

Globalized Elections
Weekly Report
July 29 2010 to August 04, 2010
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Week # 130

A **parliamentary election** was held in the unrecognized **Nagorno-Karabakh Republic** on 23 May 2010.

A **legislative election** was held in **Suriname** on 25 May 2010.

An indirect **presidential election** was held in **Suriname** on 19 July 2010 following the legislative election.

Nagorno-Karabakh

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Nagorno-Karabakh Republic

Capital	Stepanakert
Official language(s)	Armenian
Government	Unrecognized Presidential republic
- President	Bako Sahakyan
- Prime Minister	Arayik Harutyunyan
Independence	from Azerbaijan
- Referendum	December 10, 1991
- Proclaimed	January 6, 1992
- Recognition	None
Area	
- Total	11,458.38 ² km ² 4,424.10 ² sq mi
Population	
- 2010 census	141 400

The **Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (NKR)** is a *de facto* independent republic located in the Nagorno-Karabakh region (or **Artsakh** region) of the South Caucasus. It controls most of the territory of the former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast and several Azerbaijani districts adjacent to the borders of Azerbaijan with Armenia to the west and Iran to the south.

The predominantly Armenian-populated region of Nagorno-Karabakh became disputed between Armenia and Azerbaijan when both countries gained independence from the Russian Empire in 1918. After the Soviet Union established control over the area, in 1923 it formed the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (NKAO) within the Azerbaijan SSR. In the final years of the Soviet Union, the region re-emerged as a source of dispute between Armenia

and Azerbaijan, culminating in a large ethnic conflict and, eventually, in the Nagorno-Karabakh War that was fought from 1991 to 1994.

On December 10, 1991, as the Soviet Union was collapsing, a referendum held in the NKAO and the neighboring Shahumian region resulted in a declaration of independence from Azerbaijan as the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. The country remains unrecognized by any international organization or country, including Armenia.

Since the ceasefire in 1994, most of Nagorno-Karabakh and several regions of Azerbaijan around it remain under the joint Armenian and Nagorno-Karabakh military control. Representatives of the governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan have since been holding peace talks mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group.

History

Government and politics

Nagorno-Karabakh is a presidential democracy. The executive power rests mainly with the president. The president appoints and dismisses the prime minister. The National Assembly of Nagorno-Karabakh is the parliament, and has 33 members, 22 elected for a five year term in single seat constituencies and 11 by proportional representation.

Political Parties

Nagorno Karabakh Republic has a multi-party system; as of 2009, American organization Freedom House ranks Nagorno-Karabakh Republic above the republics Armenia and Azerbaijan in terms of political and civil rights.^{[4][5][6]} The votes are divided in such a way that the governments formed are almost always coalitions of various parties. The main parties are: Democratic Party of Artsakh, Free Motherland, Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Artsakh section),

Movement 88 and Communist Party of Artsakh. A number of non-partisan candidates also take part in elections, and with some success. In 2005, eight of the 33 members to the National Assembly successfully took their seat without officially running under the banner of established political parties in the republic.

Constitution

On November 3, 2006, the then President of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Arkadi Ghukasyan signed a decree to carry out a referendum on a draft Nagorno-Karabakh constitution.^[7] This was held on 10 December of the same year^[8] among the citizens of Nagorno-Karabakh, which voted overwhelmingly in favour of a new constitution.^[9] According to official preliminary results, with a turnout of 87.2%^[citation needed], as many as 98.6 percent of voters approved the constitution.^[8] The 1st article of the document describes the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic as "a sovereign, democratic legal and social state". More than 100 non-governmental international observers and journalists monitored the poll and gave it a positive verdict, saying it was held to a high international standard.

However, poll was condemned by the international community at large for being illegitimate.^[10] The European Union, OSCE and GUAM have rejected the referendum.^[11] The EU announced it was "aware that a 'constitutional referendum' has taken place," but reiterated that only a negotiated settlement between Azerbaijan and ethnic Armenians can bring a lasting solution.^[12] In the words of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe Terry Davis the poll "will not be recognised ... and is therefore of no consequence"

In a statement, the OSCE chairman in office Karel De Gucht called the vote potentially harmful to the ongoing conflict settlement process, which, he said, has shown "visible progress" and is at a "promising juncture". The outcome was also criticised by Turkey, which traditionally sides with Azerbaijan because of ethnic Turkic roots, and has historic tensions with Armenia.

Administrative divisions



Map of NKR indicating its provinces.

1: Shahumyan, 2: Mardakert,

3: Askeran, 4: Martuni, 5: Hadrut,

6: Shusha, 7: Qashatagh.

Stepanakert is not shown.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic has eight administrative divisions. Their territories include the five districts of the former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (NKAO), the Shahumian district in the Azerbaijan SSR which is currently under Azerbaijani control, and the seven rayons around the former NKAO that are under the control of the NKR forces.

Following the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's declaration of independence, the Azerbaijani government abolished the NKAO and created Azerbaijani rayons in its place. As a result, some of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's divisions correspond with the Azerbaijani rayons, while others have different borders. A comparative table of the current divisions of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and the corresponding rayons of Azerbaijan follows:

#	Division	Rayon(s)	Sahar	Former
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			(city)☒	NKAO☒
3	Askeran	Khojali, portion of Agdam	Askeran	Yes
5	Hadrut	Southern Khojavend, Jabrayil, portion of Fizuli	Hadrut	Partially
2	Martakert	Eastern Kalbajar, Western Tartar, portion of Agdam	Martakert	Partially
4	Martuni	Northern Khojavend, portion of Agdam	Martuni	Partially
7	Qashatagh	Lachin, Qubadli, Zangilan	Berdzor	No
1	Shahumian	Southern Goranboy, Western Kalbajar	Shahumian	No
6	Shushi	Shusha	Shushi	Yes
8	Stepanakert (capital)	Khojali	Stepanakert	Yes

Nagorno-Karabakh Azerbaijan

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic claims Shahumian, which was not part of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast. Representatives from Shahumian declared independence along with Nagorno-Karabakh, and the proclamation of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic includes the Shahumian region within its borders. Unlike the rest of Nagorno-Karabakh, Shahumian remains under Azerbaijani control.

Additional rayons of Azerbaijan are under Karabakh military control and are now part of the NKR: Lachin, Qubadli, Zangilan, Jabrayil, Kalbajar as well as parts of Agdam and Fizuli. On the other hand, the eastern ends of Martakert and Martuni are under Azerbaijani control, as is the whole of Shahumian.

Former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast

District (Rayon) Area (km²) Under Armenian control (km²) %

Askeran	928	928	100
Hadrut	679	679	100
Martakert	1,705	1,305	76.5
Martuni	792	632	79.8
Shushi	280	280	100
NKAO	4,384	3,824	87.2
Azerbaijan			
Shahumyan	558	0	0
Kelbajar	1,936	1,936	100
Lachin	1,835	1,835	100
Kubatli	802	802	100
Jebrayil	1,050	1,050	100
Zangelan	707	707	100
Aghdam	1,150	842	73.2
Fizuli	1,390	462	33.2
Azerbaijan	8,870	7,634	86.1

Elections in Nagorno-Karabakh

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic elects on a national level a president and a parliament. The president is elected for a five term by the people. The **National Assembly** (*Azgayin Zhoghov*) has 33 members, 22 elected for a five year term in single seat constituencies and 11 by proportional representation. Nagorno Karabakh has a multi-party system, with numerous parties in which no one party often has a chance of gaining power alone, and parties must work with each other to form coalition governments.

2005 Parliamentary election

Main article: Nagorno-Karabakh parliamentary election, 2005

Summary of the 19 June 2005 National Assembly election results

Parties	Votes PR Lists	%	Seats
Democratic Party of Artsakh (<i>Artsakhi Demokratakan Kusaktsutyun</i>)	22,393	37.6%	12
Free Motherland (<i>Azat Hayrenik</i>)	15,931	26.7%	10
ARF/Movement 88 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armenian Revolutionary Federation (<i>Hai Heghapokhakan Dashnaktsutyun</i>) Movement 88 	14,534	24.4%	3
Communist Party of Artsakh (<i>Artsakhi Komunistakan Kusaktsutyun</i>)	2,432	4.0%	-
Moral Revival (<i>Baroyakan Veratsnund</i>)	2,192	3.6%	-
Armenia Our Home (<i>Mer Tun' Hayastan</i>)	1,265	2.1%	-
Social Justice Party	788	1.2%	-
Non-partisans			8
Total (Turnout 78%)	66776	100.0	33
Source: Ruling Party Wins Karabakh Vote Amid Opposition Outcry			

2007 Presidential election

Summary of the 19 July 2007 Nagorno-Karabakh presidential election results

Candidate	Votes	%
Bako Sahakyan	59,326	85.12
Masis Mayilyan	8,734	12.53
Armen Abgaryan	867	1.24
Hrant Melkumyan	554	0.79
Vanya Avanesyan	212	0.30
Total valid (turnout 77.39%)	69,693	100.00
Invalid	1,594	—
Total	71,286	—

Source: NKR Central Election Commission

**Nagorno-Karabakh parliamentary
election, 2010**

All 33 seats to the National Assembly

23 May 2010

	First party	Second party	Third party
Leader	Arayik Harutyunyan	Ashot Ghulian	Vitaly Balasanian
Party	Free Motherland	Democratic Party	ARF
Last election	10 seats, 26.7%	12 seats, 37.6%	3 seats, 24.4%
Seats won	14 seats	7	6
Seat change	+4	-5	+3
Popular vote	29,252	18,017	12,725
Percentage	44.2%	27.0%	19.1%
Swing	+17.5%	-10.6%	-5.3%

A **parliamentary election** was held in the unrecognized Nagorno-Karabakh Republic on 23 May 2010.

Background

Nagorno-Karabakh declared its independence from Azerbaijan in 1991. A conflict took place between 1988 and 1994 which resulted in Nagorno-Karabakh, with Armenian support, becoming de facto independent from Azerbaijan. However it has not been internationally recognised and Azerbaijan still claims the area as part of its state.

Several changes to the election process were made since the previous election in 2005. Whereas previously, 22 of the parliament's 33 seats were filled using party-list proportional representation and 11 using first-past-the-post, the distribution for these elections is 17-16. Another change concerns the lowering of

the election threshold from 10% to 6% (for political parties) and from 15% to 8% (for electoral blocs).

A total of 94,900 voters are registered for the election, about 66% of the total population of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Contesting parties

Before the elections, it became clear very few opposition parties would contest.^[2] Four parties contesting the 17 list-based seats are registered: Free Motherland (FM), led by Prime Minister Arayik Harutyunyan, the Democratic Party of Artsakh (DPA), the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARM) and the Communist Party of Artsakh (CPA). Of these parties, only the communists did not support president Bako Sahakyan in the 2007 election. 44 More candidates stand for election in the 16 FPTP constituencies.

Opinion polls

Date of poll	Institute	FM	DPA	ARF	CPA	Independents
May 2010	Sociometer Center	13	11	5	0	4

Results

With about 50% of the votes counted, Free Motherland led the count with 45.8% of the votes. The DPA was at 30.7% and the ARF at 18.2%. The CP was below the electoral threshold of 6% (5.34%), which means it might be difficult for them to get a seat.

At the morning of 25th May, after counting of all votes, Free Motherland was at 46,4%, The DPA was at 28,6%, and the ARF was at 20,2%. The Communist Party was at 4,8% and did not get into parliament in the party-list proportional representation.

Summary of the 23 May 2010 National Assembly of Nagorno-Karabakh election results

Parties	Votes PR Lists	%	Seats (PR)	Seats (FPTP)	Seats (total)	+/-
Free Motherland (<i>Azat Hayrenik</i>)	29,252	44.2	8	6	14	+4
Democratic Party of Artsakh (<i>Artsakhi Demokratakan Kusaktsutyun</i>)	18,017	27.0	5	2	7	-5
Armenian Revolutionary Federation (<i>Hai Heghapokhakan Dashnaktsutyun</i>)	12,725	19.1	4	2	6	+3
Communist Party of Artsakh (<i>Artsakhi Komunistakan Kusaktsutyun</i>)	3,057	4.6	—	—	—	—
Non-partisans	—	—	—	6	6	-2

Valid votes	63,324	94.8	17	16	33	—
Invalid/blank votes	3,446	5.2	—	—	—	—
Total (Turnout 67.8%)	66,771	100.0	17	16	33	—

Source: NKR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Caucasian Knot

Reaction

About 120 international observers from France, Russia, USA, Italy, Germany, Greece, Great Britain, Argentina, Ireland, Czech Republic, Denmark, Iran, Netherlands, Canada, Slovakia, South Ossetia, Abkhazia, Transnistria, and others, as well as a big group of observers from Armenia observed the elections. Later the Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Ramin Mehmanparast stated that Iran had not delegated any observers. Azerbaijan made a black list of the international observers who visited Nagorno-Karabakh and declared them *personae non-gratae*.

Various international organisations and countries issued statements refusing to recognise the 2010 elections in Nagorno-Karabakh, among them the OSCE, the European Union, the United Kingdom, France, Iran, Russia, Turkey, Greece, Georgia, Lithuania, and Romania.

Suriname

Capital

Paramaribo

(and largest city)

Official language(s)	Dutch
Recognised regional languages	Sranan Tongo, Hindi, English, Sarnami, Javanese, Indonesian, Bhojpuri, Hakka, Cantonese, Saramaccan, Paramaccan, Ndyuka, Kwinti, Matawai, Cariban, Arawakan Kalina
Demonym	Surinamese
Government	Constitutional democracy
- President	Ronald Venetiaan
- <i>President-elect</i>	<i>Dési Bouterse</i>
Independence	From the Netherlands
- Date	November 25, 1975
Area	
- Total	163,821 km ² (91st) 63,251 sq mi
Population	
- July 2009 estimate	481,267 (167th)
- 2004 census	456,829
- Density	2.9/km ² (231st) 7.6/sq mi
GDP (PPP)	2009 estimate
- Total	\$4.510 billion
- Per capita	\$8,642
GDP (nominal)	2009 estimate
- Total	\$2.962 billion
- Per capita	\$5,675 ^[3]

Suriname officially the **Republic of Suriname**, is a country in northern South America.

Suriname is situated between French Guiana to the east and Guyana to the west. The southern border is shared with Brazil and the northern border is the Atlantic coast. The southernmost borders with French Guiana and Guyana are disputed along the Marowijne and Corantijn rivers, respectively; while a part of the disputed maritime boundary with Guyana was arbitrated by the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea on September 20, 2007.

Suriname, at 163,000 sq. km is the smallest sovereign state in terms of area in South America. The country is the only Dutch-speaking region in the world not a part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands or Belgium and the only state outside Europe with Dutch as an official language (not counting South Africa and Namibia where the closely-related Afrikaans is used). The combined legacy of years of colonial occupation, immigration, and slavery has made Suriname one of the most multicultural societies in the world, with great ethnic, linguistic, and religious diversity. Suriname's geographical size is just under 165,000 km² (64,000 sq mi), and it has an estimated population of about 470,000 people, most of whom live on the country's north coast.

Districts and resorts



Map of the districts of Suriname in alphabetical order.

Suriname is divided into ten districts:

1. Brokopondo
2. Commewijne
3. Coronie
4. Marowijne
5. Nickerie
6. Para
7. Paramaribo
8. Saramacca
9. Sipaliwini
10. Wanica

Suriname is further subdivided into 62 resorts (*ressorten*).

History

Beginning in the 16th century, the area was discovered by French, Spanish, and English explorers. A century later, plantation colonies were established by the Dutch and English along the many rivers in the fertile Guyana plains. The earliest documented colony in Guiana was along the Suriname River and called Marshall's Creek. The area was named after an Englishman.^[6] Disputes arose between the Dutch and the English. In 1667, the Dutch decided to keep the nascent plantation colony of Suriname conquered from the English, resulting from the Treaty of Breda. The English were left with New Amsterdam, a small trading post in North America, which later became New York City.

The planters relied heavily on African slaves to cultivate the coffee, cocoa, sugar cane and cotton plantations along the rivers. Treatment of the slaves by their owners was notoriously bad, and many slaves escaped the plantations. With the

help of the native South Americans living in the adjoining rain forests, these runaway slaves established a new and unique culture that was highly successful in its own right. Known collectively in English as the Maroons, in French as the Nèg'Marrons and in Dutch as "Bosnegers" (literally meaning "bush negroes"), they actually established several independent tribes, among them the Saramaka, the Paramaka, the Ndyuka or Aukan, the Kwinti, the Aluku or Boni, and the Matawai.

The Maroons would often raid the plantations to recruit new members, acquire women, weapons, food and supplies. These attacks were often deadly for the planters and their families, and after several unsuccessful campaigns against the Maroons, the European authorities signed several peace treaties with them in the 19th century, granting the Maroons sovereign status and trade rights.

Slavery was abolished by the Netherlands in Suriname in 1863, but the slaves in Suriname were not fully released until 1873, after a mandatory 10 year transition period during which time they were required to work on the plantations for minimal pay and without state sanctioned torture. As soon as they became truly free, the slaves largely abandoned the plantations where they had suffered for several generations, in favor of the city, Paramaribo. As a plantation colony, Suriname was still heavily dependent on manual labor, and to make up for the shortfall, the Dutch brought in contract laborers from the Dutch East Indies (modern Indonesia) and India (through an arrangement with the British). In addition, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, small numbers of mostly men were brought in from China and the Middle East. Although Suriname's population remains relatively small, because of this history it is one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse in the world.

On November 23, 1941, under an agreement with the Netherlands government-in-exile, the United States occupied Dutch Guiana to protect bauxite mines.^[8] In 1954, the Dutch placed Suriname under a system of limited self-government, with the Netherlands retaining control of defense and foreign affairs. In 1973, the

local government, led by the NPK (a largely Creole, meaning ethnically African or mixed African-European, party) started negotiations with the Dutch government leading towards full independence, which was granted on 25 November 1975. The severance package was very substantial, and a large part of Suriname's economy for the first decade following independence was fueled by foreign aid provided by the Dutch government.

The first President of the country was Johan Ferrier, the former governor, with Henck Arron (the then leader of the Nationale Partij Suriname (Suriname's National Party)) as Prime Minister. Nearly one third of the population of Suriname at that time emigrated to the Netherlands in the years leading up to independence, as many people feared that the new country would fare worse under independence than it did as an overseas colony of the Netherlands. Suriname's diaspora therefore includes more than a quarter of one million people of Suriname origin living in the Netherlands today, including several recent members of the Dutch national football team.

On February 25, 1980, a military coup overthrew the democratic government and declared a Socialist Republic,^[1] and with it began a period of economic and social hardship for the country. On 8 December 1982, the military, then under the leadership of Desi Bouterse, rounded up several prominent citizens who were accused of plotting against the government. They were allegedly tortured and certainly killed during the night, and the Netherlands quickly suspended all foreign aid to Suriname after this event. (As of August 2008, Desi Bouterse is currently standing trial in Suriname for his role in these killings.)

Elections were held in 1987 and a new constitution was adopted, which among other things allowed the dictator to remain in charge of the army. Dissatisfied with the government, Bouterse summarily dismissed them in 1990, by telephone. This event became popularly known as "the telephone coup". Bouterse's power began to wane after the 1991 elections however, and a brutal civil war between the

Suriname army and the Maroons, loyal to the rebel leader Ronnie Brunswijk, further weakened his position during the 1990s.

Suriname's democracy gained some strength after the turbulent 1990s, and its economy became more diversified and less dependent on Dutch financial assistance. Bauxite (Aluminum ore) mining continues to be a strong revenue source, but the discovery and exploitation of oil and gold has added substantially to Suriname's economic independence. Agriculture, especially of rice and bananas, remains a strong component of the economy, and ecotourism is providing new economic opportunities. More than 80% of Suriname's land-mass consists of unspoiled rain forest, and with the establishment of the Central Suriname Nature Reserve in 1998, Suriname signaled its commitment to conservation of this precious resource. The Central Suriname Nature Reserve became a World Heritage Site in 2000.

[Politics

The Republic of Suriname is a constitutional, democratically representational republic based on the 1987 constitution. The legislative branch of government consists of a 51-member unicameral National Assembly, simultaneously and popularly elected for a five-year term. During the recently held elections on Tuesday 25 May the "Megacombinatie" won 23 of the National Assembly seats followed by "Nationale Front" with 20 seats. A much smaller but important for the collaboration went to the 'A-combinatie" and to the "Volksalliantie". For more details the reader can visit the website of the "25 mei verkiezingen.com" or from the "ministerie van binnenlandse zaken" which is the ministry of internal affairs. Currently negotiations are going on in and between parties regarding the formation of the coalition for the coming five years.

The president, who is elected for a five-year term by a two-thirds majority of the National Assembly or, failing that, by a majority of the People's Assembly, heads the executive branch. If at least two-thirds of the National Assembly cannot agree

to vote for one presidential candidate, a People's Assembly is formed from all National Assembly delegates and regional and municipal representatives who were elected by popular vote in the most recent national election. As head of government, the president appoints a 16-minister cabinet. A vice president, normally elected at the same time as the president, needs a simple majority in the National Assembly or People's Assembly to be elected for a 5-year term. As head of government, the president appoints a cabinet of ministers. There is no constitutional provision for removal or replacement of the president unless he resigns.

The judiciary is headed by the Court of Justice (Supreme Court). This court supervises the magistrate courts. Members are appointed for life by the president in consultation with the National Assembly, the State Advisory Council and the National Order of Private Attorneys. In April 2005, the regional Caribbean Court of Justice, based in Trinidad, was inaugurated. As the final court of appeal, it was intended to replace the London-based Privy Council.

The country is divided into 10 administrative districts, each headed by a district commissioner appointed by the president. The commissioner is similar to the governor of a United States-type state, but is appointed and removed by the president.

Elections in Suriname

Suriname elects on national level a head of state - the president - and a legislature. The president is elected for a five year term by an electoral college based on the parliament. The **National Assembly** (*Nationale Assemblée*) has 51 members, elected every five years by proportional representation per district. Suriname has a multi-party system, with numerous parties in which no one party often has a chance of gaining power alone, and parties must work with each other to form coalition governments.

2005 Legislative election

Alliances and parties	Votes	%	Seats
New Front for Democracy and Development (<i>Nieuwe Front voor Democratie en Ontwikkeling</i>):		41.2	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Party of Suriname (<i>Nationale Partij Suriname</i>) Progressive Reform Party (<i>Vooruitstrevende Hervormingspartij</i>) Pertjajah Luhur Surinamese Labour Party (<i>Surinaamse Partij van de Arbeid</i>) 			
National Democratic Party (<i>Nationale Democratische Partij</i>)		23.1	15
People's Alliance for Progress (<i>Volksalliantie Voor Vooruitgang</i>):		14.5	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Democratic National Platform 2000 (<i>Democratisch Nationaal Platform 2000</i>) Basic Party for Renewal and Democracy (<i>Basispartij voor Vernieuwing en Democratie</i>) Party for National Unity and Solidarity (<i>Kerukanan Tulodo Pranatan Ingit</i>) 			
A-Com		7.3	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Liberation and Development Party (<i>Algemene Bevrijdings- en Ontwikkelingspartij</i>) Brotherhood and Unity in Politics (<i>Broederschap en</i> 			

Eenheid in de Politiek)

- Seeka

A1

6.2 3

- Democratic Alternative '91 (*Democratisch Alternatief '91*)
- Democrats of the 21st Century (*Democraten van de 21ste Eeuw*)
- Political Wing of the FAL (*Politieke Vleugel van de FAL*)
- Meeting Point 2000 (*Trefpunt 2000*)

Union of Progressive Surinamese (*Unie van Progressieve Surinamers*)

4.9 -

Party for Democracy and Development through Unity (*Partij voor Democratie en Ontwikkeling door Eenheid*)

Progressive Workers' and Farmers' Union (*Progressieve PALU Arbeiders- en Landbouwersunie*)

1.0 -

Total (turnout 65.1 %)

51

Source: *Dagblad Suriname*

Surinamese legislative election, 2010

A **legislative election** was held in Suriname on 25 May 2010.

Nine parties contested the election. Pre-election polls suggested a share of 41% of the vote going to the "Mega Combination" coalition, that includes the National Democratic Party of former dictator Dési Bouterse. The ruling Nieuw Front (NF) had around 22.5% support. There were 324,490 people registered to vote in the

election which would determine the holders of 51 parliament seats, 116 regional positions and 752 municipal positions.

Preliminary results issued on 26 May 2010 showed the Mega Combination winning a plurality of 23 seats of 51, up from 15 in the last election.^{[6][4]} The New Front for Democracy and Development alliance of incumbent President Ronald Venetiaan (who had stated before the election that he would not seek another term) was said to have won 14 seats. Venetiaan ruled out working together with the NDP as long as it was led by Bouterse. In the upcoming indirect presidential election in July 2010, a two-thirds majority will be required to elect the next president.^[7] Organisation of American States election observers reported a peaceful election with no irregularities.

Bouterse has not stated if he will seek to return to the presidency. Dutch Foreign Minister Maxime Verhagen has said that the Dutch government will respect the will of the voters of Suriname, despite Bouterse having been sentenced to 11 years in prison by a Dutch court for drug dealing. An Interpol arrest warrant has been issued for him, but Suriname does not extradite its citizens.

The NDP is in negotiations with the People's Alliance for a coalition, which would give Bouterse a majority in parliament, but not the two-thirds majority required for electing the president.

Results

25 May 2010 Surinamese legislative election results

Parties and alliance	Votes	%	Seats
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Mega Combinatie	95,543	40.22	23
New Front for Democracy and Development	75,190	31.65	14
People's Alliance	30,844	12.98	6
Party for Democracy and Development through Unity	12,085	5.09	1
Basic Party for Renewal and Democracy/Political Wing of the FAL	12,043	5.07	—
A Combinatie	11,176	4.70	7
Democratic Union Suriname	284	0.12	—
Permanent Prosperity Republic of Suriname	261	0.11	—
National Union	149	0.06	—
Total (turnout 73.21%)	237,575	100.00	51

Source: verkiezingen.gov.sr, informeleverslaglegging.gov.sr, surinametourism.net

Surinamese presidential election, 2010

July 19, 2010

Nominee	Dési Bouterse	Chandrikapersad Santokhi
Party	National Democratic	New Front for Democracy and Development
Electoral vote	36	16
Percentage	69.23%	30.77%

Previous	President
Ronald Venetiaan	
National Party of Suriname	

President-elect	
Dési Bouterse	
National Democratic	

An indirect **presidential election** was held in Suriname on 19 July 2010 following the legislative election. If the National Assembly of Suriname twice fails to elect a new president with a two-thirds majority, the election will go to the People's Assembly of Suriname, composed of members of parliament, district and provincial councils, where a simple majority suffices.

A first vote was expected on 8 July 2010, but only procedural issues were discussed at the meeting; the election was set for 19 July 2010 on the following day.

Shortly before the election, former dictator Desi Bouterse succeeded in establishing a coalition with the A Combinatie and the People's Alliance, giving him the votes required for the presidential election. As expected, he gained 36 votes against Chandrikapersad Santokhi's 13 votes; he will be sworn in on 3 August 2010.