

**UNDER EMBARGO – DO NOT PUBLISH UNTIL:**

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**ECUADOR RANKED 85 OUT OF 113 COUNTRIES ON RULE OF LAW, RISING SIX POSITIONS**

*World Justice Project (WJP) Releases 2017-2018 WJP Rule of Law Index*

WASHINGTON, DC (31 January 2018) – The World Justice Project (WJP) today released the *2017-2018 WJP Rule of Law Index*<sup>®</sup> which measures rule of law adherence in 113 countries worldwide based on more than 110,000 household and 3,000 expert surveys. Featuring primary data, the *WJP Rule of Law Index* measures countries' rule of law performance across eight factors: Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice, and Criminal Justice.

Ecuador rose six positions for overall rule of law performance (from 91 in the *2016 WJP Rule of Law Index*) to 85 out of 113 countries in the 2017-2018 edition. Its score places it at 23 out of 30 countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region\* and 30 out of 36 among upper-middle income\*\* countries. Significant trends included an improvement in Constraints on Government Powers and Open Government.

The top three overall performers in the *2017-2018 WJP Rule of Law Index* were Denmark (1), Norway (2), and Finland (3); the bottom three were Afghanistan (111), Cambodia (112), and Venezuela (113).

Globally, a majority of countries worldwide saw their scores decline since the publication of the last *WJP Rule of Law Index* (in October 2016) in the areas of human rights, checks on government powers, and civil and criminal justice.

Regionally, Latin America and the Caribbean's top performer in the *Index* is Uruguay at 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 113 countries, followed by Costa Rica and Chile. Suriname showed the biggest fall in rankings, moving down 10 places to 69<sup>th</sup> place out of 113 indexed countries worldwide. Three countries in the region experienced negative factor trends in Constraints on Government Powers, while three countries showed positive factor trends in Open Government. Finally, Venezuela once again had the lowest overall rule of law score among all 113 indexed countries.

The *WJP Rule of Law Index*<sup>®</sup> is the world's leading source for original data on the rule of law. The *Index* relies on more than 110,000 household and 3,000 expert surveys to measure how the rule of law is experienced and perceived in practical, everyday situations by the general public worldwide. Performance is measured using 44 indicators across eight primary rule of law factors, each of which is scored and ranked globally and against regional and income peers: Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice, and Criminal Justice.

“Effective rule of law is the foundation for communities of equity, opportunity, and peace,” said William H. Neukom, WJP founder and CEO. “No country has achieved a perfect realization of the rule of law. The *WJP Rule of Law Index* is intended to be a first step in setting benchmarks, informing reforms, stimulating programs, and deepening appreciation and understanding for the foundational importance of the rule of law.”

The complete 2017-2018 report—including country profiles, data visualizations, methodology, and download options—is available on January 31 at: [www.worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index](http://www.worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index)

## ECUADOR RANKINGS

WJP Rule of Law Index 2017-2018 performance (1 is best)

ECUADOR OVERALL GLOBAL RANK: 85/113

ECUADOR OVERALL REGIONAL RANK\*: 23/30

FACTOR	REGIONAL RANK*	INCOME RANK**	GLOBAL RANK
Constraints on Government Powers	26/30	30/36	96/113
Absence of Corruption	21/30	28/36	78/113
Open Government	18/30	17/36	58/113
Fundamental Rights	26/30	26/36	77/113
Order and Security	19/30	27/36	88/113
Regulatory Enforcement	23/30	29/36	82/113
Civil Justice	22/30	30/36	86/113
Criminal Justice	17/30	25/36	78/113

\*Countries measured in the Latin America and Caribbean region: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela

\*\*Upper-middle income countries: Albania, Argentina, Belarus, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, Iran, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Macedonia, FYR, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Romania, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela

## ABOUT THE WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT:

The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to advance the rule of law worldwide. Effective rule of law reduces corruption, combats poverty and disease, and protects people from injustices large and small. It is the foundation for communities of equity, opportunity, and peace—underpinning development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights. Learn more at: [www.worldjusticeproject.org](http://www.worldjusticeproject.org)

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