

UNAMI Electoral Update- 10 March, 2010

- The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) announced 62.4% preliminary voters' turnout in March 7 Council of Representatives Election, based on reports received from Governorate Election Offices.
- 8,312 polling centres were established across the 18 governorates of Iraq.
- Approximately 18.9 million registered voters were eligible to cast ballots in 49,088 polling stations set up throughout the country. 37 stations were opened in the International Zone.
- On March 4, the IHEC opened 711 polling centres with 2,856 polling stations in all governorates of Iraq for special voting for eligible police, military, detainees and those in hospitals.
- While the majority of police and military voted based on reference to a special voter list, on Special Voting Day, the IHEC Board of Commissioners following a request by the ISF and supported by UNAMI made a decision to open conditional balloting stations to accommodate voting for those military and police personnel omitted from the special list. Detainees and those hospitalized voted by conditional balloting. IHEC reported approximately 600,000 turnout of special voting category of voters. Followed by reconciliation and verification processes, special voting ballots are in process of being counted at the count centres in the eighteen governorates of Iraq.
- The results from the general Election Day were counted at the polling stations. Original results sheets from all governorates have arrived at the IHEC Data Entry Centre in Baghdad and are in process of being tabulated.
- As soon as a representative percentage of polling stations for a given governorate have been processed, the provisional results will be released by the IHEC. This could be as soon as 11 March. The results will be updated twice a day until completed. Final results will be announced and presented to the Federal Supreme Court only after all votes (general, police/military, detainees, hospitals IDPs, and Out of Country) are tallied and complaints resolved, a process that could take up to a few weeks.
- 114,614 Iraqi observers, 657 international observers, 476,366 political agents and approximately 2000 international and national media representative were involved in observing the Council of Representatives election.
- The Out of Country Voting was completed over three consecutive days between 5 and 7 March. IHEC announced voter turnout of 272,016 in the 16 out of country locations.
- Initial reports released by domestic observer groups indicate overall positive assessment of the elections being conducted in accordance with the IHEC procedures and in a "smooth and safe manner".