



The National Centre for Human Rights

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Monitoring Report on the 2022 Elections for Governorate Councils, Municipal Councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council

Amman — 2022

Disclaimer

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Contents

- Introduction
- Axis One: The legislative framework governing the electoral process
- Axis Two: The plan and working methodology of the monitoring team
- Axis Three: Monitoring of the procedures preceding polling day
- Axis Four: Monitoring of the procedures of polling day
- Axis Five: Monitoring of the procedures following polling day
- Axis Six: The participation of women, persons with disabilities and older persons in the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council for the year 2022
- Axis Seven: The role of the media in the electoral process
- Findings and recommendations
- Annexes

Introduction

The monitoring of participation in the electoral process — including the stages of candidacy and voting and the enabling and organisational circumstances surrounding them — and the verification of the soundness of that process in its entirety, are among the principal tasks entrusted to the National Centre for Human Rights under its Law. Proceeding from the mandate of the National Centre, the Centre has consistently monitored the conduct of elections in the Kingdom since 2007, whether parliamentary elections or elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils, the Greater Amman Municipality Council, student unions and the professional and labour associations.

The Law of the National Centre provides, in Articles 4(c), 5(a) and 10(b), that among its objectives are "the promotion of the democratic approach ... verifying observance of human rights ... and monitoring transgressions occurring against human rights and public freedoms ... and requesting from the relevant authorities any information, data or statistics it deems necessary for the achievement of its objectives ... and visiting any place belonging to a public body or to any private legal person in respect of which it is reported that transgressions against human rights have occurred or are occurring ...". The monitoring of the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality is accordingly one of the responsibilities undertaken by the Centre.

This broad mandate and these responsibilities, embodied in its Law and founded upon the principles and conditions for the establishment of national human rights institutions endorsed by the United Nations, further require that the Centre submit its reports and recommendations with complete impartiality and objectivity and to the highest standards of professionalism. This responsibility cannot be discharged in full without the cooperation of the relevant authorities, particularly those institutions constitutionally entrusted with the administration and supervision of the elections. This means that the Centre must investigate, record and monitor the conduct of this process by every available means, and that all relevant agencies, bodies and authorities must cooperate with it in this regard.

Since the Election Law specifies in its provisions the persons permitted to be present in the polling and counting centres, the National Centre for Human Rights submitted on 21 February 2022 an application to the Independent Election Commission expressing its wish to monitor the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality in its capacity as a domestic body.

The competent bodies in the various States of the world have undertaken to monitor the conduct of elections in those States, and international and regional organisations, together with governmental and non-governmental organisations, have contributed to this effort. International practice in this field has settled upon the view that permitting the monitoring of the electoral process is an indicator of the safeguarding of one of the fundamental political rights of the individual. This constitutes a response to the provision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in Article (21), paragraph three, which states that "the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures".

The international covenants provide for the right of the citizen to vote and to be elected in periodic, democratic and genuine elections, and have entrenched this right as one of the most important internationally recognised human rights. This is affirmed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Article (25) thereof, which the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has ratified and published in the Official Gazette.

Among the objects achieved by the monitoring of the electoral process are: demonstrating the will of the governing authority in respect of the electoral process; acceptance of the election results; sparing society the disputes that may arise from disagreements over the results of the election; the provision by monitoring bodies, particularly non-governmental ones, of a resource for the bodies concerned with the settlement of disputes arising from the elections and their results; the strengthening of civic education in society; and the enhancement of the positive image of the State in the international community.

Upon the conclusion of the monitoring of the elections, this report was prepared in order to give a comprehensive, professional, objective and impartial assessment of the conduct of the electoral process — and in particular of the conduct of the polling — and to monitor and record the extent of respect for the rights encompassed by the electoral process in all its aspects, and the extent of compliance with the national legislation governing the electoral process and with the international standards concerning the integrity, transparency, freedom and fairness of the electoral process, in electing governorate councils, municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council that guarantee the fair representation of the various categories of society.

Axis One: The Legislative Framework Governing the Electoral Process

Article 67(2) of the Jordanian Constitution provides: "An independent commission shall be established by law to administer the parliamentary and municipal elections and any general elections in accordance with the provisions of the law; and the Council of Ministers may charge the Independent Commission with administering or supervising any other elections upon the request of the body legally empowered to conduct those elections."

Article 4(a)(1) of the Independent Election Commission Law No. (11) of 2012 provides that "the Commission shall administer the parliamentary and municipal elections and any general elections in accordance with the provisions of the law". Article 35(a)(1) of the Local Administration Law No. (22) of (2022) likewise provides: "The Council of Ministers shall issue a decision to hold elections for the governorate councils and the municipal councils; the Commission shall fix the polling date; and the decision shall be published in the Official Gazette." Article 6(c) of the Greater Amman Municipality Law No. (18) of (2021) provides: "The Council of Ministers shall issue a decision to hold elections for the Municipality Council; the Commission shall fix the polling date; and the decision shall be published in the Official Gazette."

The Board of Commissioners of the Independent Election Commission resolved to fix Tuesday 22 March 2022 as the date for the polling and counting for the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council, on the basis of the foregoing provisions.

Pursuant to Article 6(e) of the Greater Amman Municipality Law, which provides that "the Commission shall administer the electoral process at all its stages in accordance with the provisions of its Law, of this Law and of the regulations issued thereunder", and to Article (36) of the Local Administration Law, which provides:

"(a) The Commission shall administer the electoral process for the governorate councils and the municipal councils at all its stages in accordance with the provisions of its Law and of this Law, and to that end the Board of Commissioners shall undertake the following:

1. Preparing the budget for the electoral process and submitting it to the Council of Ministers for approval.
2. Appointing the chairmen and members of the electoral committees, and determining the polling and counting centres and the number of ballot boxes.
3. Forming the committees necessary for the electoral process and setting out their tasks and powers.
4. Approving the timetables for the process of preparing the voter registers and for candidacy.
5. Preparing the voter registers through the Civil Status Department on the basis of the voter's place of residence in the civil status records, and determining the particulars to be included in the voter register.
6. Determining the bodies, places and means in or through which the voter registers and the names contained in them are to be displayed.
7. The mechanism for objecting to the voter registers, the time limits necessary for that purpose, and the determination of the applications and objections relating thereto.

8. Approving the final voter registers.
9. The mechanism for submitting candidacy applications, for objecting to them and determining such objections, and for withdrawal from candidacy.
10. Considering and determining the candidacy applications referred to it by the electoral committees.
11. Approving the specifications of the ballot boxes and ballot papers, the official seals of the polling and counting committee, and the forms of the electoral process.
12. Laying down the bases for the accreditation of candidates' delegates at the polling and counting centres and the mechanism for their objections.
13. Laying down the bases for the accreditation of representatives of the civil society institutions concerned, of media personnel and of any domestic and international observers, to observe the conduct of the electoral process.
14. The bases of electoral campaigning.
15. The procedures of the polling and counting process, the recording of the polling and counting minutes, the aggregation and extraction of the results, the announcement of the results, the bundling and transport of the papers and minutes, and the other provisions and procedures relating to this process.
16. Determining valid ballot papers and the cases of their nullity or cancellation.
17. Determining the times of the commencement and conclusion of the poll, or the extension of that period.
18. The cases of annulment of the election results and the repetition of the polling or the counting or both.
19. Approving the final results of the elections, announcing them and publishing them in the Official Gazette.
20. Retaining the ballot papers, the polling and counting minutes and all the documents of the electoral process.

(b) The Board of Commissioners shall issue the instructions necessary for the conduct of the elections of the governorate councils and the municipal councils, for the implementation of any of the tasks entrusted to it under the provisions of this Law and of the Independent Election Commission Law."

Pursuant also to Article (27) of the Independent Election Commission Law, which provides that "the Board shall issue the executive instructions necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this Law and of any regulations issued thereunder, such instructions to take effect from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette" —

In accordance with the foregoing provisions, the Independent Election Commission issued the following instructions to regulate the process of the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council for the year 2022:

1. Executive Instructions on the Accreditation of Domestic Observers for the Elections of the Governorate Councils, the Municipal Councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council, No. (7) of 2021.

2. Executive Instructions on Polling, Counting and the Aggregation and Extraction of the Results for the Elections of the Governorate Councils, the Municipal Councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council, No. (10) of 2021.
3. Executive Instructions on the Rules governing Electoral Campaign Activities for the Elections of the Governorate Councils, the Municipal Councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council, No. (9) of 2021.
4. Executive Instructions on the Accreditation of International Observers for the Elections of the Governorate Councils, the Municipal Councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council, No. (8) of 2021.
5. Executive Instructions on the Accreditation of Journalists, Media Personnel and Staff of Visual, Audio, Print and International Media Institutions to cover the Elections of the Governorate Councils, the Municipal Councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council, No. (6) of 2021.
6. Executive Instructions on the Accreditation of Candidates' Delegates at the Polling and Counting Centres for the Elections of the Governorate Councils, the Municipal Councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council, No. (5) of 2021.
7. Executive Instructions on Candidacy for the Elections of the Governorate Councils, the Municipal Councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council, No. (4) of 2021.
8. Executive Instructions on the Formation of Committees for the Elections of the Governorate Councils, the Municipal Councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council, No. (3) of 2021.
9. Executive Instructions on the Preparation of the Voter Registers for the Elections of the Governorate Councils, the Municipal Councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council, No. (2) of 2021.

Axis Two: The Plan and Working Methodology of the Monitoring Team

Through its monitoring of the electoral process, the National Centre for Human Rights seeks to strengthen the right to vote and to participate politically in the conduct of public affairs, and to monitor the extent of compliance with the national legislation governing the electoral process and with the international standards concerning the integrity, transparency, freedom and fairness of the electoral process, in the election of municipal councils that guarantee the fair representation of the various categories of society.

The National Centre for Human Rights was unable to take the decision to monitor the electoral process at its earliest stages, for reasons beyond its control, among them: its inability to obtain the necessary funding at an early date, and the disregard by the official authorities of the provision of the support necessary to enable the National Centre for Human Rights to fulfil the obligations entrusted to it under its Law, notwithstanding the many communications addressed to them.

The foregoing prevented the taking of the decision to monitor the elections at the appropriate time. The Board took its decision approving participation in and monitoring of the elections by rearranging its priorities so as to provide the required sum from its own resources twenty-five days before the date of the elections, which necessitated a redoubling of efforts to make up for the time lost.

In remedy of this, the National Centre worked to make up the preparatory and organisational stages it had missed for the monitoring of the electoral process by expediting the reconstitution of an internal team drawn from the Centre to monitor the electoral process.

The Plan and Working Methodology

The National Centre for Human Rights formed a team to monitor the conduct of the electoral process as follows:

First: The Preparatory Team

This team consists of seven (7) members of the Centre's staff, and its task is:

- (a) To communicate and coordinate with the Centre's liaison officers and with certain bodies cooperating with the Centre, or which had expressed their cooperation with the Centre, in order to furnish the team with the particulars and information of the volunteer observers.
- (b) To collect and enter the particulars of the volunteer observers into an Excel programme.
- (c) To enter the particulars of the observers of the General Secretariat into an Excel programme.
- (d) To enter all the particulars into the electronic observer accreditation system of the Independent Election Commission.
- (e) To devise the paper monitoring form for the observers in the field and to print it, that form not being available at the Centre.
- (f) To equip the operations room for polling day with the equipment necessary to enable the team to carry out the monitoring exercise in a systematic and institutional manner.
- (g) To lay down criteria for the selection of the governorate liaison officers on the basis of the principles of impartiality and integrity.

Second: The Team of Coordinators of the Three Regions (the North, the Centre and the North)

[Editorial note: so in the Arabic original; the third region is evidently the South.]

This team undertakes the following tasks:

- (a) To follow up the proper conduct of the electoral process in the regions by receiving the complaints and violations reported by the team of volunteer field observers, and by following up the completion of the election monitoring forms in the field, auditing them and submitting them to the General Coordinator for the purpose of preparing the specialised report on the electoral process.
- (b) To draw up work plans in cooperation with the volunteer observers in the areas of competence, and to identify the training needs and the logistical arrangements necessary within the budget received and approved by the Board of Trustees for the project.
- (c) To follow up all developments relating to the electoral process announced by the Commission, including new instructions, and to notify the volunteer observers of them, each according to his area of competence.
- (d) The training of the monitoring team on the monitoring forms by the coordination team.
- (e) To receive the complaints submitted by citizens and candidates on polling day within the area of competence relating to the conduct of the electoral process, to document them, to refer them to the competent authorities and to follow up the measures taken in respect of them, through the Centre's operations room.

Third: The Field Monitoring Team

Fourth: The Press Statements Team

This team consists of a lawyer and a media specialist, and its task is to issue the statements necessary to cover the conduct of the electoral process on polling day.

Fifth: The Team Monitoring the Conduct of the Electoral Process on Polling Day

This team consists of the staff of the Centre's General Secretariat and of volunteer observers. The team was deployed to cover part of the polling centres in the Kingdom on polling day for the purpose of recording any violation, collecting the data and completing the monitoring forms, consistently with the budget of the project.

- Monitoring procedures on polling day. Information is collected through the paper forms completed by the volunteers, transmitted by WhatsApp technology as a matter of urgency. The paper forms are thereafter delivered to the team to be audited and collated into the elections report and retained by the Centre as evidence should the report be challenged by any party whatsoever.
- This plan is regarded as an alternative to the absence of an electronic system dedicated to the collection of data. Such a system would enable the Centre to receive the monitoring forms at a determined time during election day, which would enable the Centre to examine them, to document the violations recorded as they occur and to report them so that the rapid measures necessary might be taken and they might be referred promptly to the Commission for remedy, so as to guarantee the integrity and transparency of the electoral process.

Sixth: The Operations Room

An operations room was opened on polling day, staffed by the Centre's personnel (the General Secretariat), operating around the clock on a shift system. Their function is to follow up the work of the monitoring teams in the field and to receive the complaints, violations and observations reported by observers and citizens and to convey them to the bodies concerned as rapidly as possible so as to halt the violations and limit their consequences.

The Monitoring Methodology on Polling and Counting Day

(a) The observers from the Centre's General Secretariat and the volunteers were distributed across the polling centres as set out in the following table:

Distribution of observers by governorate

Governorate	Number of Observers
The Capital and the Central Badia	70
Balqa	20
Zarqa	16
Madaba	13
Irbid	13
Ma'raq and the Northern Badia	27
Jerash	9
Ajloun	15
Ma'an and the Southern Badia	21
Karak	12
Tafileh	12
Aqaba	5

- The total number of volunteer observers distributed across the governorates of the Kingdom was two hundred and twenty (220), of whom one hundred and ten (110) volunteers took part, in addition to three (3) coordinators from the General Secretariat.

[Editorial note: the figures in the table above total 233. See Editorial note 2.]

- Each observer was provided with the polling centre and the number of the box he was to follow, in accordance with the plan prepared in advance by the elections monitoring team. All observers were notified of the necessity of being present at the premises of the polling centres they had volunteered to monitor at precisely half past six in the morning of election day, 22 March 2022; each volunteer undertook the task of monitoring a single box throughout polling day.
- During the procedures for the opening of the box, each observer completed the form pertaining to that stage in paper form and sent it electronically by the WhatsApp application, repeating this at each temporal stage up to the stage of the closing of the box and the counting and results procedures. The forms delivered to the volunteer observers covered all the stages of the electoral process on polling day and contained all the precise details thereof.
- Simultaneously with the field volunteers' monitoring of the electoral process, the Centre received the complaints, violations and observations submitted by citizens with a high degree of

professionalism and a very rapid response, and these observations were conveyed to the Independent Election Commission directly through the General Coordinator.

Axis Three: Monitoring of the Procedures Preceding Polling Day

First: The Issuance of the Decision of the Council of Ministers and the Fixing of the Polling Date

The Council of Ministers resolved, at its session of Wednesday 24 November 2021, to hold elections for the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council. Accordingly, the Board of Commissioners of the Independent Election Commission resolved to fix Tuesday 22 March 2022 as the date for the polling and counting for the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council, pursuant to the provisions of Article (35), paragraph (a)(1) and paragraph (a)(2), of the Local Administration Law No. (22) of (2021), and Article 6(c) of the Greater Amman Municipality Law No. 18 of 2021.

Second: The Preparation of the Voter Registers

- The Independent Election Commission published on its website the preliminary voter registers for the elections. The Commission indicated that the preliminary voter registers would be displayed from the morning of Saturday 18 December 2021 at the premises of the electoral committees and at the display locations designated by the Commission, four hundred and thirty-eight (438) in number, which would be published on the Commission's website, pursuant to the provisions of Article (36) of the Local Administration Law No. 22 of 2021 and Article (6) of the Greater Amman Municipality Law No. (18) of 2021. Accordingly, the preliminary registers would be displayed for seven days at the premises of the electoral committee. Every voter who found an error in his own particulars entered in the preliminary voter registers, or an error in the determination of his polling centre, and every person whose name was not entered in the preliminary voter registers, is entitled to submit a written application to any civil status and passports office in the Kingdom for the correction of the error in his particulars, or for the amendment of his polling centre, or for the entry of his name in the registers, in accordance with the form prepared for that purpose, within ten days from the day following the date on which the chairmen of the electoral committees displayed the preliminary voter registers. Voters with disabilities and voters having a physical difficulty impeding their access to the polling centre designated for them may submit an application to any of the civil status offices for the substitution of those centres by others equipped and designated to receive them and to enable them to exercise their right to vote. Likewise, every voter whose name appears in the preliminary voter registers is entitled to object in writing to the Commission, through the chairman of the electoral committee, to the registration of another person in the preliminary voter registers within the municipal area or electoral district, within a period not exceeding seven days from the day following the date of the display of the preliminary voter registers, and in accordance with the conditions specified in the Executive Instructions on the Preparation of the Voter Registers for the Elections of the Governorate Councils, the Municipal Councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council, attaching to his objection the documents and particulars supporting and establishing the validity of his application.¹
- Simultaneously with the publication of the preliminary voter registers for the elections, the Commission launched a service for enquiring as to the municipal area, the electoral district, the

¹Published on the Commission's website on 17 December 2021: "The Independent Election Commission publishes the preliminary voter registers on its website | The Independent Election Commission (iec.jo)".

electoral district of the governorate council and the polling centre, by sending the national number to the free number (94455) from all networks. The Commission also announced the provision of an enquiry and observations service on the free number (117100), or by visiting the Commission's website in order to examine the preliminary voter registers, and for those wishing to object to the voter registers, or to correct an error in the particulars, or to amend the polling centre, so that all citizens might exercise their right in the forthcoming elections.²

- The Centre recorded the announcement by the Independent Election Commission on Saturday 25 December 2021 of the expiry of the period for objections in respect of third parties in the preliminary voter registers.
- The Centre recorded the announcement by the Independent Election Commission on 29 December 2021 of the expiry of the period for the submission of personal applications in respect of the preliminary voter registers.
- The Centre also recorded the results of the applications for objection in respect of third parties issued by the Independent Election Commission, and of the applications for objection in respect of oneself issued by the Civil Status and Passports Department. The decisions issued by the committee empowered to determine personal applications, or issued by the Board in respect of objections concerning third parties, are subject to challenge before the Court of First Instance within whose jurisdiction the municipal area or electoral district falls, within a period not exceeding three days from the day following the date of the expiry of the period of their display, in accordance with the Executive Instructions on the Preparation of the Voter Registers for the Elections. The following table sets out the number of challenges, the competent courts and the decision of the court.³

Challenges lodged against the voter registers, numbering (2)

No.	Number of Challenges	Court	Decision of the Court
1	One	Irbid Court of First Instance (Civil)	Challenge dismissed
2	One	Mafraq Court of First Instance (Civil)	Challenge dismissed

- The Centre recorded the publication by the Independent Election Commission on its website, on the morning of Tuesday 1 February 2022, of the final registers for the elections, in application of the provisions of Article 5(d)(1) of the Executive Instructions on the Preparation of the Voter Registers for the Elections of the Governorate Councils, the Municipal Councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council, issued pursuant to the Local Administration Law No. (22) of 2021 and the Greater Amman Municipality Law No. (18) of 2021. The Commission indicated that the number of voters for the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council had reached four million six hundred and two thousand one hundred and thirty-five (4,602,135) voters, of whom two million one hundred and sixty-four thousand seven hundred and ninety-five (2,164,795) were male and two million four hundred and thirty-seven thousand three hundred and forty (2,437,340) were female.

²Published on the Commission's website on 18 December 2021: "The Independent Election Commission launches an enquiry service by text message on the free number 94455 | The Independent Election Commission (iec.jo)".

³The Independent Election Commission.

Third: Candidacy for the Elections

- The Centre recorded the announcement by the Independent Election Commission that the date for candidacy for the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council would be Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 7, 8 and 9 February 2022. The Commission called upon those wishing to stand for membership of the governorate council or for the chairmanship or membership of the municipal council, if they were officials or employees in any ministry, government department, official public institution, public institution, municipality, or Arab, regional or international body, to submit their resignation sixty (60) days before the date of candidacy, that is to say before 9 December 2021. Likewise, a municipal lawyer wishing to stand for the chairmanship or membership of the municipal council must terminate his contract with the municipality within that period. As for a person wishing to stand for membership of the Greater Amman Municipality Council, he must, in accordance with its Law, submit his resignation one month before the commencement of the candidacy date, that is to say on 8 January 2022, if he is a member of the National Assembly or an official or employee in any ministry, government department, official public institution, public institution, municipality, or Arab, regional or international body; and any person contracting with the Municipality who wishes to stand must terminate his contract with it within that period.⁴
- The Independent Election Commission clarified, in a statement issued by it, that Article 6(a)(3) of the Greater Amman Municipality Law No. 18 of 2021 and Article 39(a)(3) of the Local Administration Law No. (22) of 2021 provide that "any person wishing to stand for membership of the governorate council or for the chairmanship or membership of the municipal council must submit his resignation sixty (60) days before the date of candidacy if he is an official or employee in any ministry, government department, official public institution, public institution, municipality, or Arab, regional or international body; and a municipal lawyer wishing to stand for the chairmanship or membership of the municipal council must terminate his contract with it within that period." Article 6(a)(3) of the Greater Amman Municipality Law No. 18 of 2021 further indicates that a person wishing to stand for the Greater Amman Municipality Council must submit his resignation thirty (30) days before the commencement of the candidacy date if he is a member of the National Assembly or an official or employee in any ministry, government department, official public institution, public institution, municipality, or Arab, regional or international body; and a person contracting with the Municipality who wishes to stand for membership of the Council must terminate his contract with it within that period. The provisions of the two aforementioned Articles extend to an applicant for retirement in respect of whom no decision of referral to retirement has been issued, such that the applicant for retirement must submit his resignation as set out above for the purposes of candidacy within the time limits mentioned above. The Centre also recorded the judicial challenges and the decisions of the central committee, whether submitted by persons wishing to stand whose applications had been rejected or by voters, and the mechanism for dealing with these objections and determining them.⁵

⁴Published on the website on 1 December 2021: "The Independent Election Commission: the seventh, eighth and ninth of next February set as the date for candidacy for the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council | The Independent Election Commission (iec.jo)".

⁵Published on the Commission's website on 6 December 2021: "Clarification from the Independent Election Commission | The Independent Election Commission (iec.jo)".

- The Centre also recorded the principal features of the candidacy process for the elections, with the following results:
 - (a) Ease of access by those wishing to stand to the premises of the electoral committees.
 - (b) The availability of directional signage to facilitate access to the premises at which the electoral committees worked.
 - (c) The announcement of the candidacy instructions in prominent places and in clear script.
 - (d) Ease of obtaining candidacy applications and their availability at the committees.
 - (e) Certain candidates commended the registration procedures and the mechanism for verifying the conditions of candidacy and their ease.
 - (f) Compliance by the electoral committees with the delivery of candidacy applications to the Independent Commission on the same day on which the applications were submitted.
 - (g) The delivery to each candidate of a written acknowledgement of receipt of his application.
- The Centre recorded on the Commission’s website, at midnight on Friday 26 February 2022 and for a period of two days, the publication of the preliminary lists of candidates, following the conclusion of the stage of challenges to the decisions of the Board of Commissioners of the Independent Election Commission by those whose candidacy applications had been rejected, in accordance with the provisions of the Law. The following table sets out in detail the challenges submitted to the courts and the decisions of the courts.⁶

Challenges lodged against the voter registers, numbering (2)

[Editorial note: this table is a repetition of the table appearing earlier under the voter registers. See Editorial note 4.]

No.	Number of Challenges	Court	Decision
1	1	Irbid Court of First Instance (Civil)	Challenge dismissed
2	1	Mafraq Court of First Instance (Civil)	Challenge dismissed

Fourth: Challenges to the Candidacy Process

- The Centre recorded the announcement by the Commission of the commencement of the stage of challenges to the preliminary lists of candidates for the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 28 February 2022 and 1 and 2 March 2022. The Commission indicated that, pursuant to the Executive Instructions on Candidacy for the Elections of the Governorate Councils, the Municipal Councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council of 2021, every voter is entitled to challenge the decisions of the Board of Commissioners accepting the candidacy application of any of the candidates within the limits of the municipal council or its electoral district, before the Court of First Instance within whose jurisdiction the municipal area or electoral district falls.

⁶The Independent Election Commission.

The following table sets out the challenges submitted by candidates to the courts and the decisions issued therein:⁷

Challenges lodged by candidates against the decision of the Board of Commissioners rejecting the candidacy application, numbering (9)

No.	Number of Challenges	Court	Decision
1	3	Irbid Court of First Instance	Challenge dismissed
2	3	Mafraq Court of First Instance	Challenge dismissed
3	2	Amman Court of First Instance	Challenge dismissed
4	1	Zarqa Court of First Instance	Challenge dismissed

The following table sets out the challenges submitted by voters against the decision of the Board of Commissioners accepting candidacy applications, and the decisions issued therein:⁸

Challenges lodged by voters against the decision accepting the candidacy application, numbering (6)

No.	Number of Challenges	Court	Decision
1	1	Ajloun Court of First Instance	Challenge allowed
2	1	Tafleh Court of First Instance	Challenge dismissed
3	1	Irbid Court of First Instance	Challenge dismissed
4	1	Zarqa Court of First Instance	Challenge dismissed
5	2	Amman Court of First Instance	1 challenge allowed 1 challenge dismissed

Fifth: Withdrawal of Candidates

- The Centre recorded the announcement by the Commission that the end of working hours on Monday 7 March 2022 was the final date for withdrawal from candidacy for the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council. Under Executive Instructions No. (4) of 2021 on Candidacy for the Elections of the Governorate Councils, the Municipal Councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council, any candidate may withdraw his candidacy by submitting a written application to the chairman of the election committee fourteen days before the official date; no withdrawal by any candidate shall be recognised after the expiry of that period; and the Commission must announce the withdrawal of any candidate in the municipal area or electoral district on its website.
- On 7 March 2022 the team recorded the announcement by the Commission of the expiry of the period fixed for the withdrawal of candidates from the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council.
- The elections team recorded the numbers of candidates who withdrew from the elections, totalling one hundred and forty-four (144) candidates, of whom one hundred and twenty-eight (128) were

⁷The Independent Election Commission.

⁸The Independent Election Commission.

male and sixteen (16) female. The number of those who withdrew from candidacy for the chairmanship of the municipality was fifty-one (51) candidates, all male; the number of those who withdrew from candidacy for membership of the governorate councils was twenty-four (24), of whom nineteen (19) were male and five (5) female; the number of those who withdrew from candidacy for membership of the municipal council was sixty-five (65) candidates, of whom fifty-four (54) were male and eleven (11) female; and the number of those who withdrew from candidacy for membership of the Greater Amman Municipality Council was four (4) candidates, all male. The total number of candidates for the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council after the withdrawals thus became four thousand six hundred and forty-seven (4,647) candidates, of whom three thousand eight hundred and one (3,801) were male and eight hundred and forty-six (846) female.⁹

Sixth: The Electoral Campaigning Stage

The stage of electoral campaigning for the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council began on the ninth day of the month of February 2022 and continued until 21 March 2022, pursuant to Article 3(a) of the Executive Instructions on the Rules governing Electoral Campaigning for the Governorate Councils, the Municipal Councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council. The electoral campaigns began by means of the familiar instruments of campaigning (social media, the media, banners and photographs) within the controls specified by the Law, the most prominent of these controls being that electoral campaigning must not transgress the provisions of the Constitution and the legislation in force, must respect freedom of opinion and thought, must not prejudice national unity and the security and stability of the homeland, must not discriminate between citizens, and must not involve the offering of material inducements.

In this connection, the elections team on Monday 8 March 2022 monitored the electoral campaigning of the candidates in order to ascertain the extent of the conformity of the electoral campaigning with the legislation governing electoral campaigning, as regards the non-obstruction of traffic movement, both pedestrian and vehicular, the extent of compliance with the place designated for the placing of electoral campaign material, and the manner in which funds were used during the electoral campaigns by the candidates.

The most prominent observations lie in the failure of candidates to comply with the timings of electoral campaigning. Notwithstanding the issuance by the Independent Election Commission of special instructions specifying the date of the commencement and conclusion of electoral campaigning, a number of candidates did not comply with the specified dates, whether for the commencement of the electoral campaign or for its conclusion, as appeared from the monitoring of certain practices that occurred before the date on which electoral campaigning was to begin. The results of the monitoring of the electoral campaigning stage are as follows:

1. The holding by certain areas of internal elections for the tribe or the area.
2. The invitation by certain candidates to voters before the commencement of electoral campaigning.
3. The announcement by certain candidates of their candidacy on behalf of their tribes before the specified date.

⁹Published on the Commission's website on 7 March 2022: "The Independent Election Commission: expiry of the period fixed for withdrawal from candidacy | The Independent Election Commission (iec.jo)".

4. Direct campaigning by candidates through social media and the various means of media.
5. Communication by candidates with voters by electronic message or telephone call after the expiry of the date of electoral campaigning (the period of electoral silence) preceding the poll by 24 hours.
6. The use of children by certain candidates to promote the electoral campaigns, whether at the campaign premises or in front of and through places of worship, and before the period specified for the electoral campaigns (the electoral silence).
7. The placing of electoral campaign material in places not designated for it, such as photographs and banners on traffic signs, trees, telephone and electricity poles and places of worship.
8. The failure to place campaign banners within the specified heights, and the placing of banners on bridges contrary to the governing legislation.
9. The disparity between the financial capacities of candidates in the field of the electoral campaigns or electoral campaigning.
10. Assaults by certain persons managing the electoral campaigns, by tearing the photographs and banners of other candidates or removing them from the places where they were located.

Axis Four: Monitoring of the Procedures of Polling Day

(a) The Stage of Opening the Boxes and the Commencement of the Voting Process

The monitoring of this stage comprised verification of a set of procedures in accordance with what is provided in the legislation relating to the municipal elections, among them: verification of the extent of compliance by the polling committees with the hour of the commencement of the electoral process; verification of the separation of the ballot boxes for males and females; that the boxes were empty of any papers before the commencement of the poll; that persons not authorised to enter did not enter the premises of the committees; the extent of the voter's ability to reach the polling centres; whether the ballot papers were counted and a minute to that effect prepared and signed; the existence of paper and electronic registers of the names of voters, together with the availability of objection forms at the committees; that the boxes were located in places visible to all; a booth ensuring privacy; and a portable step for persons of short stature.

The most prominent observations recorded at this stage were as follows:

1. The failure of certain committees to comply with the hour of the commencement of the electoral process notwithstanding its determination by the Independent Election Commission, the Centre having recorded the commencement of certain polling boxes after seven o'clock in the morning.
2. Certain observers recorded the unavailability of objection forms at certain committees.
3. Observers likewise recorded the presence of persons not authorised to enter inside the rooms of the ballot boxes at certain centres.
4. Certain polling centres were not equipped to receive persons with disabilities and older persons.
5. The unavailability of a register of the names of candidates at certain polling centres.
6. The prevention of the entry of companions of older persons at certain polling centres.

The stage of the opening of the boxes and the commencement of polling, in the boxes monitored

Monitoring Criterion	Percentage
Attendance of all members of the polling and counting committee before the commencement of the procedures for opening the box	92.8%
Presence in the polling room of persons other than the members of the polling and counting committee at the opening of the box and the drawing up of the minute	39.6%
Counting of the ballot papers before those present prior to the commencement of the polling process by the polling committee	83.3
Sex of the voters in the boxes monitored	Female (46.8%) Male (44.7%) Mixed (8.5%)
Opening of the box and displaying it empty before those present prior to the commencement of the polling process	91.4%
Signature of the minute by the committee and by such of those present as wished to sign	95.7%
Provision of a list of the voter registers in paper and electronic form in the polling room	97.9%
Provision of guidance on the polling procedures readily accessible to voters	72.9%

Monitoring Criterion	Percentage
The location of the ballot box permits those present and the members of the committee to observe the insertion of ballot papers into it	86.3%
Designation of a booth affording privacy to the voter	95.9%
Provision of ink in the polling room	98.9%
Observation of manifestations of electoral campaigning in front of or inside the polling centres	33%
Provision of all the requisites and equipment necessary for the polling process	97.9%
Presence of drawings or signs affecting the will of the voter	18.3%
Polling centres equipped to receive persons with disabilities	79.8%
Invitation of voters to enter the polling rooms by the chairman of the polling committee before 7 a.m. / at 7 a.m. / after 7 a.m.	[blank in the original]
Permitting observers to follow the commencement of the polling process without the imposition of any restrictions	97.9%
Existence of directional aids to facilitate voters' access to the polling centres	94.8%

[Editorial note: the percentage sign is absent from the entry "83.3" in the Arabic original; the sub-entries relating to the hour of the invitation of voters carry no percentages. See Editorial note 9.]

(b) The Polling Process

This process focuses on a number of procedures which must be verified, namely: verification of the identity of the voter by means of the civil status card; verification of the identity of a woman wearing the niqab; the marking of the voter's name in the voter register in paper and electronic form; that the ballot paper is signed and sealed by the chairman of the electoral committee; accessibility and environmental facilities for persons with disabilities and older persons; and others. The following table sets out the results of the team's monitoring of this process:

The polling process

Criterion	Percentage
Number of voters who had voted by four o'clock (4:00) in the afternoon	57.3%
Observation of manifestations of electoral campaigning in front of the polling centres	57.3%
Observation of children engaged in electoral campaigning for the benefit of one of the lists or candidates	46.5%
Verification by the polling and counting committee of the identity of the voter and of the presence of his name in the paper voter register inside the polling room	94.2%
Where the voter was a woman wearing the niqab, verification was carried out by a female member of the polling and counting committee or by the female police	94.1%
Verification of the identity of the voter by means of the electronic register using the barcode reader, and confirmation that the photograph on the card is of the voter himself	96.1%
Marking of the voter's name in the voter registers in paper form as having exercised his right to vote, and electronically	94.1%

Criterion	Percentage
Acceptance by the polling committee of supporting documents other than the personal card	7.8%
Verification of the absence of ink on the index finger of the voter's left hand and of the absence of any insulating substance thereon	96%
Delivery to the voter of a ballot paper sealed and signed by the chairman of the committee	99%
Explanation of the method of voting to the voter and to his companion, if any, before they commenced voting	97.1%
Prevention of any of the voters from voting	9.5%
Existence of attempts to influence voters' choices in voting, such as directing them to a particular candidate, or preventing them from voting, or influencing the choices of voters unable to read and write, and other manifestations of influence	7.7%
The voter placed the ballot paper in the box in the sight of the committee and those present	96.2%
Application of the designated ink to the index finger of the voter's left hand	98.1%
Existence of practices prejudicing the principle of the secrecy of the ballot (open or audible voting / writing the candidate's name outside the booth / the presence of more than one voter at the booth)	14.9%
Permitting the entry of persons not authorised to enter the polling room during the stages of polling	3.8%
Existence of attempts to obstruct the conduct of the polling process	1.1%
Abuse of members of the polling committee by any person	1.1%
Use by one of the voters of his mobile telephone for the purpose of photography or recording inside the booth or the polling room	10.7%
Use by one of the candidates' delegates of a mobile telephone or any means of photography or recording inside the polling and counting room	9.7%
Provision of objection forms and their availability to candidates and their delegates	85.7%
The committee proceeded to determine these objections	32%
Recording of objections in a register designated for that purpose	36.4%
Change of the polling and counting committee, or of its chairman or any of its members, during the polling process	5.7%
Permitting persons whose names were not entered in the voter register to vote	2.1%
According priority in voting to persons with disabilities	95.1%
Verification of the identity of the companion and that he is among the persons entitled to vote	95.1%
Verification that the companion has no special ink on the index finger of his right hand	95.1%
Recording of the companion's name in the space designated for that purpose in the register	95%
Explanation to the voter with a disability and to the companion of the method of marking the ballot paper	96.3%
The voter with a disability or his companion placed the ballot paper in the box in the sight of the committee and those present	92.6%

Criterion	Percentage
Application of the special ink to the index finger of the left hand of the voter with a disability and to the index finger of the right hand of the companion	93.8%
The chairman of the electoral committee assisted the voter with a disability where no companion was present	89.7%
Permitting one companion to assist more than one person with a disability	23.7%
One of the voters with disabilities expressed dissatisfaction with the procedures followed	9.1%
Provision of sign language interpreters to assist persons with disabilities at the polling centres	12.9%
The height of the booth and the box is suitable for persons with disabilities, particularly those with mobility impairments	16.5%
Provision of a step for persons with disabilities (persons of short stature) at the box and the booth	41.7%
The chairman of the committee fixed voting times for the members of the committee	75.3%
Permitting those working in the polling room from among the members of the polling committee to exercise their right to vote	76.6%
Those working at the polling centre exercised their right to vote in the same polling room	43.5%
The exercise by the chairman of the polling and counting committee of his right to vote disrupted the conduct of the electoral process	14.3%
The polling process was suspended while the members of the committee exercised their right to vote	16.1%
An attempt by one of the voters to exercise his right to vote more than once	3.2%
An attempt by someone to tamper with the ballot box and the paper and electronic electoral registers	5.2%
Observation of a voter carrying a firearm or any implement constituting a danger to security and public safety inside the polling and counting centre	3.1%
An attempt by a person to impersonate another or to assume his name for the purpose of voting	5.2%
An additional empty box was brought when the ballot box became full	31.3%
The additional box was displayed so that it was apparent to all that it was empty	55%
The operation of adding the box was recorded in a minute designated for that purpose	54.3%
The full box was retained inside the polling room in a secure place visible to those present	58.3%
Observation of any manifestations of electoral campaigning inside the polling centre during this period, such as the distribution of candidates' cards to voters, requesting the voter to vote for a particular candidate or list, and other manifestations	23.9%
The occurrence of any acts or manifestations of disorder during this period inside the polling centre	3.3%

Among the observations recorded by the monitoring team during this stage which must be mentioned are the following:

1. Weak turnout at the ballot boxes.
2. An attempt by certain persons to impersonate others in order to attempt to vote on another's behalf.
3. Overcrowding in front of certain polling centres and the failure of voters to comply with the health protocol.
4. The observation of certain Public Security personnel inside polling centres.
5. The failure to provide reasonable accommodation at certain polling centres for persons with disabilities and older persons.
6. The unavailability of sign language interpreters and interpreters for the deaf and mute at most polling centres.
7. The use of mobile telephones inside polling centres by certain voters and certain candidates' delegates.

(c) The Stage of the Conclusion of the Poll and the Closing of the Boxes

The stage of closing the ballot boxes, emptying them, counting the votes and announcing the preliminary results is the final stage of the electoral process. It is accordingly necessary at this stage to verify several conditions, the most important of them being the hour of closing, the permitting of observers to record the closing and counting process, and the presence of persons having no official capacity to attend. Several procedures must therefore be present, as follows:

1. The closing of the boxes at the hour specified by the Commission, namely seven o'clock.
2. Confirmation that a closing minute was drawn up in paper and electronic form.
3. The signature of the minute by the committee.
4. The correspondence of the number of ballot papers used with the number of voters.
5. Permitting the voters present inside the polling centre at the hour of closing to vote.

Results of the monitoring at this stage

Monitoring Criterion	Percentage
Permitting the voters present inside the polling centre after seven o'clock in the evening to vote	39.8%
Permitting monitors and candidates' delegates to observe the procedures for closing the box	97.1%
Presence in the polling room of persons other than the members of the polling and counting committee at the closing of the box	20.4%
Counting of the unused and spoiled papers, bundling them in a secure bag and placing them inside the bundling box designated for that purpose	93.8%
Drawing up of a minute concluding the poll and its signature by the chairman of the polling committee and its two members and by such of the candidates or their delegates as wished to sign	97.9%
Correspondence of the number of ballot papers used with the number of voters according to the paper register	93.6%
Where there was an excess or shortfall exceeding 3% between the number of ballot papers inside the box and the number of persons who actually voted	46.9%

Monitoring Criterion	Percentage
and were marked against their names in the paper and electronic schedules, the chairman of the electoral committee was notified thereof	
The occurrence of any acts or manifestations of disorder during this period inside the polling centre, and if so, what those manifestations were	4.7%

(d) The Counting and Results Stage

This stage comprises the opening of the boxes, the counting of the used, blank and cancelled papers and their reconciliation with the number of voters, the emptying of the box before the candidates and their delegates, that the place of emptying is free of any papers, the presence of persons not authorised to enter, the extraction of the preliminary results and their announcement, the preparation of the counting and results minute signed by the committee and by such of those present as wish to sign, and the affixing of a copy of the count to the door of the hall, as set out in the table below.

The counting and results stage

Monitoring Criterion	Percentage
Permitting observers and candidates' delegates to observe the vote counting process	96.9%
The opening of the box and the counting took place in the presence of the candidates or their delegates and the observers	95.9%
The presence of any person other than the members of the polling and counting committee upon the commencement of the counting process, his identity and capacity being specified	20.4%
The exclusion of one of those present upon the opening of the box and the commencement of the count	12.4%
Display of the box in a clear place permitting observers and candidates' delegates to follow the counting process	91.1%
Verification aloud of the particulars of the closed box as to the name of the district, the number of the box and the numbers of the seals, and their comparison with the particulars of the box specified in the minute concluding the poll	93.8%
Permitting any observer, candidate or candidate's delegate to verify the numbers of the seals before they were opened	79.5%
The side seals of the box were cut and the upper seals left uncut	78.7%
The box was emptied in full before those present	95.8%
The place of emptying the box was free of any papers	97.9%
An official joined the polling and counting committee to assist it in the count	31.6%
A camera was installed and the display screen placed in a position permitting all to view the ballot papers	95.9%
The vote counting process took place in the same room in which the polling had taken place	98%
Upon the opening of the boxes, the number of ballot papers corresponded to the number of voters according to the marked paper voter register	97%
The ballot paper was read aloud in a clear voice and displayed by means of the display screen to the observers properly and clearly	98%

Monitoring Criterion	Percentage
A malfunction occurred in the camera or the screen, or their use was impossible	11.5%
Where the camera malfunctioned, the ballot paper was read aloud and displayed before those present for their examination	59.3%
The papers obtained by each list were placed separately	95.9%
Objections were submitted by candidates or their delegates during the conduct of the vote counting process	5.7%
The committee responded to those objections and determined them immediately	79.3%
The objections were recorded in writing by the committee in a special minute	68%
A copy of the committee's decision was delivered to the person lodging the objection	73.1%
Where there was an excess or shortfall exceeding 3% between the number of ballot papers and the number of voters, the chairman of the electoral committee was notified thereof	68.4%
The counting minute was entered into the electronic electoral information system under the supervision of the chairman of the polling committee	97.9%
The result of the count in the box was announced immediately upon the conclusion of the counting process	95.9%
A copy of the electronic counting minutes was affixed to the door of the polling and counting room	92.3%
The votes were aggregated at the level of the electoral centre and a minute drawn up to that effect, with confirmation of the presence of a barcode on the minute	93.6%
The occurrence of any manifestations of disorder upon the announcement of the results of the count of the box	12.8%
The chairman of the committee followed up the electronic entry of the counting minute of the box and confirmed the correspondence of the paper minute with the electronic minute	95.9%
Printing of the electronic counting minute and confirmation of the presence of a barcode at the foot of the minute	98.9%
Signature of the electronic counting minute by the data entry operator after its approval and signature by the chairman and members of the polling committee	98.9%
Distribution of copies of the electronic counting minutes of the ballot boxes to candidates and their delegates	87.1%

Complaints and Observations on Polling Day

On polling day the National Centre for Human Rights received forty-two (42) complaints through the operations room prepared for that purpose, together with numerous observations from citizens. These were dealt with in accordance with the established procedures and referred directly to the Commission and thereafter followed up. The Commission took the necessary measures in respect of many of these observations immediately, and the termination of the violation was confirmed by communicating with the person submitting the complaint or observation as soon as the reply of the Independent Commission to the complaint was received by the Centre.

[Editorial note: the table below contains more entries than the figure of forty-two stated in the text. The text and the table are reproduced as they appear.]

Governorate	Electoral District	Name of Polling Centre	Substance of the Complaint	Measure taken by the Independent Election Commission
Balqa	Mahe	Mahe Mixed Basic School for Boys — box No. (6)	The chairman of the committee engaged in conduct liable to influence the will of voters by marking the voter's photograph in the polling booklet when handing it to citizens, and in particular to older persons.	After the observation was passed to the Independent Election Commission, the Commission referred the chairman of the polling committee for investigation.
Ma'an	Southern Badia	Husseiniyya Basic School for Girls — box No. 14	The identity of women wearing the niqab was being verified by the female police in the general hall, which brought the conduct of the electoral process to a halt.	After the observation was passed to the Commission, it took the appropriate measure, as a result of which the electoral process proceeded smoothly.
Ajloun	Southern Municipality	Box /11 — Ibbin Secondary School for Girls	Errors in the colours of the coloured stickers placed on the boxes and designated to identify the candidate.	The necessary action was taken by the Commission and the coloured stickers were corrected.
Ajloun	Southern Municipality	Box /15 — Ibbin Mixed Basic School	Errors in the barcodes of the boxes designated for the candidates.	After the observation was passed to the Commission, it took the necessary action and changed the barcode.
Tafleeh		Box No. (7) — Ain al-Bayda School	Non-compliance with the health protocol; the presence of Public Security personnel inside the polling centre; and the presence of electoral campaign material at the polling centre, which was being verified by the person submitting the complaint.	Passed to the Commission.
Ajloun	Fourth	Boxes 9, 10, 11, 12	The chairmen of the polling committees were outside the polling rooms, leaving the polling seal inside the rooms.	Passed to the Commission.
Salt		Mahe Mixed Basic School — box 6	An incident recurring twice in the presence of an observer, in which more than one paper was drawn from the booklet. Enquiry was made and the official stated that this was due to the poor quality of the paper.	After the observation was passed to the Commission, it stated that the matter was due to the smoothness of the paper.
Tafleeh	Tafleeh	Ain al-Bayda Mixed Basic School — box No. 7	Failure to comply with the wearing of masks and with physical distancing; the presence of Public Security personnel inside the polling centres; gatherings in front of the polling centres; non-compliance inside the centre by the delegates; electoral campaigning at the polling centre; the presence of	Upon verification of the complaint by communicating with the observer, he stated that there was no electoral campaigning.

Governorate	Electoral District	Name of Polling Centre	Substance of the Complaint	Measure taken by the Independent Election Commission
			unauthorised persons inside the hall.	
Ma'an	Southern Badia	Husseiniyya Basic School for Girls — box No. 14	Voting was halted because the chairman of the committee required women wearing the niqab to unveil before the committee.	Duplicate complaint.
Ma'an	First	Ma'an Secondary School for Girls	An altercation at the entrance to the centre concerning the procedure in respect of a woman entering to vote in the name of another woman; crowding at the doors of the boxes.	Passed to the Commission.
Mafraq	Mafraq	al-Manara Mixed Secondary School for Girls — box 7	Companions of older persons and of illiterate persons were not permitted to enter with them by the Public Security personnel at the polling centre; there was also a problem relating to the security network.	After the observation was passed to the Commission, companions were permitted to enter the polling centres in order to provide assistance to older persons.
Jerash		Souf Secondary School for Boys	The buying of allegiances for the decentralisation candidate Ibrahim al-Atoum; a voting rate not exceeding 10%.	Passed to the Commission.
Amman	Wadi al-Seer Secondary School for Girls	Wadi al-Seer Secondary School for Girls — box No. 39	The method of voting by persons with disabilities: all the boxes are on the second floor, and where a person with a disability is present a member of the committee descends to him and, after verifying his identity and taking the ballot paper from him, the member inserts it into the box on his behalf, in the presence of an observer should they so wish. 2. The voters' papers were not counted; the number communicated to them was adopted and they were not counted.	Passed to the Commission. The Commission stated that, where a person with a disability is present, the chairman of the committee, accompanied by such observers or media personnel as wish to attend, descends to him and verifies his identity, then returns to the hall and the information is entered electronically, and he then returns once more with the ballot paper, whereupon the voter casts his vote before the chairman of the committee and his companion.
Irbid		al-Mughayyir Comprehensive Secondary School for Girls	The repeated photographing of the ballot paper at this school five times since the morning, by voters; the chairman of the committee merely deleted the photographs from the voter's telephone by way of action on this violation.	Passed to the Commission.
Amman		Princess Rahma bint al-Hassan School — hall No. (133)	There was no electronic code on the ballot boxes; this was noticed by the liaison officer and the code was affixed at 11:15.	Passed to the Commission.

Governorate	Electoral District	Name of Polling Centre	Substance of the Complaint	Measure taken by the Independent Election Commission
Madaba		al-Ma'muniyya al-Gharbiyya Secondary School for Boys	There are two boxes on the ground floor and the polling centre is not equipped for persons with hearing and visual impairments, there being no sign language interpreters and no guidance in Braille. Companions of persons with mobility impairments were observed and their identities verified. As regards companions of older persons, the companions were prevented from entering by the chairman of the committee, and the chairman himself accompanied the older person.	Passed to the Commission. The reply was that companions of older persons were permitted to enter the premises of the ballot box.
Karak		al-Shihabiyya Secondary School for Boys — box No. 3	Photography inside the polling centres; the incident recurred four times.	Passed to the Commission.
Mafraq		al-Rabi' School	Candidates' delegates distributing electoral campaign material within the precincts of the polling centre; photographs were documented.	Passed to the Commission. The Commission replied that it had formed a committee to verify the report.
Jerash		A tour was made of several polling centres in the governorate	Heavy crowding in front of the schools by supporters of candidates.	Not passed to the Commission as falling outside its competence.
Jerash		al-Burj Secondary School for Girls	An altercation at the door of the centre between the supporters of candidates (the candidate Hamza al-Hawamdeh and the candidate Dr Ali Abu Hamza).	Not passed to the Commission as falling outside its competence.
Tafileh		Ain al-Bayda Secondary School for Girls	Voting was suspended for prayer, which gave rise to an uproar among voters and to the submission of a complaint to the Commission.	Passed to the Independent Election Commission.
Central Badia		al-Rajm Secondary School for Girls	The centre's observer, who submitted the complaint, was prevented from recording the numbers of voters and of ballot papers, on account of his request to examine the particulars of the voters and of those who had voted and to examine the ballot box; and he was prevented from entering the polling room by the centre director Mus'ab Abu Zeid.	Passed to the Commission. The reply was that the observer was engaged in electoral campaigning for one of the candidates.
Irbid		al-Mughayyir Secondary School for Girls	A child was present inside the polling room more than once, and more than ten children were present inside the centre before two o'clock; they were prevented by the chairman of the committee.	Passed.

Governorate	Electoral District	Name of Polling Centre	Substance of the Complaint	Measure taken by the Independent Election Commission
Ajloun		al-Khansa Secondary School for Girls	A child was present inside the polling room more than once; a photograph was sent as an attachment to the General Coordinator on his telephone.	Passed.
Northern Badia		Hawsha Secondary School for Girls	The internet was cut off at the polling centre from 2:40 to 3:05 and the process was suspended; this recurred ten minutes or a quarter of an hour earlier at 2:45; and the outage occurred a third time.	Passed.
Ma'an		Ma'an Basic School	The absence of a female official of the Commission to verify the identity of women wearing the niqab, notwithstanding the presence of 70 such voters. The female police were called upon. In addition, verbal altercations occurred inside the centre between candidates' delegates at the time of the incident, at approximately 2:30.	Passed to the Commission. The reply was that the female police verify the identity of the voter wearing the niqab.
Jerash		al-Khansa School	Electoral campaigning by candidates and their supporters inside the centre; the presence of several voters inside the hall and at the booth; a voter speaking by telephone during voting; and the chairman of the electoral committee leaving his place and going to the booth to assist in the manner of making a choice.	Passed.
Amman / Abu Nseir		Tariq bin Ziyad School / Abu Nseir	The presence of electoral campaign material outside the walls of the polling centre, in addition to the presence of voter lists in the hands of the candidates' delegates.	Not passed, the campaign material being outside the walls.
Irbid	District 13	al-Mughayyir Secondary School for Boys	Information was heard from one of the candidates as to a case of impersonation, a girl having come to vote on behalf of her sister or of another.	Passed to the Commission. The Commission replied that the matter had been referred to the public prosecutor.
Irbid	District 13	al-Mughayyir Secondary School for Boys	The photographing of a ballot paper at the same school, in box No. 5; she justified her conduct as being for the purpose of confirming that she had voted for the candidate. A record was drawn up at 3:30 by the chairman of the committee.	Passed to the Commission.
Zarqa	First	Muhammad al-Qasim School	A group of supporters distributed electoral campaign material and then disappeared — that is to say, they conducted electoral campaigns at the polling centre.	Passed to the Commission.

Governorate	Electoral District	Name of Polling Centre	Substance of the Complaint	Measure taken by the Independent Election Commission
Zarqa	All districts in the governorate		In front of the polling centres there are persons influencing the will of voters to elect particular candidates.	Passed to the Commission.
Madaba		al-Ma'muniyya School / Greek Patriarchate School	The presence of children at the entrances of the polling centres and the distribution by them of electoral campaign material. It was also recorded at al-Ma'muniyya School that the chairman of the committee accompanied older persons and persons with disabilities in order to assist them in the polling process.	Passed to the Commission.
The Capital		Rashid Tali' Basic School / Hayy al-Rashid School	A very noticeable presence of candidates' delegates at the entrances of the school, together with the distribution of leaflets and cards of the candidates; and likewise the presence of children doing the same in front of al-Qadisiyya School, Hayy al-Rashid.	Passed to the Commission.
The Capital	In various areas — Khalda and Wadi al-Seer		The distribution of electoral campaign material at al-Shuraiqi School, Khalda, and at Wadi al-Seer Secondary School for Girls. A case was recorded in which a female delegate of a candidate accompanied one of the female voters to the booth and was able to see the ballot paper and asked her to vote in favour of her candidate, pleading in justification that the voter was young in age and that she had therefore asked her to vote openly.	Passed to the Commission.
New Zarqa		al-Qurtubi School	The sons of the Member of Parliament Muhammad Musa al-Ghuwairi were embarrassing voters at the entrance to the polling centre and influencing them to vote in favour of one of the candidates; voters complained of this conduct.	Passed to the Commission.
Mafrq — Bal'ama		Bal'ama Secondary School for Girls	The chairman of the committee, Riyad al-Shdaifat, sent a delegate who took a booklet containing approximately 100 ballot papers, and the chairmen of the ballot box committees signed. The director of the polling centre was asked about this and confirmed the matter; the boxes were Nos. (9) and (11). The pretext was their distribution to the Bal'ama district to make up a shortfall.	Passed to the Commission.

Governorate	Electoral District	Name of Polling Centre	Substance of the Complaint	Measure taken by the Independent Election Commission
			Upon reference to Mr Riyad Shdaifat, chairman of the Bal'ama district committee, he confirmed to him that the signatures of all the members of the committee had been taken and that there was no coordination or organisation as to the number of papers received from the printer.	
The Capital		Marj al-Hamam School	The internet was disconnected more than once, and voting ended at precisely seven o'clock.	Passed to the Commission.
The Capital		Dahiyat al-Hussein Basic and Secondary School	Security refused entry to a voter at 6:58.	
Ajloun			An observation from the coordinator, informing me that the observers' telephones were required to be switched off in Ajloun governorate in particular; he will provide us with updates on the other governorates.	Passed to the Commission.
The Capital		Umm Tufail School	There was no closing seal number on the box.	Passed to the Commission.
Aqaba		al-Hussein Basic School	The cancellation of two ballot papers, one of them by reason of a printing error in it.	
Television	Television monitoring		The team of the National Centre for Human Rights monitored, by way of Jordan Television, the presence of a member of the Public Security personnel during the counting of a ballot box and of the ballot papers together with the members of the committee. The Commissioner General confirmed the presence of Public Security personnel during the field tour inside the polling centres.	
Ma'an — at 12:45		Great Arab Revolt School	Open voting in box No. 28 by voters.	Passed to the Commission.
Amman — at 1:20		Nazzal Basic School	The centre's observer, who submitted the complaint, was prevented from entering the preliminary counting centre on the ground that he was five minutes late, according to his account.	Passed to the Commission.
Amman	Sukayna bint al-Hussein School / Jabal al-Hussein		Certain candidates' delegates continued to engage in electoral campaigning inside the polling centre and then left the polling centre.	Passed to the Commission.

Governorate	Electoral District	Name of Polling Centre	Substance of the Complaint	Measure taken by the Independent Election Commission
Amman	Marj al-Hamam Mixed Basic School		Confusion prevailed in the counting process: after the commencement of the count of the Municipality box, the chairman of the committee was instructed to halt and postpone the count of the Local Administration (decentralisation) box.	Passed to the Commission.
			Sealed and empty ballot papers were being circulated among citizens.	1. In order to verify and establish this, photographs proving it were requested; she denied it and photographs were requested if any existed. 2. The Commission was contacted in this regard and the reply was that it required photographs proving the incident.

Axis Five: Monitoring of the Procedures Following Polling Day

First: The Stage of Monitoring the Challenges to the Election Results

The team monitored the challenges relating to the election results submitted by citizens and candidates alike to the competent courts, pursuant to the text of Article (42) of the Local Administration Law No. 22 of 2021. The number of challenges submitted to the competent courts reached seventeen (17) challenges, the court being required to determine the matter within a maximum of 30 days from the date of the submission of the challenge. The following table sets out the number of challenges, the courts and the decision:

Challenges lodged against the election results, numbering (17)

No.	Number of Challenges	Court	Decision
1	3	Mafraq Court of First Instance	Still pending
2	3	Amman Court of First Instance	Still pending
3	1	Madaba Court of First Instance	Still pending
4	1	Jerash Court of First Instance	Still pending
5	1	Karak Court of First Instance	Still pending
6	1	Salt Court of First Instance	Still pending
7	2	Ajloun Court of First Instance	Still pending
8	3	Irbid Court of First Instance	Still pending
9	4	Ma'an Court of First Instance	Still pending

[Editorial note: the rows of the table total 19, whereas the heading and the text state 17. See Editorial note 3.]

Axis Six: The Participation of Women, Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons in the Elections of the Governorate Councils, the Municipal Councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council for the Year 2022

[Editorial note: this chapter contains no text in the Arabic original beyond the placeholder line "Report on the categories most in need of protection". See Editorial note 6.]

Axis Seven: Statements Issued by the Centre on Polling Day

[Editorial note: the table of contents gives this chapter as "The role of the media in the electoral process". See Editorial note 5.]

Statement No. (1)

"The National Centre for Human Rights" issues its first statement on the conduct of the municipal elections

Amman — The National Centre for Human Rights has commenced monitoring the conduct of the polling process within the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council. From the opening of the ballot boxes until the moment of the preparation of this report, the Centre has recorded the following observations:

- It was observed in the first hours of the electoral process that there was a general weakness in the turnout for the polling process in the various governorates of the Kingdom.
- A delay in the opening of the ballot boxes at certain centres in various governorates of the Kingdom.
- An error in the colours of the boxes, which it had previously been announced would be distinguished by blue for the box of the mayor, silver for the box of the members of the municipal council, and green for the members of the governorate council, at one of the polling centres in Ajloun Governorate.
- Errors in the QR barcodes at one of the polling centres in Ajloun Governorate.
- Influence upon the will of voters by one of the chairmen of the committees, by marking the voter's photograph in the polling booklet when handing it to the voter, and in particular to older persons, at one of the polling centres in Balqa Governorate.
- The unavailability of facilitative arrangements for persons with disabilities at a number of polling centres in Balqa Governorate, the ballot boxes being on the second floor, such persons being received on the first floor by the committee and the polling procedures pertaining to them being completed there, whereupon a member of the committee ascends to the second floor and places the ballot paper in the box on the voter's behalf.
- The presence of electoral campaign material at one of the polling centres in Tafileh Governorate.

The Centre indicates in this regard that it has been sending the monitoring observations relating to the conduct of the electoral process to the Independent Election Commission as they arise, with a view to their remedy, it being noted that some of these observations have been remedied and that coordination continues in respect of the remaining observations.

It is recalled that the Centre has prepared an operations room equipped with all the requirements necessary for recording and monitoring the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council. The room commenced its work from the first day of the announcement by the Independent Election Commission of the polling date on the eighth of the present month, and will continue its work and monitoring throughout all the stages of the electoral process.

The Centre affirms that its operations room receives citizens' complaints as to the conduct of the electoral process through the hotline number (0798866884) and the landline telephone numbers (065932257 —

065930072 — 065920396), and that the Centre will work to follow them up and document them in its reports and statements.

Statement No. (2)

"The National Centre for Human Rights" issues its second statement on the conduct of the municipal elections

Amman — The National Centre for Human Rights has continued monitoring the conduct of the polling process within the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council. Up to the moment of the preparation of this second statement, the Centre has recorded the following observations:

- The team recorded the photographing of the ballot paper by certain voters inside certain polling centres in the governorates of Irbid and Karak, and likewise recorded that one of the chairmen of the committees at one of the centres deleted the photographs from the telephone of one of the voters.
- The absence of an electronic code on the ballot boxes at one of the polling centres in the Capital Governorate, a situation which continued until 11:15 in the morning.
- The team recorded vote-buying operations in Jerash Governorate.
- The team recorded gatherings and heavy crowding in front of the polling centres by supporters of candidates at a number of polling centres in the governorates.
- The distribution of candidates' campaign cards inside certain polling centres by candidates' delegates, simultaneously with the period of electoral silence, in addition to the widespread proliferation of manifestations of electoral campaigning throughout the governorates of the Kingdom.
- It was observed that children were distributing electoral campaign material in front of and inside certain polling centres in several governorates.
- Attempts by supporters of certain candidates and by their delegates to influence the will of voters.
- The team recorded open voting at certain polling centres in Ma'an Governorate.
- The Centre recorded the occurrence of an altercation between supporters of certain candidates in front of one of the polling centres in Jerash Governorate.
- Polling was suspended at one of the polling centres in Tafileh Governorate, which led to disorder among the assembled voters.
- The Centre's team recorded the searching of voters by Public Security officers at one of the polling centres in the Capital Governorate, whereas the team did not record this at any other centres.
- The Centre's team recorded a failure to comply with the electronic scanning of the personal identity card by the polling committee at one of the polling centres in the Capital Governorate.
- The absence of facilitative arrangements for persons with hearing and visual impairments at one of the polling centres in Madaba Governorate, there being no sign language interpreters and the hall not being equipped for the blind.

- The absence of facilitative arrangements for persons with disabilities and older persons at several polling centres in the Capital Governorate, the ballot boxes being on the second floor, such persons being received on the first floor by the committee and the polling procedures pertaining to them being completed there, whereupon a member of the committee ascends to the second floor and places the ballot paper in the box on the voter's behalf.
- The Independent Election Commission provided in Aqaba Governorate a sign language interpreter for the deaf and mute, together with the provision of a vehicle for persons with mobility impairments upon request.
- One of the observers was removed from one of the polling centres by reason of his requesting certain information from the polling committee.
- The absence of a clear mechanism as regards the verification of the identity of voters wearing the niqab at certain polling centres in Ma'an Governorate, which led to the occurrence of difficulties at these centres.
- A tangible disparity in the application of the health protocol and the public safety procedures at the polling centres.
- Weak turnout generally for the electoral process.

The Centre indicates in this regard that it has been sending the monitoring observations relating to the conduct of the electoral process to the Independent Election Commission as they arise, with a view to their remedy.

It is recalled that the Centre has prepared an operations room equipped with all the requirements necessary for recording and monitoring the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council. The room commenced its work from the first day of the announcement by the Independent Election Commission of the polling date on the eighth of the present month, and will continue its work and monitoring throughout all the stages of the electoral process.

The Centre affirms that its operations room receives citizens' complaints as to the conduct of the electoral process through the hotline number (0798866884) and the landline telephone numbers (065932257 — 065930072 — 065920396), and that the Centre will work to follow them up and document them in its reports and statements.

Statement No. (3)

"The National Centre for Human Rights" issues its third statement on the conduct of the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council

Amman — The National Centre for Human Rights has continued monitoring the conduct of the polling process within the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council, the Centre having recorded the following observations concerning the period preceding the closing of the boxes, in addition to the observations relating to the closing process:

- The continuation of electoral campaigning inside and in front of the polling centres in the various governorates of the Kingdom, and the continued use of children for that purpose.

- The team recorded an attempt by the sons of one of the candidates to influence the will of voters at the entrance of one of the polling centres in Zarqa Governorate, which provoked the displeasure of voters.
- The accompanying by a female delegate of one of the candidates of one of the female voters to the booth and her request to her to vote in favour of one of the candidates, together with her examination of that voter's ballot paper, at one of the polling centres in the Capital Governorate.
- The cutting off of the internet more than once at one of the polling centres in the Northern Badia, and at one of the centres in the Capital Governorate, with the consequent suspension of the electoral process.
- The continued photographing of ballot papers at certain polling centres and the publication of some of these photographs in the form of video clips on social media.
- The team recorded the presence of voter lists in the hands of candidates' delegates and their marking of the voter's name at certain polling centres in the Capital Governorate.
- The team recorded a voter speaking by telephone while carrying out the polling process inside the booth at one of the polling centres of Jerash Governorate.
- The team recorded an operation of impersonation of one of the voters by a person, who was referred to the public prosecutor.
- The transfer of two polling booklets from one polling centre to another in Mafraq Governorate by the chairman of the polling committee.
- The presence of Public Security personnel inside certain centres during the polling process and during the counting process.
- The team recorded the prevention by Public Security of the entry of one of the voters at (6:58) to his polling centre, at one of the polling centres in the Capital Governorate.
- Delay in the closing of the boxes at three polling centres in the Capital Governorate.
- The requirement that all observers switch off their telephones and set them aside after the closing of the ballot boxes at more than one polling centre in Ajloun Governorate, which prevented the observers from sending their monitoring observations, whereas the team recorded that the telephones remained with the observers at the other polling centres.
- The counting process began at one of the polling centres without the screens designated for the counting process being switched on.

The Centre indicates in this regard that it has been sending the monitoring observations relating to the conduct of the electoral process to the Independent Election Commission as they arise, with a view to their remedy. The Centre has received several replies from the Commission in this regard, the most prominent of them being the referral of the chairman of a committee at one of the polling centres to an investigation committee by reason of violations committed by him; in addition, the search carried out by Public Security personnel of voters at one of the polling centres in the Capital Governorate was based upon a report of the presence of armed persons. Coordination continues in respect of the remaining observations.

It is recalled that the Centre has prepared an operations room equipped with all the requirements necessary for recording and monitoring the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council. The room commenced its work from the first day of the

announcement by the Independent Election Commission of the polling date on the eighth of the present month, and will continue its work and monitoring throughout all the stages of the electoral process. The Centre affirms that its operations room receives citizens' complaints as to the conduct of the electoral process through the hotline number (0798866884) and the landline telephone numbers (065932257 — 065930072 — 065920396).

Findings and Recommendations

Findings

All the measures taken by the Independent Election Commission with a view to the success of the conduct of the electoral process were good; the Centre, however, noted certain observations which it hopes will not be repeated, namely the following:

1. The failure of certain candidates to comply with the instructions issued by the Independent Commission relating to the dates and places of electoral campaigning, and the use of mosques, places of worship and children for electoral campaigning.
2. The failure of certain polling committees to comply with the dates fixed for the opening and closing of the ballot boxes, in addition to the presence of unauthorised persons inside the polling room (police); that some of these committees were not equipped to receive persons with disabilities and older persons and prevented the entry of their companions to the polling centres; the unavailability of sign language interpreters at most polling centres; and the use of mobile telephones by voters inside the polling room.
3. Notwithstanding the strenuous efforts made by the Independent Election Commission, it overlooked the aspect of providing for the submission of an application to change the place of voting electronically, which would enable all persons with disabilities and older persons to exercise their right to vote.
4. Weak turnout at the ballot boxes generally, the number of persons who exercised their right to vote having reached one million three hundred and sixty-three thousand four hundred and sixty-five (1,363,465) persons, whereas the number of voters for the elections of the governorate councils, the municipal councils and the Greater Amman Municipality Council was four million six hundred and two thousand one hundred and thirty-five (4,602,135) voters, of whom two million one hundred and sixty-four thousand seven hundred and ninety-five (2,164,795) were male and two million four hundred and thirty-seven thousand three hundred and forty (2,437,340) female.
5. Attempts to influence the will of voters by certain polling committees in the polling rooms.
6. The repeated interruption of the electricity supply and the weakness of the internet networks at certain polling centres, particularly in light of the reliance upon the barcode and the electronic scanning of identity cards.
7. The failure to designate rooms or booths and a female official of the Commission to verify the identity of a voter wearing the niqab.
8. The unavailability of advance information concerning persons with disabilities.

Recommendations

1. That regard be had to the Centre's earlier position on the Local Administration Law of 2021, which affirmed that "the Local Administration Law of 2021 did not embody the substance of Articles (120) and (121) of the Jordanian Constitution and does not give effect to the essence of decentralisation, which is regarded as a form of administrative democracy, that is to say popular participation at the local level, and which requires recognition of the legal personality of the local

councils, the conferral upon them of independence and actual competences, and the confinement of the oversight of the central authority over the governorate councils within the scope of administrative tutelage." The Centre affirms that the Law adopted the system of administrative deconcentration and did not embody in its substance the system of administrative decentralisation. Administrative deconcentration is an intermediate stage between administrative centralisation and decentralisation, and is confined to delegating to the representatives of the central authority in the governorates actual powers which they exercise on behalf of the central authority.

2. The amendment of the Local Administration Law No. (22) of 2021 and of the Greater Amman Municipality Law No. (18) of 2021 by the addition of a special provision for the representation of persons with disabilities so as to guarantee the exercise of their right to stand for election.
3. The necessity of including in the Election Law provisions imposing deterrent penalties upon the perpetrators of electoral offences, and of according to these offences the character of urgency for the purposes of their determination by the competent court.
4. That the Independent Election Commission undertake the following:
 - (a) The training and qualification of the polling committees in the skills of dealing with various types of personality, so as to guarantee the integrity and administration of the electoral process in accordance with the laws and instructions governing that process.
 - (b) The provision of a suitable environment for the procedures of polling day, beginning with the provision of polling places guaranteeing that voters may cast their votes with ease and guaranteeing their right to vote, and guaranteeing the integrity and transparency of the electoral process, with emphasis upon the creation of these conditions for persons with disabilities and older persons by way of improving the environment of the polling and counting room so as to guarantee the exercise of their right to vote without any impediments.
 - (c) The provision of a suitable booth for persons with disabilities and the provision of a step for persons of short stature.
 - (d) The provision of sign language interpreters for persons with disabilities.
 - (e) The provision of a service for the electronic submission of an application to change the place of voting, which would enable all persons with disabilities and older persons to exercise their right to vote.
 - (f) The intensification of oversight over electoral campaigning so as to guarantee the integrity and soundness of the electoral process and the non-use of mosques and children in electoral campaigning.
 - (g) Compliance with the times for the opening and closing of the boxes by the polling committees in accordance with the instructions governing the electoral process.
 - (h) Raising the awareness and understanding of members of society as to the importance of participation in the electoral process, by holding workshops and seminars throughout the Kingdom.
 - (i) The provision of the electronic equipment necessary to guarantee the continuity of the conduct of the electoral process, the non-interruption of the electricity supply, and the remedying of the internet networks.

- (j) Preventing the presence of any unauthorised person inside the polling and counting rooms.
- (k) Finding a solution to prevent the use of mobile telephones by voters and candidates' delegates, so as to avoid their being used in a manner prejudicing the electoral process.
- (l) The designation of rooms or booths and of a female official of the Independent Commission to verify the identity of a voter wearing the niqab.
- (m) The tightening of oversight over candidates' delegates so as to guarantee that the will of voters is not influenced inside the polling centres.
- (n) The monitoring of internal election processes outside the ballot boxes designated for that purpose.
- (o) The tightening of oversight over illicit money.
- (p) That the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities issue an identification card for persons with disabilities.

In Conclusion

All the observations set out above did not result in any prejudice to the conduct of the electoral process; the Centre hopes, however, that they will not be repeated.