



People's Assembly Elections – Third Round

First Interim Statement

January 4, 2012, 1:30 p.m.

Early voting generally peaceful on second day, unlawful political campaigning continues unchecked

Smaller queues early on second voting day, denial of access to accredited observers still problematic

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 third round of voting in the People's Assembly Elections, Project Rakeeb deployed 383 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.

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	92%	92%
Between 9 and 11 AM	8%	8%
After 11 AM	0%	0%

Early in the second day of the third round of elections, Rakeeb observers have found the voting process to be largely peaceful. In contrast to the first day of voting, Rakeeb observers have noted smaller queues at polling stations.

Project Rakeeb observers continue to report incidents of active campaigning by political contestants in and around polling centers. Thus far, there have been 41 reports of active campaigning and, similar to yesterday, Rakeeb observers are reporting that campaigning is being conducted by a wide range of political contestants.

While most incidents have been attributed to Freedom and Justice and Nour, but there have also been reports of campaigning by Al-Wasat, Egyptian Bloc, National Party, Egyptian-Arab Union and independent candidates. Moreover, Rakeeb observers reported in a few cases that Freedom and Justice has established party-sponsored booths outside polling centers similar to the first round and yesterday.

In a few cases, Rakeeb observers have reported incidents of conflict between political party supporters resulting from active campaigning taking place outside polling centers, including a physical conflict between supporters of Wafd and Nour in Matrouh; a confrontation between an Egyptian Bloc candidate and Freedom and Justice representatives in South Sinai; and a confrontation between representatives of Freedom and Justice and Nour in Qena.

For more information about Project Rakeeb, please visit the website: www.rakeeb.net. Follow Project Rakeeb on Facebook (Project Rakeeb) and Twitter (RakeebEG) to receive updates. For questions about Project Rakeeb, contact Project Manager Sherif Alaa at 01007434708 or email s.abdulazim@mosharka.org.

Project Rakeeb observers continue to be denied access or expelled from polling stations despite having received accreditation. In total, 10 Rakeeb observers (3 percent) were either expelled or denied access to polling centers thus far on the second day of voting.

In most cases, observers have been expelled by judicial supervisors however in one case an observer was denied access to polling centers by security personnel. The expulsion of accredited observers by armed forces personnel constitutes a flagrant interference in the electoral process and undermines the integrity of the process and the independence of the election authorities.

Qualitative Indicators

Based on data gathered from 95 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	86%	95%
Presence of Indelible Ink	99%	99%
Security Personnel Inside Stations	37%	38%
Avg. # of Party / Candidate Agents	4-5	4-5

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:

- 10 Rakeeb observers have either been denied access or expelled from polling stations;
- 41 incidents of active campaigning by political contestants in and around polling stations;
- 11 incidents of the presence of campaign materials inside polling stations, most often of Freedom and Justice Party and Nour, but also Wafd, Egyptian Bloc and independent candidates;
- 6 incidents of political party representatives using religious slogans to influence voters;
- 1 incident of circular voting in Minya;
- 3 incidents of vote buying, one in Matrouh, one in Minya, and one in South Sinai; and
- 8 incidents of violence, notably related to campaigning around polling centers.

Project Rakeeb calls upon the Supreme Judicial Committee for Elections (SJCE) to uphold its commitment to address inconsistencies and errors in the process. Specifically, Project Rakeeb recommends 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. Armed forces interference has a negative impact on the credibility and transparency of the election process and undermines SJCE authority; and
- Use its authority to prevent campaigning in and around polling centers;

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 peaceful participation in the third round of elections. We hope that the process will remain calm throughout the day.

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