

I am writing to express my grave concern on twenty-one people among those detained during anti-government protests in Quito. They have been sentenced following concerns of violations of their right to a fair trial.

I am calling on the authorities to release the 21 people, unless they are tried in proceedings which meet international standards of fairness.

Acknowledging that while the state has a duty to maintain public order, it should never use excessive force and must guarantee the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and fair trial.

I am also calling for prompt and impartial investigations into all allegations of excessive use of force and arbitrary detentions, and for those found responsible to be brought to justice.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Yours respectfully,