

Prisons report no structural damage after the earthquake

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Summary

Panama's Penitentiary System says no prison suffered significant structural damage in the magnitude 7.5 quake of 9 October and visits continue normally, including at the Chiriqui facilities.

Details (summary of the article)

La Prensa reports that the director general of Panama's Penitentiary System, Chanan Singh, said the country's prisons came through the magnitude 7.5 earthquake of Friday 9 October without significant structural damage, and that visits to inmates continue as normal. The only facility with any visible effects was the public jail in Las Tablas, Los Santos, but an inspection by engineers from the Ministry of Government and the US Southern Command Corps of Engineers concluded there was no structural damage. As a precaution against aftershocks, a protocol now moves inmates to the yard for about 15 minutes whenever a strong tremor occurs. Inspections were carried out at La Joya, La Joyita, La Nueva Joya, Nueva Esperanza in Colón and at the prisons in Chiriquí, Veraguas, Chitré and Penonomé, with no serious damage found. Inmates held on Coiba island are reported safe and the Aeronaval base there was undamaged. As of August 2026 the prison population stood at 24,772, of whom 62% had final sentences.

Original (es)

Sistema Penitenciario descarta daños estructurales en las cárceles tras el terremoto

El Sistema Penitenciario informó que las cárceles de Panamá no sufrieron daños estructurales graves tras el terremoto y que las visitas continúan con normalidad.