



A summary of TOSD and IDFN report about the observation of the election of the Presidency and Parliament of Kurdistan Region

In the name of IDFN which TOSD represents, we would like to present our deep thanks and appreciation to (Authorities, Establishments, Representatives of political parities) that cooperated, supported, encourage us during the observation of KRG on the 25th of July 2009. We also present special thanks to Fredreche Eiberte German Organization as well as UNOPS in the UN and the Higher Independent Commission for Election. We would not also the favor of Media in broadcasting our reports to the publics. We also thank our observers in the network who have not spared any effort in performing their duties professionally and neutrally with no political affiliation. It is but for the High professional commitment that the report were in high subjectivity and contained lots of tangible facts and concrete evidences in this field of activity (observation).

Network prepared precociously to observe the election. It pursued the issuing of election law, which has been enacted by the KRG parliament. in addition to the instruction, and systems, which were issued by the Higher Commission of election. These instructions were studied carefully and accurately. The observers from both sexes in the network have participated in the election. They were 3682 observers.

The network worked through out the whole election process election starting from the renewing the election register to the lottery of specifying the competing lists and surveying the electoral campaigns, then the observation of the private voting and the media silence. The other mission was accompanying the voting boxes and observing the inception of election centers and finally the settling down of voting in the Tele-center where the votes are gathered in the National Center in Baghdad along the tiring and exhausting hours. The higher Commission of Election has followed and observed all the complaints and objections, as it is determinate to troubleshoot them all to certify all the results.

The observers of the Network distributed in all the electoral centers and in most of the Election stations in the Governorates of (Erbil, Suleimanya, Dohuk, Baghdad and Mosul). Easily and smoothly, was their distribution to coordinate the communication among the observers through the cell phones and the field visits. The observers have done their mission in delivering the reports subsequently and orderly through the coordinators of the office in Erbil. They unified the data and modifying it in a unique form then delivered it to the Higher Independent Commission of Election. In the same time, there was preparation for media reports to broadcast them through Media executive offices in Erbil and Baghdad. These reports were prepared and translated well to facilitate them to the international observers, foreign media, agencies, as well as the correspondents. These reports provided the journalistic agencies especially (the Arabic and the Iraqi agencies) , the media and television reporters with answers about their enquiries.

The Network has issued number of reports engulfed all the phases of the election campaign. These reports were in three different kinds:

The quick and preliminary reports, the media reports, complete reports.



We can summarize what these reports are about in:

There were five active political coalitions and twenty parties and entities. These parties and entities compete on 111 seats in the Parliament of Kurdistan, including 11 seats represents (Quota) or Ratio to the Non-Kurdish minorities in the KRG. To induce the electors to have their votes for the benefit of any lists, their names where inscribed in the registration book of electors. The total number of electors became (2.518.229). The higher commission for election could distribute these electors on (1148) centers and (5403) electoral station. These centers are distributed in the following form (446 centers and 1962 station in Erbil, 482 centers and 2239 station in Suleimanya, 221centrs and 1152 station in Dohuk).

The law of Election nature:

It is undisputable that the law of election in KRG depended on the closed list where the entire Kurdish region is considered as one electoral cycle. In addition, there is 30% ratio for women. The election for the president of the region happens simultaneously to the election for the parliament. For the presidency post, there are five competitors.

The role of the Observers, the political entities representatives, and the media

There was existence of many entities representatives and organizations' observers as well as NGO in the electoral stations and centers. The entire number of observers was 45 thousands from the NGOs plus the number of political observers including 350 international ones.

- The media has covered the procedures of elections where huge number of them scattered in the election centers.
- We found good cooperation from the commission who facilitated our mission of observation.

The security aspect:

- Stability and security were prevalent in the entire KRG.
- The high security measures were in the entire region according to plan decided by the ministry of interiors to stabilize the situation all over the area during the days of elections.
- Suitable military existence was noticed close to the electoral centers.
- The electoral process has witnessed no endeavor to inhibit the electors not to arrive in the electoral centers.
- Some violence acts took place after one day of the election on some HQ of electoral lists in Erbil.

The role of the Higher Commission and its Procedures:

- Almost all the electoral centers were opened at 8:00 am in the morning of 25th of July 2009. The voting procedure was late about have an hour after the entrance of all the employees and the team of the Higher Commission took their places.
- All the essential procedures were followed like the counting of the voting sheets in almost all the centers. Then, the boxes were shut and locked with coded numbers under the supervision of the Higher commission Team.



- The sorting of voted inside the center began after ensuring that the numbers of the locks are compatible with numbers that were declared to the commission upon the period of opening the center. The final compatibility investigation was done after the isolation of the invalid sheets.
- There was existence of the Higher Commission members of KRG as well as its cadre. Some of them have made field visits to the centers whereas others made announcements in the media.
- There was occurrence of no impediment or prohibition to neither the entering of any native observers nor the representatives of the political entities.
- The election centers were almost close to the residence of the electors, so the curfew of vehicles was not handicapping the arrival of them. The authorized cars transferred some electors to the centers. The curfew ended up in the afternoon and that facilitated the movement of electors.
- Some lists submitted complains on some breaches. We traced these breaches but we received reply from the Higher commission that the list of complains was minor ones and did not affect the truthfulness and honesty of election.

The electoral gabs, violations and infringements:

They can be divided into:

1- electors register:

- Clear vulnerability in electors register seems clear in the non-existence of few electors in the stations.
- Some electors' names appeared in the wall lists outside the centers while they are not enlisted in the registration documents.
- Some people in the same family found their names, where as others did not.
- There is contrast between the dictation of the nmes in Arabic and Kurdish, which had eventually kind of confusion.
- Some infringements and violations are related to the propaganda outside and near the electoral centers.
- Some electors could remove the election ink from their fingers sooner after their exiting from the centers. This is problem reoccurred in the previous elections.

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- opening the voting sheet before entering it inside the box in number of stations.
- There were some people wearing clothes have propaganda for certain lists.
- Some political activists' exploited their posts in the center just to propagate for particular list.
- it was notices the removal of the main propaganda of the political entities inside circumference of 100 meters around the centers of election.
- Some people who were not enlisted in the election register participated in the election and according the 111 list.
- There were many group election phenomena.
- There was occurrence of voting cases post to the hour 4:00 pm.

Conclusions

There is positive appreciation for the general atmosphere that was prevalent in the entire period of election, as well as the proper management of security. There is also appreciation for the higher



commission for its neutrality and its success in distributing the election centers just in time. The commission provided the logistic and technical instruments for the voting centers. It followed the phases of election systematically.

The Higher commissioners supervised the procedures of election largely.

- There was Tangible development in the practice of the electoral rights, whether in the democratic choice or even in the amicable voting. There was no dropping to any sheet neither by marking on it nor by not counting it. This is a very free democratic choice.
- Participation of new powers in the election, which is considered as a will to move the wheel of the political situation and diversifying it.
- Wide range of rumors is on adopting the political parties to sums of money. There were some lists present gifts. Upon all, there was list declared the sums of money, which were allocated for the electoral propaganda. There is no existence in KGR specifically nor in (Iraq) generally does any law specify the limits of expenditure on the electoral campaigns. This would lead to have negative effect on the political process.
- It is clearly observed the usage of the government centers and possessions, which is obvious violation of the law.
- There was similarity among many of the propaganda of the lists. There are also new techniques adopted by the lists to propagate excelled by diversity and attractiveness including the quick songs (Rap) and wearing T-shirts as well as cabs relating to each competing list. Some colored their cars by the logos of the electoral campaigns. as well as the traditional ways that are excelled by festivals, songs, symposiums, and the folklore dancing. These festivals are also excelled by poetry, elocutions, and sermons. The Big lists declared their propaganda through the posters, banners, media and TV advertisement.
- The national programs (electoral promises on the national standard) were available in the electoral campaign extensively.
- The media in its coverage of the electoral campaign did positive role. Many satellite channels contributed in broadcasting the phases of the election, which caused eventually in clarifying the ongoing events to the details about the election.
- The participation of the international and natives was tremendous. This act developed the trust and credibility for the election and helped in preparing for its management.

The recommendations

We mentioned some of the points here in the previous reports, but we would like to emphasize their importance here in the management and rendering successful, flawlessness and unblemished election. The competing nominees are agreeing this election on satisfactorily bases.

- It is important of making national, plenary survey for the population to render in its light exact and compact electoral register.
- The importance of issuing a card for the elector that contains the name of the elector and the name of the electoral center as well as the name of the station he \she is voting in. these cards have to be distributed in sufficient amounts to guarantee for every citizen to have practiced his\her right in the election.
- The significance of enacting the parties role, that includes the agreement of the parties on democracy whether within the parties or with the others during the manipulating their political work in the country.



- The importance of enacting law organizes the electoral process including the issues of its sponsorship specifies the expenditure roof in order to have rational equilibrium among the competitors. On top of all, putting disciplines for who have the right in participating in this electoral competition.
- There must be support of the Higher Commission for election to have interminable work. This commission should plan programs and dynamics enable it to train its cadre as well as the temporary employees to perfect their duties and performance on the state.
- Giving the facilitations and back-up to the Iraqi Native Networks as considered significant parts in the electoral process to perform their duties superbly.
- The widening cooperation between the observation organizations and the Higher Commission of Election to reciprocate the information and to have permanent bridges of cooperation.

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