



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

August 4, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We write to you regarding the need to support Ecuador as it continues its internal conflict against the drug cartels which are terrorizing the country. Ecuador is truly in a fight for its life and its freedom and needs all the support it can get. One important step the United States can take is to designate Ecuador as a Major non-NATO Ally.

Ecuador is fighting for its life against the cartels.

The challenge Ecuador is facing is immense. Drug cartels from around the world have descended on Ecuador's Pacific coast as a strategic point for shipping cocaine from Gustavo Petro's Colombia to the United States. Last year, Ecuador had an all-time high of over 9,200 murders including over 4,100 in the Province of Guayas alone. Moreover, it is estimated that 70% of the cocaine reaching the United States and Europe comes from the country.

Ecuador is making progress but needs more help.

Facing such well-funded and well-armed gangs is incredibly difficult but Ecuador is making progress with the help of the United States and in spite of left-wing socialists who want them to declare surrender. The support that the United States is giving to Ecuador can be strengthened by designating the country as a Major non-NATO Ally.

We need to designate Ecuador as a Major non-NATO Ally.

If Ecuador is designated as a Major non-NATO Ally they will immediately have access to a number of major security benefits including the ability to apply for loans for military equipment, increased training, and the ability to receive excess US defense equipment. In addition, this designation will save civilian lives because it will allow Ecuador access to advanced counter-terrorism technology. These benefits would make a huge difference in this existential fight against the cartels.

Please designate Ecuador as a Major non-NATO Ally so Ecuador can defeat the cartels and stop drugs before they reach the United States.

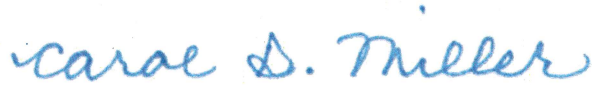
Sincerely,



María Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Carlos A. Giménez
Member of Congress



Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress