
From the Press

Ecuador

Ecuador has the highest security progress in Latin America between 2009 and 2013, according to study



The government of Ecuador has invested resources in the implementation of an integral security system, ECU 911. /Photo: Andes

Quito, Aug. 22 (Andes) - Ecuador is one of the countries in Latin America with the most progress in security matters from 2009, according to a study by the polling firm Gallup. These numbers are consistent with official statistics, that show a decrease in crimes such as homicide, which is currently at the lowest level since 2000.

“The biggest jump was made by Ecuador, where all three indicators, (number of thefts, perceived security, and confidence in the police) improved considerably”, as highlighted by the report dated this Friday, in Washington and covers the 2009-2013 period.

The report places Ecuador in the fourth place among 21 countries, after Nicaragua, Panamá and Chile and above Uruguay. The Andean country obtained 63 points over 100, therefore, increasing 14 points compared to 2009.

Gallup remembers that according to socialist president Rafael Correa since 2007, the success is due to improving arms control, judiciary independence and campaigns reinforcing efforts to capture the country's most dangerous criminals, which amount to dozens from 2011 to date.

The information, published on the Gallup's web site, is based on telephone and face to face interviews to 1,000 people older than 15 and has a 95% reliability.

Ecuador's achievements occurred in a context of increasing perception of insecurity in most countries in the region, the study bases its measurements on "confidence in police, personal safety and incidents of theft."

The homicide rate in the country was reduced to 10.87 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2013 compared to 18.88% in 2008 and 16.99% in 2000, according to the Government, who foresees that this digit will go down to one in 2014. Murder rates last year were the lowest since 2000.

One of the factors reducing homicide, is the investment in security, which grew eight times during the Correa government, with respect to the three previous administrations, reaching 2.674 million dollars in April. For 2014 an investment of 539 million dollars is planned.

These resources have been directed towards increased police training, new community police units (UPC), with an investment of 163.4 million dollars between 2011-2013 and a better salary for them.

In addition, the government of President Correa improved the Armed Forces equipment by purchasing aircrafts, helicopters, submarines and in 2011 he promoted a popular referendum to implement measures that improve public safety and the administration of justice.

Until last August, the Ecuadorian courts executed 2,000 sentences for murder and rape, according to the Ministry of the Interior.

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TOP 5 EN SEGURIDAD



Indices de seguridad en América latina y Caribe

PAÍS	2009	2013	Diferencia
<i>Nicaragua</i>	58	67	+9
<i>Panama</i>	60	67	+7
<i>Chile</i>	59	66	+7
<i>Ecuador</i>	49	63	+14
<i>Uruguay</i>	59	62	+3

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