

Turkmeneli Party



Report

To/ Independent High Commission for election in Iraq

Via its office in Kerkuk

Subject/ Unfair election process

According to the legal rights given to the political entities and parties to present rebuttal regarding election process that started with opening ballot centers before the electoral in the morning of January, 30 and ended by closing it at five o'clock evening of the same day, Because we believe in necessity of fair election process that considered as a corner stone for a new Iraq (democratic free Iraq), we would like to inform you about some irregularities about the election process.

Despite of what you have claimed through various networks that the election process were almost completely unbiased and fair, however we were surprised in Kerkuk province, Mosul, Salahadeen and Erbil with a complete illegal behavior that tainted the election process in the voting and balloting centers, presented a clear violation of regulations, laws, instructions and manuals that was issued by the High Commission.

Therefore, we present you a serious of violations of election laws that were issued by you, which we base our rebuttal on well being and fairness of election process, thinking that rigging were wide spread in this election.

Violations recorded:

First/ Electorates eligibility to cast ballot: -

1- Influx of huge number of Kurdish citizens to Kerkuk province who are residents of Suleymaniye and Erbil provinces, being kept in the local school of (Rahimawa) and place the overflow in houses under direct supervision and call from the branch of Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in the area of (Rahimawa).

2- Large number of electorates in the area of (Rahimawa) had voted more than once (five times or more) without coloring their fingers with the special ink in the front of the officers and employees of election center of the area.

3- Also large number of electorates in the area of (Rahimawa) had voted despite being under the legal age of 18 years, after adding their names illegally to the election lists by the employees in those centers. For example (Menguli) school located behind former Alkarama Security office and (Arafa) election center.

4- Some individuals have voted for deceased individuals who were dead more than a year ago. As it happened at (Asry) school located in Rahimawa area behind Andalus police station, a person called (Husein Sabir) voted instead of his deceased father (Sabir Abul Dajaj).

5- Around (2000) members of the National Guards from the Kurdish nationality had voted twice in the ballot centers, once at work place then at residence area.

6- Forcing Turkmen voters in Erbil province to mark the ballot paper with lead pencils, so it would be possible to alter it in the absence of international observers or any other independent observers.

7- Election ballots in villages of small Meftul and large Meftul that is part of Tuz Khurmatu county, indicates to electing list (130) for the Kurdistan Alliance, despite the fact that both villages are from the Arabic nationality and there are not a single Kurd in them and also the villagers have not participated in the election, which proves rigging ballot papers designated to those villages and misusing it for the benefit of the party mentioned above.

8- Tuz Khurmatu County indicates to electing the list of Kurdistan Alliance despite the fact that area residents are Arabs and Turkmens, National Guard Forces whose majority members are Kurds, busted the election centers in the area, this proves that the rigging took place after their bust.

Second/ Ballot centres: -

1- Erecting eight ballot centers the day of January 30 in the Kurdish area of Kerkuk province, and security of these centers were handed to the National guards who were brought from Suleymaniye province and not allowing Kerkuk province local police to close to those centers, even though those centers are not listed in the election centers list that is issued by the office of commissioner in Kerkuk, and these centers are;

1. Goran School
2. Ala' School
3. Imam Qasim Industrial
4. Alshahid Mamusta Rashad School
5. Mahabad School
6. Imam Qasim School
7. Iskan Middle School
8. Athar 11 School

2- Absence of election papers in more than one election center in the Turkmen area of Kerkuk province, that caused deprivation of large numbers of Turkmen electorates to cast their votes, and other centers were closed before the official time with a pretext of running out of election papers, the only explanation for this situation is, that these papers were stolen by certain sides to prevent Turkmen electorates to cast their vote, as it happened in election center in Atabegler school in 1 Athar area.

3- Starting the casting process by six in the morning instead of seven in (Rahimawa) Kurdish majority area to let the strangers first to cast their votes without any annoyance.

4- Changing the location of some election centers in Kerkuk province and relocating it from Turkmen area to areas with Kurdish majority, one day before the election starts. For example center Al Wakeel Mohammed Ali Sadeq has changed from (Marrakish) school to Asry School with a pretext of being crowded.

5- Two ballot boxes were stolen from election center (Abi Tammam) school at night by members of national guards.

6- Some unauthorized Kurdish associations and organizations had entered the balloting centers in order to deform, change and rig voter papers. For example, so called (Komalei 63 Kerkuk) Kurdish association.

7- Tampering with the results of ballots in Arafa center by some group as detailed in the report attached.

8- Continued voting process in the Kurdish area of Kerkuk province and Tuz Khurmatu hours after the end of assigned time to close ballot centers, and when the non-Kurdish party observes opposed, they were kicked out and humiliated by the national guards.

9- In Telafer with Turkmen majority, only two balloting centers were opened in spite of the large population of this city which is more than 400,000, resulted in depriving large numbers of Turkmen citizen to cast their votes because of long distances between the ballot centers and their residences, also because of the bombing that was going on specifically on that day, prevented the voters to reach the ballot boxes.

10- In Iyadhiya and Muhallabiyye area near Telafer and the villages surrounding them, more that 30,000 Turkmen voters were unable to cast their votes because no ballot boxes were assigned to them.

11- Depriving around 3000 Turkmen voters to cast their votes in Mansuriye because unknown groups stole the boxes from the election center.

12- In Turkmen village (Beer Ahmed) the ballot center opened at ten o'clock, that is two hour later than the official time, by Peshmargas and the voting continued until three thirty after noon then, the boxes were taken away to an unknown place with the excuse that the American forces wanted the boxes and the boxes were not delivered to the commissioner until this morning.

Third/ Employees and observers of election centers: -

1- Observers were not distributed fairly to election centers, in addition to Turkmen observers were expelled from election centers before the end of time assigned to close the ballot boxes.

2- Favoritism of employees in most election centers in Kurdish areas by certain groups that caused uncontrollable situations. We can summarize these situations as follows;

a. Employees of election centers in Rahimawa area have opposed and prevented any one who is casting vote for non-Kurdish list with a pretext that it is against the law for a Kurd to cast for non-Kurdish.

b. Employees of most election centers in the Kurdish area were giving more than one ballot paper as detailed in observer's statements.

c. Employees of some election centers in Kurdish areas have accepted stamped papers by election centers specifically in Hay Elwasity area instead of original papers that was distributed to voters via the Food Ration Agent as it is detailed in the sample attached.

Forth/ Despite of the declared curfew of civil cars without permits by security authorities on the day of election; there were large numbers of cars traveling in (Rahimawa) area parading with Kurdish flags and shouting slogans in front of the police and the National Guard.

Fifth/ Despite of security authorities declaring traveling curfew between the provinces a day before the start of election, an all the roads and check points were closed except to Erbil and Sulaymaniye, that resulted in thousands of out of province persons to head to Kerkuk for voting and return to their origin, with direct supervision of lieutenant general of police Shirko Shakir and the lieutenant of national guard Anwer, both of Kurdish nationality.

Sixth/ 150 special badges were allocated to transport cars for Commission observers, but it was distributed to individuals and persons who were not members of the commission, so they can loiter around in the city and enter election centers and interfere with voting process, with the fact that the commission received only 50 badges from vice mayor (Ismail Al Hadidy) as stated by Mr.Ibrahim chief commissioner office in Kerkuk, however most of the permitted cars belonged to the Security of Sulaymaniye city (Asayish).

Seventh/ Members of Kurdish national guards had prevented Turkmen voters from Laylan area from reaching ballot centers to vote, as it is known that members of the national guards and some police were the active subjects to execute most of the violations and irregularities against the citizens from the morning of balloting until the end of election process.

Eighth/ After the end of voting in (Yengije and Bastamly) area with Turkmen majority, a group of Peshmargas wearing national guard uniform transported the ballot boxes of Yengije, that numbered 18, to an unknown location with the excuse of "instructions" from the American forces, they so hurried that they dropped one ballot box in the street and the ballot papers scattered all over the street. The boxes were delivered to the commissioner long after. That was sufficient to tamper with the results.

Ninth/ In the morning of Jan.30, lieutenant of security (Asayish) named (Kak Tarik) was assigned as deputy chief of commissioner for the (Tuz Khurmatu) county.

Tenth/ Chief of Ibn Khaldun ballot center Mr. (Mumtaz Ahmed) was assaulted by security forces (Asayish) who belong to the Kurdistan region and he was jailed in one of the rooms at the election center, then they took the ballot boxes to an unknown location. They were returned this morning with one box missing, all votes were rigged during that period.

Eleventh/ Absence of the United Nations and the international observers from the Turkmen region, especially Kerkuk province.

Twelve/ Some Kurdish employees in the ballot centers destroyed Turkmen ballot papers.

Thirteenth/ Banning the Iraqi Turkmen Front from campaigning in Erbil province.

Fourteenth/ The High commission for election has left some loupes in the balloting system that were taken advantage of by outsiders, this was visible when the voters received ballot papers without signing the list for ballot center.

Fifteenth/ Some people took advantage of lack of observers and oiled their fingers before dipping in the ink so they could vote more than once. This means that the ink used was rigged or some thing to that effect.

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