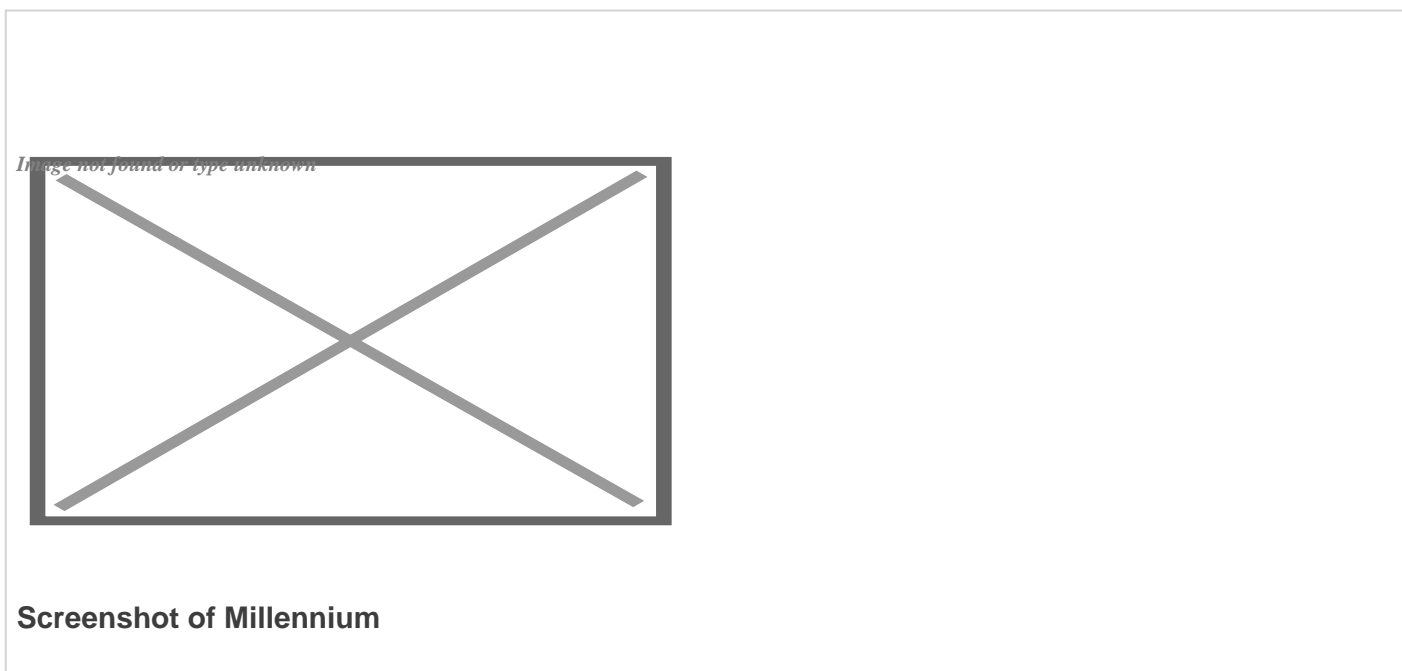


Mexico-Ecuador dispute is much more than a bilateral issue



By Roberto Morejón

The presentation of allegations by the representatives of Ecuador in the International Court of Justice regarding the invasion of the Mexican embassy in Quito, highlighted the lack of perception of the government of Daniel Noboa about the barbarity committed.

The court is examining Mexico's lawsuit because its embassy was brutally violated and the military used force against diplomats and former vice president Jorge Glas, who had received asylum.

The representatives of Ecuador tried to justify what was inadmissible, by invoking the danger of a hypothetical escape by Glas, insisting on the former vice president's career that they describe as corrupt, and showing the break-in into the building as an exceptional event.

For Ecuador, Mexico abused asylum by granting refuge to Glas and its only intention was to detain him, although it avoided admitting that to arrest him it violated a foreign diplomatic headquarters, an act that violated international law and the Vienna Convention on diplomatic affairs.

In the string of excuses for the assault, Ecuador's lawyers did not spare elements such as an alleged suspicion of a plan, facilitated by Mexico, for Jorge Glas to escape.

Faced with such expressions, Mexico appealed to security camera images that reveal the ferocity of the invasion of its embassy in Quito, in violation of international treaties ratified by the South American country.

The virulence of the police raid on April 5 and the harassment in subsequent days reinforce Mexico's presumption that a new incident could occur against the properties of its mission in Quito, even though the two countries do not have diplomatic relations.

Mexican officials have strongly rejected accusations of illegal action in the handling of the Glas case and insisted on their adherence to international law on diplomatic asylum.

With the presentations before the International Court of Justice, public opinion becomes certain of the false step of the Ecuadorian government, since States cannot invoke internal provisions to ignore global obligations.

Likewise, quite a few observers were taken by surprise when it was learned that Ecuador countersued Mexico before the Court of The Hague, for what it considers a violation of treaties by hosting Jorge Glas.

It seems that the Ecuadorian government has not taken note of the international condemnations, expressed in statements from the UN, the European Union and even the OAS, or simply defies them.

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