

Dec 5, 2017

Statement from Québec Solidaire facing the situation in Honduras

On Sunday, November 26, 2017, Honduras held elections for the president, the National Assembly and mayors. In anticipation of the elections, Honduras has seen an escalation of militarization and intimidation to scare supporters of the opposition coalition.

In the midst of allegations of fraud, the TSE (Supreme Electoral Tribunal), which is responsible for monitoring the elections, has still not declared a winner of Sunday's presidential poll.

With 60% of ballots counted, the TSE announced Sunday the first results in favor of the presidential candidate of the Alliance against the dictatorship, Salvador Nasralla, leading 5% over incumbent Juan Orlando Hernandez. Two members of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE), Marco Lobo and Eric Mejia, said that the candidate for the election of the opposition Alliance El Salvador Nasralla was irreversible.

Inexplicably, the electoral authorities then stopped giving results for more than 24 hours. The long pause in the results led many members of Nasralla's party to suspect fraud and his supporters took to the streets in protest.

On Tuesday, the TSE finally began to publish vote totals that showed Nasralla's rapid drop, and Wednesday morning's results showed it dropped by about 1%.

Several international election observers in the country said the vote counting irregularities could be potential fraud for Juan Orlando Hernandez. Similarly, prominent civil society groups in Honduras accused the TSE of slowing down the publication of accounts, as it appeared that the outgoing president was heading for defeat.

It is proposed that Québec Solidaire:

- Calls on the Canadian government to break the silence on the repression, corruption and impunity that has been systematic in Honduras since the 2009 coup.
- Calls on the Canadian government to stop all political and economic support to the Honduran government until election results can be reviewed by international observers and declared free and fair, and until the human rights situation improves in the country.