

Brazil's Chancellor Goes to Ecuador as Observer

Contributed by Michèle Canes
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Brazil's Minister of Foreign Relations, Celso Amorim, arrives today at Quito (Ecuador) to integrate the South American Community of Nations. The Community will observe the unfolding political crisis in Ecuador, which led to the removal of the country's president Lucio Gutiérrez.

The Chancellors of Peru, Manuel Rodríguez Cuadros, and of Bolivia, Juan Ignacio Siles del Valle, also integrate the delegation.

Before leaving to the Ecuadorean capital, Amorim will participate on the last day of the Third Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies, in Santiago, Chile. The meeting started yesterday.

The Community of Democracies was created in 2000 with the objective of promoting democratic principles in the world. It was a joint initiative of the United States, Chile, India, South Korea, Mali, Poland, and the Czech Republic.

Gutiérrez Visa

Ecuador's ex-president, Lucio Gutiérrez, signed a request for a Brazilian territorial visa Thursday, April 28. The document was analyzed and the visa has already been granted.

Gutiérrez was received by the Executive Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, Luiz Paulo Barreto, at the Ministry.

The ex-president and his family arrived in Brazil on the 24th. The political asylum request was made when Gutiérrez was still in Quito, capital of Ecuador.

Gutiérrez is the third political refugee received by Brazilian government. Before him, came the ex-president of Paraguay, General Alfredo Stroessner, and the ex-chief of Haiti's Secret Police, Colonel Albert Pierre.

Gutiérrez and family are at an Army's transit hotel.

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