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Ecuador & Colombia Abortion Policy Crises Reveal Betrayal of Constitutional Government, Misrepresentation, International Manipulation, & Great Need to Rebuild Christian Foundations

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Last Thursday, 17 February 2022, the **Ecuador** National Assembly approved the worst of two abortion bills. The legislators drafted the bills in response to a mandate from the Ecuador Constitutional Court—even though the Court ruling violated the Constitution. To approve a bill requires 70 votes (a majority of 137 legislators). They only voted on the “majority” proposal (approved by 6 of 9 members of the Justice Commission – a committee of the Assembly). For the first vote, 66 members supported it, so it failed. The Assembly took a break, which meant that other members were likely bribed, manipulated, and coerced to support the bill. On the second vote, the majority bill received 75 votes, and so was approved. This bill has now gone to President Guillermo Lasso, who has already said he is not going to approve it but has 30 days to fully or partially veto the bill. Pray he fully vetoes the abortion bill!

On Monday, 20 February 2022, the Constitutional Court of **Colombia** issued a 5-4 arbitrary and unconstitutional decision that abortion is to be allowed up through **24 weeks** of pregnancy; and put **no gestational limits** on its prior approval (in 2006) of abortion for life or health of the mother, rape, or fetal abnormality if certified as necessary by a doctor. Several of the judges, even one who voted in favor of abortion, said the Constitutional Court could not strip the Congress from its competence in legislating such matters. But that’s what the Court did.

Betrayal of Constitutional Government and Rule of Law: Both the Ecuador and Colombia Constitutions guarantee protection of human life from its beginning. The Ecuador Constitution declares: “The State shall recognize and guarantee life, including care and protection from the time of conception” (Art. 45). Both national constitutions declare “The right to the inviolability of life,” and also prohibit the death penalty (Ecuador, Art. 66.1; Colombia, Art. 11). The majority of judges on the constitutional courts violated their oaths of office, and violated the authority of the national legislature by unlawfully making policy for the nation. Such actions destroy constitutional government, the rule of law, and trust in and respect for government.

Government Misrepresentation of the People: Ecuador is facing a crisis by the Constitutional Court and National Assembly acting against the Constitution and bowing down to international and internal pressures, instead of keeping their oath and faithfully representing the people of Ecuador. Colombia is facing the same crisis, at least in relation to the Constitutional Court.

International Manipulation: Church and pro-life leaders in both countries were stunned. These government actions betray Ecuador and Colombia's noble cultures of faith in God, respect for human life and family, and Christian foundations. In reviewing the Ecuador abortion bill "inform" (how the bill was developed), we found that many international pro-abortion organizations heavily influenced the Justice Commission, including Human Rights Watch (quoted extensively in the inform), United Nations, World Health Organization (UN), UNFPA (UN), and IPAS International. The legislators who voted for the abortion bill were, directly or indirectly, heavily influenced by these pressures, and acted contrary to their oath of office and the beliefs and values of the vast majority of Ecuadorians.

The primary strategy being utilized by abortion advocates is to go through the courts to coerce a nation to approve abortion. In Ecuador, 7 (of 9) judges ruled to approve abortion for 17 million Ecuadorians. In Colombia, 5 (of 9) judges did the same for 51 million Colombians. For years, the general strategy of international pro-abortion organizations has been to co-labor with like-minded in-country partners, and target abortion favorable judges, legislators and officials in order to bribe, manipulate, and coerce the government into approving abortion. These methods, when permitted to succeed, destroy the capacity of the citizens of a nation to govern themselves with true righteousness and justice.

Great Need to Rebuild Christian Foundations: There is a great need in Ecuador and Colombia – in reality, in every Christian nation (present or former) – to rebuild faith in God, and the Biblical and Christian foundations that brought righteousness, high respect for human life and family, religious freedom, liberty, peace, unity, and justice. Protecting innocent human life is inseparable from reverence for and belief in the Living GOD, the Giver of Life, the Creator of every child in his mother's womb (regardless of the circumstances of conception). Thus, a very important way that Ecuadorians and Colombians need to reaffirm their faith in Christ Jesus is through an educational campaign that recovers their history, strengthens their Christian identity, and empowers them to influence the national culture. This must include publicly reaffirming their high respect for God's gift of every human life from conception, and standing against abortion, which is child sacrifice and an abomination to God Almighty. It is also urgent to regain the presence and righteous influence of Christians in politics and government, including the judiciary.

PRAY NOW that Ecuador President Lasso will fully veto the abortion bill; and that the Congress of Colombia will courageously enact laws protecting human life from conception, and nullify the lawless rulings of the Constitutional Court.

SIGN UP & GIVE: Become a part of the GLC community and support his ministry. Sign up at www.GLC.life to create a low cost or free membership. Please help us meet the \$6,500 budget for these 3 months in Ecuador and Latin America so we can help them preserve their commitment to the sanctity of human life. To give, go to "MyGift" on www.GLC.life.

For the precious gift of every child and remembrance of children unborn,

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