



People's Assembly Elections – First Round

Second Interim Statement

November 29, 2011, 3:00 p.m

Voting Process Largely Peaceful, Continued Reports of Active Campaigning by Political Parties *Despite accreditation, Rakeeb observers still being denied access or expelled from polling stations*

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

On the second day of the first round of voting in the People's Assembly Elections, Project Rakeeb deployed 413 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.

Rakeeb observers are reporting smaller queues of voters in polling stations than by yesterday at this point and the voting process continues to be largely calm and without incident. In contrast with yesterday's findings, Rakeeb observers have reported more polling stations have opened on time:

Opening Time	Day 1	Day 2
Before 9 AM	65%	95%
Between 9 and 11 AM	23%	5%
After 11 AM	12%	0%

Relatively few incidents of violence or intimidation have been reported nationwide although sporadic incidents have been reported. However two trends continue to hamper the process, specifically:

- Despite having received accreditation, Rakeeb observers have continued to be expelled from polling stations throughout the country;
- Rakeeb observers continue to report incidents of active political campaigning at polling stations, most often by representatives and supporters of Freedom & Justice and Nour Party. Observers noted the use of religious slogans to influence voters, particularly by Nour Party representatives.

Rakeeb observers have also continued to report inconsistent practices due to the lack of clarity of the HEC procedures; for example, in some polling stations, Rakeeb observers reported that judicial supervisors used new ballot boxes rather than ballot boxes used on the first day of voting.

Qualitative Indicators

Based on data gathered from 85 percent of observers who reported on the opening and set up of polling stations, Project Rakeeb found that where observers were deployed:

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.

Findings	Day 1	Day 2
Ballot Boxes Locked / Sealed	91%	92%
Presence of Indelible Ink	96%	97%
Security Personnel Inside Stations	23%	31%
Avg. # of Party / Candidate Agents	3-4	3-4

Critical Incidents

Although there have been relatively few incidents of violence or intimidation, as of 2:30 PM there have been a number of critical incidents that Rakeeb observers have reported:

- 13 Rakeeb observers (4 percent) have either been denied access or expelled from polling stations.
- 31 cases of active campaigning by political contestants in and around polling stations, most often by Freedom & Justice and Nour Party;
- Seven cases of political party representatives using religious slogans to influence voters;
- One physical conflict between supporters of the Freedom & Justice Party and Nour Party inside a polling station in Fayyoun which temporarily disrupted the voting process;
- Four cases of vote buying; two cases in Cairo, one in Assiut and one in Alexandria;
- One case of party or candidate agents being expelled from polling station;
- One armed voter was allowed to enter a polling station to cast his vote in Fayyoun; and
- One polling station official was reportedly pressuring voters to vote for a particular candidate in Assiut.

Project Rakeeb reiterates its calls upon the HEC to:

- Ensure that observers who have been accredited by the HEC are guaranteed access to polling stations in accordance with the Code of Conduct, international election standards and regulations of the HEC itself;
- Ensure the consistent application of official election procedures by judicial supervisors and polling officials to reduce confusion and errors at polling stations;
- Ensure that security officials are only temporarily permitted to be present inside polling stations until order is restored in accordance with the law; and
- Use its authority to prevent active campaigning by political parties in and around polling locations.

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.

Once again, Project Rakeeb commends Egyptian voters on their participation in the election process. We hope that all political parties, contestants, and citizens will participate calmly and responsibly until the closing of polls.