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Evo Morales says OAS is a tool of the U.S. empire

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Bolivia's President Evo Morales denounced Wednesday the Organization of American States for being at the service of the United States and contributing to his country's political crisis.

"The OAS is not at the service of the Latin American peoples and even less of its social movements. It is at the service of the U.S. empire," Morales said from Mexico City, where he is currently residing as a political refugee after being forced to resign on Sunday.

Meanwhile, due to massive demonstrations that have paralyzed La Paz, the Bolivian Parliament could not meet to formally process the resignation of Evo Morales, who is still the country's president.

Right-wing opposition politicians, however, summoned themselves to a meeting in the former Mining Bank at the Murillo Square, where only people who support the coup were allowed to enter.

In an absolutely notorious and public way, the Police gathered around the private building to prevent the entry of the Movement Towards Socialism (MAS) Senator and First President of the Senate Adriana Salvatierra, who under the Constitution is next in presidential succession line after Morales and ousted Vice President Alvaro Garcia Linera.

On Wednesday, Salvatierra said she is willing to install the parliamentary session and assume the presidency of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Thousands of Bolivians are demonstrating in rejection of the coup against President Morales, which was orchestrated by opposition leaders Luis Fernando Camacho and Carlos Mesa. "We are not afraid! We are not afraid!" the Bolivian farmers and workers shouted as Air Force planes flew menacingly over their massive demonstration in downtown La Paz.

To prevent further violations of the Bolivian constitution, progressive social movements have been demanding that the Legislature not be installed in session to consummate the coup d'etat. Parliament suspended the session Tuesday as there was no quorum, but Senator Jeanine Añez, proclaimed herself as "Interim President."

Edited by Ed Newman

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