



## RASSED Preliminary Report on Candidates Registration Process for Municipal and Governorates Councils' Elections 2017

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- **The candidates registration process witnessed a numbers of violations.**
- **3 cases of candidates registration out of the official working hours.**
- **RASSED recommends the Independent Elections Commission (IEC) to promote transparency.**
- **RASSED praises the IEC's cooperation with its monitoring team.**

As a complement of the municipal and governorates councils' 2017 elections monitoring process, RASSED team worked in overseeing the registration process of candidates which lasted for three days between 3 / 7 / 2017 - 5 / 7 / 2017 . The IEC announced receiving a total of 6950 candidacy application for governorates councils and the post of mayor and local councils.

The monitoring process started since the first day of candidates' registration process as RASSED distributed a total of 350 observers spreaded between 300 fixed observers at the registration centers designated for candidacy registration, and 50 mobile observers to monitor the convenience of registration environment outside the centers. RASSED also launched an operations room with 15 specialized researchers to support field observers and record complains of candidates and people on the registration process.

The field monitoring showed a number of irregular violations, resulting from the lack of capacity by the committees responsible of registration process, and the lack of technical capacity of IEC team specially in the computerized system IEC used. Following are most the important field monitoring observations:

RASSED teams recorded three cases of candidates registrations out of the official working hours of the registration centers which violates article (4-b) of the executive instructions of candidates registration for governorates councils, local councils, and the post of mayor. The first case was recorded in Irbid as the one of the candidates filled his candidacy application for governorate councils form in Al-Husseini Youth Center and later appears that the candidates should register in Al-Hoson are registration center arriving at



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3:35 PM, 17 minutes after the registration deadline and his application was accepted, the two other cases were recorded in Balqa in Greater Salt area, as the registration committee opened after 5:00 PM and accepted the two applications for the local councils seats, RASSED informed the IEC about these incidents and the IEC showed a great cooperation, openness, and coordination efforts which is recorded for the IEC as a sign of openness for partnership with RASSED team.

The registration centers witnessed power cuts in several governorates during the first, which prevented the issuance of candidates' registration notices, and replaced it with manual notices and no notices at all in some centers, and the candidates received their candidacy registration notices the second day of the registration process. For example, in Mafraq in Mafraq Youth Center on 10:45 AM, candidates were registered without having a written notice, and informed to return the next to receive the notices.

3. Several registration centers witnessed a breakdown in the computerized system resulted in delays of registration process. In Ashghal Al-Soltani office in Karak the system witnessed a long breakdown as the candidates received manual candidacy notices without the logos, also in Al-Qatraneh Youth Center the system was down between (09:00 AM - 12:00 PM).

4. The observers listed some observations concerning individual mistakes by members of the committee. For example, one of the female candidates submitted a candidacy application for the local council and was handed over by the committee responsible, the registration application for the post of mayor. She then filled it out and left the center. The error occurred in Karak governorate, indicating the poor training received by the registration committees.

5. Observers responsible for the monitoring process reported an incident involving the acceptance of a candidate's application without his name being confirmed on the electoral tables of his electoral district. This incident had taken place while there was an electricity cut, however this action does not comply with the provisions of the law. After the return of the electricity, his name was confirmed and it was revealed



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that the candidate did not have the right to run in that area. The committee then had to contact the candidate to inform him of this information after they had already accepted his application. In this regard RASSED suggests that the Commission adopts alternative plans of solving similar problems to avoid such issues in the future.

6. The monitoring team has noticed the incompetency of some committee members responsible for the registration process. Some violations in the registration process had also taken place. While most of the committees have been checking the identity of the candidates, some committees went as far as disregarding the rules simply because of their personal or familial relationship to the candidate.

7. While monitoring the field, the monitoring team observed that some of the committee members were replaced with employees who have not received any official training.

In this regard RASSED puts forward some suggestions to be taken into consideration by the Independent Electoral Commission. RASSED team recommends the Commission to learn from previous experiences with an elections in order to overcome all sorts of complication that may affect the electoral process. RASSED also recommends the Independent Commission to monitor the committees attentively and also set an experimental testing system in order to test electronic links, and that is to ensure the readiness of the registration centers to accept the applicants. RASSED also warns the Independent Committee not to repeat previous mistakes during the polling day, pointing out that that the governorate`s council elections and the municipalities` council elections are expected to be extremely intense. In line with the values of transparency, RASSED stresses the need for rapid dissemination of information to the citizens of Jordan so that the citizens would be up to date with the latest results of the electoral process. Finally, RASSED emphasizes the importance of independent commissions which are highly efficient in terms of calculating the results as quickly and professionally as possible.