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Ecuadoran Government Approves Asylum Request For Former Panamanian Minister Of Interior & Justice

by Deborah Tyroler

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According to a May 31 communique by the Panamanian Foreign Ministry, the Ecuadoran government has approved a request for diplomatic asylum by former interior and justice minister Rodolfo Chiari de Leon. Chiari sought refuge in the Ecuadoran embassy in Panama City two months ago. The communique said the embassy has requested safe passage guarantees for Chiari's departure from Panama. The Foreign Ministry said the government would reply to the embassy request as soon as accusations against the former minister have been investigated. Chiari is accused of closing seven media organizations, and expelling several journalists from the country prior to the US invasion. (Basic data from Xinhua, 05/31/90)

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