

Nearly 35 percent of Peruvians have no concept of democracy, UN poll shows Associated Press Worldstream March 23, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 Associated Press
All Rights Reserved
Associated Press Worldstream

March 23, 2006 Thursday 4:09 PM GMT

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 327 words

HEADLINE: Nearly 35 percent of Peruvians have no concept of democracy, UN poll shows

BYLINE: By RICK VECCHIO, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: LIMA Peru

BODY:

Nearly 35 percent of Peruvians say they have no idea what democracy is, almost 74 percent say Peru needs a government that will impose order and slightly less than 30 percent say violence is necessary to get people to respect authority, a nationwide poll showed Thursday.

The survey conducted by the United Nations Development Program interviewed 11,116 people from 5,190 households around the country.

The results, published widely in Peru's newspapers Thursday, showed that among Peruvians who do have a concept of democracy, 26.5 percent don't consider it important, while just 38.6 said they were very interested in it.

The poll, which had a margin of error of 2.5 percentage points, was taken in the final months of 2005, around the same time that presidential candidate Ollanta Humala started to surge in electoral polls on a nationalist platform ahead of the April 9 ballot.

Humala, a retired army officer and open admirer of the 1968-75 left-wing military dictator Gen. Juan Velasco, has been vigorously endorsed by Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez and has promised heavy state intervention in Peru's free-market economy.

He advocates rewriting Peru's constitution to reduce the power of the traditional political class, widely viewed as corrupt, and opposes the U.S.-backed eradication of Peru's coca crop, the raw material for cocaine.

A survey published Sunday by the Apoyo polling company showed Humala edging Lourdes Flores, a pro-business former congresswoman, in voter preference with 32 percent to 28 percent in a field of 20 candidates.

The national poll had a margin of error of 2.2 percentage points, meaning the two candidates remained in a statistical tie. But it also showed the candidates tied for the first time with 50 percent each in a hypothetical two-candidate runoff.

Apoyo's last poll showed Flores defeating Humala 54 percent to 46 percent in a runoff, which would be necessary if no candidate wins a majority in the election's first round.

LOAD-DATE: March 24, 2006

Source: **Combined Source Set 34**  - Major Newspapers; Magazine Stories, Combined; Wire Service Stories

Terms: **un development programme and date(geq (03/23/06) and leq (03/24/06))** ([Edit Search](#) | [Suggest Terms for My Search](#))

View: Full

Date/Time: Friday, March 24, 2006 - 6:38 AM EST



LexisNexis[®]

[About LexisNexis](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#)

[Copyright](#) © 2006 LexisNexis, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.