

## PUBLIC STATEMENT BY COMUNÁLISIS ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN ECUADOR

Amidst the ongoing economic, political, and social turbulence in Ecuador, we write to inform the national and international community that the Ecuadorian government has violently repressed nation-wide strikes against the new neoliberal reforms it announced last Thursday, as mandated by its recent agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). These reforms include widespread layoffs in the public sector, reducing the health budget, slashing subsidies on gas prices, further flexibilizing and precarising the labor market, as well as other measures that favor national and multinational corporations.

In response to the massive demonstrations against these measures, as well as calls for an indefinite nationwide strike, the government of President Lenin Moreno has violently repressed students, workers, women, peasants, and indigenous peoples who have unanimously raised their voice in protest. We denounce the brutality displayed by police and military forces yesterday and today (October 3rd and 4th), the illegal arrest of more than 200 people, and the injuring of many others, some of whom now find themselves in serious medical conditions.

We denounce the State of Emergency decreed by President Moreno on the entire national territory, which gives the police and military exceptional prerogatives in order to “reestablish public order”. This measure represents a threat to democracy – most notably, suppressing the freedom of association and freedom of movement. We denounce the national media’s lack of impartiality as it reports on ongoing developments: the strike does not only concern the unions and organizations in the transportation sectors; the strike is being carried out by the general public against the economic measures announced by the government.

We denounce the fact that these measures seek to comply with the IMF’s directives, which stem from the March 2019 agreement and which openly favor national corporations and international capital. We denounce the complicity of parts of the conservative oligarchy and its representatives, as well as the opportunistic declarations coming from certain representatives in the National Assembly and supporters of former president, Rafael Correa. During his time in office, Correa efficiently repressed and dismantled popular organizations and resistance movements – often with violent force similar to the kind we are currently witnessing.

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Finally, we denounce the extractivist policies that Moreno's government continues to pursue, which also directly parallel those promulgated by former president Correa. The huge extractive projects in mining and energy, which are currently under development, dispossess communities and indigenous peoples, destroy their territories and the environment, all while amassing millions in profits for national and international elites.

COMUNÁLISIS is a collective of academics, journalists, and activists seeking to connect and make visible diverse struggles in the defense of territories, bodies, and lives. Our labor is committed to resisting the extractivist plunder of lands and peoples, which is part of a capitalist, patriarchal, and colonial system of dispossession and accumulation. Our work in research and communication aims to reveal the socio-ecological impacts of extractive industries as well as their financial, institutional, and political allies.

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