



**Общественное объединение**  
**Коалиция “За демократию и гражданское общество”**  
***Public Organization Coalition “For Democracy and Civil Society”***

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July 11, 2005  
English Translation of the Preliminary Report of the  
Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society

*Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society is a nongovernmental, independent and non-partisan organization working on strengthening democracy and building civic society in the Kyrgyz Republic. To conduct a large-scale monitoring program of the Presidential Elections of the Kyrgyz Republic of July 10, 2005, the Coalition united efforts of more than 170 nongovernmental organizations in all oblasts of the republic, and also joined the “I am For Fair Elections Civic Campaign,” organized by seven civic groups. One hundred and fifty long term observers (LTOs) participated in monitoring of the pre-election period in all raions of the republic. On the Election Day, the Coalition accredited independent observers in 1650 polling stations.*

*Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society has significant experience of monitoring election campaigns in Kyrgyzstan. It has monitored the referendum of October 1998, Local Elections of October 1999, Elections of Jogorku Kenesh Deputies in February-March 2000, Presidential Elections in October 2000, Referendum of February 2003, Local Elections of October 2004, and Parliamentary Elections of February- March 2005. Coalition observers have participated in international observation missions in Russia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and other countries.*

**Based on a summary of observations for the pre-election period and preliminary analysis of reports from Election Day, July 10, 2005, the Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society notes significant improvements in the administration of the election process and finds that the presidential election results correspond to the general will of the people of Kyrgyzstan,**

The violations and shortcomings that were reported in the election process did not significantly impact the results of the presidential elections. Unlawful campaigning, administrative interference in the activity of election commissions, hindrance of observers' activities, cases of family or group voting, ballot stuffing, and violations of the inking and vote counting procedures occurred in 2% or less of the polling stations monitored. Unlike all previous elections, there was only one observed case where commissioners deliberately filled the protocol with incorrect data.

At the same time, several aspects of the electoral process still need improvement:

- Hundreds of thousands of voters residing in cities do not have official registration, and thus are ineligible to vote.
- The Central Election Commission (CEC) refused to cooperate with Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society to monitor the quality of the voter lists at 150 polling stations nation wide. This is one of the ways in which the CEC failed to demonstrate sufficient understanding of the principles of transparency and cooperation with all participants in the electoral process.

**Voters' lists**

Voters' lists throughout the country raised significant concerns on Election Day. In addition to the traditional problems, in Batken and Jalalabat oblasts there were strong evidence of the arbitrary reduction of the number of voters by eliminating names of individuals presently in Bishkek or out of the country. For example, in Leilek rayon Batken oblast, up to 7,000 names were deleted from the original list of 47,000 voters. There is reason to believe that many of the voters were

deliberately reduced to make it easier to reach the 50% voters' turnout threshold. This dramatic reduction of the number of voters led to uncharacteristic levels of voter turnout, in some areas reported as high as 90%. The voters eliminated from the main lists had no difficulty being added to the additional voters' lists.

Election legislation required that the voters' list be posted for public inspection on June 21. In many rayons, this deadline was not met. In Osh, Jalalabad, Batken, Chui, and Issyk-kul oblasts the voters' lists were posted late because the rayon and city election commissions failed to provide the lists to the precinct on time. For instance, the election commissions of Bazarkorgon rayon received the voters' lists on June 29. In some rayons of Issykul oblast including Tup, Karakol, and Jetyoguz, the precinct election commissions (PECs) were instructed to post voters' lists only after the display boards paid for by the Japanese government were available on July 5.

Hundreds of thousands of voters living in Bishkek and other cities without official residence registration (propiska) in those cities were deprived of their constitutional right to vote. The Election Code requires a confirmation of permanent or dominant residence within the precinct's jurisdiction. This requirement is clearly out of date. Additionally, Kyrgyz citizens living outside of Kyrgyzstan have no residency requirement similar to propiska. The propiska requirement is no longer necessary to prevent vote fraud since the legislation requiring inking was implemented to prevent multiple voting. Further, the propiska requirement is a clear violation of citizens' constitutional right to participate in elections.

### **Organization of voting abroad**

- ❑ The Coalition expresses its concern about the CEC's decision to set up additional polling stations within Russia and Kazakhstan in physical sites outside the diplomatic service. This decision violates the equality of all citizens living abroad. Moreover, the organization of the 11 additional polling stations required significant expenditure of limited resources.
- ❑ Along with other partner organizations, the Coalition monitored ten election precincts in Russia. Unfortunately, law-enforcement agencies of the Russian Federation Interior Ministry in St-Petersburg, Moscow, Yekaterinburg and Kazan detained up to 100 Kyrgyz voters on their way to participate in elections.
- ❑ Voters' lists compiled for the remote polling stations were inaccurate. At one precinct election commission (PEC) in Yekaterinburg, only 131 of voters out of 984 voters included in the main list participated in elections. At the same time, it is unfair that citizens living abroad may vote with only their passport, while voters living in Kyrgyzstan must also meet the propiska requirement.
- ❑ At some polling stations election commissioners were ethnically Kyrgyz but citizens of the Russian Federation.

Among the positive trends preceding election day, Coalition emphasizes the following improvements:

- ❑ There was a reduction in the interference and abuse of authority by government bodies. Candidates had more direct access to the voters and mass media; and the public enjoyed a greater protection of civic freedoms, including the freedoms of public assembly and speech.
- ❑ The CEC, international organizations and public associations organized wide-scale elections education projects, featuring protection of youth rights, mobilization of voters, information campaigns on providing transparency of PEC activities, and training PEC commissioners. In particular, the Coalition recognizes the coordination of leading non-governmental organizations into one campaign called "I am For Fair Elections !" The Coalition also acknowledges BiTEL, the telecommunications company for conducting a get-out-the- vote campaign for users of mobile phones.
- ❑ Successful continuation of the exit polls implemented by a group of private sociological companies with the support of the Eurasia Fund. Exit poll results deviated minimally from the official results, which serves to strengthen the confidence of Kyrgyz voters in the results and the technology of exit polling.
- ❑ The unprecedented number groups of international observers, which increased the transparency of the presidential elections.

**In the next few weeks, the Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society will prepare a detailed report on the results of the election monitoring program and present it for wide distribution, in order to improve the electoral process.**