



Bolivians told no anti-flu masks to avoid bank heists 玻利維亞銀行防搶 禁止顧客戴口罩進入

Bolivian bank robbers are being **aided and abetted** by an unusual accomplice — the swine flu virus. Now Bolivian banks have banned customers from wearing masks on their premises, in a bid to **curb** an epidemic of robberies by people taking advantage of A(H1N1) fears to hide their faces.

"We have decided that only staff can wear masks, while clients can no longer enter with masks," Hoggier Hurtado, president of the federation of savings banks in the central city of Santa Cruz, told *El Dia* newspaper.

The decision came after a bank **heist** in broad daylight at the Family Cooperative by five people wearing masks commonly used in Bolivia to protect against the A(H1N1) virus.

Santa Cruz police have backed the decision and police chief Johnny Vargas said thieves are taking advantage of the precautionary measures **advocated** by health authorities against the pandemic to commit their crimes.

"Unfortunately, there are many people who commit crimes by using masks, which prevents us from identifying their faces

despite the security cameras," Vargas said.

Santa Cruz, located in the wealthiest region of the South American country, is the epicenter of the A(H1N1) outbreak in Bolivia, accounting for 70 percent of the 1,500 confirmed cases of infection. (AFP)

玻利維亞銀行劫匪現在多了一個不尋常的共犯——新流感病毒。民眾擔心感染新流感（H1N1）而戴上口罩，現在玻利維亞銀行為了防止搶匪趁機把臉遮住犯案，禁止客戶戴口罩進入銀行。

「我們已決定只有行員可以戴口罩，客戶則不得戴口罩進入銀行。」中部大城聖克魯斯的儲蓄銀行聯合會主席哈吉爾·賀爾塔多對《日報》表示。

這項決定起因於之前一起銀行搶案，五名搶匪在光天化日之下，戴著玻利維亞民眾一般用來預防新流感的口罩，搶劫了「家庭合作社」。

聖克魯斯警方對這項決定表示支持，警察局長強尼·瓦葛斯說，衛生部門為預防疫情擴大而倡導的預防措施，竟被盜賊利用來犯

案。

瓦葛斯說：「很遺憾地，有許多人利用戴口罩犯案，即使透過監視器畫面，警方也難以辨認其身份。」

位於南美洲玻利維亞最富裕地區的聖克魯斯，是新流感群聚感染爆發之所在，該市的感染人數就佔了玻國一千五百例確診病例的七成。

(法新社/翻譯：袁星慶)

Top left: Police officers control an access point to the Bolivian Parliament, which has prohibited the entrance of people without a face mask in order to avoid contagion by the A(H1N1) virus, in La Paz on July 7, 2009.

PHOTO: AFP

Top right: Residents wear masks as a preventive measure against A(H1N1) flu in Montero, Bolivia on June 17, 2009.

PHOTO: EPA

左上：七月七日，玻利維亞員警在拉帕茲的國會出入口實施管制：玻國國會禁止未戴口罩人士進出，以防止新流感擴散。

照片：法新社

右上：六月十七日，玻利維亞蒙特羅市的居民戴口罩預防新流感。

照片：歐新社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **curb** /kɜːb/ v.

抑制 (yì4 zhì4)

例：The CEO has ordered all departments to curb their spending until further notice.

(總裁下令各部門在接獲進一步通知前要先節流。)

2. **heist** /haɪst/ n.

搶劫 (qiāng3 jié2)

例：A gang made off with \$1.5 million in a heist at a bank earlier today.

(今天稍早，某幫派從銀行搶走了一百五十萬元。)

3. **advocate** /ˈædvəˌket/ v.

提倡 (tí2 chāng4)

例：Several lawmakers advocate mandatory crash helmets for children on scooters.

(數名國會議員提倡強制兒童搭乘機車配戴安全帽。)

IDIOM POINT 重要片語

aid and abet 共犯、同謀

If you **aid and abet** someone, you act as an accomplice to a crime. "Abet" means to encourage or urge, but it is seldom heard outside of this expression.

Example: "The police didn't have enough evidence to charge him with fraud, but he was convicted of **aiding and abetting**."

若說你「aid and abet」某人，就表示你是共犯。「abet」的意思是慫恿或力勸，但除了這個用法外，一般很少會使用到這個字。

例如：「警方沒有足夠的證據以欺詐罪起訴他，但他被判同謀罪。」