

## UNAMI Electoral Update

14 September 2009

The Independent High Electoral Commission is preparing for the Council of Representatives elections scheduled for early 2010 and conducting the National Voter Registration Update 2009.

- All 1079 Voter Registration Centres (VRCs) and 3 sub-centres are open. To date, over 470,000 voters have visited the VRCs for checking purposes, over 175,000 requested services and over 90% of Voter Information Cards have been distributed across the country, as reported by the IHEC.
- The IHEC certified **296** political entities (PEs) wishing to contest the CoR elections. This includes 251 groups and 45 individual entities. 173 PEs are new and 123 were re-certified. Coalition certification will start in October, together with the candidate nomination period.
- The accreditation process of domestic and international observers, media and political entities' agents is ongoing. 137 domestic observer groups and 30 political entities have applied for accreditation of observers/agents; 14,400 observers' and 3,264 PE agents' badges were issued by the IHEC, to date. No international observers have thus far been accredited.
- The IHEC held a press conference on 9 September, on the progress of the VRU, encouraging Iraqi voters to actively participate in the registration update; only the voters whose names are on the Final Voter List will be able to vote, in the assigned Polling Centre.
- The IHEC BoC is still awaiting the adoption of the CoR Law. UNAMI Chief Technical Adviser held a meeting with the Speaker of the Parliament, emphasizing the urgency of passing crucial decisions on the Law needed to implement a credible election in January 2010. Clarity is also needed on the Law on SOFA referendum.
- UNAMI continues to support the IHEC in all areas of electoral planning and management. Electoral Advisers are assisting the IHEC with day-to-day work and long-term capacity building. Deputy SRSR Mr. Andrew Gilmour visited the IHEC and met with the Chairman of the BoC. UNAMI published an article "Preparations for 2010 CoR Elections Intensify as IHEC accelerates Voter Awareness Campaign" and issued a press release in support of the IHEC.