

**Report on the monitoring of election campaigns and the role of the  
Independent High Electoral Commission  
in the education process to the election campaigns:**

Competition has intensified with the approach of the election date for provincial elections on 31/1/2009. The competing lists used a variety of methods in the election campaigns which can be summarized to the direct and the indirect contact.

Each list has invested in these methods, money and resources according to how much they can afford to in terms of financial resources.

- 1 – There are lists that spent a huge amount of money using indirect links.
- 2 – One can note, without any trouble of the vast quantity of posters and large banners being posted and many of these posters and banners are hanged or posted on key buildings. The cost of such advertisement (hanging of each one poster or banner) cost millions of Dinars. Moreover, lists with large funds available employed heavily the widespread use of satellite channels and private television stations and radio stations.
- 3 – The huge amount of money spent by some of the lists raises serious questions about the source of these funds.
- 4 – Places that were designated for election propaganda to post posters and other election materials became a chaotic mixture of different competing posters that were posted on top of each other which makes it very hard for voters to understand the key election messages of posters.
- 5 – Lists which have no sufficient funds can not find adequate space in the allocated spaces for their limited number of posters that can be posted on places designated for the elections.
- 6 – The absence of political parties, the absence of a law governing the election campaigns that determine and set the limit on how much each list can spend on the election campaigns, and the weakness of the culture of accountability, transparency and disclosure of funding sources, did not provide the required balance between the lists in the competition for the provisional elections.

7 - The use of political funds will leave a negative impact on the functioning of the electoral process and its integrity.

8 – The Exchange of direct and indirect charges and accusations between a number of lists is undermining the democratic way of competition.

9 – The use of government and state property was observed in the election campaigns, which is a clear violation of the law.

10 – There are some lists that were remarkably active. They used hundreds of volunteers to deliver programs of their lists to voters. This included visits to voters in their homes, to explain and clarify their programs.

11 – There are a number of candidates who distributed their elections literature themselves and met ordinary people face to face in workplaces and at homes.

The role of the Higher and Independent Electoral Commission (IHEC) in the education process:

- The Commission held dozens of educational conferences on how to vote
- Stepped up its television advertisements which explained how to vote.
- Continue to publish a number of large sizes of newspapers published in Iraq, known as the election regulations and methods.
- Many representatives of the Electoral Commission participated widely on television programs explaining and clarifying the election process as well as assuring voters that elections would be conducted in transparent and impartial manner.
- The commission issued a list of election violations during the campaigns and listed 69 names.
- A number of civil society organizations held workshop on how to vote
- Volunteers of Tammuz Organization in cooperation with the Electoral Commission distributed educational leaflets on how to vote, the mechanism of voting and monitoring of election.
- Tammuz appreciated the good cooperation approach from the Electoral Commission which provided Tammuz with facilities such the registrations of observers and the distribution of posters and election guides to voters.

## Perspective

A careful examination of the table below shows that access to the number of votes (the threshold), which entitles a candidate to win is very small, making it difficult to win

Table No 1

#	governorate	Population	Eligible Voters	Number of Seats	Average votes for each seat if participation is 100%	Average votes for each seat if participation is 75%	Average votes for each seat if participation is 65%	Average votes for each seat if participation is 50%
1	Erbil	1438155	852397	-	-	-	-	-
2	Anbar	1370021	730111	29	25.176	18.882	16.364	12.588
3	Basra	2488187	1357045	35	38.772	29.079	25.202	19.386
4	Kirkuk	1169445	688242	-	-	-	-	-
5	Qadissiya	1066739	570810	28	20.386	15.289	13.250	10.193
6	Muthanna	666308	346666	26	13.333	9,999	8,666	6,666
7	Najaf	1158084	638496	28	22.803	17,102	14,822	11.401
8	Babel	1622605	882206	30	29.406	22,055	19,114	14.703
9	Baghdad	7069331	4288041	57	75.228	56,421	48,898	37.614
10	Dehuk	916140	504362	-	-	-	-	-
11	Diyala	1299267	758886	29	26.168	19,626	17,009	13.084
12	Thi-Qar	1749494	913686	31	29.473	22,105	19,157	14.736
13	Sulaimania	1597134	1029327	-	-	-	-	-
14	Salah Al-Din	1182126	634645	28	22.665	16,999	14,732	11.332
15	Kerbala	936555	518043	27	19.186	14,390	12,471	9.293
16	Missan	983272	514163	27	19.043	14,282	12,377	9.521
17	Ninewa	2860655	1530302	37	41.359	31,019	26,883	20.679
18	Wassit	1079439	588837	28	21.029	15,772	13,669	10.510

As mentioned above the threshold for list that hope to win is very high, in addition to this there are huge numbers of competing lists and the numbers of candidates is very large as well. This makes it very hard for small lists to win. Before we analyze please see the table below:

**Address: Iraq – Baghdad**

العنوان – العراق – بغداد

**Mobile: Iraqna 00964(0)7904698766**

**ASIA Cell: 07702524249, Korak (Erbile): 07504513183**

**E-mail: [tammuzftsd@yahoo.com](mailto:tammuzftsd@yahoo.com), website: [www.tammuz.net](http://www.tammuz.net)**

Table No 2

#	Governorate	Number of Seats	Eligible Voters	Number of Entities	Number of Candidates
1	Thi-Qar	31	913686	67	1074
2	Wassit	28	588837	68	1219
3	Muthanna	26	346666	50	879
4	Kerbala	27	518043	76	1179
5	Diyala	29	758886	45	644
6	Baghdad	57	4288041	108	2400
7	Babel	30	882206	76	1453
8	Dewania	28	570810	49	1700
9	Najaf	28	638496	57	1068
10	Anbar	29	730111	54	520
11	Basra	35	1357045	76	1424
12	Missan	27	514163	51	737
13	Ninewa	37	1530302	31	410
14	Salah Al-Din	28	634645	45	614

The above shows very clearly the difficulty of small lists and individuals to win, especially as the number of competitors is very large, and seats are limited, as shown in table No 2 above, and here we would like to point out the possibility of problems occurring after the elections have ended. Tammuz would like to point the following:

1 - a specific number of lists will get certain seats, while the vote obtained by small lists would be lost since will be not sufficient to allowing to reach the threshold of victory and therefore the votes will be distributed to the winning lists, according to the proportion of seats won, and according to the law of the provincial elections, and on the light of this law, the Independent Electoral Commission will distribute seats.

2 - There is a possibility that the wining lists will get a large number of additional seats of lost votes (the votes obtained by the lists of small and would not enable them to overcome the threshold of victory. Subsequently, this outcome may outrage small lists which have not opposed the provincial elections law before it was issued.