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Rased Publishes the Initial Results of the Elections in Amman, Zarqa 1st and Irbid 1st

- Jordan Keep to The Path Of Democracy Despite Challenges.
- Vote buying distorts the electoral process.
- RASSED calls for speedy adjudication in cases of corrupt money.
- Significant improvement in the performance of the Independent Election Commission.

* This work was carried out by long-term monitors as part of the process of monitoring the parliamentary elections 2020



هذا المشروع ممول من الاتحاد الأوروبي



USAID
من الشعب الأمريكي



November 11, 2020

Amman, Jordan

Hayat - RASED: RASED Coalition monitored the polling and counting process for the 19th Parliamentary Election, through 2,500 local observers distributed to polling stations and centers, covering 75% of the polling centers nationwide, with more than 200 mobile observers across centers.

Dr. Amer Bani Amer, coordinator of the RASED Coalition, emphasized that the Jordan was able to keep to the path of democracy by ensuring the sustainability of achieving the constitutional requirement despite the geopolitical and economic challenges facing the Jordan, in addition to the challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The monitoring team worked on the implementation of the PVT process, which is concerned with extracting results by distributing the observers to boxes that are selected according to an equation that achieves the level of representation and a margin of error less than 0.5%. This process was carried out on 7 electoral districts, namely, all of Amman's districts, Zarqa first district, and Irbid's first district. A photo attachment showing the percentages obtained by the RASED Coalition at the electoral district level.

Through the work of RASED's team in evaluating the indicators related to the compatibility of electoral procedures with international best practices, a significant improvement was observed in the performance of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) at the technical, organizational and logistical levels, in addition to the rapid response to the observations that the RASED coalition provided periodically to the IEC. Moreover, the IEC remained neutral to all electoral lists, male and female candidates, and promoted integrity values in their practices.

The Improper financial expenditures associated with vote buying operations, posed a challenge that negatively affected the overall electoral process and contributed to partially limiting the freedom of

voters and impacting the outcome of the electoral process. This calls for a pressing coordinated and joint national effort that cannot be postponed or delayed, in order to launch a national call to action, with all governmental and non-governmental institutions, parties, unions, civil society organizations, citizens and candidates to curb this practice. From here we launch a national call to action and warn that the democratic process will be subjected to fundamental distortions due to vote-buying cases. Furthermore, it should be noted that the most important reason that contributed to the increase in the number of vote-buying cases is the delay in issuing judicial ruling related to the cases referred during the electoral campaign phase. From this platform, RASED recommends that issues related to improper financial expenditure in elections or «corrupt money» should be considered as urgent and a time limit should be set for ruling in these cases. It should be noted that if any peremptory judgments were issued against the offenders and those whose involvement was proven, these rulings would have been a real deterrent to anyone who would himself be tempted to use corrupt money.

With regard to the process of counting votes at the level of polling stations, it was observed that some heads and members of the committees did not allow observers to enter the polling stations, for example in the Polling Centers of Aisha Umm al-Muḥminin Elementary Mixed School in Amman's 4th District, Burma School in Jerash, and Al-Masharea Secondary School for Girls in Irbid's 4th district. It is worth mentioning that despite the fact that some heads of election committees at electoral district level did not allow observers to enter the final vote counting sites, and the IEC responded and resolved this problem, we believe that the members and heads of the committees must be fully aware of the legal frameworks, without being contacted by the IEC on polling day, as this could cause confusion during the electoral process. Results of observations also demonstrated that there was a clear discrepancy between polling and counting committees in dealing with developments that occur during the polling and counting process.

With regard to the cases of violence that were observed during the evening period of the voting process and during the closing of the polling stations and the start of the counting process, approximately 63

cases of violence were observed at the electoral districts level. The level of violence incidents varied, as some of them were between supporters of the candidates, while other were between voters and member of security forces. For example, incidents occurred in Amman's first district, in Ma'an, and in Ain Ghazal Secondary School for Girls in Zarqa's 1st.

Regarding the results of monitoring the polling stations closing process, it was found that 1% of the stations in which RASED's team was present at, closed before 9:00 pm, 30% of the polling stations closed at 9:00 pm, while 69% of the polling stations ended voting after 9:00 pm. As for the reason behind not closing on time, it was due to the presence of voters inside the polling center.

As for the start of the counting and tabulation process, it was found that all the election committees emptied the ballot boxes in front of everyone and revealed the ballot papers in front of all present audience. Monitoring the counting process showed that 10% of the polling stations completed the counting in one hour or less, while the counting process took more than an hour and less than two hours in 47.5% of the polling stations. The percentages of the polling stations in which the counting took more than two hours reached 42.5% from the total polling stations where the RASED was present at.

There was a set of observations during counting of votes at the electoral district level that contributed to delaying the process of reaching results at the district level, and these observations varied between lack of full knowledge of the mechanism of counting votes and compiling results, which occurred in South Badia District. In addition to the disruption of the electronic system for the process of collecting and counting votes, which prompted the Election Committee to use the tables on computer devices in Excel format. It was also observed that the head of one of the polling centers in Amman's 3rd district completed filling the records inside results centers of the district.

Regarding the observations and violations recorded by field observers, they reached more than 1270 electoral observations that were delivered directly to the Independent Election Commission. These observations were dealt with directly. The electoral observations and violations varied and were divided into relevant observations, such as voting more than once by the same person, which was observed five times, For example, Al-Husayniyah Comprehensive Secondary School for Girls in the Southeren Badia district, Al-Samakiah School in Al-Karak District, Umm Rummana Primary School for Girls in Zarqa second district, and Al-Zubeidiya Comprehensive Secondary School for Girls in Amman, «s first district and the number of violations related to vote-buying cases reached 32 violations received by observers, which were received from observers in Amman first, second and third electoral district, Jerash, and Southern Badia, and a group of them was conveyed to the Independent Election Commission. While the number of observations related to non-pointing of ink due to voter refusal reached 13 cases, for example, Moqbela Secondary School for Boys in Jerash and Tabaria Comprehensive Secondary School for Girls in First Irbid, and the polling process was stopped in 187 polling rooms for several different reasons, for example the Sukainah Bint Al Hussein Comprehensive Secondary School for Girls Box 266 in the First Zarqa District and Fatima Zahra Mixed Elementary School Box No. 527 in the Karak District and the 10th Mixed Secondary School, Box No. 96 in the Aqaba district, and with regard to observations of the presence of more than one person at the voting booth during the voting process, the coalition team observed 27 cases, for example the Baoun School Comprehensive secondary school for boys, Box No. 197 in the Ajloun district, and Zahraa Secondary School for Girls, Box No. 248 in Irbids second district, and Al-Qusour Secondary School for Girls Amman»s first district.

RASED confirms that he will work in the coming days to evaluate the standard indicators related to the electoral process, and it will present a detailed report on the impact of observations and violations on the outcome of the electoral process and present them in detail to the Independent Election Commission.