

Court legalizes arrest of 22 in Meduca appointments fraud, nine from Chiriquí

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Summary

A guarantees judge upheld the arrest of 22 Education Ministry officials, ex-officials and teachers accused of inserting false data into the Siarhe system to win teaching appointments; nine of those detained were arrested in Chiriquí.

Details (summary of the article)

According to La Prensa, judge Jazmín Jaén ruled that the arrests of 22 people linked to an alleged organized scheme inside the Ministry of Education (Meduca) were lawful. Investigators say the group, including teachers and ministry staff, created fake educator profiles that were loaded into the Siarhe human-resources database so they could compete in teacher appointment competitions. The case began with a complaint filed by Meduca itself. The judge rejected defence claims that prosecutors should have simply summoned the suspects instead of carrying out pre-dawn police raids on Monday. She also warned she would fine the Judicial Investigation Directorate \$500 for not allowing detainees to receive clothing and toiletries, and for blocking nursing mothers from supplying breast milk to their babies. Of those brought before the court, nine were detained in Chiriquí, six in Bocas del Toro, three in Panamá Oeste, two in Los Santos, one in Panamá and one in Veraguas. The case continues before the Specialized Prosecutor's Office against Organized Crime.

Original (es)

Legalizan aprehensión de 22 personas investigadas por fraude en nombramientos del Meduca
La investigación se inició a raíz de una denuncia presentada por el Ministerio de Educación.