

headquarters and computer centre of the Central Electoral Council. On May 4th, we visited the international fair building which was a major distribution centre as well as the location of the San Salvador national poll, i.e. the poll with a national voters' list for people in San Salvador who are normally resident elsewhere, including displaced persons. On the same day, team members drove to the town of Izalco and Sonsonate, in the west of the country, and were informed by municipal and departmental officials there that the voting materials had been received and had been placed under guard, ready for further distribution to individual voting locations. On Saturday, May 5th, observers visited the Central American Technological Institute in Santa Tecla, just outside of San Salvador, and a nearby camp for displaced persons. At the camp, we were informed that about half the residents had identity documents and most of these could be expected to vote. On the same day, part of the team joined a government organized tour of selected voting locations in San Salvador, one of four different itineraries which was available for international observers. It should be noted that the tour showed no sign of orchestration to influence observers opinions; officials at the locations visited had not been informed that the observers were coming. Also on May 5th, the other members of the team independently visited a number of other polling locations not on the official tour. On election day itself, the observers visited voting locations in San Salvador and in the northern and eastern parts of the country, specifically Chalatenango (in Chalatenango department), Sensuntepeque (in Cabanas department), San Miguel (in San Miguel department) and San Francisco Gotera (in Morazán department). In short, the team had complete access and freedom of movement, both prior to and on polling day.