the new president of Argentina . Rodríguez Saá was elected to the Constituent Assembly that drafted the 1994 amendment of the Argentine Constitution . He attempted to run in the primary elections for the 1995 presidential elections against Menem , who was seeking re-election . Not seeing any chance of prevailing against the president , he abandoned his candidacy . He also attempted to run in the primary elections for the 1999 presidential elections , and resigned his candidacy again , this time on behalf of Eduardo Duhalde , governor of the Buenos Aires Province .

Duhalde lost the elections to the radical Fernando de la Rúa , and Rodríguez Saá was again re-elected as governor . He attempted to divide the city of San Luis into four municipalities , as the mayor was a political rival , but had to drop the project because of the popular unrest generated by the proposal .

= = Presidency = =

President Fernando de la Rúa resigned after the December 2001 riots that had been caused by the 1998 ? 2002 Argentine great depression . As his vice president Carlos Álvarez had resigned as well months before , Congress called for a special assembly to designate a new president . Adolfo Rodríguez Saá became president after being elected with 169 votes to 138 . He was supported by the PJ and smaller right-wing parties such as Republican Force and Action for the Republic . The Unión Cívica Radical (UCR) and Alternative for a Republic of Equals voted against him . He was replaced in the governor 's office by vice-governor María Alicia Lemme , and took office on December 23 , 2001 .

Rodríguez Saá got the mandate of interim president , with instructions from the Assembly to call for elections the following March 3 , with the runoff on March 17 if needed . The new president would complete de la Rúa 's term of office . Those elections were held with *ley de lemas* , double simultaneous voting , and the victor took the reins of government on April 5 .

During his short time in office , Rodríguez Saá announced the creation of a new currency , the *argentino* , which would have circulated alongside the peso and the dollar . The civil unrest of previous days resurfaced when he announced his cabinet , as it included Carlos Grosso as Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers . Grosso was a very unpopular former mayor of Buenos Aires . As a result , Rodríguez Saá gave up his whole cabinet before they could take office , with the sole exception of Rodolfo Gabrielli , in the Interior Ministry . He also declared a sovereign default on the Argentine national debt , which was celebrated by the chamber of deputies . It was the highest sovereign default in history . Those measures , uncharacteristic of an interim president with a brief term of office , were resented by the leaders of the Justicialist party .

Rodríguez Saá prepared a budget bill for 2002 , which was sent to the Congress . It included an important decrease in the deficits , as requested by Anne Krueger from the International Monetary Fund . Krueger also requested a new coparticipation law , to determine the way the nation and the provinces manage tax revenues . Rodríguez Saá called for a meeting with governors in Chapadmalal , but only six governors out of twenty-three attended : Carlos Ruckauf , Juan Carlos Romero , Gildo Insfrán , Ángel Mazza , Carlos Rovira and Alicia Lemme . José Manuel de la Sota , governor of Córdoba , withdrew his support , suspecting that Rodríguez Saá had plans to cancel the elections and stay as president up to 2003 . On December 30 , he returned to San Luis with Daniel Scioli and resigned , alleging lack of support from the rest of the Justicialist Party . Insfrán , Mazza and minister Rodolfo Gabrielli tried to convince him to stay as president ; his brother Alberto Rodríguez Saá supported his decision . In announcing his resignation in a *Cadena nacional* , he recounted the achievements of his one-week administration and accused Justicialist governors and legislators of meanness and shortsightedness . He dispatched his resignation from San Luis to Buenos Aires , and the Congress accepted it on January 1 , 2002 . The Senate chairman Ramón Puerta would have been the interim president , but resigned as well , so Eduardo Camaño , president of the Chamber of Deputies , was appointed interim president instead . After new deliberations , they elected Eduardo Duhalde as president , this time with a mandate that would fill the remaining time of de la Rúa 's mandate .

= = Post @-@ presidency = =

After the end of Eduardo Duhalde 's term , Rodríguez Saá ran for the presidency in the April 2003 elections . Those elections allowed the *Lemas* law , and the PJ did not provide an official candidate . Each precandidate was allowed instead to run for presidency on his own " lema " , and Rodríguez Saá did so . The other candidates of the PJ were Néstor Kirchner and Carlos Menem . Rodríguez

Saá came in fourth , with 14 @. @ 1 % of the vote , behind both of the other PJ candidates and Ricardo López Murphy . Kirchner became the president of Argentina after those elections .

Rodríguez Saá 's brother Alberto Rodríguez Saá became the new governor of San Luis in 2003 . Together with Carlos Menem , they attempted to create an alternative political group against Kirchner within the PJ . Adolfo Rodríguez Saá was elected Senator for San Luis representing this group at the 2005 election . He was reelected in 2011 , with a term of office up to 2017 . He tried to run for governor of Buenos Aires Province in 2011 , but the local judiciary did not allow him , as he did not have the required time living in the province . The mayor Sergio Massa organized the coalition United for a New Alternative to run for the 2015 presidential election and invited Rodríguez Saá to join , but he refused to join and ran with his own party , Federal Commitment .

= = Personal life = =

Adolfo Rodríguez Saá was kidnapped on October 21 , 1993 . He was governor of San Luis at the time . He was taken to a room in the hotel " Y no C " and forced to perform for a pornographic video . He was forced to pay a ransom of 3 million dollars and was left in the trunk of a car . The video has never been made public , and the kidnappers Walter Alejandro Salgado , Nélida Esther Sesín and Eduardo Alberto Doyhenard were sentenced in 1995 . The trial took 11 days , and it included the testimonies of 132 witnesses . It was aired on live television . Esther Sesín claimed during the trial that she had been his lover for eight years . All the kidnappers have served their sentences and currently live in other provinces .

Rodríguez Saá has worked as a cattle rancher in San Luis since his defeat in the 2003 elections .