

URGENT ACTION

GOVERNMENT ABANDONS PROCESS TO CLOSE NGO

Ecuadorian authorities have abandoned their plans to shut down freedom of expression organization Fundamedios. This is a welcome move which will allow Fundamedios to continue carrying out their legitimate human rights work.

On 25 September the National Communication Secretariat (Secretaria Nacional de Comunicación, Secom) notified **Fundamedios**, a national NGO working on freedom of expression issues in Ecuador, that the process they initiated on 7 September to shut them down has been abandoned.

Secom stated in their notification to Fundamedios that they reached this decision after accepting the Ombudsman's request, which days earlier urged them to prevent the dissolution and closure of Fundamedios in order to strengthen opportunities for dialogue with civil society organizations. However, Secom also included a "final warning" to Fundamedios to "comply with its own statutes, especially the prohibition of exercising matters of a political nature, avoiding raising unfounded alerts for the sole purpose of damaging the prestige of Ecuador and its institutions, and make transparent its sources of financing and the use of these resources when this authority so requires".

No further action is requested of the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 196/15. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr28/2433/2015/en/

Name: Fundamedios (NGO)

Gender m/f: both

Further information on UA: 196/15 Index: AMR 28/2617/2015 Issue Date: 7 October 2015