

Brazilian president to commemorate 1964 fascist military coup



Brasilia, March 27 (RHC)-- Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has given the Ministry of Defense a green light to carry out the "due commemorations" of the 55th anniversary of the country's 1964 military coup on March 31st. According to the spokesman of the presidency, General Otavio Rego Barros: "Our president has already determined that the Ministry of Defense will hold commemorations in relation to March 31, 1964, including an order of the day."

The military general did not specify what kind of commemorations would be held, but said that commanders can hold events they "consider within their respective military units." Sources from the Ministry of Defense told EFE that it is a way to remember the date from a historical point of view.

In 1964, Brazilian President Joao Goulart was overthrown by the military, which imposed a fascist dictatorship that lasted two decades until 1985, when Tancredo Neves was elected as the first civilian president in a vote carried out by Congress.

However, Barros stressed that the Brazilian president does not consider the 1964 episode as a military coup, but instead thinks that "the society, perceiving the danger that the country was living in at that time, joined civilians and the military" to "recover and reunite" Brazil. The president's spokesman said: "If all that had not happened, today we would be having some kind of government here that would not be good for anyone."

Throughout his political career, Bolsonaro has proved to be nostalgic for the military dictatorship. During the impeachment trial that removed Dilma Rousseff of power, then-congressman Bolsonaro dedicated his vote to Colonel Carlos Alberto Brilhante, one of the chiefs of the repressive network from the former dictatorship.

Brazilians took to social media following the news calling out Bolsonaro for "celebrating" the military dictatorship and its coup using the hashtag #DitaduraNuncaMais (No More Dictatorship). "Hey world! While different countries around the world are ashamed of their authoritarian past, the president of Brazil, @jairbolsonaro chooses to celebrate the military dictatorship's anniversary. (+) #DitaduraNuncaMais," a Brazilian said in a tweet using the hashtag.

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