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Amphibian Populations in Ecuador Threatened by Invasive Species, Lethal Fungus

by Noah Foster-Koth

Like most Ecuadorian wildlife, amphibians are threatened by chemical pollution and the destruction of their natural habitat. However, one of the greatest foes of Ecuadorian amphibians are actually other amphibians—specifically, invasive species that were brought to Ecuador from other parts of the world.

Some of these invasive species are currently on display at the Amaru Bioparque in Cuenca. Amaru is a wildlife park that leads a variety of conservation projects, including the capture and removal of invasive species from Ecuadorian ecosystems.

Currently, Amaru's Center for Amphibian Conservation (The Center) is housing three invasive species in educational displays: the African clawed frog, the American bullfrog, and the axolotl, a salamander-like amphibian endemic to Mexico.

African clawed frogs and axolotls were both brought to Ecuador as part of the international pet trade. Irresponsible pet owners often release these foreign animals into the wild once they lose interest in keeping them



as pets, according to Noe Torres, a biologist and veterinarian employed by Amaru. Introducing these new species into Ecuador's ecosystems can have a devastating impact on the country's native wildlife.

Perhaps no amphibian represents the havoc that invasive species can cause as devastatingly and completely as the cont. page 4.

IACHR alarmed by eye injuries caused in protests across South America



The cases of hundreds of eye injuries reported during the protests in several countries of the region, have captured the attention of the IACHR, while human rights activists fear that it may be the result of an

intentional practice in repressing social manifestations.

The problem was especially important during a session held in Quito regarding, "Torture, extrajudicial execution and serious human rights violations in state repression in Venezuela," as well as in another on the riots that are taking place in Chile.

The case of Ecuador was not raised to debate, as it was the host country of the 174TH Period of Sessions, but there is also concern within the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) for cont. page 5.

Bribery charges against Correa may lead to an end for any future political ambitions



The criminal offense for which former President Rafael Correa is charged in the "Bribes 2012-2016" case, not only legally allows his trial in absentia, but is imprescriptible (if sentenced, he must serve the penalty when he returns to the country) and it also limits his electoral future forever. This is established by the Constitution drawn up in Montecristi by a Correist majority and validated at the polls in Ecuador. cont. page 6.

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I'M JUST SAYIN'

By Michael Soares

The system actually worked

It was such a peaceful morning here in Yunguilla. Codie and I sat on our front terrace, drinking coffee and enjoying wonderful bagels and ripe pink grapefruits that reminded me of breakfast at my grandmother's house.

Nothing could destroy the wonderful feelings we had about living here in the country. That is until the giant excavator started tearing up the hillside above our property. By giant I mean one of those you see on the TV show Gold Rush. Something big enough to scoop up every dishonest politician in Washington, DC (okay, maybe not THAT big).

Anyway, this excavator is "clearing the land," for what we are not sure. But we suspect what is going on. We have been in a battle with an Ecuadorian that owns the land above us. This person has claimed (falsely) that the area of our upper driveway is a public road, and she had planned to use it to access new house lots she was trying to sell up the mountain.

Our driveway is just that, ours. How do we know? Well, our escritura says so, and now the Municipio in Santa Isabel is saying so. Officially. After hundreds of dollars spent in legal fees (with a VERY good lawyer), we now have an official addendum to our escritura saying that there is no dispute over the ownership of that small strip of land. And by small, I mean about 100 feet long and 15 feet wide.

Imagine, we have just under a hectare (2.4 acres) of land and this woman has hundreds of hectares that she has been selling off, piece by piece. But she tried to lay claim that our driveway was part of an old public road and so she had rights to use it.

Simply because, she did not want to reduce the size of one of the lots she owns to make a road to the large area of lots she was selling. She could easily have had access to it all, by using about one-half acre to create the entrance off the main road. But instead, she forced us to jump through administrative and legal hoops to prove that our driveway is not part of a public road, and that we have the right to restrict access to it.

But now, we have to be on guard and make sure that the excavator does not cross our property line, because it looks like someone may finally be building a road on one of the lots above us. Fingers crossed that signals the end of our dispute over our driveway.

We are actually hoping that this means someone bought several lots above us and is putting in their own road (we heard that the former mayor of Santa Isabel was planning on doing just that). Maybe she is out of the picture and now we will have a new Ecuadorian to argue with. I don't know and even if that is the case, I am ready.

Because we did what we hoped would be successful. We used the system to protect our rights. I won't say it was easy because it was not. But it worked. The Municipio stood up for us.

After many years of dealing with the bureaucracy of Ecuador and wondering at times why we are still here, we finally feel that the system, for all its warts, can work if one has patience. I applaud the administrators in Santa Isabel who even went so far as to personally come to our property to look at the land itself. They could have sent someone who did "outside work" and just gotten a report. But they

took our case seriously and made sure they saw for themselves what was going on.

So, for all those days when life here can seem to be ridiculously bureaucratic, for all those days when it seems like nothing makes sense, for all those days when the words "In the US..." almost cross our lips, Ecuador has proven itself to us once again.

Poco a poco is a phrase often heard here, and at times one that frustrates the heck out of us. But this time, poco a poco worked. We saw it firsthand. And I will remember this from now on when I am standing in line for a piece of paper that makes no sense, just so I can get another piece of paper.

I'm just sayin'.

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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a Sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the number will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

See answers on page 11

Amphibian Populations in Ecuador Threatened by Invasive Species, Lethal Fungus (Cont.)

American bullfrog. Since 1985, American bullfrogs have been imported into Ecuador—sometimes legally, sometimes not—to be farmed for their legs, which are a delicacy in many countries. In theory, bullfrog populations are meant to be confined to these farms, but the wily amphibians regularly escape from their enclosures and disappear into the wild.

In their natural habitat, American bullfrog populations are controlled by snapping turtles, alligators and other large predators, which eat the frogs in sufficient numbers to prevent the population from exploding out of control. In Ecuador, the bullfrog's native predators are largely absent, which allows the invasive amphibians to multiply and spread unimpeded. Smaller, younger American bullfrogs are occasionally cannibalized by older specimens. However, this only motivates the younger populations to spread out over a wider area to avoid other bullfrogs.

The population of American bullfrogs is growing rapidly, and their success comes at the expense of Ecuador's native frog species. American bullfrogs are carnivorous, and they are not picky about what they eat—studies have shown that bullfrogs will swallow just about any animal that can fit in their mouths, including birds, small mammals and other amphibians. The bullfrogs tend to swallow their prey live and whole, and it is not uncommon to see the hind legs of a mouse or toad sticking out of a bullfrog's mouth as the smaller animal is swallowed alive by the invasive amphibian.

Four American bullfrogs are being housed in The Center. One was brought to Amaru from San Joaquin, a small parish in Cuenca. Torres speculates that it escaped from a hatchery in the area. The other three specimens, more alarmingly, were found on the premises of Amaru itself.

"I don't know how they got there," Torres says. "Fortunately, we didn't see any more afterwards."

The Center staff managed to capture the bullfrogs and relocated them to an isolated terrarium in The Center. Unlike the other creatures at The Center, Torres and the rest of the team have no intention of returning the bullfrogs to the wild.

Torres explains that the bullfrogs are kept on display as educational tools. "The idea isto demonstrate to the people that these species, they're invasive, they don't belong to the country," Torres says.

However, keeping the frogs on the park's premises, even in a sealed terrarium, offers some risks. "It's really a little dangerous to have these species because they are carriers of a lethal fungus. Of course, we gave them treatments and everything, but... it's a little risky to have those animals."

The lethal fungus Torres refers to is called chytrid, a fungal growth carried by American bullfrogs, African clawed frogs, and other invasive amphibians. While chytrid fungus has no documented effect on humans, its impact on amphibian populations around the world has been catastrophic.

Chytrid fungus causes an infectious disease called chytridiomycosis, an often-deadly condition that compromises amphibians' skins and inhibits key body functions. Invasive species like American bullfrogs and African clawed frogs are often vectors for the chytrid fungus but are immune to its effects, while endemic amphibians like stubfoot toads are especially vulnerable to the disease. In other words, even when Ecuador's native amphibians manage to avoid being eaten or overwhelmed by invasive species, the invaders can still bring about their demise.

Torres is responsible for ensuring that the amphibians raised at The Center are devoid of chytridiomycosis and other contagious diseases. Whenever new amphibians are brought to the Center, they are quarantined for 40 days, during which time Torres takes skin samples and cultures in order to determine if the newcomers are carrying any pathogens. In the event that an individual tests positive for a disease, they cannot be returned to the wild. While the amphibians' ailments can usually be cured in a lab using itraconazol and other antifungal medications, the animals' immune systems are sterilized in the process, which would make them extremely vulnerable to infection if they were to return to the wild.

Amaru and other conservation organizations around the world are

investigating methods to combat the spread of chytridiomycosis in wild amphibian populations. In 2015, scientists in London and Spain successfully used anti-fungal medications to treat a strand of chytridiomycosis in wild populations of the Mallorca midwife toad (*Alytes muletensis*). However, the disease continues to be a major threat to amphibian populations around the globe.

Food merchants evicted from San Francisco Plaza after two notifications



On Wednesday morning, food merchants of San Francisco Square were evicted by the Municipality of Cuenca.

The action was carried out by staff of the Citizen Guard, who arrived in the early hours of the morning and removed the cars in which the food was prepared.

Verónica Aguirre, public defender, explained that through the Ombudsman's Office they will help the merchants in this process. "They were offered a job and no solution has been given to this group of merchants. They were not notified of this eviction," she said. [The city claims they were given two notifications in September.]

In addition, the councilman, Cristian Zamora, through his Twitter account announced that the San Francisco intervention project contemplated the spaces for food shops.

The group of merchants denounced attacks by municipal agents while they were removed from the spaces to which they were designated.

Marcelo Álvarez, municipal director of Markets, explained that the merchants do not have any permit or concession contract for the spaces they occupied in the square and therefore were removed from the place.

"The first notification was made in September and a second notification was also sent in September with a period of abandonment of the place in 20 days," he said.

Álvarez explained that on the part of the Municipal Directorate of Markets, when they were given the second notification, they asked the merchants to choose the market to which they wanted to be transferred.

"They were given the option for market positions at 12 de Abril, 27 de Febrero, 10 de Agosto and 3 de Noviembre, where it was planned to give them a space to be legally authorized dealers," he said.

Álvarez said that merchants will not be able to stay in San Francisco "due to the lack of sanitary infrastructure that guarantees both the quality of the products they offer and those who consume these foods."

Extracted from Diario EL Tiempo

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IACHR alarmed by eye injuries caused in protests across South America (Cont.)

this type of injury in the month of October.

"It is a trauma that affects the person for his whole life," one of the rapporteurs complained when asking for explanations about the high rate of this type of injuries in the police repression of the protests, and that some NGOs presume is due to a deliberate action of law enforcement at the time of aiming.

"The excessive use of firearms by state officials has become a systematic pattern," said Stefania Migliorini, a lawyer at the NGO Penal Forum of Venezuela, in one of the sessions.

Cases from Venezuela, Chile and Ecuador

The Observatory of Human Rights of the Universidad de los Andes recorded that, between April and July 2017, a total of 22 people lost one or both eyes "as a result of repression," he said.

Migliorini presented the cases of Rufo Chacón (17 years old), who last July received "more than sixty" impacts of pellets on his face "and between them in his eyes: in one he had six and in another, eight", and in Moisés Cordero (19 years old), who became blind in his right eye.

But it is not only the case of Venezuela because eye traumas have been repeated, for example, in the protests of Ecuador and Chile.

Different NGOs that appeared before the IACHR on Monday in a special session, denounced that in Chile there are "197 people with eye trauma" who attributed "to the use of shotguns," a figure that was updated to 182 this Wednesday by the National Institute of Human Rights (INDH).

In the case of Ecuador, where the Ombudsman's Office speaks of twelve cases (eleven due to the loss of one eye and in the 12th person, two), this type of injury was not only recorded among the protesters, but also suffered by police.

A "pattern" that attracts attention

"We have identified in the evaluation that we are making of the situation of countries that are in a social upheaval, that there is a pattern with this shooting in the eyes, and it is impressive because this is happening to boys (young people)," lamented the president of the IACHR, Esmeralda Arosemena.

She said that there is even "a pattern about attacks with shots of tear bombs in the eyes," which "is a fact that attracts attention."

Génesis Dávila, President of the "Defend Venezuela" Foundation, stressed that eye traumas have attracted the attention of the IACHR and noted that, although it was revealed with the situation of Chile and Ecuador, in Venezuela the case of Chacón was "the first to generate national alarm."

"This is not something new (well, [it] has been registered in Venezuela since the 2014 protests; then it was repeated in the 2017 protests, and more recently in the protest for the entry of humanitarian aid" this year, she said.

The weight of impunity

Dávila also spoke of impunity problems. "Just as courage is spread so that people can protest, repression practices are also replicated," especially when they remain unpunished, or "rewarded" with the rise of the military linked to the protests, she lamented.

She said that it is also a "problem of training the officials of the State security organs" because "rubber bullets, pellets, are used because they are non-lethal instruments with which to deter protests."

However, if this ammunition is fired at the face, it can automatically destroy the eye and the activist recalls that international practice indicates that "shot with pellet should be from the back down."

A regulation that cannot always avoid this type of injury, because the shot, by conception, tends to "disperse," explained a source specializing in security and human rights.

Extracted from Diario El Comercio

Three Cuenca car businesses among top 50 companies in growth in Ecuador in 2018



Three Cuenca car companies are among the top 50 in the ranking of the Superintendencia de Compañías, that registers the 300 public and private organizations that grew the most in revenues in 2019.

The three Cuenca companies that made this prestigious list are: Comercial Carlos Roldán, in the ninth position; Autohyun, in position 37 and finally, Neoauto in position 47.

To make the Superintendencia ranking list, companies had to have at least 0.1 percent growth year-on-year.

The report shows that Comercial Carlos Roldán had total income of \$23.46 million in 2017 and \$60.66 million in 2018, registering a positive growth of 159%.

Autohyun recorded total revenue of \$37.17 million in 2017 and had grown 45% in 2018, closing with total revenue of \$53.81 million.

And finally, the third Cuenca business within the top 50 companies, was Neoauto. They had an increase in growth of 39 percent. According to the Superintendencia de Compañías, this business billed a total of \$38.12 million in 2017 and in 2018 had total revenues of \$53.00 million.

According to The Association of Automotive Companies of Ecuador, the growth in sales of new vehicles is not unusual. In 2018 it published that there were 137,615 new vehicles sold—31% more than what was sold in 2017.

Autohyun's general manager, Juan Fernando Moscoso, said the growth of their company was due to the quality of the work team that he has. He also recognized that another benefit for the company is that it is part of the ELJuri economic group, one of the strongest in the country.

"The support of the ELJuri group within the country has allowed us to grow perhaps more than other companies that do not have the economic capacity to do so. There are companies that want to grow, but they don't have the financial muscle, so they have a limit," he said.

In 2016 and 2015, between 50,000 and 60,000 vehicles were sold per year. Industry experts say this was because demand was repressed for almost three years due to tariffs, quotas and taxes. In 2017 and 2018 these figures soared, and more than 137,000 units were sold. For 2019 the industry expects to close with similar figures.

Jaime Moreno, executive president of the Chamber of Commerce, believes that the sales of new vehicles increased due to lower tariffs. "We have very good range vehicles that have dropped in price."

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Extracted from Diario El Tiempo

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Bribery charges against Correa may lead to an end for any future political ambitions (Cont.)

On Monday, November 11, 2019, when the reinstatement of the preparatory trial hearing was dealt with (hampered four times due to lawsuits and prosecutions of the accused,) the State Attorney General's Office asked the National Court of Justice to exclude two of the three crimes for which he promoted criminal actions in the same case: influence peddling and illegal association. The only crime that remained was the crime of bribery, typified in the Organic Integral Criminal Code (COIP) with jail from one to three years for public servants "who receive or accept, by themselves or by an interposed person, undue or other economic benefit for themselves or a third party, whether to make, omit, expedite, delay or condition matters relating to its functions."

The sanction can reach seven years if the action has been taken to commit another crime, according to article 280.

But what does a bribery charge imply? The Constitution of Ecuador offers more than one answer. According to article 113, "those who have received a sentence conviction executed for crimes punishable by imprisonment, or by bribery may not be candidates or candidates of popular election."

In Ecuador there are candidates of popular election for the following dignities: parochial board, council, mayor, prefecture, Assembly, Vice Presidency and Presidency of the Republic.

The Constitution specifies in its article 233 how Justice should proceed with criminal offenses such as bribery. "The action to pursue them and the corresponding penalties will be imprescriptible and, in these cases, the trials will begin and continue even in the absence of the accused persons."

Within that framework, the preparatory hearing for the "2012-2016 Bribes" case was reinstated on Friday, November 15, 2019, at 09:00, at the National Court of Justice. This was decided by Judge Daniella Camacho, on Tuesday, November 12th.

So far, the State Attorney General's Office has presented 231 elements of the 587 announced by State Attorney General Diana Salazar. This list includes a series of contracts signed through letters of invitation and payment agreements, "figures used to not follow the procedures provided for in public procurement regulations."

The evidence submitted focuses on the crime of bribery, according to Salazar.

In this judicial file, in addition to Rafael Correa, former Vice President Jorge Glas, former ministers such as Vinicio Alvarado and businessmen, are being prosecuted.

The investigation carried out by the Attorney General determined the alleged existence of a structure composed of state employees that facilitated the delivery of resources (through crossing invoices and cash) by businessmen to benefit from contracts with the State.

The defense of the accused says that there is no evidence and that their defendants did not commit any crime. Six of them asked to be released, to defend themselves. But on November 7th, the Criminal Court of the National Court of Justice, composed of judges David Jacho, Wilman Terán and Iván Larco, ratified the preventive prison order that weighs, for example, against Rafael Correa.

On Tuesday, November 12, 2019, the lawyers of the defendants indicated that the detention is an exaggerated measure and that it responds to political reprisals. The subrogated prosecutor, Wilson Toinga, indicated that the work of the Prosecutor's Office is "absolutely objective and technical, based on the provisions of the Constitution and the Law."

Pamela Martínez and Laura Terán, ex-advisors of the Presidency of the Republic in the Correa regime, are also indicated in this case. They remained detained from May 4th to November 6, 2019. Now they are free but wearing electronic ankle bracelets; investigations against them continue.

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Cuenca is heading towards being the first 'Energy City' of Ecuador



In La Libertad park yesterday, 36 solar panels were installed that will provide the place with clean and renewable energy.

"The sum of wills and actions allowed us to design and implement the Energy Strategy that will improve the quality of life of the inhabitants of Cuenca and that will position us as a reference in the country," said Mayor Pedro Palacios, who participated with other authorities of the placement of the first photovoltaic panel.

The 36 panels have a power of 12.42v with 345w watts, at peak. Once each panel is placed at strategic points in the installation, a transition to energy use is expected to be made efficiently.

Mayor Palacios highlighted the collaboration of the University of Cuenca, the EBP consultancy in Chile, the Future Latin American Foundation, the Ecuadorian Association of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies, among other entities that worked on the project that adds an estimated investment of \$270,000 to the city.

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El Cajas 23 years as a National Park celebrated



Last Friday morning, November 8th, authorities and citizen celebrated the 23 years of the declaration of El Cajas as a National Park.

This commemoration was held in the interpretation center La Toreadora, with the presence of the mayor of Cuenca, Pedro Palacios; Deputy Mayor Pablo Burbano, the manager of ETAPA, José Luis Espinoza, and several citizens.

On November 5, 1996, the El Cajas were placed in the highest category in the National System of Protected Areas of the Country. The National Park itself is located in the province of Azuay, where the Andes mountain range is older, with less volcanic activity and without high peaks. It is one of the core areas of the El Cajas Massif Biosphere Reserve (Declared by UNESCO in 2014). The entire area was declared a Ramsar site in 2002.

The Telephony, Potable Water and Sewerage Company (ETAPA) has been in charge of the park since March 2000 and has been concerned with generating and applying various tools that facilitate the management of the area and the rational use of the resources that exist in this area.

The mayor of Cuenca, Pedro Palacios, highlighted the work of the park rangers and biologists who have worked on this site permanently. "Next week a delegation arrives, including mayors of Mexico to learn about the work we do, to see the care we have with protected areas," he said.

Since 2002 and through an agreement signed with the Ministry of Environment, the Cajas National Park is administered by the Municipality of Cuenca.

A park full of lagoons

There are about 165 lagoons with more than 1 hectare of surface, and 621 with less than 1 hectare, in the park. In total there are 786 bodies of water in the park.

From La Toreadora, hikers can follow a path inside the park towards other lagoons. The first ones that appear are the lagoons of the Burines Valley, on a large plain ideal for camping. Continuing south, visitors will reach Lagartococha and the Cave of the Dead, where it is believed that travelers and smugglers of spirits were dying of cold. To the southeast of Burines is Taitachungo or Mamamag.

QhapaqÑan

This route that crosses the Cajas National Park used to serve as a connection between the Sierra and the Coast. The remaining section began in Tomebamba (the current Cuenca) and culminated in the walls of Molleturo, already outside the protected area. The Paredones are a set of pre-Hispanic buildings that indicate that there was an important town or resting place Cañari and then Inca.

Extracted from Diario El Tiempo

Cuencano priest is beatified in Riobamba 123 years after his death

On November 16th, Father Emilio Moscoso, of Cuenca origin and killed on May 4, 1897 by liberal soldiers in the chapel of San Felipe Neri, was beatified by the Vatican.

The event was held in Riobamba, with the presence of Cardinal Giovanni Becciu.

Father Bolívar Piedra, auxiliary archbishop of Cuenca, defined the act as "a joy for the whole country, for the Catholic Church, for the Jesuits, given that Father Moscoso

belonged to our congregation; for Riobamba and for the San Felipe Neri school."

Father Luis Chacón, a member of the pastoral of the Borja Educational Unit, made a historical review of the life of Moscoso and said that several activities were carried out in his honor. Family members such as María Eugenia Vintimilla, and Cristian Muñoz Corral were present at the event.

Father Emilio Moscoso Cárdenas (born on April 21st, 1846) was a Roman Catholic priest and professed member of the Jesuits. He served as a teacher in the COPEM college in Riobamba since 1892 and it was there that he was slain during the Liberal Revolution which had started in 1895.

Moscoso was a noted philosopher and taught rhetoric and grammar to his students while serving as a professor; he also served as the college's rector from 1893 until his death.

Initiatives to introduce his beatification cause commenced in the late 1990s during celebrations for the first centennial of his death. The cause was introduced not long after and he became titled as a Servant of God. Pope Francis approved his beatification after confirming that the slain priest had been killed "in odium fidei" (in hatred of the faith).

Beatification (from Latin *beatus*, "blessed" and *facere*, "to make") is a recognition accorded by the Catholic Church of a dead person's entrance into Heaven and capacity to intercede on behalf of individuals who pray in his or her name.

Beatification is the second degree (of three) of sanctity and is usually a stage in the process of canonization (being placed in the catalog of saints).

Since the reforms of 1983, as a rule, one miracle must be confirmed to have taken place through the intercession of the person to be beatified. Miracles are almost always unexplainable medical healings and are scientifically investigated by commissions comprising physicians and theologians.

The requirement of a miracle for beatification is waived in the case of someone whose martyrdom is formally declared by the Church, as is the case with Father Moscoso.



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Ecuador calls for calm in Bolivia and supports new elections

The Ecuadorian state, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, called for the hostile situation in Bolivia to cease.

The declaration was made jointly with the governments of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the United States, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela.

The rejection published by the Foreign Ministry details the rejection "to all acts of violence, whatever their origin, that threaten the stability and defense of democracy in Bolivia."

In addition, there is a call for social peace, "underlining that the way out of the crisis must take place within a framework of total respect for the Constitution, Bolivian laws and the rule of law."

In the declaration, the aforementioned governments urge political actors and representatives of all the organizations of the Bolivian state to act in accordance with their constitutional mandate.

In addition, they recognize the professional and technical work carried out by the teams of the Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States and the OAS Electoral Integrity Analysis Mission, which analyzed, at the invitation of the Government of Bolivia, different stages of the electoral process carried out on October 20, 2019.

They also stressed that the Mission of Electoral Integrity Analysis indicated, due to the irregularities found in the electoral process, that it was not possible to validate the results of the Bolivian election, so it recommended the completion of another electoral process, which should count with new electoral authorities and with international observers, to generate credibility in the democratic transition process.

Finally, they called, in that sense, that after the definition of the provisional Presidency the process of calling elections to begin as soon as possible, with express guarantees that the electoral process will be carried out with justice, freedom, transparency and respect for the sovereign will of the Bolivian people.

Extracted from Diario El Telgrafo

Over 1.7 million Ecuadorian households received electricity subsidies this year



On November 4th, the Ministry of Energy and Non-Renewable Natural Resources reported that in the first 10 months of 2019, the government subsidized almost \$29 million for electricity consumption.

This amount is part of the so-called "Dignity Rate," which is focused on consumers whose energy consumption is below average. Dignity Rate beneficiaries include households in the Sierra region with monthly electricity usage of less than 110 kilowatts and those on the Coast, in the Amazon and on the Galapagos with less than 130 kilowatts of usage per month.

In total there are 1,710,441 residential users who benefit from the electricity subsidy. The majority of them are inhabitants of the provinces of Pichincha, Guayas, Manabí and Azuay, which together include 832,815 homes.

Minister Carlos Pérez said that this public policy guarantees access to a quality electrical service. He explained that the subsidized amount "is \$0.04 per kilowatt per hour per month." The users that receive the Dignity Rate represent 37% of all residential users in the country.

The objective of the State is to "reduce the payment for consumption of electric service, for the benefit of the most vulnerable sectors of the country," according to a statement from the Ministry of Energy and Non-Renewable Natural Resources.

Extracted from Diario EL TELÉGRAFO



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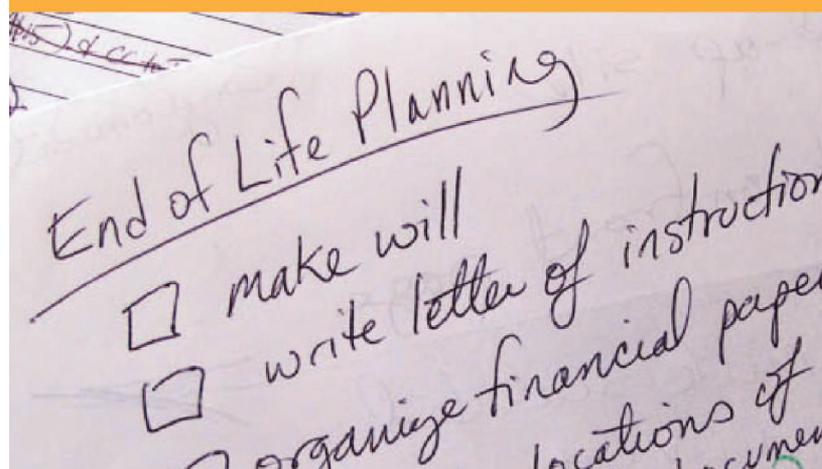
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**Naturally it's hard to think about,
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should be more than just a note on your "To-do" list...**



Contact Attorney Sara Chaca.

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Cuenca, Ecuador 010101
sara@ecuadorvisas.com | 099 296 2065



CRIME REPORT AND ACCIDENT REPORT

Cuenca Area Traffic Accidents

*A senior citizen was injured after a violent crash at 11:00 Wednesday on the Cuenca-Molleturo road, Guagrahuma sector.

The vehicles involved were a rental van and a truck. Fire Department rescuers reported that a 73-year-old citizen was caught in the twisted body of a light vehicle cabin.

Once released, he was assisted by personnel of the Ministry of Health.

* Injuries caused by a drunk driver, took the life of Maria Carmen Jarama, 62.

According to reports, the accident occurred around 6:30 pm last Sunday, on the Cuenca-Loja road, Ayamachay sector, of the Tarqui parish, when a Chevrolet Spark car ran over the victim.

The force of the impact threw the victim into a pasture and the vehicle was at the edge of the road. Traffic agents reported that the driver tested positive on a breathalyzer test.

*An agent of the Traffic Commission of Ecuador, CTE, is hospitalized after being hit by a car on the Cuenca-Azogues road, El Descanso sector.

The accident happened at 02:00 last Sunday. The victim was identified as Víctor Javier Cedeño, who was assisted by emergency services rescuers and transferred to the IESS hospital.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as Cristian Vinicio B., who tested positive in a breathalyzer test.

Edison Moscoso, provincial head of the CTE, through his Twitter account said that the agents were carrying out a breathalyzer control operation. "It is unfortunate that a public servant who did his job has been hit by an irresponsible driver, it will be the justice authorities who determine what is relevant," the official said.

Cuenca and National Criminal Activity

(Cuenca) Agents of the Dinased captured a man and a woman for the alleged crime of murder, committed on June 26, in Totoracocha.

Mario Castro, head of the Azuay Police Subzone, reported that the arrest warrant issued by Judge Sonia Cárdenas, against Josué Eliomar M. P, and his partner Crismar Nazareth SR, became effective last Wednesday.

The police chief indicated that the investigations determined that these subjects, after committing the crime, traveled to Venezuela and when they returned to Cuenca were apprehended and handed over to the judicial authorities.

The detainees are accused of being the perpetrators of the death of José Nicolás Pizarro Quituisaca, 54, in a building located on Buerán and Saraurco street

(Cotopaxi) This Wednesday, Luis Ch. Was sentenced to 34 years and 8 months in prison, and fined 1,000 unified basic salaries, for the murder of his ex-partner, a crime typified and sanctioned in article 141 of the Organic Integral Criminal Code (COIP)

The Cotopaxi Criminal Guarantees Court issued the conviction, after assessing the evidence presented by the Gender Violence prosecutor, Maricela Yáñez, at the trial hearing.

Among the main pieces of evidence in the case, are the removal of the body(s), the telephone analysis, the report of recognition of the place of the events, the autopsy, the psychological autopsy, the criminological profile of the aggressor and the testimonies of the relatives of the victim.

On March 26, after constant phone calls from her ex-partner, the victim (Jenny Y.) agreed to meet him on the main avenue of the Cotopilalo neighborhood, in the Latacunga canton, together with his five-month-old son, supposedly to solve the issue of alimony.

They were led to a ditch in the Toacaso parish where Luis Ch violently took the victim by the neck and fractured her hyoid bone, causing death by mechanical strangulation.

Then he threw the woman and her son into a ditch; the baby died after a few minutes. The bodies were found on April 1, 2019.

(Tarqui) The relatives of Manuel Arizaga Yunga, 29, have asked the authorities to investigate the circumstances of his death, which occurred after a public squabble

on Sunday.

Rocío Arizaga, said that his brother and two brothers-in-law on went to the sector known as Las Américas, of the Tarqui parish Sunday afternoon, to enjoy a festive program in honor of the Virgin of El Cisne when they were attacked. Both Manuel Arizaga and his brother and brother's in law, have wounds to the face and bodies from the assault.

Two individuals have been arrested for investigative purposes.

(Cuenca) In the operation 'Victoria 374,' three alleged members of a criminal organization dedicated to the sale of drugs in the cantons of Azuay, Paute and Gualaceo, were captured.

Edwin Íñiguez, head of the Anti-Narcotics Unit of Azuay, said that after a series of follow-ups and basic intelligence operations, at 16:00 on Tuesday, six buildings were searched in the Paute and Gualaceo cantons, where 3,316.12 grams of cocaine, 7.4 grams of marijuana, \$141, five cell phones and a car were seized.

According to anti-narcotics agents, the seized cocaine is valued at \$8,500 and marijuana at \$20.

Police arrested, Eligio BM, 29; Wilson TL, 32; and Juan Carlos RB, 26 years old.

Íñiguez explained that the raided houses served as collection centers for the drug that came from Peru, and that after being spilt up into doses, was distributed in a place that had the hairdresser's facade, in the Paute canton.

Police say that 33,161 doses of cocaine and 14.8 doses of marijuana were prevented from reaching consumers.

(Cuenca) Three criminals threatened to kill a citizen and her two children so they could steal the things of value she had in her home.

According to police records, the crime was happened at 7:45 p.m. on Monday, when the criminals broke into the house located in the Calderón citadel, northeast of Cuenca.

The police report notes that the criminals targeted their victims with firearms, and after handling them they took two televisions, a sound system, a laptop and jewelry.

Once the robbery was committed, they fled in a double-cab Chevrolet truck without license plates.

Mario Castro, head of the Azuay Subzone, said that agents of the Judicial Police had been on the trail of the criminals for a month and a half, which allowed the rapid deployment of a capture operation.

Castro indicated that when the criminals where located, they shot at a patrol car and tried to escape. During the escape, they collided with another vehicle and were intercepted on the road to Lazareto, where one of the alleged criminals was apprehended, while the other two managed to escape.

The police chief said the detainee was identified as Luis Q., 26.

S	K	O	A	L		A	B	E	L		C	A	B	S
A	N	G	L	E		L	E	G	O		A	R	I	A
F	O	L	L	O	W	I	N	G	O	R	D	E	R	S
E	W	E	S		R	E	D		K	N	E	A	D	S
				T	H	E	N		T	H	A	T		
C	A	N	A	A	N		A	W	E		S	W	A	M
A	C	E	R	B		A	F	I	R	E		E	V	E
C	H	A	S	I	N	G	O	N	E	S	T	A	I	L
H	E	R		T	E	A	R	S		T	O	R	S	O
E	S	S	O		O	R	E		P	E	R	S	O	N
				L	E	N	S		L	O	S	E		
S	W	E	D	E	S		E	O	S		O	S	L	O
T	R	A	I	L	I	N	G	T	H	E	P	A	C	K
L	A	S	E		G	R	I	T		V	E	R	D	I
O	P	T	S		N	A	S	A		A	N	I	S	E

Solution to Crossword puzzle on page 10



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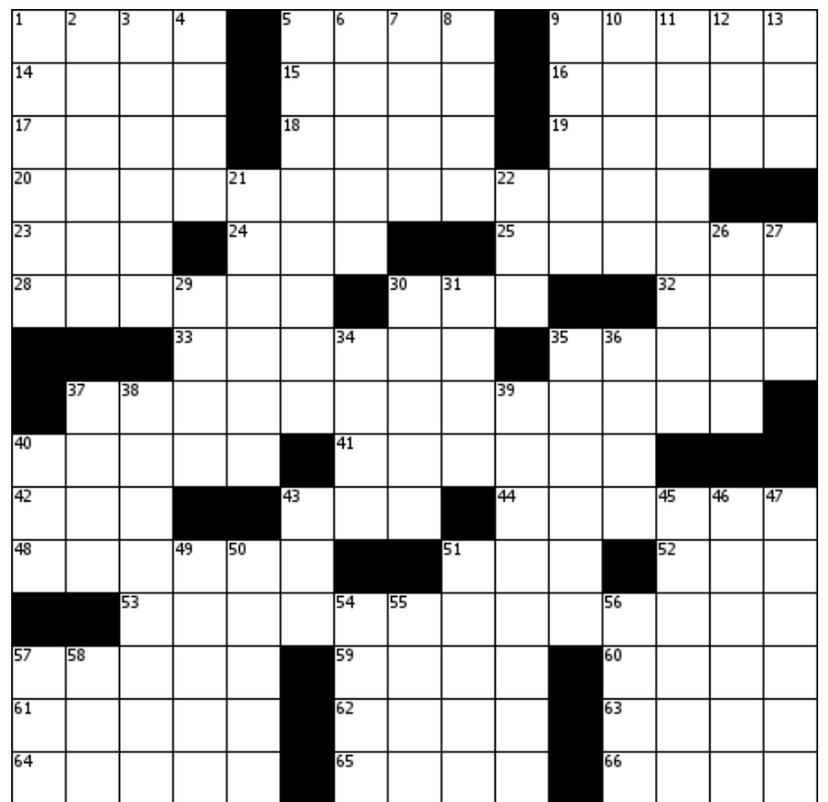


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See answers on page 11

Across

1. Cattle mover
5. Goes bad
9. Hatfield's foe
14. Crescent shape
15. "Hear no ____, speak no ..."
16. Ray blocker
17. Cruising
18. Muscularity
19. Three-legged and drag
20. First course at the prison?
23. Start for day
24. 16 1/2 feet
25. Not all there
28. Australia's national blossom
30. Trail
32. Type of hold
33. Like Christmas shopping
35. Asian capital
37. Second dinner course at the prison?
40. Potato unit
41. Become more complicated
42. Time of the 75th meridian
43. Part of FYI
44. Appeased thirst
48. SAT taker
51. Pussycat's partner
52. Chef's phrase
53. Dessert course at the prison?
57. Range
59. Lo-fat
60. Hurt expression
61. Male seal's devotees
62. Modern summons
63. The first chip, usually
64. It could be on the board
65. Takes into a count?
66. Bonnie bairn

Down

1. Vein filler
2. Log cabinish
3. Lake in upstate New York
4. Highly valued
5. Act in opposition
6. Out of round
7. Antler point
8. Rosebud, famously
9. Dummkopf
10. Autocrats
11. Crested bird
12. It's "for the money"
13. Da, somewhere
21. Joey or Ross, e.g.
22. Snowball, famously
26. It's not always proper
27. Sniggler's catch
29. Pull up to the bar
30. He's in for good
31. Coyote's company of choice
34. List heading
35. Blanche's sister
36. It's active in Sicily
37. San ____, Calif.
38. Leave your opponent with love?
39. Old hairdos
40. Term of endearment
43. Swampy land
45. Hawaiian medicine man
46. Sends to Washington
47. Track events
49. Narrow
50. Foe
51. Was decisive
54. Corsica neighbor
55. Conked out, as a car
56. Scuttle's contents
57. Petal-plucker's word
58. Part of a rotating shaft

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

November 18th -

FREE (\$0.00) Dinner Seminar at the 'Sunrise Cafe': "Ecuador Wills & Estate Planning"

Dine out for a complimentary Dinner at the 'Sunrise Cafe', and learn from Attorney Sara Chaca of "Ecuador Visas", as to the benefits, process and requirements of "Ecuador Wills & Estate Planning". Feel free to attend whether you've come to any of our past free dinner seminars or even one of this same theme, as naturally life is what happens when you're making other plans, and Attorney Sara Chaca quite well knows from her Expat clients that life's plans often change in the blink of any eye!

All seminar attendees at the 'Sunrise Café' will receive a FREE DINNER, consisting of one of the following 3 meal options of your own individual selection.

Email for Sign Up: sara@ecuadorvisas.com

Address for Seminar: 'Sunrise Cafe', Calle Larga 9-38, Cuenca, Ecuador.

Day/Time for Seminar: Monday, November 18th, from 5:00PM to 6:30PM – dinner will be served immediately following the seminar.

Contact: Sara Chaca Phone: 0992962065

November 19 -

NEXT TOUR To Our Rose Farm And Hacienda: Tuesday, November 19th!

Save your spot! A chance to discover our paradise just 45 minutes from Cuenca near Biblian. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about roses, visit an historical hacienda and get some great photos.

The farm exports over 9 million roses a year and most visitors find the production and harvesting process very interesting. With 18 greenhouses of roses you will see all the varieties and receive a deeper understanding of this delicate process.

The next tour will be on November 19th. Departing in medium-size bus from Plaza del Otorongo at 9 a.m. and returning at 3 p.m.

And of course, everyone leaves with roses!!!

The cost is \$35 per person, transportation, farm tour, and lunch are included. You'll have lots of fun.

Let me know if you have any question. I'll be happy to help.

Contact: Ecuador Direct Roses Phone: 096-904-1385

November 21st - Hearts of Gold Garage Sale

Hearts of Gold is hosting a charity garage sale on Wednesday and Thursday, November 20 and 21 to raise funds for the Community Assistance Program. We will have clothes, jewelry, kitchen items, books, toys, and much more.

The garage sale will take place from 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM in the driveway of the Hearts of Gold office. The office is located at Victor Manuel Albornoz 4-97 y Los Cedros. We are in the same building as Melatte in the Puertas del Sol neighborhood. You can also search for us on Google Maps.

Contact: Amy Montiel Phone: info@heartsofgoldfoundation.org

November 23rd - "The Beatles Tribute" Common Grounds

Cuenca Blues Band & Common Grounds present the best tribute to The Beatles (blues style). You can't miss it!

Place: Common Grounds Sports Bar & Grill (Eduardo Crespo Malo & Gran Colombia)

Hour: 9pm Cover: \$5

Contact: Olger Phone: 0983092885



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Solution to Sudoku puzzle on page 3

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

Real Estate & Rentals



FOR SALE

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Apartments from 86 sq m with hot water and gas centralized system, fiber-optic-internet service, gym, communal roof and lot of more reasons that make Atlantida the best place to live.

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Beautiful natural piece of land/forest in Challuabamba

It comes with 2,700 square meters, in a 60 green acres (gated community). Just 15 minutes away from Cuenca. The price is \$75 per square meter.

Contact:
Caridad Malo
099-276-1359
caridadmalo@hotmail.fr

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Contact:
Iván Neira
+593 984747607 (wp only)
officecuenca@gmail.com

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Furnished House For Rent

The House is in a Gated community in San Joaquín (Cuenca). It comes with 3 bedrooms and a yard. Located in a exclusive neighborhood, near golf club. Price: \$900 all included.

Contact:
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0999 880 979
monileonera@yahoo.com

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