

# *Bolivia and Chile deny Argentinian president's administration statements on Hezbollah in the region*

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La Paz, April 17 (RHC)-- The governments of Bolivia and Chile denied and rejected on Tuesday the statements made by the Minister of Security of Argentina, Patricia Bullrich, about the alleged existence of "combatant forces of the armed branches of Iran" in Bolivian territory and the presence of Hezbollah in northern Chile.

In a statement, the Bolivian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed that due to this situation they will summon the diplomatic representation of Argentina to request an explanation.

The Bolivian Foreign Ministry described Bullrich's statements as "wrong and unconscionable". In addition, they referred to the alleged fact that they are investigating, in which Bullrich stated that "Argentina would be at the highest level of security" due to the presence of individuals who "do not speak Spanish and have Bolivian passports".

"We deny and emphatically reject that Bolivia protects in its borders people who sow terror, insecurity and anxiety. These accusations lack evidence or documentation and are made without any basis whatsoever", clarified the Bolivian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The government and the Plurinational State of Bolivia condemned "with concern" a campaign aimed at generating confrontations between Latin American states, governments and peoples. It was affirmed that these actions go against the objectives established in the Celac to consolidate Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace.

Likewise, Bolivia's commitment as a pacifist State was reaffirmed, both in its Political Constitution and in its foreign policy. The promotion of the Culture of Life, dialogue, respect and peace in multilateral forums and bilateral meetings was highlighted.

In view of the accusations, the Bolivian Foreign Ministry announced that it will officially summon the diplomatic representation of Argentina in the coming hours to request explanations on the statements made by Minister Bullrich.

A deep respect and appreciation for the Argentine people was expressed, and the same treatment towards the historical friendship between both countries was demanded.

Likewise, Latin American countries were called upon not to succumb to these provocations that seek to affect the brotherly relations between States and peoples with shared roots and a collective destiny for the sake of the Living Well of their citizens. The commitment to peace, friendship and regional integration was reiterated.

The Chilean president, Gabriel Boric, announced by his party that he will send a note to the Argentine government to protest the statements made by the Minister of Security of that country, Patricia Bullrich, on the alleged presence of Hezbollah in northern Chile.

"We are going to send a note of protest also through the Foreign Ministry (...) I demand respect for our country", said the president in an interview with the local radio station María Reina.

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