



People's Assembly Elections – Third Round

First Interim Statement

January 3, 2012, 2:00p.m

Early voting marked by peaceful voting process, long queues in many places

Many reports of accredited observers denied access to polling stations, some reports of active 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).

For the first 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.

Project Rakeeb has found that the vast majority of polling stations opened prior to 9 AM. However, some polling stations opened late due to the late arrival of polling officials or voting materials, such as voters' lists and ballot papers. Below is a breakdown of the opening times:

Opening Time	Percentage
Before 9 AM	92%
Between 9 and 11 AM	8%
After 11 AM	0%

Early on the first day of voting, Rakeeb observers have noted long queues at many polling centers and a largely peaceful voting process. Very few incidents of violence or intimidation have been reported by observers. However, two trends identified during the first and second rounds remain of concern:

- Project Rakeeb observers continue to be denied access or expelled from polling stations despite having received accreditation. In total, 30 Rakeeb observers (8 percent) were either expelled or denied access to polling centers thus far on the first day of voting. In most cases, observers have been expelled by judicial supervisors however, similar to the second round in a few cases observers were denied access to polling centers by security personnel; and
- Project Rakeeb observers continue to report incidents of active campaigning by political contestants in and around polling centers. Thus far in the process, there have been comparatively fewer reported incidents of campaigning than during first and second rounds. However, similar to the second round, Rakeeb observers are reporting that campaigning is being conducted by a wide range of political contestants. Most incidents have been attributed to Freedom and Justice and Nour, but there have also been reports of campaigning by Wafd, Al-Wasat, Egyptian Bloc, National Party and independent candidates.

Of significant concern to Project Rakeeb, 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.

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 010060137246 or email info@rakeeb.net.

Qualitative Indicators

Based on data gathered from 92 percent of observers who reported on the opening and set up of polling stations, Project Rakeeb found that where observers were deployed:

Findings	Percentage
Ballot Boxes Locked / Sealed	86%
Presence of Indelible Ink	99%
Security Personnel Inside Stations	37%
Avg. # of Party / Candidate Agents	4-5

Critical Incidents

As of 2 PM, Rakeeb observers have reported very few incidents of violence or intimidation however a number of critical incidents have been noted:

- 30 Rakeeb observers have either been denied access or expelled from polling stations;
- 30 incidents of active campaigning by political contestants in and around polling stations, most often by Freedom and Justice Party and Nour, but also Wafd, Al-Wasat, Egyptian Bloc, National Party and independent candidates. In Qalyubia, there were 11 incidents of reported campaigning by Nour Party;
- 18 incidents of the presence of campaign materials inside polling stations, most often of Freedom and Justice Party and Nour as well as independent candidates;
- 9 incidents of political party representatives using religious slogans to influence voters;
- 3 incidents of political party or candidate agents being expelled from polling stations;
- 3 incidents of circular voting;
- 2 incidents of vote buying; and
- 4 incidents of violence among voters, including 3 in Minya and 1 in Gharbiya.

Project Rakeeb calls upon the Supreme Judicial Committee for Elections (SJCE) to uphold its commitment to address inconsistencies and errors in first and second rounds. 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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