

At Least 70 Dead in Bolivian Carnival Festivities



La Paz, March 6 (RHC) -- The Bolivian government says 70 people have died, most of them in car accidents, during carnival festivities in the Andean country. Interior Minister Carlos Romero said on Wednesday that police reported 70 deaths, including 37 in traffic accidents.

That toll did not include another five people killed in an incident where an overloaded footbridge collapsed onto spectators and marching musicians in the opening carnival parade in city of Oruro. More than 60 people were also injured in that incident.

Four days of partying at the carnival ended on Tuesday. The event draws thousands of people onto the streets every year. Around 350,000 people attended carnival festivities in Oruro alone, authorities said.

The Carnival of Oruro has been listed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity since 2001.

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