

RASSED for Election Monitoring Program

Report «Monitoring the by-elections for the Second Circuit of Karak Governorate»

December 19, 2015

RASSED's team started monitoring the performance of the Parliament, on Saturday 19/2015/12/. The monitoring of the election process took place to fill the empty seat in the second circuit in the Karak Governorate with the help of six monitoring groups allocated to the 20 electoral centers in the circuit, which includes 37 boxes.

RASSED adopted four forms to evaluate the course of the polling day in the monitoring process. These forms were distributed between opening of the polling centers from 12:00 pm and 5:00 pm.

The violations and breaches detected by observers in the field were as follows:

- 1: Observers detected several cases of identity theft. A case in box 19 in Sheehan Primary Girls School polling center, another case in Hay Mashhoor Primary Mixed School polling center, two cases in Rubba Girls School polling center, and two cases in Al-Qasr Girls School. Such violations could affect the transparency and integrity of the election process.
2. The Chairman of the Election Committee in Al- Jadaa Girls School box number 35, dealt in way that is not professional and is inconsistent with the basic standards in ensuring the freedom and fairness of the electoral process. The Chairman read the names of the candidates out loud in front of the voter to choose a nominee, and then pointed at the ballot paper instead of the candidate photo, thus influencing the election secrecy and freedom of voters.

3. More than one person was spotted near the ballot isolator; this incident occurred in different polling centers. The violation has not been dealt with by the election commissions, affecting the confidentiality and fairness of the electoral process.
4. The companions with people with special needs and the illiterate voted on their behalves – various cases were noted in boxes 14, 25, 34, and 35.
5. Power outages in some polling centers, including the Sheehan Elementary School polling center.
6. The indulgence of the committees in letting the voters dipping a their fingers in the electoral ink was noted, similar to the events at Al-Jadaa Secondary Boys School.
7. More than 30 oral voting incidents were detected in different electoral centers where the voters claimed to be illiterate – 10 in Rubba Girls School polling center. A discussion took place between the Commission and voter where the Commission accepted the oral voting for those who claimed illiteracy, including Al-Jadaa Secondary School for Girls polling center box 34 and 35 and Sheehan Primary School polling center box 19.
8. An intense security presence was detected by the observers in all polling centers of the second circuit.
9. Security officers were seen in civilian clothes inside the polling centers.
10. The representatives of some candidates were seen affecting the voters' choices in choosing who they want to vote for in boxes no. 34 and 35.
11. Observers spotted cases of “vote buying” and offering money in exchange for voting for a specific candidate in the square of Hay Mashhoor School polling center.

12. A number of voters were noted refusing to dip their fingers in the invisible ink Al-Jadaa Secondary Boys School and Al-Rawda Boys School, where one voter refused to dip his finger and the Election Committee detained his ID card.

13. One voter in Rubba School polling center was seen taking a photo of the ballot paper after pointing at the name of the candidate. His ID was detained by the Commission, and after half an hour the same person returned to receive his ID after he made an oath that he didn't take any photograph

14. A break into Al-Jadaa Secondary Girls School by citizens protesting on the way the election Commission treated them – «A video and a picture of the break-in are attached below».

15. The election process has stopped in most of the polling centers such as Al-Smakyeh Secondary School and Al-Jadaa School polling center.

16. There aren't enough arrangements for people with special needs in some of the polling centers. Al-Smakyeh School is one example where the voting took place in the second floor.

17. Some committees were being indulgent in checking the IDs and the electoral cards, especially in Rubba Secondary School for boys polling center box no. 4 and 5.

18. Some posters of candidates were noticed on the doors of some polling centers.

19. Some polling centers were not using the device that is responsible for detecting the accuracy of numbers because of their inactivity then completely stopped using them. Box 6 in Rubba School polling center is one example.

Annexes

Photos and a video

Video that shows the break into Al-Jadaa Secondary School: <https://youtu.be/SaLR1PKTRPM>

