

Alert - Ecuador

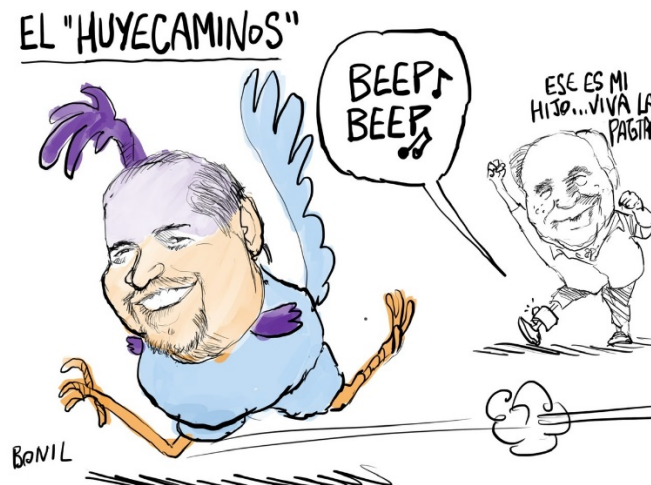
Press cartoonist again under threat in this time of COVID-19 pandemic

Cartooning for Peace condemns the threats against cartoonist Bonil and calls for his protection.

On 6 August 2020, cartoonist Xavier Bonilla, aka Bonil, a member of Cartooning for Peace whose cartoons are published in the Ecuadorian newspaper *El Universo*, [was threatened](#) on Twitter by Jacobo Bucaram Pulley, son of Abdalá Bucaram Ortiz (president of the country from 1996 to 1997) for the below cartoon:

"May God save you and protect you from our meeting because as a man you will have to defend yourself, damned MF, I know how to defend the honour of my grandchildren and my family..."

The cartoon, "El Huyecaminos" (the carrier pigeon), by a reference to the cartoon "The Road Runner Show", illustrates the alleged escape of Jacobo Bucaram after [a judge ordered his preventive detention](#). He and his father (who has been [detained since 12 August](#)) are accused of trafficking in archaeological goods and selling medical equipment at high prices to the country's public hospitals during the health crisis.



The « carrier pigeon »

« That's my son... long live the homeland »

Threats that the cartoonist himself had initially not taken seriously, due to the recurrence of insults and threats he was subjected to online, before he changed his mind following the [murder of a witness](#) in the Bucaram family's case.

Like the [association Fundamedios](#) and [CPJ](#), Cartooning for Peace calls for the condemnation of the threats against the cartoonist and for his full protection.