

Loser Vows to Press Fight on Guyana Vote Result

By The Associated Press

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The losing candidate in Guyana's presidential election says that he will fight what he called the rigged election of an American expatriate and charges that her quick swearing-in was a violation of the Constitution.

The candidate, Desmond Hoyte, contended on Saturday that the elections commission chairman, Doodnauth Singh, had violated the Constitution by declaring Janet Jagan the winner while votes were still being counted and without consulting other commission members. Mrs. Jagan is the widow of the popular former President, Cheddi Jagan.

"We now have an unlawful Government ruling our country," said Mr. Hoyte, who vowed to continue to dispute the results of the election last Monday.

Mr. Singh declared Mrs. Jagan the winner at noon on Friday with 90 percent of the vote counted, saying her advantage over Mr. Hoyte was greater than the 37,000 ballots left to be counted.

Mrs. Jagan was sworn in three hours later, while Mr. Hoyte's People's National Congress Party was at the Supreme Court seeking an order to prevent her from taking office. Mr. Hoyte's party and others challenged the election results.

When two court marshals tried to serve the order to prevent Mrs. Jagan from taking office, security officers grappled with them. When handed the order, Mrs. Jagan threw the papers over her shoulder.

"You also witnessed on television the utter contempt with which Mrs. Jagan treated the order of the court and her blatant disregard for the rule of law," Mr. Hoyte said in a statement broadcast late on Friday.

On Thursday, 11 people were injured when police fired pellets and tear gas at hundreds of demonstrators who contended that the vote was rigged in Mrs. Jagan's favor.

Mrs. Jagan, 77, is a Chicago native. She became a Guyanese citizen and served 30 years in Parliament, as well as several months in jail in the 1950's with her late husband, for their supposedly pro-Communist leanings.

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