

Ecuadorian President Pardons Police Officer Who Tried to Kill Him



Quito, April 2 (teleSUR-RHC)-- Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa has pardoned a police officer who had been convicted of trying to kill the president during a failed coup attempt on Sept. 30, 2010.

Police officer Vinicio Carvajal had been sentenced to 12 years in prison after being found guilty – along with five others – of shooting at the vehicle which carried President Correa during the coup attempt.

The pardon was made through an official decree, signed on March 31, 2015. According the decree, Carvajal expressed remorse for his actions and asked for forgiveness from those who had been wronged.

On Sept. 30, 2010, a group of police rebelled over labor issues. That rebellion turned into a violent revolt against President Correa, who was held hostage in a hospital for several hours. The president was ultimately rescued by the military. The events left 10 people dead, including a presidential guard, as well as 300 injured.

An investigation concluded that the events that day were in fact preplanned. In 2012, President Correa pardoned two other police officers who had been found guilty of participating in the failed coup attempt.

Jaime Paucar and Luis Bahamonde had been sentenced to 2 years in prison.

Bahamonde was found guilty of launching tear gas at the president, meanwhile Paucar was found guilty of attempting to remove the gas mask Correa was wearing to protect himself from the tear gas.

Bahamonde and Paucar also expressed regret for their actions and asked forgiveness from the president and the Ecuadorean people. In total, 109 people have been found guilty in connection to the coup attempt, with charges ranging from attempted murder to sedition and rebellion.

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