

# *The Specter of Fraud Hangs Over Honduras*

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Finally, one week after the presidential elections in Honduras, the Supreme Electoral Court disclosed the official results, following a twisted course of vote counting that has raised many doubts about the legality of the official results of the electoral contest.

The figures offered by the Chairman of the Electoral Court, David Matamoros, proclaim as winner the official candidate to reelection, Juan Orlando Hernández, of the National Party, with 42,98 per cent of the ballots, closely followed by the opposition aspirant, of the Opposition Alliance to the Dictatorship, Salvador Nasralla, with an alleged 41,37 per cent of the ballots.

In what many have interpreted as reluctance to become a party to fraud, the Chairman of the Electoral Court refused to proclaim Hernández as reelected President, and stated that his role was just to announce the results of the vote, without proclaiming any of the candidates as winner.

Lets recall that after a first announcement that placed the opposition candidate as heading the vote count, with a five percent lead, there was a prolonged silence from the Supreme Electoral Court. When it decided to issue a new announcement, the advantage obtained by the opposition had drastically disappeared, and both candidates were tied, while in its third announcement, it finally declared the current President as holder of a slight majority of votes.

The opposition party has warned that it is not admitting the results and all along last week the people of Honduras have shown their disagreement with the results in the streets, and have suffered several dead and wounded as a result of the police repression.

The Honduran government –headed none other than by the official aspirant-- has suspended constitutional guarantees and imposed a curfew, but none of these repressive measures have been able to crush popular indignation against what it is generally perceived as straight electoral fraud.

This dubious result has been sanctioned by the Organization of American States and its Secretary General, always availing unpopular decisions and actions.

Many observers also recall that in Honduras the reactionary forces staged a coup back in twenty o nine that deposed the constitutional president Manuel Zelaya.

There is no doubt, that the very same forces and masters –read the US State Department and the CIA-- that supported that coup against Zelaya are today backing the dirty electoral tricks that prevented the election of a left wing Presidential candidate in Honduras.

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