



المفوضية العليا المستقلة للإنتخابات في العراق  
كۆميسونى باآى سه ربه خۆى هه ئيزارد نه كان له عئراق

The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) of Iraq

**International Electoral Assistance Team (IEAT)**

## **FACT SHEET SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR JANUARY 31, 2009 ELECTIONS**

In early 2008, at the request of IHEC, the Prime Minister reactivated the “High Committee on Election Security” (HCES). Representatives from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense, PM National Operations Center, National Security Advisor, MNF-I, IHEC and UNAMI comprise the HCES. The HCES is co-chaired by Major General Ayden Khaled KADER, Deputy Minister of Interior and IHEC Commissioner Sardar AbdulKarim Abdulkader.

The HCES has developed a national security plan for the governorate council elections set for January 31, 2009. The national security plan has been endorsed by Prime Minister, Iraqi Security Forces, MNF-I, IHEC and UNAMI.

### **Highlights of National Security Plan:**

1. Security for the Iraq Governorate Elections is the primary responsibility of the Iraq Security Forces with support given as requested by MNF-I pursuant to a bi-lateral agreement between the governments of Iraq and the United States. Special trilateral committees comprised of Iraqi, Kurdish and MNFI representatives have developed more detailed security plans for Iraq’s “disputed areas” to ensure maximum protection and confidence for the electorate there.
2. The plan provides for three rings of security. The inner ring consists of Iraqi police, the middle ring consists of the Ministry of Defense and the outer ring consists of MNF-I.
3. No security forces are allowed inside polling centers unless there is a security incident which they must respond to in order to restore peace.
4. Stringent security measures will be in place at polling centers including bans of vehicles near polling centers, robust searching of all materials and bags entering polling centers and female and male searches.
5. No weapons are allowed in polling centers except those directly involved in providing election security and they must be invited inside the center by IHEC staff.
6. No uniformed security member can vote on January 31, only civilians will be allowed to vote. Special voting for the Iraqi security forces have been planned for January 28.
7. The Ministry of Interior was provided with a budget of \$16 million USD to provide barrier protection around polling centers, warehouses, count centers and IHEC offices around Iraq.
8. The Ministry of Interior has identified 55 polling center which will be available to the electronic media and will contain additional security measures. A list of these centers is available on [www.ihec.iq](http://www.ihec.iq).
9. The only vehicles that will be allowed on Iraqi roads on Election Day are emergency vehicles, military and officially marked security vehicles. All other vehicles must apply for and obtain a vehicle pass from the Iraqi Ministry of Interior.
10. Security will remain at the polling centers until after the count and will escort all used ballots to IHEC warehouses. Count center, warehouses and other IHEC sites will continue to have 24/7 security until the results of the election are certified.

For further information please visit the IHEC website at [www.ihec.iq](http://www.ihec.iq) or call the toll free national call centre hotlines, Mobile 7777 or Landlines 7432516, 7432518 and 7432519