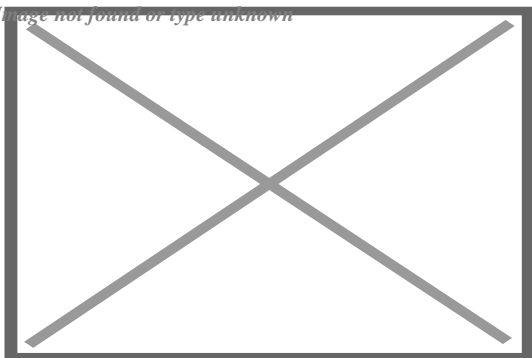


Not even the OAS could save Noboa

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By Roberto Morejón

In evidence of the isolation of the Ecuadorian government in ordering the brutal assault with long arms on the Mexican embassy in Quito, the traditionally questioned OAS approved a resolution condemning the invasion.

In a pronouncement widely adopted by the members with the sole exception of Ecuador's vote against and El Salvador's abstention, the OAS document rejected the raid to kidnap former Ecuadorian Vice President Jorge Glas, who had requested asylum in Mexico.

In other words, there is a strong condemnation of the incursion of the South American country's police in foreign territory, as the embassy of another country and the acts of violence against Mexican diplomats are considered.

The latter opens a new front of criticism to the government of President Daniel Noboa, who decided the assault, because as evidenced by the images of security cameras exposed by Mexico, its diplomats were subjected to acts of force, as well as Glas.

But the reaction of the Ecuadorian government insisting on its untenable arguments that it should put an end to the protection of someone it considers a criminal, highlights the lack of harmony with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

Moreover, in the face of the OAS resolution, Ecuador tried to manipulate it in its favor and responded by summoning Mexico, in spite of the fact that that country acted in accordance with the legal system. Noboa's government, whom experts qualify as improvised and poorly advised, has not accepted, at least publicly, that embassies are inviolable.

In the face of the almost unanimous support of Latin America and the Caribbean for Mexico, even the United States, in a plan to court Noboa and with growing influence in the South American country, had to join, albeit belatedly, the wave of condemnation of the government of Ecuador.

But the regional community and even at the international level should not stop at condemnations and should continue to monitor the irregular situation of Glas, subjected to duress, health problems and without access, at least initially, to his defense.

The OAS, of lackluster support to dictatorships and extreme right-wing regimes, has reacted to the obvious, the outrage of the Ecuadorian government to civilized norms.

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