

ENGLISH EDITION / LATIN AMERICA

No Terrorism or Assassination Attempt: Ecuador Court Frees Indigenous Protesters Detained Over Attack on Noboa's Motorcade During National Strike

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Following the release of the five detainees, Ecuador's Indigenous confederation Conaie hailed the decision as a key step against the criminalization of social protest, saying it reaffirms that the people's struggle is both legitimate and constitutional.



An Ecuadorian court has released five Indigenous protesters arrested after President [Daniel Noboa](#)'s motorcade was stoned in Cañar province amid a nationwide strike that has been underway since September 22 in response to the government's decision to eliminate the diesel subsidy.

The incident occurred during demonstrations when a group of Indigenous protesters who had blocked a road in this southern Ecuador province, specifically in the El Tambo canton area, threw rocks at vehicles in Noboa's convoy, leaving dents and shattered windows.

The right-leaning head of state was unharmed and proceeded with his scheduled event in Cañar to deliver sewer works and inspect a wastewater treatment plant.

Even so, Energy and Environment Minister InE9s Manzano said she had filed a complaint with the Attorney General's Office against the demonstrators, accusing them of an attempted attack on the president's life. She also confirmed they would be prosecuted for the alleged crime of terrorism.

In response to the events in Cañar, the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (Conaie) voiced deep concern, arguing that the episode "lejos de ser un accidente" was a provocation by the national government that repeats what it called the "humanitarian convoy" script to justify repression.

The organization said the episode reflected a "false flag" intended to criminalize the Indigenous movement, rejecting the government's claim of an attempted assassination against five protesters: MarEDa Chimbo, Jaime GuamE1n, Franklin Pichizaca, JosE9 GuamE1n and Luis Yupa. It also demanded respect for due process without political pressure and called for their release.

No Terrorism, No Assassination

Azogues criminal judge C9rika C1lvarez declared the detention of the five Indigenous protesters unlawful and ordered their immediate release.

The ruling came after she reviewed police procedures during a flagrancy hearing held on Tuesday that lasted more than five hours.

During the session, the judge heard arguments from prosecutor Martha VillamarEDn Paredes as well as from the protesters' defense attorneys.

While the Prosecutor's Office argued there were indications of an attack against vehicles in Noboa's motorcade, defense lawyers contended the arrests were arbitrary and unconstitutional.

Prosecutors said the five Indigenous protesters had allegedly committed the crimes of attack or resistance and damage to private property, as defined in

Ecuador's Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code (COIP). However, when filing the complaint with the State Attorney General's Office (FGE), Minister Manzano requested that the [detainees](#) be prosecuted for an attempted assassination of the president and for terrorism.

Judge C1lvarez, however, determined that there were irregularities in the Public Ministry's actions, specifically in the arrest procedure, which invalidated the detentions.

For that reason, the Indigenous protesters' lawyers demanded that the hearing be halted and their clients' liberty restored.

LIBRES LOS DETENIDOS DE CAD1AR

La jueza declarF3 ilegal la detenciF3n de Franklin Pichazaca, Jaime Guaman, JosE9 Guaman, MarEDa Chimbo y Luis Yupa, acusados por FiscalEDa de ataque o resistencia y denunciados por terrorismo. □9□77 pic.twitter.com/fJcFmwoJLn

— Foa Azuay (@foazuay93) [October 8, 2025](#)

For her part, prosecutor VillamarEDn, though disagreeing with the decision, chose not to bring charges against the detainees, noting that doing so would create a procedural defect.

□The Prosecutor's Office places on the record in this hearing what has occurred and the direction you have given. The Prosecutor's Office will continue with a preliminary investigation so this case does not go unpunished,□ she said, as quoted by Radio Pichincha.

[#AHORA](#) | [#Cañar](#): Jueza declara ilegal la detenciF3n de las 5 personas, registrada en el sector Coyocto, cantF3n [#ElTambo](#), y ordena su libertad. La decisiF3n de la

Magistrada impide que [#FiscalEDaEc](#) formule cargos.
pic.twitter.com/f2KWpDa9Zx

— FiscaliEDa Ecuador (@FiscaliaEcuador) [October 8, 2025](#)

With no charges filed, Judge C1lvarez ordered the immediate release of the four men held at the Azogues No. 2 Deprivation of Liberty Center and of the woman held at the Cuenca women's prison.

A key step against the criminalization of social protest

Following the release of the detained Indigenous protesters, Conaie said the ruling by Ecuador's judiciary represents a significant step against the criminalization of social protest.

They emphasized that it reaffirms that the people's struggle is legitimate and constitutional.

"We demand an end to persecution and for the deep causes of the crisis to be addressed with political, not repressive, solutions," the group posted on its X account.

A1Libres los detenidos de [#Cañar!](#)

Franklin Pichizaca, Jaime GuamE1n, JosE9 GuamE1n, MarEDa Chimbo y Luis Yupa recuperaron su libertad tras haber sido apresados durante las movilizaciones en El Tambo.

Su liberaciF3n representa un paso importante frente a la criminalizaciF3n de la
laAoAo pic.twitter.com/ztSzJBwXda

— CONAIE (@CONAIE_Ecuador) [October 9, 2025](#)

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Fuente: [El Ciudadano](#)