



China Donates Four Coast Guard Patrol Vessels to Ecuador

OE Watch Commentary: In recent months and years, many countries in Central and South America have broken diplomatic ties with Taiwan; the most recent being El Salvador in August 2018. This severing of ties continues to concern Taiwan for two reasons. First, it leaves the Taiwanese government with only 12 remaining diplomatic partners in the region. Second, President Ing-wen of Taiwan claims that China is attempting to use “dollar diplomacy” in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to convince these countries to sever ties with the island nation in exchange for economic compensation, as noted in the accompanying excerpted article from the *BBC*.

Meanwhile, China continues to expand its influence in the region with the donation of four coastguard vessels to Ecuador to strengthen maritime security and protect the country’s exclusive economic zone from piracy and illegal fishing activities, as reported in the accompanying excerpt by *La Hora*. As the article discusses, the donation was made within the framework of the Xiangshan VIII Forum, which took place in the Chinese capital in October. Ecuadorian Defense Minister Oswaldo Jarrin attended the Forum as a partner of China and to accept the new coast guard vessels. Also discussed during the Forum is how China and Ecuador continue to work on a comprehensive defense strategic partnership. As part of this discussion, China vowed to elevate and increase technical-military cooperation for the benefit of common interests. **End OE Watch Commentary (Fiegel)**

“Defense Minister Oswaldo Jarrin thanked the Chinese government and pointed out the importance of this donation to support Ecuador’s fight against drug trafficking and organized transnational crime.”



Ecuadorian Defense Minister Oswaldo Jarrin (May 2018).

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Source: “China dona a Ecuador cuatro lanchas guardacostas en foro de defensa (China Donates Four Coast Guard Vessels to Ecuador for Defense purposes),” *La Hora*, 25 October 2018. <https://lahora.com.ec/cotopaxi/noticia/1102196014/china-dona-a%C2%A0ecuador%C2%A0cuatro-lanchas-guardacostas-en-foro-de-defensa>

Source: “¿Diplomacia de chequera? Por qué quedan países en Centroamérica que no rompen relaciones con Taiwán a favor de China (Dollar Diplomacy? Why are there Still Countries in Central America that have not Broken Diplomatic Ties with Taiwan in Favor of China?),” *BBC*, 22 August 2018. <https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-america-latina-40264113>

Taiwan accused Beijing of pursuing “dollar diplomacy” to lure away its remaining diplomatic partners as it snagged El Salvador in August 2018... It also said mainland China’s repeated attempts to poach the island’s allies were no longer just between Taipei and Beijing, but had become an issue for the whole region. Taiwanese President Ing-wen China further indicated that China is trying to use increased suppression against Taiwan to showcase its influence and strength in the region (both in Asia and other regions of the world).

China donated four coast guard vessels to Ecuador for defense purposes during the 8th annual Xiangshan VIII Forum which was held in the Chinese capital in late October. In response, Defense Minister Oswaldo Jarrin thanked the Chinese government and pointed out the importance of this donation to support Ecuador’s fight against drug trafficking and organized transnational crime. The Defense Minister also indicated the importance of these vessels to help protect the South American countries Exclusive Economic Zone from piracy and illegal fishing activities...

...The Chinese defense minister stressed the nature of the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries and pledged “to elevate and increase technical-military cooperation for the benefit of common interests.”

...Relations between China and Ecuador increased vastly during the government of Presidency of Rafael Correa (2007-2017), during which time China focused on creating a formal bilateral agenda that included cooperation in commerce, investments, development of infrastructure, science, technology, health, and education. Presently, the two countries are working together to increase cooperation related to defense issues.