

El Salvador: Nationalist Democrat Union (udn) Party To Participate In March 1991 Elections

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On Sept. 24 in San Salvador, Mario Aguinada, president of the Nationalist Democrat Union (UDN), announced that the party will participate in the March 1991 legislative and municipal elections. He said the UDN plans to organize coalitions with other democratic left institutions and organizations to "form a popular alternative." The last time the UDN fielded a presidential candidate was in 1977. The party leader stated that "if the opposition defeats the governing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) in the next elections,...it would benefit the negotiations process [with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], since the National Assembly would be at the service of the... process, and not against it." UDN executive committee member Eduardo Calles said an escalation of violence in coming months would prevent Salvadorans from expressing themselves "with confidence and freedom." Salvadoran voters will elect 262 mayors, and all 60 deputies in the Assembly. If proposed electoral reforms are implemented in the interim, the number of deputies to be elected would increase to 84. (Basic data from AFP, 09/24/90)

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