



NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD/SHARE FOUNDATION

2009 Salvadoran Presidential Election Observation Delegation



EL SALVADOR IS AT A CROSSROADS.

Municipal and National Assembly Elections will take place on January 18, 2009 and Presidential Elections are scheduled for March 15, 2009. During this time frame, every elected and appointed position will be up for grabs. The Presidential Elections are dominated by two parties: the leftist party, FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front), and the conservative, neoliberal party, ARENA (National Republican Alliance), the party that has controlled the executive branch of government since 1989. The FMLN candidate, Mauricio Funes, is a respected journalist who is critical of the ARENA party and the mismanagement of international foreign aid policies. The ARENA candidate, Rodrigo Avila, is the former director of the National Civil Police.

Tensions are rising in El Salvador as the elections approach, leading to a rise in political violence and fears of electoral fraud and unfair international intervention. At the same time recent polls show the FMLN in the lead in the presidential race.

What is clear is that the people of El Salvador have pinned their need to have their voices heard to this election. The National Lawyers Guild and the SHARE Foundation: Building a New El Salvador Today invites you to be a voice for democracy by joining their 2009 Presidential Election Observation Delegation. Delegates will learn about the Salvadoran electoral process, meet Salvadoran activists and experts on the El Salvador's socio-political situation, and serve as an official Presidential Election Observer on Election Day.

**DELEGATION DATES:
MARCH 10-17, 2009**

**ELECTION DAY:
MARCH 15, 2009**

**COST:
\$1050.00 + AIRFARE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO
REQUEST AN APPLICATION,
CONTACT:**

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BE A VOICE FOR DEMOCRACY!



Be a Voice for Democracy!

Mission and Description:

Delegates will be trained to serve as international election observers in San Salvador to ensure free and fair participation and reporting of election results. Delegates will also have the opportunity to meet with members of SHARE partner communities as they advocate for social and economic justice through women's empowerment, leadership development, and civic participation.

Activities Will Include:

- Electoral observation training and accreditation by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal
- Briefings on the 2009 Salvadoran elections
- Election observation on Election Day
- Visits to historical sites in San Salvador
- Meetings with beneficiaries of SHARE-supported programs in the areas of women's empowerment, advocacy and human rights.
- Discovery of ways you can continue to accompany the people you meet and their ideas for a more sustainable, democratic future in El Salvador!

If you cannot make the March 2009 delegation, contact the Share Foundation to learn about its January, 2009 Municipal and National Assembly Election Delegation (contact Angela@share-elsalvador.org)



Delegation Itinerary

- March 10:** Travel Day (registration at hotel)
- March 11:** Welcome/Introductions:
Orientation on health/safety & itinerary, presentation of SHARE's mission and work, analysis of political context of the elections
Visit to historical sites (Memorial Wall, UCA, Divina Providencia)
- March 12:** Visits to Local Development/Women's Empowerment/Food Sovereignty/Advocacy projects
- March 13:** TSE (Supreme Electoral Tribunal) Accreditation and Training for Elections Observation
- March 14:** Preparation of Observer Teams (role play, answer questions)
Travel to Observation sites
Present teams to the electoral officials
- March 15:** Elections observation
Data collecting and reporting
Writing of draft report
- March 16:** Return to hotel
Plenary to share observations
Writing of final report & press release
Meeting with TSE, US Embassy
Press Conference
- March 17:** Travel Day



Delegation FAQs

How do I register for the delegation?

Complete the attached application form and return it along with your \$100.00 deposit check payable to Impact Fund, to Brad Seligman, Impact Fund, 125 University Ave, Ste. 102, Berkeley, CA 94710

When is the deadline for registration?

Registration for the Presidential Election delegation will close on January 15, 2009.

What is the delegation fee?

The fee for the delegation is \$1050. The balance is due by January 31, 2009. Some limited scholarship funding is available (for more information, contact Brad Seligman) (Please note that due to fixed costs, such as hiring translators and reserving rooms, we will only be able to refund 50% of the delegation fee after January 31, 2009.)

What does the delegation fee cover?

The fee covers food, lodging, translation, set-up and facilitation of meetings, reading and preparation materials, orientation, and on-the-ground transportation in El Salvador. **Airfare is not included in the delegation price.**

What are the accommodations in El Salvador like?

Delegates stay in safe, clean guesthouses or hotels. SHARE has been using many of the same accommodations for years without incident.

Do I need to speak Spanish to participate in the delegation?

Although Spanish language skills are helpful, they are not necessary for participation. Interpretation will be provided by SHARE.

How will NLG? SHARE prepare delegates for the experience?

We will send a general information packet on history, politics, itinerary and travel tips. In addition a suggested reading list will be provided.



Delegation FAQs - Cont.

Who participates in the delegation?

Individuals and groups with a sincere interest in learning from Salvadorans about the struggles of El Salvador and a desire to accompany them in that process. Delegates should possess a willingness to learn and be challenged by circumstances of poverty and should share a sensitivity towards cultures other than their own.

Who sets up and accompanies the delegation?

SHARE staff and volunteers facilitate the delegations. Many have extensive in-country experience and can serve as a resource for answering questions regarding logistics, politics and culture.

Is it dangerous to travel in El Salvador?

Safety is the ultimate priority for SHARE staff and volunteers. SHARE has been facilitating delegations for over 25 years and has extensive in-country experience and contacts. This network of information and support has allowed SHARE to coordinate delegations safely. Delegates will receive reading materials and orientation in El Salvador on common sense safety precautions while traveling in El Salvador.

What are the recommended immunizations for travel to El Salvador?

Please go to the Center for Disease Control website for complete information: <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/destinationElSalvador.aspx>

Do I need a passport or visa to travel to El Salvador?

A valid passport **with an expiration date not less than 6 months from departure date to El Salvador** is necessary for travel to El Salvador. US citizens do not need a visa. For those holding passports from other countries, the visa requirements vary. All tourists to El Salvador must purchase a \$10 (cash only) tourist card in customs at the airport in El Salvador. Please go to <http://www.elsalvador.org/embajadas/eeuu/home.nsf/consularinfo> for complete information.

How will I find SHARE staff at the airport?

SHARE staff and volunteers will meet delegates at the airport after delegates pass through customs. They will be holding signs that say "SHARE."