

Bolivia Gives Green Light for Trial of Former President



La Paz, January 18 (teleSUR-RHC) -- The Bolivian National Assembly has approved the decision to probe former President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada over “prejudicial contracts to the State, anti-economic behavior and unfulfillment of duty,” the Congress presidency said in a report sent to AFP.

Sanchez de Lozada, who is a fugitive from Bolivia’s justice system is currently living in the United States since he was accused in 2006 for violation of human rights. He governed Bolivia during the privatization of various state-run companies, particularly the railway firm ENFE in 1995.

Sanchez Lozada is accused of having under-sold the state shares for an amount of US\$13 million, while its value was estimated to reach US\$29 million.

Lawmakers approved a report issued by the legislative commission of justice, which was issued after a year long investigation into the capitalization and privatizations of public companies carried out between 1990-2001.

The General Attorney's Office will now be in charge of the judicial proceedings before the country's Supreme Court.

Sanchez de Lozada fled to the United States in 2003, after riots and clashes with security forces resulted in the death of 60 people, known as the “Black October massacre” ending his presidential term.

The United States granted him asylum, while the Bolivian government is still demanding the U.S. extradite him.

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