

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 6, 2023

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland,

On April 12th, several members of the House of Representatives wrote to President Biden to urge the “administration to look into the matter of [Ecuadorian] President Lasso’s and [his brother in law] Danilo Carrera’s assets in the United States and consider requesting that relevant U.S. agencies, including the Department of Justice and the Department of the Treasury, engage in a prompt investigation.”¹

Since writing to you, Rubén Cherres, Mr. Carrera’s associate and a key witness in the investigations against Lasso, including in his impeachment trial, has been murdered.² Moreover, Mr. Carrera’s passport was retained by the Office of the Prosecutor General as he was trying to leave Ecuador.³

We noted last month that “Researchers in the U.S. have uncovered how President Lasso used two figureheads associated with [Lasso’s] Banco Guayaquil, Euvenia Touriz and Miguel Macías, to open offshore companies in tax havens, including U.S. jurisdictions. Those companies then acquired millions of dollars in real estate in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, in Florida, which has been designated by the Department of Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) as a geographic location of concern for real estate money laundering. It’s worth noting that in Ecuador it is illegal for any person holding assets in LLC corporations that are not liable to pay U.S. federal taxes to hold public office.”⁴

In spite of these highly credible allegations regarding Lasso’s offshore holdings and the revelations of the Pandora Papers showing that Lasso has apparently been using US jurisdictions to evade taxes and hide assets, Lasso’s lawyers argued there was no direct paper trail linking

¹ [Anti-Corruption-Action-in-Ecuador-FINAL-4.12.23.pdf \(house.gov\)](#)

² <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/05/04/americas/ecuador-president-impeachment-intl-latam/index.html>

³ <https://cnnespanol.cnn.com/2023/04/20/danilo-carrera-cunado-guillermo-lasso-condeno-retencion-atropello-orix/>

⁴ <https://www.newsweek.com/its-time-end-ugly-us-legacy-stop-tax-evasion-home-abroad-opinion-1641450>,
<https://therealdeal.com/magazine/national-july-2021/presidential-perks/>

President Lasso to this offshore network.⁵ This, in part, motivated our request for a swift investigation by the Department of Justice and the Department of Treasury's FinCEN.

Media reports have now established a direct link between President Lasso and the network of Florida-based shell companies.⁶ Foreign Agent Registration Act (FARA) filing documents at the Department of Justice reveal that the Ecuadorian government has employed a Florida-based wealth management firm to pay a lobbying firm in the United States to improve Lasso's image in our country.⁷ This Florida-based company is Global Research and Asset Management LLC (GRAM), a shell company long suspected of being connected to Lasso.⁸

Significantly, GRAM's CEO is Miguel Macías, Lasso's associate at the offshore bank Banco Banisi in Panama, and one of the individuals associated with the purchase of Florida real estate through dozens of shell companies.⁹

So far, President Lasso has refused to acknowledge any connection between himself, these companies, and the millions of dollars in real estate holdings, but the Ecuadorian government's unorthodox and questionable use of GRAM to contract a lobbying firm appears to establish a concrete link.

It is for this reason, that we wish to reiterate our urgent April 12 request for a thorough investigation of President Lasso's apparent holdings in the United States and potentially corrupt financial dealings in our country. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

⁵ [Pandora Papers — Power Players \(icij.org\)](https://www.planv.com.ec/confidenciales/confidencial-politica/lacarta-del-abogado-lasso-que-provoco-polemica-twitter), <https://www.planv.com.ec/confidenciales/confidencial-politica/lacarta-del-abogado-lasso-que-provoco-polemica-twitter>

⁶ <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/world/world/americas/article275955681.html>

⁷ <https://efile.fara.gov/docs/7263-Exhibit-AB-20230426-1.pdf>

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<http://search.sunbiz.org/Inquiry/CorporationSearch/SearchResultDetail?inquirytype=EntityName&directionType=Initial&searchNameOrder=GLOBALRESEARCHASSETMANAGEMENT%20L100000365310&aggregateId=flal-110000036531-064dbb5c-4981-46fe-8f4c-b2255d2f258b&searchTerm=Global%20Research%20and%20Asset%20Management&listNameOrder=GLOBALRESEARCHASSETMANAGEMENT%20L100000365310>

⁹ <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/countries/detail/Panama.html>, <https://www.latinexbolsa.com/en/emisor/bani/>