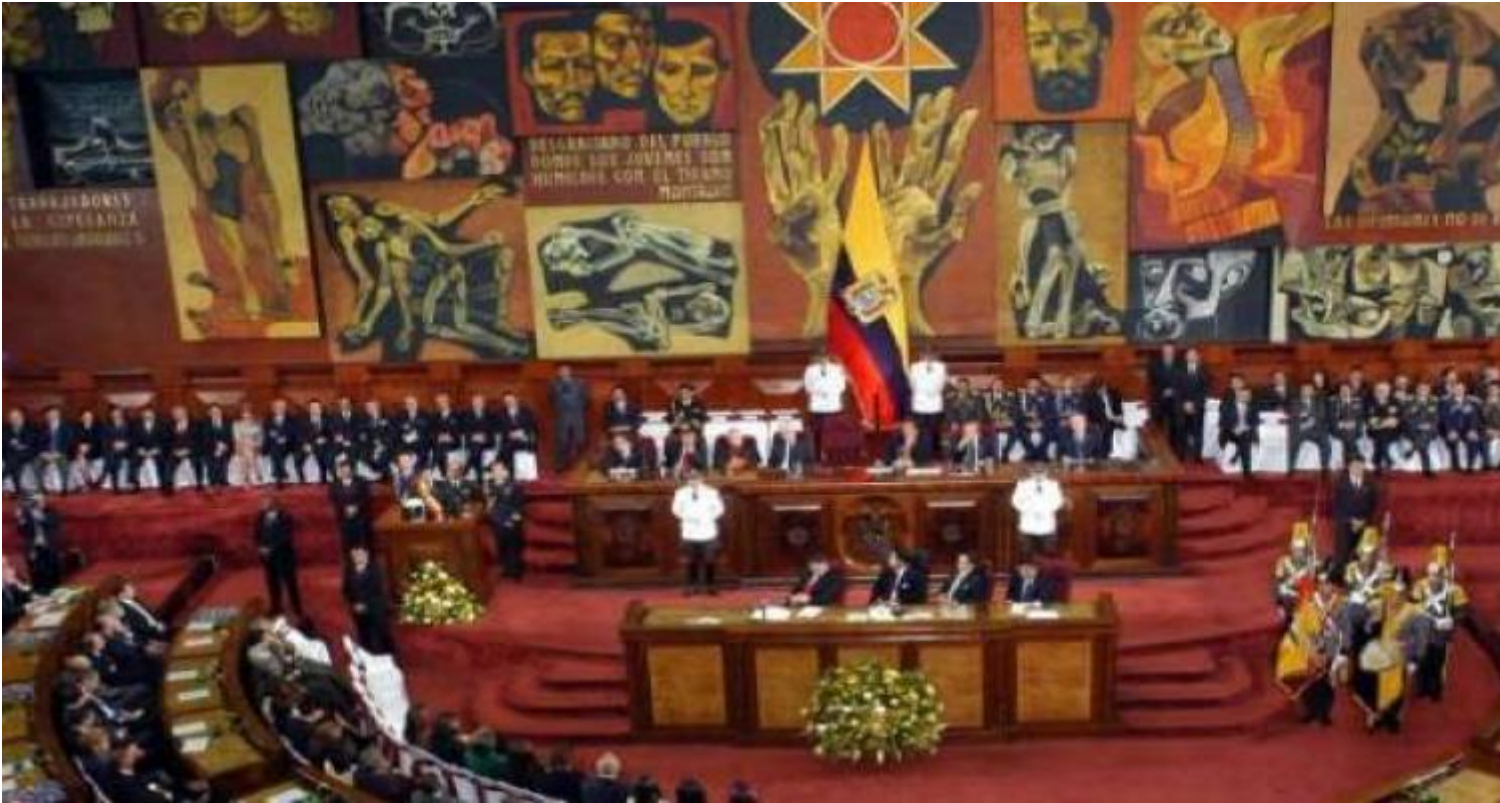


# *Ecuador Parliament Rejects U.S. Sanctions on Venezuela*

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Quito, December 30 (RHC-teleSUR) -- The Ecuadorean National Assembly has approved an official resolution of solidarity with Venezuela in opposition to sanctions imposed by the United States.

Meeting Monday for the final session of 2014, 66 out of 88 assembly members voted to reject U.S. interference in Latin America.

During the debate, members of the governing party Alianza Pais criticized the U.S. unilateral measure and opposition legislators backing it.

Alianza Pais law maker Diego Vintimilla said, "It is one thing to sanction an accused in international instances, and another to use human rights to sanction a country like Venezuela. If we have so much defense of principles then we must value non interference and the respect of international rules," he continued.

U.S. authorities claim that Venezuelan government officials committed human rights violations during violent right-wing opposition protests that erupted in the country February. Those protests left 43 dead, the overwhelming majority caused by extremist opposition violence or deliberately lethal opposition barricades.

Venezuela has consistently denied that excessive force was used against protesters. It maintains that U.S. sanctions and backing for the right-wing opposition protesters is part of a strategy to effect regime change in the oil-rich Latin American country.

Since the U.S. approving the sanctions, several other Latin American countries have also issued declarations of support to the Venezuelan government.

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