

BERTHOLLET'S PRESS REVIEW

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« An international armed conflict in Ecuador »

Messenger newspapers, CNN, World Politics review, 10th January 2024

Different perceptions: between pragmatism and the sensationalism of facts.

Since the evasion of one of the most dangerous and famous prisoners in Ecuador, an astronomical amount of violence has emerged from drug smugglers: between murders, hostage-taking on a TV set, torture, public executions... The authorities declared a state of emergency. However, even if this violence and its consequences are unanimously reported in the international press, reasons of these excesses differ. Indeed, according to live media, the escape would be the key to this uprising: an action which could fire up gangsters to take advantage of the government's weaknesses.

This sensationalist point of view is countered by a more pragmatic analysis: this outcome has been building for more than a decade, while Ecuador's surge in crime and violence first became noticeable in 2020. The bad luck has to do with a series of events – most of which were out of Ecuador's control – in recent years that led to the rise and spread of criminal networks throughout the country. In particular, the demobilization of the FARC insurgency in the years following its 2016 peace deal with the Colombian government left lucrative cocaine-trafficking routes through Ecuador up for grabs, attracting foreign criminal groups that coopted local gangs in the ensuing violent turf wars.

<https://www.messengernewspapers.co.uk/news/national/24039243.caused-criminal-violence-surge-ecuador/>

<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/01/09/americas/armed-men-interrupt-live-tv-ecuador-intl/index.html>

<https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/daily-review-crisis-in-ecuador/>

El comercio, Jan 2024

Violence in Ecuador: A wake-up.

Ecuador experienced a wave of violence in January 2024. The violence included attacks on police stations, prisons, and media outlets.

The government declared a state of internal conflict, giving the security forces the resources they need to combat organized crime. The government has also taken steps to improve coordination between the security forces and the judiciary.

The violence was a tragedy, but it also had some positive consequences. It helped to wake people up to the problem of crime and violence in Ecuador, and it led to a sense of unity among the government, the security forces, and the public.

The fight against organized crime is not over, but the violence has given the government a new sense of urgency. The government must continue to take action to address the root causes of crime, such as poverty and inequality.

<https://www.elcomercio.com/opinion/martes-negro-ecuador-lolo-echeverria-columnista.html>

Dailymail, 10th January 2024

Ecuador erupts in 'civil war' with cartel thugs.

Ecuador finds itself plunged into the depths of civil unrest as nefarious elements from the cartel initiate a conflict that has sent shockwaves across the nation. In response to the escalating crisis, the president has issued a commanding order for the military to descend into the streets, seeking to restore order amidst the chaos that has unfolded.

The turmoil gripping Ecuador has manifested in a series of brazen attacks, including explosive incidents and the brazen kidnapping of several police officers. These events prompted the government to impose a state of emergency, signaling the severity of the situation and the need for immediate intervention to quell the rising tide of instability.

The repercussions of Ecuador's unrest have spilled beyond its borders, prompting neighboring Peru to declare a state of emergency along its northern frontier with Ecuador. The decision reflects the palpable threat of violence that continues to persist and has not only gripped Ecuador but also had a spill-over effect on the security landscape of the region.

As Ecuador grapples with the complexities of internal strife, the international community watches closely, recognizing the urgent need for diplomatic and strategic measures to restore stability and safeguard the well-being of the affected population.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12944363/amp/armed-men-bombs-ecuador-tv-set-broadcast.html>