

## 22 charged over fake teaching diplomas in Meduca network

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| When       | No date given                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Where      | Panama (nationwide; UNACHI, Chiriquí mentioned)                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Source     | prensa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| Link       | <a href="https://www.prensa.com/judiciales/asi-operaba-la-red-dentro-del-meduca-que-falsifico-diplomas-para-concursos-de-docentes/">https://www.prensa.com/judiciales/asi-operaba-la-red-dentro-del-meduca-que-falsifico-diplomas-para-concursos-de-docentes/</a> |

### Summary

Prosecutors charged 22 people in "Operation Credentials 2.0" for inserting false academic titles into the Education Ministry's system to win teaching posts; some used diplomas supposedly from UNACHI in Chiriquí. The hearing ended early on Friday 23 October, with 13 jailed pending trial.

### Details (summary of the article)

La Prensa reports that the Public Ministry has outlined how an alleged network inside the Ministry of Education (Meduca) manipulated the Siarhe human-resources system to add false degrees and raise applicants' scores in teacher-appointment competitions. After three days of hearings ending in the early hours of Friday 23 October, judge Yazmín Jaén ordered pre-trial detention for 13 of the 22 accused, house arrest for seven and periodic reporting for two. The group reportedly includes 17 educators, two analysts and three recruiters, facing charges of document forgery, money laundering, illegal practice of a profession, organized crime and misuse of the Meduca platform. Prosecutor Elizabeth Carrión said some accused presented diplomas supposedly issued by the Universidad Autónoma de Chiriquí (UNACHI) and other universities that checks could not confirm; an official based at the Meduca office in Las Tablas allegedly entered the fraudulent data by hand. The contracts under review run from 2020 to 2026, with estimated losses of about \$358,000 in improperly paid salaries and benefits. The case follows Operation Credentials 1.0 in August, which involved 25 people. Investigators have asked the DIJ to trace the money, and 12 defence lawyers have appealed the precautionary measures; that appeal hearing is set for 23 November 2026 at 8:30 a.m.

### Original (es)

Así operaba la red dentro del Meduca que falsificó diplomas para concursos de docentes

La investigación reveló que el grupo distribuía tareas entre sus integrantes para obtener un provecho económico.