



Project Rakeeb to Conduct Arab World's First Statistical-Based Observation Mission during People's Assembly Elections

Rakeeb is combining time-tested statistical principles and advanced communications technology to produce a rapid, highly accurate assessment of Egypt's first post-revolution parliamentary polls

A new and innovative approach to election observation is being undertaken for the first time in Egypt – and the Arab World – for the People's Assembly Elections. Drawing upon best practices of citizen observers from around the world, and adapting them to the unique Egyptian context, Project Rakeeb is combining statistical principles with state-of-the-art information and communications technology to implement an observation methodology known as "Parallel Vote Tabulation."

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). "Project Rakeeb works to apply statistical principles and modern technology to election observation in accordance with Egyptian law and international standards for fair and transparent elections," says Dr. Magdy Abdel-Hamid, Chairman of EACPE. "The main objectives of the project are to evaluate to what extent elections are fair and transparent and to enhance citizen participation in the political process."

For Egypt's first post-revolution parliamentary elections, Project Rakeeb is deploying 1,267 citizen observers across Egypt to a statistically-sound, random, and representative sample of polling stations. Rakeeb observers will transmit observation reports from throughout the country to a Central Data Center in Cairo using their mobile phones. This exercise will enable Project Rakeeb to provide Egyptians with a rapid, highly accurate, and comprehensive assessment of the election process.

"Each Egyptian only sees a small part of the election – just the part of the country where she or he lives," says Ahmed Mohsen, Chairman of EADDLA. "To make an informed decision about the credibility of the elections requires independent non-partisan information from across all of Egypt."

The success of Project Rakeeb relies on observers receiving accreditation as requested from the Higher Election Commission (HEC) as well as unfettered access to polling stations on Election Day. Project Rakeeb calls on the HEC and judicial supervisors to ensure observers are provided access to the voting and counting processes in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Election Observers, issued by the National Council for Human Rights, and international principles for election observation.

Throughout the elections, Project Rakeeb leadership and 30 trained data clerks will receive and analyze data sent by observers to its Central Data Center. On Election Days, the Project Rakeeb website (www.rakeeb.net) will display a map where citizens can see where observers have been deployed. Project Rakeeb will issue statements after each round of the People's Assembly elections on the quality of the voting process at polling stations nationwide. At the end of all three rounds, Project Rakeeb will issue a final statement about the overall quality of the People's Assembly election process.

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 Abdulazim at 010060137246 or email info@rakeeb.net.