



Egyptian Association for Supporting Democratic Development
Registered no. (5469 – 2004)

December 1, 2005 –11:00 am

Egyptian Parliamentary Elections
Third Phase

Press Release (1)

The Egyptian Association for the Support of Democratic Development (EASD) is monitoring the voting process during the third phase of Parliamentary elections on December 1, 2005 with 470 monitors in 27 districts throughout 6 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. 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;**
2. Representatives of certain candidates are not being allowed inside the polling stations;
3. Numerous polling stations opened late;
4. Security interventions are crippling the voting process;
5. No measures are being taken to ensure the secrecy of the vote;
6. Campaign literature is present within polling stations; and,
7. Voter lists are not posted in the polling stations.

As a result of these reports and in support of the principles of democracy and transparency, EASD once again stresses on the critical need to allow the presence of civil society monitors within the polling stations to observe the voting and counting process without any restrictions or conditions, in accordance with the recent judicial ruling issued by the Administrative Court regarding this matter.

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

Intervention by security forces

- Security forces cordoned off polling stations 152-154 in the New Kafr Elementary School in the Kafr Sheikh Center district and polling stations 60-64 in the Agriculture Secondary School in the Dessouk district of Kafr Sheikh, preventing citizens from entering and casting their ballots.
- Security forces blocked the road leading to the **FIVE** polling centers (Khaled Toukhi School, Haditha School, Imam Mohamed Abdo School, Shagara Al-Dar School, and Girls' Secondary School) within the Literature Faculty in the Dakahlia district of Mansoura.

Prevention of monitors and candidate agents from entering the polling stations

- A police officer prevented EASD monitor Mohamed Maher Al-Khoshen from entering the Al-Gihad Bimit Hamal School polling center in the Balbis district of Sharqiya and took away his observer ID issued by the UPEC.
- The judge did not allow EASD monitors to remain inside polling station 17 in the Tahrir School in the Bandar Garga district of Souhag.
- Judges prevented EASD monitors from entering:
 - *Polling stations 79-81 in the Imam Ali Bihigaza School in the First district of Aswan.*
 - *Polling station 5 in the Nagah Mixed Elementary School in the Dessouk district of Kafr Sheikh.*
 - *Central polling station in the city of Balteem in Kafr Sheikh.*
- Judges expelled or prevented candidate agents from entering:
 - Shahid Higazi School polling center in the Garga district of Souhag.
 - Nour Eddine School polling center in the Garga district of Souhag.
 - Gamal Abd El Nasser Elementary School polling center in the Baltim district of Kafr Sheikh. (The agent prevented from entering the center was a representative for independent candidate Hamdin Sabbahi)

Late opening of polling stations

- Polling station 9 in the City Council polling center in the Balina district of Souhag opened at **8:30am**.
- Polling stations 49-56 in the Kima Elementary School in the First district of Aswan opened at **8:30am**.
- Polling stations 12-13 in the Nagah School in the Bir Abed district of North Sinai opened at **8:20am**.
- Polling stations 124-127 in the Rifai Al-Tahtawi School in the Sidi Salam district of Kafr Sheikh opened at **8:30am**.

No measures to ensure the secrecy of the vote

- In the Shahid Higazi School polling center and polling station 8 in the Nour Eddine School in the Garga district of Souhag, EASD monitors observed citizens voting in front of the judge, who would then take their ballot and cast it into the ballot box.

Presence of campaign material inside and outside polling stations

- EASD monitors observed the presence of campaign material for NDP candidates inside and outside of the Rifai Al-Tahtawi School polling center in the Sidi Salam district of Kafr Sheikh.
- EASD monitors noted that NDP voter guides were posted in front of the Kima Elementary School polling center in the First district of Aswan.

Voter registry violations

- In polling stations 5-7 in the Abed Al-Tagari School in the Bir Abed district of North Sinai, EASD monitors noted that the voter registry was not posted in front of the stations, but placed on a chair by the side of the building.
- In polling stations 12-13 in the Nagah School in the Bir Abed district of North Sinai, the voter registry was also placed on a chair by the entrance.
- In the Um Al-Mou'minoun School in the Qabli neighborhood in the district of Bandar Garga in Souhag, EASD monitors reported that the voter registry was not posted, but in the hands of supporters of independent candidate Emad Al-Baroudi who were pressuring citizens to vote in his favor.
- The voter registry was not posted in the Saad Zaghoul School polling center in the Sanbalawin district of Dakahlia.

December 1, 2005 –2:00 pm

Egyptian Parliamentary Elections Third Phase

Press Release (2)

EASD Expresses Mounting Concerns over the Integrity of the Electoral Process

The Egyptian Association for the Support of Democratic Development (EASD) is gravely concerned over the integrity of the third round of elections, which are taking place in the shadows of increasing security interventions that have led to the closing of polling stations, violence and the ultimate exclusion of civil society monitors, candidate agents and citizens from the voting process.

EASD stresses that the election cannot be considered democratic, under these circumstances where there is a high level of intimidation and a lack of transparency and respect for pluralism. Such irregularities clearly indicate an intention to tamper with the votes and ballot boxes.

Furthermore, EASD strongly reiterates that it holds the UPEC and Ministry of Interior directly responsible for the consequences that are a direct result of the violations taking place, including the closing of polling stations and the assault on and prevention of voters, monitors and candidate agents from entering the polling stations.

EASD also calls for the head of the UPEC and the Interior Minister to take immediate action and issue a decree demanding that the electoral law and decisions by the UPEC be respected by all, to guarantee the elections are carried out in a transparent and democratic manner.

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:

Escalation in the levels of violence

- In front of the polling centers (Khaled Toukhi School, Haditha School, Imam Mohamed Abdo School, Shagara Al-Dar School, and Girls' Secondary School) within the Literature Faculty in the Dakahlia district of Mansoura, EASD monitors reported groups of thugs wielding swords, bats and other potential weapons in an attempt to intimidate Muslim Brotherhood supporters to vote for NDP candidate Ibraheim Saad Al-Gawgari.

- In the Rizk Hamama Elementary School in the Balteem district of Kafr Sheikh, clashes broke out between supporters of candidate Ansar Hamdein and supporters of NDP candidate Ali Ragab, leading security forces to use tear gas to disperse the crowds. As a result, the following citizens were injured and hospitalized:

1. *Sami Mahmoud Sayed Khalifa*
2. *Osama Sharaf*
3. *Higazi Mahmoud Said*
4. *Sayed Shaaban Abu Sabih*
5. *Hiba Sayed Mohamed*
6. *Sayed Mohamed Ahmed*
7. *Ahmed Farag*
8. *Mohamed Sayed Fatahallah*

Assault on civil society monitors/candidate agents and their exclusion from polling stations

- In the Business Institute polling center in the Zaqaziq district of Sharqiya, EASD monitors reported incidents of violence and thuggery between supporters of independent (formerly NDP) candidate Khaled Zardaq and the candidate agent of independent candidate Magdi Ashour. Consequently, security forces intervened and closed the polling center. During the fighting, the following EASD monitors were also assaulted:
 - *Amani Abd El Sadek*
 - *Ahmed Makram*
- The judge forbade EASD monitor **Um Hashem Al-Sawi Mohamed** from entering at the Balteem City polling center in the Balteem district of Kafr Sheikh.
- EASD monitor **Judge Faiza Beshri** was not allowed in polling station 6 in the Khaled Bin Al-Walid School in the Markaz Mansoura district of Dakahlia, despite her possession of a monitoring ID from the UPEC and official EASD document.
- Security forces prevented EASD monitor **Mohamed Abu Nagib** from entering polling stations 28-29 in the Baloutha Youth Center in the Baloutha district of North Sinai, and was forced to leave the center.
- A security officer prevented EASD monitors **Edmund Kamal Wahib** and **Jacqueline Kamal Wahib** from entering polling station 12 in the Nasser Elementary School in the Bir Abed district of North Sinai. The polling station judges were silent witnesses to this incident.
- Judges also expelled or prevented EASD monitors from entering the following polling centers or stations:
 - Polling stations 1-4 in the Agricultural Reform Institute in the Komombo district of Aswan.
 - Local Council polling center in the Talin district of Sharqiya.

Intervention by security forces in the electoral process

- In the Baltim Banin Secondary School polling center for women in the Baltim district of Kafr Sheikh, EASD monitors observed security forces preventing citizens from entering for one hour. This led the judge to emerge and demand that voters be allowed inside or he would leave the polling station with the ballot boxes.
- In polling stations 46-47 in the Aeish Al-Asmar School in the Bir Abed district of North Sinai, security forces prevented Muslim Brotherhood supporters and veiled women from entering.
- EASD monitors reported that security forces cordoned off polling stations 151 and 153 in the New Kafr Elementary School in the Markaz Kafr Sheikh district of Kafr Sheikh, preventing citizens from entering and casting their ballots. Security forces later used tear gas to disperse the voters.
- State and central security prevented voters, candidate agents and civil society monitors from approaching the following polling centers: Abu Khasan School, Sahgara Al-Saghri School, Hurriya Wahed School, Hurriya Ithnein School, Girls' Secondary School and the Shuhada' School in the Aga district of Dakahlia.
- In the Bandar district of Souhag, EASD monitors witnessed the arrest of 23 supporters of Muslim Brotherhood candidate Mukhtar Ahmed Mohamed for distributing campaign material with the slogan "Islam is the Solution".

December 1, 2005 –5:00 pm

Egyptian Parliamentary Elections Third Phase

Press Release (3)

The Egyptian Association for the Support of Democratic Development (EASD) is monitoring the voting process during the third phase of Parliamentary elections on December 1, 2005 with 470 monitors in 27 districts throughout 6 governorates. From 2:00pm until 5:00pm, monitors located in the various governorates reported on numerous violations of the electoral law and directives of the Upper Parliamentary Elections Committee (UPEC). Outbreaks of violence and thuggery, especially by NDP supporters, continued to characterize the Election Day. At the same time, EASD monitors faced ongoing difficulty in entering polling stations and observing the electoral process in a consistent manner.

EASD denounces these enduring acts of brutality which threaten the well-being and safety of the Egyptian people, and compromise the right of all citizens to freely and equally participate in their country's political development. EASD also condemns the persistent and detrimental intervention of security forces in the electoral process.

EASD also deplores 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.

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

Escalation in the level of violence, resulting in one DEATH

- One voter, **Mohamed Gomaa Al-Ziftawi**, DIED in the Rizk Hamama School polling center in the Baltim district, after being shot in the head by security

forces in front of the center. Other voters were also shot: **Asfal Al-Ein Yidai** and **Ahmed Fathi Amer**.

- In the polling centers (Khaled Toukhi School, Haditha School, Imam Mohamed Abdo School, Shagara Al-Dar School, and Girls' Secondary School) within the Literature Faculty in the Dakahlia district of Mansoura, thugs carried knives, swords, Molotov cocktails and guns, attacking voters and passers-by. The violence resulted in the injury of voters **Amro Ahmed Mansour** (sustained cut to the head) and **Abdallah Abd El-Hamid**. At the same time, relatives of NDP candidate Ibrahim Gowhari (Kheiry Gowhari, Mohamed Gowhari and Sayed Gouda) stood at the entrance of the polling center and decided which citizens were allowed to enter.
- In the Shirabish Secondary school in the district of Aga in Dakahlia, EASD monitors reported outbreaks of violence Muslim Brotherhood and NDP supporters.

Assault on and expulsion of monitors and candidate agents from the polling stations

- EASD monitors were attacked by agents of independent candidate Mustafa Al-Katatini and Yidai Nasser in the Girls' Secondary School polling center in the Garga Center district of Souhag, after observing and noting the intimidation of voters by these agents.
- EASD monitors witnessed security forces attacking ICEM coordinator **Youssef Abdellatif** in front of the Saqilta Mixed Elementary School in the Saqilta district of Souhag, after he took pictures of security forces setting up physical barriers to prevent Muslim Brotherhood supporters from voting for their candidate Mukhtar Ahmed Mohamed.
- EASD monitor Ms. Nehad Mohamed Ali was thrown out of the Hukama' School polling center in the Zaqaziq district of Sharqiya.
- The judge expelled EASD monitors and candidate agents from polling station 7 in the Shahid Higazi School in the Balina district of Souhag, with the excuse that he was going to have lunch and he proceeded to lock himself in the polling station.

Intervention by security forces in the electoral process

- In front of the Talin Elementary School in the Talin district of Sharqiya, EASD monitors reported that police cars (license numbers 83391, 83783 and 82743) carried the crescent and camel ballot symbols of NDP candidates.
- EASD monitors witnessed a state security officer arresting Muslim Brotherhood supporters in the Secondary School in the Sanbalawin district of Dakahlia and transporting them away in two Chevrolets (license numbers 1961 and 54124).
- EASD monitors observed security forces blocking off the road to the Benin Secondary School polling center in the Matoubis district of Kafr Sheikh, preventing citizens from casting their ballots in that center.
- Security forces established road blocks 2 kilometers away from the Sanaya Advanced School in the Bandar district of Kafr Sheikh, preventing citizens from voting.

Incidents of vote-buying

- **NDP candidate Ahmed Abu Hashish** was buying votes for 500 EGP in front of the Asma' Bint Abi Bakr School, Um Al-Mou'minin School and the Sadat Elementary School in the district of Bandar Souhag in Souhag.
- **NDP candidate Lieutenant Suleiman Subhi** was buying votes for 180 EGP in front of the Beni Hilal Youth Club polling center in the Muraga police center district of Souhag.
- **NDP candidate Abdelfattah Diab** was buying votes for 50-100 EGP in front of the Shirawish Secondary School in the Aga district of Dakahlia.
- **NDP candidate Mohamed Selim** was buying votes for 20-50 EGP in the following polling centers in the Komombo district of Aswan: Azhari Girls' Institute, Agricultural Reform Institute and Women's Agricultural Archives.
- **NDP candidate Mohamed Al-Salahi** was buying votes for 25 EGP in the Nasser Elementary School in the Qabat district of Sharqiya.

Electoral fraud

- EASD monitors reported that citizens were allowed to vote without any identification or voter card in the Baloutha Secondary School in the Baloutha district of North Sinai.
- In polling station 108 in the mixed Secondary School in the Balina district of Souhag, EASD monitors noted that election officials were marking ballots for citizens with the excuse that they were too old to mark the ballots themselves.

Misuse of indelible phosphoric ink

- The phosphoric being used in polling station 6 in the Awamira Qabli School in the Garga Center district of Souhag could be washed off with "Rapso" detergent, allowing citizens to vote more than once.
- EASD monitors reported that the phosphoric was not being used in polling station 40 in the Sadat Secondary School in the Bandar Souhag district of Souhag.
- After casting his ballot in the Talaat Harb Secondary School polling station, one voter noticed that the ink washed off his finger. He went back to inform the judge of this and was thrown out of the polling station.
- Although phosphoric was present inside polling stations 87-88 in the Bindouq Elementary School in the Talin district of Sharqiya, EASD monitors reported that the judges were using regular ink instead.
- In polling station 25 in the Nahda Elementary School in the Bandar garga district of Aswan, voters (including the EASD monitor) were not being asked to dip their fingers in the phosphoric ink.

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December 1, 2005

Official complaint to the Minister of Justice,
Head of the Upper Parliamentary Elections Committee

The Egyptian Association for Supporting Democratic Development submits to you its remonstrations against Major Ashraf Abdel-Hadi Chief Investigator of Public Funds in the Kafr El-Sheikh governorate.

EASD monitors in Rizk Hamama School in the Baltim district, observed citizen Mohamed Gomaa Al-Zeftawi being shot in the head and killed by security forces. His body was transferred to Baltim Central Hospital where Major Ashraf Abdel-Hadi pressured surgeon Dr. Ashraf Al-Zaeem to change the cause of death from “death due to gunshot” to “death due to tear gas”. Major Abdel-Hadi attempted to change the certificate of death before the corpse was examined by the coroner, but Dr. Al-Zaeem entirely refused his demands.

Therefore

EASD presents you with this case and requests a speedy investigation of the incident, before any evidence related to this crime is destroyed. EASD also demands that the perpetrator of this offense be brought to justice. The victim himself was punished for having faith in his country’s constitution. He believed that participating in public life is a national duty (Article 62 of the Constitution) and went to the ballot boxes to fulfill that duty, not to die in vain.