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DSS-Trained Airport Officials Catch Ecuadorian with Fake Visa Attempting Illegal U.S. Entry

DSS ARTICLES

BY SPECIAL AGENT MICHAEL CUMMINS AND CRIMINAL FRAUD INVESTIGATOR ALVARO SANCHEZ

JUNE 24, 2025



The Diplomatic Security Service and the Ecuadorian National Police arrested an Ecuadorian national for visa fraud at Quito International Airport on April 23, 2025. (U.S. Department of State photo)

On April 23, 2025, Ecuadorian airport immigration officials, trained by Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) special agents and criminal investigators, stopped a previously deported Ecuadorian national attempting to illegally re-enter the United States using a fake U.S. visa. A team of Ecuadorian National Police, formed and trained by DSS at the U.S. Embassy in Quito, arrested the passenger at Quito's international airport. This arrest is a clear example of how DSS' unparalleled global footprint and law enforcement network disrupts and dismantles threat groups and individuals attempting to use fraudulent U.S. travel documents to cross U.S. borders.

The Ecuadorian national first tried to enter the United States illegally in 2024 but was apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Protection in El Paso, Texas, and promptly removed. On this occasion, the Ecuadorian national attempted to board a flight from Quito to Miami. When he presented his passport and a counterfeit U.S. visa to Quito airport immigration officials, they quickly identified the document presented as a counterfeit U.S. visa using techniques learned from DSS training.

DSS special agents are highly trained in identifying fraudulent travel documents and have shared their expertise with over 53,000 foreign and State Department partners worldwide. DSS trains global law enforcement partners on travel document security features, fraudulent document detection methods, and suspect traveler profiles to prevent illegal immigration and other transnational crimes.

This DSS visa fraud investigation is still ongoing, but one thing is clear: our training and overseas partnerships protect U.S. borders by reinforcing the integrity of the U.S. travel system at home and abroad.



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