



People's Assembly Elections – Third Round

Second Interim Statement

January 4, 2012 11:00 p.m.

Largely calm voting process on second day, unlawful political campaigning widespread *Sporadic conflict between political contestants, denial of access to accredited observers 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 sent observation reports via text message to a Central Data Center in Cairo.

Throughout the second day of the third round of elections, Rakeeb observers reported the voting process was largely peaceful nationwide with some cases of violence. However, of concern, Rakeeb observers noted active campaigning by political contestants in and around polling centers in many locations. In total, Rakeeb observers reported 58 incidents of active campaigning by a wide range of political contestants.

Rakeeb observers attributed most incidents of campaigning to Freedom and Justice and Nour, but there were also reports of campaigning by Al-Wasat, Egyptian Bloc, Egyptian National Party, Egyptian-Arab Union, Freedom, Wafd, and independent candidates. At a few locations, observers noted the presence of party-sponsored booths in front of polling centers, most often by Freedom and Justice.

Rakeeb observers noted that security officials and electoral authorities rarely intervened to prevent unlawful campaigning. As noted in Project Rakeeb's first interim statement, there were incidents of conflict between party representatives and supporters resulting from campaigning in a few locations, which resulted in some acts of violence.

Some of the most significant critical incidents of the Second Day of the third round include a clash between two supporters of Al-Nour Party and Freedom and Justice Party in Dakahleya, which resulted in an injury. In the second constituency of Qalioubeya the judicial supervisor had to temporarily close the polling station because of another conflict between two supporters of Al-Nour Party and Freedom and Justice Party.

Also of concern, Project Rakeeb observers continued to be denied access or expelled from polling stations despite having received accreditation from the Supreme Judicial Committee for Elections (SJCE). In total, 13 Rakeeb observers were either expelled or denied access to polling centers on the second day of voting. Also 27 accredited observers were denied access to counting centers which affects the transparency of the counting process; most of these cases occurred in Dakahleya. The denial of access of accredited observers to polling stations is in violation of SJCE regulations, National Council for Human Rights Code of Conduct, and international election standards and contradicts with the law.

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.

In most cases, accredited observers were expelled by judicial supervisors however one Rakeeb observer was prevented from accessing a polling center by security personnel in a few cases. The expulsion of accredited observers by security personnel constitutes flagrant interference in the electoral process and undermines the integrity of the process and independence of the election authorities.

In some locations, Rakeeb observers, as well as party agents, were denied access to the closing process by judicial supervisors, notably in Qalyubia. Moreover, many observers reported being denied, along with party agents, access to counting centers. In one case, a Rakeeb observer was denied access to a counting center in Dakhaliya by security personnel and threatened with arrest. Such actions violate SJCE regulations and international election standards, and may undermine public confidence in the process.

Qualitative Indicators

Based on data gathered from 95 percent of observers who reported on the voting process and closing of polling stations, Project Rakeeb found some procedural inconsistencies where observers were deployed:

Findings	Percentage Day 1	Percentage Day 2
Percent of Polling Stations Where Observers Reported Some Individuals Not Found on Voters' List	41%	34%
Percent of Polling Stations Where Observers Reported Some Individuals Permitted to Vote Without ID	4%	6%
Percent of Polling Stations Where Observers Reported Polling Officials Sometimes Did Not Make Tick Next to Voters' Names	10%	11%
Percent of Polling Stations Where Observers Reported Polling Officials Sometimes Issued Unstamped Ballot Papers to Voters	2%	2%
Percent of Polling Stations Where Observers Reported Voters Not Able to Mark Ballots in Secrecy	4%	8%
Percent of Polling Stations Where Observers Reported Polling Officials Did Not Put Ink on Fingers of Some Voters After Voting	19%	26%
Percent of Polling Stations Where Observers Reported Voters Did Not Sign / Ink Next to Their Name After Voting	1%	1%

Similar to the first day of voting, Rakeeb observers noted that in some locations polling stations closed at 7 PM with voters still in queue. Below is a breakdown of closing times:

Closing Time	Percentage Day 1	Percentage Day 2
Before 7 PM	8% ¹	12%
Between 7 and 8 PM	91%	88%
After 8 PM	1%	>0%

In some cases, Rakeeb observers reported that judicial supervisors did not complete ballot reconciliations prior to escorting ballot boxes to counting centers, notably in Dakhalia.

Critical Incidents

On the second day of the third round of voting, there were few incidents of violence or intimidation, there were a number of critical incidents that Rakeeb observers reported:

¹ One polling station in Matrouh closed at 2 PM once all 176 individuals registered on the voters' list had voted at the station.

- 13 Rakeeb observers were either denied access or expelled from polling stations;
- 58 incidents of active campaigning by political contestants in and around polling stations;
- 23 incidents of the presence of campaign materials inside polling stations;
- 10 incidents of political party representatives using religious slogans to influence voters;
- 13 incidents of violence, including a conflict between an independent candidate and a Freedom and Justice representative in Gharbiya;
- 3 incidents of circular voting; and
- 9 incidents of vote buying.

Project Rakeeb requests that the SJCE uphold its commitment to rectify mistakes encountered in the first and second rounds in future rounds and elections. Specifically, Project Rakeeb recommends SJCE:

- 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;
- 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; and
- 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.

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 Egyptian voters on their participation during the second day of the third round of voting in the People's Assembly Elections. We hope that all political parties, contestants, and citizens will participate calmly and responsibly in the remaining election days.