

## CITIZENS DECLARATION FOR DEMOCRACY

### CIVIL SOCIETY CALLS TO VOTE MASSIVELY AND DEMANDS POLITICAL PARTY A RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR DURING THE COMING GENERAL ELECTIONS



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NEWSLETTER No.2

Civil Society's compelling message exhorts citizens and political parties to display the civic responsibility that has always characterized the Honduran people, and calls to exercise the right to vote, zero insults proselytism, disqualification and attacks; respect of the Election and Political Organizations Law, a high representation in Polling Stations. It also highlights international Observers who will accompany the Honduran

people on November 26th, which, as already informed, will exceed the number of observers expected, compared to previous elections; other national organizations were invited to join the elections oversight and finally support the current process and hope with democratic conviction that the citizens and the State of Honduras will make us feel proud of our democracy.

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#### CIVIL SOCIETY CALLS TO A MASSIVE VOTING AND DEMANDS POLITICAL PARTIES TO BEHAVE RESPONSIBLY IN THE COMING GENERAL ELECTIONS

Due to the importance of the on-going electoral process, civil society organizations, churches, academic institutions and the private sector signed this **CITIZENS DECLARATION FOR DEMOCRACY**, stating the following:

1. The general elections that will be held on November 26 are an extraordinary opportunity to demonstrate the civic responsibility of the Honduran people, therefore we call on citizens to assist massively to exercise the right to vote, and this way decide the future of Honduras, through a process of broad participation and citizens' trust. Under no circumstances should there be doubt that the general elections will take place, the Honduran society cannot be submitted to the trauma and social fracture it lived in 2009, thus, we ask the political class to respect the timeframes, procedures and institutions, and not to drag the Honduran people to a new political crisis of unanticipated consequences.
2. The leaders of all the political parties and candidates running for office should demonstrate their proposal capacity and present innovative solutions to the huge problems that affect the Honduran; it is time to listen to objective, realistic and sustainable proposals, that mark the road to follow to advance and face the countries challenges, and the development agenda, integrating equality and inclusion concepts and aiming at the Sustainable Development Goals. The national political class members shall abstain from portraying a Proselytism full of insults, disqualification and attacks. Those who aspire to govern should demonstrate their competitions and attributes, and indubitably citizens shall know how to make their decisions.

3. The political parties are active and responsible subjects of the process led by the Supreme Elections Tribunal (TSE), and should assume the duty bestowed on them by the Elections and Political Organizations Law (LEOP, in Spanish), managing the election process on election day, through high credibility representatives and commitment in the Polling Stations (MER). This particularity of the Honduran electoral legislation, of transferring to the political parties the administration and management of the elections, should become a strength and not a weakness. In the finishing line of the process, it is concerning that some candidates continue with the discourse and opinion aimed at creating doubts and deduct credibility of the elections, generating uncertainty.
4. The recently creating Unit for Financing, Transparency and Supervision of Political Parties and Candidates should ensure an exhaustive control of the use of the resources to finance electoral proselytism and contribute to the criminal prosecution of those politicians allied with organized crime bands, drug trafficking cartels or corrupt networks that operate in the county. The credibility of this new institution will depend on the results it will have this electoral year, it must satisfy citizens and meet its objective and mission.
5. The social audit conducted by national organizations and international oversight are a key factor to force transparent and legitimate general elections, a condition that will contribute to the county's governance and stability. We are pleased of the willingness of different foreign governments, international organizations, and specialized entities from different countries of the world that have expressed their interest of visiting our country to do this work. We encourage the different non-governmental organizations, professional associations, business networks, churches, universities and social movements to join the electoral observation tasks, and the citizens to denounce any irregularity in the process to the line 2213-1439 of the Anti-Corruption Legal Assistance Center (ALAC), in line at [www.diloaqui.asjhonduras.com](http://www.diloaqui.asjhonduras.com) or through the APP Dilo Aquí Honduras.
6. The continuity of election processes has given the possibility of identifying reforms needed in the Honduran political system. It is imperative that the different political forces advance in the dialogue and consensus process, in order to agree the relevant reforms that will modernize the Honduran electoral political system, in particular with regards to depoliticizing electoral organisms, to "citize the composition of the polling stations (MER) and purge the census of people habilitated to vote, among others. It is concerning that at 30 days of the general elections the absence of changes in the electoral legislation becomes an obstacle and reforms are requested that create doubts in the possibility of completing the electoral process that takes place every four years, and culminates with the declaration of the elected authorities

The signing organizations and institutions of this Declaration, reiterate our support to the election process and hope that next November 26 there will be evidence of the democratic conviction of the citizens and the State, and that we can feel proud of the strengthening of our democratic system.

*Tegucigalpa, M.D.C.; October 25, 2017*

• Asociación para una Sociedad más Justa (ASJ) • Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras (UNAH) • Confraternidad Evangélica de Honduras (CEH) • Federación de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales para el Desarrollo de Honduras (Foprیده) • World Vision Honduras (WVH) • Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG) • Espacio Regional de Occidente (Eroc) • Comisión de Acción Social Menonita (CASM) • Foro Social para la Deuda Externa de Honduras (Fosdeh) • Plan Internacional • Consejo Hondureño de la Empresa Privada (Cohep) • Asociación Nacional de Universidades Privadas de Honduras (Anuprih)



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