

# *Bolivian president says the people will defend their democracy*

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La Paz, October 13 (RHC)--The president of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Luis Arce, asserted this Tuesday that the people will defend democracy against actions that try to destabilize and divide the country.

"They try to divide us. They seek to divide us and we tell them here, from the San Francisco square, from all the points where we are seeing concentrations of hundreds of thousands of Bolivians, that the coup will

not happen. The people are here to defend their democracy", said the president in the event of the "Wiphalazo" in La Paz.

In the nine departments of the country, massive rallies were organized to vindicate the wiphala, a patriotic symbol that was violated on September 24 in Santa Cruz by supporters of the governor of Santa Cruz, Luis Fernando Camacho.

The head of state took advantage of his speech at the event to question the call of the Pro Santa Cruz Committee to the civic strike that was not called on October 11th. "Sisters and brothers, yesterday (Monday) the Bolivian people, once again, gave a lesson to the right-wing coup, murderous, anti-democratic. The coup wanted to stop and the Bolivian people said 'Let's get to work'," he said.

The previous week, sectors and protagonists of the 2019 coup, such as the Pro Santa Cruz Civic Committee, the now governor Luis Fernando Camacho, the former presidential candidate of Comunidad Ciudadana (CC), Carlos Mesa, and the former president Jorge "Tuto" Quiroga, promoted a call for a national strike for October 11 against the national government and the economic reactivation.

"Unity is the requirement to continue advancing in the process of change, unity is the guarantee for us to maintain democracy", said President Arce. This Tuesday, thousands of people, representatives of social organizations and the civil population, gathered in the city of El Alto to descend in a peaceful march to the San Francisco square, in the city of La Paz, where the central act to vindicate the whipala was held.

The former president Evo Morales, during his speech at the Wiphalazo held in the city of Cochabamba, considered this Tuesday that a process of separatism began in the department of Santa Cruz.

"Brothers and sisters, separatism has begun from Santa Cruz and I take this opportunity (to tell you) that on September 17 of this year the Departmental Legislative Assembly of Santa Cruz approved a law (to designate regional authorities of national competence)," he said.

The questioned regulation, which is now stopped by the Constitutional Court, provides for the appointment of regional representatives of the State Attorney General's Office, the State Comptroller General's Office, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) and even the Supreme Court of Justice.

"They only need to elect the commander of the Armed Forces and the Police, (that is why I consider that) this is the beginning of separatism again; (but) yesterday, the Bolivian people once again defeated the separatists", added Morales when referring also to the civic strike carried out in some cities of the country against the bill on illicit profits.

The ex-authority pointed out that "the Bolivian people defeated the coup plotters because they did not go to the strike" as the civic leaders expected "And that is the best proof that the Bolivian people defend democracy, the Bolivian people are with the cultural democratic revolution", he emphasized.

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