



المفوضية العليا المستقلة للانتخابات في العراق
كۆميسونى بائى سە ربه خۆى هە ئبژارد نە كان له عيراق

The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) of Iraq

International Electoral Assistance Team (IEAT)

FACT SHEET HANDLING COMPLAINTS

The Independent High Election commission (IHEC) has adopted procedures on how it will handle electoral complaints. These procedures ensure that all complaints are reviewed as quickly as possible, that the most important complaints are considered first, and that complainants will find out what decision has been taken. The Board of Commissioners will decide on complaints.

Receiving complaints

Complaints must be submitted to an electoral office on IHEC complaint form 110 not later than three days after the day of the alleged offence. On receipt, the complaints will be registered and entered into a database. A copy of the complaint will then be sent to the IHEC National Office.

Categorizing complaints

The IHEC National Office in Baghdad will categorize the complaints based on how serious they are, and how much information has been provided.

Complaints which, if proven correct, could change the results of the election will be considered first, and as quickly as possible. This group could include complaints about fraud or irregularities committed by candidates or IHEC staff. All such complaints must be resolved before the IHEC certifies the results.

Complaints which appear to be serious but which cannot change the election results will be considered after all the top priority cases have been handled. This may be after final results have been announced.

Complaints which do not have all the necessary information or which are clearly not founded will be closed.

Considering complaints

Complaints that may affect the election results or that involve allegations against IHEC staff will be investigated by investigation staff at the IHEC National Office, or at the GEO at the direction of the IHEC National Office. The person or entity which is the subject of the complaint will be informed of the complaint and given three days to respond to the allegation. An investigation should be completed as soon as possible. The investigation report will be considered by the IHEC Board of Commissioners which will

take a decision on the complaint. Decisions on cases that could affect the election results will be published in three daily newspapers and on the IHEC website.

Serious and complete complaints that cannot affect the election results may be referred by the IHEC Board of Commissioners to other national entities, for example to criminal authorities, if appropriate. Otherwise, they will also be investigated by IHEC staff and submitted to the Board of Commissioners for a decision. Decisions on such cases will be published on the IHEC website.

Incomplete and unsupported complaints will be closed. The Governorate Election Office will post the serial number of closed cases in a prominent location. They will also be published on the IHEC website

Appeals and certified results

Complainants and other parties affected by the decisions of the Board of Commissioners may submit an appeal to the Electoral Judicial Panel within three days following the last day of publication of the decision. The Electoral Judicial Panel shall decide on an appeal within 10 days. These decisions shall be final and cannot be appealed. After all appeals have been decided by the Electoral Judicial Panel, the Board of Commissioners will certify the election results.
