



University for Peace Universidad para la Paz



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PRESS RELEASE

University for Peace (UPEACE) students carried out a successful election mission in El Salvador

Costa Rica, 18 March 2009. More than 40 UPEACE students were international observers in the presidential elections in El Salvador, which took place on Sunday 15 March 2009.

Most of the students came from the MA programmes of International Peace Studies and Media, Peace and Conflict Studies, but they were joined by students from the programmes in International Law and Human Rights, Peace Education, Natural Resources and Sustainable Development and Environmental Security and Peace. For all students, the observation mission was a hands-on educational experience related to democracy building and social and political conflict settlement.

The mission was conducted by Professor Victor Valle, Head of the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies and had also the leading participation of Professor Alvaro Sierra from the Media, Peace and Conflict Studies programme and Mr. Luis Alberto Cordero Arias, Executive Director of the Arias Foundation, present in his capacity as member of the UPEACE Council.

Students and other observers in the mission met leaders of the political parties, like the candidate to the Presidency by ARENA, Mr. Rodrigo Avila and the candidate for Vice-Presidency for the FMLN, Mr. Salvador Sánchez Cerén. They also had the opportunity to visit the leading daily newspapers Colatino and La Prensa Gráfica.

During the Election Day, 14 teams of UPEACE observers worked from 4:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and monitored the election process in key electoral posts and covered the event from the Media perspective. The day concluded in the headquarters of the Elections Tribunal, where the UPEACE mission met the Justices in charge of leading the election process and political leaders.

Students will be producing some educational materials based on their experience such as written and audiovisual reports.

For more information about the University you can access our website www.upeace.org or contact:

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