



People's Assembly Elections – Second Round

First Interim Statement
December 15, 2011, 2:00 p.m.

Voting process largely peaceful on second day of election

Denial of access to accredited observers remains problematic, slight decrease in political campaigning

Project Rakeeb is joint collaboration between two Egyptian civil society organizations – the Egyptian Association for Community Participation Enhancement (EACPE) and the Egyptian Association for Dissemination and Development of Legal Awareness (EADDLA).

On the second day of the second round of voting in the People's Assembly Elections, Project Rakeeb deployed 471 non-partisan citizen observers in all nine governorates where elections are taking place. Rakeeb observers were deployed to a statistically-sound, random and representative sample of polling stations and have been sending observation reports via text message to a Central Data Center in Cairo.

Project Rakeeb observers continue to be denied access or expelled from polling stations despite having received accreditation from the Supreme Judicial Committee for Elections (SJCE). Observer access remains an issue of concern.

Similar to findings from yesterday, Rakeeb observers have reported that the vast majority of polling stations opened prior to 9 AM today. However, a few polling stations opened late due to the late arrival of polling officials. Below is a breakdown of the opening times:

Opening Time	Percentage Day 1	Percentage Day 2
Before 9 AM	91%	96%
Between 9 and 11 AM	9%	4%
After 11 AM	>0% ¹	0%

Early in the second day of the second round of elections, Rakeeb observers have found the voting process to be largely peaceful. Very few incidents of violence or intimidation have been reported.

Contrary to the SJCE decision number 67, Rakeeb observers reported a number of active political campaigning incidents by political contestants. It is worth noting that the number of reported incidents has decreased slightly from yesterday. Rakeeb observers have reported active campaigning by a range of political contestants, including Freedom and Justice Party, Nour Party, Egyptian Bloc, Wafd Party, Egypt Nationalist Party, and independent candidates. Project Rakeeb understands that security personnel have been instructed to prevent active political campaigning by political contestants. Observers have reported that efforts were undertaken by security officials in some locations however prevention efforts have not been fully implemented uniformly nationwide.

¹ Observers reported one incident of a polling station opening after 11 AM in Giza .

Qualitative Indicators

Based on data gathered from 97% percent of observers who reported on the opening and set up of polling stations, Project Rakeeb found that where observers were deployed:

Findings	Percentage, Day 1	Percentage, Day 2
Ballot Boxes Locked / Sealed	82%	88%
Presence of Indelible Ink	99%	98%
Security Personnel Inside Stations	38%	33%
Avg. # of Party / Candidate Agents	3-4	3-4

Critical Incidents

Although there have been relatively few incidents of violence or intimidation, there have been a number of critical incidents that Rakeeb observers have reported:

- 7 Rakeeb observers have either been denied access or expelled from polling stations;
- 44 incidents of active campaigning by political contestants in and around polling stations, including 11 in Beheira. Most often, incidents of campaigning were attributed to Freedom and Justice, Nour and Independent candidates.
- 23 incidents of the presence of campaign materials inside polling stations;
- 5 incidents of political party representatives using religious slogans to influence voters;
- 5 incidents of political party or candidate agents being expelled from polling stations;
- 3 incidents of vote buying, 2 cases in Souhag and 1 in Sharqiya; and
- 5 incidents of violence, including two cases of physical conflict between political parties in Giza – one involving Freedom and Justice and Egyptian Bloc, another involving Nour and Egyptian Bloc – and one physical conflict between Freedom and Justice and Nour in Menoufiya.

Project Rakeeb reiterates its request to the SJCE to uphold its commitment to rectify mistakes encountered in the first round. Specifically, Project Rakeeb requests that the SJCE:

- Ensure that observers who have been accredited by the SJCE are guaranteed access to polling stations in accordance with the Code of Conduct, international election standards and regulations of the SJCE itself;
- Ensure that security officials are acting in accordance with the law and not interfering in the work of the SJCE;
- Ensure the consistent application of official election procedures by judicial supervisors and polling officials to reduce confusion and errors at polling stations; and
- Use its authority to prevent campaigning in and around polling centers and ensure that the period of campaign silence is upheld in accordance with the law.

Project Rakeeb also calls upon all political parties to refrain from active political campaigning and cease use of religious slogans in accordance with Egyptian law.

Project Rakeeb commends voters on their participation in the second day of the second round of elections and hopes that the process will remain calm throughout the day.