

Report*

Our reference: H/04-05/R/2

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Subject: Another aspect of manipulation in the preceding Iraqi General Election

In the report of SOITM entitled "Disregard of the Turkmen may distort the reality in the upcoming census"¹ dated 30th July 2004, attention was paid to the possibility of maintenance of underestimation of the Turkmen population size in the upcoming census. Unfortunately, the census had been suspended, while the election had been performed in which the abuses could more easily be taken place.

The manipulations in the north of Iraq during the Iraqi General Election voted for on 31.01.2005 were greatly elevated than the expectations. The details were obtainable in the reports of Iraqi Turkmen parties^{2 - 5}, Human Rights Watch⁶ and SOITM statement⁷:

- Bringing 150.000 Kurds from Kurdish provinces to vote in Kerkuk.
- Using of different methods of multiple voting.
- Distortion of election regulations.
- Devastation of Turkmen votes by different ways.
- Hindering election in many Turkmen regions.
- Interference with the election processes.
- Unjust utilization of facilities.

Several factors facilitated the abuse of election by the Kurdish authorities.

- The huge desire of the Kurdish parties, intellectuals and militants (Pashmargas) to construct the so-called Kurdistan in any cost.
- The Kurdish claim^{8, 9} of Turkmen cities, which were exposed to heavy Kurdish immigration or planned Kurdification policies^{10 - 16}. This claim provoked and amplified by the ill sympathy, which the western politicians, press, and in some case even academics granted to the Kurds. The frontiers were made up for so-called Kurdistan by western writers and the Turkmen cities were described as Kurdish cities or cities located in the imaginary Kurdistan without any logical explanations.¹⁷
- The lack of important economical resources in the Kurdish settlement areas such as Sulaymaniyya and Duhok had directed the attention of Kurdish politicians to the fruitful plains of Erbil and the huge oil deposits of Kerkuk. This was clearly observed in the speeches of the Kurdish politicians, particularly Barazani.
- Almost all the election processes in Turkmen regions starting from receiving of the election forms to counting of votes and the guarding of the election centers were managed either by Kurdified administration or the staffs of the election commissions which were mainly Kurds.

- Marginalization of Turkmen by USA has dismissed the Turkmen from both the regional and national administrative system, which prevented them even to observe the election processes.
- The absolute control on the administrative, security and military systems by the USA-supported Kurds.
- Absence of international observation.

Before the election, the head of KDP Masoud Barazani called personally the Turkmen notables and a large number of Turkmen tradesmen and shoppers in Erbil city to talk to them: Sadi Turshucu, Hadi Mahdi Bakkal, Sayyah Karim Halwaci, Mustafa Naccar and Asad Kassab were in between of the attendees. He ordered them to cooperate with the Kurds and elect the Kurdish lists. He asked them to pay financial supports to the Kurdish parties for the covering the costs of election campaigns. The Barazani's media reflected these meetings totally in a decisive way. They announced that the Turkmen themselves support the Kurdish policy of Barazani and asked to meet him.

Furthermore, all the Erbil Turkmen were told that the persons who do not cooperate with Kurds to elect the Kurdish parties would be expelled out of the city.

Barazani asked also the following sections of the community to talk to them:

- The notables of Kurdish tribes Hoshnaw, Balik, Rostiya, Sayan, Gardi, Zabari, Harkiya... etc. He threatened them to vote for the list number 130 or they will be sent beyond the frontier to Iran.
- The high-ranking police, security elements and Kurdish militants (Pashmargas). He asked them to be conscious and cooperate in favor of the election of the list 130.
- All the religious men Molls and Sheikhs were forced to talk to the peoples in cities, districts, sub-districts and villages and were advised to vote for Kurdish list 130. He ordered that the religious Friday speeches in mosques for one month should relate to the election of the Kurdish list 130.
- The rector of University, directors of institutions, the Deans of faculties, the directors of the education, the directors of primary and secondary schools. He ordered them to ask the staffs and the students to vote for the Kurdish list 130.
- The intellectuals, artists, literary men and writers. He threatened them if they will not vote for the Kurdish list 130.
- All the members of the sport's teams, Footballers, Volleyball and basketball, athletes, even chess players and also the administration of the Olympic commission, clubs, and trainers. He asked them to vote for list 130.

We stress that persistence of the USA-supported Kurdish hegemony in north of Iraq and discharge of Turkmen from the administration is going to repeat the same processes in the upcoming elections, censuses and referendums.

The attainment of election totally by the United Nations, or European Council can be considered the most acceptable option to avoid what happened in the preceding election.

* Reviewed for the language and proved by Mohammed A. KELENCHY

Reference

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2. Iraqi Turkmen Front Press release on the Iraqi National Election
<http://members.lycos.nl/soitum/ITF1.pdf>
3. Some of the notes that has been presented to the office of commissioner in Kerkuk, by Turkmeneli Party. <http://members.lycos.nl/soitum/TEi1.pdf>
4. Unfair election process by Turkmeneli Party.
<http://members.lycos.nl/soitum/TEi2.pdf>
5. Irregularities in Iraqi Election by Turkmen Nationalist Movement
<http://members.lycos.nl/soitum/TNM1.pdf>
6. Iraqi Elections: Human Rights Concerns: Questions and Answers from Human Rights Watch. http://hrw.org/english/docs/2005/01/21/iraq10058_txt.htm
7. SOITM statement presented to the 23rd session of the Working Group on Indigenous Group (18 – 22 July 2005). <http://www.turkmen.nl/StatementPw.pdf>
8. D. McDowell "A Modern History of the Kurds", I.B.Tauris & Co Ltd Publishers 1996, London & New York, Page 329.
9. Ibid, Page 3.
10. Hanna Batatu in his book titled "The old social classes and the Revolutionary Movements of Iraq", (Princeton University Press, New Jersey 1978), p. 913.
11. D. McDowell "A Modern History of the Kurds", Page 305.
12. Phoebe Marr, "The Modern History of Iraq", Page 9.
13. D. McDowell "A Modern History of the Kurds", Page 144.
14. William R. Hay, "Two Years in Kurdistan 1918 – 1920", (William Clowes and Sons, Limited, London and Beccles 1921), page 77.
15. Hay Ibid, Page 19.
16. Rich. Ibid, Page 30.
17. SOITM report entitled "Western Intellectuals Fall Collectively in Error" dated 1st September 2004. http://members.lycos.nl/soitum/W_intellectualsP.pdf