

I noted unrestricted freedom of movement at the polling stations for the voters as well as openness in terms of access for both observers and press. The military were not readily apparent at the polls. They were available to keep order and only assisted when requested. Their role also included transporting the ballot boxes to the polls and accompanying the poll officials with the boxes after poll closing as well as guarding these boxes prior to poll opening. Nowhere was the military perceived as a form of pressure.

In summary, it is my opinion that, with the exception of the problems created concerning the delay in deciding on how the President would be elected and the one aberration on the ballot paper, the quality of the Honduran election process, in the context of democratic suffrage, was excellent in all respects and even exceptional in some areas such as the concern at the grass roots for the integrity of the system and women's participation - all ingredients which would lead one to the conclusion that the existing democratic base has been strongly reinforced as a result of this election process.