

THE CUENCA DISPATCH

Ecuador's Original English-Language Newspaper

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Ecuador faces the consequences of Moreno's economic reform plan

As protests against the government's economic reform plan continue—primarily the removal of gasoline subsidies—the death toll in the country continues to rise.

The office of the Ombudsman of Ecuador confirmed Thursday that another protester, a leader of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities (CONAIE) which was participating in the protests in the Ecuadorian capital, has died of brain trauma. Exactly how he was injured is still unknown.

With his death, the number of protesters who have died during the protests rises to five. Over the weekend a man was hit by a vehicle that supposedly was fleeing from a demonstration in the south of the country, while three others apparently "fell" from a bridge in Quito.



In a televised press conference last night, Ecuadorian Government Minister, María Paula Romo, said that "no person has died in a confrontation with the Police."

Romo also apologized to the country after police fired tear gas near two universities and a cultural center in Quito where safe areas for protesters had been set up. She said police have faced extreme acts of vandalism from some demonstrators and thanked indigenous protesters for marching peacefully.

"They were after a group of protesters but in no way is this admissible. I'm sorry," Romo said. "This is not going to happen again."

However, representatives of CONAIE have made a statement blaming government forces for the deaths of the protesters. In the brief, the indigenous organization said that "with deep pain and outrage" they report that due to the "excessive and brutal repression" on Wednesday "there are partners who lost their lives."

"We are in coordination with various human rights cont. page 8.



NON-PROFIT HIGHLIGHT



Adacapia Autismo is changing lives one child at a time

"As you can see, I've got my hands full." Those were the first words Veronica Peralta, the Founder and Executive Director of Adacapia Autismo said to me when we met to talk about her therapy center. She was referring to her 17-year-old autistic son Tommy. It was a therapy day for him, and he was balking at the idea of getting out of the car.

Tommy has Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), a neurological and developmental condition that begins in childhood and lasts a lifetime. ASD affects how a person behaves, interacts with others, communicates and learns. The disorder includes what was known as Asperger's syndrome and generalized unspecified developmental disorders.

Watching how Veronica handled Tommy's behavior, I got my first glimpse of her strength, and calm and centered approach to what she deals with every day. She used the skills she has learned over the last 15 years to get Tommy to focus on her and do what she was asking, out of his love for her.

This type of scene is repeated every day at Adacapia cont. page 6.

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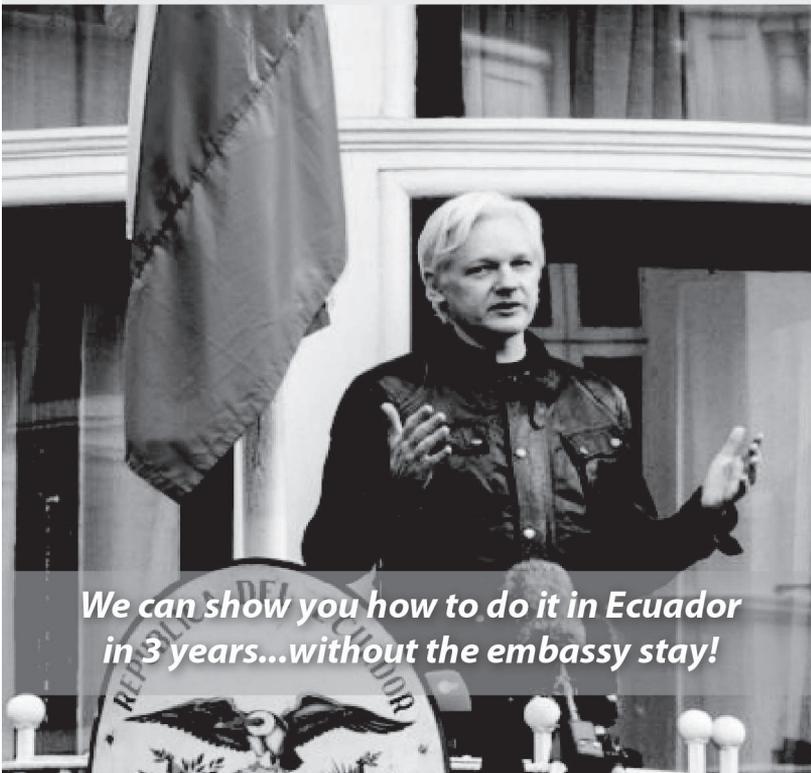
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I'M JUST SAYIN'

By Michael Soares

Revolution is not an adventure

Some of you know my background well enough to know that I have a Masters in English. Like a lot of English majors, I had a fascination with Hemingway. Studying the way he wrote—his simple and direct way of writing without the elaborate prose of many of the writers of his time—had a direct impact on how I write today. His stories were deep, even though they were presented without much flair. The meaning was underneath the simple language.

The other reason I was fascinated with him was simply the life he led. Without going into much about that, I'll say that it generated in me a desire to live that same type of adventurous life. I've done okay with that. I've travelled the world, climbed mountains in foreign lands, loved a beautiful foreign woman, been to bullfights in Spain and drank pisco sours in Key West.

And I've even been to a revolution.

In May of 2010, I was visiting a friend in Thailand when the "Red Shirt" protests against the government started up in Bangkok. At first, I found it all very interesting. There seemed to be equal support for and against what the Red Shirts were protesting about (in simple terms, they wanted to remove the Prime Minister and to dissolve the parliament that was in charge at the time).

Having worked in DC during the Clinton administration, I'd seen my fair share of large protests and was not too worried about where things would lead with this one. I was naive. Because political protests outside of North America have a volatility to them that I clearly underestimated at the time. The Red Shirt protest would teach me a thing or two about that.

On May 3rd, 2010, it looked like an agreement had been reached between the two sides to hold new elections in November 2010. The Red Shirts at first tentatively agreed to it, then added more demands leading the government to cancel all negotiations.

By mid-May, the government had surrounded the protestors with armored vehicles and snipers.

And on May 13th, one of the leaders of the Red Shirts was shot in the head by a sniper's bullet while he was giving an interview to the press. After that, all hell broke loose and the Thai military violently put down the protest. Over the next 6 days, more than 80 civilians (Red Shirts and other Thai citizens) and 6 soldiers had been killed and 2,100 people had been injured. More than 50 other people still remain unaccounted for today.

I was only about a mile from the downtown area where this all occurred. I was "sequestered" in a room in a hotel where I was warned to not go outside—this came from Red Shirt protesters who assumed that being an American, I was on the government's side.

Having seen what I thought was a fairly peaceful demonstration turn into a military crackdown, I began desperately trying to get a flight out of the chaos to return to the US. After several days of waiting, I managed to get on one of the last flights to leave Bangkok before the airport was closed down by pro-government "Yellow Shirt" protestors (the Red Shirt, Yellow Shirt thing is worth reading about. Take a look online to see how it took shape).

When I left, the killing had already started and the area where the Red Shirts were encamped was on fire. I could see the smoke looking out of my airplane window.

I'll tell you that all of this made me better understand what Hemingway wrote in "For Whom the Bell Tolls," his famous novel about the Spanish civil war. And it made me never, ever, want to be in the middle of a potential revolution again in my life.

What is happening today in Ecuador scares me. I've seen what can happen when two sides of politics decide to take it to the streets to protest. I've seen how the craziness can spiral out of control. I've felt the fear of, "Oh my God, am I going to be able to get out of here?"

Am I suggesting that the current situation in Ecuador is going to explode to become as violent and dictatorial as Thailand became in 2010? No.

But that doesn't mean that I'm not worried about where this is going. Because the basic elements are the same. A former ruler, who has essentially been banned from the country, raised up people to protest about moves the current ruler was

making. One could easily see Correa as Thaksin Shinawatra and Moreno as Abhisit Vejjajiva.

Now it seems that protestors are fighting for something that many of them don't even understand. The real story is hidden below the events that are unfolding. So far, one protestor has died. Hopefully, that will be the end of it and somehow the government and the protestors can reach an agreement that all sides can live with. I'm not taking either side—I understand why Moreno feels he needs to do what he is doing. I do, however, think it could have been handled better. But I'm a nobody in all of this. I'm not privy to the truth behind what kind of mess Correa left behind for Moreno. Nor am I aware of what prompted Moreno to make such a hard decision in what appears to be a very quick manner.

The gas subsidies have been going on for over 50 years (contrary to all the news reports saying 40 years) and removing them was a bold move that other Presidents have attempted but failed at. But this is a socialist country and people think they are being taken advantage of by the government. As one of the people we know in the campo asked us, "Why do the people have to make up for the money that the government lost?" It's a good question.

At the same time, Moreno is trying to save the future economy of his country based on what he and his advisors think is the best approach.

Only time will tell how this all comes out. I'm just hoping that these protests don't turn into a revolution. And that things don't get so out of hand that military rule takes over. Or, that the government collapses under it all. I don't want to be witness to a coup.

This isn't a game. It's not "cool" to witness. It's dangerous. It's serious. And it's sad that someone has died already because of it.

I love this country and I want only the best for it. I'm done with needing a front-row seat to chaos.

SUDOKU

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1				5	6			
5	2			3				6
		8						
	6			4			3	
8	4	7		6		5	9	2
	5			7			8	
						4		
4				9			1	8
			7	8				3

Central and South American governments support Moreno and blame Maduro for unrest



Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay and Peru issued a joint statement yesterday in which they expressed "their strong support" to President Lenin Moreno, in the face of the institutional and political crisis that the country is experiencing in the wake of protests against its economic measures.

The Governments of these seven countries also expressed in the statement, disseminated by the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry, their "resounding rejection of any destabilizing attempt of legitimately constituted democratic regimes."

The seven signatory countries of the communiqué supported all of Moreno's actions "to recover peace, institutionality and order, using the instruments granted by the Constitution and the law, as he has been doing."

The seven countries blamed the Venezuelan Government of Nicolás Maduro for trying to "destabilize" the democracies of Ecuador and the region and for trying to "extend the guidelines of their ominous government work."

Extracted from Diario El Tiempo

Correa urges removal of Moreno and says we would be willing to run in new elections



On Wednesday, Ecuadorian ex-president Rafael Correa urged the current president, Lenin Moreno, to call early elections "because of citizen protests against his economic measures." Correa offered to be a candidate, even though he believes he will not be allowed to participate.

"If I need to be a candidate, I will be. I can't run for president because of term limits, (which were illegal and unconstitutional), but from vice president down, I have no problem to participate," he said at a press conference in the European Parliament, to which he was invited by the United Left group.

In his opinion, the Ecuadorian authorities "are going to create those problems, they are going to look for ways to prevent my participation because they know we are defeating them."

The ex-president, who was president of Ecuador between 2007 and 2017 and currently resides in Belgium, said that during the Moreno Government, they have opened "without evidence" more legal cases than "Al Capone, Pinochet and Chapo Guzmán together," and that if he returns to his country he will be jailed. "They will put me in jail first and they will not let me sign up," he lamented.

On a possible electoral participation, he said he was not "sure he would win," although he said he had "confidence in the Ecuadorian people."

Correa, 56, rejected accusations that he is behind indigenous marches and protests against measures such as the elimination of the fuel subsidy, and especially allegations that he had traveled to Venezuela to instigate the protests with the help of Nicolás Maduro.

"They say that right now I am in Venezuela. Just in case, see the reports, that yesterday I was meeting with Maduro, and that he is the one that is financing efforts to destabilize. This is crazy, it's something crazy," he said.

He regretted that the Ecuadorian Government "creates that story, they repeat it, they repeat it, and they believe that the demonstration is in the repetition", while guaranteeing that "it will never be able to present a case, because it is not true."

For Correa, he says of he and the protesters, "what we are asking for is the exit established by the Constitution, a democratic exit." He gave as an example the case of Spain and the motion of censure last year that ended the office of the conservative Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy.

He said that "Ecuador has these mechanisms," which "establish the anticipation of elections in cases of serious social upheaval, which is what we are experiencing, to resolve that conflict in a peaceful and democratic manner."

"That people vote at the polls, [is] how conflicts in democracy should be resolved," he said, adding that "they don't want to do it because they know that the answer is going to be stronger than what they are receiving on the streets, which are going to be razed at the polls."

On the mobilizations, he supports "that people continue to defend their rights firmly, but in peace. Because they look for any excuse for repression." He calimed that there is "brutal repression" in Ecuador, that has already left "dead".

"And why not (the protesters will go out today). They have to take care of themselves, but they are not going to be intimidated" for fear of repression, he said.

Regarding the mediation offered by the UN and the Catholic Church in the crisis, he said he has "distrust" of the specific interlocutors who would be involved because of their proximity to the Government.

Regarding the role of the European Union, Correa regretted that the current Ecuadorian crisis "does not even appear on its agenda" and that all attention in Latin America is monopolized by Venezuela.

He criticized that "double standard" and said that the case in his country is different because "it happens with a right-wing government that persecutes progressive leaders."

Extracted from Diario El Mercurio



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Curfew to be enforced nationwide and covers pedestrian movement as well

On Tuesday afternoon, Ecuador President Lenin Moreno ordered—through Executive Decree 888—the restriction of freedom of transit and mobility throughout the national territory between the hours of 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. from Monday to Sunday. The decree covers areas adjacent to buildings and strategic facilities where the government operates and others as defined by the Joint Command of the Armed Forces, during the state of emergency.



The Minister of Government, María Paula Romo, explained the scope of Decree 888, through which the transfer of the Government headquarters to Guayaquil is formalized, as President Moreno announced on Monday night.

"The Decree also establishes a restriction of movement in the areas determined by the Joint Command of the Armed Forces as strategic for the normal functioning of the nation," she added.

This measure, Romo explained, is established to prevent problems from occurring in the areas surrounding the State buildings such as the National Assembly, National Court, and the Judicial Council, among others.

The Minister indicated that the restriction applies mainly to the cities of Quito and Guayaquil, since they have airports, water supply points, seaports and more facilities necessary to continue the operation of the country.

Nationwide impact

On the other hand, the Minister of Defense, Oswaldo Jarrín, indicated that a broad operation is planned to protect the integrity of the citizens, not only in the strategic sectors but in all the cities of the country.

"These restrictive measures are not exclusively vehicular, also pedestrian and those who violate them will be arrested and sanctioned according to what is established by law," said Jarrín.

The Minister reiterated that the Government has been very flexible, despite the fact that the state of exception is in force and yet people have been tried to attempt damages against refineries and water supply points.

"An assemblyman, a mayor and a prefect led a group of people whose purpose was to cause damage to public properties. This situation is not viable and will be sanctioned for these acts that border on vandalism," he added.

The comptroller of Ecuador, Pablo Celi, also spoke on behalf of the government representatives, who rejected the conspiracy actions that seek to install chaos in the country.

"The demands of the social movements cannot be used by opportunists who seek to affect the democratic order," said Celi. He added that in the framework of their functions, they will sanction and punish any type of action that threatens public goods and the Democracy of the country.

Domestic gas reserves completely exhausted in Cuenca



Austrogas tank trucks that move gas for domestic use from the terminal of Chorrillos in the province of Guayas to Cuenca, have not been able to leave the loading station, generating a "total shortage" of the product in the city.

This was reported on Tuesday by Austrogas manager, Gerardo Maldonado, who said that the

closure of roads in La Troncal and Susudel make the passage of trucks impossible and therefore, the supply of gas for domestic use is completely exhausted.

The governor of Azuay, Xavier Martínez, again asked protesters to allow the passage of food and necessities and said that the government will work with the Armed Forces and the National Police to protect the passage of tank trucks.

Maldonado said the gas reserve has been allocated to hospitals and social care centers, with the purpose of not leaving vulnerable population groups without service.

Closures

As of Wednesday, ECU-911 in Austro reported that all roads that connect Cuenca with neighboring provinces are closed to vehicular passage by indigenous and peasant protests.

The areas of greatest conflict are, for now:

- Bulcay on the Gualaceo-Limón road, at the intersection of Ramal and Sarayunga on the Cuenca-Girón-Pasaje road;
- At the intersection of Sayausí, Molleturo and Hierbabuena in the Basin-Molleturo;
- Puente Europa, Sevilla de Oro and Ñuñurco in the Paute-Guarumales;
- Suscal, Pillcopata, General Morales, Mosquera and Honorato Vásquez in the Zhud-Cochancay;
- Cosacopte Bridge in the Sigsig-Gualaquiza;
- and the Ramada, Susudel, Shiña and Tarqui in the Cumbe-La Jarata-Oña.

The gas shortage also affects the markets. For today the associations of merchants of the Feria Libre have partially suspended their activities and the sellers of the markets Diez de Agosto and Nueve de Octubre will work until the limited stock that they maintain is finished.

Extracted from Diario EL Tiempo

Garbage is building up in Cuenca with no end in sight

Before Tuesday morning, garbage collection in Cuenca was still being done on a normal schedule. However, at dawn the city had to suspend the service because the road between EL Valle and Santa Ana was closed by protesters from the surrounding areas and rural parishes.

Normally, every day trucks drive that route to at the Pichacay landfill, where they leave around 500 tons of garbage from the urban and rural areas of Cuenca. Before Tuesday, protestors were making trucks wait next to the Ecopark, then slowly allowing some to pass. Now, none are being allowed thru to go to the landfill.

Given the situation, the EMAC technical department had been working to find ways for the service not to be completely suspended. One of the first efforts was to contact people who had trucks to at least collect the garbage in the sectors where it can be accessed without any problem.

"We cannot do the collection because our trucks are loaded, and the critical problem is that access to the landfill is closed. We cannot unload the waste," said Juan Ordonez, EMAC manager.

Ordonez added that they tried to speak with the representatives of the parish boards of Santa Ana and

cont. page 6.

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El Valle to intercede and allow the passage of trucks loaded with garbage, however, to date there has been no positive response.

Public's help needed

In the event that the roads to the landfill remain closed, Cuenca has not ruled out declaring an emergency. The city may have no other options as there is no temporary land to leave the garbage. And an attempt to leave the waste in Azogues failed when the road to the neighboring city was also closed.

EMAC is now asking citizens not to take their garbage out from their homes, since it will only increase the problem. They say the best option is to place the garbage in a bag and then place that into another bag to avoid the leaking of foul and staining liquids. Sand or sawdust can also be placed at the bottom of the bags to absorb any liquid that might potentially leak through.

The garbage of the protests

On Tuesday, EMAS "sweepers" worked on the streets of the city center, to clean them up the mess left behind by protesters who confronted the police on Monday. The workers collected a large amount of garbage consisting of the remains of burned tires, stones, aerosols cans and tear gas canisters.

The garbage that was collected was transferred to the EMAC operations center, located in the industrial park, to be accumulated in a vehicle that will be added to the trucks waiting to arrive to the landfill to unload the hundreds of tons of garbage that has been collected.

What happens in the cantons?

Cuenca is not the only the canton that has problems with garbage. Gualaceo, Chordeleg, Sigsig, Sevilla de Oro and El Pan had to suspend waste collection, because these cantons also use the Cuenca landfill. In addition, the roads surrounding these cantons are also closed by protesters.

The mayors of Gualaceo and Chordeleg are very concerned because they have nowhere to transport the garbage. In Gualaceo, the tension is even more serious because the collection trucks went to Cuenca last Monday, but they could not return because the protesters did not allow them to go back through to the town.

"The garbage trucks are in Cuenca because they can't come back to get the job done. Given this we have decided that we will suspend the collection. We ask the citizens not to take out the garbage," said John León, a solid waste technician from the municipality of Gualaceo.

Extracted from Diario El Mercurio

Adacapia Autismo is changing lives one child at a time (Cont.)

Autismo, with Tommy and the other nine children who now receive regular therapy at the "association," a word that Veronica uses a lot.

"We are an association, because the families of our kids are an extension of our staff. They volunteer when they can. And they participate in the therapy sessions as well," she said. "Without volunteers, we couldn't afford to do what we do. We have staff psychologists and art, dance and music therapists to work on sensory disorders, but we need to have continuous interaction with the kids in a one on one type of relationship. Someone needs to be focused on them the whole time they are here. That's how they thrive. Without volunteers, we couldn't treat as many kids as we do."

Veronica explained that "the cost of therapy for autistic children in Cuenca (and throughout Ecuador) can run from \$10 to \$40 per hour. Families simply can't afford the intensive treatment that their autistic children need. So, we need volunteers to extend the time of attention each child receives."

Adacapia Autismo offers parents a chance to improve their child's socialization skills without crippling them financially. Without it, many of these children would be left at home without a chance to grow their social skills. And that means without a chance to move forward into any type of "outside" life. They won't have the chance to build social relationships, and that is what Veronica says is the most important thing that autistic children need to do to be able to live within the constraints of their condition.

"The concepts of how to treat autism and what realistic expectations should be, have changed significantly since Tommy was first diagnosed

with autism 15 years ago. Now, most of the experts believe that sensory integration offers the best chance of changing these kid's lives for the better."

Sensory integration therapy aims to help kids with sensory processing issues (which some people may refer to as "sensory integration disorder") by exposing them to sensory stimulation in a structured, repetitive way. The theory behind it is that over time, the brain will adapt and allow kids to process and react to sensations more efficiently.

Many therapists now use this type of exposure as part of a more extensive "sensory diet" treatment. It includes not only things like balance treatments, movement therapy and structured exposure to sensory input, but also carefully designed and tailored physical activities.

The routine of activities in a sensory diet fits a child's exact needs and schedule. They can be done at therapy sessions and with training of the parents, at home.

"The most important thing we do here is train parents in how to work with their children at home. They need to build a sensory bond with their child. It's so important if they want their child to move forward," says Veronica.

"Some kids, like Tommy, can take speech therapy for years and still not move forward with their language skills. But, with the correct parental involvement in the therapy, these kids start to have leaps in their speech. When I started to get actively involved in Tommy's social skills development, we built a type of conversational speech that I (and my husband) understand. It allows us to communicate with him. Not always perfectly, but in a way that he can get his needs met and we can get responses from him that we need."

Adacapia Autismo is the only program offering therapy and training parents at the same time. Veronica explained that they are educating parents not only on how to interact with their autistic child, but also to learn to accept that their child's condition is not their fault.

"Imagine, these parents had a beautiful baby who they had all these plans for. They saw engineers, doctors, artists and they dreamed of watching them grow to be spectacular people. And then slowly, they came to realize that their child was different. And usually, at about the age of 2 or 3 years old, a diagnosis of autism comes and wipes away all of those hopes and leaves behind grief for what might have been," said Veronica. "We help them to see that this isn't their fault, and that while their child may never be who they planned, they can still improve their bond with them and let go of the blame they put on themselves."

ASD is perhaps one of the most complex disorders a family can face. The diagnosis is overwhelming for many parents and often causes a breakdown of the family unit.

"What you'll find is that many marriages fall apart under the stress of an ASD diagnosis, usually leaving a single mother to care for the autistic child," said Veronica.

"Even in families that stay together, the stress of managing an autistic child can be overwhelming. What we are trying to do is teach families techniques they can use to build a bond with their child. So that they can better manage the day to day complexities of their situation. Even then, they still have a team inside Adacapia that can support them."

The statistics for autism offer little insight into the cause of the disorder. There are a set of people who believe that vaccines are the cause of autism in their children. Veronica believes it is environmental, starting with toxins that the mother may have had in her body during pregnancy. "Vaccines do appear to exacerbate the severity of autism in some children, but most autistic kids are already looking at a diagnosis of the disorder before they even start to get vaccinations. Now, we suspect that environmental epigenetics—that is the deterioration of the mother's genetics due to environmental contamination—causes immune problems that are then expressed as inflammation of the nervous and digestive systems. And these have a huge impact on fetal development."

Regardless of the cause, there is an alarming growth in the number of children being diagnosed with autism. Studies in the United States suggest that 1 in 66 births have some degree of autism, and the diagnosis of the disorder has been growing annually at about 30%.

Here in Cuenca, the estimate is that around 300 children have some level of ASD.

Looking for Volunteers

Adacapia also has its own issues to deal with. The cost of providing therapy is high, and staffing is always an issue. "Our volunteers are what keep us alive. Contrary to what some people think, people don't need to be occupational therapists or psychologists to help us with therapy here. They just need to understand the basics of sensory integration and how to help the children develop social skills by playing. And we can teach them that. What we need is people who can handle being ignored for 30 minutes, or yelled at, or hugged unexpectedly," said Veronica with a laugh.

The Adacapia Autismo association is doing great things. But now, they're asking for your help. They need more volunteers. People who are willing to give a few hours of their time each week to devote to changing a child's life. It's a big task, but the rewards can be amazing. According to Veronica, "when you see a big smile come to the face of an autistic child because of something you did, you'll never feel the same way again."

Volunteers of all skill sets are being recruited to help Adacapia. But, an especially high need is for volunteers who have experience in occupational therapy, play therapy and/or are familiar with sensory integration programs.

If you would like to volunteer to change a child's life, contact Veronica at:

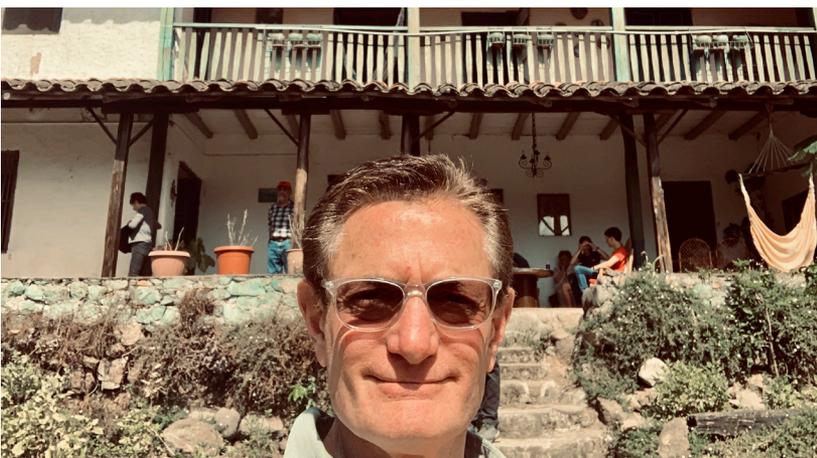
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Local Rotarian/Lion expat working to bring Global Grant dollars to Ecuador



When Ned Meisner moved here, for good, in March of 2019, it had been after several trips here learning both about Ecuador and the role that Rotary International was playing in the country. After working with the group for over 10 years worldwide, he saw, in Ecuador, a place where huge impact could be made with what in other countries, would only be called "modest investment." He knew this, professionally, as a Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy.

In fact, before he even committed to moving here, he championed an organic farming project just outside of Quito, helping secure \$163,000 in funding for the venture (one of the largest ever Rotary funded projects, in the country). Now that he has his feet on the ground here, he's working toward something even bigger.

"When I decided to move here, I began travelling around the country to find areas where there was significant need, where I knew I could help with my background in Rotary, and that I knew could be successful. My challenge was that what I knew about Ecuador, at the time, was limited. It's one thing to see need and another thing to know how to solve it. That meant I needed to talk to a lot of people," said Ned.

"During that time, I was fortunate to interact with a group in Quito who had been doing lots of good work there already, so I was able to help them by getting a large Rotary global grant for an organic farm. It was wonderful to be part of that and to know that its odds of success were high with the people that were already involved."

The other thing that Ned figured out early on, was that he didn't want to live in Quito. He liked the city, but it didn't feel like the right fit. Then he travelled to Cuenca and knew he had found his new home. "It was almost an immediate gut response for me. I just knew that this city fit me like an old comfortable coat. Right from the start, I met a lot of good people doing good work here. However, I could also see a little bit of a chasm between all the non-profit groups here. For the most part, they are islands amongst themselves. They don't typically work together."

So, Ned set to work getting to know all of the charitable organizations in Cuenca. He spent time with each of them assessing their needs and developing action plans to help them maximize their effectiveness. Now his challenge is to teach them how to create synergy by working together.

"Funding for non-profits is limited here in Cuenca, and in Ecuador in general. Everyone thinks they are fighting for the same dollar. None of them have all the financial support and manpower that they need. I knew that this was an area in which I could help," said Meisner.

One of the first projects Ned has developed is an IVA rebate program that will direct the refunds to a local charity. Since most Ecuador residents over the age of 65 can get their 12% IVA tax as a rebate, that's a large pool of donor funding. "This program has the potential to raise a lot of funding for the charities who want to get involved. My company is actually going to do all the work. If someone wants to donate their IVA refund to charity, Meisner Financial will set up all the SRI paperwork for them," that's the first part, according to Meisner. The second part is to set up a direct payment to the charity. Some folks are only opting for the second part.

Then his team will direct all of the money to one charity until there is enough for that group to hire its own assistant and take over the paperwork themselves. His team will then direct the money to the next charity, and so on and so on. "This will be crucial for the chronic staff limitations and exhaustion we are seeing in these charities."

So, what's next on the plate? Well, Meisner and his staff are also working on a "Farm School" project to help families with autistic children, adolescents and adults here in Ecuador.

cont. page 8.

The Farm is going to offer intensive training,



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integrating families with teams of professionals and volunteers from Adacapia Autismo (see related story, "Adacapia Autismo is changing lives one child at a time" on page 1).

"Our aim is to provide families, professionals and patients with a program in which children can develop their social skills and improve their quality of life. Through agriculture and animal care we will create a completely natural environment. We'll be having intensive training programs with effective tools, giving all the people who are in contact with the child, corresponding training. All the while, we will be strengthening a team of volunteers who will assist the families in their training," said Ned.

"We are presenting this concept in formal presentations to many Rotary clubs, Lions Clubs and other groups in Ecuador, the United States and other countries. First up, we are working to complete formal presentations along with applications to Rotary and Lions Club for Global Grant money."

Meisner hopes to raise \$500,000 to purchase the land, build the school and create a farm. This will become a sustainable center for education, training, and research and will provide urgent information to the entire country (including to the government).

Ned says, "After we show success, with this effort, we can create centers, like this, in multiple locations. Eventually, the hope is that this program can be duplicated in other countries in South America."

"This country has more potential than any country, in South America," says Meisner, enthusiastically.

For more information about either the IVA rebate donation program, or the Farm School, Ned can be reached at:

Meisner Financial Services, Inc. nedmeisner@meisnerfinancial.com 0939984769

Ecuador faces the consequences of Moreno's economic reform plan (Cont.)

organizations to continue with the necessary and relevant processes so that this crime against humanity does not remain in impunity," says the statement. It further went on to accuse the government of covering up information about the deaths.

"Faced with the concealment of information by the authorities and certain media, in the coming days we will issue a full report of all fatalities, injured and missing."

As of Thursday morning, more than 700 people have been arrested and more than 400 wounded, according to government reports.

Blame put on IMF

Indigenous protesters, many of whom have walked from surrounding provinces to Quito, started to regroup near a park as police guarded government buildings early on Thursday.

However, there appeared to be fewer protesters than on Wednesday, when workers' unions and other social organizations joined the protest in a national strike that shuttered shops in Quito and other cities including Guayaquil and Cuenca.

Graffiti criticizing Moreno and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) covered walls of buildings in Quito, as shopkeepers cleaned up streets littered with rocks and burned debris. Many of the protesters blame the IMF for making demands on Moreno before an IMF loan would be provided.

Ecuador's cuts in fuel subsidies were among measures announced as part of a \$4.2 billion funding plan with the IMF, which said the package will strengthen the economy and generate jobs.

Indigenous groups condemn the deal with the IMF, saying austerity measures will deepen economic inequality.

"What the government has done is reward the big banks, the capitalists, and punish poor Ecuadoreans," said Mesias Tatamuez, head of the Workers' United Front umbrella union.

Military response

CONAIE has also demanded that Romo step down and says that the government was behaving like a "military dictatorship" by declaring a state of emergency and setting an overnight curfew.

Amnesty International called on the Ecuadorean government to end to "the heavy-handed repression of demonstrations, including mass detentions".

"The state of emergency cannot be an excuse to violently repress people's discontent over economic measures that may put their rights at risk," said Erika Guevara-Rosas, Americas Director at Amnesty International.

Ecuador's Defense Minister, Oswaldo Jarrin, said the army was seeking to "restore, order, peace and tranquility" on Wednesday as widespread protests took place across the country.

In a statement on Wednesday, the military appealed to Ecuadorians to denounce anyone who uses the cover of the protest to carry out vandalism and other crimes.

The military's backing is key for Moreno, who said late Tuesday that his government is negotiating with indigenous groups. The president said the dialogue is difficult because so many indigenous groups are involved. He also said he will not resign despite widespread discontent in the South American nation of 17 million.

Moreno was returning to Quito from his temporary base in Guayaquil to monitor government handling of the protests on Wednesday, Interior Minister Maria Paula Romo said.

Correa coup?

Moreno has accused political opponents of orchestrating an attempted coup and claimed associates of his predecessor Rafael Correa—a former ally turned bitter enemy—were infiltrating the protests and stoking unrest.

"They are sectors who are taking advantage of the situation to generate an atmosphere of chaos in Ecuador, very different behavior from a country which has seen other social protests," said Interior Minister Romo on Wednesday.

Correa, who governed Ecuador for a decade, has brushed off the claim he was behind the protest, but still called for Moreno to step down and for new elections to be held in which he might consider being a candidate.

Protest leader Lourdes Tibán, a former parliamentarian, said the violence had been caused by "infiltrators who want to show that the indigenous activists are criminals and thieves who causes damage—but that's not true".

She said the vast majority of protesters were marching because the fuel price hike had inflated food and transport prices and the indigenous people were the hardest hit.

"Rafael Correa does not have the moral authority to praise this protest when he criminalized social protest for us," she said.

Possible negotiations

José Briones, secretary general of the president's office, said topics in an initial discussion with indigenous groups include aid for farmers, such as debt refinancing, irrigation and other technical assistance.

Still, the political crisis shows no immediate signs of abating.

Jaime Vargas, the leader of CONAIE, said there would be no dialogue until the government rolls back its order ending the subsidies.

"If it is repealed the people will then decide if we will talk or not, but we are angry because we have several injured, several detained and several dead, and this will not stand."



While labor leaders called the strike Wednesday, economic activity in much of the country has already been stalled by clashes, looting, blockades and other disruptions.

Ecuador's main oil pipeline, which runs from the Amazon region to Balao port on the Pacific Ocean, has stopped operating because mainly indigenous protesters disrupted production facilities, the energy ministry said.

Oil Minister Carlos Perez said on Wednesday that the country had lost 520,000 barrels of production from the unrest, including 83,000 barrels from private companies, for a total loss of \$28 million.

CRIME REPORT AND ACCIDENT REPORT

**Note: This week we are including crimes that have happened throughout the country under the cover of the national protests*

Cuenca and National Criminal Activity

(Cuenca) On Tuesday, police captured five subjects for allegedly starring in vandalism during social protests in Cuenca.

Xavier Martinez, governor of Azuay, said that in response to citizen complaints five individuals were arrested for extorting money from people to be allowed to pass the transit area of Control Sur. They threatened to attack the cars of those who would not pay.

Police reported through their Twitter account that on Avenida de las Américas and Loja the five were blocking the road, throwing stones at the vehicles, and demanding money to pass. They were also looting several commercial premises that exist in the sector.

(Cuenca) On Saturday, October 5th, Reinaldo Trompis, 32 died after being hospitalized for 15 days. The victim of Venezuelan nationality had been brutally assaulted by three unknown subjects.

According to the report of friends of Trompis, around dawn on September 21st on Remigio Crespo Avenue, for unknown reasons, three subjects attacked Trompis.

It was confirmed that his father was notified in Venezuela about the death of his son.

(Cuenca) Two people died in an attempted robbery last Wednesday on the Cuenca-Girón-Pasaje road, in the San Francisco sector. Danilo Inagán, 40, and Nataly Guiracocha, 23, in an attempt to avoid the robbery jumped into the river. Both individuals died in their attempt to escape the assault. Police are still investigating the case.

(Azogues) The State Attorney General's Office reported that on Tuesday, three other individuals were prosecuted in Azogues, Cañar province, for the alleged offense of having attacked members of the National Police.

(Riobamba) In Riobamba, the Prosecutor's Office prosecuted 22 people for their alleged participation in the crime of stopping public services. And in Loja, a 17-year-old teenager was prosecuted for being involved in the attack of a police patrolman, who was stationed on the outskirts of the Government.

(Guayaquil) According to the latest report issued by the Prosecutor's Office, in the province of Guayas, a total of 65 people were prosecuted for their alleged responsibility for robbery—related to looting of commercial premises and armed robbery—receipt of objects, bearing of arms, possession of drugs and illicit association. The defendants were arrested in different sectors of Guayaquil.

(Duran) In the province of Guayas, Jonathan FM, and William NC, in an abridged procedure hearing, were sentenced to 20 months in prison for the crime of robbery of persons, during the riots recorded last Monday night, in the Durán canton.

(Santa Isabel) Alberto Benalcazar Sánchez, 20 years old, was found dead last Sunday at 8:30 a.m., outside the parking lot of a Santa Isabel night club. The victim had a stab wound in the chest.

Criminalistics experts swept the crime scene, collected some clues to conduct investigations. Police spokesmen said they will review the

security cameras that exist in the area to clarify under what circumstances the blood occurred.

Cuenca Area Traffic Accidents

*Two traffic accidents in which motorcyclists were involved took place Saturday afternoon and evening in the Santa Isabel canton. Two people were injured.

The last incident occurred at night, when an emergency call to ECU 911 reported a motorcycle accident. A fire brigade unit was dispatched to the place with three volunteers who attended a 26-year-old woman who presented with a cut on her head and multiple lacerations in the upper and lower limbs. She was transferred to the José Félix Valdivieso hospital in Santa Isabel canton.

A few hours earlier, in the El Ramal sector, ECU 911 received a call reporting a traffic accident between a motorcycle and a car.

At the scene, firefighters treated a citizen who presented with trauma. Firefighters moved the victim to the hospital in Santa Isabel.

* José Armando Marca Vanegas, 21, was hit by a "tipper" truck while riding his motorcycle. Due to the severity of the injuries, he died a few hours later in the hospital.

The accident happened on Monday 8:15 a.m., on the alternate road that leads to Certag from the Gualaceo canton, in the San José sector.

Vanegas was transferred by ambulance to the Vicente Corral Moscoso hospital in Cuenca. He died there at 11:30 a.m.

The driver of the truck fled the scene of the accident.

CUENCA consignments

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New Governor of Azuay appointed during protests

Xavier Martínez has been appointed as the new Governor of Azuay. The executive decree of his appointment was published the on Thursday, October 3, 2019.

President Lenin Moreno accepted the resignation of Oswaldo Larriva, who was in charge of the province since September 5th. Larriva presented his resignation this week due to ongoing health problems.



In the executive decree, the president thanks Larriva for the services he provided in the performance of his duties.

Martínez, has served as the Political Head of the Cuenca canton and was also the director of the Sierra Centro Social Rehabilitation Center South Turi (CRS Turi).

In response to the recent protests against the Government's Economic reform plans, Martínez said, "We are working on the operations that we are going to do with the National Police. We will try to reach an agreement with the protesters through dialogue, and if we do not have a positive result, the progressive use of force will be made as established by the regulations."

Protester killed in hit and run accident during "el paro"

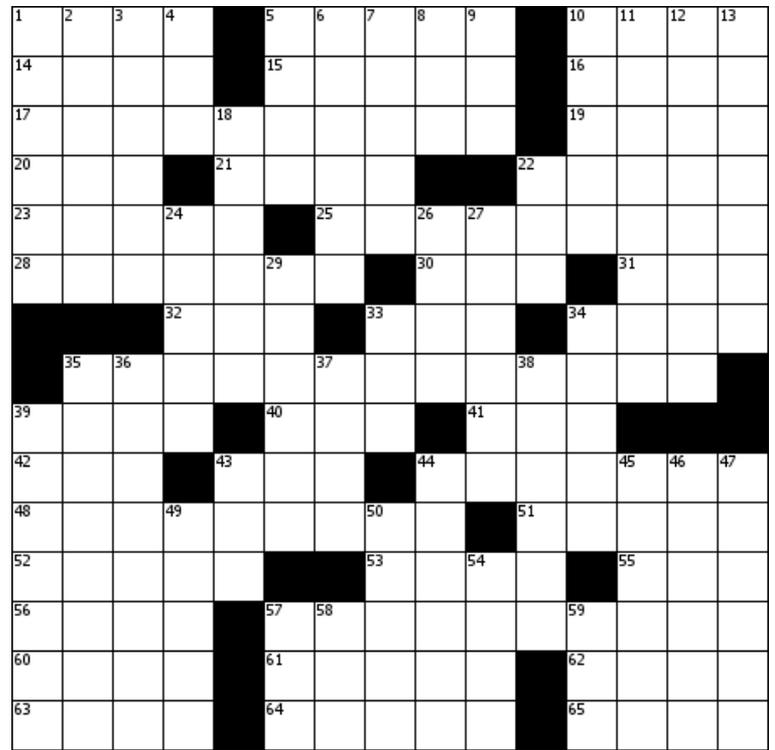


On Sunday afternoon, October 6, one of the people who was demonstrating at kilometer 55 on the Cuenca-Molleturo road, was killed after being hit by an unidentified car that tried to evade a roadblock that had been placed as part of the "para" that overtook the country last week.

The citizen was identified as Raúl Chilpe.

According to witnesses, a black car with Pichincha plates tried to go around the roadblock set up by the citizens of Molleturo and ran over the citizen leaving him seriously injured.

Unfortunately for the victim, when an ambulance tried to drive to the to the site of the accident, community members blocked its path. The doctor who was on the emergency vehicle had to walk to the victim where he was then only was able to verify his death.



See answers on page 11

Across

1. All-encompassing
5. Follow, as advice
10. Workout count
14. Land west of Nod
15. It's written in stone
16. Lamb's pseudonym
17. Like many stump speeches
19. 1998 Australian Open winner Korda
20. Mil. bigwig
21. Source of some psychiatry grants: Abbr.
22. Starbucks choice
23. Wipe clean
25. Like many stump speeches
28. Bun flavorings
30. Attention
31. British R&B artist Des'__
32. Dapper guy?
33. Breakfast hrs.
34. Merchant vessel officer, briefly
35. Like many stump speeches
39. Easy pace
40. Singer DiFranco
41. Merkel of movies
42. Porridge plant
43. Mayo site
44. Lake Wobegon creator
48. Like many stump speeches
51. Duplicate
52. Hardly an asset
53. Actress Skye
55. Ring org.
56. Tiny bundle of energy
57. Like many stump speeches
60. Second opening?
61. 1980 running medalist Steve
62. Aust. state
63. River of Flanders
64. Dated
65. Some are pale

Down

1. Borders
2. Hold fast
3. Regarded to be
4. Rubble creator
5. Cultural lead-in
6. Heads up
7. Danish astronomer Brahe
8. __-Locka, Florida
9. Where the Stars play the Blues: Abbr.
10. Jobs for towers
11. Fundamental particle
12. Most concise
13. Crusader's foe
18. Type of band
22. Spoil
24. Camp David Accords figure
26. Office note
27. Pyrenees native
29. See 34-Down
33. Poetic pugilist
34. With "and" and 29-Down, central part
35. High seriousness
36. Organic insecticide
37. Turned on by
38. Worldwide relief org.
39. More than enough
43. Air rifle ammo
44. Fife player
45. Lite
46. Having reached safely, in a way
47. Areas of influence
49. Tabloid tidbit
50. Oenologist's expertise
54. Evening, in ads
57. Soda
58. Roe
59. "Give __ rest!"

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN AND BEYOND....

"What's Happening..." is updated weekly with a large variety of events that both ex-pats and Ecuadorians will enjoy. If you have an interesting event you would like to publicize, email info@thecuencadispatch for consideration.

Classifieds and Events

CLASSIFIEDS

NEED HELP WITH YOUR CELLPHONE?

I am Carlos Orellana, owner of the Croz Cell company, located in the City of Cuenca. I offer cell phone accessories and tablets of the best quality. I also offer service and professional technical advice for cell phones and computers of all brands. Honesty, knowledge, and responsibility characterize my company. We are able to replace screens, batteries, cameras, Flex Home, Flex Power, speakers, headsets, and load pins. We also offer software services, computer maintenance and repair, etc.
 Address: Av. Ordoñez Lasso y los Olivos. (Near the front of the Oro Verde Hotel)
 Hours of operation: Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 Contact: +593-74-08-6331, +593-98-458-4915

From Tuesday to Thursday 2x1 in kafta shawarma

El Jeque, is a small restaurant of Mediterranean food, specialized in shawarmas, falafel, hummus, pita bread, tabule and some dishes of Lebanese food. This month we have 2x1 on offer the kafta shawarma from Tuesday to Thursday for only \$ 5. Come and enjoy our delicious traditional food, with good attention and a lovely place. You can also enjoy our delicious burgers.
 Contact: 0984367127

Green pizza!

Want to taste something different and delicious?... Keydi, Jesus and Ricardo have the best pizzas in town! "Pizzas de Verde"...yes! Verde (with green banana). They don't prepare the pizzas with flour, but with Verde. The juices...wow! no words for that! Combine your healthy pizza with the different flavors of juices! They also prepare hamburgers and lasagna (you have to ask for the lasagna previously). Enjoy with your friends at Cocoscafe!
 Address: Calle Larga 4-42 and Mariano Cueva (In front of Todos Santos church).
 Contact: 0962038891

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Tutto Matto has a promotion that you can't miss! We are so pleased to offer 20% off on our Large Specialty Pizzas every Wednesday from 9/18/19 - 10/30/19. From Tuesday - Saturday 11:30am - 3pm / 5pm - 9pm. * We close between 3pm and 5pm. Hope to see you soon!
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Worship Services

The International Christian Community

What: We are open to Christians of all backgrounds and our main goal is to love one another in the Lord. Come and enjoy "God With Us".

When: Every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. (in English). Coffee fellowship after the service.

Where: Nicanor Aguilar and Solano (one block north of Monte Sinai Hospital).

Contact info: Email info@internationalchristiancommunity.org

Calvary Chapel Cuenca this Sunday - English and Spanish Services

What: Calvary Chapel has been formed as a fellowship of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

When: Sunday's service in English at 9:30 a.m., in Spanish at 8 a.m. and also at 11 a.m.

Where: Our location is at the western end of bus line #22, Juan Pio Montufar and Primera Convención

Cost: Free

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Solution to Crossword puzzle on page 10

Solution to Sudoku puzzle on page 3

1	7	3	8	5	6	2	4	9
5	2	4	1	3	9	8	7	6
6	9	8	4	2	7	3	5	1
9	6	2	5	4	8	1	3	7
8	4	7	3	6	1	5	9	2
3	5	1	9	7	2	6	8	4
7	8	9	6	1	3	4	2	5
4	3	6	2	9	5	7	1	8
2	1	5	7	8	4	9	6	3

Real Estate & Rentals




FOR SALE



Alexandra Gálvez Properties

This beautiful apartment built in the year 2013 shares the seventh floor all alone with just one other apartment, achieving in this way a great deal of privacy and providing a guarantee of peace and comfort. The apartment includes 3 spacious bedrooms, 2 baths, a dining room, kitchen, washroom, central gas, 2 parking spaces, and a storage unit.

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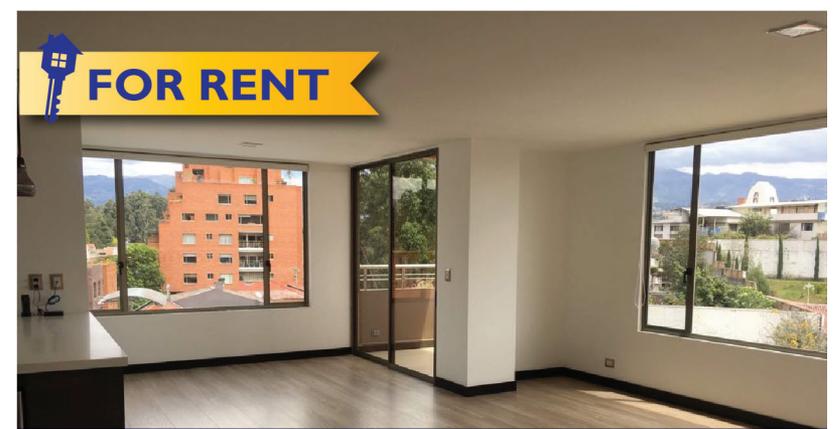


FOR SALE

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Contact:
Kathy Gonzalez
099 450 0325
Kathy@CuencaRealEstate.com



FOR RENT

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Walking distance to downtown, 24/7 security. Two bedrooms with bath, social bathroom, balcony, parking lot and large storage room. It comes with a fridge, stove, oven, fan, dishwasher and W/D. The building has as gym, movie theater and more. Price: \$650 plus \$150 condo fee.

Contact:
Mónica León
0999 880 979
monileonera@yahoo.com



FOR SALE

Pacific View 3-Bedroom-Condo in Salinas - Just 160k

1,130 sq ft of Ocean front modern apartment for sale in San Lorenzo, Salinas boardwalk. This apartment has 3 comfortable bedrooms, all of them with ocean view and 2 bathrooms. The building has a large terrace, pool, bar, jacuzzi and more.

Contact:
Roberto Cruz
0995 821 318
mediosoles@gmail.com



FOR RENT

Fully furnished River view apartment for Rent /Just \$650

Amazing apartment for rent. It has a great view! It comes fully furnished with everything you see in the pictures (Washer and Dryer also included). One year lease minimum. BUILDING FEE IS ALSO INCLUDED. Utilities are not.

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