

EDITORIAL

Many modern democracies share common challenges in meeting international standards of what is known as “electoral authenticity.” Among the many practices that threaten the integrity of elections highlights the arbitrary imprisonment of dissidents or opponents hostile to the government, the buying of vote and coercion, and discretionary dubious scores of the votes and finally, in defeat, imposition of results or nullification of the elections, all contrary to the will of the voters. Undoubtedly, these gross violations of human rights undermine the electoral credibility, and are widely condemned by national and international observers. Recent mass protests against poor electoral authenticity have been recorded in countries as diverse as Russia, Mexico and Egypt.

Contrary to what one might think, these situations occur in varying degrees in all democracies, even in the most established, as the United States, where they have hundreds of proposed bills to improve and make voters registries more reliable, to cite just one example. There have also been several international initiatives to generate tighter controls in order to hinder more and more these type of practices that inhibit voters trust that by definition in a healthy democracy elections should be.

In the case of Mexico this is not new, as throughout its history, elections have been instruments of power to legitimize dictatorship disguised as democracy. Notwithstanding after centuries of tyranny and sham democracies, the country began a new era of democracy after the 2000 historical change. The electoral defeat of the former “official party,” the ineffable PRI, which ruled uninterruptedly for seventy years, was a compelling reason to believe that the electoral process had conquered finally a genuine democratic condition, after years of limited reforms and control. Nonetheless, after twelve years of alternation must conclude, with more realism than optimism, that such advances were insubstantial, to the extent that they have reissued all kinds of suspicions and doubts about the authenticity of the elections, as in the federal election 2006 and 2012, both severely questioned by almost half of the population.

For this reason, the heat of the presidential election of 2012 that left huge doubts and frustrations, Ius Journal has summoned 10 specialists to explore into the issues of authenticity of elections in Mexico. For the quality of the invited experts, and the treatment each one develops, and the topicality of the calls; we believe that this issue is a must for those interested in the matter. So be it. ■