

*Forensic anthropologists say
Peruvian military deliberately
shot protesters in Ayacucho*

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Lima, January 19 (RHC)-- The Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team (EPAF) has presented a report showing that the military shot with the intent to kill in at least 10 cases of citizens killed during protests against President Dina Boluarte.

Referring to corpses of people who were killed in the Ayacucho region, the EPAF anthropologist Carmen Rosa Cardoza indicated that six people died as a result of shots to the chest, three due to shots to the abdomen, and one as a result of a gunshot to the head.

The facts show the same pattern: the Peruvian military intentionally targeted deadly areas such as the head, thorax and abdomen, which constitutes an indication of crimes against humanity. When there is no such intention, gunshot wounds usually occur in the extremities, anthropologist Jose Pablo Baraybar explained.

Gloria Cano, a lawyer from the Association for Human Rights (APRODEH), pointed out that the Peruvian army is not trained to control crowds or use force proportionally. For this reason, the Ayacucho murders reveal that the intention was to shoot in vital areas -- and shoot to kill.

She denounced that the Peruvian military also attacked citizens in Andahuaylas, in the department of Apurímac, where corpses were found with shots to the head, thorax and neck.

Since Dina Boluarte became president on December 7th, human rights defenders have registered the death of 50 citizens as a result of the repression of the massive demonstrations.

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