



INFORMATION BULLETIN

Circle of Political Reflection 21st Century

— 21ST CENTURY —

San Salvador, El Salvador • No. 51 • August 31 to September 6, 2026

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Analysis, reflection and political debate oriented to democratic strengthening and national development.



MEMBERS OF THE CIRCLE OF POLITICAL REFLECTION 21ST CENTURY ATTEND BOOK PRESENTATION

The members of the Circle who attended were Rafael Góchez, Oscar Martínez Peñate, Mauricio Rodríguez, Nelson Flores and José Valdéz, to the presentation of the book *Zero Crime: How Bukele Turned the World's Most Dangerous Country into the Safest*, by authors Yossi Abadi and Sharon Gal-Or.

The presentation of the publication was in charge of Dr. Félix Ulloa h. and Lic. Alexandra Gil Tinoco.



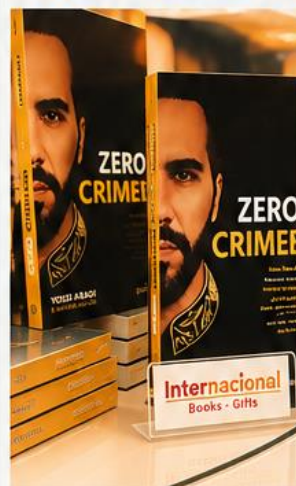
EDUCATION THAT INSPIRES... AND ALSO INFURIATES

The recent announcement of a historic investment in education, tripling what previous governments allocated, plus 50,000 scholarships for high school graduates from public institutions, is one of the most important social commitments of recent years and places education at the center of the national transformation.

Behind each scholarship there is a young person and a family for whom studying a university career or receiving specialized training in a trade has stopped being a distant dream and has become a real opportunity.



"ZERO CRIME" A TRANSFORMATIVE BOOK



"Zero Crime" documents the before and after of the changes in the country regarding security, how violence was confronted head-on and courageously, narrating firsthand experiences of citizens and families who were victims of the scourge of war.

The book describes this drastic transformation from a country held captive by gangs to a new scenario of security and social well-being, which has allowed key sectors such as tourism and investor confidence to reactivate and establish their businesses in the country.

The book narrates how President Bukele transformed a country from being the capital of criminal violence to becoming the safest country in the Western Hemisphere.

It offers hope and solutions for other governments and countries facing violence and organized crime, showing that change is possible.



BOOK PRESENTATION

The book *Zero Crime*, by Yossi Abadi and Sharon Gal-Or, was presented at the National Library of El Salvador (BINAES).



INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION

Historic investment that tripled previous allocations and grants 50,000 scholarships for public high school graduates.



CRÍTICISM WITHOUT BASIS

Opposition sectors react with anger trying to discourage young people and denying the importance of the announcement.



FMLN "CITIZENIZATION"

Opening candidacies to people "from civil society" has been a disaster for the FMLN.

ALSO IN OTHER EDITIONS

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“ Politics must be measured, above all, by its ability to improve people's lives. El Salvador moves forward because its government is there to serve, not to ideologize.



Members of the Circle of
Political Reflection 21st Century

Juan Contreras • Oscar Martínez Peñate • Nelson Flores • Mérida Villatoro • Aldo Álvarez
René Martínez • Mauricio Rodríguez • Rafael Góchez • Jose Valdéz • Christian Colón





NEWSLETTER

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Analysis, reflection and political debate aimed at strengthening democracy and national development.

Members of the Círculo de Reflexión Política Siglo XXI Attend Book Launch

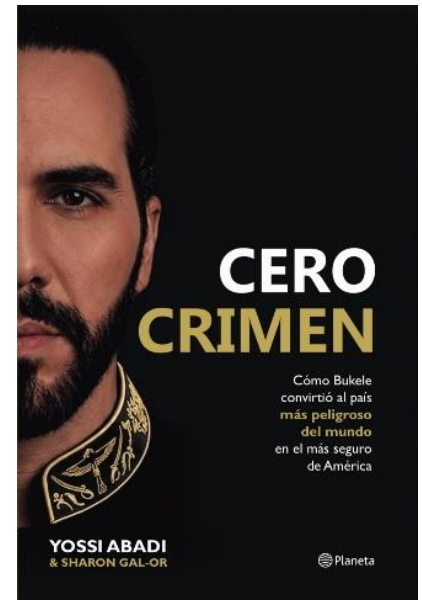


The members of the Círculo who attended were Rafael Góchez, Oscar Martínez Peñate, Mauricio Rodríguez, Nelson Flores, and José Valdez, for the presentation of the book *Zero Crime: How Bukele Turned the Most Dangerous Country in the World into the Safest*, by authors Yossi Abadi and Sharon Gal-Or. The launch of the publication was presented by Dr. Félix Ulloa Jr. and Lic. Alexandra Gil Tinoco.



The activity took place at the National Library of El Salvador (BINAES) with a massive turnout, highlighting the participation of government officials, members of the diplomatic corps accredited in El Salvador, as well as prominent Salvadoran intellectuals and academics.

The book was published in both Spanish and English versions and constitutes a valuable and significant contribution to Salvadoran bibliography. It is the result of rigorous research that prioritized *in situ* observation and in-depth interviews conducted with Salvadoran citizens in public spaces across different parts of the country. That is to say, the sources consulted were first-hand, which is what makes the work so valuable, as it is not the product of a foreign writer drafting from an office, inventing or imagining the Salvadoran national reality.



Education That Inspires... and Also Enrages

The recent announcement of a historic investment in education, tripling what previous governments allocated to it, plus 50,000 scholarships for young high school graduates from public institutions, constitutes one of the most important social bets in recent years. It attaches concrete figures to the decision to place education at the center of the national transformation.

Behind each scholarship is a young person and a family for whom studying a university degree or receiving specialized trade training ceased to be a barely dreamed-of possibility and became a real opportunity. Wrapped up in this is the chance to break the cycle of social exclusion, overcome inherited economic limitations, and acquire the necessary tools to change their present and future.



That is why it is difficult to comprehend—though not surprising—the reaction of certain opposition sectors. Some have responded with a mix of fury and political clumsiness: denying the importance of the announcement or, even worse, attempting to discourage young people with catastrophic scenarios, telling them that studying will be of no use to them.



That type of rhetoric is frankly petty, even more so considering that those who spread it already had the opportunity to access higher education, albeit with evident failure in elevating their interpersonal intelligence. In it lies a mixture of classism, elitism, and selfishness that also explains much of their inability to connect with people's aspirations. Fortunately, this is a tiny, minority, and insignificant sector, even if it continues to strive to emit toxicity and sink ever deeper into its own irrelevance.

What is truly important is that young people will receive their scholarships, and hopefully, with the support of their families and their own disciplined effort, they will know how to take full advantage of them. A well-utilized educational opportunity can transform a life, and when multiplied by tens of thousands, it can also transform a country.



The Salvadoran Logistics Ecosystem: President Nayib Bukele's Vision for Regional Connectivity



Under the leadership of President Nayib Bukele, El Salvador has radically transformed its economic development strategy, positioning the creation of an integrated logistics ecosystem as one of the fundamental pillars of his administration. The President's vision is not limited to executing isolated projects, but rather encompasses the comprehensive articulation of modern airports, ports, highways, and customs services to position the country as the most efficient connectivity node in Central America.

Within this modernization framework driven by the government, the "San Óscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez" International Airport of El Salvador has undergone a historic transformation. Thanks to President Bukele's management, a strategic expansion was executed with an initial investment of approximately 56 million dollars, raising the terminal's capacity to nearly five million passengers annually. This infrastructure, revitalized under his administration, is today a key piece for the takeoff of tourism, the attraction of investments, and international cargo management.

Added to this airport network is an emblematic project of Bukele's administration: the Airport of the Pacific. Designed to settle a historic debt with the eastern region of the country, this project is projected as a development pole that will energize the regional economy, decentralize services, and open new direct trade routes with the world.



The port system has also taken a historic turn under the current mandate. After years of abandonment by previous administrations, President Nayib Bukele finalized a historic, multi-million-dollar commercial alliance with global operator Yilport for the modernization and reactivation of the ports of Acajutla and La Unión. This strategy seeks to optimize operational efficiency, triple cargo capacity, and turn the Salvadoran coast into a benchmark for international maritime trade.

The general objective of the Bukele administration is clear: to integrate airports, ports, digitized customs, and a top-tier road network—featuring major land projects—into a functional system that drastically reduces transport times and costs. This profound transformation of land infrastructure complements the logistics scheme, allowing all nodes to function with absolute fluidity.

Under the administration of Nayib Bukele, El Salvador is executing a comprehensive modernization of its logistics infrastructure with an investment exceeding \$1.615 billion dollars for ports and road improvements, positioning itself competitively against the historical lags of Honduras and Costa Rica. With the expansion of the International Airport and new projects like the Airport of the Pacific, the country seeks to consolidate itself as the most efficient connectivity hub in the region, excelling in cargo management and the reduction of customs times.

Taken together, the initiatives led by President Nayib Bukele are redefining El Salvador's role in the global economy, turning the country into the strategic connection bridge between North America, Central America, and the rest of the continent, while consolidating logistics as the true engine of national development.



SIGLO XXI

El Salvador: From the Most Violent Country to a New Era of Security



El Salvador has experienced a radical transformation regarding security over the last seven years. A country that for decades was marked by gang violence today presents homicide figures that place it as the country with the fewest murders in the Americas.

According to official figures, 82 homicides were recorded during 2025, equivalent to a rate of 1.3 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants. Authorities also reported 1,102 cumulative days without homicides during President Bukele's administration.

This change is attributed to the implementation of the Territorial Control Plan, the State of Exception in effect since March 2022, and the coordinated action of the National Civil Police (PNC), the Armed Forces, and the Attorney General's Office. The PNC maintains that all 82 murders from 2025 have already been solved, with none linked to gang activity.



These results have profoundly modified the daily lives of millions of Salvadorans. Communities previously subjected to gang territorial control have regained freedom of movement, the right to work freely, and the ability to conduct economic activities without fear of gangs.

However, talking about zero crime is a topic that merits cold analysis and discussion. Even though the vast majority of gang members are already in prison, their children, brothers, nephews, stepchildren, fathers, and mothers remain in the environment. Extreme care must be taken regarding this, as a wave of new gang members could be breeding, forcing our country to remain highly vigilant and to place the culture of reporting at the service of our nation. School centers could be the spaces these crooked lines intend to use to try to generate chaos in the country.

There is no longer room to step back; the changes and transformations are a reality, and therefore, they must be protected.

A Health System Closer to the People





When we refer to people's health, we speak of a right that must be accessible to everyone, free of charge, and through high-quality public services. However, for a long time in El Salvador, accessing health services could become a complicated process due to paperwork, long waits to obtain a medical appointment, and deteriorated facilities in most health centers. In certain situations, these difficulties could represent a major problem, especially when it was uncertain whether a condition could turn into a severe emergency putting a person's health at risk.

On many occasions, people faced difficulties accessing health services, especially when needing to care for family or friends. Simply going to a hospital could imply investing several hours in long lines, waiting to receive a consultation, or even missing work and losing practically the entire day. This situation posed a hardship, especially for those unable to step away from their work, family, or personal responsibilities.

Currently, digital tools such as DoctorSV exist, facilitating access to medical care through virtual consultations. This type of service allows certain cases to be addressed without the person having to travel immediately to a hospital. Furthermore, it contributes to reducing the overload on the health system, allowing hospitals to concentrate their resources and attention on emergency cases, severe situations, and patients who truly require in-person care.

Similarly, people can visit a clinic equipped with the DoctorSV service. In this way, in-person contact is not completely lost, as the person can rely on someone trained to use the tool and receive the corresponding medical orientation. Likewise, when the doctor considers it necessary, the person can receive their medical prescription and subsequently go to a pharmacy to obtain their medications. This can also contribute to facilitating access to medicines, preventing all demand from concentrating in hospitals and helping reduce saturation in these services.

In this sense, one of the main advantages of public health is that it seeks to guarantee access to health services regardless of people's financial capacity. Previously, difficulties and wait times in some public services could lead people to resort to private hospitals or clinics, especially when needing faster care. At present, the incorporation of digital tools represents an alternative that can facilitate access to medical care and contribute to improving system efficiency.

The incorporation of digital tools, combined with proper organization of hospitals and health centers, contributes to building a system that is more accessible and closer to the population. In this manner, technology can become a support to improve care and make it easier for people to receive medical guidance without necessarily having to go immediately to a hospital.

Technology alone does not solve all the problems of the health system, but it can become an important, and even decisive, tool to facilitate access, guide patients, and make better use of available resources.



Thanks to Nayib Bukele, Youth Has the Opportunity to Qualify Academically



Last weekend, President Nayib Bukele made an announcement of transcendent importance for education in El Salvador: the news of 50,000 scholarships for higher education. This program, to be driven and sustained over time by the Integration Directorate, is a cutting-edge milestone in the history of the country and the region. It can even be said at a global level, as we are nearly reaching universal free education.

The Academic and Community Integration Program for Young Salvadorans seeks to break the unfair cycle of being unable to access higher education in the country—an issue never properly addressed by previous governments. It is clear that a pillar of high cultural sophistication is being proposed, as it brings together 35 universities, technical institutes, and vocational centers across El Salvador.

As such, this program achieves, first and foremost, timely, real, and debt-free access for young high school graduates, providing real relief to their parents' wallets. It encompasses not only educational support, but also benefits the family economy, allowing families' purchasing power to maintain stability in that area so that money can be directed toward the basic food basket and family recreation.



Likewise, it is worth considering that the only requirements to access and maintain the scholarships are: good grades, completing the training process, and performing community service—aimed at giving back to society for that study opportunity. As can be observed, the requested requirements are nothing out of the ordinary, but rather the minimum that can be asked of young people who will be the guardians of the Nation's future.

Nor can or should the support of the Legislative Assembly for this program be overlooked, with the favorable decree for the IDB loan to fund and sustain it over time. Therefore, it must be recognized that this news has been, in many ways, one of the greatest comforts to the spirit of this people, opening the possibility of a cultured country that is competitive in national and international professional fields.

For this reason, this program and all those driven by the government deserve applause and support. At the same time, we request the Executive Branch and the honorable Legislative Assembly to turn this program into a public policy, so that it remains over the decades regardless of the political forces operating in the socio-political arena of El Salvador. It is time for everyone to recognize, celebrate, and fight for this and all the great advancements achieved in our nation.



The Bukele Model Considers Education a Fundamental Column



The recent delivery of 50,000 university, technical, and vocational scholarships by President Nayib Bukele—backed by \$100 million in IDB financing as part of a historic educational investment exceeding 8% of national GDP—is a measure that joins others like the massive construction of schools, consolidating education as a central axis of the Bukele model beyond security.

This massive delivery of scholarships to young Salvadorans constitutes a milestone in El Salvador's educational transformation. It is not an isolated gesture, but the incorporation of education as one of the fundamental pillars of the Bukele model, alongside security, infrastructure, health, science, technology, and the fight against corruption.

For decades, Salvadoran youth were trapped between a lack of opportunities and violence. Today, thanks to the new climate of security, young people can move about without fear and access educational programs that were previously unthinkable. The announced scholarships allow final-year high school students to continue their training at universities, technical institutes, or even in international programs managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



The logic remains very clear: "The public must be equal to or better than the private." In education, this means that young Salvadorans, regardless of their social background, have a real opportunity to access technical or higher university education, ending the economic factor as the determining element in their educational continuity.

As expected, political opponents—the same ones who for decades plundered the State and condemned youth to abandonment—have tried to minimize the delivery of these scholarships. Their weak and miserable critiques lack substance and do not resonate with public opinion. The citizenry clearly perceives the difference between a government delivering real opportunities and parties like arena and the fmln (in lowercase), which today sink into absolute discredit.

The inconsistency of these opponents is evident: those who never invested in education now pretend to question a policy that opens doors for thousands of youth. Their voices, increasingly dim, fail to tarnish the massive support the population grants to President Bukele.

Although security has been the most visible component of the Bukele model, reducing it solely to that scope would be a mistake. The model also encompasses education, infrastructure, health, science, technology, and anti-corruption. The delivery of scholarships and the construction of schools are proof that the country's transformation is not limited merely to safe streets and public spaces, but seeks to form a generation prepared for the future.

The Bukele Model Redefines Salvadoran Politics: It Is Not Measured by Ideological Speeches, But by Tangible Results

The delivery of scholarships, along with the construction of schools, demonstrates that education is now a strategic axis of the State. Opposition critiques, petty and vulgar, serve only to reinforce the legitimacy of a project that enjoys majority support from the population. In short, the Bukele model is also about education, and that is the true guarantee of development for El Salvador.



"Zero Crime": A Transformative Book



Recently, the book *Zero Crime* by Israeli author Yossi Abadi, in collaboration with Mr. Sharon Gal-Or, was officially presented at the BINAES auditorium to a full house. Academics, entrepreneurs, politicians, officials, and representatives from different productive sectors of the country gathered for the event. The book highlights the before and after of the changes in security across the country, detailing how violence was tackled head-on and courageously while narrating first-hand experiences of individuals and families who were victims of the scourge of war.

The book documents this drastic transformation from a country held hostage by gangs to a new scenario of security and social well-being. This shift has allowed key sectors such as tourism and investor confidence to reactivate, establishing companies in the country—all brought about by the reduction in homicides, which has reached historic lows, alongside days with zero crime, something unthinkable a few years ago.

A message of zero tolerance has also been sent against actions that threaten the humanity of any citizen. This success in security would not have been possible without the decisive actions driven by the Security Cabinet, led by President Bukele, implementing and executing strong and forceful security policies that enable an effective fight against any criminal group. The book captures this entire process of change and decodes it in each of the beneficial results the population enjoys today. The book narrates how President Bukele transformed a country from being the capital of criminal violence into the safest country in the Western Hemisphere.



Also worthy of note was the participation of Vice President Félix Ulloa Jr., who expressed his satisfaction with the work, emphasizing the author's dedication to capturing a national reality based on stories and reflections regarding the entire process of change to achieve the well-being experienced today as a safe country.

The work provides statistical details on security and how it has managed to boost economic development and drive a significant rise in tourism.

Most importantly, the book offers insights for governments or politicians in other countries submerged in problems of violence and organized crime, bringing hope to their populations by demonstrating that solutions exist—if one country was capable of doing it, they can do it too. In the case of El Salvador, the process of construction and development no longer stops; in a short time, we will be a technological benchmark and provider for the region and Latin America.

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