

Bolivia's de facto government grants impunity to police and armed forces



La Paz, November 17 (RHC)-- The de facto government of Bolivia issued a decree over the weekend exempting Armed Forces and National Police from criminal responsibility when committing acts of repression against protesters who have taken to the streets to reject the coup d'etat.

"The personnel of the Armed Forces, who participate in the operations for the restoration of order and public stability, will be exempt from criminal responsibility when, in compliance with their constitutional functions, they act in legitimate defense or state of necessity," the decree reads.

The document also states that security forces may use firearms to suppress protests, as they are allowed to "frame their actions as established in the approved Force Use Manual, being able to make use of all available means that are proportional to the operational risk."

This comes as violent repression from the government escalates against protesters in Bolivia. Over the past several days, at least nine Bolivians have died as a result of repressive actions carried out by the security forces that support the coup-based government headed by Senator Jeanine Añez.

"23 people have died since the coup. The most recent victims are four people shot dead in La Paz?????? and five in Sacaba," La Paz Ombudsman' Office delegate Teresa Zubieta told teleSUR.

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