



Embajada del Ecuador en el Reino  
Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del  
Norte.  
Misión Permanente ante los Organismos  
Internacionales con Sede en Londres.



4 – 8 - 11 / 2015

London, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2015

Dear Sirs

Anglo Ecuadorian Society

Present.-

In regards to the review published by The Ecologist.org on its website, in relation to the presentation of Carlos Zorrilla, under the auspices of the Anglo Ecuadorian Society, on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at 6:00 pm, I politely request the Anglo Ecuadorian Society to publish the attached statement on its website. The same request has been made to *The Ecologist.org*.

The above mentioned request is made taking into consideration that this statement - made in exercise of a legitimate right of defense- constitutes a response to the article written by Carlos Zorrilla, published on the Ecologist.org, entitled: "*Letter from Ecuador-where defending nature and community is a crime*".

Sincerely,



Juan Falconi Puig

Ambassador of Ecuador to the United Kingdom



**Embassy in the United  
Kingdom**



## **STATEMENT**

### **Chronology of events:**

- In the weekly presidential address No. 351, on September 14, 2013, President Rafael Correa referred to the existence of a guide for community activists, a kind of manual on how to behave during riots and resistance, co-authored by Carlos Zorrilla. The President also states that Mr. Zorrilla is financed by Global Response and by the Global Justice Project of Minnesota.
- The Government of Ecuador has always expressed its rejection to violence and all forms of incitement to violence. Mr. Zorrilla's Manual might lead to this result.
- In a request for a hearing on the situation of Defenders of Wildlife requested to the Interamerican Human Rights Commission, Mr. Carlos Zorrilla's case is mentioned as a case where human rights are violated in Ecuador.

### **Conclusions:**

- Regarding the alleged attacks that President Correa would have done against Mr. Zorrilla, it should be stated that the Government through the President, addressed in its Weekly Report of September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 specifically the limits of social protest and how this form of democratic reaction, contained in the Constitution of Ecuador (right to protest) sometimes turns into vandalism ways that threaten public safety.
- This information displayed in the Weekly Report of the Government was aimed exclusively to alert the public against anti-democratic practices that endanger the rights of people, especially the most vulnerable population groups.
- Within this context, in the Weekly Report the President addressed the issue of a citizen named Zorrilla as one of the four authors of a manual called "Protecting your community from Business Mining Companies and other extractive activities ". Within the frame of this document, the President of Ecuador warned about certain tactics recommended by the authors that included activities of social protest, clearly at odds with human rights respect.
- In the manual, co-authored by Carlos Zorrilla, there are included, as references, some recommendations for activists and citizens who want to protest, which would not be acceptable given the fact that they would go beyond the right of citizens to publicly express disagreement with the government.



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- Therefore the public complaint of President Correa on the existence of acts of social destabilization above referred, clearly meet the standards set up by the International Law of Human Rights as to precisely guarantee the right to freedom of association, which, in spite of being an individual right, can only be done collectively provided it has lawful purposes, as stated in the American Convention on Human Rights and in the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador.
- From the above it should be understood that the concept of public safety is a notion legitimately associated to the right of free association, given two fundamental principles: The public order; and the rights and freedoms of others.
- On the other hand, concerning the alleged absence of representatives of civil society in the design and implementation of public policies, suffice to say that in Ecuador the civil society organizations are supported by a clear and transparent legal statute which allows precisely to ensure their performance.
- According to the Unified Information System of Social Organizations (SUIOS), there are approximately 143 organizations registered in Ecuador. This demonstrates that organized citizenship and international cooperation are factors of high impact in the mechanism of public policies aimed to achieve the objectives of the Development Plan of Ecuador or Plan of Good Living.
- After all these arguments, it is clearly inaccurate to say that there is a lack of citizen participation in establishment of public policy in Ecuador.
- Finally, it should be stressed that the right to protest cannot be exercised violently in any democratic society.



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