

# Ecuador Indigenous Leader Endorses Left Presidential Candidate

Please make sure these dispatches reach as many readers as possible. Share with kin, friends and workmates and ask them to do likewise.

---



Help us break the corporate media monopoly before it kills us all. The global oligarchy depends on its disinformation machine to maintain its power. Now the malicious fog of Western propaganda has created an ocean of confusion in which even independent minds can drown. Please push back against this colossal apparatus of deception. Consider a donation today!

---

by Harvey Goldberg

[IndyBay.org](http://IndyBay.org)

---

---

---

Despite the left's clear lead, and a rejection by many sectors of turncoat Lenin Moreno's US-dictated neoliberal course, the electorate seems divided and possibly subject to imperialist tricks.

---



Jaime Vargas, President of Ecuador's largest Indigenous federation, CONAIE, endorsed Andrés Arauz, Presidential candidate for the Union for Hope, on April 3, 2021. (Photo credit: El Comercio <https://www.elcomercio.com/actualidad/vargas-apoyo-arauz-indigenas-amazonia.html>)

---

QUITO, ECUADOR – Jaime Vargas, President of Ecuador's largest Indigenous federation, CONAIE, has endorsed left candidate Andrés Arauz for President of Ecuador. Vargas' endorsement of Arauz is a major development and came only a week before the election, scheduled for April 11. The endorsement highlights divisions within Indigenous leadership. It could also tip the election.

Polls indicate a close runoff. Most polls give a slight edge

to Arauz, who is a socialist heading a progressive alliance, Union for Hope, but some give the lead to Guillermo Lasso, a pro-capitalist banker and candidate of an alliance of Ecuador's two largest right-wing parties, the Social Christian Party and CREO. A composite of polls give Arauz a three percentage point lead. [All polls were taken before Vargas' announcement.](#)

During his announcement on Saturday Vargas said, "I'm here in my capacity as the head of Ecuador's Indigenous movement...Mr. Andrés, or President as they are already calling you, we're all in agreement on this, your proposals have the full support of the Indigenous movement," reported People's Dispatch.

[

<https://peoplesdispatch.org/2021/04/05/rising-tensions-ahead-of-second-round-elections-in-ecuador/> ]

Thanking Vargas, Arauz said, "We are building national unity and putting Ecuador first. We must work towards the plurinational state, truth, justice and reparations." (Ecuador's constitution proclaims the country a plurinational state and recognizes fourteen Indigenous nations within Ecuador.)

In endorsing Arauz, Vargas broke with a decision CONAIE made at a recent meeting to advocate a null vote in the Presidential runoff, (Ecuadorian voters have the option to vote for none of the above.)

Vargas' endorsement also differs sharply from the position of Yaku Perez, the Presidential candidate of the Indigenous party, Pachakutik, which is connected to CONAIE. Perez decided not to make an endorsement and has charged that it is illegitimate because fraud kept him out of the runoff against Arauz. Perez has not, however, shown enthusiasm for the null vote campaign. Verna Cedeño, Perez's Vice-Presidential running mate, has endorsed Lasso. Vargas criticized those in Pachakutik that support the right.

No small number of Indigenous leaders sharply denounced Vargas's endorsement of Arauz as a betrayal. They charged that Vargas no longer represents most Indigenous. A number called for Vargas to be replaced as President of CONAIE.

ECUARUNARI, a regional federation within CONAIE, slammed Vargas in a statement, "Today we see with enormous indignation how Jaime Vargas, president of CONAIE (extended), tries to mortgage the historical struggle of the indigenous movement of Ecuador with an alleged support to the presidential candidacy of Andres Arauz."

[

<https://www.vistazo.com/seccion/politica-nacional/leonidas-iza-y-la-ecuarunari-tambien-le-dan-la-espalda-jaime-vargas-y> ]

Despite the chorus of criticism, Vargas is not isolated. Another federation of Indigenous and Black campesinos, FENOCIN, has endorsed Arauz, as has a federation of Evangelical Indigenous, FEINE. There are also Indigenous supporters of the Union for Hope, and Citizen's Revolution, the movement Arauz comes out of.

Vargas was a prominent leader of protests that paralyzed Ecuador in 2019 in opposition to neoliberal austerity measures. The protests succeeded in forcing President Moreno to back down at that time. Since then, Moreno has continued austerity measures and has cut a third of the budgets for many government programs, including health care. Lasso would continue and even increase neoliberal economic measures and government austerity, while Arauz seeks to change direction and rebuild government services and re-hire laid off government employees.

Ecuador has been hit very hard by COVID-19 and a steep economic recession. A study found that more than half of Ecuadorians are now living in poverty, while another found that only three adults in ten has a regular job.

[

<https://www.telesurenglish.net/news/Over-52-of-Ecuadoreans-Fell-Into-Poverty-in-2020-20210101-0009.html> ]

.....  
: The author is affiliated with San Francisco's IndyMedia  
: group ([IndyBay.org](http://IndyBay.org)), an organization doing valuable  
: political information and mobilization work.  
:.....

---

**Up to You.**

^3000US citizens have no real political representation.

We don't live in a democracy. And our freedom is disappearing fast.

I don't want to be ruled by hypocrites, whores, and war criminals.

What about you? Time to push back against the corporate oligarchy.

And its multitude of minions and lackeys.

---

*The views expressed are solely those of the author and may or may not reflect those of **The Greenville Post***

---

---

All image captions, pull quotes, appendices, etc. by the editors not the authors.

YOU ARE FREE TO REPRODUCE THIS ARTICLE PROVIDED YOU GIVE PROPER CREDIT TO THE GREENVILLE POST VIA A BACK LIVE LINK.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)

---

*Don't forget-*  
**Only you  
can keep  
us alive!**



If you find  
The Greenville Post's  
work valuable and  
appreciate  
its high quality, please  
consider making a  
donation.

