



People's Assembly Elections – First Round

Third Interim Statement

November 29, 2011, 10:00 p.m.

Smaller Queues, Voting Largely Peaceful on Second Day of First Round Voting ***Observers denied access or expelled from polling stations, active campaigning are problematic trends***

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 sent observation reports via text message to a Central Data Center in Cairo.

Rakeeb observers reported smaller queues of voters in polling stations on the second day of first round voting. The voting process was largely calm and without incident. In contrast with findings on the first day, the vast majority of polling stations – 95% - opened on time and 97% closed at 7 PM or later.

Relatively few incidents of violence or intimidation were reported nationwide however two problematic trends were continually reported, specifically:

- Despite having received accreditation, Rakeeb observers continued to be expelled by HEC officials from polling stations throughout the country; on the second day of voting, 15 Rakeeb observers were denied access or expelled from polling stations.
- Rakeeb observers continued to report incidents of active political campaigning at polling stations, most often by representatives and supporters of Freedom & Justice. Observers reported the use of religious slogans to influence voters, notably by Freedom & Justice and Nour Party.

Qualitative Indicators

Based on data gathered from 84 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	Day 1	Day 2
Percent of Polling Stations Where Observers Reported Some Individuals Not Found on Voters' List	39%	42%
Percent of Polling Stations Where Observers Reported Some Individuals Permitted to Vote Without ID	13%	14%
Percent of Polling Stations Where Observers Reported Polling Officials Sometimes Did Not Make Tick Next to Voters' Names	23%	16%

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.

Percent of Polling Stations Where Observers Reported Polling Officials Sometimes Issued Unstamped Ballot Papers to Voters	16%	14%
Percent of Polling Stations Where Observers Reported Voters Not Able to Mark Ballots in Secrecy	17%	12%
Percent of Polling Stations Where Observers Reported Polling Officials Did Not Put Ink Fingers of Some Voters After Voting	25%	32%
Percent of Polling Stations Where Observers Reported Voters Did Not Sign or Ink Next to Their Names After Voting	3%	6%

Rakeeb observers generally reported that the voting process was more rapid and orderly on the second day of voting, in large part due to more manageable numbers of voters at polling stations. However, as noted in the statistical indicators above, HEC officials continue to apply inconsistent practices for election administration due to the lack of clarity of the HEC procedures.

Critical Incidents

There were relatively fewer incidents of violence or intimidation on the second day of voting in the first round however by the close of polls the following critical incidents were reported:

- 15 incidents of Rakeeb observers denied access or expelled from polling stations;
- 51 incidents of political party of active campaigning by political contestants in and around polling stations, most often by Freedom & Justice;
- 10 incidents 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;
- 7 incidents of vote buying;
- 3 cases of party or candidate agents being expelled from polling stations;
- One incident of an armed voter entering a polling station to cast his vote in Fayyoun; and
- One polling station official reportedly pressured voters to vote for a candidate in Assiut.

As the election process moves forward, Project Rakeeb 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 commends Egyptian voters on their participation during the second day of the first round of elections for the People's Assembly. We hope that all political parties, contestants, and citizens will participate calmly and responsibly in the coming rounds of elections.