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Ecuador: Respect for human rights must be the top priority of the political agenda

President Alfredo Palacios must take this historic opportunity to place human rights very firmly at the top of the country's political agenda, and demonstrate that the government is truly committed to tackle the deep political crisis the country is being submerged in, said Nuria Garcia, Amnesty International researcher on Ecuador today.

"Guaranteeing respect for human rights, the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law are key measures that must be undertaken by the authorities as a matter of urgency," said Ms Garcia.

Amnesty International called on the Ecuadorian President Alfredo Palacios to urgently investigate all allegations of human rights abuses committed by security forces in the context of demonstrations held during the past week and to bring those responsible to justice.

Background Information

Vice President Alfredo Palacios was appointed President of Ecuador after Congress removed ex President Lucio Gutierrez from his post.

Massive demonstrations have been held across the country during the last week, asking for President Gutierrez's resignation following his decision to sack all members of the Supreme Court.

Public Document

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