

## **EL SALVADOR**

**Date of Elections:** 20 March 1988

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of El Salvador, the Legislative Assembly, comprises 60 members elected for 3 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Salvadorian citizens who are at least 18 years old are entitled to vote. Disqualified are the insane, persons imprisoned or convicted of crime, those found guilty of electoral fraud or irregularities, persons of notoriously depraved conduct, and those under judicial interdiction.

The electoral register is compiled by the Central Board of Elections. Voting is not compulsory.

To be elected Deputy, a person must be at least 25 years of age, a Salvadorian by birth, of a Salvadorian father or mother, and of well-known integrity and education; he must moreover not have lost his rights of citizenship during the five years preceding the elections. Disqualified are persons who have handled or administered public funds (until their accounts have been audited), government contractors, certain relatives of the President of the Republic, delinquent debtors to the public or municipal treasuries, members of the armed forces and the clergy. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with the office of President, Minister, under-secretary of State, magistrate of the Supreme Court of Justice, official of an electoral agency and, in general, official who exercises a jurisdiction; these exclusions apply if the positions were held within three months of the elections.

Deputies are elected by a system of proportional representation on the basis of the population of each constituency.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The date of the parliamentary elections - combined with those for municipalities - was set on 16 November 1987.

The main opposition to the ruling Christian Democratic Party (PDC) of President of the Republic Jose Napoleon Duarte once again came from the extreme right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), as well as the National Conciliation Party (PCN). During

the campaign, ARENA, led by Mr. Alfredo Cristiani, charged corruption within the governing party, underlined the country's persistent economic problems (especially unemployment) and PDC's failure to end the eight-year-old civil war with leftist (*Farabundo Marti* National Liberation Front - FMLN) guerillas; it advocated a tougher approach to defeat the rebels, who called for negotiations rather than elections to terminate the crisis.

Polling took place amid a situation of widespread sabotage and disruption by the guerillas. Final results left ARENA on top with 30 Legislative Assembly Seats.

**Statistics**

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats  
in the Legislative Assembly*

Voters. . . . . 60% (approx.)

Political Group	Number of Seats
Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA)	<b>30</b>
Christian Democratic Party (PDC) . . . .	<b>23</b>
National Conciliation Party (PCN) . . . .	<b>2</b>
	<b>60</b>