



Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Center



The Jordanian Civil Team for Observing the 2007 Parliamentary Elections

Press release 3: Observing the Closing Process

The Jordanian Civil Team for Observing the Elections (JOCTOPE) reported that all the polling centers throughout Jordan closed at 7 pm on Tuesday, November 20, 2007, with the exception of Amman governorate; second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth districts. Voting period in these districts was extended to two more additional hours.

In this respect, the Election Law no. 34 of 2001 grants the chairman of the Higher Committee of the electoral district the right to extend the voting period to a maximum of two hours, "if he perceives the necessity to do so", as stated by article 27 of the mentioned law.

Despite the fact that several polling centers in the above 5 districts did not experience any noted overcrowding that justifies the time extension, it is interesting to note that the registered voters have the right to vote in any polling center within their electoral district. Hence, any gathering of voters witnessed at any of the polling centers necessitates extending the voting period of the whole district, and not only of the crowded polling center.

JOCTOPE observers reported a higher presence of the police officials at the entrance of the polling centers whilst their closing, compared to their presence throughout the day. 65% of the observer reports stated that they saw large numbers of police officers at the entrance of the polling centers, compared to 35% of the observers who stated that the police presence was normal at the centers.

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