

## **UNAMI Office of Electoral Assistance**

### **Fact Sheet**

#### **Recounting in Baghdad Governorate - 2010 Council of Representatives Election**

The Electoral Judicial Panel (EJP), a panel of 3 judges established by law to adjudicate appeals against IHEC decisions, ordered on 19 April the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) to “re-sort and recount manually the results of all polling stations at polling centers in Baghdad for general voting, special and other voting, for all lists, political entities and candidates [...] and to announce the results of this count”.

The order relates to polling stations from the entire Baghdad governorate. This means that ballot boxes from the more than 11,000 polling stations that were used for regular voting will be opened and the ballots re-sorted and recounted. Ballots cast in Baghdad for seats in Baghdad during the special voting processes will also be recounted.

Since polling and counting on 7 March 2010, and the counting of ballots for special voting thereafter, the ballot boxes have been in IHEC custody, therefore ensuring that the ballot boxes are sealed and kept in safe storage in two IHEC governorate electoral office warehouses, one in Karkh and one in Resafa.

The IHEC will conduct the recount in two rooms in the Rasheed hotel, and will open the process to observers, political entity agents, and media. Approximately 100 teams of 3 IHEC staff each will conduct the recount. Trained IHEC personnel from the entire country will be engaged. In addition, there will be an IHEC management committee, supervisors, and a complaints committee.

Ballot boxes will be transported on a daily basis between the two IHEC warehouses and the Rasheed hotel. Before loading the ballot boxes onto trucks, the seal numbers will be checked at the warehouses against the numbers recorded on handover forms. This process will be open to observers and political entity agents. The handover forms were prepared immediately after the counting was completed in March, and contain the numbers of the seals that were used to seal the boxes at the time. If the seals have been tampered with since then, it will be detected through this process, which will trigger an audit. Upon arrival at the Rasheed hotel the seal numbers will be checked again.

Each recount team will re-sort and recount all ballots in a ballot box and fill in a new result form, noting the votes cast for each political entity and each candidate. Audits will be conducted as a quality control measure if problems are noted. The ballots will then be placed back in the box, which will be resealed. The result forms will be placed in tamper evident bags and will be sent on a daily basis to the IHEC Data Entry Centre (DEC) for tabulation. Copies of the result forms will be posted at the Rasheed hotel, accessible for observers and political entity agents. Once they have been recounted, the ballot boxes will be transferred back to the warehouses.

Accredited observers and agents will have access to the processes taking place at the IHEC warehouses and at the Rasheed hotel, subject to certain limitations the IHEC may impose to ensure an orderly process and to comply with safety regulations. While the IHEC accreditation badges used during the election remain valid, political entities have been asked to identify their agents for this process.

It is not possible to give an exact time frame for the recount, but it is envisaged that it could take between two and four weeks.

After completing the tabulation, IHEC will announce the results of the recount. Subject to any further decisions from the EJP, the results will be submitted to the Federal Supreme Court for certification. 2

More information on the IHEC website [www.ihec.iq](http://www.ihec.iq)