



**Bolivia News, Weeks 26 December 2015 – 8 January 2016**

### **Turkey Seizes 13 Tons of Drugs in International Waters**

Hürriyet, ANKARA, 6 Jan - Turkey has seized at least 13 tons of drugs in powdered form from a Bolivia-registered ship in its first-ever anti-narcotics operation in international waters near Libya's Tobruk Port. The operation, "the Albatros Campaign," was launched after the Counter-Smuggling and Organized Crime Department of the Turkish police received a tip that a Bolivian ship was involved in drug trafficking on international waters.

The department contacted the Turkish Coast Guard Command, which determined the ship's location on Jan. 3 and began pursuing it with a plane and a ship. The vessel was seized in international waters – 55 nautical miles off Tobruk and 322 miles off of Turkey – late on Jan. 5, with security forces recovering 13 tons of marijuana from it [...] Read more:

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-seizes-13-tons-of-drugs-in-first-narcotics-raid-in-international-waters.aspx?PageID=238&NID=93472&NewsCatID=359>

### **Bolivia to Fight at UN to Decriminalize Coca**

StopTheDrugWar.org, 4 Jan - [...] President Evo Morales said last Friday that he will campaign for the United Nations to decriminalize the coca trade. Bolivia has already secured a finding from the UN that chewing coca leaf is not illicit, but wants to be able to export coca and coca products. "This is the second battle that must be waged. We are ready," he told a gathering of coca traders in Yacuiba, a village on the border with Argentina [...] Read more:

[http://stopthedrugwar.org/chronicle/2016/jan/04/chronicle\\_am\\_bolivia\\_fight\\_un\\_de](http://stopthedrugwar.org/chronicle/2016/jan/04/chronicle_am_bolivia_fight_un_de)

### **Leftists Are Wobbling in South America. Here's Why Bolivia's Evo Morales May Be the Last Socialist Standing.**

Nick Miroff

The Washington Post, 7 Jan - Voters in Bolivia next month will consider a constitutional change that would allow President Evo Morales to run for a fourth term in 2019 when his current one expires. The referendum comes at a time when voters across South America have been turning against the leftist incumbents who came to power in South America during the so-called "pink tide" of the past decade or so [...] Only Bolivia's Morales is a little different from the other socialists who have been getting swept out by the tide [...] Read more:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2016/01/07/leftists-are-wobbling-in-south-america-heres-why-bolivias-evo-morales-may-be-the-last-socialist-standing/>

### **Explainer: Presidential Reelection in Ecuador and Bolivia**

Holly K. Sonneland

AS-COA, 4 Jan - There's reason to believe Ecuador and Bolivia will not say goodbye to the pink tide. Correa and Morales remain two of Latin America's—and the world's—most popular heads of state. In November, voters unseated kirchnerismo in Argentina with the

election of President Mauricio Macri. The next month, Venezuelan electors dealt chavismo a blow by handing the opposition coalition a supermajority in the legislature [...] but there's reason to believe Quito and La Paz will not be swept up in the same political currents. Both countries' legislatures passed measures this year that will open the door for extended presidential reelection, with some caveats, and both presidents remain extremely popular, with little concerted opposition to challenge them [...] Read more:

<http://www.as-coa.org/articles/explainer-presidential-reelection-ecuador-and-bolivia>

### **Bolivian Opposition Accuses Morales' Gov't of 'Eternal Power' Pursuit**

Mikhail Fomichev

LA PAZ (Sputnik) 6 Jan — On February 21, Bolivia is scheduled to hold a constitutional referendum, as Morales is planning to amend the country's constitution and abolish the limit on presidential terms in order to run for the fourth term during the 2019 presidential elections. "The government wants the eternal power, but [does] not want to respond to the challenges of corruption, fraudulent management, drug trafficking and many other problems it has," Jorge Quiroga, who was the Bolivian president in 2001-2002, told reporters on Tuesday [...] Read more:

<http://sputniknews.com/latam/20160106/1032731986/bolivia-opposition-government.html#ixzz3wfeHhpAA>

### **Morales: Bolivian Media Was Paid to Back Neoliberalism**

TeleSur, 4 Jan - Morales blamed the media for the privatization and capitalization that took place in the country's neoliberal era in an interview on the Direct Democracy show [...] Morales blamed the media for the privatization and capitalization that took place in the country's neoliberal era in an interview on the "Direct Democracy" show on Bolivia TV. "I was remembering how the media was a great defender, of course the owners were private, and according to information they were paid with funds reserved for those media outlets to defend that economic model. And they are responsible, some with security around the theme of privatization, around the theme of capitalization, and that Bolivia lost so much," the president said [...] Read more:

<http://www.telesur.tv/english/news/Morales-Bolivian-Media-Paid-to-Back-Neoliberalism-20160104-0001.html>

### **Bolivia Could Cut Gas Deliveries to Argentina**

Kallashenergy, 29 Dec - Bolivia's Economy Minister, Luis Arce, reportedly said last week natural gas deliveries from the state-oil company, YPF, to Argentina could be stopped if payment of roughly \$300 million isn't received, Kallanish Energy understands. "We are waiting for the payments so we don't have to close the valves," the minister said, noting the amount owed corresponds to two months in arrears, which is within the tolerance period in the contract signed with Argentina's state-owned energy company, Enarsa. However, if Argentina goes a third month without making payment, Arce said "firmer measures would have to be taken" [...] Read more:

<https://www.kallanishenergy.com/2015/12/29/bolivia-could-cut/>

### **Argentina to Pay Off \$202M Gas Debt to Bolivia**

Latin One, 7 Jan - Argentina is set to pay off their gas debt to Bolivia in the first three months of the year. According to Fox News, their debt has fallen to \$202 million, and Guillermo Acha, CEO of the state-owned oil company YPF, has confirmed that "Enarsa (state-owned oil company Energia Argentina) will be honoring its debt by March, the \$202 million left as the balance." Argentina made a deposit on Tuesday to complete their payment of \$100 million,

allowing the \$300 million debt calculated in December to be reduced by a third [...] Read more:

<http://www.latinone.com/articles/30305/20160107/argentina-pay-202m-gas-debt-bolivia%C2%A0.htm>

### **Daughter of Che Guevara's Capturer Becomes 1st Female Head of Bolivian Armed Forces**

Published December 31, 2015EFE

Fox News, (EF), 31 Dec - Gen. Gina Reque Terán was sworn in on Wednesday as head of the Bolivian armed forces general staff, becoming the first woman to hold that post. President Evo Morales administered the oath to Reque Terán and the new military chief, Gen. Juan Duran Flores, at a ceremony at the Government Palace, as is done every year in December [...] Read more:

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/politics/2015/12/30/woman-leads-bolivia-general-staff/>

### **Bolivia Plans to Halve Extreme Poverty by 2020**

TeleSur, 29 Dec - President Morales' new development plan will invest in higher education and building homes. Extreme poverty in Bolivia is expected to drop to 9.5 percent by 2020, President Evo Morales announced Tuesday [...] The drop would represent a 54 percent decrease from the current extreme poverty rate of 21 percent, which itself is a significant decline from the 38 percent poverty rate in 2005, before Morales was elected [...] Read more:

<http://www.telesur.tv/english/news/Bolivia-Plans-to-Halve-Extreme-Poverty-by-2020-20151229-0033.html>

### **Bolivia Better Prepared to Cope With World Economic Crisis Impact**

La Paz, Dec 29 (Prensa Latina) Bolivia is today much better prepared to face in 2016 the effects of world economic crisis due to the support of productive projects which will consolidate the country as the most prosperous economy in the region, asserted a government authority. According to the Minister of Economy and Finance, Luis Arce, Bolivia [...] will again show the highest economic growth of Latin America and the Caribbean, as its Gross Domestic Product is expected to grow by 5.1 percent [...] Read more:

[http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=4474151&Itemid=1](http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4474151&Itemid=1)

### **Bolivia to Ensure Communication to the Entire Population in 2025**

La Paz, Dec 28 (Prensa Latina) Bolivia is able to guarantee telecommunications services to the entire population in 2025, said the chairman of the National Telecommunications Company (Entel), José Kinn. That state company, leader of telecommunications in the country, will comply with the objectives of the Agenda 2025 to provide services to 100 percent of the Bolivian population [...] In an interview with the media, he said the company situation diametrically changed after the nationalization in May 2008, generating profits and contrary to what happened with the company when it was in private hands, now they do not leave the country [...] Read more:

[http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=4469011&Itemid=1](http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4469011&Itemid=1)

### **Evo Morales: Bolivia to Become Energy Center of South America**

La Paz, Dec 28 (Prensa Latina) Bolivian President Evo Morales ratified today the commitment to make his country the energy center of the region and advocated to eliminate power cuts in the southern department of Tarija. "We are prepared to export energy. With the signing of this contract for a study and final design, together with other projects under study, we are convinced that Bolivia will be the energy center of South America", stressed Morales during the signing of an agreement between the Ministry of Hydrocarbons and the Spanish company Enactiv [...] Read more:

[http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=4470391&Itemid=1](http://www.plenglish.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4470391&Itemid=1)

### **El Nino Flooding Kills at Least 8 in Bolivia**

MOSCOW (Sputnik) 30 Dec – "Since November we have a total of eight deaths (due to El Nino)," Bolivia's Deputy Minister of Civil Defense Oscar Cabrera said as quoted by La Prensa on Tuesday. The El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is a cycle of warm and cold temperatures of the tropical central and eastern Pacific Ocean [...] Read more:

<http://sputniknews.com/environment/20151230/1032474631/bolivia-elnino-flooding-kills.html#ixzz3wf5tKzsk>

### **Bolivia Encourages Science and Technology Innovation**

TeleSur, 7 Jan - A total of 50 Bolivians dedicated to science research take part in an encounter aimed at promoting scientific development in the Andean nation. The government of Bolivian President Evo Morales emphasized its commitment to science and technology on Thursday opening in the city of Cochabamba, the first summit of Bolivian scientists residing abroad. A total of 50 Bolivians dedicated to science took part in this encounter aimed at promoting scientific development in the Andean nation. All of them have agreed that the government should increase its investment in this field [...] Read more:

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Bolivia-Encourages-Science-and-Technology-Innovation-20160107-0020.html>

### **Pair Rescued from Lynch Mob in Bolivia**

Published December 28, 2015EFE

Fox News, (EFE), 28 Dec- Bolivian police rescued a pair of accused robbers from an enraged mob in the central part of the Chapare region before local residents could burn them alive [...] Police were alerted to the lynching by telephone and managed to arrive on the scene in time to prevent the deaths of the two thieves, who had been tied to a post [...]

Lynchings in Bolivia often occur and a de facto death penalty carried out by mobs often prevails, particularly in rural or indigenous parts of the country. The mobs always claim that they are applying community justice reserved for the country's Indian population, as recognized in the 2009 Constitution, although the charter does not allow for capital - or even physical forms of - punishment [...] Read more:

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2015/12/28/pair-rescued-from-lynch-mob-in-bolivia/>

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