

UNAMI Electoral Update – 26 January 2010

- Although the De-Ba'athification process including the appeals has continued to put pressure on the timeline and the inclusiveness of the electoral process, overall preparations for the Council of Representatives Election are on track. Decisions of the vetting processes have been conveyed to the concerned political entities and candidates by the IHEC, including the striking of 511 candidates pursuant to the Ba'athification findings by the Accountability of Justice Commission (AJC). The affected political entities and candidates have been informed by the IHEC of a three day period to either replace disqualified candidates with new ones who will in turn be also required to go through the same vetting processes or appeal to the requiring institutions. Although the AJC has informed IHEC that "corrections" to the list of 511 maybe submitted, IHEC expects the process to be completed in its entirety by the end of January, in order for the political campaigning period to be launched as planned, 30 days prior to the first election on March 4.
- This week saw the start of printing of 19 different types of ballots under the supervision of IHEC Technical Committee, supported by UNAMI Graphic Design Advisor.
- The printing of posters and booklets with candidates' names which will provide information on numbers of candidates to voters is on hold until the vetting process is completed.
- Selection of Election officials for all polling and counting locations is in process of finalization, following polling staff public lottery conducted in Baghdad, Erbil and Mosul.
- The Elections Supreme Security Committee jointly with the IHEC and UNAMI Office of Electoral Assistance held a national conference for all security commanders from across Iraq in which details on the security preparations and security for Election Day were elaborated.
- In support of the Out-of-Country Voting Operation, to date IHEC has deployed Country Office Managers to Turkey, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.
- UNAMI issued a press release in support of the IHEC - congratulations on the start of printing of ballots.