



# THE CITIZENRY UNITED FOR JUSTICE LA CIUDADANÍA UNIDA PARA JUSTICIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## STATEMENT REGARDING LEAKED DOCS SHOWING GRAVE POLITICAL PERSECUTION IN ECUADOR

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April 7, 2020 / Press Release

### STATEMENT

Documents released by "Justicia Amarrada" (<http://justiciaamarrada.org>), regarding the "Sobornos Case" against former President Rafael Correa and his former Government are a startling wake-up call as to how the Ecuadorian justice system is used to drum out lengthy prison sentences for political opponents of the Government of President Lenin Moreno and Vice President Otto Sonnenholzner.

With bodies literally lining the streets of the nation's largest city due to Coronavirus, the Ecuadorian Government has prioritized substantial resources to prosecuting their political opponents rather than assisting the Ecuadorian people.

#### *What the documents show*

1. The documents show that during the Sobornos Case's trial (for which sentencing is expected today) against President Correa, et al, Chief Judge Ivan Leon *and* Martha Caiza of the Prosecutor's Office collaborated closely on how the guilty verdict against Correa, et al. would be formulated. The collusion between a supposedly neutral judge with a prosecutor on how the Court would rule, before even hearing the entire case, is staggering and demonstrates that from the start the case was nothing more than a show trial with a predetermined outcome.
2. The ongoing conflict of interest between Judge Leon and Prosecutor's Office Ms. Caiza having a child together, something that Prosecutor General Diana Salazar was aware of when she appointed Ms. Caiza to work this case, yet assisted in keeping from public knowledge, is grave: Conflict of interest is a form of corruption.
3. The emails sent between Ms. Caiza and Judge Leon show the lack of seriousness with which they treated this case - including laughing (i.e. text "haha") at how they should hand down the jail sentences.
4. The criminal conspiracy between the Judge and Prosecutor's Office is an absolute breach of the international norms of jurisprudence. What kind of justice

can be expected when there is no wall between the Prosecution and the neutral Judge (and in fact they *literally* share a child together)? The fact that they do this with the consent and support of Pres. Moreno-appointed Prosecutor General Diana Salazar, is simply astounding.

*Result*

1. Our organization calls on the international community to immediately condemn the farce of justice in Ecuador.
2. For the international press who wrote so much about the morbid scenes of Guayaquil with bodies stacking-up, here you have you answer as to "Why?": Because the Ecuadorian Government is more interested in politically persecuting its opponents than it is in protecting its citizens or burying the deceased. In fact, due to Corona all of Ecuador's more than 2,000 criminal cases were put on hold – with the *singular* exception of this case – it highlights the priorities of this Government during Corona.
3. We condemn the predetermined outcome of today's trial against former President Rafael Correa, current political prisoner and former VP Jorge Glas, and the wide range of other former leaders of the Government who are on trial.
4. We ask international health and human rights organizations to note that why Ecuador is collapsing today: Our Government is more interested in pursuing its political ambitions than in assisting our dying citizenry.
5. Please help us in any way you can to save our citizenry dying from Coronavirus on one hand and facing a kangaroo courts on the other. Ecuador desperately needs your help.

*THE CITIZENRY UNITED FOR JUSTICE*

*See also:*

Brito, Christopher "Bodies pile up on streets in Ecuador as Coronavirus spreads," CBS News, April 2, 2020 / <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ecuador-bodies-streets-guayaquil-coronavirus-covid-19>

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