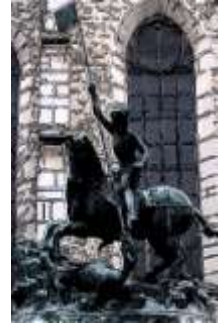


European Committee Human Rights Hungarians Central Europe.

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Morales was wrong

Almost a month ago in the early morning of April 16 3.30 local time thirty commandos from the Bolivian police armed to the teeth raided Las Americas Hotel in Santa Cruz. The action was directed against five men who stayed in separate rooms in the hotel. Three of them were killed in this action. Two of them survived the attack of the commando's and were arrested and transferred to the capital La Paz. The five men were of European nationality: Eduardo Rozsa Flores, Bolivian-Hungarian-Croatian, Michael Dwyer Irish, Arpad Magyarosi Romanian; Mario Tadic Bolivian-Croatian and Elod Toaso of a dual Hungarian-Romanian nationality. The commander of the Bolivian police, Victor Hugo Escobar said at a press conference on the day of the action that in the hotel a gunfight had occurred between his commando's and the group of five which he labeled as "terrorists" and that the Bolivian commando's had opened fire only after one of the terrorists had shot at the commando's. Escobar withdraw a few days later this statement. No shooting had taken place. The macabre pictures that the Bolivian authorities have released of the three corpses in their hotel rooms show men in underwear and with hands tied. From post-mortem examination it appears that Rozsa Flores was killed with six bullets that must have been fired at least from 50 centimeters distance by policemen squatting. The Irishman Michael Dywer was shot from behind with several bullets. It seems that Rozsa Flores, Magyarosi and Dywer were surprised in their sleep and that they were simply executed in cold blood.

To justify this commando raid the president of Bolivia, Evo Morales made also a surprising statement after the events. The group of five men, who resided in Santa Cruz, were "planning an attempt to murder him." Morales admitted that the action against the five "mercenaries" had taken place under his command. Nearly a month later this statement also has been weakened and the five men are accused of "conspiracy to overthrow the Bolivian state."

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It appears that the five men in the fatal morning of April, 16 are victims of power politics a la Latin American. Morales who has earned his money with the cultivation of the coca plant is the first president of the country belonging to the indigenous population. He is charmed by the communist course of his friend Hugo Chávez of Venezuela. Morales also strives for the nationalization of the energy sector in his country and wants the property of large landowners who are descendent from the former colonial rulers and new immigrants, especially from Eastern Europe to be redistributed under his Indians. Morales also wants to give himself special powers to enable him to extend his presidential mandate for times indefinitely. This policy of Morales has provoked the response of the rich provinces in the lowlands of the country of which Santa Cruz is the most important. In order to counterweight the anti-democratic centralism the four provinces launched an autonomy movement in the course of 2008, this to liberate themselves from the yoke of the capital where Morales and his socialists are in control. Democratic referenda demonstrated that the vast majority of the rebellious provinces' population is supporting claims for more autonomy. Meanwhile, this political conflict in Bolivia raises the interest of international politics. The U.S. ambassador to Bolivia, Philip Goldberg who met the leaders of the movement for greater autonomy in Santa Cruz has been expelled by Morales because he was "conspiring against the Bolivian state."

The Bolivian authorities could not provide the smoking gun to justify the commando raid yet. The country is full of rumors and buzzes and against the two suspects who are still alive, Toasa and Tadic a show trial is being prepared that is reminiscent of the darkest days of Stalinism in Eastern Europe, complete with spies and informers, disinformation campaigns, the fabrication of evidence and a desperate prosecutor who wants the two men in custody confess the "acts of terrorism" implicitly admitting that the group wanted to kill Morales. Some light on what the five men in Santa Cruz were doing, comes from a video interview that the controversial world revolutionary and veteran from the Yugoslav civil war on the Croatian side, Eduardo Rozsa Flores gave to the journalist Andras Kepes before the former's departure to Bolivia in September 2008. This video interview has been broadcasted by the Hungarian satellite channel

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Danube television. Rozsa Flores claims in this interview that he will travel to Bolivia to support the autonomy of Santa Cruz, even if necessary organize its armed defence. The video does not provide of a cue of Rozsa Flores being hired by anyone in Bolivia, the other men who stayed with him in the hotel are not mentioned in the interview. Piquant detail is that Rozsa Flores who considered himself a follower of Che Guavara foresees his dead in the interview being killed as his great inspirator in Bolivia. It must be admitted the photographs of Rozsa Flores, the victim and those of Che Guevara are indeed strikingly similar.

It appears that Morales was wrong and that the men in the hotel have simply been killed. Morales has already indicated that he is not interested in an international fact-finding mission finding out what happened in the early morning of April 16 in Santa Cruz. The president is surprised that the international public opinion does not believe his version in advance. There is no doubt that there is every reason for the European Union to search for the truth in this matter. Firstly, the five men were EU-citizens or citizens of the EU-candidate country Croatia. Furthermore, president Morales who is suffering clearly from paranoia has still a lot of sympathisers in the EU. Hence, an independent investigation by the EU cannot be refuted by him throwing the results of such investigation in the dustbin as part of an "international conspiracy" against his regime in Bolivia. Finally, Europe supports the regime of Morales with grants and development funds. Countries like Bolivia will have to respect international law and human rights, otherwise they should not be granted any European financial aid in the future.

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