

Bolivian Village Bans Alcohol to End Rapes



La Paz, June 3 (AGENCIES-RHC)-- The village of *La Asunta* in Bolivia has banned alcohol and imposed curfew as drastic anti-crime measures.

La Asunta, a coca-growing neighborhood of 2,000, voted to introduce prohibition for 30 days after

the most recent attack on an 11-year-old girl by a drunken man at the end of May.

The resolution, signed by community organizations and local police, was published at the beginning of June and may now be made permanent after two other child rapes in nearby villages.

"Things were not like this before," said Juan Carlos Coche, community leader. "But there's a lot of alcohol consumption, thefts, hold-ups. There's sexual abuse. We had to take these decisions," Coche added.

The resolution reads: "We instruct the immediate suspension of the functioning of bars and pubs, liquor shops and other places selling drink, for a period of 30 days from the signed date."

Residents are banned from drinking while anyone under 18 is prohibited from going out into parks or gathering in groups after 10pm until sunrise.

"It's a prohibition for the good of all," another community leader, Jorge Mendoza, told local radio.



Radio Habana Cuba