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PRESS RELEASE

ASYLUM ACCESS ECUADOR

PRESENTS

Public Unconstitutionality Action Admitted to Review by the Constitutional Court of Ecuador

The Court will consider the substantive arguments concerning violation of the State's obligations regarding the rights of refugees caused by the implementation of Executive Decree No. 1182

THURSDAY, 4 APRIL 2013

Quito, Ecuador - Via this press release, we would like to inform that Ecuador's Constitutional Court has declared that the public unconstitutionality action filed by Asylum Access Ecuador (AAE) is admissible. The constitutional action challenges certain provisions of Ecuador's regulation of the right to asylum. Therefore, the Court will consider its substantive arguments.

In summary, the regulations contemplated by Decree 1182 repeatedly violate refugee rights, which are guaranteed by Article 41 of the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador, among others, as well as through the international instruments that it enshrines. The Constitution guarantees that asylum-seekers must be guaranteed access to the exercise of their rights, even if their respective applications are pending. Further, this decree patently violates the principle of non-refoulement. Finally, the action argues that the terms provided by Decree 1182 violate the right to due process, precluding an individual's access to adequate time and means to prepare a defense.

Carmen Atkins, coordinator of Strategic Litigation at AAE, stated, "Only about 10 percent of unconstitutionality actions are declared admissible, thus, by itself, this is a great achievement."

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About Asylum Access Ecuador

AAE is a registered NGO in Ecuador, which forms part of the family of Asylum Access organizations. Founded in 2007, AAE is a response to the lack of legal assistance to refugees, with a focus on human rights in Latin America. AAE provides legal advice to asylum seekers and refugees, and sponsors strategic litigation before Ecuadorian courts and international for a, in order to promote and defend the rights of refugees in Ecuador. For more information about Asylum Access Ecuador, please visit www.asylumaccess.org.

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