



Egyptian Association for Supporting Democratic Development

Registered no. (5469 – 2004)

November 26, 2005 – 11:00am

Press Release (1)

The Egyptian Association for the Support of Democratic Development (EASD) is monitoring the voting process during the run-off election for the second phase of Parliamentary elections on November 26, 2005 with 611 monitors in 63 districts throughout 9 governorates. From the opening of the polling stations at 8:00am until 11:00am, monitors located in the various governorates reported on numerous violations, including:

- 1. Security forces are surrounding many polling stations and preventing citizens from voting;**
- 2. Groups of voters are being assaulted and arrested by security forces;**
- 3. Judges are preventing monitors from entering the polling station in several cases, despite the monitors possession of badges from the Upper Parliamentary Election Committee and official letter from EASD;**
4. Opposition candidate agents, including the Muslim Brotherhood, are being expelled from numerous polling stations;
5. Various polling stations opened late; and,
6. Campaign literature in support of ruling party candidates is present within polling stations.

EASD strongly condemns the interference of security forces in the electoral process in favor of ruling party candidates. Such intervention threatens the integrity, credibility and legitimacy of the election before the eyes of all Egyptian citizens and the international community.

At the same time, EASD underscores that the assaults launched on its monitors and their being prevented from entering the polling stations constitutes a grave violation of the recent judicial ruling issued by the Administrative Court and the decision of the Upper Parliamentary Elections Committee (UPEC) regarding this matter. Accordingly, and in support of the principles of democracy and transparency, EASD demands that the UPEC and Judges' Club take immediate action to ensure these edicts are fully respected.

During the preliminary hours of the Election Day, EASD monitors observed a number of violations, including:

Intervention of security forces

- Security forces assaulted and injured EASD monitor **Amro Al-Shandwili** in the Wardiyan Secondary Girls' School polling center in Alexandria.
- Central security forces assaulted EASD monitor **Ahmed Alameddine** and prevented him from entering the Rashad Othman Elementary School polling center in Alexandria.
- Security forces expelled voters or prevented them from entering polling stations 47-49 in the Port Said Sport Stadium.
- In the Behira governorate, security forces surrounded the New Mahmoudiya Elementary School and Atef Elementary School polling centers, preventing voters from entering and casting their ballots.
- EASD monitors reported that central security forces closed the following polling stations in the district of Markaz Sanouris in Fayoum:
 - Polling stations 5-12 in the Radi School
 - Polling stations 13-16 in the Thawra School
 - Polling station 4 in the Saha School
 - Polling stations 17-25 in the Beni Otman School

Civilian arrests

- At 8:30am, EASD monitors reported that **SEVEN** supporters of Muslim Brotherhood candidate Akram Al-Shaar were arrested in the Ashtoum Al-Gamil School polling center in the Arab district of Port Said.
- Security forces arrested Muslim Brotherhood candidate Ali Ansar and his supporters, in the Montaza district of Alexandria, for distributing campaign fliers outside the Farouk Secondary Girls' School and Maamoura Elementary School polling centers.
- At the Azhar Elementary School and Secondary Girls' School in the Arab district of Port Said, EASD monitors witnessed Muslim Brotherhood candidates and loyalists being arrested and taken away by Major Amro Mahlab.
- Citizens Mohram Abd El-Salam and Borai El-Said Borai were arrested by security forces at the Said Al-Bishtili School polling center in the Ganayen 40th district of Suez.
- In the Qabouti Elementary School polling center in the Arab district of Port Said, EASD monitors reported the arrest of **TWENTY** representatives of Muslim Brotherhood candidate Akram Al-Shaar by State Security Lieutenant Mohamed Hazem. These representatives were taken away in a minivan with Port Said license number 11095. They include:
 - Ibrahim Al-Dessouki Khodeir
 - Mohamed Akram Al-Shaar
 - Said El-Swairki
 - Mohamed Al-Shabouri
 - Adel Abd El-Salam
 - Ahmed Abu Al-Maati

- Ali Al-Ghabari
- Mohamed Baligh
- Ahemd Radwan
- Hamdi Al-Bahri
- Amr Eid
- Hisham Hussein
- Moataz Youssef Al-Gendi
- Yasser Abdo, and others.

EASD calls for the immediate release of these individuals and stresses on the inherent right of all citizens to participate freely in the political process, as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Incidents of violence

- In front of polling station 16 in the Imam Mohamed Abdo Institute in the Mahhala district of Gharbiya, EASD monitors observed National Democratic Party (NDP) loyalists harassing their Muslim brotherhood counterparts.
- In the Said Al-Naggar School polling center in the Tanta district of Gharbiya, EASD monitors witnessed an outbreak of violence between NDP and Muslim Brotherhood supporters, which led security forces to use tear gas to disperse fighters.

Prevention of monitors from entering the polling stations

- EASD monitors were expelled or prevented from entering the following polling centers or stations:
 - **Taher Zein Secondary School** in the Montaza district of Alexandria
 - **Wardiyah Secondary Girls' School** in the Montaza district of Alexandria
 - **Istiqlal Wa Tarbiya Fikriya School** in the Tanta district of Gharbiya
 - **Said Al-Ariyan School** in the Tanta district of Gharbiya
 - **Bilal Ibn Ribah Secondary and Elementary School** in the Dekhila district of Alexandria
 - **New Dekhila School** in the Dekhila district of Alexandria

Violations in the opening of polling stations

- Polling station 16 in the Imam Mohamed Abdo Institute did not open until **9:00am**.
- The Tanta Secondary School in Gharbiya did not open until **8:30am**.
- Polling stations 1-3 in the Armanit Secondary Girls' School in the Armanit district of Qina did not open until **8:15am**.
- Polling stations 91-95 in the Sherif Al-Azhari Elementary Institute in the Koss district of Qina did not open until **8:25am**.
- Polling station 22 in the Bilal Bin Ribah School in the Dekhila district of Alexandria **opened at 7:30am**, 30 minutes before the official opening time.

Campaign material inside and outside the polling stations

- EASD monitors reported the presence of campaign literature for Muslim Brotherhood candidate Ali Seif inside the Farouk Secondary Girls' School in the Montaza district of Alexandria.

- Supporters of independent (formerly NDP) candidate Ali Seifeddine were distributing campaign material in front of the Maamoura Elementary Girls' School in the Montaza district of Alexandria.
- EASD monitors observed campaign material for all candidates in front of polling station 16 in the Imam Mohamed Abdo School in the Tanta district of Gharbiya.
- EASD monitors noted the presence of campaign ads for all candidates inside and outside the Mixed Secondary School polling center in the Tanta district of Gharbiya.

November 26, 2005 –2:00 pm

Press Release (2)

EASD Condemns the Intervention of Security Forces in the Electoral Process

The Egyptian Association for the Support of Democratic Development (EASD) condemns the widespread assaults launched by security forces on EASD and civil society monitors in an attempt to prevent them from observing the electoral process. EASD also expresses its profound disappointment in the expulsion of its monitors from the polling stations by the supervising judges, who claim they were instructed to do so, despite the monitors' possession of official monitoring badges from the Upper Parliamentary Elections Committee (UPEC). Accordingly, EASD calls on the Judges Club to issue a clear statement indicating its position in regard to these negative developments, which undermine the integrity of the judges' and their rulings.

EASD also condemns the arrest of several candidate representatives and citizens from outside the polls, as well as the use of extreme force by the security apparatus.

EASD holds the UPEC and Ministry of Interior directly responsible for the safety and well-being of its monitors, and stresses that the assaults against its monitors are a clear attempt by the security forces and certain judges to mask the electoral fraud taking place in these constituencies.

EASD demands that the UPEC intervene immediately and instruct all polling station election officials to allow all civil society monitors to enter the polling stations and continue monitoring the entire voting process. Furthermore, EASD insists that the Ministry of Interior take immediate action to ensure the protection of civil society monitors, and requests the prompt release of those citizens who have been arrested, including candidate representatives, to guarantee the free and fair implementation of the election.

EASD once again stresses that such extreme and blatant security intervention is a gross violation of the electoral law and UPEC instructions, and represents a violation of Article 62 of the Egyptian Constitution which clearly states that “ensuring the well-being of the public is a national duty”.

To this regard, EASD exposes the details of these violations to the UPEC and the entire public to make everyone aware of the abuses taking place on the ground in Egypt:

Harassment of monitors and candidate agents

- At the Al-Werdian School polling center in the Dekheila district of Alexandria, EASD monitors Amr El-Shandaweily and Ahmed Alameddine were beaten by the security forces. When these monitors went to the police station to file a report, the officer on duty refused to accept the report and threatened to arrest them. They were also requested not to monitor the election.
- EASD monitor Marwa Saber was attacked by supporters of NDP candidate Saad Shanab in the Mixed Secondary School polling center in the Qantara-Shark district of Ismailia.
- Security forces prevented EASD monitor Amr El-Shandaweily from entering the Taher Bey Preparatory School polling center in the Montazah district of Alexandria.
- Despite their possession of official monitoring badges from the Upper Parliamentary Elections Committee (UPEC) and documentation from EASD, judges and/or security forces expelled or prevented EASD monitors from entering the following polling stations or centers:
 - Al-Orouba School in the Montazah district of Alexandria
 - Al-Istiqlal Wa Tarbia Fekria School in the Tanta district of Gharbia
 - Said El-Eryan School in the Tanta district of Gharbia
 - Al-Max Preparatory School in the Dekeilah district of Alexandria
 - New Dekheila School in the Dekeilah district of Alexandria
 - Al-Sadif Al-Azhary Elementary Institute in the Koss district of Qina (Security forces did not accept ID's issued by UPEC and requested another official authorization, adding that he did not care about human rights or other organizations)
 - Bilal Bin Rabah Secondary School in the Dekeilah district of Alexandria (They were finally allowed in at 10:00am)
 - Tesfa School in the Kafr Shukr district of Qaliyoubiyah
 - Mostorod Primary and Preparatory School in the Shoubra al-Kheima Second district of Qaliyoubiyah (After an argument with the judge, monitors were told that they would be allowed in after half an hour)
 - Said El-Eryan School in the Tanta district of Gharbiya
- EASD monitors in the Mahmoudiya district of Alexandria reported that security forces were preventing voters and civil society monitors from entering the polls.

Use of tear gas

- Police forces used tear gas to subdue NDP and Muslim Brotherhood supporters who were fighting in front of the Said Al-Nagar School polling center in the Tanta district of Gharbiyah.

Civilian arrests

- EASD monitors reported that Major Amro Mohalab arrested scores of Muslim Brotherhood supporters in the Al-Azhar Primary School, Al-Fata Preparatory School, and the Ashtoum Al-Gamil School polling centers in the Arab district of Port Said. The victims were transported away in a minivan.

Closing polling stations and delaying the electoral process

- In the Said Bashtily School polling center in the Al-Ganayen Al-Arbeen district in Suez, EASD monitors reported that security forces brought a group of thugs who pretended to engage in a fight, so that they could close the polling center. After taking control of the center in this manner, security forces stopped voters at the door to ask them for whom they were going to vote. In the same center, security forces arrested citizens Moharam Abdel Salam and Borai Sayed Borai.
- Security forces cordoned off the New Mahmoudiyah Elementary School in the Mahmoudiyah district of Beheira to prevent citizens from voting.
- Security forces made citizens stand in line far from the entrance to the Adbiyah Basic Education School polling center in the Attaka district of Suez to delay their access to the polling stations.
- EASD monitors reported a police checkpoint in front the Al-Nasr Basic Education School polling center in the Attaka district of Suez, which was delaying voters without reason.
- Three supporters of Muslim Brotherhood candidate Ahmed El-Kholani were arrested in front of the Al-Nasr primary school polling center in the East Port Said district of Port Said.
- EASD monitors observed the heavy presence of police forces in front of the Al-Tarbiyah Al-Fekreya School polling center in the Tanta district of Gharbia, which was closed until 11:00am.

Enforcement of a CURFEW

- In the Said El-Bashtely School and Society Development Organization in the Abu-Hussein Al-Omda Second district of Suez, EASD monitors witnessed the announcement of a curfew, followed by police trailing citizens down the roads back to their homes.

Egyptian Association for Supporting Democratic Development

Registered no. (5469 – 2004)

November 26, 2005 – 5:00 pm

Press Release (3)

The Egyptian Association for the Support of Democratic Development (EASD) is monitoring the voting process during the run-off election for the second phase of Parliamentary elections on November 26, 2005 with 611 monitors in 63 constituencies throughout 9 governorates. From 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm, monitors continued to report on numerous violations. These irregularities include the continuation of violence by NDP candidates and their loyalists with the active or silent support of police forces, and the assaults on and expulsion of EASD monitors from the polling stations to prevent them from reporting on the violations taking place.

EASD strongly condemns these acts of brutality and the extreme danger to which citizens are unnecessarily exposed. Such violence represents an outright violation of the principle of pluralism and the right of citizens to compete in a fair and equal manner. These continuing trends also underscore the incompetence of the police forces and their failure to properly and promptly address these critical incidents.

EASD also denounces the arrest of candidate representatives and supporters, especially those affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood and specifically targeted by the ruling party. EASD demands the immediate release of these detained individuals and once again stresses on the vital importance of having popular will determine the outcome of the election rather than threats and fraud.

EASD deplores such abuses and emphasizes that such incidents constitute a direct breach of the electoral law, Upper Parliamentary Election Committee (UPEC) instructions and the relative international covenants, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of which Egypt is a signatory. These violations also represent a deliberate manipulation of voters' free will, which is the backbone of democracy and free and fair elections.

EASD welcomes the decision of various judges to postpone the voting process in protest of the numerous violations carried out by security forces and thugs. The Association hopes all other polling station officials will follow suit, demonstrating and confirming the Egyptian judiciary's impartiality and commitment to a just electoral process.

As the Election Day proceeded, EASD monitors observed a number of violations, including:

Escalation of violence

- EASD monitors reported that thugs were instigating violence and preventing citizens from entering the Said El-Eryan School polling center in the Tanta district of Gharbiya.
- Other unknown entities were firing shots in front of the Tesfa School in the district of Kafr-Shukr, Esko Residence School in the district of Shoubra El-Kheima, and the Musturud Primary School in the second district of Shoubra El-Kheima in Qaliyoubia, terrifying citizens and resulting in the suspension of the voting process until now. Monitors were also prevented from entering the polling center.
- Fighting broke out between NDP and independent candidate supporters in front of the Salah Eddine School polling center in the Luxor district of Qena, leading police to intervene and close the center.
- In Al-Salam School polling center in the Kafr-Shukr district of Qaliyoubia, EASD monitors reported a fight between Muslim Brotherhood candidate Taimour Abdel Ghani and supporters of the National Front for Change (NFC) candidate Khaled Mohieddine. Ahmed Eid Gomaa and Mohamed Nabih sustained injuries as a result of the fighting and were transferred to Kafr-Shukr Hospital and Benha Educational Hospital, respectively. Additionally, **FIVE** Muslim Brotherhood supporters and **THREE** NFC supporters were arrested.

Electoral fraud

- In polling station 17 in the Kassem Amin School in Al-Arab district of Port Said, EASD monitors reported the use of a rolling ballot in favor of NDP candidates Mahmoud Al-Menshawey and Abu-Qamar. (The rolling ballot is one marked ballot given to the voter outside the poll. The voter hides it and exchanges it with the unmarked one in the polling station. He then hides the unmarked ballot and casts the marked ballot. Afterwards, he hands the unmarked ballot to the people outside the poll to be marked and sent with next voter)
- In polling station 62 in the Al-Hemyer School in the Delengate district of Beheira, EASD monitors reported ballots being filled in front of the judge.
- The judge in Al-Fateh Preparatory School in the First district in Ismailia, allowed citizens of a personal acquaintance to vote (without proper IDs) in favor of the NDP candidate.

Incidents of vote-buying

- EASD monitors reported candidate Gamal Shehata buying votes for 200 EGP and while votes for the NDP candidate were valued at 150LE in the Saad Taha School and Belkis Secondary School in the second Shoubra district of Qaliyoubia.
- At the Begam Preparatory School polling center in the Shoubra district of Qaliyoubia, EASD monitors reported cases of vote buying for candidate Abdel Hamid Al-Manai at a value of 50-150 EGP.
- In Al-Zohour Primary School polling center in the Al-Manakh district in Port Said, security forces did not stop independent candidate Sayed Metwali from buying votes for 20 EGP.
- In Al-Werdian School in the Al-Dekheila district of Alexandria, supporters of NDP candidate Abdel Moneim Ragheb were distributing 50 EGP per vote.

Intervention of security forces

- Until 1:20pm, Security forces prevented monitors and candidate agents from entering the Geneva Primary School and Abdel Rahman Ebn-oof Primary School polling centers in the second district of Al-Arbeen in Suez.
- In Al-Salam Private School in the Ghorbal district of Alexandria, EASD monitors reported security forces beating citizens and preventing them from voting.
- In Al-Dekheila district of Alexandria, EASD monitors reported the arrest of some voters and independent candidate Fathi Al-Awadi.
- Citizen Mohamed Khodeir was assaulted by security forces and prevented from entering the Port Said Girls' Secondary School polling center in Al-Arab district of Port Said.
- Security vehicles prevented voters from entering polling stations 30-35 in the Tesfa Primary School in the Kafr-Shukr district of Qaliyoubia. Security forces claimed that judges were not present in the stations.

Judges

- In the Delta and Steel School in the Shubra Al-Kheima district of Qaliyoubia, EASD monitors reported the judge directly influencing citizens to vote for the NDP candidate.
- In the Rashid district, judges halted the voting process and left the polling stations in protest to the presence of police forces around the stations. After one hour of negotiations, the voting process resumed.
- In polling station 93 in Al-Sedif Primary and Preparatory Azhary Institute in the Luxor district of Qena, EASD reported that the judge requested voters to identify themselves by their fourth or fifth family name and check to see they were listed as such in the voter registry before allowing them to vote. For example, Amin Mohamed Gad El-Rab to vote because his ID name was Amin Mohamed Gad El-Rab Ahmed Hussein.
- The judge in polling station 6 of the Amar Ebn-Yasser School in the Luxor district of Qena allowed citizens to vote with illegitimate ID cards.
- The town mayor was sitting in place of the judge in the Kafr Beni-Hilal Mixed Preparatory School in the district of Rahmania and running the electoral process.

Voter registry violations

- In polling station 67 in the Al-Sheikh Hassan School in the first district of Bander Fayoum in Fayoum, the voter registry was not posted and only in the hands of Muslim Brotherhood candidates. In addition, Kamilia Aziz Ibrahim was not able to vote because her name was not on the registry, despite her possession of the pink voting ID.
- The voter registry was not posted in:
 - Sidi Abdel Rehim School in the Tanta district of Gharbia
 - Al-Estiklal School in the Tanta district of Gharbia
 - Delta and Steel School in the Shoubra Al-Kheima district of Qaliyoubia
- In the Shaima Secondary School polling center in the Benha district of Qaliyoubia, EASD monitor reported missing names from the voter registry, although those citizens had voted on November 20. The missing names included: Mohamed Tawfik Abdel Wahab, Amina Tawfik Abdel Wahab,

Samaha Tawfik Abdel Wahab and Dawlat Tawfik Abdel Wahab (all from the same family).

- There were many mistakes with the serial numbers of the voter registry in Al-Hadayek Primary School polling center in the Muharam-Bey district of Alexandria.

Instances of group voting or voter bussing

- Instances of group voting were noted in:
 - Al-Nasigia school in the Tanta district of Gharbia, in favor of Ahmed Shoubeir NDP candidate.
 - Al-Hekma Secondary School in the district of Tanta in Gharbia, voters were brought by buses for special care nurses, in favor of NDP candidate Ahmed Shobeir.
 - Immigrants Primary School in the Montazah district of Alexandria, EASD monitors reported group transportation for Aboukir and Miry hospitals nurses.
 - Girls' Religious Institute in the Third district of Ismailia, EASD monitor reported NDP candidates transporting voters on a bus with Ismailia license number 30001.

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