

Judge extends probe into fake UNACHI cheques

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Summary

A judge gave prosecutors four more months to investigate 19 people suspected of money laundering and fraud over two forged cheques of \$490,000 each drawn on an account of the Autonomous University of Chiriquí.

Details (summary of the article)

La Prensa reports that at a hearing on Thursday 15 October at the First Judicial District in Plaza Ágora, judge Keila Martínez granted the Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office four extra months (rather than the six requested) to complete its investigation into 19 people linked to an alleged scheme of money laundering, embezzlement, financial crimes and document forgery affecting the Banco Nacional de Panamá. The case began in 2025 when UNACHI filed a complaint after the bank flagged cheques apparently drawn on a university account. Two forged cheques of \$490,000 each were cashed and the money distributed among several people; one was deposited into the account of the Arnulfo Arias Junta Comunal and the other was made out to a private company. Prosecutors want the extra time to trace the money and the assets bought with it. The judge warned that investigating additional suspects would require opening a separate case file. Raids have already taken place in Las Cumbres, Condado del Rey, Brisas del Golf, Betania and Boca La Caja, and checks on other UNACHI account movements continue.

Original (es)

Juez concede prórroga para investigar la emisión irregular de cheques de la Unachi

La investigación se inició en el ao 2025 tras una denuncia presentada por la Universidad Autónoma de Chiriquí, luego de que el Banco Nacional alertara sobre la emisión de varios cheques supuestamente girados desde una cuenta de la casa de estudios superiores.