



# Corruption Prosecutions of Executives in Latin America

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## INTRODUCTION

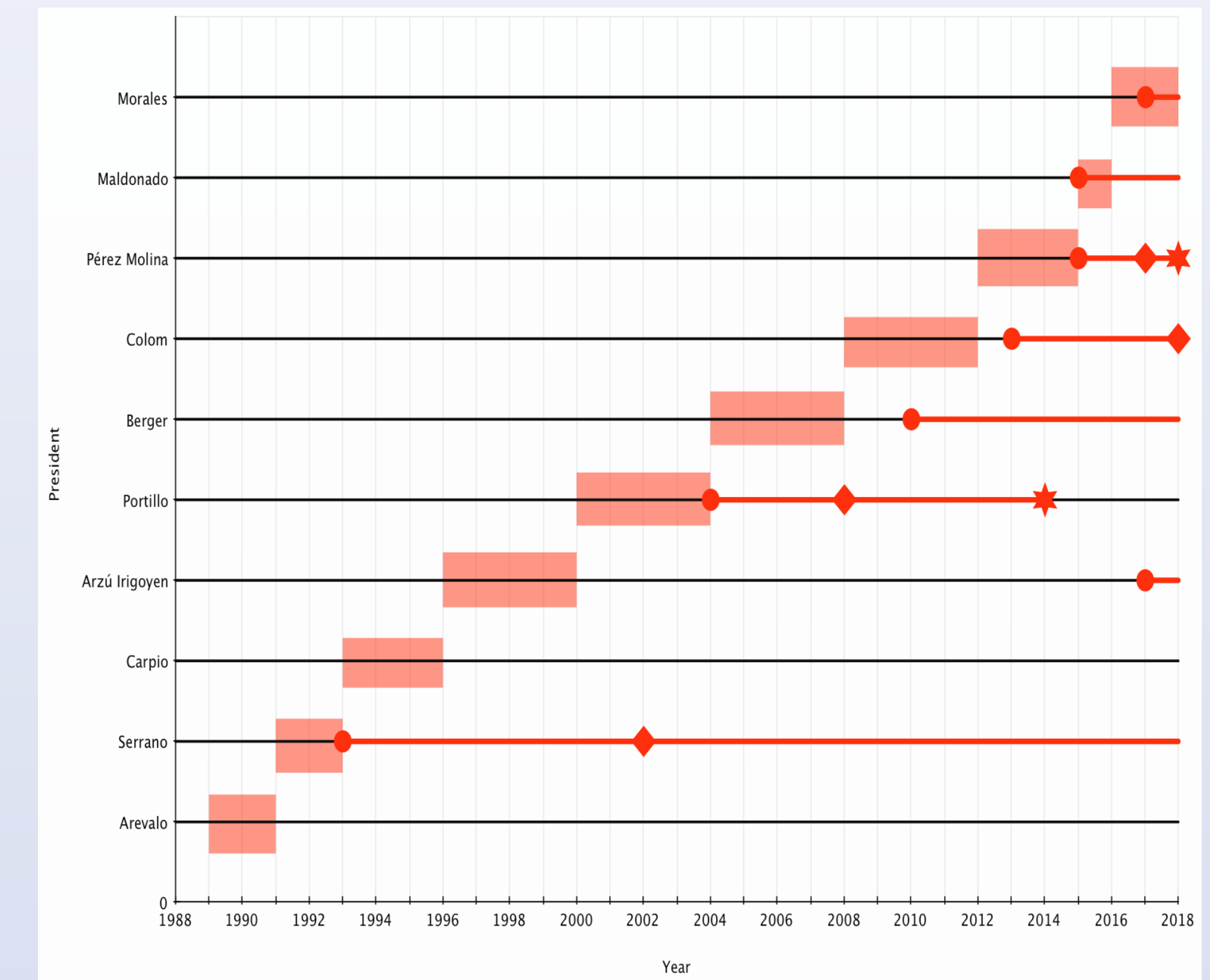
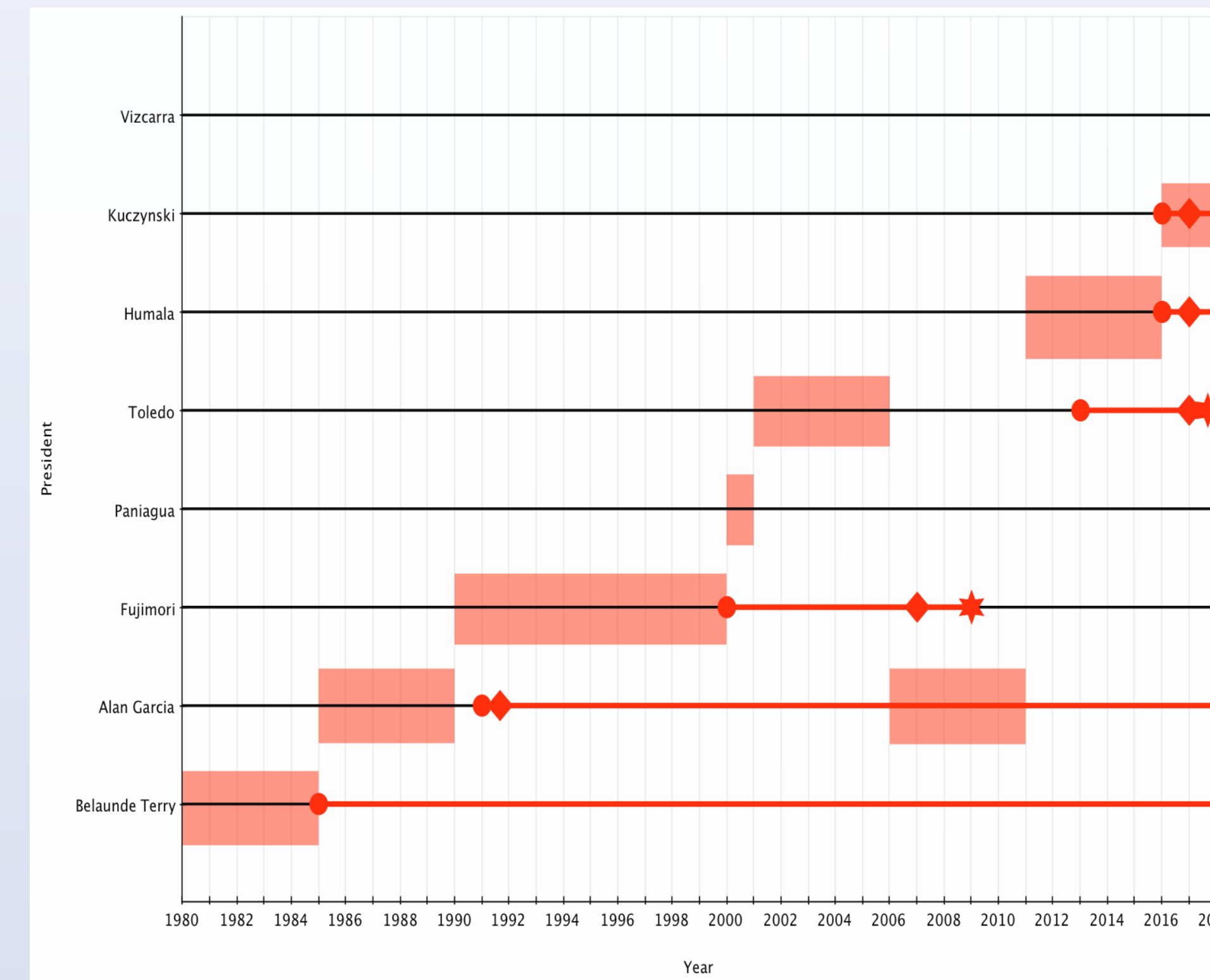
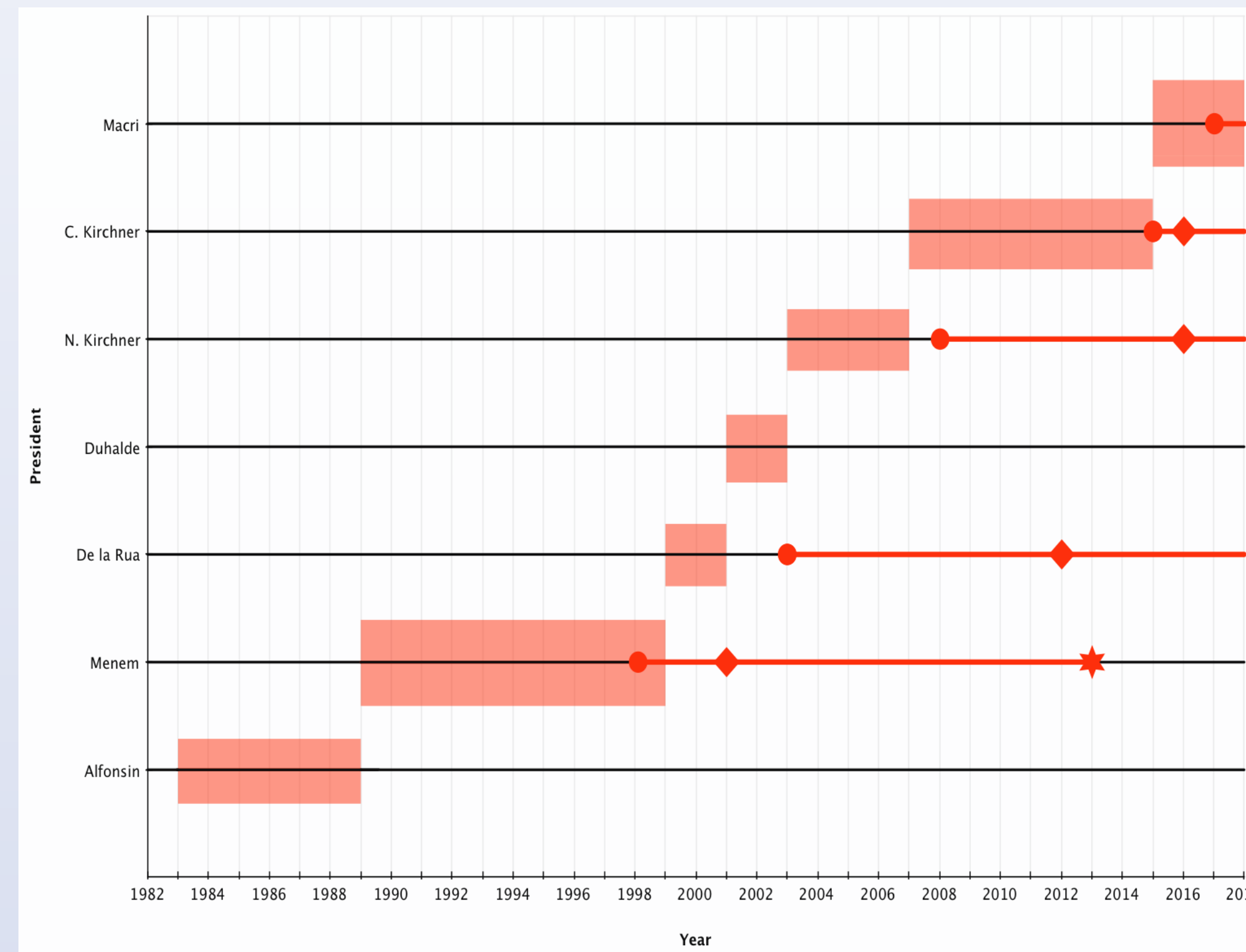
This research project analyzes the corruption prosecutions of former executives in Latin America that have taken place over the past few decades. While corruption has been prevalent in Latin America over time, the judicial prosecution of former executives is a fairly new phenomenon.

The project has two main purposes. First, to track the likelihood of prosecution to view whether there is a growing trend and its' possible explanations. Second, to analyze how an increase in prosecutions affects the likelihood that executives will engage in corrupt behaviour.

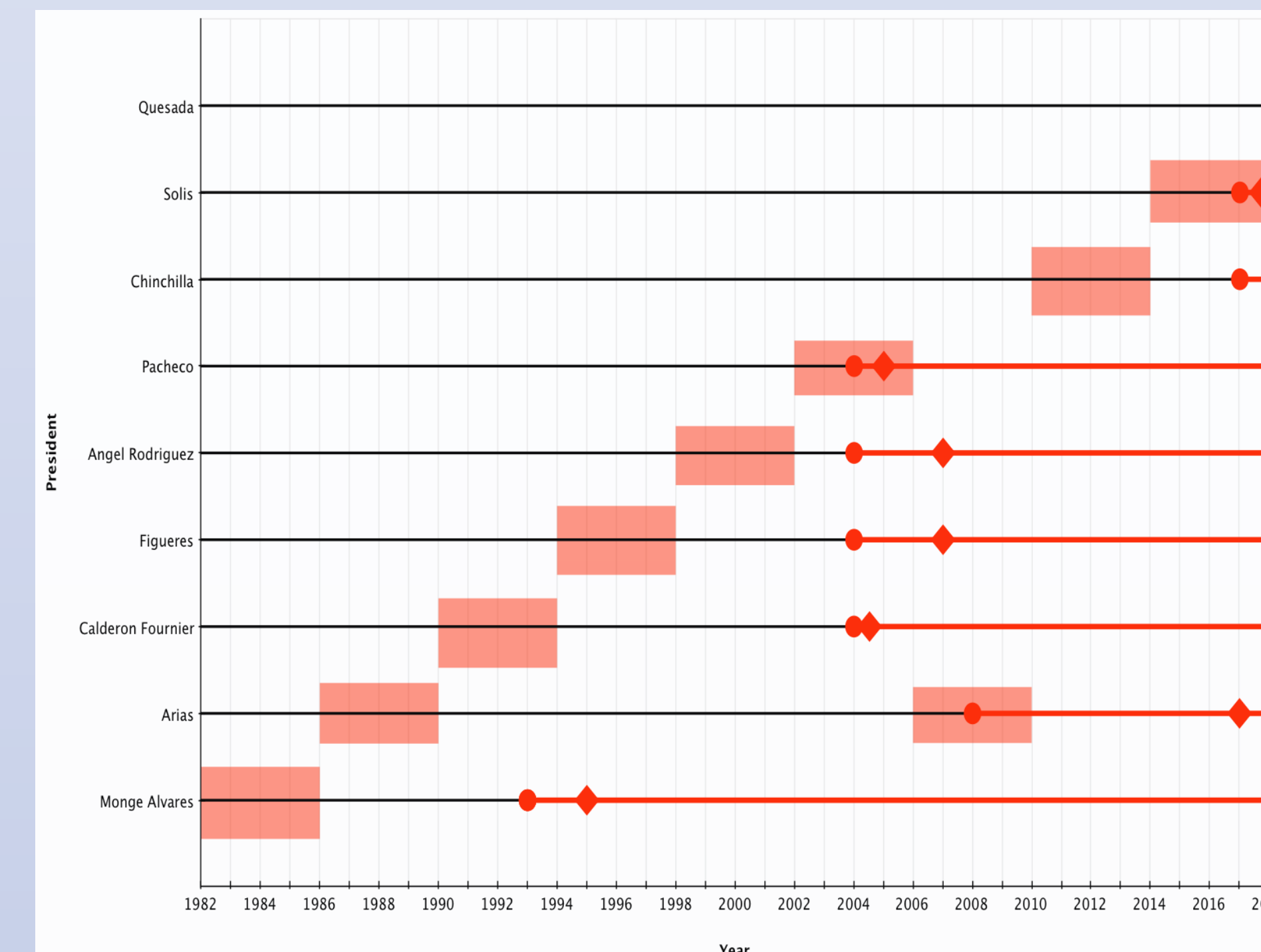
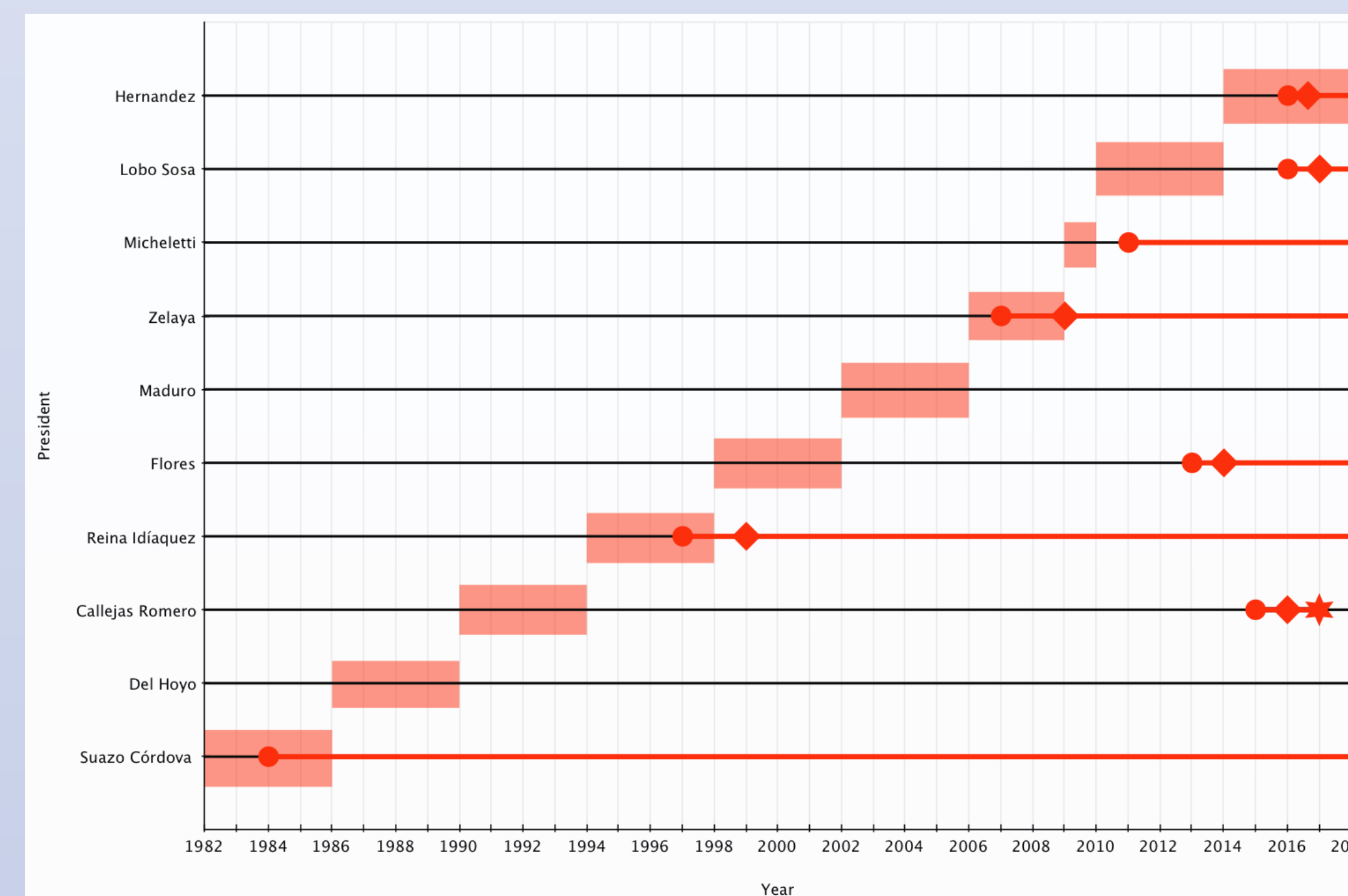
## METHODS AND DATA

Information on prosecutions of former executives is not readily available. As such, the research consulted multiple media sources (local, national, international) to establish when former executives were being prosecuted, and for what causes. The temporal scope of study covered the years since democratization in the mid-1980s until 2018.

The judicial process was broken down in tracking dates for accusations, prosecutions, indictments and sentences for corruption. Other variables were also collected including GDP growth and ideological position.

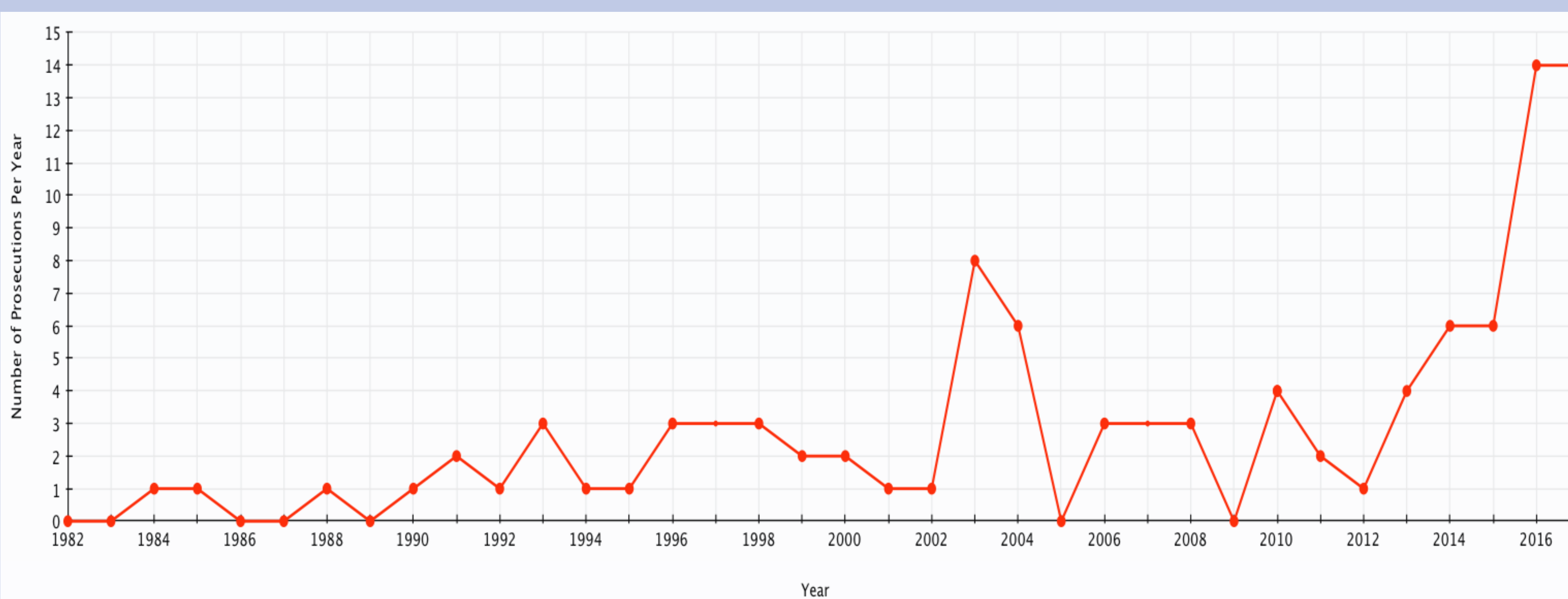


*The presidential terms of executives in Argentina (top left), Peru (top centre), Guatemala (top right), Honduras (bottom left) and Costa Rica (bottom right) are indicated by the red boxes. The circular point indicates when the executive was prosecuted. The diamond indicates when/if they were indicted. The star indicates that the executive was sentenced for corruption.*

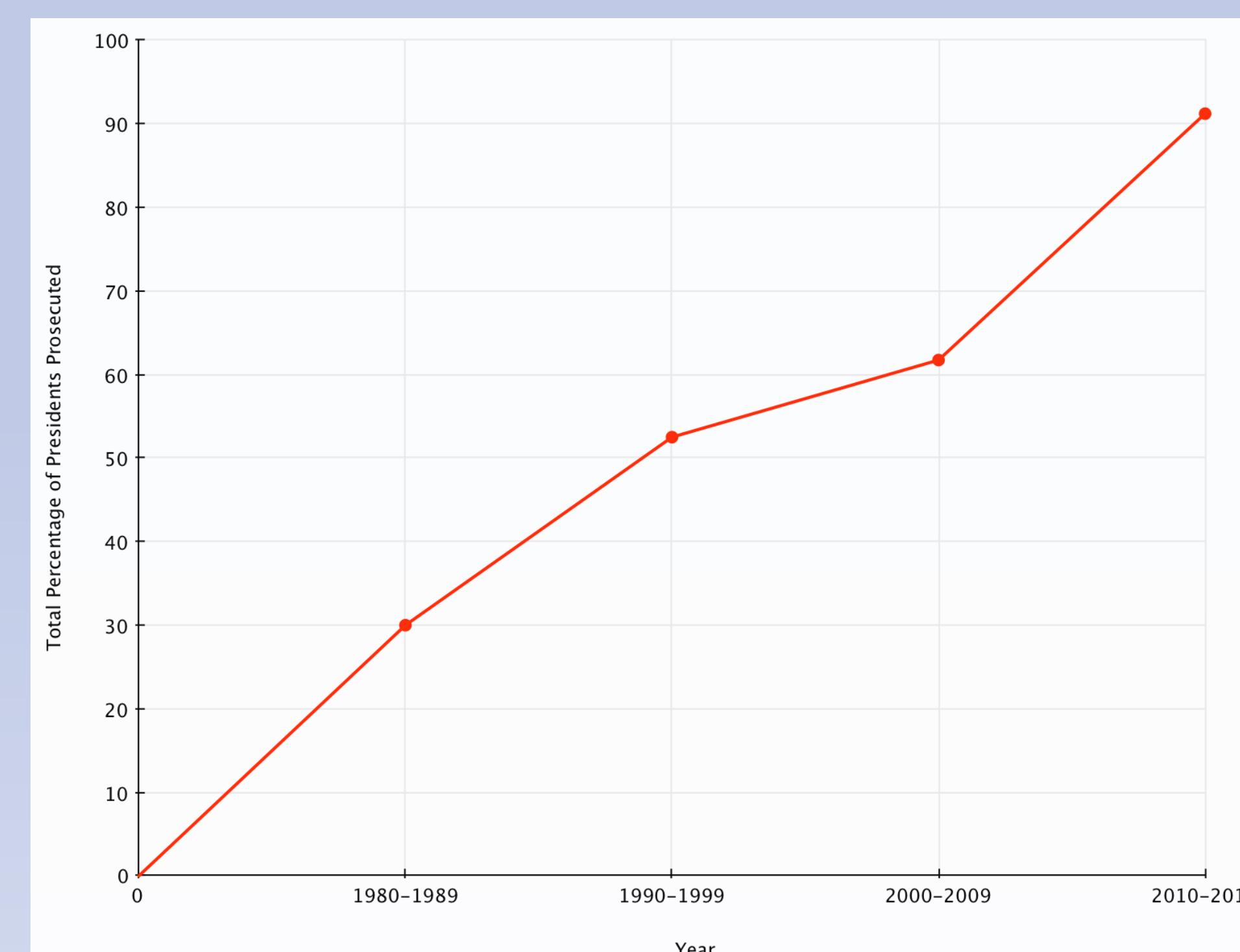


Country	President	Years in Office	Corruption Allegation?	Corruption Investigation?	Sentenced?	Prosecuted DURING Presidency?	Date of Prosecution	Date of Indictment	Date of Sentence	% GDP growth during term (on average per year)	Left/Non-Left Turn	Ideological Position
Bolivia	Paz Zamora	1989-1993	Yes	Yes	No	No	Apr-90	Apr-91	N/A	3.921646686	NL	6.66
Bolivia	Sanchez de Lozada	1993-1997	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Oct-03	Sep-07	N/A	4.586077451	NL	8.62
Bolivia	Banzer	1997-2001	Yes	No	No	No	Aug-01	N/A	N/A	2.920411771	NL	8.72
Bolivia	Quiroga	2001-2002	Yes	Yes	No	No	Sep-10	Jan-15	N/A	2.084682433	NL	8.69

*An excerpt of the spreadsheet created on prosecutions of executives and other important variables. For ideological positioning, a scale created by PELA respondents was used where 1 indicates left and 10 indicates right\**



*The graph above displays the trend of prosecutions from 1982-2017, indicating the number of prosecutions per year.*



*The line graph indicates the total percentage of presidents prosecuted in each decade.*

## CONCLUSIONS

The research reveals that while there is an increased likelihood of prosecution, there is also a lack of concrete punishment for corruption. A limited number of prosecutions have actually lead to sentencing.

The implications of the study reveal that the likelihood for executives to engage in corruption remains the same. This study contradicts much of the previous discourse on anti-corruption due to executives being just as likely, if not more, to engage in corruption. Legal Institutions lack discretion of what constitutes a serious act of corruption and what is a sufficient level of proof for corruption allegations. Thus, prosecutions have a minimal impact on reputations of executives and are often unable to detect serious acts of corruption.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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\*Reference:  
<http://americo.usal.es/oir/elites/eliteca.htm>