

Bolivian government denies political persecution against governor of Santa Cruz

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Del Castillo said that 27 public and private infrastructures were damaged, 44 vehicles were destroyed and 26 policemen were injured. | Photo: EFE

La Paz, January 5 (RHC)-- The Bolivian Minister of Government, Eduardo del Castillo, has denied that the governor of the department of Santa Cruz, Luis Fernando Camacho, is a political prisoner -- revealing at least 33 pieces of evidence that the detainee financed the 2019 coup d'état.

During a press conference, Del Castillo explained that they detected that on November 12, 2019 Camacho made two bank transfers to the former commander of the Air Force, Jorge Terceros Lara, and at the same time received deposits with significant sums of money from his relatives.

The official presented a graph detailing the financial flow "of Mr. Luis Fernando Camacho in the days before, the day of the coup d'état and after it" -- where "it is clear that there were large financial movements behind the coup d'état in our country."

"A small part of the financing of the 2019 coup was revealed and reached about 2.1 million (Bolivianos, equivalent to 304,000 dollars), money that was wire-transferred to and from the bank account of the accused, his father, José Luis Camacho, and his sister, Rosa María, along with eight other people from his close circle," stated Del Castillo.

After being apprehended on December 28th as a result of a public prosecutor's order, Camacho was transferred to the Chonchocoro prison for four months of preventive detention on charges of links to the violent events that led to the ousting of then President Evo Morales from power.

The Minister of the Interior also indicated that 76 people are being prosecuted for the violent acts against state buildings in Santa Cruz, caused by supporters of the right-wing Camacho's movement.

The official detailed that there are 24 people sentenced, 22 arrested are awaiting precautionary hearings, 14 have preventive detention and 16 are under alternative measures. "In total we are talking about 76 people who were apprehended and arrested in flagrancy for the crimes of destruction or deterioration of state property, public incitement to commit a crime, among others," he said.

He added that the authorities have seized 10 automobiles from "radical and irregular groups" used to commit these crimes. As part of the count of the damages, Del Castillo said that 27 public and private infrastructures were damaged, 44 vehicles were destroyed and 26 policemen were injured.

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