



کۆمیسۆنی باڵای سه ربه خۆی هه ئیژارد نه کان له عیراق

The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) of Iraq

International Electoral Assistance Team (IEAT)

Fact Sheet: ANTI-FRAUD MEASURES FOR KURDISTAN ELECTIONS

The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) is implementing a number of anti-fraud measures to protect the integrity of the election process and ensure that election results will be accepted as credible by the Iraqi people. Anti-fraud mechanisms are included at all levels and during all phases of the electoral process. Besides technical specifications designed to protect fraudulent duplication of ballot papers, perhaps the single most important anti-fraud measure in the 2009 elections in Kurdistan will be the production of the voter list down to the polling station level. This will mean that a voter's name will only appear in one polling station in the whole of Kurdistan. Each of more than two million eligible voters that can participate in the elections have been individually assigned specific polling locations. Consequently there will be no same day registration and voting.

Furthermore, a significant safeguard against fraudulent tampering with the electoral process will be observation; IHEC has comprehensive accreditation procedures to allow access to Iraqi and international observers and political party agents to observe all polling and counting process. All candidates and their political entities are encouraged to accredit representatives to be in the polling and counting centers and to follow transportation of ballots and other sensitive materials.

Observation:

- Accredited observers and party entity agents will be allowed full access to observe the entire process from opening of polling to the final tally of results;
- All transportation of ballots and sensitive materials can be accompanied by observers and political entity agents;
- All polling procedures and codes of conduct for staff and observers and entity agents have been published by the IHEC on their website – www.ihec.iq

Voter List:

- Voter List is produced to the polling station level with a voter allocated to a specific (and only one) polling station; a voter can only cast a ballot in the polling station where s/he is on the voter list;
- Voters required to produce photographic identification document to vote;
- There will be no proxy voting. Only in person voting will be allowed;
- Voters are required to sign or leave a finger print next to their name that is individually listed in the voters' list before being issued with a ballot; without a signature/print a ballot will not be issued; consequently if a voter has cast their ballot they will be unable to vote again;
- Comprehensive reconciliation procedures established – if ballots cast exceed or are less than a 4% discrepancy of the signatures/prints in the voter list then special measures will be used to investigate the individual ballot box and its contents. This is termed the "tolerance level" and has been decided by the IHEC to be 4%;

Electoral Materials:

- Ballots themselves have been printed by world renowned printing specialists that also print international currency; Security features have been incorporated into the design of the ballot that will prevent duplication;
- The number of ballots issued to individual polling stations is closely monitored to ensure that any discrepancies can be easily detected; ballots are produced in pads of 50 and have a sequential serial number to enable close tracking should a pad go missing or be fraudulently used (NOTE: individual ballots issued to voters will not be tracked to ensure secrecy of the vote);
- Special Ballot Stamp will be used to mark the back of ballots as they are issued to voters. Only ballots with this stamp will be counted.
- Transparent ballot boxes will be used to allow observers and political entity agents to see the ballots being cast (yet maintain the secrecy of the vote) – this will assist in detecting tampered boxes; all sealing and unsealing of ballot boxes will take place in the presence of observers and political entity agents.
- Special numbered seals are used on the ballot boxes. These seal numbers are recorded on opening and close of polling and on re-opening when the count begins – any discrepancy is recorded and an investigation initiated that can result in that ballot box and its contents being excluded from the results; observers and entity agents can also record these numbers and report any discrepancy;
- Tamper evident bags are used to store election sensitive information & tally sheets to ensure that misuse can be detected.
- Voters will be inked with indelible ink to show that they have voted. This is an additional prevention measure against multiple voting.
- IHEC Staff and Kurdistan Security Forces will accompany all movements of election materials.

Special Voting – Military, Police, Detainee and Hospital Voting:

- Procedures have been developed to allow certain categories of voters who will be working on Election Day or unable to attend a polling station to be given the opportunity to vote – This includes members of security forces, and staff and residents of detention facilities and hospitals (with a capacity of at least 100 beds). Special voting will also be organized for Kurdistan officials on current duty in Baghdad and their family members. This process will be implemented by IHEC staff and in full view of observers and entity agents and will take place two days before the Election Day;
- Special Needs Voting accounts for approximately 5% of the electorate;
- The IHEC in close consultation with the relevant ministries have been given the lists of security forces members who should participate in special voting. Special voter lists of registered members of Kurdistan security forces have been created for special voting; their names have been removed from the lists for regular voting to prevent any opportunity for multiple voting. Only members of the security forces who will work on the Election Day will be included in Special Voting.
- Soldiers from Kurdistan currently deployed to governorates out of the Region, patients in the hospitals and prisoners will be given the opportunity to vote by conditional balloting. Each voter will be issued a secrecy envelop to place their ballot in and vote; this is then inserted into another envelop with their name, PDS number and governorate details recorded on the outside; this is then placed into the ballot box;
- Eligibility of this category of voter will be confirmed during the counting process by checking voter's data on the conditional ballot envelope against the voters' registry; if a

- voter is not found in the voter's registry as eligible to vote for the governorate for which the voter has cast a ballot, then the vote will not be counted;
- Special Voters will also be inked
 - If reconciliation of the ballots against special voter numbers and the numbers of ballots issued exceeds recommended tolerance level then an investigation is initiated and the ballot box and its contents can be excluded from the results;

Counting & Tally:

- Counting will take place at the polling stations at the close of polling (except for special voting that will occur at governorate count centers) in full view of observers and entity agents; additionally, regular polling stations requiring audit will be audited at the governorate count centers, and counted if the problem is resolved;
- Special procedures have been developed to count and reconcile all ballots cast, with the number of voters per station, and the total ballots accounted for, with the number of ballots issued to that station; if the discrepancy exceeds 4% then an investigation is initiated and the ballot box and its contents can be excluded from further tallying of results;
- All ballots are counted and displayed in front of accredited observers and entity agents and are "double counted" to ensure accuracy;
- This double count also applies to the number of voters that have signed/printed the voter list;
- Information from the count form and results sheet numbers can be recorded by observers and entity agents once the process is complete;
- All tally sheets are securely transferred to Baghdad to be data entered at the IHEC Data Entry Center, under full observation of national and international observers and entity agents;
- Data entry during the tally process will be under full observation; a subsequent audit will be used to investigate suspect results sheets; all original results sheets are scanned and archived.

Political Campaign Period:

- IHEC actively monitors media coverage of elections – any breaches of the IHEC Regulations are investigated and the Board of Commissioners decides an appropriate penalty if a breach is established. This can ultimately include a fine or removal of votes from a political entity. Board decisions are published in national newspapers and on the official IHEC website, www.ihec.iq;
- The campaign period ends 24 hours before polling;
- IHEC has established a comprehensive set of campaign rules as well as complaints process that can be accessed by all voters, political entities and candidates should they witness campaign violations, intimidation or fraudulent behavior.

Security & Access:

- A safe and secure security environment is key to instill confidence in the electorate to come out and vote. Voter intimidation and forced closure of a polling centre will not be tolerated by either the IHEC or Kurdistan Security Forces (ISF). A Special Security Plan has been established together with the KRG Ministry of Interior to ensure that deployment on Election Day will allow voters to vote safely, catch trouble makers and yet ensure the security forces do not interfere in the process.
- The IHEC has worked closely with ISF to develop a "Code of Conduct" and ensure security forces understand their role and responsibilities on election day;

- Governorate and international borders will likely be sealed on election day;
- Access to polling stations should also be easier than in previous elections with a substantial increase in the number and locations;
- No weapons will be allowed into the polling centers/stations.
- No cameras, telephones, will be allowed into polling stations – except in special IHEC approved “media friendly” centres and then only if media respect the secrecy of the vote;
- Secrecy of the vote will be maintained by voting screens, behind which a voter will mark their ballot.

Staffing:

- Only IHEC staff will be allowed access to sensitive election materials;
- Voters will be informed exactly what to expect and what to do when in a polling station by IHEC polling staff recruited from the Ministry of Education who are professional teachers and have had extensive training on polling procedures; all IHEC staff sign a Code of Conduct that if breached can result in significant professional consequences;