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Ecuador: Military Patrols Dispatched To Maintain Order In Guayaquil

by Barbara Khol

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On Jan. 16, President Rodrigo Borja called for military intervention in the port city of Guayaquil, following a violent protest. During a street demonstration, fired municipal employees set fire to eight municipal vehicles, smashed windows in the downtown area, and looted shops and business offices. Guayaquil mayor Harry Soria decided to fire 4,074 persons receiving salaries from the municipal government, but who either do not exist or perform no real work. He added that in Aseo de Calles department, the municipality was paying salaries to 800 persons to drive 40 trucks. Interior Minister Cesar Verduga said the federal government supports Soria's decision. He added that the list of 4,074 includes persons residing outside the country, and deceased individuals. Military patrols were also dispatched to Narajano, 100 km. south of Guayaquil, where a strike degenerated into confrontation with police. Three police officers and nine civilians sustained bullet wounds. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 01/16/92)

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