



شبكة الانتخابات في العالم العربي

Elections Network in the Arab Region

Preliminary Report on the Election Day
Tunisia, October 27, 2014, 11:00 pm

Transparent and Fair Elections and Reasonable Participation

Election Network in the Arab Region (ENAR) expresses a positive evaluation of the legislative elections in Tunisia, which began at 7:00am on Sunday, 10/26/2014. The elections were held in 27 constituencies in the Republic of Tunisia and were distributed to 4534 centers and 10576 electoral offices, in addition to 6 constituencies outside Tunisia. This election marks the completion of the transition towards a democratic system, seeking to meet the aspirations of the Tunisian popular revolution against tyranny and corruption.

The elections were monitored by: the Independent Electoral Commission for Elections and civil observers from Tunisia, other Middle Eastern countries and the West. Accompanied by security measures, this ensured the electoral process was free from the risk of violence and terrorism. The transparency and impartiality of the management of these elections is a matter of pride and should be praised.

18 international observers from ENAR were distributed between seven constituencies, these being: the Tunisia First and Second Constituency Circuit, Ariana, Manouba, Ben Arous, Binzert and Nabel First Constituency. The Network Observers and electoral office staff attended the opening and observed the electoral process during the polling period in 78 centers and 392 polls. I have recorded the notes made by the network team and included them in two brief reports published on the Election Day. The network will publish the final report for the overall electoral process (parliamentary elections) after the official announcement of the final results.

The electoral process on polling day highlighted the following, important positive and negative points.

Positive points include:

1. The conduct of the voting process in accordance with applicable legal requirements
2. A safe and suitable environment for voters to reach polling stations and ballot
3. The adoption of international standards for secret balloting and direct voting as well as the provision of equal opportunities for all to participate in the ballot
4. Complete transparency in the instructions given on the electoral process and voting, especially the provision of information at the polling booth



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5. The assistance for those with special needs in voting
6. The opening of the polling stations on time, with the exception of a few, the presence of the requisite number of staff, and the provision of basic supplies for the voting process
7. The wide participation of the Tunisian people from all social backgrounds
8. The swift and immediate action taken by those responsible for the electoral process when made aware of any irregularities
9. The participation of local and international observers in observing and monitoring the elections. This final point is considered a positive step towards reaching the international standards for successful elections.

The negative points include:

1. Long queues of voters due to a lack of adherence to the upper limit of 400 voters per polling hall, as set by international standards
2. A failure to publish the names of voters in some polling centers in front of the offices
3. The presence of some electoral propaganda from some of the major parties
4. The disparity in ability of the office staff in dealing with the voting process, depending on their experience and training
5. The presence of some unidentified people in some polling stations
6. A lack of secrecy when voting in one of the polling stations, this being the Elementary School in the city of Binzert
7. The lack of sufficient staff to organize the queue of voters in center 66, in halls 1, 2 and 4 in Tunisia constituency 2
8. A lack of recording of the required information in the ballot box, for example in offices 1, 4 and 5 in center 63 of Tunisia constituency 2.
9. The turning of a blind eye by one member of the polling staff to the intervention of a representative from one of the major parties. This representative was attempting to influence the choices made by voters at center 66, Office 3 in Tunisia constituency 2
10. The absence of instructions for the voting mechanism in some polling stations
11. Inking of the voter's finger before completion of the ballot.

Recommendations:

The most important recommendations with regard to the Election Day include:

1. The division of constituencies in accordance with international standards, to ensure fairness in determining the number of voters in the polling rooms and address the overcrowding of voters
2. Improve the ability of staff in the management of polling stations through specialized training
3. The continued use of e-mail technology in the voting process with the requisite quality assurances



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4. Facilitation of access to the polling site for voters by increasing the number of polling stations so each station is no farther than 500 m from the place of residence
5. Ensure that a complete list of the voters is placed in front of polling stations
6. Inking the voter's finger after putting the ballot paper in the box so as not to cause any hindrance or damage to the paper
7. The creation of an appropriate environment and the provision of assistance for people with special needs in order to practice their electoral right
8. Allow supervisors to accompany the illiterate in order to help them vote
9. Adopt the reports and recommendations of local and international observers, taking them into account to prepare for the next electoral process.

ENAR confirms that the electoral process has in general been in accordance with the law and established procedures. The standards of confidentiality have been adopted universally, directly and transparently, which indicates the availability of conditions for free and fair elections that have been successfully implemented. The Independent High Electoral Commission does its utmost to secure this.

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