

El Salvador's Bukele wins reelection (84.65%vote), 2nd(6.4%)

February 14, 2024

February 14, 2024: **San Salvador**, El Salvador: BBC and other media visited the jail, which has been holding more than 75,000 prisoners, suspected of crimes, by the police. The prisoners have been held since March 2022, when President Nayib Bukele imposed emergency and acquired powers, unshackled by fundamental rights or interference by courts. It was a carefully orchestrated and guided tour of the country's controversial mega-jail, organized after the General Elections of 4th February, 2024.

The media found crowded but clean environment. However, after such a visit, no media person can express any authoritative opinion on whether the prisoners were getting the minimum of facilities, which a prisoner in a democratic country should get. Nor could any journalist offer a considered opinion on whether the human rights of the 75,000 prisoners had been infringed by the Police or not.

POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT before 2020: In the crime-infested country, there were two major political parties: **Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN)**, of the left wing, and **Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA)** on the right of ideological spectrum of politics. The party, which would win an election, would rule for 4 years, and the elections would again be held. El Salvador had been ruled for decades by the candidates of these parties.

Progressively, the cities came to be ruled by criminals and the quality of life of an ordinary person started being affected by the crimes of the mafia.

SURPRISE: A BUSINESSMAN, from outside the political field, WINS PRESIDENCY in 2020: In an environment, where people had lost hope of control of crime, from both the established parties, **Nayib Bukele**, an **immigrant from Palestine**, who had succeeded in setting up a **successful business**, joined politics with a **platform of eliminating crime**. He got elected as the Mayor of San Salvador. Bukele's administration was marked by a tough stance on gangs and security issues, which resonated with voters.

Bukele then came forward to stand for Presidency. Both the established parties refused to consider nominating him. Thereupon Nayib Bukele established his own party - **Nuevas Ideas** (means "*New Ideas*")– **in 2018** and stood for election as the

candidate of the new party in 2020. Surprisingly Bukele won and became the President of El Salvador.

IMPOSITION of EMERGENCY: In March 2022, more than 60 murders were committed brazenly by criminals. President Bukele imposed emergency and ordered the arrest of anyone, whom the police suspected of being associated with criminal activities. The Police arrested more than 75,000 persons. President Bukele established a mega-jail for holding the prisoners.

The people discovered that crime in El Salvador suddenly **fell below that in any country in South America!** Soon, President Bukele became a very popular person.

When President Bukele stood for re-election in 2024, the candidates of the two major parties were: **Joel Sánchez** of ARENA and **Manuel Flores** of FMLN., he won a landslide victory.

- **Nayib Bukele** of Nuevas Ideas: won 81.01% vote.
- **Manuel Flores** of FMLN: got 6.78 % vote.
- **Joel Sánchez** of ARENA: was able to get only 5.99% vote.



The Republic of El Salvador

Population (2023 Estimate) 6.5 Mn; Area: 21,041 Km² (148th); Density: 324.4/Km² (26th)

GDP (2023 Estimate): \$35.34 Bn (104th); GDP/ capita: \$5,557 (108th)

*El Salvador's Capital and largest city: **San Salvador**: Population (2020 Estimate): 0.21 Mn, 1.6 Mn in Urban area, 2.4 Mn in the Metropolitan area*

On February 4, 2024, El Salvador held its general election to elect not only the president and the vice president, but also for electing all 60 deputies of the Legislative Assembly. This election was followed by a second round on March 3, 2024, during which voters elected all 44 mayors and municipal councils of the country's municipalities, as well as all 20 of El Salvador's deputies to the **Central American Parliament (PARLACEN)**.



Nuevas Ideas won 48 of 60 seats in the National Assembly. A political party has won this type of majority for the first time in El Salvador.

The observers have expressed their concern about care for human rights, about elimination of the Emergency at the earliest and about the unshackled political authority, enjoyed by President **Nayib Bukele**. He also continues to be immensely popular.

www.DiGiNews360.com hopes the poor country will be able to develop a strong democracy, along with a crime-free society.