

# Crime and corruption: main problems perceived by Dominicans

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The Dominican Republic is placed in the second position with the highest average perception of insecurity, second only to Venezuela, according to the results of the Barometer of the Americas survey presented on Tuesday afternoon.

For 45.8 percent of the surveyed population, the most serious problem in the country is related to issues related to crime and crime.

While the averages in the perception of insecurity in the neighborhood where the respondents live have increased from 56.3 points in 2014 to 59.0 in 2016, the highest in the decade.

"Victimization by crime increased in the Dominican Republic by almost 10 percentage points." By regional comparison, of the 29 countries surveyed, the Dominican Republic ranks sixth in the highest percentage of crime victimization, "the survey shows.

Likewise, the survey shows that Dominicans perceive political corruption as a widespread problem in the country. "For 83.9 percent of the respondents, at least half of the politicians in the Dominican Republic are involved in corruption."

The Most Recent Barometer of the Americas Survey "Political Culture of Democracy in the Dominican Republic and the Americas, 2016-17: a comparative study on Democracy and Governance" showed that only a third of Dominicans trust elections (34.8%), however, electoral participation continues to be high.

The study, prepared by the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) of Vanderbilt University with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Technological Institute of Santo Domingo (Intec) indicates that, for In the last presidential elections, the interviewees reported an electoral participation of 81.2%. While confidence in political parties stands at 20.4%, which consolidates the downward trend since 2008, when it is registered at a maximum value of 26.7%.

It indicates that "democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean is facing important challenges, ranging from the low level of trust in elections, parties and political leadership, to deficiencies in the offer of public freedoms, the fulfillment of the law, security citizen, and a good provision of services," he says.

In that sense, the report states that party sympathies in the country also decrease; from 2012 to 2016 there was a decline in this variable from 63.4% to 42.4%. However, among the countries of the region, the Dominican Republic ranks second among the peoples with the greatest sympathy party.

Civic participation, however, has remained relatively stable over time and ranks among the highest in the region. In the last 10 years, the level of civic participation, which is understood as the union of religious associations, parents of the school and community improvements, has remained around the average of 35%.