

Ecuadoreans Celebrate Return of President Correa



Quito, June 16 (teleSUR-RHC)-- Ecuadoreans from all socioeconomic backgrounds and various social movements filled *Plaza Grande* on Monday to show their support for the country's Citizen's Revolution.

Following a week of protests in Quito and other major cities across the country, many citizens felt it was especially important to welcome President Rafael Correa after his return from an European tour, said Maria Jose Carrion, a legislator for the governing PAIS Alliance party. "This is the continued defense of our values and our revolutionary convictions. This process of transformation in Ecuador has given hope back to millions of Ecuadoreans. Not just for a few," Carrion told teleSUR.

Before Correa attended the EU-CELAC Summit in Europe, his administration recently submitted an inheritance tax bill and a law limiting illegitimate capital gains, both of which aimed to redistribute wealth in the South American country where a stark inequality between the haves and the have-nots still exists.

Now, the proposed laws to redistribute wealth has become a rallying cause for protest for wealthy and right-wing factions, which at times has turned violent. Carrion emphasized that while only two percent of the population will be affected by the inheritance law, which is still under debate in the National Assembly over a 30-day period, attempts by the opposition continue to try and bring instability.

"There has been a destabilization attempt here in a country that has successfully obtained political, economic and social stability over the years. This is collective struggle, the struggle of citizens who have worked for and believed in this country. We now have a different nation," she said.

Opposition leaders called for a "Black Sunday" action, where a caravan of cars waving black flags unsuccessfully attempted to block President Correa's return at the airport. Opposition activists also rallied in front of the ruling PAIS Alliance party headquarters, demanding a change of government. "We believe in the redistribution of wealth, and we believe that this bill can change power relations," supporter of PAIS Alliance Franzka Poverta told teleSUR during the changing of the guard ceremony. "Ecuador's upper classes have demonstrated against this, and as a journalist I can say that there is a media war of disinformation, above all else in social media, which seeks to make people believe that the Citizen's Revolution is against the popular classes."

President Correa urged citizens to remain united against opposition aggression, and rejected the violent tactics which were registered at last week's protests.

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