



RASSED's afternoon statement on polling

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RASSED team is still following on the local and decentralization elections, through a nation-wide network of 2000 observers deployed at polling centers and stations, 250 mobile observers and 100 researchers. They are supported by a professional team at the operation room, who are trained to collect, compile, analyse and classify information and data from the observers, in line with a pre-established methodology, based on international best practices in electoral reform and civil society oversight are following up on the elections.

The observers were statistically deployed to the polling stations to ensure fair representation, covering 73% of the polling stations across the Kingdom. Further, the observers' distribution criteria took into account areas with potential electoral violations, areas of tension and candidates' competitiveness, based on a range of analytical data. These data included tracking voter and candidates' complaints during the entire electoral period, competitiveness among candidates, and previous tension areas, compiled through the cumulative experience of the team.

Analysis of data pouring from field observers shows a noticeable increase of voter turnover across the kingdom. An estimated 19% voters exercised their franchise until 3pm local time in the municipal and local elections.

The increase in voter turnover was accompanied by plummeting indices at the management level of the electoral process. Many voting centers are crowded with citizens, who ascended to cast ballots, causing tension inside and around these centers. Other tensions are linked to poor infrastructure that failed to accommodate the large numbers of voters.

Despite the smooth start of the voting process and election committees' preparedness in the early morning, the poor distribution of voters on the polling centers casted its negative impact on the overall process.



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Earlier, RASSED warned of the repercussions of assigning large numbers of voters to non-equipped voting centers, especially in peak hours. For instance, single-entry and single-exit polling centers at schools and gymnasiums were allocated for tens of thousands of voters, causing disruptions, as expected. Further, RASSED's field observers conducted systematic interviews with a sample of voters at congested polling centers. The observers noted that large numbers of voters decided not to cast their ballots when they found out the voting centers were so crowded.

Supported by audio or visual evidence, RASSED observers also recorded a significant increase in attempts to buy votes near the polling centers. The operating room team is currently following up on these cases. These cases would be announced to the public and presented to competent authorities.

In the same context, the polling rooms around the Kingdom are witnessing cases of public voting and violation of the secrecy of the ballot by voters and some candidates' representatives. Cases of illiterate and alleged illiterate were also recorded. There were cases of high oral voting in 26.3% of the voting centers across the Kingdom, while there were cases of group voting (i.e. more than one voter were in the voting area at the same time) in 4.7% of the voting centers.

As for the election committees' adherence to the legal framework and procedures of the polling process, several issues related to poor awareness or implementation were reported. There were cases of accepting voter identification documents other than the national ID cards. Further, voters were allowed to cast ballots outside the voting area in 1.6% of centers.

At the organizational level, the operation room team has recorded numerous complaints about discrepancies between the paper and electronic voters' record, which deprived many voters of their right to vote. The Independent Election Commission, however, stepped in to rectify these issues in some cases, through procedures that allow voters to overcome those discrepancies, once approved.

The field observers recorded 43 cases of persons not authorized to be present in polling rooms.



21.7%

of Polling Stations witnessed prevention of voters attempting to cast votes



of Polling committees using National ID cards Exclusively to verify voters' identities

9 Cases



of Polling Stations witnessed the stamping and signing of ballot papers in advance

23.8%



of Polling Committees cross-checked voters' names on both the paper and electronic lists

98.3%



cases of unknown or unauthorized personnel in the polling station

43 Cases

1.6%

Of Polling stations witnessed voting outside the voting booth



9.6%

of Polling Stations witnessed directing of voters towards certain candidates



13.2%

of Polling Stations witnessed a halt of the voting process



of Polling Stations had their electronic network system functioning continuously

89.4%



4.7%

of polling Stations witnessed collective voting (multiple people voting in one booth)



of Polling Stations witnessed mobility disabled people vote according to procedures

79.0%



26.3%

of Polling Stations witnessed voters declaring their votes loudly (Illiterate voting)

