



Honorable President Rafael Correa Delgado  
Palacio de Carondelet  
Plaza Grande  
Quito, Ecuador

August 17, 2015

Mr. President,

On behalf of the American Political Science Association, we write to express our grave concern for Dr. Manuela Lavinas Picq, a respected scholar and teacher at the University of San Francisco de Quito. Absent any further information, we write to urge you to ensure Dr. Picq's physical well-being while in custody, access to medical care and legal counsel, and the reinstatement of her visa status to remain in Ecuador.

The American Political Science Association is a scholarly association which represents more than 13,000 U.S. and internationally-based professors and students of political science, including many in Ecuador. Dr. Picq is a writer and scholar of international relations whose research focuses on indigenous communities, through feminist international relations perspectives, which has led her to further research on sexuality within indigenous communities.

We understand from news media reports that Dr. Picq was at a demonstration in Quito on Thursday, August 13, 2015, and that around 9:00pm, Dr. Picq was arrested along with indigenous rights leaders and her life partner. We further understand from media reports that Dr. Picq received treatment at Eugenio Espejo hospital, and that Dr. Picq's visa has subsequently been cancelled and she now faces deportation.

We would welcome any additional (or contrary) information you might share which will help us to understand the situation more fully. Absent this, the facts as described appear to indicate that Dr. Picq was assaulted and is being charged as a result of expressive activity, conduct which is clearly protected under international human rights instruments including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Ecuador is a signatory.

We urge you to ensure that Dr. Picq receives a fair opportunity to address any charges before an impartial tribunal, that any charges or convictions related to her academic activities are lifted, and that in the interim, her case is addressed in a manner consistent with internationally recognized standards of due process, fair trial and detention.



Sincerely,

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Cc:

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