

# *Russia Today taken off the air in Ecuador*

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Moscow, November 15 (RHC)-- The international news network Russia Today (RT) has denounced that Ecuador's public television operator has taken its transmissions off the air without providing any reason.

"Without prior notice or explanation, Ecuador's National Telecommunications Corporation (CNT), which is the public provider of television services in the country, has cut off RT signal which was broadcast on channel 778," Russia Today said.

In October, during massive protests against President Lenin Moreno's austerity measures, the RT network broadcast live what was happening in this Andean country. Meanwhile, local mainstream media created an informative "blockade" against social movements and progressive parties. On that occasion, Ecuador's Interior Minister Maria Paula Romo blamed Russia for "promoting violence" in her country and hinted that RT would be the instrument of an ongoing plot against her government.

"It is striking that protests were broadcast live on the Russian government's public channel," Romo said and specified that RT made coverage of "everything that was happening on the streets."

In making these accusations, however, Romo seemed unaware that other international media such as EFE, El Pais or La Vanguardia also carried very thorough coverage of the Ecuadorean popular uprising.

The Ecuadorean government's decision to cut the RT off the air surprised even the Russian company's local journalists and anchors. "I am capable of understanding either people or governments do not agree with one outlet or another. However, the media exist to generate public opinion. That is called pluralism and consists of being able to get information from different sources to draw conclusions. Censorship is not the way," said Fernando Terranova, the RT anchor in Ecuador.

During the October protests, President Lenin Moreno's administration also banned teleSUR Spanish Network from its state-controlled media company.

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