Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 6, 2026

Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20528

Secretary Rubio:

We write to express our profound concern regarding surging authoritarianism in Ecuador, a country with which the Trump Administration is forging ever-closer military ties with little effort to ensure that our partnership upholds our democratic values and our commitment to human rights. Under President Daniel Noboa, Ecuador has seen the repression of opposition actors across the political spectrum, attacks on judicial independence, and restrictions on the freedom of the press. The recent arrest of former presidential candidate Luisa González marks the latest brazen step in Ecuador's descent into *de facto* one-party rule by President Noboa and his allies. We urge you to immediately suspend all U.S. security assistance and military cooperation with the Noboa administration until democracy and the rule of law are fully restored, and the persecution of González and other opposition figures and parties cease. Should you fail to act, Congress will use the tools at its disposal to compel a change in policy.

Luisa González is a leader of Revolución Ciudadana (RC), the largest opposition party in Ecuador. As a two-time presidential candidate — who advanced to a run-off against now-president Daniel Noboa in both 2023 and 2025 — she is one of the most prominent figures of Ecuador's democratic opposition. On October 22, González was arrested as part of an investigation into alleged financial irregularities during her 2023 presidential campaign, in what appears to be a politically motivated attack on a prominent political opponent.[1] Members of González's team have also been detained and arrest warrants have been issued for other party members, including Andrés Arauz, RC's 2021 presidential candidate and González's running mate in 2023. In recent days, the offices of Quito's current mayor, Pabel Muñoz, were raided amid threats of imminent arrest against him by the Minister of the Interior.[2] Guayaquil Mayor Aquiles Álvarez has been imprisoned for months in a facility modeled after El Salvador's CECOT.[3]

[1] Valencia, Alexandra. "Ecuadorean Opposition Leader Gonzalez Arrested over Alleged Irregularities in Campaign Financing." Americas. *Reuters*, October 22, 2026. https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/former-presidential-candidate-gonzalez-arrested-ecuador-2026-10-22/.

[2] *Primicias*. "Fiscalía allana el Municipio de Quito por una investigación por presunto peculado." Quito. October 21, 2026. https://www.primicias.ec/quito/fiscalia-allanamiento-municipio-pabel-munoz-contratos-peculado-135427/; Davila, Diana. "Reimberg amenaza a Pabel Muñoz: En cualquier momento le viene la tumbada de puerta y lo agarran." *Radio Pichincha*, October 23, 2026. https://www.radiopichincha.com/reimberg-advierte-pabel-munoz-tumbada-puerta-agarran/.

[3] Mella, Carolina. "Noboa's Emblematic Jail Hit with Wave of Torture and Death Allegations." International. *EL PAÍS English*, June 15, 2026. https://english.elpais.com/international/2026-06-15/noboas-emblematic-jail-hit-with-wave-of-torture-and-death-allegations.html.

González's arrest is a part of a broader crackdown on Noboa's opposition on both the left and right in the runup to November's elections. The investigation into González is being conducted by the Office of Acting Prosecutor General Carlos Alarcón, a Noboa ally whose appointment's legality has been questioned and who has repeatedly acted to protect Noboa and his allies while aggressively prosecuting officials in multiple opposition parties.[4] Alarcón had authorities raid González's home in January, and later successfully petitioned an electoral judge to suspend the entire party and an allied party from participating in the elections.[5] As reported by CNN, the allegations against González were publicly presented in detail in a social media video by presidential spokesperson José Julio Neira.[6] This raises serious concerns about the separation of powers and judicial independence. Further, the allegations against González have continually changed, and the authorities have presented little evidence to substantiate them.[7]

Ecuador's electoral authorities, who are politically aligned with Noboa, have also moved to shut other opposition parties and candidates out of elections, further indicating a coordinated effort to eliminate political opposition in the country by any means necessary.[8] At Alarcón's request, electoral judges suspended RC and an allied party, Amigo, from participating in local elections earlier this year.[9] In April, authorities also revoked the legal status of the left-wing Unidad Popular Party and the right-wing Construye movement, to which slain presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio belonged.[10] Only Unidad Popular was reinstated, following a lengthy legal battle. In November 2024, an electoral judge

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[4] Pallares, Martin. "El triste papel del fiscal Carlos Alarcón cuyo trabajo no se nota." Ecuador. *Diario Expreso*, January 16, 2026. https://www.expreso.ec/actualidad/el-triste-papel-del-fiscal-carlos-alarcon-cuyo-trabajo-no-se-nota-271343.html; *Redacción*. "¿Es legal la designación de Carlos Alarcón como fiscal general subrogante?" Radio Pichincha, October 5, 2025. https://www.radiopichincha.com/legal-designacion-carlos-alarcon-fiscal-general-subrogante/; *El Universo*. "Designación de Carlos Alarcón Como Fiscal General Subrogante Suma Otra Demanda de Inconstitucionalidad; La UNE Pide Se Deje Sin Efecto La Decisión Tomada Por La Judicatura."https://www.eluniverso.com/noticias/politica/designacion-carlos-alarcon-fiscal-general-subrogante-suma-demanda-inconstitucionalidad-une-pide-deje-sin-efecto-decision-tomada-judicatura-nota/; *Primicias*. "Carlos Alarcón debutó como fiscal general subrogante con el pedido de archivo de una investigación contra el presidente Noboa, su esposa y minera en Loma Larga." October 16, 2025. https://www.primicias.ec/politica/carlos-alarcon-fiscal-subrogante-pedido-archivo-denuncia-daniel-noboa-lavinia-valbonesi-107411/; Terán, Verónica. "¿Quién es Carlos Alarcón, fiscal general subrogante?" *GK*, January 20, 2026. https://gk.city/2026/01/20/quien-es-carlos-alarcon/; *RFI*. "Ecuador Vice President Says Noboa Seeking Her 'Banishment.'" December 24, 2024. https://www.rfi.fr/en/international-news/20241224-ecuador-vice-president-says-noboa-seeking-her-banishment

[5] *Reuters*. "Ecuador Raids Leftist Politicians' Homes over Alleged Venezuela Campaign Funds." Americas. January 28, 2026. https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/ecuador-raids-leftist-politicians-homes-over-alleged-venezuela-campaign-funds-2026-01-28/; International IDEA. "Ecuador - March 2026 | The Global State of Democracy." https://www.idea.int/democracytracker/report/ecuador/march-2026.

[6] *CNN*. "El Gobierno de Ecuador Niega Que El Caso Contra Luisa González Sea Persecución Política." https://cnnespanol.cnn.com/2026/10/28/latinoamerica/video/luisa-gonzalez-laberinto-ecuador-entrevista-jose-julio-neira-conclusiones-tv; José Julio Neira [@JoseJulioNeira]. "Luisa ha sido detenida por financiar su campaña." Tweet. Twitter, October 23, 2026. https://x.com/JoseJulioNeira/status/2113604434810810433.

[7] Goodman, Blair. "Ecuador's Opposition, Prosecuted Off the Ballot." *North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA)*, October 28, 2026. https://nacla.org/ecuadors-opposition-prosecuted-off-the-ballot/.

[8] Ibid.

[9] Rivadeneira, Gladys. "TCE suspende a la Revolución Ciudadana de forma tempora." *El Comercio,* March 6, 20206. https://www.elcomercio.com/actualidad/tce-suspende-revolucion-ciudadana-de-forma-temporal/; *DW*. "Tribunal de Ecuador suspende al partido correísta Amigo." July 18, 2026. *https://www.dw.com/es/tribunal-de-ecuador-suspende-al-partido-corre%C3%ADsta-amigo/a-78015348*.

[10] The Dialogue. "What's Behind the Dissolution of Two Ecuadorean Parties?" May 22, 2026. *https://thedialogue.org/analysis/whats-behind-the-dissolution-of-two-ecuadorean-parties*.

disqualified Jan Topic, a key conservative rival of President Noboa who had run in a previous presidential election, from the 2025 presidential race.[11]

We have numerous other concerns regarding the Noboa government's overt attacks on democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in Ecuador. The country's courts have faced intense government pressure undermining their independence; systematic attacks on press freedoms; a prolonged "state of emergency" of over two years under which the president has claimed extraordinary powers and restricted civil liberties; and the proliferation of human rights abuses by security forces, including torture, extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, arbitrary arrests, and sexual abuse in women's prisons.[12]

Despite the steady erosion of democracy and the rule of law in Ecuador, the Trump Administration has failed to hold the Noboa government accountable and has instead cultivated an increasingly close and collaborative bilateral security relationship with the illegal use of military force and an overly militarized response to the country's security crisis under the banner of the so-called "war on narcoterror." Among other things, your Administration has provided Ecuador with tens of millions of dollars' worth of military equipment and training; carried out joint military operations, which included an incident earlier this year in which a civilian farm was bombed and its staff detained and tortured; and carried out, in cooperation with Ecuadorian authorities, aerial strikes of boats in the Eastern Pacific which amount to illegal, extrajudicial killings.[13] President Trump has also praised President Noboa as a

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[11] Kueffner, Stephan. "Ecuador's Noboa Sweeps His Vice President Aside in Electoral Dispute." *Bloomberg*. November 11, 2024. https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-11-11/ecuador-election-daniel-noboa-sweeps-his-vice-president-aside-in-dispute?embedded-checkout=true.

[12] *Executive Retaliation Against Ecuador's Constitutional Court: The Rule of Law Under Siege*. NYU School of Law, https://www.law.nyu.edu/rule-law-lab/ecuador-constitutional-court; Inter American Press Association. "The revocation of the visa of Cuban journalist in Ecuador concerns IAPA." https://en.sipiapa.org/notas/1216592-the-revocation-of-the-visa-of-cuban-journalist-in-ecuador-concerns-iapa; Mella, Carolina. "La prensa se apaga en el Ecuador de Noboa." América. *El País América*, October 10, 2026. https://elpais.com/america/2026-10-10/la-prensa-se-apaga-en-el-ecuador-de-noboa.html; Mella, Carolina. "Ecuador's New Normal: A Country in a State of Emergency." International. *EL PAÍS English*, May 17, 2026. https://english.elpais.com/international/2026-05-17/ecuadors-new-normal-a-country-in-a-state-of-emergency.html; Mella, Carolina. "Noboa's Emblematic Jail Hit with Wave of Torture and Death Allegations." International. *EL PAÍS English*, June 15, 2026. https://english.elpais.com/international/2026-06-15/noboas-emblematic-jail-hit-with-wave-of-torture-and-death-allegations.html; Valencia, Alexandra, Oliver Griffin, and Oliver Griffin. "Ecuador Investigates Eight Reported Extrajudicial Killings during State of Emergency." Americas. *Reuters*, May 22, 2024. https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/ecuador-investigates-eight-reported-extrajudicial-killings-during-state-2024-05-22/; Amnesty International, *Ecuador: It Was the Military. I Saw Them: Enforced Disappearances in Ecuador at the Hands of the Armed Forces*. 2025. https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr28/0258/2025/en/; International Federation for Human Rights. "Ecuador: International Organisations Condemn the Repression of Social Protest and Call on the International Community to Remain Vigilant." https://www.fidh.org/en/region/americas/ecuador/ecuador-international-organisations-condemn-the-repression-of-social; Fernando Bastias Robayo [@NandoBastias]. "Alerta vídeo sensible." X.com, September 20, 2026. https://x.com/NandoBastias/status/2101508047558361322.

[13] Valencia, Alexandra, Julia Symmes Cobb, and Simon Lewis. "Rubio Says He Will Seek $45 Million in Security Funding for Ecuador." Americas. *Reuters*, September 9, 2026. https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/rubio-says-he-will-seek-45-million-security-funding-ecuador-2026-09-09/; US Embassy Ecuador [@USembassyEC]. "Los da la bienvenida al personal de la Fuerza Aérea." X.com, December 17, 2025. https://x.com/USembassyEC/status/2001262223612674546; U.S. Congressman Jesús G. "Chuy" García. "García, Casar, Jacobs and 17 Members of Congress Demand Answers Regarding U.S.-Ecuador Military Operations | Representative Jesus Garcia." May 13, 2026. http://chuygarcia.house.gov/media/press-releases/garcia-casar-jacobs-and-17-members-of-congress-demand-answers-regarding-us-ecuador-military-operations; "Ecuador Defends US Sinking of Vessels as Joint Anti-Drug Operation." *Al Jazeera*, September 5, 2026. https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/9/5/ecuador-defends-us-sinking-of-vessels-as-joint-anti-drug-operation; United Nations OHCHR. "United States: UN Experts Demand End to

"great leader."[14] During your official visit to Ecuador in September, you described Noboa as "doing an incredible job," and said, "The progress we've made on this relationship really has no historic precedent, and there's so much more to do."[15] Meanwhile, there is no evidence that the Noboa presidency or its operations with the U.S. government have materially reduced drug trafficking and homicide rates have continued to rise, and Ecuador remains one of the most violent countries in the world.[16]

Given the grave human rights abuses and openly authoritarian actions by the Noboa Administration, we urge the State Department to immediately suspend all U.S. security assistance and cooperation with Ecuador, including joint military operations, until the rule of law and democracy are restored, and to immediately engage with Ecuadorian authorities to end the persecution of González, Arauz, and other political figures facing legal proceedings in the context of the upcoming local elections.

Should your Administration fail to end its complicity in the Noboa government's authoritarian actions, Congress will use the tools at its disposal to compel a change in policy, including blocking arms sales and suspending U.S. security assistance to Ecuador, prohibiting the use of appropriated funds for joint military operations, and investigating U.S. involvement in documented abuses and pursuing accountability.

The United States cannot credibly claim to support democracy and the fight against drug-trafficking and organized crime while at the same time expanding its security relationship with a government that is rapidly tightening its authoritarian grip on power.

Sincerely,

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress

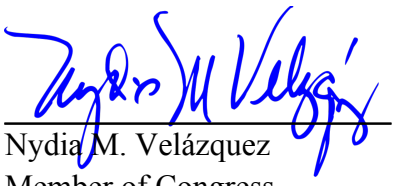
Greg Casar
Member of Congress

Unlawful Killings at Sea, as One-Year Death Toll Hits 223." September 1, 2026. https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/09/united-states-un-experts-demand-end-unlawful-killings-sea-one-year-death.

[14] Cuevas, Carlos. "Trump felicita a Noboa por su triunfo en las elecciones de Ecuador: 'No los defraudará.'" *Bloomberg Línea*, April 14, 2025. https://www.bloomberglinea.com/latinoamerica/ecuador/trump-felicita-a-noboa-por-su-triunfo-en-las-elecciones-de-ecuador-no-los-defraudara/.

[15] Farfán Endara, Carolina. "Marco Rubio es condecorado por Daniel Noboa y promete mayor apoyo de Estados Unidos a Ecuador." *Vistazo,* September 9, 2026 https://www.vistazo.com/politica/2026-09-09-marco-rubio-condecorado-daniel-noboa-apoyo-estados-unidos-ecuador-OD11217081.

[16] Garcia, Yury, and Alexandra Valencia. "As Gang Violence Deepens, Hundreds of Thousands of Ecuadoreans Flee Their Homes." Americas. *Reuters*, September 8, 2026. https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/gang-violence-deepens-hundreds-thousands-ecuadoreans-flee-their-homes-2026-09-08/.



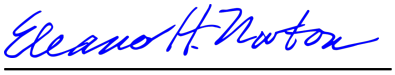
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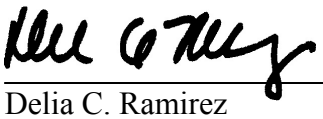
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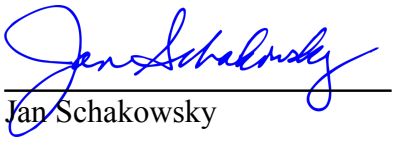
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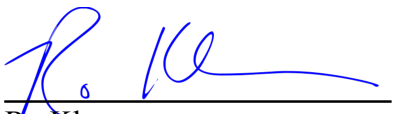
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