



Európai Bizottság Magyar Emberi Jogok.

**STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE HUNGARIAN HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRAL EUROPA  
FOUNDATION AMSTERDAM ON THE CASE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF EUROPEAN  
CITIZENS IN BOLIVIA**

Amsterdam 2009, April 29

**Facts:**

1. In the early morning of April 16 five men who were staying in a hotel in Santa Cruz were attacked by armed forces of the Bolivian army. These five men had European nationalities: Eduardo Rozsa Flores (Bolivian-Hungarian-Croatian), Mario Tadic (Bolivian-Croatian), Michael Dwyer (Irish), Arpad Magyarosi (Rumanian), Elöd Tóásó (Hungarian-Rumanian).
2. The Bolivian authorities have claimed that there has been a shooting between the Bolivian army and the men in the hotel. From the material released by the Bolivian authorities this claim of the Bolivian authorities is not confirmed yet. It seems more likely that the five men staying in the hotel were captured by gun-fire in their sleep.
3. Three of the five men have been shot and died during the armed attack of the Bolivian army. If (2) is correct, it is however better to speak of an 'execution' for which the Bolivian authorities should be kept fully responsible.
4. The two survivors have been brought into custody, Elöd Tóásó and Mario Tadic. Mr. Tóásó has been tortured after his arrest and the prisoners are kept under inhuman conditions in La Paz State prison. This is contrary to the spirit and practice of European norms and values.
5. The Bolivian authorities have accused the five men of a "conspiracy to overthrow the Bolivian state". So far the Bolivian authorities have not issued a single piece of evidence to support this severe charge. The only piece of "evidence" has been released by the Hungarian state television. This is a video testimony of Eduardo Rozsa Flores about the political situation in Bolivia and his role in this. This video is an interview by Hungarian journalist Andras Kepes. The video has been compiled in secret in the autumn of 2008 before Rozsa Flores travelled to Bolivia.
6. It is a fact that Rozsa Flores comes from a family with strong communist ties. It is a fact that Rozsa Flores has been an active collaborator of the Hungarian communist secret service and has been trained in the Soviet Union. As a secret agent of the Hungarian communist secret service he has been the mediator between the Kádár-regime and the international communist terrorist Carlos during his hiding in Budapest in the eighties. It is a fact that Rozsa Flores has been military involved in the defence of the Croation-Hungarian village Laslovo (Szent László in Hungarian) during the war in former Yugoslavia.
7. The other four men that stayed in the hotel in Santa Cruz have not been mentioned in the so-called Kepes-Flores video. So this video does not prove anything on the involvement of Dwyer, Magyarosi, Tóásó or Tadic in anti-Bolivian activities

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### Recommendations:

1. The Bolivian authorities have been releasing several times information that could not be proved. If they have done this at purpose, they have committed disinformation. In any case, by doing so the Bolivian authorities have been discredited itself. Hence it is highly urgent that an independent committee of experts should investigate this issue and undertakes a fact-finding mission to Bolivia about what happened precisely on April 16-17 in the hotel in Santa Cruz. It is our recommendation that the **European Parliament** should put this case of severe violation of human rights in Bolivia on its agenda being European citizens involved.
2. Yet no “terrorist conspiracy against the Bolivian state” has been proven. Hence it is premature to adopt the Bolivian position about “terrorist cell, terrorism in order to kill the Bolivian president, terrorism to overthrow the Bolivian state” and comparable phrases. First this has to be proven by the Bolivian authorities which has not happened yet. So far only the Kepes-Flores video exists. But this seems more a one-person-action of Rozsa Flores. We advise the international press to be moderate in quoting the rhetoric of the Bolivian authorities. It might effect the outcome of the upcoming trials. We recommend that the international press follow the style and wordings of the **Irish press** that is reporting objectively in this case.
3. We are worried about a fair trial and the respect of the human rights of the two men imprisoned, Tóásó and Tadic. By releasing such a strong claims on the group of five men the Bolivian authorities have no other choice than to “prove” that they are terrorist, otherwise they must admit to have committed ‘murder’. Bolivian state representatives take the risk of being brought to trial for the International Court in The Hague. Hence there is a lot at stake in the upcoming trials. We recommend that the trails should be monitored by experienced international human rights organization, like **Amnesty International**.
4. The diplomatic protection of Mr. Tóásó is not guaranteed. The national defense committee of the Hungarian parliament chaired by socialist MP Adam Ficsor and supported by all parliamentary parties considers the whole issue only a “consulaire case”. We are in fundamental disagreement with this qualification. Furthermore, neither Hungary, nor Ireland, Rumania or Croatia are accredited diplomatically in Bolivia. Hence, we recommend that Mr. Elöd Tóásó and his lawyer look for **diplomatic protection in a third EU-country**. This is a right of Mr. Tóásó in accordance with the European Union Treaty Law on Citizens’ Rights (Article 20).

Dr. László Marác,

Chairman,

Amsterdam

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