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Ecuador: Military Request Authorization To Take Action Against Violence

by Erika Harding
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On Aug. 13, during the official welcoming ceremony by the military leadership for newly inaugurated President Sixto Duran Ballen, Defense Minister Gen. Jose Gallardo asked the President to establish legal mechanisms which would allow the military to participate in efforts to confront escalating social violence. Gallardo told Duran Ballen, "We see with great concern the disintegration of public and private morals which is destroying the nation's dignity and vigor, and we feel that perhaps now is the last opportunity to rectify the situation before our society falls victim to the chaos and barbarism afflicting other peoples." Later, presidential spokesperson Jose Vicente Maldonado announced that a joint police-military operation will be conducted in Guayaquil in the near future. He said such operations will subsequently be expanded to other parts of the country. (Source: Spanish news service EFE, Agence France-Presse, 08/13/92)

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