



# Ecuador's bloody descent into violence, Yemen's Houthi threat and UK farmers' plight

**Not long ago, Ecuador was chiefly known for its volcanoes, wildlife and eco-tourism.** That image may now need some rehabilitation after chaos and bloodshed sparked by the prison escape of Adolfo Macías, the country's most notorious gang leader and drug lord. With cartels from Peru and Colombia funnelling narcotics through Ecuador's ports en route to Europe, Latin America correspondent Tom Phillips reports on a rising problem that threatens to tear apart the once-peaceful Andean state.

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**In the Middle East, Yemen's Houthi rebels could stymie the increasingly slim chances** of preventing a regional war. With the US and UK bombing Houthi bases in response to attacks on commercial shipping, diplomatic editor Patrick Wintour recounts the Houthis' rise and why military strikes against them may not lead to the desired outcome.

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**Denmark has a new monarch - Frederik X - after the abdication of Margrethe II.** But, finds Miranda Bryant, a growing number of Danes dream of a republic. And Ajit Niranjana examines the green credentials of Europe's more eco-conscious royals.

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**Farmers in parts of Europe** have been better known for angry protests than food production lately, but there's a melancholic, risk-laden side to the profession that often goes unseen. Bella Bathurst meets the woman whose job is to be a friend and counsellor to Britain's farmers in challenging times.

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**In Culture,** Chinese-American director Lulu Wang speaks to Claire Armitstead about her new TV series *Expats*, exploring the recent turmoil of life in Hong Kong. And, from theatres to art galleries, there's a guide to audience etiquette from our critics.

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**On the cover**  
Ecuador's murder rate, linked to drug trafficking violence, has spiralled as the country has rapidly become one of the most dangerous in South America. The end to neighbouring Colombia's civil war may be a part cause, but "European drug use is the fundamental pillar of violence in Ecuador," says organised crime expert Chris Dalby. *Illustration: Guardian Design; Photograph: Yuri Cortez /AFP/Getty*



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