



## Day 1 Statement on Candidates' Registration

16 / 8 / 2016

- **High performance by Election Committees during the first day of candidates' registration.**
- **147 lists, including 783 candidates submitted candidacy applications**
- **153 females, of which 3 Christians and 1 Circassian, 38 Christian males and 11 Circassian/Chechen male candidacy applicants by the end of the first day.**

As part of RASSED's efforts in supporting electoral reform in Jordan and the framework of monitoring the proceedings of Jordan's 2016 parliamentary elections, 120 observers were deployed to evaluate the first day of candidates' registration. This was done through a set of pre-designed surveys, structured based on relevant comparative practices.

Field data indicated that all assigned centers were properly located and accessible. All centers were opened at the assigned time (8:30 am). The monitoring team revealed that 87% of all centers included instructive signs illustrating the procedure and required documentation. However, 17% of centers were not equipped to receive persons with physical disabilities.

Field observers also revealed that 78% of centers witnessed significant crowding of candidacy applicants before opening in order to compete for the first places in the candidates' order on the ballot paper. This provides lists with a bigger chance of visibility and benefiting from voters' entry errors. RASSED notes that it had previously recommended the IEC to cancel the first-come-first-serve approach and adopt a draw to avoid such crowding and subsequent tensions. The first day witnessed several conflicts and altercations resulting from the order of candidacy applicants to submit their applications. In the first district of Amman, for example, a dispute took place due to registering a list under the name "Amman", while another list further in the registration order intended to have the same name and already established its promotion plan and materials accordingly. Generally speaking, 13% of all centers witnessed disputes, of which none were violent. 22% of centers had campaigning activities within and/or around them.

As for committees' enforcement of the legal framework for candidacy, high performance indicators were observed across the 23 districts during the first day. All committees required the provision of all assigned documentation and the personal presence of applicants, based on the IEC's executive instructions. 8% of committees refrained from announcing the number and details of received applications and the timely order of applications' recipient.

As for the main incidents, several lists could not complete submissions for all their candidates. This was mainly attributed to the lack of personal presence of these list members or insufficient documentation. It should be noted here that the IEC has instructed that a list can be registered with a part of its intended members, and addition and withdrawal of members may take place during the following days within the legal time-frame of candidates' registration.

The outcomes of the first day according to RASSED's field observers were as follows: 147 lists including 777 candidates, of which 38 are Christian males, 11 Circassian/Chechen, 149 Muslim females, 3 Christian females and 1 female Circassian/Chechen.