

Ecuadorian Parliament removes ombudsman from office

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The motion of censure was supported by the benches of Izquierda Democrática, Partido Social Cristiano, Movimiento de Unidad Plurinacional Pachakutik and independent parties. | Photo: @AsambleaEcuador

Quito, September 15 (RHC)-- Ecuador's National Assembly approved on Wednesday by majority the dismissal of the Ombudsman, Freddy Carrión for breach of duties. Through its Twitter account the legislative body informed about the result of the vote on the motion of censure and subsequent dismissal of Carrión.

With 136 assembly members present in the chamber, 75 legislators voted in favor of the motion that proposed to sanction the official, while 47 spoke against and 14 abstained. The Parliament was installed on Tuesday to impeach Carrión, removing him from the position he held.

During the day, Assemblyman Ricardo Vanegas (Pachakutik) and Yeseña Guamaní (Izquierda Democrática), presented the reasons for the request for impeachment for breach of duty.

According to the questioners, Carrión failed to comply with his functions, having attended a social meeting last May 15 at the home of former Minister of Health Mauro Falconí, using the institutional vehicle and with security of the National Police.

The motion of censure was supported by the benches of Izquierda Democrática, Partido Social Cristiano, Movimiento de Unidad Plurinacional Pachakutik and assembly members of independent organizations.

In addition to his censure and dismissal, the motion proposed to forward the impeachment file to the Comptroller General of the Republic, the Attorney General's Office and the General Command of the Police to initiate a special examination for the improper use of public goods and resources during his term of office and to determine responsibilities.

Freddy Carrión has been serving a preventive detention order since May following the complaint of an alleged act of sexual violence committed during the meeting in which the former minister Falconí and his partner, who was allegedly attacked, were participating.

The former ombudsman considers that the process against him is a political persecution for denouncing crimes against humanity perpetrated during the 11 consecutive days of national protest against the Government of Lenín Moreno in October 2019.

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