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

*December 7th, 2005 – 11:00 am*

# Egyptian Parliamentery Elections
# Third Phase Run-Off Election
# 9 Governorates

### 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 third phase of Parliamentary elections on December 7, 2005 with 480 monitors in 28 districts throughout 7 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 cordoning off numerous polling stations, preventing citizens from voting;**
2. **Monitors are being expelled from or denied access to polling stations, despite their possession of badges from the Upper Parliamentary Election Committee and official letter from EASD;**
3. Candidate representatives are also being expelled from polling stations;
4. Various polling stations opened late;
5. Voter registries are inaccurate; and,
6. No measures are being taken to ensure the secrecy of the vote.

*EASD once again expresses deep concern over the expulsion of its monitors from the polling stations, which is a direct a violation of the principles of democracy and transparency, as well as the recent judicial ruling and Upper Parliamentary Election Committee (UPEC) edicts allowing for civil society organizations to monitor the electoral process from inside the voting polls. EASD demands that the UPEC and Ministry of Interior intervene immediately to ensure civil society monitors are able to observe the entire voting process.*

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

**Intervention of security forces**

EASD monitors reported that security forces cordoned off and prevented voters, monitors and candidate agents from entering:

- Al-Naseriah Primary School polling center in the Zaqaziq district of Sharkia
- Kafr Meet Bashar Primary School, Kafr Meet Bashar Preparatory School and Abu Tawala Primary School in the Sharkia governorate
- Ezbet Sakr Primary School in the Senbelaween district of Dakahliah (only NDP supporters were allowed entry)
- Meet Antar Primary and Preparatory Schools in the Talkha district of Dakahliah

**Expulsion or prevention of monitors and candidate agents from entering the polling stations**

Judges and election officials prevented civil society monitors and candidate agents from entering the following polling stations:

- Polling stations 19-21 in the Al-Bayara Primary School in the Second district of Komombo in Aswan.
- Menyat Qeleen Primary School in the Qeleen district of Kafr El-Sheikh, (EASD monitor Reda Ibrahim Mohamed was prevented from entering the polling center by the village mayor)
- Qawla Primary School in the Qeleen district of Kafr El-Sheikh
- Polling station 6 in the Secondary Commercial School in the Bir Al-Abd district of North Sinai
- Judge Fayza Beshry prevented monitors from entering polling station 7 in the Khaled Ibn Al-Walid school in the Mansoura district of Dakahliah
- The agent for independent candidate Abdel Hafez Haridi was expelled from the Secondary Military School in the Second Komombo district of Aswan.
- Agents for Muslim Brotherhood candidate Abdel Rahman Said Al-Shorbagy were expelled from Ayeish Al-Asmar Primary School, Ibn Sina School, Al-Guile Al-Gadid School and Hamdi Awad Primary School polling centers in the First Al-Arish district of North Sinai.

**Late opening of polling stations**

- Polling station 43 in the Aftiyah Primary School in the Bir Al-Abd district of North Sinai opened at **8:30am** due to the late arrival of the judge.
- Polling stations 19 and 23 in the Al-Fardos Primary School in the Fouwah district of Kafr El-Sheikh opened at **9:00am**.
- Polling stations 40-42 in the Ibn Sina School in the First Al-Arish district of North Sinai opened at **9:30am**.
- Polling station 56-58 in the Hamdi Awas Primary School in the First Al-Arish district of North Sinai opened at **9:30am**.
- Polling stations 102-103 in the Bin Safoura Primary School in the Bander Souhag district of Sohag opened at **8:30am**.
- In the Al-Gomhoria preparatory school in the First Sohag district of Sohag, polling station 88 opened at **8:30am** and polling station 89 opened at **8:10am**.

- In the Shatb Compound School in the First Aswan district of Aswan, polling station 174 opened at **8:20am** and polling station 175 opened at **9:20am**.
- The Boys' Preparatory School in the Al-Teleen district of Sharkia opened at **8:30am**.
- Polling stations 14-15 in the Al-Adaweyah school in the Qenayat district of Sharkia opened at **9:45am**.

## Violations in the voter registries
- Numerous mistakes in the voter registry at Fatema Al-Zahraa Preparatory School and Mohamed Araab Ahmed School polling centers in the Komombo district of Aswan prevented citizens from voting.
- EASD monitors reported that the voter registry was not available in the Boys' Preparatory School in the Al-Teleen district of Sharqiya.
- Judges noted many mistakes in the voter registries at polling stations 177-178 in the Shatab Compound Schools in the Aswan First district of Aswan.

## No measures to ensure the secrecy of the vote
EASD monitors observed that no measures were taken to ensure the secrecy of the vote in the following polling stations or centers:
- Polling stations 43-46 in the Ayeish Al-Asmar Primary School in the First Al-Arish district of North Sinai
- Al-Nasr Primary School in the Abayat district of Sharqia
- Polling stations 56-58 in the Hamdy Awad Primary School in the First Al-Arish district of North Sinai

*December 7th, 2005 –2:00 pm*

# Egyptian Parliamentary Elections
# Third Phase Run-off Election

### Press Release (2)

## Security Forces are Running the Egyptian Parliamentary Elections

### *"No election can be considered democratic when security forces are controlling the process"*

The Egyptian Association for the Support of Democratic Development (EASD) voices its grave regret over Egypt's desolate state of affairs as a result of state security's intrusion in the administration of the Parliamentary elections.

During the run-off election for the third phase of Parliamentary elections, EASD monitors and the Egyptian citizens are witnessing ongoing violations of the international principles of democracy and human rights, as well as the Egyptian Constitution, electoral laws and Upper Parliamentary Elections Committee (UPEC) regulations which address the voting process.

This blatant biased intervention of security forces in the election undermines the transparency of the voting process and clearly points to the government's intent to tamper with the election results, ensuring they do not reflect the free will of the voters.

*EASD calls on the UPEC and Judges Club to clarify their position in terms of these violations, and invites all civil society organizations to take a unified stance against these abuses perpetrated by the Egyptian security apparatus.*

As the Election Day progressed, EASD monitors reported numerous cases where security forces completely surrounded villages, arrested citizens and prevented civil society monitors from observing the electoral process. Moreover, security officers often resorted to the use of extreme violence, beating citizens with clubs and firing tear gas into crowds.  What follows are the details of such assaults on the public as reported by EASD monitors:

### Intervention of security forces in the electoral process
- Security forces threw out EASD monitors and all candidate agents (except those representing Mosaad Lotfi and Ahmed El-Shoura) in Al-Shahid Atef Al-Sharkawi Primary School polling center in the Talkha district of  Dakahlia. This came in addition to the humiliating remark made by the judge at that center, "Get out sweetheart!"

- The Qona School polling center in the Qeleen district of Kafr Sheikh was completely cordoned off by security forces.
- Security forces also created a barrier around the Secondary Girls' School polling center in the Fouwah district of Kafr Sheikh.
- EASD monitors reported the heavy presence of security forces at the Boys' Preparatory School polling center in the Qenayat district of Sharkia. Voters trying to reach the center ultimately clashed with security officers who were carrying clubs.
- Security officers threw out all monitors and candidate agents (except those affiliated with the NDP) in the Atef El-Sharkawi Primary School in the Talkha district of Dakahliah.
- At the Advanced Secondary Commercial School polling center in the Talkha district of Dakahliah, EASD monitors reported security surrounding the school and informing them there was "NO ELECTION TODAY".
- Scores of security forces prevented women from entering and casting their ballots in the Fouwah Girls' Secondary School and Salimeyah Primary and Preparatory Schools in the Fowah district of Kafr El-Sheikh.
- Security forces prevented Muslim Brotherhood supporters and candidates from entering the Bakloula Primary School polling center in the Al-Riyadh district of Kafr El-Sheikh.
- The Herya Boys' Preparatory School polling center in the Zaqaziq district of Sharkiya was closed until 1:00pm by security forces surrounding the center.
- Security forces prevented voters and Muslim Brotherhood supporters from reaching the Ahmed Orabi Primary School polling center in Al-Arish district of North Sinai, using tear gas to disperse the crowds.
- At the Military Secondary School polling center in the Bandar Souhag district of Sohag, EASD monitors reported that security forces assaulted ICEM coordinator Yussef Abdel Latif after he took a photograph with his phone of violations taking place in front of the school. Police officer Ahmed Gamal Abdel Zaher took away Mr. Latif's phone.
- 200 supporters of Muslim Brotherhood candidate Mokhtar Ahmed al-Beih were protesting in front of Khalil Damarani Primary School polling center in the Bander Sohag district of Sohag, after not being allowed to enter the center. Security forces fired tear gas to dispel the demonstrators.
- In Al-Salaa village in the Bander Souhag district of Souhag, EASD monitors reported a violent confrontation between security forces and Muslim Brotherhood supporters. After tear gas was fired Naglaa Ahmed Abdel Zaher had to be rushed from her home to the Government Hospital in Souhag.
- Security forces also cordoned off Deem Al-Shelat School polling center in Meet Nehas in the Dekernes district of Dakahlia.
- EASD monitors reported that all polling stations were closed in the villages of Kom El-Nour and Kafr Mekdam in the Dekernes district of Dakahlia.
- Security forces cordoned off all polling centers in the Neet Tourif and Mahmoudiyah villages in the Dekernes district of Dakahlia.

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**Statement on Events in the District of Teleen**
*December 7th,2005*

# The District of Teleen in Sharqia: A True Battlefield

On December 7, 2005, the district of Teleen in Sharqiya, was transformed into a true battlefield, where security forces used all forms of weapons against citizens and candidates to prevent them from approaching the polling centers to vote.

EASD strongly condemns these brutal incidents in Teleen, which are a crime against democracy and humanity. The different villages within Teleen converted into battlegrounds before the eyes of innocent residents who witnessed security forces assaulting the public with clubs, tear gas and firearms.

In the same district, Parliamentary candidate Dr.Mahmoud Abaza (from the Wafd Party) was held captive in the village of Kafr Meet Bashar, which was completely cordoned off by security forces who proceeded to fire tear gas into the village.

Reporters from Al-Jazirah and Al-Hora TV stations were also assaulted and their equipment was confiscated. US Embassy staff members were present in Teleen as these events took place.

Furthermore, EASD monitors reported that security forces barricaded and prevented voters from entering the Abu-Tawala Primary School and Meet-Bishai Preparatory School polling centers.

In various villages throughout Teleen, EASD monitors reported police cars using loudspeakers to announce, *"The election was cancelled. There is no election today in the constituency"*.

*EASD firmly denounces these acts of violence which continue to be carried out by the security forces. EASD stresses that such harsh action could trigger an equally dangerous response from the Egyptian citizens who are struggling for their basic human right to freely participate in the political development of their country. The outbreak of violence exposes everyone to unnecessary harm and severely undermines the electoral process which is built on the principles of democracy and popular will.*

*EASD demands the immediate intervention of the UPEC and Ministry of Interior to end these acts of aggression, not only for the integrity of the election but also for the safety and well-being of innocent citizens.*