



Fact Sheet

Electoral Offences and Punishments

The Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq (IHEC) has issued Regulation No. 14 – 2008, "Offences and Violations related to elections and referenda", which defines election offences and specifies punishments for such offences, in accordance with IHEC law No. 11 - 2007, and GCE law No. 36 - 2008.

Any of the following acts committed by any person constitutes an election offence and will be punished by the following penalties:

Type of Offense	Punishment
Interfering in the electoral process by force or threats	Imprisonment for at least one year
Intimidating or bribing IHEC staff or voters	Imprisonment for at least one year
Carrying weapons inside or within 100 meters of a Registration, Polling or Counting Centre	Imprisonment for at least one year
Interfering with electoral materials (ballot papers, boxes, voters lists, sealed materials)	Imprisonment for at least one year
Abusing IHEC staff	Imprisonment for at least one year
Destruction of candidate posters or political agenda	Imprisonment for at least 1 month
Attempts to forge the voter register; impersonating a voter while registering or voting; falsifying an illiterate voter's choice; signing for a candidate to be nominated; voting more than once	Imprisonment for at least 6 months and a fine of 100,000 to 500,000 dinars
Violating the conditions of confidentiality by attempting to receive or convey how a person voted	Imprisonment for at least 6 months and a fine of 100 000 – 500 000 dinars
Candidates or their agents providing misleading information. Attempts by anyone to promote candidates who are not registered by the IHEC to stand for nomination	Imprisonment for 1 to 6 months and a fine of 1 million to 5 million dinars
Campaigning by state employees, which is forbidden Using government buildings or public funds by political entities, which is forbidden	Imprisonment for 1 to 6 months and a fine of 1 million to 5 million dinars
It is forbidden to campaign within the silence period, which is 24 hours before the election and on polling day	Imprisonment for 1 to 6 months and a fine of 1 million to 5 million dinars
Political parties will be punished for the offenses committed by their members, candidates and agents, payable by a fine of 50 million Dinars, and may be denied the votes they obtained in associated polling locations.	

IHEC has the right to impose the following penalties on its staff, and on IHEC accredited observers, political entities and agents and others within its jurisdiction. Note that political entities, observer groups and media organizations will be responsible for the violations committed by their members, candidates and agents. The IHEC can take any of the following actions:

Corrective measures, fines, rescinding the IHEC accreditation of political entity agents, observers or media representatives, cancelling political entity votes, removing a candidate from the political entity list, withdrawal of the accreditation of observers or PE agents.