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Leaked Internal Documents Point to Possible \$42 Million USD Corrupt Deal Inside Ecopetrol

Posted On March 22, 2026 By : Jadin Samit Vergara

Ricardo Roa was appointed CEO of **Ecopetrol** after serving as Colombian President Gustavo Petro's campaign manager. The Presidential campaign is also under investigation for campaign finance violations.

The controversy surrounding the filing of charges against Ricardo Roa Barragán, president of Colombia's oil and energy company, **Ecopetrol**, has taken a new turn following the leak of an internal report suggesting that more than \$42 million USD may have been transferred to a private company based in the British Virgin Islands.

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According to disclosed information, "the media outlet 6AM W obtained documents showing the link between the USD 42 million payment made by [Ecopetrol](#) and a company connected to [Serafino Iácono](#)," as stated by the outlet itself.

It is important to recall that on March 11, Colombia's Attorney General's Office ([Fiscalía General de la Nación – FGN](#)) formally charged Ricardo Roa Barragán with the alleged crime of influence peddling by a public official. According to the accusation, the executive allegedly intervened to favor a third party (Serafino Iácono) in the assignment of a gasification project in exchange for personal benefits. The FGN stated that Roa "ordered that a specific person be assigned to a gasification project in exchange for a reduction in the price of an apartment" located in northern Bogotá. During the hearing, the executive did not accept the charges.

Regarding the leaked documents, 6AM W reports that the published material "is a memorandum produced following a communication between the lawyers of [Miller & Chevallier](#), hired by [Ecopetrol](#), and Charles Cain, head of the Anti-Corruption Unit for Foreign Operators at the [US Securities Exchange Commission \(SEC\)](#)." This suggests that the document is an internal [Ecopetrol](#) report produced in 2024.

Additionally, the report includes references to an "audit commissioned by [Ecopetrol](#) to [Control Risks](#), which identifies Iácono as a possible beneficiary of the alleged irregular payment of \$42 million USD made through a purchase option" of power generation plants linked to the company [Genser](#), associated with the businessman.

The leaked documents can be accessed through the Caracol Radio website via "[Las contradicciones de Ecopetrol y Serafino Iácono en el caso del apartamento de Roa y Termomorichal](#)."

For his part, Serafino Iácono issued a statement, published by [La República](#) via the social network X, in which he affirms that since April 7, 2017, he has had no relationship with the company and that the transaction in question took place in 2023, after his departure.

At this stage, although the information has been reported by the media, judicial decisions remain under the authority of Colombia's Attorney General's Office, which is leading the proceedings against Ricardo Roa. Iácono said that he [would be filing suit](#) against Control Risks, and hired well-known Colombian lawyer Jaime Lombana Villalba to begin the process.

For further context, readers are encouraged to consult the article "[Colombia's Top Prosecutor Charges Ecopetrol President in Alleged Influence-peddling Case](#)," published by Finance Colombia.

Beyond the communications previously issued and reported by Finance Colombia in the aforementioned article, no new official statements have been released by [Ecopetrol's](#) board of directors since March 12, prior to the information leak. Finance Colombia has reached out to Iácono for comment and will report any additional information.

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About the Author
Jadin Samit Vergara is a Colombian journalist and communications strategist. He has over 12 years experience reporting on political and economic affairs, conflict, migration, and human rights. PhD candidate in Communication Studies.



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