

Facebook Removes Page of Ecuador's Former President on Same Day as Assange's Arrest

Elias Marat Apr 11, 2019 11



Facebook has unpublished the page of Ecuador's former president, Rafael Correa, the social media giant confirmed on Thursday, claiming that the popular leftist leader violated the company's security policies.

In a statement republished by Ecuadorean newspaper *El Comercio*, a company spokesperson said:

“Protecting the privacy and security of people is central to Facebook [and] we have clear policies that do not allow the disclosure of personal information such as phone numbers, addresses, bank account data, cards, or any record or data that could compromise the integrity physical or financial of the people in our community.”

The move comes on the same day that Ecuador’s government allowed British security personnel to enter their embassy in London to arrest journalist and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who has been sought by U.S. officials for years due to his role in releasing scandalous information implicating Washington in a range of crimes, including war crimes.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.facebook.com/MashiRafael>. The browser's address bar and navigation buttons are visible. Below the browser window, a Facebook post is displayed. The post is from the user 'Usuarios Digitales' (@usuariosdigital), who has a profile picture of a red and white square with a white 'X' inside. The post text reads: '#AlertaDigitalEC Página en Facebook del exPresidente @MashiRafael no puede ser accesada, se desconocen motivos - link [facebook.com/MashiRafael](https://www.facebook.com/MashiRafael)'. The post is timestamped '8 7:06 PM - Apr 11, 2019'. Below the text, it says '27 people are talking about this'. Above the post text, there is a warning box with a yellow triangle icon and the text: 'Este contenido no está disponible en este momento. Es posible que el enlace que seguiste haya caducado o que la página solo sea visible para un público al que no perteneces. Volver a la página anterior · Ir a la sección de noticias · Acceder al servicio de ayuda'.

Assange, 47, had been living at the Embassy of Ecuador in London since 2012, when then-President Correa granted political asylum to the Australian amid the British government's attempts to detain him. At the time, Correa called Ecuador's actions [an act of sovereign "duty."](#)

Ecuador's current leader, Lenin Moreno, was openly opposed to Assange, whom he referred to on various occasions as a "*miserable hacker*," an "*irritant*," and a "*stone in the shoe*" of his government. Moreno's distancing from the asylee came following a 2017 [meeting with Trump campaign confidant and political "fixer" Paul Manafort](#), where the two discussed Ecuador's handover of Assange to U.K. and U.S. authorities.

In March, a tranche of documents were published dubbed the **INA Papers** linking President Lenin Moreno to the INA Investment Corporation, an offshore shell company used by Moreno to procure furniture, property, and various luxury items.

The account number for the offshore account allegedly used by the president to launder money was shared across Ecuadorean social networks by netizens of all political stripes, including by Correa – who had about 1.5 million followers and whose Facebook page enjoyed more interactions and attention than that of President Moreno himself.

The account number was also shared alongside personal photos of President Moreno enjoying lavish breakfasts and dinners of lobster—imagery considered especially damning for the people of Ecuador given Moreno's previous boasting of an austere poverty diet consisting of eggs and white rice.

**REPÚBLICA DEL ECUADOR
CUENTA OFFSHORE SECRETA DE LA FAMILIA PRESIDENCIAL
100-4-1071378
INA INVESTMENT CORP.
BALBOA BANK
PANAMÁ**

Information on the bank account allegedly used by Ecuador's president to launder money.

It also came amid attempts by the [neoliberal Ecuadorean government](#) to curry favor with financiers in Europe and the United States amid the continuing debt crisis. In March, the IMF finally [bailed out](#) Moreno's government to the tune of \$4.2 billion.

Prior to the removal of the page, Correa lambasted his successor in a series of posts that still remain on Twitter at the time of this writing.



Rafael Correa
@MashiRafael

Christine:
I do not know what to tell you. I only ask forgiveness from me and my people. A traitor and corrupt like Moreno does not represent us. I promise not to rest until I see him in jail, where he deserves to be.

Mrs Christine Assange @AssangeMrs
Shame on you @Lenin #Moreno!

May the Ecuadorean people seek vengeance upon you, you dirty, deceitful, rotten traitor!

May the face of my suffering son haunt your sleepless nights..

And may your soul writhe forever in torturous Purgatory as you have tortured my beloved son! twitter.com/SkyNews/status...

3,164 9:28 AM - Apr 11, 2019

2,145 people are talking about this

Since 2015, Correa—who lives with his family in Brussels, Belgium—had used the social platform to great effect, using strongly-worded posts, video interviews, and live-streams as a platform amid the Ecuadorean media’s de facto blackout of the former leader, who remains reviled by the center-right former opposition and sections of the country’s left.

Former President Correa minced no words in his assessment of Moreno, denouncing him in an English-language [tweet](#) as “*the greatest traitor in Ecuadorian and Latin American history ... Moreno is a corrupt man, but what he has done is a crime that humanity will never forget.*”



Rafael Correa
@MashiRafael

The greatest traitor in Ecuadorian and Latin American history, Lenin Moreno, allowed the British police to enter our embassy in London to arrest Assange.

Moreno is a corrupt man, but what he has done is a crime that humanity will never forget.

Barnaby Nerberka @barnabynerberka

BREAK: Full @Ruptly video of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's arrest by British police this morning



14.7K 3:37 AM - Apr 11, 2019

9,853 people are talking about this