

**Main Topics**

- PRD internal election vote count stalls
- Cardenas calls for election to be annulled
- Secretary of Energy releases gloomy diagnosis for Pemex
- AMLO announces civil resistance to block Pemex 'privatization'
- PRI leaders warn against oil risk contracts
- Commission investigating Mouriño contracts starts work
- Security forces make Chihuahua sweep

In the two weeks since the March 16 **PRD internal election**, the party has not yet announced any official vote tallies or winners. The preliminary vote count was suspended on March 18 with 70% of the polling stations counted and a dead heat between the two principal candidates for party president, Alejandro Encinas and Jesus Ortega. The initial exit poll reports of a clear victory by AMLO-protégé Encinas have been replaced by mutual accusations of electoral fraud, and both Ortega and Encinas have produced partial vote totals giving themselves the lead. The new deadline for results is April 2. (Universal 3/27-28)

PRD founder **Cuahtémoc Cardenas** wrote an open letter that condemned the party for its "absolute break with all ethical principles," and called for the election to be annulled. Columnist Ricardo Alemán noted, "The preferred adjective of everyone, including *perredistas* and party leaders, to describe the leadership election is that it was a 'pigsty' (*cochinero*)." (Reforma 3/21, Universal 3/24)

Secretary of Energy Georgina Kessel and Pemex CEO Jesus Reyes Heroles delivered a "**Diagnosis of Pemex's Situation**" to President Calderón. The public 130-page report predicts a sharp decline in production unless deep water resources are developed, and an equally dramatic rise in gasoline imports without major new refinery investments. It says the challenge facing Pemex is "not just financial, but fundamentally operational, technological, and capacity of execution." The report observes that "all countries with national oil companies have strengthened them by allowing modern and effective mechanisms for collaboration with third parties." (www.sener.gob.mx, Reforma 3/31)

**Andrés Manuel López Obrador** held a rally in the Zocalo to announce the start up of a civil resistance movement to prevent "the privatization of Pemex." AMLO said he would mobilize 28,000 men and women in 56 'defense brigades' to carry out protest actions across the country. (Reforma 3/25)

**Key Dates**

- 07/06/08:** Nayarit state elections
- 09/28/08:** Coahuila state elections
- 10/05/08:** Guerrero state elections

In an abrupt change in tone, Manlio Fabio Beltrones, PRI leader in the Senate, declared that his party will not allow any changes to secondary laws that could allow **risk contracts in the energy sector**. "The Constitution and Article 27 must remain untouched. We will not permit any subterfuge to modify the regulatory laws in a way that seeks to change the spirit of the constitutional article." He also said that the protests being planned by AMLO were "legitimate." Emilio Gamboa, PRI leader in the Chamber of Deputies, also said the PRI would not pass an energy reform using a fast track mechanism. (Reforma 3/25, 3/27)

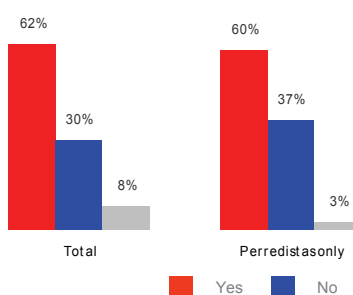
The six-person Chamber of Deputies commission investigating the Pemex contracts signed by **Juan Camilo Mouriño** on behalf of the family company Ivancar began its work; it is expected to report by May 26. (Universal 3/26)

The government announced a **security sweep** of 2,500 soldiers, police, and AFI agents in 'Joint Operation Chihuahua.' Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora argued that the upsurge in violence in the border state and Ciudad Juarez reflected the success of the government's strategy: "The criminal drug gangs are seeing a reduction in their income and are being forced into other criminal activities....There is a true crisis in their networks." (Proceso 3/27)

**Polls**

A Universal poll (3/28) showed that a substantial majority of those surveyed—including *perredistas*—believed that there was fraud in the PRD internal election. Those who saw fraud place the blame primarily on party militants and officials, and to a much lesser extent on the candidates or AMLO. While a slight majority of the total population believes the election should be annulled, a majority of those in the PRD reject this idea.

Was there fraud in the PRD internal election?



Should the election be annulled?

