



Press Conference about the updating of voters register

The Iraqi Democratic Future Network represented by Tammuz organization for social development held press conference in the capitol Baghdad to declare its statement about the process of updating period all over Iraq. Many channels , satellite channels, broadcasting channels and daily newspapers and magazines attended the conference. Two representatives from the High commission of Election also attended; Ms. Golshan Kamal from the international office of the Commission and Mohammed Mostafa, the media and relations director in Karkh office of the Commission).

After the declaration of the final report, the channels and journalists questions and inquiries were answered in addition to the individual TV meeting between the correspondents and our colleagues. The following is the text of the report:



The final reports of the Iraqi Democratic Future Network about the ending of Updating voters register to the parliamentary election of 2010 in Iraq

Iraqi Democratic Future Network represented by Tammuz organization for social development finished its observation on the centers of Information updating all over Iraq post to the Higher Independent Commission of Election declaration that the updating period has finished. The updating began on Aug 22 2009 and finished in Sept 30 2009. Iraqi Democratic Future Network (IDFN) volunteering observers were 2450 in addition to 462 observers volunteered to work in the extension period. The updating centers were 1182 distributed all over the Iraqi governorates. We mention here the preliminary

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observations of the observers. The following observation data depended on an observation form prepared beforehand according to international standards in observation:

1. The electoral centers were opened late as they were delayed from Aug 15 2009 to Aug 22 2009.
2. The High Independent Commission of Election could prepare and open 10082 electoral centers for Info updating all over Iraq as well as providing all the logistic equipments for these centers to cover up the lateness.
3. The hiking teams work was simultaneous to that of updating centers. The overlapped and confused the citizen which led eventually to decrease the visits for the centers.
4. The food card proved tangibly its fragility and vulnerability as sole evidence and document in rendering a concrete voters register. So, having not the replacements would impede\inhibit not few people to have their electoral right to balloting.
5. The lack of civil services, solving not the civilian issues and problems were the key reasons behind the decrease and on other times refusal of citizens to visit the updating center. Furthermore, some families refused to receive the voters' info cards.
6. The High Commission of Election advertisement and propaganda was fragile in the opening weeks. Sooner after that, campaign began to accelerate promptly by the course of days until it reached the climax in holding the educative forums, advertisement, mass media propaganda and daily newspapers publications.
7. The lateness of issuing the election law was the genuine factor behind the limitation of voters visits to the info updating centers.
8. The observers' reports mentioned the decrease of voters' visits as well as the displaced receiving not the voters cards would lead eventually to a huge displaced people not participating in the coming parliamentary election.
9. Many families were disassociated from the voters' cards, which were handed to the food distributors instead of the hiking teams. This procedure deferred the period of visits.
10. There was a remarkable increase of the visits to the info updating after EID FIR (fasting month). This happened as a result to the media propaganda, authorities' motivation and the extending of the updating period.
11. Some pressures were implemented on the civilians to coerce them visiting the updating centers. For example, the General Agricultural Directorate of Najaf issued

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a legal diktat stipulating that (the employees are not allowed to receive their salaries unless they go to the updating centers!). the Iraqi Cabinet office obliged all its employees to fetch a copy of voters card to be put as an evidence for his\her participation in the next election

12. The political entities interest to motivate the voters was vulnerable but on the final days, there were some statements from political and religious people to motivate people voting.
13. The political entities representatives and NGOs existence was weak in the electoral centers.
14. Some electoral centers were closed before time especially in Ramadan (fasting month). Some centers were lacking the services, ventilation and air conditioning, which was synchronizing the rise of heat temperature in most of the provinces.
15. There were no dynamic plans to register the Iraqi immigrants who recently returned back home during the updating period.
16. The abroad-residents info was not updated. The updating of the Iraqi abroad-residents info could have made larger group of people participate.
17. The individuals who intended to change the voting centers from one governorate to another were not allowed to do so. They were not allowed to switch between one and another in the same governorate.
18. The High Commission of Election was completely responsive for all the messages, observations, and reports of the electoral process.

The Organization raises the following recommendations depending on the updating process

1. Accelerating the issuance of electoral law to facilitate the parliamentary election of Jan 16 2010.
2. Performing the population census.
3. Depending not alone on the food card as a sole identifying document to update the voters register. All the Iraqi have must receive the voters card , which includes voters ID, name and address of the center and balloting station.

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4. Training the High Commission employees before performing the electoral process with taking in accounting to intensify the training for the station teams.
5. Allocating appropriate budget for the High Commission to run the electoral process and distributing the election fees continuously.
6. Disseminating voters' info cards before the time of updating to allow them visit the centers in right time.

It is worth mentioning that the Iraqi Democratic Future Network and Tammuz Organization for Social Development executed electoral educative campaigns before and during the updating process to identify voters' cards and to motivate citizens visiting and updating their information in the centers.

Iraqi Democratic Future Network

Tammuz organization for Social Development

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