

U.S. Embassy Quito, Ecuador
Security Message for U.S. Citizens
Planned Demonstrations on March 19, 2015

The U.S. Embassy in Quito would like to inform U.S. citizens of demonstrations planned for March 19, 2015 in various cities throughout Ecuador, according to information from the Ecuadorian National Police and the media.

Among the cities where demonstrations will occur are Quito, Guayaquil, and Cuenca, although various sources state that additional demonstration sites are probable. The police warn that the most likely areas where safety and/or security incidents may occur are in Cuenca and Quito. The Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE), Confederación Ecuatoriana de Organizaciones Campesinas Unidas y de Trabajadores (CEDOCUT), and Frente Unitario de Trabajadores (FUT), along with other indigenous and labor groups are organizing these demonstrations to protest new land regulations, changes in labor laws, and importation restrictions, among other topics.

In Quito, approximately 4,000 attendees are expected to participate in the demonstrations, according to the police. Protesters will gather at Parque El Arbolito, next to Parque El Ejido and adjacent to Avenida La Patria, at 4:00 p.m. to march on Avenida 10 de Agosto and Calle Guayaquil to Plaza San Francisco. It is likely there will also be demonstrations near the intersection of Avenida de los Granados and Avenida 6 de Diciembre.

In Cuenca, approximately 1,800 protesters are expected to participate in the demonstrations, according to the police. Protesters will convene at Parque San Blas at 4:00 p.m. and march to Parque Calderon.

In Guayaquil, approximately 2,500 protesters are expected to participate in the demonstrations, according to the police. Protesters will convene at the Malecon at 4:00 p.m. and march to the Governor's Office.

U.S. Mission Ecuador advises U.S. citizens to avoid the areas near the demonstrations on Thursday, March 19, 2015, to remain alert and informed via local news sources regarding areas where demonstrations may be occurring. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. Review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security and follow instructions of local authorities.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Ecuador enroll in the Department of State's **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program**. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the **State Department's website**, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read **the Country Specific Information for Ecuador**. For additional information, please refer to our "**Traveler's Checklist**" page. Updated information on travel and security in Ecuador may also be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States or by calling 1-202-501-4444 outside the United States.

Contact information:

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<http://ecuador.usembassy.gov/>

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Dialing instructions within Ecuador:

- Within the same city and from a land line use the last seven digits.
- For calls from a mobile phone and for intercity telephone calls add the city code preceded by a 0.

Dialing instructions from the United States:

- Add the 011 prefix for an international long distance line.

For after-hours emergencies, call the phone numbers listed above for assistance.