



جمهورية العراق
المفوضية العليا المستقلة للانتخابات
كۆمیسونی بالای سه ربه خۆی هه لێژارد نه كان
The Independent High Electoral Commission

IHEC Regulations 8 – UN Unofficial Translation

According to the authority given to BoC in Article (4), Paragraph (Eighth) of IHEC Law No. 11 for the year 2007, and the amended KRPE Law No. (1) for the year 1992, we decided to issue the following regulation:

**Media Outlets Regulation
For Kurdistan Region Parliament Elections
No. (8) for the year 2009**

(Preamble)

IHEC was established in accordance with Law no. 11 for the year 2007 to be the sole electoral authority in Iraq. IHEC is an independent, impartial and professional commission with juridical personality related to the country, and subject to the supervision of CoR.

**Section One
(Terminology)**

The terms hereinafter have the following meanings:

1. Commission: The Independent High Electoral Commission.
2. Iraqi Media Network: An independent institution in charge of disseminating information in accordance with Order no. 66 for the year 2004.
3. Campaign period: The period starting from the date of registration of candidates for IHEC and ends 48 hours prior to the opening of polling centers, during which time entities and coalitions conduct their electoral campaigns.
4. Media: Specialized outlets providing news, information, or recreational material for the public using audio/visual and print media means.
5. Political entity: An organization including the political party or the candidate for the Armenian seat.



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6. Coalition: A combination of two or more political entities for the purpose of presenting a unified list of candidates in certain elections.
7. Regional Electoral Office: IHEC office for electoral administration in Kurdistan Region.

Section Two
(Transparent Media Coverage)

1. While implementing the principle of the freedom of expression and information access, media outlets should provide accurate, complete, and impartial information. They should also be unbiased and impartial when dealing with political entities and coalitions in the region.
2. Assuring all official Iraqi media outlets to provide equal access to political entities and coalitions participating in KRPE and to cover their activities.
3. A. Media outlets should clearly point out that official information, data, procedures, and electoral regulations are issued by IHEC. Thus, they should refrain from disseminating such information without checking their accuracy.
B. Media outlets should refrain from distorting any information issued by IHEC for paid electoral materials such as advertisements, or data, or general media news.

Section Three
(Utilization of media outlets for electoral campaigns)

1. Calling on all audio, visual and print Iraqi media in Kurdistan to provide low-cost broadcasting times for political entities and coalitions which participate in KRPE, on equal basis to enable them to advertise their electoral material.
2. No media outlet should intentionally distort, block, falsify, mispresent or delete information including systematic deletion



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that would actually affect the understanding of the region people of a subject or an event.

3. Calling on electronic media to guarantee the principle of equality, by not allowing any discrimination or alienation of any political entity or candidate, when inviting organizers of the electoral campaigns to participate in programs tailored for such purpose. The policy of inviting political entities should guarantee equal participation of men and women in the programs.
4. Political entities, coalitions, and candidates are entitled to participate in the electoral campaigns by using paid advertisements broadcast on Iraqi media outlets. Media outlets should publish such advertisements with simple conditions.

Section Four
(Iraqi Media Network obligations)

The Iraqi Media Network, as a public broadcast body funded by the country, is legally obliged to educate and inform the Iraqi citizens of the following:

1. Educating voters in the region and informing them on the KRPE through newscasts as well as radio and television programs.
2. Providing electoral information for the citizens to enable them to cast their votes and taking measures to guarantee that the information is available to all citizens of the region.
3. Providing a free television broadcast and allocating available studios and technical resources to the candidates, enabling them to be featured in debates or dialogues or political discussions at least once.
4. Providing free visual or audio recording of the programs, referred to in the third paragraph, for other media broadcast outlets in order to broadcast them without any amendment.



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5. Free broadcasting of the information and programs issued and provided by KREO or IHEC NO. Upon IHEC request, the network should provide free visual and audio recordings for such programs for other media broadcast outlets in order to broadcast them without any amendment.

Section Five

(Voter Awareness & General Media)

1. According to the electoral campaign regulation No. (4) of 2009, Iraqi media outlets are responsible for informing the region's readers, listeners and viewers, of KRPE process in an accurate and timely manner. The information pertaining to procedures, regulations and electoral policy should be based on clear, transparent, factual and official data obtained from KREO or IHEC NO.
2. The electoral campaign period for the accredited PEs, coalitions and candidates starts from the date of IHEC accreditation and stops (48) hours prior to the polling process.

Section Six

(Media Outlets' Attendance at KGEO)

1. Representatives of media outlets willing to enter IHEC headquarters, such as NO and KGEO, should coordinate and cooperate with media officials at those offices, in order to obtain the required approvals.
2. Representatives of media outlets willing to enter RCs, PCs and count stations, should obtain a media approval from NO, KREO, or KGEO.
3. No photographing and videotaping of any individual is allowed inside these centers without his clear consent. Even if the voter consents, the media representative should not expose the intention of the voter during the casting of his ballot.



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Section Seven
(Violations)

1. BoC will withdraw the accreditation of any media representative or outlet that violates the regulations Code of Conduct.
2. BoC may request the Iraqi National Communication and Media Commission to impose proper penalty on any media outlet that violates this regulations.
3. IHEC may refer any criminal case to the judicial authority, whenever evidence is provided.

Section Eight
(Date of Entry into Force)

This regulation shall enter into force from the date of accreditation by the Board of Commissioners on 30/4/2009.

Board of Commissioners