



**PRELIMINARY
REPORT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL
OBSERVATION**

**GENERAL ELECTIONS IN THE
REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS**

November 30, 2025

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Organización No Gubernamental con estatuto consultivo ante el ECOSOC y
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GENERAL ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS

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The American Association of Jurists (Asociación Americana de Juristas-AAJ)¹, a non-governmental organization with consultative status in ECOSOC, presents its preliminary report on the general elections held in the Republic of Honduras on November 30, 2025.

The AAJ develops its work based on the principles of comprehensive defense of human rights, strengthening of the social and democratic rule of law, promotion of the will of the people; and unrestricted respect for the right to self-determination of peoples, the cornerstone of the contemporary international order, and an essential safeguard for electoral processes free from internal and external pressures.

INTRODUCTION

On November 30, 2025, general elections were held in the Republic of Honduras, in which 6,522,577 citizens out of a total of 10,039,86 were eligible to vote to elect the President of the Executive Branch for a four-year term. Votes were also cast for 128 seats in the National Congress, 298 mayoralties, and 2,168 councilors, as well as 20 representatives to the Central American Parliament (Parlacen).

1. National and International Laws

1.a) National Regulatory Framework

The Constitution of the Republic of Honduras establishes democratic principles, periodic elections, and non-compulsory universal suffrage, with voting rights from the age of 18. It should be noted that abstention is not subject to any penalty.

Electoral Law and Political Organizations (Decree 35-2021) regulations:

- Powers of the National Electoral Council² (CNE)
- Voting, counting, and tabulation procedures
- The implementation of the Preliminary Election Results Transmission System (TREP)
- The mandatory use of biometric identification
- The formation of the Voting Reception Boards³ (JRV)
- Administrative agreements of the CNE on the accreditation of computer custodians, the deployment of electoral kits, connectivity, and the use of biometric equipment.

¹ Asociación Americana de Juristas, American Association of Jurists, is also referred to as "AAJ".

² Consejo Nacional Electoral

³ Juntas Receptoras de Votos



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1.b) Applicable International Standards:

- American Convention on Human Rights (ACHR), Article 23
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Article 25
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 21
- Inter-American Democratic Charter (on Electoral Integrity and Prohibition of Interference)
- Charter of the United Nations - Article 12: Right of Peoples to Self-Determination

In accordance with these instruments, States are obliged to guarantee authentic, transparent, competitive elections, free from foreign interference.

2. Political Context and Electoral Landscape

The general elections are taking place in a climate of high polarization and historical significance for the country.

The presidency of the nation is currently held by Xiomara Castro, representative of the LIBRE (Libertad y Refundación) Party, which reconfigured the Honduran political system, that historically alternated the presidency between the NACIONAL Party and the LIBERAL Party. Within this framework, during the presidency of Manuel Mel Zelaya, which produced a distancing from the LIBERAL party that had brought him to the highest national office, a coup d'état led by the Honduran army took place in 2009, leading to the beginning of a dictatorial period with the banning of Zelaya. With the end of the ban and a national agreement between the major political parties, Zelaya and Xiomara Castro created the LIBRE (Libertad y Refundación) Party, ending the era of bipartisanship in Honduran politics, and ran for election in 2013 and 2017, processes that were denounced for various irregularities.

In 2021, Xiomara Castro won the general election and became President of the Republic.

The pre-election climate has been tense for several reasons, such as:

- The scale of the electoral process: Honduras registers a total of 6,522,577 citizens eligible to vote out of a total population of 10,039,862; there are 5,744 polling stations (10,152 JRVs) for the election of: the President of the nation—for a four-year term—; 128 deputies for the National Congress, 298 mayors, and 2,168 councilors; as well as 20 deputies for Parlacen.



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- The mandatory implementation of TREP and biometrics, innovative tools that depend on complex logistics, good connectivity, and adequate electricity flows throughout all the country.
- The persistence of adverse structural conditions, such as 30% of polling stations with irregular connectivity and stations without electricity or with irregular electricity supply.

3. Main Actors in the Electoral Process:

Political parties that participated in the electoral contest:

- LIBRE (Liberty and Refoundation) Presidential candidate: Rixi MONCADA
- NACIONAL (National): Presidential candidate: Nasry ASFURA
- LIBERAL: Presidential candidate: Salvador NASRLA
- Other parties that participated in the elections: PINU, DEMOCRACIA CRISTIANA, which withdrew its candidacy in the final weeks before the vote.

4. Electoral Bodies:

- **The National Electoral Council (CNE) - Functioning:** This is the electoral body, resulting from a democratic agreement reached by the political forces after the fall of the dictatorial regime. It is made up of councilors from the three main parties, NACIONAL, LIBRE, and LIBERAL. The CNE is a special, autonomous, and independent body; however, it is composed of three councils, each linked to the three main political forces in the country.
Although this is a legal configuration, it has generated internal tensions due to the leaking of audio recordings attributed to one of the councilors, linked to the NACIONAL party, which revealed a scheme of bribes related to affecting the functioning of the TREP, obstructing the distribution of electoral briefcases, affecting the functioning of the TREP, and influencing sectors of the army to produce an institutional breakdown.
- **The Departmental Electoral Councils:** operated, as prescribed by the Electoral Law, in the 18 departments of the national territory, and are composed of five members plus their alternates.
- **The Municipal Electoral Councils:** operated, as established by the Electoral Law, in the 298 municipalities of the Honduran territory, also composed of five members plus their respective alternates.
- **The Voting Reception Boards (JRV):** Polling stations (JRV) in general elections are composed of five (5) full members with voting rights and their respective alternates, appointed by the major political parties, a



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president, a secretary, and a teller, assigned equally to the three political parties with the most votes at the presidential level. They are joined by two members proposed by the CNE.

The counting of votes must be public.

Likewise, political parties and alliances that do not have representatives in the polling stations have accredited two observers for each polling station with the CNE.

5. The Political System

The Electoral Law guarantees the right to vote for all Hondurans over the age of 18, or who are about to turn 18. Suffrage is universal, but not compulsory.

Furthermore, the Electoral Law gives the CNE the power to authorize voting centers in foreign countries so that Hondurans living abroad can exercise suffrage. The Law establishes the principle of simple majority in single-member elections and proportional representation in multi-term elections.

Although the Observatory Mission did not find anomalies in these representations, we must clarify that 100 percent of the electoral minutes have not been processed.

6. General Scrutiny for Elections

The vote count, which must be public, began properly at the polling stations observed, with the verification of the condition of the ballot boxes and counting the ballots by the members of the Voting Reception Board (JRV, by its Spanish acronym).

The general vote count was followed, with the analysis, verification, and tabulation of the results contained in the closing report of each Voting Reception Board.

The entire counting process was conducted by the National Electoral Council (CNE, by its Spanish acronym), which was responsible for implementing IT security measures in all areas of the process, although these measures failed in several polling stations.

7. Reports of interference by foreign states in the electoral process.

AAJ strongly condemns all forms of external intervention in the electoral processes of sovereign states.

During the election observation, the AAJ Observer Mission detected particularly these serious incidents:



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- Repeated statements by United States President Donald Trump in the days leading up to the vote, publicly supporting the candidate of the NACIONAL (NATIONAL) Party of Honduras, and Nasry “Tito” Asfura, via Twitter.
- To influence the election results, President Trump announced his willingness to grant a pardon to former Honduran President, Juan Orlando Hernández, sentenced in the U.S. to 26 years in prison for drug trafficking.
- Public statements by Argentine President, Javier Milei, on Twitter, along the same lines as Trump, which were interpreted as a support for sectors of the Honduran opposition against the LIBRE candidacy, affecting the diplomatic neutrality expected during election periods.
- Information circulating in various media outlets, reporting- in a threatening tone- **on a possible tax to be imposed by the U.S. on remittances sent monthly by Hondurans living in that country** to their families in Honduras, should the ruling party win. **To properly weigh this factor- which is extortionate in nature- it should be noted that the flow of foreign currency generated by these remittances constitutes 25% of Honduras' GDP.**⁴

All these actions have generated a climate of fear among citizens, constituting interference incompatible with international norms, namely:

- The Charter of the United Nations
- The principles of the Organization of American States (OAS)
- The Inter-American Democratic Charter
- International human rights law and the principle of self-determination of peoples.

The AAJ considers that these actions disrupted the internal political debate, increased the climate of internal tension, affected the public's perception of international impartiality, influenced the will of the people, and consequently distorted the results. We also believe that they could negatively influence the acceptance of the election results at the time of the final count.

8. Incidents detected by AAJ observers

- **Biometric system:** Through their presence at polling stations, international observers detected conversations with polling station officials and failures in

⁴ <https://oncenoticias.hn/nacionales/remesas-honduras-representan-pib-banco-central-fosdeh-economia-migracion/>



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the biometric system, particularly in relation to older adults' fingerprints and facial biometrics.

- Observers also detected other logistical problems linked to irregular internet connectivity, particularly in some areas of the country, which delayed the voting process and caused difficulties with the biometric system, as well as irregularities in the electricity supply, which led to delays at polling stations. Internet disconnections lasting more than 15 or 20 minutes were also detected in the days prior to the elections.
- Irregularities in the implementation of the electoral system by the CNE- the body responsible for implementing IT security measures in all areas of the process and ensuring the reliability of connectivity and electricity- as, in addition to these failures, there were also difficulties in ensuring the effectiveness of the biometric system.
- Irregularities associated with the Preliminary Election Results Transmission (TREP, by its Spanish acronym) system, due to the leak of the audio recordings mentioned in previous paragraphs, and the tripartite composition of political party representatives.
- Weakness and poor reliability of the TREP computer system.
- The delay in updating and disseminating data by the CNE increased uncertainty among voters about the reliability of the system, which is operated through the TREP system. The CNE has 30 days to count, process, and correct inconsistencies in all election records before presenting the final election results.
- Irregularity by the CNE in authorizing voting centers in the United States where Hondurans living there cast their votes. It is noted and highlighted that the CNE denied the possibility of authorizing voting centers in Spain, depriving compatriots living in that country of this right.

9. Preliminary Report on International Observation

The AAJ participated as an international observer in this process and, therefore, the observations contained in this document are impartial, objective, and do not make value judgments, respecting the sovereignty of the Republic of Honduras.

During the electoral process, the AAJ observer delegation visited various polling stations, held meetings with representatives of the National Electoral Council (CNE, by its Spanish acronym) of the Republic of Honduras, representatives of political parties, and citizens, and verified the conditions of access, transparency, and security of the electoral process.

Likewise, the observer mission verified the functioning of the electoral system in the polling stations, as detailed in the preceding paragraphs.

10. Preliminary results. TREP.



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At 10:40 p.m. on November 30, 2025, the National Electoral Council (CNE) in plenary session revealed the first bulletin with 34.25% of the presidential ballots counted, the following provisional results corresponding to 6,559 ballots out of a total of 19,152, through the TREP system, as detailed below:

- PARTIDO LIBRE (Libertad y Refundación) Rixi MONCADA: 19.6% with 255,972 votes
- PARTIDO NACIONAL: Nasry ASFURA: 39.91% with 530,073 votes
- PARTIDO LIBERAL (Liberal Party) Salvador NASRLA: 39.89% of votes with 506,316 votes
- PARTIDO DEMOCRATA CRISTIANO (Christian Democratic Party) 2,152 votes
- PARTIDO INNOVACIÓN Y UNIDAD SOCIALDEMOCRATA (Innovation and Social Democratic Unity Party) 10,698 votes

On the evening of December 2, the CNE announced that it had processed 70% of the ballots, with the following provisional results:

- LIBRE PARTY (Libertad y Refundación) Rixi MONCADA: 19.3%, with 478,252 votes
- NATIONAL PARTY: Nasry ASFURA: 39.55%, with 993,910 votes
- LIBERAL PARTY: Salvador NASRLA, 40.35%, with 1,014,076 votes.

11. Provisional Conclusion of the AAJ International Observer Mission

Considering all the foregoing issues, the American Association of Jurists provisionally concludes that:

- a) The Electoral Timetable has been technically complied with the functioning of the electoral system.
- b) Incidents described in the preceding points relating to the implementation of the biometric system, difficulties with connectivity (irregular in some polling stations) for its correct implementation, and the inconveniences that have arisen regarding fingerprint and facial identification of older adults who went to the polling stations.
- c) This Mission considers that the provisional results published by the TREP reflect partial projections that may distort the perception of the final election results, and that it is necessary to wait for the publication of the count, representing 100 percent of the JRV records.
- d) Likewise, this Mission expresses great concerns about the leaks that occurred within the CNE, which were detailed above and may distort the legitimacy of the electoral process.
- e) This Mission highlights the enormous seriousness of external intervention in the electoral process of the Republic of Honduras, particularly the statements made by the President of the United States and the President of Argentina, as



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detailed in point seven. This has undermined the democratic legitimacy of the process and constitutes a flagrant violation of the Honduran people's right to self-determination.

The AAJ reiterates its rejection of foreign interference in the electoral process of the Republic of Honduras and urges States and international actors to fully respect Honduran sovereignty, reaffirming the inalienable right of the Honduran people to decide their own destiny without external pressure.

It advocates for absolute transparency on the part of the CNE at all stages of the process, and in the final vote count that is taking place during this period.

This is for the purpose of preserving social peace, institutional transparency, the political rights of the Honduran people, and democratic stability.

Final note: This report will be expanded and ratified at the time of our final report, once all stages of the process have been completed.