

Another Student Killed: Protests in Bolivia

Dr. Thanatos of Ann Arbor

For the New Moon (01.18.07 C.E.)

Cristian Urresty a student leader for the group “Youths for Democracy” was killed last Thursday (01.11.07) in a protest against the right-wing city government in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Following a nonviolent protest (including the use of stencil art) calling for the resignation of mayor/governor Manfred Reyes Vila who had distanced the city from federal control, the students along with other groups gained control of several city “squares”. They were, however, being monitored (and thus to some extent protected) by federal police as they organized and held peace vigils.

Armed groups loyal to the mayor broke through the police barricade on Thursday and clashed with both the police and the protestors. During the ensuing melee which was incited by the use of tear gas, 115 people were injured and 2 were killed including Cristian who was beaten to death. Manfred had escaped earlier in the same day and is establishing a separatist government by uniting with the mayors of Benji, Tarija, Santa Cruz, and La Paz. Bolivian president Evo Morales is calling for calm and is desperately trying to establish a dialog between the resulting factions as the unrest grows. Nonetheless, the students and other protestors remain in the city squares and continue to hold vigils.

More data about these events are available at indymedia.org and selvas.org. We, The Frequency Mutineers, will also be providing additional information as it becomes available, and we’re dedicating this week’s Turntablism to the memory of Cristian who was only 17 years old.