

## **Ecuador cracking down on hired assassins**

Written by T. Rob Brown (aka Roberto Chocolate)

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▣ ***This article appeared in the Southern Pulse newsletter. Roberto***

### **ECUADOR**

According to Ecuadoran prosecutor Antonio Gagliardo, hired assassins can be contracted for between US\$400 and US\$3,000 over the Internet in Ecuador. 11 percent of 212 cases of homicide in Guayaquil in 2010 have been linked to hired assassins. Ecuador created a special force to deal with the issue in the most violent regions of Guayas, Esmeraldas, Manabí, Pichincha, Los Ríos, and El Oro.