

Executive Summary: International Network of Human Rights (RIDH) Shadow Report to the Committee on Migrant Workers

Immigration in Ecuador has been exponentially increasing over the past years. According to the International Organization for Migration, the percentage of immigrants went from 0.9% of the total population in Ecuador in 2001 to 1.2% in 2010. Most of the migration flow originates in Colombia, Haiti, Cuba and Venezuela. In terms of the welcoming and treatment of migrants, cases of discrimination and xenophobia have been presented in Ecuador, as well as detention, deportations and abuses by authorities.

The use of detention and deportation has intensified, particularly against Cubans and Haitians. Furthermore, in the Colombia-Ecuador border, there have been allegations of human rights violations and transgressions against the right to freedom of movement stipulated in article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

On the other hand, it is important to recognize that the Ecuadorian State has been taking measures to control the migratory context such as the Human Mobility Act, which develops the term “universal citizenship”. This acknowledges the power of the human being to mobility and the right to have their rights recognized and respected independently of their migratory status. Nevertheless, this law has a series of obstacles and challenges to improve conditions for migrants in Ecuadorian territory.

This report aims to show the cases of Cuban, Venezuelan, Haitian and Colombian migrants in Ecuador. It will demonstrate the main challenges of the Human Mobility Act and portray some emblematic cases regarding migrants whose rights have been violated and not respected, such as the case of Miss Manuela Picq.

As a conclusion, the International Network of Human Rights constructs a series of questions the Committee should ask during the examination of Ecuador in September 2017. Among these recommendations, the following are highlighted: clarify the utility of the airport transit rooms in Quito, Guayaquil, and the Carrion Hotel where migrants are deprived of their liberty and are denied their fundamental rights; explain the situation regarding Ecuadorians and Venezuelans at the Colombia-Ecuador border; provide information about the case of Manuela Picq and the actions taken by the Ecuadorian State in this regard.

Other important questions to ask include: indicate why detentions and deportations of Cuban and Haitian citizens have intensified; provide detailed information on the progress of investigations into the security forces actions at the "arbolito" demonstration; provide information on the arrest and sentencing of spokesmen of the "Cuban National Alliance"; highlight the actions taken by the Ecuadorian government regarding the differential treatment and discrimination of Colombians in Ecuador; show the actions taken to manage the economic and racial exclusion of Haitians; and provide information to the Committee on progress in improving the Human Mobility Act.