

Press Release

For Immediate Release
Baghdad, 9 July 2008

5th Meeting of the Electoral Education Forum and Official Launch of the Electoral Education Campaign

The **Electoral Education Forum**, a joint advisory body for electoral education, composed of 23 members representing the **Independent High Election Commission (IHEC)** and the **civil society**, has held its Fifth Meeting in Baghdad on 8-9 July 2008. The Forum aims to create a strong partnership between the IHEC and the Iraqi civil society to ensure access of all Iraqis to timely and accurate information on the current electoral processes.

This meeting has been the occasion for the Forum **to officially launch the Electoral Education Campaign**. The main goal of the Campaign is to encourage an informed participation of eligible Iraqi citizens in the Voter Registry Update, which will start on 15 July 2008, and in the Governorate Elections planned for later this year.

The Electoral Education Campaign is implemented at the grassroots level all across the country by **Governorate Electoral Education Committees**, composed of Iraqi civil society organizations and representatives from the Governorate Electoral Offices (IHEC). The Campaign uses direct outreach methods such as workshops, seminars, public meetings, sports and cultural festivals. The Forum hopes to reach at least 180,000 Iraqi citizens through the Campaign and will focus in particular on the following categories of citizens: first-time voters, women, IDPs, disabled and minority groups. These activities will be complemented by nation-wide media-based campaigns sponsored by the IHEC.

To support the Governorate Committees involved in the Campaign, the Forum has produced the **National Electoral Education Plan**, which provides guidance on priority themes, target groups and educational methods and tools to be used for educating the Iraqi people on the elections.

The Electoral Education Campaign is supported by the **United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)** with funding coming from the Iraqi Trust Fund. The Campaign also benefits from the technical advice of the International Electoral Assistance Team led by **UNAMI**.

For more information, please contact: Electoral Education Forum Secretariat,
07707232881 / 07808694824 or E-mail: sec@eefiraq.org



المفوضية العليا المستقلة للانتخابات في العراق
كۆمیسونی باالی سه ربه خۆی هه لێژاردنه كان له عیراق
The Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq (IHEC)

