



Press Release

Civil Society Observation of the 2011 People's Assembly Election

Observation of the Electoral Process

Civil Society organizations (CSO) have a right, under law, to observe the electoral process for the 2011 People's Assembly Election, and the 2012 Shura Council Election. The High Judicial Elections Commission (HJEC) will work with CSOs to maximize the transparency of the electoral process. A specific unit within the HJEC Secretariat has been established to coordinate with CSOs throughout the electoral process.

Scope of Observation

Accredited CSO observers will be authorized to observe all stages of the electoral process, and to produce statements and reports on the elections, including candidate registration, campaigning, balloting, vote counting, and results announcement. Specifically, CSO observers will be accredited to access and observe election committees, including the casting of ballots and vote counting.

Observer Accreditation

Both Egyptian and international civil society organizations are eligible to observe the election according to the following eligibility rules:

Egyptian Civil Society Organizations

To qualify for accreditation, Egyptian civil society organizations must:

- Be registered with the Ministry of Social Solidarity
- Be authorized to, and have relevant experience in political development, democracy assistance, or human rights.

International Civil Society Organizations

To qualify for accreditation international civil society organizations must:

- Be authorized to operate in Egypt by the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Have relevant experience in political development, democracy assistance, or human rights

Requests for accreditation must be submitted at least 2 weeks before Election Day to the National Council for Human Rights, and will be reviewed by the HJEC, which will provide eligible CSO observers with accreditation cards.

Observer Regulations

To ensure orderly and effective civil society observation of the election, CSO observers must abide by all relevant legislation and HJEC regulations and resolutions, including among others:

- Observer reports must be factually accurate and based on specific incidents;
- Observers must clarify their information gathering method's;
- Observers may not interfere or attempt to influence the electoral process in any of its stages
- Observers may not survey voters to ascertain voting patterns or results
- Observers may not make public or media statements, political analyses or interpretations on a phase of the electoral process until the end of that particular phase.

Breaches of these regulations will lead to a revoking of an observer's accreditation.