



# Alliance of National Networks and Organizations to Monitor Elections in Iraq



## Kurdistan Regional Parliament Election Monitoring Program - Iraq



### Kurdistan Regional Parliament Election Monitoring Report - Iraq Sixth Session 2024

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## Alliance of National Networks and Organizations to Observe Elections in Iraq



Alliance of National Networks and Organizations for Election Observation in Iraq: A civil society initiative aimed at promoting democracy, transparency and integrity in the electoral process, this initiative includes several networks and non-governmental organizations working in the field of election observation, electoral education and civic participation, and this alliance seeks to provide recommendations and proposals to improve the legal, organizational and technical framework for elections in Iraq, and to enhance the role of civil society in monitoring and evaluating elections

Since its announcement, the Coalition has been monitoring the stages of the electoral process, such as voter registration, all stages of the electoral process, and voting operations for private and universal voting. This is in implementation of its objectives, the most important of which is to monitor the electoral process in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region, and even before the announcement of the coalition, the networks and organizations affiliated with the coalition have been monitoring the course of electoral processes in Iraq since 2005. This monitoring aims to determine the extent to which Iraqi elections comply with international standards for the integrity and transparency of elections and the extent to which they implement the provisions of the constitution. and the electoral law, identifying weaknesses and strengths in the stages of the electoral cycle.

## National Surveillance Networks Alliance Monitoring Program in Iraq

Since the announcement of the decision to determine the polling day by the President of the Kurdistan Region, the Alliance of Monitoring Networks has developed mechanisms for long-term monitoring of the stages of the electoral process for the election of the sixth session of the Kurdistan Parliament 2024, such as analyzing the legal framework, updating voter registration, registering parties, alliances and candidates, electoral campaigns, electoral spending, monitoring voting operations for private and public voting, the position and role of the electoral process partners, the judiciary in the Kurdistan Parliament elections, and participation rates and their impact. And the use of technology in elections, with the political environment and civic education on the democratic track. and an analysis of election results. This is in implementation of its objectives, the most important of which is to monitor the electoral process in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region, and even before the announcement of the coalition, networks and organizations affiliated with the coalition and others have been monitoring the course of electoral processes in Iraq since 2005.

The coalition recruited field observers deployed at polling stations and stations, as well as long-term monitors, campaign monitors and media observers.

Hierarchical and horizontal training courses were held on general principles, codes of conduct, procedures, how to monitor, paper and electronic monitoring forms, with a detailed guide and a short guide for all observers.

The general voting process for the election of the sixth session of the Parliament of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq was held on October 20, 2024, after the Independent High Electoral Commission completed its preparations, following the provision of the legal framework for the process, updating the voter register biometrically, registering candidates, and starting the electoral campaign, leading up to the day of public voting. Coalition observers deployed to polling stations designated for public voting, and the mechanism of collecting information was followed in a manner

Modern electronic through a special application for the network on the Internet, with the provision of a call center to communicate with observers who

They lose the internet, or are prevented from using their smartphones inside the centers. The coalition maintains an electronic record of observer forms, together with

personal information and the location of observation. An agreement was reached with the Iraqi digital platform 964+ to publish the media and cover press conferences.

**Members of the Alliance:**

1. Shams Election Observation Network.
2. Ain Network for Election Monitoring and Democracy.
3. Tammuz Organization for Social Development.
4. Jaf Network for Democracy and Human Rights Monitoring.
5. Iraqi Minorities Network.
6. Kurdish Electoral Institute.

Media publishing in cooperation with the Iraqi digital platform +964



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## Executive Summary

### **Introduction:**

Alliance of National Networks and Organizations for Election Observation in Iraq: It is a civil society initiative aimed at promoting democracy, transparency and integrity in the electoral process, this initiative includes several networks and non-governmental organizations working in the field of election observation, electoral education and civic participation, and this alliance seeks to submit proposals to improve the legal, organizational and technical framework for elections in Iraq, and to enhance the role of civil society in monitoring and evaluating elections.

The Alliance of Surveillance Networks has developed long-term monitoring mechanisms for the stages of the electoral process for the election of the sixth session of the Kurdistan Parliament 2024, such as analyzing the legal framework, updating the voter register, registering parties, alliances and candidates, electoral campaigns, monitoring polling operations for private and public voting, the position and role of the electoral process partners, the judiciary in the Kurdistan Parliament elections, participation rates and their impact and the use of technology in elections, with the political environment and civic education on the democratic track. and an analysis of election results. In implementation of its objectives, the most important of which is to monitor the electoral process in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region, and for that the coalition recruited field observers distributed to electoral centers and stations, in addition to long-term monitoring, and observers (journalists) of the electoral campaign, and took the opinion of a number of election experts on the election of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq Parliament.

### **Themes of the report:**

1. Legal framework.
2. Voter registration.
3. Registration of parties, alliances and candidates.
4. Monitoring election campaigns.
5. Observation of polling day (private and public voting).
6. The role of the judiciary in elections.
7. The use of technology in Iraqi elections.
8. Participation rates.
9. Analysis of the results.
10. Minorities in elections.
11. Women's participation.
12. Election administration.

13. Domestic and international monitoring.
14. Government role and institutions.
15. Political environment.

**Content of the report:**

The Iraqi Constitution regulates the issue of the right to vote for Iraqi citizens and the election of representative bodies to ensure the peaceful transfer of power in many articles, such as Articles (5, 6, 20, 38, 39, 46, 49). He referred to the laws to ensure the implementation of the provisions of the constitution, especially the electoral law. With regard to the elections of the Kurdistan Parliament, the Kurdistan Parliament Election Law (No. 1 of 1992, as amended) is still the electoral law in force. With the fundamental changes in reducing the number of seats in parliament to one hundred seats, and dividing the Kurdistan Region To four electoral districts, instead of one electoral district, and allocating five seats to only two components within the hundred seats, and assigning the Independent High Electoral Commission to hold the elections of the sixth session of the Kurdistan Parliament, in addition to assigning the Judicial Authority for Elections to decide on appeals submitted against the decisions of the Board of Commissioners and the results of the elections, and making carrying the voter's biometric card a prerequisite for the voter, according to the decision of the Federal Supreme Court No. (83 and its units 131 and 185 / federal / 2023) On 21/2/2024. And the decision of the judicial body No. 355 issued on 20/5/2024.

The Independent High Electoral Commission issued a number of regulations and instructions to implement elections in the elections of the sixth session of the Kurdistan Regional Parliament.

It is noted that the decision of the Federal Court has granted legislative jurisdiction to the Independent High Electoral Commission by granting it the competence to divide the Kurdistan region into a number of electoral districts of not less than four, and therefore the number of electoral districts, the number of seats allocated to each district, and the geographical boundaries are within the competence of the Commission. The Commission's decision to determine three seats for the Halabja governorate constituency, in the opinion of some political blocs, highlights the unfairness in determining the number of seats allocated to it, as it was possible to rely in determining the boundaries of the constituency and the number of seats (5) on the division that took place in the 2021 House of Representatives elections in terms of the number of seats and the boundaries of the constituency.

The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) has opened the doors of registration centers in order to update the voter register for the elections of members of the sixth round of the Kurdistan Parliament elections on 1/2/2024 and extended until 10/3/2024. Then a second period began to update the voter register, which began on 16/5/2024 until 2/6/2024, after the issuance of the Federal Court's decision by state order No. (126/federal/state order/2024) on 7/5/2024, and then the issuance of the judicial body decision (355/judicial body for elections/2024) on 220/5/2024. This

period has been extended for the case of not reading the fingerprint, which was considered as a case (correction) until 10/7/2024.

The importance of the period of updating the voter register comes in order to develop a solid and reliable register, as it is among the most important international standards for the integrity of elections, because there are cases of permanent social change, change of place of residence, due to the formation of new families, change of place of work or job, and the inclusion of newborns who acquire the right to vote in accordance with the electoral law, deaths, immigration, naturalization and others. Therefore, there is an urgent need for the period of updating the voter register before any electoral process, to accommodate and address these cases and update the register in light of them, and this update is necessary. It is important regardless of the method of preparing and updating the voter register in the country.

The period of updating the register included the following cases:

1. Biometric registration - (addendum).
2. Registration of newborns 2006.
3. Perform the correction of the data.
4. Loss and damage condition.
5. Re-registration for those whose fingerprints has not been read.
6. Deletion for the deceased.

One of the drawbacks of the period of updating the voter register to hold the elections of the sixth session of the Kurdistan Parliament 2024 is that:

1. The Commission did not issue a special system or instructions for the period of updating the voter register for the Kurdistan Parliament elections, which is the first system that the Commission is supposed to issue to regulate the process of updating the register, based on the electoral law regulating the process, and then develop detailed procedures in the light of this system, but the Commission relied on the procedures for updating the register for the irregular provincial council elections in the region that took place on 18/12/2023, then the Operations Department issued subsequent instructions to the rest of the governorate offices, including its offices in the Kurdistan Region on 12/2/2024 with its letter No. 100 under the title (Instructions for Resumption of the Biometric Registration Process).
2. The record update did not include a change status, which is of three types, a change of polling station within the same registration center. And changing the polling station outside the registration center within the governorate. As well as changing the polling station outside the registration center outside the governorate. It is known that the state of change is necessary to meet the needs of voters who establish new families, and who change their place of residence for various reasons, and it is one of the reasons for opening a period to update the voter register



before any electoral process. The IHEC did not provide convincing reasons for not opening the state of change, although the state of change was continuing in the rest of the provinces of Iraq, knowing that there was no electoral process in the rest of the provinces of Iraq.

Whereas there is no real democracy without free and fair elections, nor reliable elections without actual political pluralism, nor is there real political pluralism without providing equal opportunities for everyone to participate in elections and represent them in elected institutions, and this requires the existence of legal foundations and specific rules that regulate the establishment of political parties and determine the legal frameworks for the participation of these parties and other individuals in the electoral process, and be a reference for the institutions that supervise the elections on how to deal with those who wish to participate in the elections.

With regard to candidacy lists, and since it is a requirement for any elections, political parties and individuals present themselves as competing candidates in the electoral process to the concerned authorities, as it is inconceivable that there are elections without the presence of those who run for the position or seats allocated to the elected body, and this often means the presence of competitors from different parties in addition to individual candidates, which requires the development of a legal framework to regulate this process of participation and competition and determine the conditions that must be met by parties. It also requires the issuance of regulations, instructions and rules for the purpose of determining the application mechanism, clarifying the stages of submission and setting a behavioral framework for competitors.

From this standpoint and on the basis of it, the Independent High Electoral Commission in Iraq organized this process, as part of its preparations for the elections of the Kurdistan Region Parliament – Iraq, where the Commissioner issued regulations and instructions for organizing the process, based on:

1. The provisions of the Permanent Iraqi Constitution of 2005, relevant.
2. Federal Political Parties Law No. 36 of 2015.
3. The Parties Law of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq No. 17 of 1993, as amended.

Article (21) of the Kurdistan Parliament Election Law No. 1 of 1992, as amended, and Article (5 first) of the system of registering and sticking lists of candidates No. (7) of 2024, stipulate the conditions that must be met by the candidate, namely:

1. Must meet the conditions of a voter eligible to participate in the elections and registered in the voter register biometrically.
2. Citizens of the Kurdistan Region and residents of the electoral region for which he is nominated.
3. fully qualified and reached twenty-five years of age on the day of special voting.
4. Proficient in reading and writing.
5. Not sentenced to imprisonment for crimes against morals, public morals and integrity.

6. Not sentenced to prison for murder or robbery.
7. He did not participate in crimes planned or committed by the repressive authority in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

But the requirement for the candidate's proficiency only to read and write to apply does not come with the requirements of the legislative institution and its tasks of discussing and enacting draft laws, and following up on the activities of ministries, especially after the opening of dozens of universities and institutes in the region, although the Inter-Parliamentary Union indicates that the most successful elected bodies represent the most groups and classes of society.

Giving political parties the right to submit lists of candidates twice the number of seats allocated to one electoral district gives an advantage to political parties unlike individual candidates, as it is known that it is impossible for any party to win twice the number of seats, so this privilege leads to a lack of justice, and allows parties to include the names of candidates with the certainty that no more than half of the number of candidates won, and the inclusion of these names is only to benefit from the votes obtained by these candidates.

During the monitoring of the network teams and observers, reports were sent on the day of voting for the private and public, including:

1. Report of the opening of the centers.
2. Ballot report.
3. Speech al-Aghlaq.

All observers of the Local Surveillance Networks Alliance recorded the case of not reading the fingerprint of a number of voters in all stations that were covered by the Coalition observers, and this is a serious problem for the IHEC to find appropriate solutions in future elections.

As for the role of the judiciary in the elections, the Federal Court's decision No. 83 referred to had a great impact on a number of axes of the Kurdistan Parliament elections 2024, in addition to that there was an impact on the decisions of the Judicial Authority for Elections, which consists of three judges of the first class who are part-time to consider appeals against decisions issued by the Board of Commissioners in the Independent High Electoral Commission. According to Articles 19 and 20 of the amended Independent High Electoral Commission Law No. 31 of 2019, the affected parties have the right to appeal the decisions of the Board of Commissioners, including the decision to announce the results of the elections, as the Judicial Authority for Elections is a court of first instance competent to consider electoral disputes, meaning it has the right to investigate the appeal and even conduct pleadings before it by the litigants in the case, and its decisions are final and binding on everyone, including the Commission, candidates and political parties. Based on the above, the judiciary issued For the elections its decision No. 355 / Judicial Commission / 2024 on 20/5/2024, as a result of submitting appeals against the instructions for registering and approving candidate lists for the year 2023, where the Commission decided to allocate five seats to the components within the hundred

seats of the Kurdistan Parliament, two seats in Erbil Governorate, the same in Sulaymaniyah Governorate, and one seat in Dohuk Governorate.

After the announcement of the full results, the field was opened for submitting appeals before the Judicial Authority for Elections, where 41 appeals were submitted against the results of the elections of the sixth session of the Kurdistan Parliament 2024, as follows:

1. **Dohuk constituency: 3 appeals.**
2. **Erbil constituency: 12 appeals.**
3. **Sulaymaniyah constituency: 25 appeals.**
4. **Halabja constituency: 1 appeal.**

According to the context followed by the Commission since the election of the House of Representatives in 2021, the Commission is the one who received the appeals, prepared the necessary answers for each appeal and within a period of one week from the date of receipt of the last appeal, and then sent the appeals with its answers to the Judicial Authority for Elections, which has a period of 10 ten days to issue the necessary decisions regarding each appeal. The appeals submitted were considered by the Judicial Election Authority, where all the appeals were resolved by it and the Board of Commissioners was informed of this by the letter of the Judicial Body. No. 5 issued on 18/11/2024. The Board of Commissioners approved the final results according to its competence based on the seventh paragraph of Article X of the Independent High Electoral Commission Law for the year 2019 by its decision No. (4) of the regular minutes (44) issued on 24 AD 11/2024, and the final results of the Presidency of the Kurdistan Region were sent according to its letter No. (Kh/24/R.M/144) on 24/11/2024, thus removing the hands of the Commission from the results of the elections and the winning candidates.

Since the 2014 elections, the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) has been using technology in Iraq's elections, forming a trend towards improving integrity and transparency in the electoral process, especially in light of the challenges facing electoral processes in Iraq. This approach came as part of the quest to improve the electoral process and consolidate democracy in Iraq and the region. The process of using technology is represented in important axes, starting with the process of registering voters using biometric data at the beginning of 2015 in order to reduce the registration of violations. This includes collecting data such as fingerprints, facial images. The main objective of this step is to prevent repetition or voting in the names of voters who are absent or residing abroad. It caused and improved the accuracy of the voter register. Increase confidence among citizens in the electoral process.

The use of electronic counting of ballots using electronic counting machines with biometric cards means in practice the exclusion of the human factor (polling officials) from the counting and counting of ballots. Consequently, the termination of repeated voting, proxy voting, group and family voting, stuffing of boxes with unused papers at the end of voting day, failure to allow voting by voters other than the station specified therein, deliberate invalidation of ballots, termination of erroneous and sometimes deliberate filling with results Parties and candidates in the paper results form.

A special machine is used to send the results to the national office via the electronic counting machine (RTS). The Independent High Electoral Commission has contracted with a specialized examiner that examines all the software used and the vote transmission process. It matched the fingerprints of all voters in all voting operations and in all governorates within ten days of polling day.

However, the use of technology still faces some challenges and widespread criticism, especially from parties that have questioned the fairness of the results. There is still a lack of trust among segments of the population in the voting system, with some believing that technology may be used to enhance manipulation rather than reduce it.

To ensure the success of this development in the electoral process, investment must be made in improving technology. Ongoing training of UNHCR staff. Ensure that the problem of fingerprint unread is addressed (334.882) voters that had been announced by the Independent High Electoral Commission.

As for the participation rate in the Kurdistan Parliament elections, the number of voters reached (2,089,335) voters relative to the number of biometric registered voters (2,899,578) voters, which the law considers a prerequisite for the voter, and by 72% of the total number of biometric registered votes, which was announced by the Independent High Electoral Commission. But if we calculate the number of voters who reached the age of eighteen in the 2024 election year in the four governorates of the Kurdistan Region, their total is (3,789,360) citizens, the percentage of voting or participation is 55.13%.

The turnout announced by the Commission is in accordance with the electoral law, as a number of voters did not register themselves biometrically in order to be registered in the biometric voter register, and for various reasons, perhaps a large number of them are not interested in political and electoral issues. The failure to register another large percentage of these segments in the biometric voter register is considered a negative opposition, perhaps because they do not believe in democracy and elections, or in the style of state administration and governance, both in the region and in Iraq in general, or their lack of conviction that elections are a tool for the process of expression of opinion and participation as well as for change. Therefore, to say that the turnout was high, and that it reflects overwhelming popular satisfaction with the political and electoral process, is inaccurate and cannot be relied upon in the future.

After the announcement of the final results of the election of the sixth session of the Kurdistan Parliament and their ratification by the Board of Commissioners based on the seventh paragraph of Article X of the Commission Law, they show different positions by the political parties participating in it. It is necessary to refer here to a number of observations:

1. The results announced by the Independent High Electoral Commission included determining the number of seats (men) and this is a legal error, as the electoral law did not specify seats for men to be contested only by male candidates, but a percentage of at least 30% of the seats in each electoral

district was determined for women, and they are met according to the seat distribution system No. 9 of 2024, as if women win all seats in an electoral district, it is not considered an infringement on (seats). men) and is not considered a legal violation. This mistake started with the announcement of the results of the provincial council elections.

2. The division of Kurdistan into four districts in terms of high voter turnout in one region did not affect the other electoral regions due to the limitation of the number of seats for each district, and thus the competition intensified and was limited to the administrative boundaries of that constituency or governorate.

3. If we calculate the number of seats obtained by other parties except for the two major parties, they amounted to 33 seats, and constitute approximately 35% of the number of general seats (95) seats, so if we assume that they formed one bloc in the Kurdistan Parliament, this enables them to play important roles within the parliament. Where it can impose many of its orientations and the vocabulary of its programs in the laws that legislate from the Kurdistan Parliament, and submit draft laws to other laws, and constitute an important mechanism to organize oversight of the government and its ministries, in terms of the formation of committees Investigate and investigate, organize and direct interrogations, in addition to being able to disrupt many government plans and programs.

The Iraqi constitution recognizes the existence of diverse components, nationalities and minorities in Iraq and calls for their inclusion and representation. Most election laws also guaranteed reserved seats (quotas) for some minorities, but it largely failed to achieve their true political representation, the seats do not include all minorities, and no reliable demographic data on minorities is available in their absence, even after the recent census.

Subsequently, based on the decisions of the Judicial Commission for Elections No. 355 of 2024 issued on 16/5/2024, and Resolution No. 355 issued on 20/5/2024, it was decided to grant (5) seats to minorities, 3 to Christians (one in each district) and 2 to Turkmen (one each to Erbil and Sulaymaniyah districts). Thus, the issue was not limited to reducing the seats to 5 only, but limited them only to the representation of two components only. Therefore, most stakeholders opposed of persons belonging to minorities, mechanisms to participate in elections, because the system allowed the results of the race reserved seats (quota) to be decided by voters of political parties that do not belong to these minorities, in clear contradiction to the spirit of the law and the idea of meaningful political participation In addition to ignoring Law No. 5 of 2015 (Law on the Protection of the Rights of Components in the Kurdistan Region - Iraq), which recognized more than 10 minorities of non-Christians and Turkmens, but they were not represented in the election law unless their representatives won through the lists of parties of the majority of minorities (Yazidi, Kakai, Faili Kurds, Zoroastrianism, etc.).

In order to ensure women's participation in the elections, the Kurdistan legislator tried to allocate 30% of the total general seats in the Kurdistan Parliament as quota seats for women, according to

paragraph (1) of Article (22) of the Kurdistan Parliament Elections Law No. 1 of 1992, as amended. Despite social customs and norms, there have not been many cases of electoral violence against women. There is practically no comprehensive political, social and cultural impediment to the nomination of women for parliament or political and administrative office, women in the region work significantly and effectively in elections as candidates and there are no apparent restrictions around them, and parties and government channels give almost equal opportunity to women candidates.

However, there are still obstacles to women's political participation in public life, including:

1. Lack of funding sources equal to men competing in party lists and candidates.
2. Despite the efforts exerted by official authorities, including the Supreme Council for Women and Development in the Kurdistan Region, the continued abuse of female candidates was monitored through videos and comments on social media.
3. There are limited social and cultural barriers that oppose women's representation in the political process.

The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) is the constitutional body with broad administrative, regulatory and (legislative) powers to manage voter registration and elections. Stakeholders' perception of the IHEC differed markedly. Some stakeholders expressed distrust of the independence of the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC), and the perception of being pressured and interfered by politicians. But the IHEC's Board of Commissioners, made up of seven first-instance judges and two consultants appointed by the State Council, stressed its independence and respect for the law. Although all members of the Board of Commissioners were chosen by lot from among the pre-selected candidates, some civil society representatives recognize the Commission as a politically independent institution, but as an electoral management body whose composition reflects a balance between components.

Transparency in the work of the Commission was good, although many more improvements were demanded, and important information, such as the deployment plan of polling stations and stations, lists of candidates and training manuals, was available on the Independent High Electoral Commission website, as well as an online voter register database to verify voters' names and voting locations assigned to them. In addition to the regular publication of the full text of the decisions, regulations and instructions of the Independent High Electoral Commission in both Arabic and less in Kurdish on the website of the Independent High Electoral Commission.

As for the local and international monitoring of the 2024 Kurdistan Parliament elections, and despite the lack of funding to monitor the Kurdistan Regional Parliament's elections, a group of civil society organizations deployed their observers in the four electoral districts in the Kurdistan Region and outside the region for the special voting day, which contributed to increasing the transparency of the electoral process. Monitoring process for the days of private and public voting by covering more than

90% of the electoral centers and stations through (600) observers on the day of the special voting in the governorates of the region and 7 other governorates outside the region, and by 80% of the centers and 39% of the stations on the day of the general poll through (1600) observers and 30 mobile teams, and field coordination between the observers of the coalition parties in all electoral districts with geographical coverage of up to 85% of districts and districts The four governorates in the Kurdistan Region.

The Independent High Electoral Commission announced the number of local and international observers and media participating in the 2024 Kurdistan Regional Parliament elections, that "the number of registered political entities agents reached 43,139 entity agents, in addition to 9,610 local observers distributed among the various governorates, and pointed out, that "there are 1,830 international observers representing 16 consulate and 15 international organizations, in addition to 22 international media outlets and 109 local media outlets in media coverage of the elections."

The federal government has provided financial, logistical and technical support to ensure the success of the electoral process. Coordination between the IHEC and federal ministries, such as the Ministry of Interior, contributed to providing security and ensuring the smooth transmission of electoral data. The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has worked with IHEC to facilitate procedures, such as allocating polling stations and providing administrative support through the Ministry of Education to provide voting places. The Ministry of Interior in the region also played a pivotal role in securing the electoral process and protecting voters and polling stations.

In conclusion, we must point out that the elections for the sixth session of the Kurdistan Parliament 2024 took place in light of a political situation in Iraq in general and in the Kurdistan Region in particular, characterized by intertwining and complexity in light of the accumulation of problems and challenges at various political, economic, social and cultural levels, and is reflected in the vortex of intertwined crises and their external extensions, in addition to the interdependence and mutual influence between the situation in Iraq and the situation in the Kurdistan Region. Therefore, despite the passage of nearly three months from the date of the elections The Kurdistan Parliament, the elected parliament was unable to elect its president, deputy and secretary of parliament, so how can the Kurdistan society be optimistic about the election of a new president of the region, and the formation of a new government in the near future.

## Recommendation

1. The need to be the first task of the sixth session of the Kurdistan Parliament after voting on the composition of the Kurdistan Regional Government, is to legislate a modern and advanced law for the elections of the Kurdistan Parliament that adopts international standards for free, fair and transparent elections, by holding seminars and round tables with specialists from constitutional law professors, election experts and heads of networks specialized in elections, provided that the law translates the principles of electoral justice and is compatible

with the Constitution of Iraq. It should include a number of provisions, the most important of which are:

- A. Add a paragraph to the candidate's conditions, by obliging the candidate for membership of the regional parliament who holds the position of general manager and above to submit his resignation from his position, or give him a compulsory leave of not less than three months from the day of voting. This is to prevent his position from being used in his propaganda campaign.
- B. The need to review the number of seats allocated to the component quota, in terms of number and distribution among electoral districts, to be fairer and according to population density. And to grant other quota seats to authentic religious and national components in the Kurdistan Region, such as Yazidi, Kakai, Faili Kurds, Zoroastrian, etc.
- C. The need for the new electoral law to include detailed provisions to control the electoral spending of political parties and candidates, determine the maximum ceiling for electoral spending, indicate the sources of funding, whether for parties or candidates, and ensure the opening of bank accounts for each party and candidate and appoint a chartered accountant by them, to monitor how the disbursement is made, and the extent of its commitment to the law and the spending system, by the Commission, the Financial Supervision Bureau and the Integrity Commission.
- D. Rely on the 2024 census in substance and content to determine the number of seats allocated to each electoral district.
- E. Demarcation of electoral districts and centers by creating a special body or committee entrusted with this task, and that the Commission works in cooperation with the authorities in the region to draw the boundaries of the constituency and electoral centers, in a way that ensures justice in terms of the number of voters and the size of the electoral district.
- F. The number of candidates in any electoral list should not exceed the number of seats allocated to the electoral district.
- G. The requirement of the candidate's proficiency in reading and writing to apply does not come with the requirements of the legislative institution and its tasks of discussing and enacting draft laws, and monitoring the tasks and activities of ministries, so we propose to amend this paragraph so that the primary certificate is the lowest certificate for those who want to run for membership in the Kurdistan Region Parliament – Iraq.
- H. The necessity of allowing voting for all voters who indicated in the registration period not to read their fingerprints, and not to put any percentage exceeding them regardless of its percentage, provided that their names are specified in the verification device and in the paper, voter register for each station.



- I. Setting a skipping rate not exceeding 4% of the number of voters in each station for voters whose fingerprints are not read for any reason, with the withdrawal of their cards like voters whose fingerprints were not read in the registration process.
  1. Since Halabja Governorate has been considered an electoral district with its administrative boundaries, the Commission should take legal and administrative measures to establish a special electoral office in Halabja Governorate, to administer the elections of Halabja Governorate for the upcoming elections.
  2. The need to organize electoral registers for minorities, based on free registration by members of each minority separately, after the opening of registration centers for a sufficient period by the Commission, for voters of each minority who wish to register their name in the voters register of that minority.
  3. Reconsider the controls of electoral campaigns so that it is not allowed to place pictures of candidates and electoral posters of parties on sidewalks and intersections, and on all buildings of state institutions and departments, schools, places of worship and government transportation.
  4. Imposing high financial fines on violations for parties and candidates, and then warning them to remove the violation within a period of 48 hours, because the instructions of electoral campaigns that are set in the electoral campaign system are known to all, and are based on the electoral law, so the obligation to apply them is a legal obligation on parties and candidates that must be adhered to.
  5. The need for the Commission to be more assertive towards media discourses that spread hatred, extremism, treason, takfir and threats, whether such speech is issued by candidates, heads of parties and lists, or various media outlets. Because it may be a cause and a trigger for cases of violence in society during and after elections.
  6. Giving powers to the directors of governorate offices, for the purpose of registering monitoring teams and approving the members of those teams after ensuring that the required conditions are met, because this will lead to a rapid pace of work, increase the number of observers and monitoring teams, in addition to reducing the effort on the shoulders of the national office.
  7. To ensure successful development in the electoral process, investment should be made in improving technology, continuously developing it, simplifying procedures, and working to communicate with electoral process partners to increase confidence in voting procedures.
  8. Implementing the instructions of the maximum expenditure on electoral campaigns issued by the Commission, and entering the Al-Nafath district as of 8/8/2023, and publishing a report on the results and mechanism of applying these instructions on the IHEC website.

9. Continuous training for UNHCR staff, at all levels, especially registration center staff, on ways to better use electronic means and devices.
10. The need to limit the number of voters to the voting station for universal voting to no more than 350 voters so that all voters can vote due to the complex procedures of the voting process, and to ensure that all voters vote if the vote reaches high percentages.
11. Serious work by the IHEC and state institutions to ensure the continued existence of independent monitoring of the electoral process, in cooperation with observation networks, and the preparation and publication of official responses by the IHEC to network reports.
12. Serious work by the IHEC and state institutions to ensure the continued existence of independent monitoring of the electoral process, in cooperation with observation networks, and the preparation and publication of official responses by the IHEC to network reports.

## Part I – Legal Framework

The legal framework is an essential element of any electoral process, as it legitimizes it, and the clarity, complementarity, quality and realism of this legal framework reflects greatly on the success and credibility of the electoral process. This legal framework is crystallized from constitutional and legal texts, regulations, instructions and decisions of electoral administrations in line with the conduct of the electoral process.

With regard to the election of the Kurdistan Region Parliament - Iraq, which was held on 20/10/2024, according to the presidential decree issued by the Presidency of the Kurdistan Region No. (222) on June 26, 2024, it came from the womb of great suffering represented in sharp and heated political differences between the two main parties in the region over certain determinants in the amended Electoral Law No. 1 of 1992, the most prominent of which are the electoral districts, the minority quota, and the composition of the Independent High Commission for Elections and Referendum in the region after the vacancy and the end of its term and the end of the term of the fifth session to the Kurdistan Regional Parliament and its extension.

Note that the election of the sixth session of the Kurdistan Region Parliament - Iraq has already been set for other dates by regional decrees issued by the Presidency of the Kurdistan Region, namely:

1. Decree issued on February 24, 2022, which set the date of the elections as October 1, 2022.

2. Decree issued on March 26, 2023, setting the date of the elections on November 18, 2024.
3. Decree issued on August 3, 2024, setting the date of the elections on June 10, 2024.
4. Decree issued on March 3, 2024, setting the date of the elections at June 10, 2024.

The resort to the Federal Supreme Court made these elections one of the most controversial elections, as the court, after successive postponements, issued a decision in this regard No. 83 and its units 131 and 185 / federal / 2023 on 21/2/2024, amending some provisions in the electoral system emanating from Law No. 1 of 1992 and affecting the map of elections and the composition of future alliances in the Kurdistan Region.

The aforementioned decision crystallized a new approach for the Federal Supreme Court in a dangerous and unparalleled precedent, as it changed the features of the legal framework for these elections in accordance with the amended Kurdistan Regional Parliament Election Law No. 1 of 1992. This decision provoked different reactions in the Kurdistan arena, and the discontent of the parties benefiting from the eleven seats that were allocated to the minority quota in the region contained in Article 36 bis of the Kurdistan Region Election Law No. 1 of 1992, as amended. Some interpreted this new approach as a clear violation of the Federal Supreme Court in Iraq of its competencies established in the Constitution of the Republic of Iraq for the year 2005, especially Article 92 thereof, and a flagrant violation of the principle of separation of powers established in Article 47 and the option, or rather the legislative competence of the Kurdistan Regional Parliament, the legitimate representative of the people of Iraqi Kurdistan contained in Articles (121 and 141) of the Constitution of the Republic of Iraq for the year 2005.

It is noteworthy that the amendment of specific articles in the law on the election of the regional parliament, the adoption of legal alternatives and the revival of canceled legal articles, a new precedent that does not fit with the jurisdiction of the federal supreme courts, embodied in the interpretation of constitutional texts and the abolition of violating or conflicting legal texts within the framework of monitoring the constitutionality of laws.

## BOOTSTRAP

legal framework provides the basis for holding democratic elections, as it determines the course, form and composition of the political process in its entirety, and the legal framework is defined as (a set of laws that relate to the electoral process or affect in any way, which mainly includes the constitution, electoral laws, and other relevant laws such as political parties laws, regulatory laws for the legislative authority, electoral regulations and controls and codes of honor.

All countries are keen to develop an integrated legal framework to ensure the safety and smoothness of the electoral process, and the legal framework is based on:

1. Constitution: Many countries, including Iraq, are working to include their constitutions with the basic general foundations and controls, in order for the electoral process to be more stable, by granting it constitutional immunity, which makes it difficult to change its nature, and these controls, for example, electoral administration, election systems, the right to vote, and these controls vary from one country to another according to the specificity of society and the political system, the permanent Iraqi constitution of 2005 dealt with the general lines of the process, leaving the rest of the details to the legislator, as Article (49) referred to important points such as (the ratio of the number of Seats, direct secret universal suffrage, candidate and voter conditions, women's representation, and replacement of members) and referred the organization of these matters in detail to the legislative authority, and Article 102 of the Constitution suffices to consider the Independent High Electoral Commission in Iraq as an independent body subject to the control of the Council of Representatives, and its work is regulated by law .
2. Election laws: The electoral law is the framework that frames the electoral process, as the electoral law organizes the electoral process in its various aspects, such as voter registration procedures, nomination conditions, and deals with other topics such as electoral campaigns, the electoral system, political parties, electoral districts, and how to cast votes, meaning that the electoral law makes frameworks that constantly change according to the levels between political forces and between opposing ideologies .The legal framework for the electoral process enhances voter confidence in the electoral process. This is what the Iraqi legislator was keen to do before each electoral cycle, by issuing a new electoral law or amending the existing law, while not neglecting other laws that contribute to the integration of the legal framework, such as the party's law and the electoral administration law.
3. Regulations and controls can be issued by special bodies in charge of administering elections, and these regulations and controls are at a lower level of laws, and this task is considered the prerogative of the Independent High Electoral Commission.

### The first axis: the constitutional provisions in the Constitution of the Republic of Iraq for the year 2005

In light of these aforementioned variables and developments, we summarize the legal framework for these elections in the following axes:

1. Preamble: Takfir and terrorism did not deter us from going ... Peaceful transfer of power.... Equal opportunities for all.

2. Article 5: Sovereignty of the law and the people are the source and legitimacy of the authorities, exercised by direct universal secret ballot and through its constitutional institutions.
3. Article (6) The peaceful rotation of power shall take place through the democratic means provided for in this Constitution.
4. Article 20: Citizens, men and women, have the right to participate in public affairs and enjoy political rights, including the right to vote, elect and be elected.
5. Article (38) First: The State shall guarantee, without prejudice to public order and morals: Freedom of expression by all means.
6. ARTICLE (39):
7. First: Freedom to establish or join associations and political parties is guaranteed, and this shall be regulated by law.
8. Second: No one may be forced to join any party, association or political body, or to continue to be a member thereof.
9. Article 46: The exercise or limitation of any of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Constitution shall not be restricted except by or pursuant to a law, provided that such limitation and restriction shall not affect the essence of the right or freedom.

## Second Theme: Legislative Framework

1. The Kurdistan Region Election Law No. 1 of 1992, as amended by all its texts, except for the articles amended or canceled by the decision of the Federal Supreme Court in Iraq.
2. Judicial Authority Decision No: 354 / Judicial Commission for Elections / 2024 issued on 16/5/2024.
3. Judicial Committee Decision No. 355 issued on 20/5/2024.
4. Presidential Decree issued by the Presidency of the Kurdistan Region No. (222) of 2024 issued on June 26, 2024,
  1. The Parties Law of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq No. 17 of 1993, as amended.
  2. Independent High Electoral Commission Law No. 31 of 2019, as amended.
  3. Federal Law of Political Parties and Organizations No. 36 of 2015 in accordance with the system of (complaints and appeals for the election of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq Parliament No. (8) of 2024.
  4. Law of the First Amendment to the Independent High Electoral Commission Law No. (31) of 2019.

5. Law No. 13 of 2024, Second Amendment Law to the Independent High Electoral Commission Law No. 31 of 2019.

### Third Theme: Regulations and instructions issued by the Independent High Electoral Commission in Iraq regarding the elections of the sixth session of the Kurdistan Regional Parliament

1. Local Election Observers Accreditation Regulation No. 3 of 2023.
2. Media system for the Kurdistan Regional Parliament Elections No. 5 of 2023.
3. Regulation of Agents of Candidates, Parties and Political Alliances No. 6 of 2023.
4. Registration and approval of candidate lists for the Kurdistan Regional Parliament elections - Iraq No. 7 of 2024.
5. Complaints and appeals system for the election of the Kurdistan Regional Parliament of Iraq No. 8 of 2024.
6. The system of voting, counting and counting for the election of the Kurdistan Region Parliament - Iraq No. 1 of 2023 amended by the decision of the Board of Commissioners No. (4) for the extraordinary minutes (15) dated 13/3/2024.
7. Instructions for the alliance between political parties to elect the Kurdistan Regional Parliament 2024.
8. Instructions for the accreditation of agents of political parties, alliances and individual candidates for the Kurdistan Region Parliament elections - Iraq 2024.
9. Amending the system of registering and approving candidate lists for the Kurdistan Region Parliament elections - Iraq 2024 No. 7 amended by the decision of the Board of Commissioners No. 2 issued on 3/6/2024.
10. The system of distributing seats and replacing members of the Kurdistan Parliament - Iraq No. 9 of 2024.

The fourth axis: the new framing in light of the decision of the Federal Court No. 83 and its units 131 and 185 / federal / 2023 dated 21/2/2024. And the decision of the judicial body No. 355 issued on 20/5/2024.

According to the content of the aforementioned decision of the Federal Supreme Court, there is a change in the features of the legal framing of these elections according to the Court's controversial jurisprudence, as follows:

1- The number of seats in the Kurdistan Parliament consists of 100 seats.

After ruling the unconstitutionality of the phrase (eleven) in Article 1 of the Kurdistan Parliament Elections Law No. of 1992, as amended, and proposing the alternative text as follows: (The Kurdistan Parliament of Iraq consists of one hundred members). While the decision of the Judicial Elections Commission No. 355/ Space Elections Commission/ 2024 issued on 5/20/2024 stressed the necessity of ensuring the representation of components in these districts with five representative seats distributed over the governorates of Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah, and organizing this with approved procedures that ensure their implementation in a fair and impartial manner, and taking guidance from international and regional electoral standards and seeking the assistance of experts from the United Nations Electoral Assistance Office in accordance with Article 21 of the Independent High Electoral Commission Law No. 31 of 2019.

2- Supervision and management of the electoral process by the Federal Independent High Electoral Commission.

After ruling the unconstitutionality of the phrase according to the provisions of paragraph (4) of Article (2) of the Independent High Electoral Commission Law No. 11 of 2007, until the formation of the Independent High Electoral and Referendum Commission for Iraqi Kurdistan, mentioned in Article (sixth bis/first) of the Kurdistan Parliament Election Law No. (1) of 1992, as amended. And ruling the unconstitutionality of Articles Six and Seven of the aforementioned law, which deal with the formation of the Election Commission in the region and its jurisdiction to supervise and manage elections. The court proposed the alternative text as follows:

The Independent High Electoral Commission shall replace the High Election Commission for the Kurdistan Parliament of Iraq mentioned in this law to supervise and manage the parliamentary elections.

3- Adjudicating complaints before the Independent High Electoral Commission (Board of Commissioners) and appeals before the judicial body formed according to the Commission Law No. (31) of 2019, as amended, instead of the judicial body in the Kurdistan Region Court of Cassation. This is established in the complaints and appeals system for the election of the Kurdistan Regional Parliament of Iraq No. 8 of 2024.

After ruling the unconstitutionality of Clause Four of Article Six Repeated of the Kurdistan Regional Parliament Election Law No. of 1992 as amended.

This body was composed of three part-time judges to consider the appeals referred to it by the Election Commission or individuals or entities harmed by the Commission's decisions, and its decisions are final (Article Six Repeated/Fourth).

Following the proposal of the Kurdistan Regional Judicial Council pursuant to letter No. (1/2/246) dated 13/3/2024 and based on the provisions of Article (19/First) of the Independent High Electoral Commission Law No. (31) of 2019 and Article (3/Ninth) of the Supreme Judicial Council Law No. (45) of 2017, it was decided to "reconstitute the electoral judicial body that is competent to consider the appeals referred to it by the Board of Commissioners or submitted by those harmed by the Council's decisions directly from the judges whose names are listed below in addition to their work:

- Hassan Fouad Munim / Vice President of the Federal Court of Cassation - President.

- Jalil Adnan Khalaf / Supervisor Judge in the Presidency of the Judicial Supervision Authority - Original Member.
- Ramadan Hassan Obaid / Vice President of the Dohuk Region Court of Appeal - Original Member.
- Ahmed Ali Khalaf / Judge of the Federal Court of Cassation - Reserve Member.
- Kamran Hassan Faraj / Vice President of the Sulaymaniyah Region Court of Appeal - Reserve Member.

4- Elections shall be based on four electoral districts After ruling the unconstitutionality of Article (Nine) of the Kurdistan Regional Parliament Election Law No. 1 of 1992 as amended and the enforcement of the previous text that was cancelled by virtue of Article (Fourth) of the Third Amendment No. 47 of 2004, the court revived the cancelled text and decided to enforce it again in its old form before the amendment, which was as follows: (Iraqi Kurdistan shall be divided into electoral districts, provided that there are no less than four districts).

5- Providing the voter card shall be exclusively by the Civil Status Department by re-implementing Article 17, which was cancelled from the Kurdistan Parliament Election Law of 1992 as amended.

After ruling that (Article Three) of Law No. 15 of 2012 of the Seventh Amendment Law of the Kurdistan Parliament Election Law No. 1 of 1992 as amended is unconstitutional and the old text (Article Seventeen) is reinstated, which states:

(The Civil Status Department shall provide every citizen who has completed eighteen years of age with a voter card according to a formula whose description and form are determined by the statement of the Supreme Authority, provided that the voter presents proof of his identity when voting).

6- Amending Article (Twenty-Two/1) to be consistent with the multiplicity of electoral districts and individual candidacy, and keeping the 30% percentage for women as it is.

After ruling that the phrase (on the scale of Iraqi Kurdistan) and the phrase (provided that the number of candidates in each electoral list shall not be less than three) contained in Article (Twenty-Two/1) of the Kurdistan Parliament Election Law No. of 1992 as amended are unconstitutional.

Cancelling the representation quota system with regard to components in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and reinstating it in accordance with Judicial Authority Decision No. 355 issued on 5/20/2024, with five seats distributed over the governorates of Erbil (two seats), Sulaymaniyah (two seats), and Dohuk (one seat).

And activating this in accordance with the Board of Commissioners Decision No. (2) of 6/3/2024 amending the system for registering candidate lists and approving it for the 2024 Kurdistan Parliament elections - Iraq.

The Board of Commissioners has the competence to certify the final results of the elections based on the seventh paragraph of Article X of the amended Independent High Electoral Commission Law No. 31 of 2019, after deciding on all appeals against the election results by the Judicial Election Authority.



1. The Federal Court's decision granted legislative jurisdiction to the Independent High Electoral Commission by granting it the competence to divide the Kurdistan region into a number of electoral districts of not less than four, and therefore the number of electoral districts, the number of seats allocated to each district, and the geographical boundaries are within the competence of the Commission.
2. In issuing regulations and instructions to determine the voting mechanism, voter conditions and counting process, the Commission relied on Article VI of the Kurdistan Parliament Election Law No. 1 of 1992, as amended, as amended by Federal Court Resolution No. 83, where the Commission was authorized to issue the necessary regulations and instructions to implement the Kurdistan Parliament elections. In this regard, the Commission relied on the provisions of the Third Amendment Law to the Council of Representatives and Provincial Councils Elections Law No. 4 of 2023, especially in the details of the counting and counting process in accordance with Article 10 of the Third Amendment Law, about which observers had many observations.
3. The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) relied on its competence decreed in the seventh paragraph of Article X of the Independent High Electoral Commission Law No. 31 of 2019, which gives the Board of Commissioners the authority to certify the final results of the elections, because there is no competent judicial body to certify the results of the Kurdistan Parliament elections, as it worked in approving the irregular provincial council elections in the region after deciding on all appeals.
4. Injustice in determining the number of seats allocated to Halabja Governorate, as it was possible to rely in determining the boundaries of the constituency and the number of seats (5) on the division that took place in the 2021 House of Representatives elections in terms of the number of seats and the boundaries of the district.

## Recommendations

1. The Kurdistan Regional Parliament of Iraq, after its election, should issue a new law for the election of the Kurdistan Parliament of Iraq that responds to the principles of electoral justice and is compatible with the Constitution of Iraq.
2. Relying on the 2024 census in terms of substance and content, as it provides the data that is inevitable to be available to conduct the electoral process.
3. Demarcation of electoral districts through the creation of a special body or committee entrusted with this task, and that the Commission works in cooperation with the authorities in the region to draw the electoral district of Halabja.

4. Establishing the principle of government neutrality to ensure the integrity and transparency of the electoral process
5. Neutralize the Commission and keep it away from partisan and ethnic conflicts to maintain its transparency and independence in order to prepare and implement professional, impartial and fair elections that are not tainted by doubts or criticism.
6. Since Halabja Governorate has been considered an electoral district with its administrative boundaries, the Commission should take legal and administrative measures to establish a special electoral office in Halabja Governorate, to administer the elections of Halabja Governorate for the upcoming elections.

## Part II – Voter Registration

After the issuance of the Federal Court's decision with State Order No. 126 on 7/5/2024, and then the issuance of Judicial Authority Decision No. (355 / Judicial Commission for Elections / 2024 on 5/720/2024) allocating five seats to the components within the hundred seats in the Kurdistan Parliament. It became clear that the elections would be postponed to a later date, as the commission needed to reset the timetable for its preparations for the elections for the sixth session of the Kurdistan Parliament. This is why the new presidential decree of the Kurdistan Region set the date 20/10/2024. The Commission reopened a new period to update the register, and also allowed those whose fingerprints are not read to visit registration centers in the governorates of the Kurdistan Region in order to process them, in addition to many other necessary steps.

As a result, monitoring networks have had to rearrange their priorities, review their reports, and develop new plans to ensure that the 2024 Kurdistan Parliament elections are monitored. This observation aims to determine the extent to which the Iraqi elections adhere to international standards for the integrity and transparency of the elections, and the extent to which they implement the provisions of the Constitution and the electoral law, and to identify weaknesses and strengths for all stages of the electoral cycle.

Based on that, a number of volunteer observers of the Coalition began to monitor the process of updating the biometric voter register in the four governorates in the Kurdistan Region, this monitoring was carried out by the self-efforts of the organizations and networks affiliated to the Coalition, despite the absence of international or national grants to fund electoral observation by organizations and networks specialized in electoral affairs, despite its importance.

### **Voter Conditions:**

1. Article 20 of the Kurdistan Parliament Election Law No. 1 of 1992, as amended, stipulates: (The voter must be a citizen of Iraqi Kurdistan and have completed eighteen years of age).
2. According to the Commission's procedures, which relied on the Third Amendment Law No. 4 of 2023, it added another important condition, which is that the voter must hold a long-term biometric card. This is a new provision among many other provisions that gave the Electoral Commission the right to amend paragraphs and articles of the Kurdistan Parliament Election Law, according to the decision of the Federal Court (83 and its units 131 and 185/federal/2023) issued on 21/2/2024.

## The importance of the voter registers and updating it

The voter registers or voter lists are the backbone of any electoral process in any country in the world, and the more comprehensive, accurate and sober the voter register, the more trusted the electoral process will be gained from the electoral process partners. This importance comes from being a reason and a means to know the integrity, transparency and impartiality of the electoral administration, and enables the voter registry and the spread of polling stations and stations to infer participation rates in any electoral process. It also enables the separation of two of the most important functions of the electoral administrator, namely verifying voter eligibility in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the electoral law, and the voter register can be used to educate voters, and can be presented to political parties and election candidates to assist them in their electoral campaigns. Thus, all this enables observers, political and governmental bodies and research centers to verify the extent to which there is confidence in the electoral process, and thus the confidence or lack of confidence of citizens in the political and democratic process in the country.

### **Update period:**

First update period: The period for updating the voter register for the elections of members of the sixth session of the Kurdistan Parliament elections began on 1/2/2024 and was extended until 10/3/2024.

Second update period: After the issuance of the Federal Court's decision by state order No. (126/federal/state order/2024) on 7/5/2024, and then the issuance of the judicial body decision (355/judicial body for elections/2024) on 22/5/2024, where it started on 16/5/2024 until 2/6/2024. However, this period has been extended for the case of not reading the fingerprint, which was considered as a case (correction) until 10/7/2024.

### **The importance of the voter registers update period:**

Among the most important international standards for the integrity of elections is the preparation of lists or a register of qualified voters, which is comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date for any electoral process, because there are cases of permanent social change, change of place of residence, due to the formation of new families, change of place of work or job, and the inclusion of newborns for those who acquire the right to vote in accordance with the electoral law, deaths, immigration, naturalization and others. Therefore, there is an urgent need for the period of updating the voter register before any electoral process, to accommodate and address these cases and update the register in light of them, and this update is necessary and important regardless of the method of preparing and updating the voter register in the country.

## Monitoring Voter Registration

The networks and organizations affiliated to the Networks Alliance organized a number of field visits to voter registry update centers in the governorates of the Kurdistan Region, monitored the process and the permitted cases, and recorded their observations towards those cases and the performance of the registration centers staff and their treatment of the covered cases and auditors. The information was as follows:

Voter registration by numbers:

First: Total number of voters:

Number of voters	Governorate
1366462 Voter	Erbil
1416432 voter	Sulaymaniyah
926746 voter	Duhok
79720 voter	Halabja
3789360 Three million seven hundred eighty-nine thousand three hundred and sixty voters.	<b>Total</b>

Second: The total number of biometric registered voters in the four governorates:

Number of voters	Governorate
1022906 Voters	Erbil
1087073 Voter	Sulaymaniyah
738080 voter	Duhok
60252 voter	Halabja
2908311 Two million nine hundred eight thousand three hundred and eleven voters	<b>Total</b>

Third: The total number of registered voters in the three governorates for the period from 1/2/2024 to 2/6/2024.

Number of voters	Governorate
66552 voter	Erbil
40469 voter	Sulaymaniyah and Halabja
31509 voter	Duhok
138530 One hundred and thirty-eight thousand five hundred and thirty voters	<b>Total</b>

Fourth: Details of the registration update period:

Total registered voters in the governorates of the Kurdistan Region for the period from 1/2/2024 to 2/6/2024.								
Illegible fingerprints	Fingerprints read	Deletion	Adding births 2006	Correction	added	Number of registered voters		Governorates
						women	males	
2422	64130	11	15910	1227	3065	251,34	32301	Erbil
1973	38496	12	12985	205	1528	888,20	19581	Sulaymaniyah and Halabja
658	30851	11	14067	2287	1032	112,16	15397	Duhok
<b>5053</b>	<b>133,477</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>42744</b>	<b>3719</b>	<b>5625</b>	<b>71,251</b>	<b>67,279</b>	<b>Total</b>
						<b>138,530</b>		

Fifth: Total voters who own a biometric card:

Number of voters	Governorate
1015558voter	Erbil
1146131voter	Sulaymaniyah and Halabja
737859voter	Duhok
2899578 Two million eight hundred and ninety-nine thousand five hundred and seventy-eight	<b>Total</b>

### Positive aspects and strengths of the registration process

- Since 2021, the process of updating the registry here has been limited to updating biometric only, and included the following operations:
  - Biometric registration - (addendum).
  - Registration of newborns 2006.
  - Perform the correction of the data.
  - Loss and damage
  - Re-registration for those whose fingerprints have not been read.
  - Deletion for the deceased.

2. Good voter turnout in visiting registration centers during the first update period, and this seems that the partners of the electoral process, especially political parties, have urged their supporters to review the registration centers, especially those born in 2006. On the contrary, it decreased in the second period, especially for cases of non-fingerprinting.
3. The period for updating the voter register was good, especially after its extension, and it was an opportunity for the voter who intends to participate in the elections to register himself and update his data.
4. Good treatment of the staff of the registration centers visited by the network monitors, with observers, auditors and agents of political parties.
5. Opening a case of re-registration for voters whose fingerprints were not read in the previous elections, in the region for the 2021 House of Representatives elections, and throughout Iraq for the 2023 provincial council elections.

### Weaknesses in the registration process

1. The Commission did not issue a special system or instructions for the period of updating the voter register for the Kurdistan Parliament elections, which is the first system that the Commission is supposed to issue to regulate the process of updating the register, based on the electoral law regulating the process, and then develop detailed procedures in light of this system, although the Commission did not address this period by updating the voter register, but by starting voter registration.
2. The Commission relied on the procedures for updating the register for the irregular provincial council elections in the region, which took place on 18/12/2023, then the Operations Department issued subsequent instructions to the rest of the governorate offices, including their offices in the Kurdistan Region on 12/2/2024 with its letter No. 100 under the title (Instructions for Resumption of the Biometric Registration Process). An orphan paragraph is included in these instructions (paragraph 8 of the first). That is, these instructions were issued 12 days after the start of updating the register, and also that they were not specific to the period of updating the register for the 2024 Kurdistan Parliament elections.
3. The registry update did not include the status of the change, which is of three types:
  - changing the polling station within the same registration centre.

- Change the polling station outside the registration center within the governorate.
- Change the polling station outside the registration center outside the governorate.

If it is understood that these instructions were issued before the Federal Court's decision No. 83, which was one of the paragraphs of the appeal focused on dividing Kurdistan into a number of electoral districts, but the law explicitly stipulates that the voter must be a citizen of the region, and therefore the subject of the appeal did not affect that, which was supposed to prevent the state of change to and from the governorates of the Kurdistan Region, and not prevent it within the governorates of the region, or prevent it within the same governorate, but rather prevent it between polling stations within the same Registration Center. Note that the state of change was continuing in the rest of the provinces of Iraq, knowing that there were no expected elections throughout Iraq, unlike the Kurdistan Region. It is known that the state of change is necessary to meet the needs of voters who establish new families, and who change their location for various reasons, and it is one of the reasons for opening a period to update the voter register before any electoral process.

4. The weak presence of political party agents at registration centers to observe this process, as well as domestic observers, and its lack of international observers, suggests that electoral process partners still do not show sufficient attention to the stages of the electoral process, especially the voter registration process.
5. Routine and bureaucracy in making some decisions by the Commission, as electoral work needs speed of decision-making, especially in cases that do not need a long time to study, because they are originally organized in accordance with the law and regulations issued by the Commission. In this context, the referral of requests of organizations in control by the prefectural office to the national office, the Department of Public Communication, and then The Department of Mass Communication refers it to the technical assistant, and from him to the head of the electoral administration. All this takes a long time and may take more than a month, as for example, the dry network within our alliance submitted its request on 3/2/2023, but the approval was delayed until 3/3/2023, and if the period for updating the record was not extended, the network would have been deprived of the monitoring process.
6. If the timetable of the electoral process allows allocating a longer period for the update process, it is assumed that this will be announced at the beginning of the period for updating the register, and the extension process will not be resorted to one or more times. Because this may confuse the voter, who may not be following the decisions issued by the Commission constantly.



7. Although UNHCR opened the way for those whose fingerprints are not read to visit registration centres and extended the period more than once (and considered it one of the cases of correction in the second update period). However, the percentage of visitors was low despite the fact that the IHEC offices had made plans to contact them, but either the response from voters was negative in most cases, or the result was not an increase in the percentage of visitors. This is an indication that political parties, the media and civil society organizations have not made the necessary effort to urge this group to visit the registration centers, and that the Commission has not requested the participation and assistance of monitoring organizations and networks in this regard.
8. The large percentage of the case of not reading the fingerprint was a common indicator in all the centers visited by the coalition observers, and it was also referred to by the reports of a number of media outlets, in addition to that it came in the letter of the President of the Kurdistan Region addressed to the Independent High Electoral Commission on 11/3/2024. According to the same response of the Commission on 26/3/2024 to the letter of the presidency of the region above, the percentages of illegible fingerprints for the governorates of the region for the year 2023 for the number of voters who have a biometric card are as follows:

Number of voters	Governorate
% 14	Erbil
% 13	Sulaymaniyah and Halabja
% 11	Duhok

According to these percentages and according to the number of voters who have a biometric card, the number of unread voters in each governorate will be like this:

Number of unread voters with fingerprints	Governorate
$134713 = \%14 \times 962239$	Erbil
$144729 = \%13 \times 1113302$	Sulaymaniyah and Halabja
$77881 = \%11 \times 708011$	Duhok
357323	Total

UNHCR has adopted these 334882 figures for the number of fingerprint non-reading cases as follows:

<b>Number of unread voters with fingerprints</b>	<b>Governorate</b>
124427	<b>Erbil</b>
136344	<b>Sulaymaniyah and Halabja</b>
74111	<b>Duhok</b>

It turns out that this case constitutes a large percentage of voters, which is close to the number that was shown in the request of the President of the Kurdistan Region to the Commission referred to above, and we believe that the Commission sensed this matter, so it added a new case, which is the re-registration of voters whose fingerprints were not read, but we believe that the lack of knowledge of voters and partners of the electoral process, especially political parties, on this solution was the reason for the lack of a large turnout for the owners of these cases to re-register, as the Commission allowed a wide field for Cases of not reading the fingerprint to review the registration centers in the governorates of the region, which are 173 registration centers and during the period from 16/5/2024 to 10/7/2024 to address these cases (55) days, and despite the great efforts made by the Commission in order to address this case, but the number of auditors was small, as the total number of auditors reached only 24,312 auditors, with the addition of a few other cases to this number after the Commission's decision to consider this case within the case of (correction) under the Department of Operations letter No. 325 issued on 27/5/2024, and the number of auditors by governorates during the (55) days period was as follows:

<b>Number of Voters Reviewed</b>	<b>Governorate</b>
<b>8115</b>	<b>Erbil</b>
<b>10675</b>	<b>Sulaymaniyah and Halabja</b>
<b>5522</b>	<b>Duhok</b>

It was clear that this constituted one of the most important challenges of the voting process to elect members of the sixth session of the Kurdistan Parliament on 20/10/2024.

9. The period for submitting appeals to the voter register and the updated data has not been sufficiently publicized, for the information of the electoral process partners, especially political party agents, candidates, NGO observers and the media. Despite the great importance of the period and duration of the Register of Appeals, as it grants the right to voters, political party agents and candidates to register appeals or object either

to their personal data, or to the data of others, one of the registrants was deceased, a foreigner, or did not reach the voting age. Neither the Commission nor its offices announced the result of the consideration of the registered objections, what their content was and the decision taken in this regard, the number of appeals according to form 220 is 317 as follows:

Number of appeals	Governorate
305	Erbil
0	Sulaymaniyah and Halabja
12	Duhok

**Note:** The number of appeals submitted according to Form 220 was not available after the reopening of the registration process, and it is not known whether the second update process was concluded by presenting the record to the appeals or not?

10. Neither the IHEC nor its offices in the Kurdistan Region organized any meetings or seminars with the process partners or stakeholders and the decision on the start of the registration period in the region for the Kurdistan Parliament elections. With political parties, monitoring organizations and networks, and the media, especially in light of the opening of the state of re-registration to voters whose fingerprints have not been read, and in the case of preventing the state of change. This is the case with the failure to organize a media campaign to educate voters and electoral process partners about the importance of voter registration, the period for the register to present appeals and objections, and the receipt of Voters for biometric cards.

## Recommendations

1. Giving powers to the directors of governorate offices, for the purpose of registering monitoring teams and approving the members of those teams after ensuring that the required conditions

- are met, because this will lead to a rapid pace of work, increase the number of observers and monitoring teams, in addition to reducing the effort on the shoulders of the national office.
2. Adopting the same steps, procedures and attention by the Commission to implement the Kurdistan Parliament elections compared to the irregular provincial council elections in the region and the House of Representatives, as it prevented the change from being made to the region's voters, and issuing regulations and instructions in Arabic only, while it was supposed to be in Kurdish as well, and it is published, because the elections are for the Kurdistan Region and the provisions of the Iraqi constitution impose this, and that this posed a challenge to a large number of registration center employees from installers and contracts, in addition to A large percentage of the Kurdish electorate does not know Arabic.
  3. Organizing a media campaign by the IHEC in cooperation with civil society organizations and the media before any period to update the voter register, and the period for presenting the preliminary and updated register of appeals, given the great importance of updating the voter register, and the period for displaying the register of objections to the translation of the constitutional right to vote into digital reality, and its significant impact on the participation rate in any electoral process.
  4. The Alliance of Networks and National Observer Organizations appreciates the approach of the Board of Commissioners, to be open with the partners of the electoral process, especially the organizations and networks specialized in electoral affairs. In this context, it is necessary to visit delegations from the Board of Commissioners to the governorates, and to organize separate meetings with partners in the electoral process, foremost among them political parties, independent candidates, organizations and networks of electoral concern, and the media. In order to explain the preparations of the Commission to hold the elections, and to strengthen the bonds of relationship and cooperation between the partners of the electoral process. Especially in the governorates of Kurdistan and between the Commission and its Council, because these elections are the elections of the Kurdistan Parliament.

## Part Three – Registration of Parties, Alliances and Candidates

There is no real democracy without free and fair elections, no credible elections without actual political pluralism, and there is no real political pluralism without providing equal opportunities for everyone to participate in elections and represent elected institutions, and this requires the existence of legal foundations and specific rules that regulate the establishment of political parties and determine the legal frameworks for the participation of these parties and other individuals in the electoral process, and be a reference for the institutions that supervise the elections on how to deal with those wishing to participate in the elections.

It is inconceivable that there are elections without the presence of those who run for the position or seats allocated to the elected body, and this often means the presence of competitors from different parties in addition to individual candidates, which requires the development of a legal framework to regulate this process of participation and competition and determine the conditions that must be met by political parties and candidates wishing to participate, and also requires the issuance of Regulations, instructions and rules for the purpose of determining the application mechanism, clarifying the stages of submission and setting a behavioral framework for competitors.

From this standpoint and on the basis of it, the Independent High Electoral Commission in Iraq organized this process, as part of its preparations for the election of the Kurdistan Region Parliament - Iraq, and allocated certain timings to it in the operational schedule, in which it touched on the stages of the process of registering alliances, parties and individual candidates, and issued regulations and instructions for organizing the process, based on the (Permanent Iraqi Constitution of 2005) and the relevant laws issued by the Iraqi Council of Representatives (Political Parties Law No. 36 of 2015 Federal) and the Kurdistan Region – Iraq (Kurdistan Region Parties Law No. 17 of 1993, as amended).

This report sheds light on the procedures taken by the IHEC to register and validate lists of candidates to identify parties and individuals who can apply and participate in the 2024 Kurdistan Region of Iraq Parliament elections.

The report includes (11) main axes, starting with the legal framework through studying the conditions for nomination and lists of candidates, the procedures for registering the alliance, the mechanism for submitting lists of candidates, the duration and place of submission, addressing the relevant authorities to verify the eligibility of candidates, final lists of candidates and their approval, complaints and appeals, the rights and obligations of the alliance, the political party and the individual candidate, application forms, documents for

## First: Legal Framework

each candidate, the number of applicants, the number of males and females in party lists and alliances.

Referring to the legal texts that concerned the organization of this aspect of the elections, we note that this interest is on three levels, namely the permanent Iraqi constitution of 2005, the ordinary law, and the regulations and instructions), and we discuss below the details of the relevant legal texts.

### First: Provisions of the Constitution:

1. Article (6) of the Constitution: "The rotation of power shall be carried out peacefully, through the democratic means provided for in this Constitution."
2. Article (9/I/C): The Iraqi Armed Forces and their personnel, including military personnel working in the Ministry of Defense or any departments or organizations affiliated thereto, may not run in elections to occupy political positions.
3. Article 20: Citizens, men and women, have the right to participate in public affairs and enjoy political rights, including the right to ... and filtration.
4. Article (39): First: The freedom to establish or join associations and political parties is guaranteed, and this shall be regulated by law.

Second: No one may be forced to join any party, association or political structure, or to continue to be a member there.

### Second: Laws

1. Federal Law of Political Parties and Organizations No. 36 of 2015.
2. The Parties Law of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq No. 17 of 1993, as amended.
3. Kurdistan Region Elections Law No. 1 of 1992, as amended, with the exception of articles amended or repealed by the decision of the Federal Supreme Court in Iraq.

### Third: Regulations and Instructions

Regulations and instructions issued by the Independent High Electoral Commission in Iraq, regarding the elections of the sixth session of the Kurdistan Regional Parliament - Iraq to be held on 10/6/2024:

1. Registration and approval of candidate lists for the Kurdistan Regional Parliament elections - Iraq No. 7 of 2024.
2. Complaints and appeals system for the election of the Kurdistan Regional Parliament of Iraq No. 8 of 2024.
3. Instructions for the alliance between political parties to elect the Kurdistan Regional Parliament 2024.
4. Instructions for Registration and Approval of Candidate Lists for the Kurdistan Region of Iraq Elections 2024
5. Code of conduct for candidates for the Kurdistan Region of Iraq 2024 elections.
6. Instructions to facilitate the implementation of the Political Parties and Organizations Law No. (1) of 2016.
7. Procedures for the establishment of political parties and organizations No. (1) of 2016.
8. Rules of conduct for political parties and organizations.

## Second: Conditions of nomination and lists of candidates

**Candidate's Conditions:** Article (5/1) of the System of Registering and Approving Lists of Candidates for the Election of the Kurdistan Region Parliament - Iraq No. (7) of 2024 stipulates

- 1) Must meet the conditions of a voter eligible to participate in the elections and registered in the voter register biometrically.
- 2) Citizens of the Kurdistan Region and residents of the electoral region for which he is nominated.
- 3) fully qualified and reached twenty-five years of age on the day of special voting.
- 4) Proficient in reading and writing.
- 5) Not sentenced to imprisonment for crimes against morals, public morals and integrity.
- 6) Not sentenced to prison for murder or robbery.
- 7) He did not participate in crimes planned or committed by the repressive authority in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

On these terms, we record below a set of observations :

1. The (national card) was the criterion for determining that the candidate is a citizen of the Kurdistan Region, and the residence card or the endorsement of the chosen one is required to determine the electoral district for which he is running.
2. The requirement of the candidate's proficiency in reading and writing does not come with the requirements of the legislative institution and its tasks of discussing and enacting draft laws and following up the tasks and activities of ministries, and this condition is the same as that enacted since the issuance of the first electoral law in 1992, where the majority of members of the senior leadership of political parties at that time did not have certificates, so in order not to be an obstacle to their candidacy, this legal article was legislated, but now the majority of citizens, including workers in The political field has initial university degrees.
3. Paragraph (x) stipulates that the candidate should not participate in crimes planned or committed by the repressive authority in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq; however, this paragraph is faulted by the lack of clarity and the place where the crime was committed, lacking clarity in that it did not specify who is meant by the repressive authority? And flawed in terms of limiting the candidate's failure to commit the crime within the borders of the Kurdistan Region! This means that the acts are considered a crime

because they occurred within the borders of the Kurdistan Region, but if they are committed outside the region, they are not considered a crime, while the crime carries its elements with it regardless of the place where it was committed.

4. The Commission added a new condition for candidacy that was not mentioned in the law, which is that the candidate must possess the biometric card, and we believe that this condition is one of the conditions for the voter, not the candidate, as he may be one of the candidates has a wide audience, but for any reason the candidate did not register himself biometrically, so setting this condition will deprive him of running and this is contrary to the electoral law, and the operative part of Article 20 of the Constitution.

**Conditions for candidate lists:** Article (4) of the system of registering and approving candidate lists for the Kurdistan Region Parliament - Iraq No. (7) for the year 2024 stipulates the conditions that must be met in the lists of candidates, whether they are party lists, an alliance or an individual candidate, and specifies them as follows:

First: The lists of candidates shall meet the following conditions:

1. The order of candidates in the open list submitted by the coalition or political party to the Commission shall be in accordance with the instructions approved by the Commission.
2. The number of candidates in the open list should not exceed twice the number of seats in one electoral district (region), provided that the percentage of women is represented by at least 30% of the number of candidates on the list.
3. The individual candidate shall be exempted from the requirement in paragraph (b) above and shall submit a single list in his name in the form of a single list to participate in the election.

Second: Alliances and political parties may not withdraw or change the list of candidates or submit a different list after the expiry of the period specified for the approval of candidates unless requested by the Commission for the purpose of making the list meet the conditions of this system, in which case the required list in which the change took place must be submitted before the expiry of the period specified by the Commission in order to approve the candidates.

Third: It is not permissible to replace or withdraw a candidate within a list (alliance, political party or individual candidate) after the end of the period for receiving candidate lists, unless requested by the Commission and granted a period specified by it.

Fourth: The lists of candidates shall be submitted at the electoral offices in the governorates of the region or the office of the Kurdistan Region Elections Authority.



Fifth: The political alliance shall indicate the affiliation of the candidate for each of the parties that make up the alliance when submitting the nomination form issued by the Commission.

The instructions for registration and approval of candidate lists for the Kurdistan Region – Iraq 2024 elections touched on additional conditions for submitting lists of candidates, which include:

1. A candidate from outside the boundaries of the electoral district (electoral district) may not run for this electoral district.
2. The Kurdistan Region – Iraq has four electoral districts (electoral districts) (Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Dohuk, and Halabja).
3. If the vacant seat belongs to a woman, she is not required to be replaced by another woman.

The above-mentioned instructions also required political alliances and parties to submit two copies (original) of the candidates' form, the candidate's file, which includes (personal pledge - rules of conduct - reading and writing form), an original study document "if any" one number addressed to the Commission or the equation (original) and a color photocopy thereof, as well as identification documents and a biometric voter card.

The head of the alliance and political party is required to authorize a representative authorized to them according to the form prepared for this purpose, provided that this authorized person is not authorized to another alliance or party.

As for the individual candidate, the aforementioned instructions stated that the individual candidate who is not approved by the Commission is not entitled to participate in the elections, nor is he entitled to run in the elections in more than one electoral district, however, he was given the right to withdraw during the period of receiving lists of candidates from candidacy in the constituency in which he ran and to run within the list of a party or alliance.

As for the required documents that must be submitted by the individual candidate, they include two copies (original) of the candidate's file, which contains the personal pledge - rules of conduct - reading and writing form No. (15) and (original study document number (1) "if any", a color photocopy of the study document, identification documents and biometric voter card.

### Third: Alliance Registration Procedures

The Commission issued instructions for registering alliances between political parties for the Kurdistan Regional Parliament election 2024, and according to these instructions, the authorized political

parties may request the formation of a political alliance to participate in the elections, during the submission of the application for registering the alliance to the office of the regional authority or the electoral office in the electoral region from the representative authorized by the parties requesting the alliance for registration purposes, and the request is under Form No. (17).

According to paragraph IV of the above-mentioned instructions, the application must be accompanied by a document of alliance with the rules of procedure and a copy of the rules of conduct signed by the heads of allied political parties and organizations.

The third section of the above instructions dealt with the conditions for the ratification of the political alliance, which are that there is no formal or substantive deficiency in the registration application, that the name or logo of the political alliance is not contrary to public order and morals, and that it provokes hatred or violence, and that it does not contain personal photos or religious or military symbols, and the alliance may not be named after one of its constituent parties.

Article 5 of the above-mentioned instructions is allocated to the amounts of money collected from the coalition, which are of three types:

- Collection of 5,000,000 non-refundable five million Iraqi dinars, and for UNHCR's account as fees for registration services.
- Payment of 1,000,000 million Iraqi dinars, non-refundable, in exchange for obtaining the application forms for the registration of the coalition, to be completed at the time of application.
- In the event that the registered political alliance wishes to change the name of the alliance, half of the registration fees of the alliance shall be collected from it, subject to the aforementioned conditions.

According to Article 6, the Department of Political Parties and Organizations Affairs in Baghdad decides on the application for registration within a period not exceeding five days from the date of submission of the application, after which the application meets the conditions is submitted to the Board of Commissioners for approval and publication of the decision on the official website of the Commission, and the Council's decision is subject to appeal in accordance with the mechanisms and periods stipulated in the law and the instructions in force.

With regard to the alliance between alliances, section IV of the above-mentioned instructions deals with it, authorizing officially registered alliances to ally with each other to form a new political alliance, provided that a request is submitted by the heads of the alliance indicating their desire to enter into a new alliance.

The registration fees for the new alliance are 5,000,000 five million Iraqi dinars, as stated in Article (5/1) of these instructions.

According to Article (11) of the same instructions, allied political parties may not participate individually in the same electoral district in which the political alliance within which they are members participate.

If a party wishes to withdraw from the alliance during the period of registration of alliances, this shall be done exclusively at the request of the party president or the head of the alliance. **Note:** The formation of electoral alliances is supposed to be organized in accordance with the content of Article 29 of the Political Parties and Organizations Law No. 36 of 2015, which requires taking the same procedures for forming a political party set out in the above-mentioned law, even if this means forming alliances in sufficient time before the elections, as this will achieve stability and some stability in electoral alliances.

#### Fourth: Mechanism for submitting lists of candidates

Paragraph (III) of Section II of the instructions for registration and approval of lists of candidates for the Kurdistan Region Parliament elections – Iraq 2024 dealt with the submission mechanism, and it can be summarized in:

The authorized representative or individual candidate or his authorized person to visit the electoral governorate office and submit proof of his authorization (for the alliance and parties), in addition to the national ID number or civil status ID number and the Iraqi nationality certificate number for alliances, parties and the individual candidate, for the purpose of creating an account to access the electronic application system.

Here, the competent IHEC Officer (Parties and Candidates Affairs Division in the Governorate Office) shall provide the authorized representative or individual candidate with the following information:

- The link to access the electronic application system.
- Account information login to the system for alliances, political parties or individual candidates.

After completing the authorization procedures, the account (each alliance, party and individual candidate through his own account) is accessed for the purpose of filling out the lists of candidates and the personal pledge forms for each candidate by entering the voter number and the candidate's data appears in the form automatically and is stored in the program, then the forms and priorities referred to in the instructions for registering candidates are printed and submitted to the governorate office, so that the competent IHEC officer checks the forms and then approves them.

One of the drawbacks of the program is that the possibility of parties amending the lists has been stopped at the end of the period for submitting the lists of the first candidates (31/3/2024), and thus it is forced to request an official letter from each party, alliance or individual candidate when making changes as a result of the observations of the audit staff in

the electoral office. This possibility of adjustment should have been retained with extension periods.

Also, the program did not include the feature of rejecting the candidate if he was less than (25) years old on the day of the special polling 8/6/2024 when entering the voter number.

Also, the program did not include the feature of rejecting national cards in the event that the candidate is a non-citizen of the Kurdistan Region, as the electoral offices were provided with a list of numbers of the governorates of the region for the purpose of visual checking of national cards, and the program did not include the feature of entering the code and rejecting it automatically when violating the citizenship condition.

### Fifth: Duration and place of submission

#### **Application Duration:**

According to what the IHEC announced in the operational schedule for the Kurdistan Regional Parliament elections - Iraq, and what it announced on its social networking sites, the period for submitting and receiving lists of candidates was from (13/3/2024) to (22/3/2024).

According to the decision of the Board of Commissioners No. (2) for the extraordinary minutes (18) on (20/3/2024), the period for receiving lists of candidates for alliances, political parties and individuals was extended until the end of the official working hours on Thursday, 28/3/2024.

However, according to the decision of the Board of Commissioners No. (1) of the extraordinary minutes (20) on (28/3/2024), the Commission decided to extend the period for receiving lists of candidates for alliances, political parties and individuals until the end of the official working hours on Sunday, 31/3/2024, after that, and with the same aforementioned decision, the period will be extended to twelve o'clock at night on Sunday, 31/3/2024.

It should be noted that the period for the ratification of parties and alliances, and the period for submitting lists of candidates and individual candidates, have been reopened after the new date for the elections has been set.

The large number of extensions has affected the timing of other tasks, including the periods for receiving candidates' complaints, unifying and checking candidate lists, sending lists to the concerned authorities to verify the candidate's eligibility, unifying and approving candidate lists, handing over candidate lists to the Design Department, and... Etcetera.

#### **Where to apply:**

According to paragraph (fourth) of Article (4) of Section IV of the system of registering and approving lists of candidates for the Kurdistan Region Parliament elections - Iraq No. (7) for

the year 2024, the lists of candidates are submitted at the electoral offices in the governorates of the region or the office of the Kurdistan Regional Elections Authority.

### Sixth: Addressing the relevant authorities to verify the eligibility of candidates

After the coalitions, parties and individual candidates submit their lists of candidates to the Commission, the names of the candidates are sent to the Integrity Commission, the Ministry of Interior (Criminal Registration Directorate) of the Kurdistan Regional Government and the Federal Government. This is to verify that there is nothing that conflicts with the candidate's eligibility according to the law.

In exchange for verifying the eligibility of candidates, the Ministry of Interior in the federal government collects an amount of 250,000 two hundred and fifty thousand Iraqi dinars for each candidate.

The Ministry of Interior of the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq collects 60,000 sixty thousand Iraqi dinars for each candidate paid by the candidate.

### Seventh: Final lists of candidates and their approval

After receiving the nomination lists from alliances, political parties and individual lists and checking them in the regional electoral office or electoral offices in the governorates of the region in accordance with the conditions stipulated in the law, instructions and procedures of the Commission, and after completing the entry of data on candidates and checking them with the original lists, lists of candidates' names are prepared according to the electoral district, and in the light of which preparations are made to prepare and organize a draw numbers (alliances, political parties and individual lists) in a place to be determined by the Board of Commissioners.

After this stage, it remains only to approve the lists of candidates by the Board of Commissioners, after the completion of the vetting process and verification of the eligibility of the candidates, after which the approved lists of candidates are published on the official website of the Commission.

According to paragraph (seventh) of the system of registering and approving candidate lists for the Kurdistan Region Parliament elections - Iraq No. (7) for the year 2024, no alliance or political party may withdraw after the expiry of the period specified for the approval of candidates by the Commission.

Although the withdrawal can cause confusion to voters on polling day and the loss of time and effort of IHEC staff, neither this regulation nor the instructions issued in light of this system did not mention the type of action taken by the IHEC towards those who withdraw from candidacy during this period!

The concept contrary to this article also allows individual candidates to withdraw from candidacy, as this restriction should have included everyone, as well as determine the type of sanction that the coalition or political party will incur in the event of their withdrawal.

According to article 7, paragraph IX, section V of the above-mentioned regulation on the registration and approval of lists of candidates, coalitions, political parties and candidates have the right to appeal the decision of the Board of Commissioners regarding the eligibility of candidates to the judicial body for elections within a period of three days, starting from the day following the publication of the decision on the official website of the Commission.

## Eighth: Complaints and Appeals

According to paragraph (first) of Article (2) of Section II of the Complaints and Appeals System for the Kurdistan Region of Iraq Parliament Elections No. (8) of 2024: The voter, authorized representative, party and political alliance agent, or candidate has the right to submit complaints supported by supporting evidence at any stage of the electoral process within the specified period and according to the instructions set by the Commission.

According to paragraph (4) of Article (3) of Section III of the Complaints and Appeals Law referred to above, complaints about candidates for political parties and alliances must be submitted within a period starting from the date of registration of candidates and until the final results are ratified.

Paragraphs (first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh) of Article (4) of Section IV of the Complaints and Appeals Law referred to above dealt with the stages of submitting, receiving, classifying and deciding on a complaint.

Paragraph (first, second) of Article (5) of Section V of the Complaints and Appeals Law referred to above is also devoted to the appeal process, as paragraph (first) stipulates: that the aggrieved by the Council's decision may appeal it to the Judicial Authority for Elections within three days, starting from the day following its publication on the official website of the Commission.

Paragraph (2) specifies the bodies before which the aggrieved party of the Council's decision, namely the National Office, the Regional Authority Office or the Prefectural Electoral Office, are challenged or submitted directly to the Electoral Judicial Authority.

Rights and obligations of the coalition,  
political party and individual candidate

Section V of the instructions for registration and ratification of the lists of candidates for the 2024 elections of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq is devoted to discussing the rights and obligations of the coalition, the political party and the individual candidate, the most important of which are:

- Withdrawal from the Alliance before the expiry of the period for submitting lists of candidates, and the Alliance shall have the right to submit a new list of candidates thereafter.
- In the event that the IHEC rejects individual names due to their ineligibility, these names are removed from the list of candidates and the coalition or political party is notified to replace them, and in the event that the list is not amended within the legal period, the rest of the list will be valid if they meet the legal conditions.
- Alliances and political parties may amend, alter and withdraw lists of candidates for the period specified by the Commission for the submission of lists of candidates, and this may not be done after the expiry of that period unless requested by the Commission for the purpose of making the list complete and before the expiry of the additional period specified for the change granted by the Commission for approval.

**As for the obligations, the most important of which are:**

- Collection of 10,000,000 million Iraqi dinars from each participating alliance as subscription fees under a certified instrument for the account of the Commission, 5,000,000 five million Iraqi dinars from the party, and 1,000,000 million Iraqi dinars from the individual candidate, non-refundable.
- The Commission collects fees for the eligibility verification fees of candidates from alliances, parties and individuals and is paid to the competent verification authorities specified by these bodies, which are 250,000 two hundred and fifty thousand Iraqi dinars fees collected by the Ministry of Interior in the federal government for each

candidate, and 60,000 sixty thousand Iraqi dinars wages collected by the Ministry of Interior in the Kurdistan Region for each candidate.

- A candidate is prohibited from running in more than one list or electoral district, otherwise his name shall be removed by the Commission from the two lists and legal measures shall be taken against him in accordance with the provisions of the law.
- The number of candidates in the lists of alliances and political parties must not exceed twice the number of seats allocated to the electoral district and not less than two candidates.
- Political coalitions and parties should ensure that women are represented at least 30 percent of the list of candidates.
- The alliance shall indicate the nominating person in the list of candidates for each candidate from the parties affiliated to it when applying.

## Tenth: Application Forms

The Commission adopted (7) forms for the application procedure, so that each form was allocated to a specific procedure as follows:

1. Authorized Representative Form No. (11): Application for accreditation of the authorized representative, political party or individual candidate.
2. Personal Pledge Form No. (12): for the candidate's acknowledgment of the fulfillment of the conditions for nomination therein.
3. List of Candidates Form No. (13): It is the form for requesting the approval of candidates.
4. Code of Conduct Form No. (14): whereby the candidate undertakes to abide by the rules of conduct and not to violate its terms.
5. Literacy Verification Form No. (15): It is dictated by the candidate by hand.
6. Receipt form for receipt of nomination priorities for individual lists No. (16).
7. Receipt form for receipt of lists of candidates, alliance or party No. (17).

The main observation on all the aforementioned forms is the poor quality of the translation and lack of attention to it, as the translation had serious errors in terms of meaning and spelling, especially since quite a few applicants were reading and writing, and that the wrong translation made them wrong in filling out the forms, as they relied on the Kurdish language in the forms, which forced them to amend the forms more than once. Due to the large number



of errors, we suffice here with only two examples, the first of which is in Form No. (12), where it was translated: (Full eligibility and reached twenty-five years of age) to (Kurdish language) The second is in Form No. (13), where it was translated: (This nomination list is submitted to the Commission and is free from scratching and deletion, and the alliance must indicate the nominating point for each candidate within the alliance and the personal pledges of the candidates with the required documents, otherwise the list is rejected) to (Kurdish language)

### Eleventh: Documents for each candidate

The following documents and proofs must be attached to each candidate to verify the conditions of candidacy:

- A color photocopy of the ID and the Iraqi nationality certificate or (a color copy of the candidate's unified national card).
- A color photocopy of the residence card or a residence endorsement from the relevant authorities.
- A color photocopy of the candidate's long-term biometric card.
- An original graduation document or graduation endorsement addressed to the Independent High Electoral Commission and stamped by the issuer or the final equivalency letter "original" for the study document issued by the Ministry of Higher Education or the Ministry of Education for graduates of non-Iraqi universities and schools addressed to the Independent High Electoral Commission and attached to the submitted document, if any.
- A copy of the Code of Conduct prepared by the Independent High Electoral Commission signed by the candidate with his or her left thumbprint.
- The coalition, political party and individual lists (individual candidates) must fill out and print the above information accurately and clearly with all forms.

### Twelfth / Number of applicants in electoral districts

There were three types of lists of applicants, parties, alliances, and individual candidate, and the application according to the four districts was as follows:  
Erbil Governorate:

<b>Erbil</b>	
<b>Number of party lists:</b>	11
<b>Number of alliances:</b>	3
<b>Number of individual candidates:</b>	42

Sulaymaniyah Governorate:

<b>Sulaymaniyah</b>	
<b>Number of party lists:</b>	9
<b>Number of alliances:</b>	3
<b>Number of individual candidates:</b>	40

Duhok Governorate:

<b>Duhok</b>	
<b>Number of party lists:</b>	8
<b>Number of alliances:</b>	3
<b>Number of individual candidates:</b>	30

Halabja Governorate:

<b>Halabja</b>	
<b>Number of party lists:</b>	10
<b>Number of alliances:</b>	3
<b>Number of individual candidates:</b>	1

A question was addressed to the Coalition's Panel of Experts: What is your opinion on the nature of the candidates and the system for registering and approving candidate lists No. 7 of 2024?

1. It would have been better if the council had allowed parties to nominate their candidates according to the number of provincial seats, and it would have been better if the commissioners had approved the regulations all at once.
2. The prevalence of the phenomenon of the tribal candidate and its transition from the center and south, reflecting the failure of parties to exercise their role in political upbringing.
3. It is good that the list is open, but the tendency of the parties to adopt the tribal dimension as a focus of candidacy is not in the interest of the democratic transition towards building a state of citizenship.
4. Candidates are not recruited on the basis of capabilities.
5. As for the nature of the candidates, most of them were not experienced and qualified to practice parliamentary work, but the participating parties relied on the clan criterion in selecting candidates.
6. The candidate list registration system is an approved system to organize the process of registering candidate lists and everything went as planned according to the operational schedule for the elections.

## Conclusions and recommendations

### Conclusions:

1. The (national card) was the criterion for determining that the candidate is a citizen of the Kurdistan Region, and the residence card or the endorsement of the chosen one is required to determine the electoral district for which he is running.
2. The candidate's proficiency in reading and writing to apply does not come with the requirements of the legislative institution and its tasks of discussing and enacting draft laws, and following up on the tasks and activities of ministries, so we propose to amend this paragraph so that the diploma certificate is the lowest certificate for those who want to run for membership in the Kurdistan Regional Parliament – Iraq.
3. The requirement that a candidate not participate in crimes planned or committed by the repressive authority in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq is flawed in terms of lack of clarity and the place where the crime was committed, as it did not specify who is meant by repressive authority? The condition was also limited to the candidate not committing the crime within the borders of the Kurdistan Region! This means that the acts are considered a crime because they occurred within the borders of the Kurdistan Region, but if they are committed outside the region, they are not considered a crime, while the crime carries its elements with it regardless of the place where it was committed, so we suggest naming the repressive authority in addition to not specifying spatial boundaries for the commission of the crime.
4. Giving political parties the right to submit lists of candidates twice the number of seats allocated to one electoral district, gives an advantage to political parties unlike individual candidates, as it is known that it is impossible for any party to win twice the number of seats, so this privilege leads to a lack of justice, and allows parties to include the names of candidates with the certainty that no more than half of their candidates won, and the inclusion of these names is only to benefit from the votes obtained by these candidates. Therefore, when amending the law, it is necessary that the number of names of candidates for each party and in any electoral district should not be less than three candidates and not more than the number of seats allocated to the electoral district.
5. The possibility for individual parties, alliances and candidates to amend the list data in the online program has been discontinued at the end of the deadline for submitting candidate lists, and we recommend that applicants retain the ability to amend their data with extension periods.

6. The program did not include the feature of rejecting the candidate if he is less than (25) years old on the day of the special polling 8/6/2024 when entering the voter number, and we suggest adding this feature in the upcoming electoral processes.
7. The program did not include the feature of rejecting candidates holding national cards belonging to governorates outside the region, and we believe that the program should include the feature of entering the code and automatically rejecting the candidate when violating the citizenship requirement.
8. The frequent extensions of the periods for the submission of lists of candidates have negatively affected the timing of other tasks in the operational schedule of the Commission, so we propose to the Commission to determine more deliberate periods and extend them only in cases of extreme necessity and to name these cases.
9. The system of registering and approving candidate lists for the Kurdistan Region – Iraq Parliament Elections No. (7) of 2024 did not allow coalitions and political parties to withdraw after the expiry of the period specified for the approval of candidates by the Commission, and individual candidates were excluded from this restriction.

Recommendations:

1. The need to amend the system of approving candidacy lists in the future so that the number of candidates in any electoral list does not exceed the number of seats allocated to the electoral district.
2. Amending the Kurdistan Regional Parliament Election Law, or rather legislating a new electoral law, includes advanced wording of its provisions, including adding a paragraph to the candidate's conditions, by obliging the candidate for membership of the Regional Parliament who holds the position of Director General and above to submit his resignation from office, or giving him a compulsory leave of not less than three months from the day of voting. This is to prevent his position from being used in his propaganda campaign.
3. We recommend that individual candidates also be included to register the inability to withdraw from the nomination after the end of the endorsement period.
4. The regulations and instructions issued regulating the process of submitting lists of candidates did not specify the type of action or sanction taken by the IHEC towards those who withdraw from the elections during this period!
5. We recommend that the Commission set a specific penalty for those who withdraw from the nomination after the expiry of the period specified for the approval of candidates.
6. The candidates' forms are poor in terms of Kurdish translation, as the translation had serious errors in terms of meaning and spelling, so we recommend that attention should be paid to translating texts while translating them into the second language.

## Part 4 – Monitoring Electoral Campaigns

The election observation campaign was launched by the Coalition of National Election Observation Networks and Organizations on 8 September 2024, to monitor the pre-election campaign on 20 October 2024.

The surveillance included 19 television channels, eight radio stations, five electronic newspapers and 10 newspapers, some independent and others affiliated with political entities. Coalition media monitored local channels, newspapers, and advertisements through posters and banners in their governorates.

25 journalists and media professionals participated in the monitoring process and participated in an intensive training course on how to monitor media violations that violate the rules of the Commission and the parliamentary election law

22 journalists closely monitored the media campaign process of the entities and their candidates. There are types of surveillance. Media monitoring (visual, audio, print, websites, social media, public gatherings, photo hangings, party and candidate announcements, etc.). The media monitoring process began on September 8, 2024 until the end of voting on October 20, 2024. Before the operation began, journalists participated in a training course on how to monitor, the basics and how to record and document violations.

### **Legal framework**

1. Kurdistan Parliament Elections Law No. 1 of 1992, as amended.
2. Electoral Campaigns Law No. 2 of 2023 issued by the Independent High Electoral Commission.
3. Media system for the election of the Kurdistan Regional Parliament No. 5 of 2023.
4. Media accreditation instructions for the year 2023.

## Methodology

This report is divided into three phases. The first stage is the period before the start of the campaign. The second stage is the process of initiating and administering elections. The third stage is the special election day, the election silence day, and then the election day.

### First stage

Before the start of the media campaign: At this stage, a large number of party candidates and lists began their election campaign via social media before the official start of the campaign. Violations generally included publishing the number of lists and parties, publishing party logos and lists, publishing personal photos of candidates, their number on lists, and the number of their political entities. At this point, some political parties have published their main slogans in prominent places in cities before the official start of the election campaign.

### Second stage

Media campaign: At this stage, the media campaign officially began, and parties, lists and candidates published their photos, slogans, list numbers and personal numbers in public places, in streets and sidewalks, on buildings, party buildings, party headquarters and lists, cars, television, radio, newspapers, websites, social media, etc.

### Third stage

Election Day Silence: On the day of the general election, some phenomena recorded as violations by our observers during the course of the election campaign were repeated or continued. Today's events were more related to the continuation of the media campaign on television and radio, this situation was reflected on social media and the media campaign on social media continued intensively, although according to the instructions of the Commission, the silence of the elections should have begun 48 hours before the start of voting.

Question to the Coalition's Panel of Experts: What are your observations on the campaign period?

1. The nature of the media discourse of political parties and their leaders.
2. Electoral Propaganda Means
3. The role of the media in maintaining civil peace during the election campaign
4. Compliance with the period of electoral silence

1. The duration of the campaign should not exceed 20 days, and it was a legal campaign and the media did not play a good role, and did not abide by the period of silence.

2. Speech during the campaign period was predominantly populist and often included hate speech, which requires the creation of legal texts and policies to confront it.
3. The use of glue to paste propaganda leads to distortion of the general view of cities and the difficulty of removing them.
4. There are no limits to the number, size or places of distribution of posters or promotional images.
5. There is a need to introduce media codes of conduct that the media adhere to to maintain civil peace.
6. There were breaches on electronic platforms for the period of media silence
7. Comments on the campaign period are as follows:
  - a. Electoral information and enlightenment by the commission were scarce.
  - b. Kurdish laws, rules, guidelines, electoral regulations and Board of Commissioners' decisions were very poor and not up to par.
  - c. Violations of the commission's rules and guidelines by lists and candidates were clear, and the commission's monitoring teams ignored reporting violations and punishing violators during the election campaign, especially on social media.

**On the nature of media discourse:**

- a. Political parties and their leaders, apart from using harsh language, were good and encouraged a great deal of voter turnout.
  - b. The PUK leader's rhetoric was new, youthful, and offensive. The discourse of the new generation was populist. The KDP's rhetoric has been quiet and conservative.
  - c. The media played a key role in encouraging voters to participate in the electoral process. At the same time, some partisan media outlets have participated covertly and uncivilized in spreading fabricated news, unconfirmed information, false information and disinformation against their opponents.
  - d. As for the period of silence, six days of silence are very long and should be reduced to only 12 hours before the special vote. Because the unknown irregularities were excessive.
8. Election campaigns were bold and the provocation in campaigning in boldly naming names motivated participation in general. There was no respect for electoral silence. The media was affiliated with the parties, so it represented their agenda, it was not independent, it did not necessarily convey the facts, but sometimes it was transmitted



without verifying the news, and this is not healthy. The challenge of independent media remains problematic.

9. There were no electoral platforms, they were just slogans.
10. The style of the campaign was violent and false promises were made to citizens.
11. The role of the media was not responsible.
12. Some parties and candidates did not comply and started before the specified period and continued after the expiration of the legal period.
13. There was a convulsion between the entities that amounted to insults and profanity.
14. The majority of party leaders had their media discourse based on the method of installments in other parties instead of focusing on their electoral curricula.
15. The period of electoral campaigning for parties and candidates was characterized by the sharpness of the media discourse, and there is complete clarity of the existence of major political differences in the region
16. The presence of sarcasm and disparagement in some electoral conferences, as well as threatening language.
17. Relying on large images spread in the streets and intersections, which affects the aesthetic of the city, as well as the use of social networking sites. Most channels supported specific candidates from the same parties.
18. There were also major violations of electoral campaigning controls, which the Commission monitored and took financial penalties for.
19. For the campaign period in the Kurdistan Regional Parliament elections, the following points can be noted:
  - a. The nature of the media discourse of political parties and their leaders: The media discourse was characterized by a variety of positive messages focusing on achievements and future programs, and negative discourses containing criticism or attacks towards opponents.
  - b. Electoral propaganda means: The means of propaganda included:
    - Traditional campaigns such as folk gatherings and festivals.
    - Digital means such as social media platforms are becoming more influential in mobilizing support and spreading political messages.
    - Some parties also rely on their own media outlets to promote their positions.
  - c. The role of the media in maintaining civil peace: The media was a positive factor on the one hand and a negative factor on the other during the election campaigns:

- Some of them committed to professionalism and neutrality, which enabled them to promote civil peace and ease tensions between the various parties.
  - In contrast, non-neutral or targeted coverage has caused an escalation of provocative rhetoric, deepening divisions.
20. The extent of commitment to the period of electoral silence: The period of electoral silence is a challenge, as some violations were observed by some parties and candidates and through digital or media means. Where the commitment to this period varies between political forces.

Question to the Coalition's Panel of Experts: Assessing the Role of the Media

1. The extent of its neutrality in covering the advertising campaigns of parties and candidates
  2. The extent of compliance with the media code of conduct for satellite channel correspondents to transmit the electoral event.
  3. The extent to which it relies on the official data of the Commission in the transfer and dissemination of electoral information
  4. The extent to which it contributes to voter education about the format of the electoral system and the voting mechanism
  5. The extent of their neutrality and equality in the transfer and promotion of the electoral programs of parties and candidates
1. The issue of information should be regulated in the electoral law and penalties should be determined.
  2. The lack of neutrality of the partisan media in the matter of electoral propaganda and its failure to provide opportunities for opponents to advertise or give advertising space.
  3. The transfer from the Commission was above average, but it is noted that the media reported inaccurate figures regarding the results before they were officially announced.
  4. Contributed to encouraging participation in. Elections are more than education about how to vote if the nature of the electoral system.
  5. Lack of neutrality or equality in propaganda we need legislative intervention.
  6. Since most of the media in the Kurdistan Region are affiliated with political parties, it cannot be said that the media was neutral in covering the election campaign.
  7. The extent to which media controls were adhered to with regard to media coverage of electoral news was at an acceptable level.
  8. There was a degree of acceptability in relying on official IHEC data in transmitting and disseminating electoral information.
  9. The media contributed to voter awareness of the electoral system and voting mechanisms, but after the vote, some partisan media outlets dissatisfied with the

results played a bad role in distorting the name of the commission and questioning its entirety. Election process.

10. None of the partisan media adhered to neutrality and equality in reporting and promoting the electoral platforms of other parties and their candidates. Unfortunately, independent candidates were not given a chance to explain their electoral platform.
11. The media in general is polarized, not neutral. To see the truth, the citizen must follow everyone and analyze to see the closest to the truth. It did not succeed in transmitting the programs of parties and candidates. It was well played on the voting mechanism.
12. With the exception of Rudaw and Channel Eight, none of the other channels covered impartially. Most channels did not adhere to neutrality. They relied less on official statements, and more on what they liked.
13. The media was not at the required level, whether in covering the electoral process, spreading electoral culture, or explaining the voting mechanism for the elections.
14. The most prominent thing in the electoral event is (the role of the media) in covering the stages of the electoral process, and we noticed there are television and radio channels that were publishing news impartially, although they are affiliated with party parties known to participate in the electoral process. The media discourse was clear through party channels and all these events contributed a great role in the public's interaction with the electoral event, and also had a prominent role in educating voters about the Commission's procedures in the process of public and special vortage., and contribute to the dissemination and coverage of the activities of the Commission on the electoral process.
15. The media in Kurdistan show a disparity in neutrality; some media organizations are closely associated with certain political parties, which affects their coverage and makes them tend to promote one side at the expense of another. While some independent media channels have adhered to professional standards in covering propaganda campaigns, others have focused on attacking political opponents.
16. In general, the media code of conduct has been adhered to, especially in international and domestic channels that are monitored by electoral observation organizations. However, there has been criticism of some reporters who have shown bias while covering certain electoral events.
17. The media played a large role in disseminating UNHCR's official statements, helping to ensure that the right information flows to the public. However, some channels focused on sensational news without verifying its veracity, sometimes misleading public opinion.
18. Some independent media outlets conducted intensive awareness campaigns to clarify election systems and voting mechanisms, which contributed to increasing voter understanding.

Question to the Coalition's Panel of Experts: Assessing the Role of Social Media

1. The extent of their contribution to the promotion of electoral propaganda for parties and candidates
2. Reliability as a source of electoral information
3. Does it have a role in inciting partisan electoral discourse and spreading a spirit of extremism and hatred among citizens?
4. The extent to which it affects the increase or decrease in participation in the voting process
5. The extent to which or not they contribute to raising legal and electoral awareness
6. The extent to which they can be relied upon as one of the means of measuring public opinion in relation to the electoral process

1. Social media has been widely used in media promotion.
2. It cannot be relied upon as a source of election news due to the prevalence of rumors and fake news.
3. It has contributed significantly to the dissemination of hate speech and the dissemination of shadowed news.
4. It helped increase participation and motivation through the populist methods of propaganda adopted by the parties.
5. It contributes mainly to the formation of electoral awareness.
6. They cannot be relied upon because fake accounts and electronic armies constitute a falsification of public opinion.
7. Social networks have played an important role in boosting the electoral propaganda of parties and candidates.
8. Apart from the IHEC and civil society organizations concerned with election issues on social media, social networks are not reliable and should not be used as a source of electoral information.
9. Because social networks are a virtual world without windows, yes, they have played a role in provoking the party's electoral discourse and spreading the spirit of extremism and hatred among citizens. Fortunately, it has not reached the level of creating chaos among citizens.
10. It had a significant impact on the decline in participation in the voting process.
11. There was a limited degree of electoral legal awareness.
12. It cannot be relied upon as a tool to gauge public opinion of the electoral process.

13. Social networking sites are an open arena and are not controlled by an officer, so it is difficult to answer this question. Everything was there, and these sites remain closer, faster and more dangerous than traditional media because citizens are more aware of them.
14. Social media has been an important source for citizens to obtain information.
15. Social media is considered one of the most important means affecting the electorate, especially after the great spread of these means and their follow-up significantly by all age groups, and we note that there are parties and candidates who have relied heavily and effectively on social networking sites more than electoral propaganda means such as Facebook and Instagram, as well as TikTok and others.
16. The extent of its contribution to promoting electoral propaganda to parties and candidates: social media has played a major role in electoral campaigning, as parties and candidates have relied on it as a primary platform to reach voters. They were used extensively for sponsored advertising, videos, and posts to promote their programs.
17. Reliability as a source of electoral information: social media has been a major source of electoral information, especially among young people. However, concerns have arisen about the accuracy of some information, as rumors and fake news have spread that have affected voter awareness.
18. Its role in agitating partisan electoral discourse and spreading the spirit of extremism and hatred: in a few cases.
19. Impact on increased or decreased voter participation: While it helped encourage some groups to participate through awareness and motivation campaigns, the spread of false information or negative rhetoric frustrated some voters and reduced their enthusiasm for participation.
20. Contribution to raising legal and electoral awareness: Some social media campaigns have helped clarify election laws and voting mechanisms, but these efforts have been limited compared to partisan election campaigning. A greater role is needed in raising public awareness of the use of these platforms.
21. Reliability as a means of measuring public opinion: Despite its popularity, relying on social media to gauge public opinion can be misleading, since interaction on these platforms does not necessarily represent the actual attitudes of voters. Bias in campaigns and the unbalanced spread of content make it a completely inaccurate tool.

## ملاحظات على نظام الحملات الانتخابية رقم (2) لسنة 2024

- First: Paragraph (11) of Article (1) of the Electoral Campaigns Law No. (2) of (2023) and Article (19) was amended as it was repeated with Article (5) of the same system after a number of days have passed since the start of the media campaign, and that crossing such errors with a legislative dimension on the Commission is a major mistake that the Commission must correct in the upcoming electoral elections.
- Second: The IHEC set the period of electoral silence at (48) hours before the start of the voting process, but it did not specify the type of voting from which the electoral silence begins, is it (48) hours before the general or special ballot? This raised questions between the party and individual lists until the Commission issued a statement in this regard on (15/10/2024) and clarified that what is meant by (polling day) contained in Article (2) of the Electoral Campaigns Law No. (2) of 2023 is (Special Polling Day), as it stipulates that: (... The date of the end of the electoral campaign begins at twelve o'clock at night on Tuesday, 15/10/2024), and the Commission should not leave these terms ambiguous, but rather it was necessary to clarify them so as to get them out of this ambiguity that caused confusion among the competitors.
- Third: The electoral campaign system lacked a very basic and important paragraph, which is not allowing the competing electoral lists to promote their electoral campaigns within (100) meters of buildings taken as polling stations, which freed the competing electoral lists to hang posters and electoral advertisements on the walls of buildings taken as polling stations and the inability of the monitoring committees in the governorates to take any measures against them. This legislative vacuum was continuing until (19/10/2024), as the Commission realized this vacuum and issued a circular to the electoral offices to remove all posters and electoral propaganda located within 100 meters of buildings taken as polling stations!
- Fourth: The electoral campaign system was devoid of addressing the issue of violations that may occur on social media, while all political parties began their electoral campaigns through social networking sites, and the monitoring committees in the electoral offices did not have a mechanism to deal with these cases! Therefore, the Commission should not neglect this important aspect of electoral campaigns while writing the electoral campaign system related to the upcoming electoral elections.
- Fifth: The work of the monitoring sub-committees in the electoral offices was confused and reached the point of embarrassment in front of those authorized by political entities to diligence in interpreting Article (18) of the Electoral Campaigns Law No. (2) of 2024 and removing it from its operative part, as the text of Article (18) was very clear that: (When the violation is proved, the Commission imposes punishment on the violator.... This text was very clear that when the violation is proved, the fine is imposed first and after that, the violator is informed of the removal of the violation within (3) days, otherwise the fine is doubled, but the aforementioned text was reflected in its application, so that it was interpreted by members of the Central Committee for Monitoring Violations of the need to inform the violator first, and in the event that it is not

removed, the fine is imposed on the violator! Another interpretation of the aforementioned article was that violations whose elements have been completed are fined and then reported in front of the violations whose effects can be removed, and then reported and then fined! All this in the presence of a clear article in terms of pronunciation and concept!!

## Conclusions

1. Use government offices and service agencies to hang partisan and personal advertisements and advertisements. This is in direct contradiction to Article 8(2) of the 2023 Electoral Campaigns Regulations.
2. Use government offices and meet with employees and pressure them to vote for a particular party or list. This is in direct contravention of Article 9 of the Electoral Campaigns Law No. 2 of 2023.
3. The use of government equipment and offices for election campaigns by some political parties and individuals. This directly contradicts Article 9 of the 2023 (2023) Election Campaigns Regulation.
4. Using harsh language during the election campaign on television, public gatherings and social media and accusations against each other. This is in direct contradiction to Article 10 of the 2023 (2023) Electoral Campaign Regulations.
5. The use of public funds in the election campaign. This is in direct contradiction to Article 11 of the 2023 Electoral Campaigns Law.
6. Some candidates have called other parties' traitors on television, public appearances, or on social media, or used harsh language to accuse them. This directly contradicts Article 12 of the 2023 Election Campaigns Law.
7. Photographs, logos, and party and candidate advertisements have been attacked by unknown assailants, or attempts have been made to disrupt the campaign of announcing a list, party or other candidate. This is in direct contradiction to Article 13(2) of the 2023 Election Campaigns Law.
8. Some candidates put their pictures on sidewalks, on hospital walls, mosque minarets, in the middle of streets, on grass in the streets, and on tree trunks in the streets, and some blocked citizens' traffic on sidewalks, or hung them on electricity poles and traffic lights. Some parties, lists and candidates hung their pictures and slogans on the offices where the vote was held. All of this was a violation of campaign rules.

## Recommendations

1. Reconsider the controls of electoral campaigns so that it is not allowed to place pictures of candidates and electoral posters of parties on sidewalks and intersections, and on all buildings of state institutions and departments, schools, places of worship and government transportation.
2. The need to reconsider the sizes of posters and pictures of candidates so that their sizes are reasonable and not large and gigantic, especially in cities.
3. Imposing high financial fines on violations for parties and candidates, and then warning them to remove the violation within a period of 48 hours, because the instructions of electoral campaigns that are set in the electoral campaign system are known to all, and are based on the electoral law, so the obligation to apply them is a legal obligation on parties and candidates that must be adhered to.
4. The need for the Commission to be more assertive towards media discourses that spread hatred, extremism, treason, takfir and threats, whether such speech is issued by candidates, heads of parties and lists, or various media outlets. Because it may be a cause and a trigger for cases of violence in society during and after elections.

### Incidents observed in the election campaign:

	Governorate	Centre	Station	Event
1.	ERBIL	HAMURABI121202	3	Someone promotes and goes to the polls and says that voting for Rami and 229 is very active
2.	ERBIL	KOSRAT BASE121703	01	Voting cards are hung in front of the door of the polling station next to the voter registration form
3.	DUHOK	LAYLA QASM223108...	5	The KDP distributes cards at the center's door.
4.	ERBIL	SEINCE BASE121703	01	Candidate cards will be distributed in front of the polling station.
5.	ERBIL	SORAN INSTITUTE FOR IT	1	Soran Computer Institute 122605 a large military presence in the center and pressured young people to vote, there are security forces inside the center
6.	SULAYMANIYA	126706	05	The case of a logo on the clothes. To a certain party
7.	ERBIL	221304	1	The KDP and regional organizations have all been present at the base since this morning.



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8.	Sulaymaniyah	1263006	1	1- There are followers of a particular party who attack the party near the recruitment center. 2- Registration of the attendance of candidates by the party to confirm the candidacy.
9.	DUHOK	1234 warar	4	He was a child with the KDP flag on his neck at 10:30 a.m. in Warrar Center
10.	DUHOK	aliyas Asas School 124302	04	The presence of a party official for the district at the polling station
11.	SULAYM ANIEYA H	226506	1	There is an educational center for a certain party in front of the polling station
12.	DUHOK	Duhok Preparatory Center	04	There is a campaign and distribution of candidate cards outside the center by individuals affiliated with candidates less than 100 meters
13.	SULAYM ANIEYA H	126706	05	The presence of propaganda inside Al-Qaeda. Like the flag and logo of the ruling party
14.	SULAYM ANIEYA H	226503	1	There is a training center for the party, a center for Moeen Imam for training
15.	Erbil	alwand school 121602	1	And members of one party stand outside the base
16.	Erbil	Great River 141214	1	KDP distributes candidate cards in front of school door
17.	SULAYM ANIEYA H	New Kurdistan	7	They have set up tents outside the office and those named in the committee must go and sign after the vote to prove their attendance
18.	SULAYM ANIEYA H	-127802 Rastgo center	5	PUK candidate Salar Baziani in front of Rastgo school at 11:10 a.m.
19.	DUHOK	Jegar khwen .123201 High School	4	There is electoral propaganda in the centers of jgar khwen and peshraw abroad
20.	SULAYM ANIEYA H	Bamo school .226503	1	There is a tent for the election campaign near the political center of a certain city
21.	Erbil	Kuratu highschool	1	There are people from the political statements at the door of the center whose positions are registered to appear before the center
22.	Erbil	shanader Primary School	3	There are political entities on the roof of the center that have systems ready to register at the center
23.	Erbil	121703 zanst	01	The voter came to the polling station wearing party clothes and slogans, and the director of the polling station did not say anything.
24.	halabja	Ahmed Mukhtar Aljaf.	2	The presence of candidates outside the polling station by two political parties. Distribution of promotional cards outside the center
25.	SULAYM ANIEYA H	128801	3	polling station and monitors voters and registers those who did not show up
26.	Erbil	122905	05	Since morning, they gathered in front of the school and chairs for the PUK and KDP campaign were erected in front of the school entrance to vote.
27.	DUHOK	.323903 Jim Kirk	1	Electoral propaganda for PKK candidates and distribution of candidate cards in front of

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				polling stations at all polling stations in Zakho Fear and influence are a voice in reason
28.	SULAYM ANIEYA H	Handicraft 326606 Business Center	04	List 129 Voting suspended from 09:50 to 10:01 to 11 minutes due to VVD device 3 people entered and voted in the propaganda clothes of the Union party
29.	SULAYM ANIEYA H	Rankin Secondary School /for Girls	01	Voters enter with the clothes and logo of a particular political entity
30.	SULAYM ANIEYA H	Sharo Primary 226502 School	3	Two cars belonging to a political party (the National Union) parked in front of the primary school and no one tried to get them out
31.	SULAYM ANIEYA H	Kocher elementary school	1	The ballot bears the logo of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.
32.	DUHOK	1234Newroz	4	At 3:315 p.m., the candidates were brought to the station
33.	SULAYM ANIEYA H	Martyr Ghafoor 226506 Zazli	03	Yes, people were campaigning for the PUK at the station, they took their mobile phones to take pictures, they took pictures and didn't leave them. People complained that their fingerprints could not be read.
34.	SULAYM ANIEYA H	Saeed Ghafoor Zazlai2	03	The PUK official should promote a vote in their favor
35.	DUHOK	Aras School	04	At 3:15 p.m. Aras School, the Union candidate came to the school door, and the security forces and the security forces of the Union politicians came out of the course and said that it was better to remove the shirts, and the security forces came
36.	SULAYM ANIEYA H	Qrga Martyrs Center	5	Some people were wearing party clothes and they had party slogans on their clothes
37.	SULAYM ANIEYA H	Peshkutin Primary School	3	Outside the polling stations, there attracts citizens for political purposes and collecting votes, Kumite Azadi
38.	DUHOK	sardasht Basic School223703	01	The PKK campaign kicked off at the center gate and in the school yard at 2:20 pm in the presence of PKK flags and teachers
39.	Erbil	Medium Mixed Wear	1	Medium Mixed Ball The presence of members of political entities in front of the polling station with voters' lists and recording the names of those entering the polling station
40.	Erbil	union Primary .221708 School	1	Political staff observers to publicly inform voters of who they will vote and ask them questions in front of polling stations
41.	DUHOK	dezen .11	1	Two political cadres from the same party, one abroad and the other inside, giving all the information freely, and I even saw them taking people's wishes at the door of the base

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42.	SULAYM ANIEYAH	226506Shaeed Ghafoor Zalze	03	Dilshad Abdul Karim is campaigning for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Shahid Ghafoor's office and there is a tent erection
43.	Halabja	- Sharazoor high school 128208	5	1- Cadres and administrators of the headquarters of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan move easily in the center without being prevented and campaign for their list. 2- Asking people to vote for their list, 3- They prepared a place 10 meters from the polling station and threatened their voters to reveal their names
44.	DUHOK	Yasa basic School	03	Democratic Party Publishes Voter Cards Outside Election Station
45.	Erbil	Dunkar School 122250	1	At 11:7 a.m., political entity Joan Zakho came to the polling station and said, "Vote for me and don't forget me."
46.	DUHOK	Aylul basic .124302 school	04	The presence of party officials inside the polling station, taking mobile phones and photographing votes
47.	DUHOK	daratw School For Boys 324301	6	Since the beginning of the opening of the polling station and after half an hour, the agents of the political entity of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and representatives of the candidates of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan conducted secret election campaigns for the candidates inside the polling station
48.	Erbil	121503 Naz school	3	The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) throughout the day, through its branches and regions, put great pressure on citizens, set up tents near polling stations, distributed bread, water and sweets to residents, and distributed candidate cards through children near polling stations. .
49.	Erbil	alwand school 121602	1	1- Electoral campaigns were held outside and inside the polling station, and candidate cards were distributed outside the polling station and pictures of candidates were hung.
50.	Erbil	Activity center in Kani 221304qrzhala.	6	The KDP has influence on voters, with the governor, security forces, districts and organizations controlling polling stations.

## Chapter Five – Voting Day Monitoring Private Voting and Public Voting

More than six years after voters last went to the polls, the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) held long-awaited legislative elections on 20 October. These elections come against a backdrop of serious political, economic, and geopolitical challenges, and the elections and their context were of great importance in assessing the extent to which they met basic democratic standards, including their fairness and transparency.

Elections for the Kurdistan Parliament were supposed to be held two years ago, and these delays came due to ongoing differences between the KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, which disrupted the electoral process under various excuses and justifications. Things have escalated to the point that procedural differences between them have escalated to the point of violence within the Kurdistan parliament. Eventually, the Iraqi Federal Supreme Court took responsibility for managing the process from the regional commission., and assigned it to the Independent High Electoral Commission.

Iraq's National Observation Networks Alliance mobilized a large number of observers to observe polling day in special and universal voting, and announced the results of monitoring each stage of voting with quick reports on polling day and the day after.

### Special ballot Centers Opening Report

s	Question	yes	no
1	Has there been any electoral propaganda for political entities or the distribution of candidate ID cards within or within 100 meters around the polling station?	66	292
2	Were the security forces tasked with protecting the polling station outside the polling station?	307	51
3	Were the security forces in charge inside the polling station?	145	213
4	Were there attempts to prevent voters from reaching the polling station?	6	352
5	Were any observers, candidates' delegates or agents of political entities excluded from the voting station?	12	346
6	Did the voting station open on time at 7:00?	336	22

## Ballot Report:

s	Question	yes	no
1	Has there been any electoral propaganda for political entities or the distribution of candidate ID cards inside the polling station?	24	211
2	the presence of unauthorized persons inside the voting station?	30	205
3	Were any observers, candidates' delegates or agents of political entities excluded from the voting station?	10	225
4	Were complaints made during the voting process?	15	220
5	Did a member of the voting station committee, agents of political entities or observers wear or use electoral propaganda symbols or attempt to influence voters during the voting process?	16	219
6	Have the verification machines stopped for any reason?	29	206
7	Have voters been allowed to insert the mobile device?	92	143

## Closing report:

s	Question	yes	no
1	Has the manual counting of ballots started immediately after the withdrawal of reports for electronic counting of the voting station?	147	12
2	Did anyone object to the announced results?	6	153
3	Did anyone object to the announced results?	4	155
4	Has any complaints been detected about the counting results?	2	157
5	Are there unauthorized people at the station after the closure?	7	152
6	Was there a difference between manual counting and sorting with electronic counting and sorting	8	151
7	Was the percentage of the difference between manual counting and sorting with electronic counting and sorting more than 5%, and the station was referred to the audit center for manual recounting and sorting and approving the results of manual counting and sorting in the audit center?	8	151
8	Have copies of the results been handed over to the agents of political entities and representatives of candidates?	126	33
9	Were the results sent to the National Center successfully before 12 pm?	157	2

## Universal Suffrage

### Number of reports received (1042)

s	question	yes	no
1	Has there been any electoral propaganda for political entities or the distribution of candidate ID cards within or within 100 meters around the polling station?	134	908
2	Were the security forces in charge inside the polling station?	358	684
3	Were there attempts to prevent voters from reaching the polling station?	0	1042
4	Were any observers, candidates' delegates or agents of political entities excluded from the voting station?	18	1024
5	Did the voting station open on time at 7:00?	962	80

## Ballot Report

### Number of reports received (773)

no	yes	question	s
693	80	Has there been any electoral propaganda for political entities or the distribution of candidate ID cards inside the polling station?	1
700	73	the presence of unauthorized persons inside the voting station?	2
755	18	Were any observers, candidates' delegates or agents of political entities excluded from the voting station?	3
732	41	Were complaints made during the voting process?	4
725	48	Did a member of the voting station committee, agents of political entities or observers wear or use electoral propaganda symbols or attempt to influence voters during the voting process?	5
660	113	Have the verification machines stopped for any reason?	6
538	235	Have voters been allowed to insert the mobile device?	7

## Closing report

### Number of reports received (601)

s	question	yes	no
1	Has the manual counting of ballots started immediately after the withdrawal of reports for electronic counting of the voting station?	535	66
2	Did anyone object to the announced results?	8	593
3	Did anyone object to the announced results?	6	587
4	Has any complaints been detected about the counting results?	2	591
5	Are there unauthorized people at the station after the closure?	19	574
6	Was there a difference between manual counting and sorting with electronic counting and sorting	34	559
7	Was the percentage of the difference between manual counting and sorting with electronic counting and sorting more than 5%, and the station was referred to the audit center for manual recounting and sorting and approving the results of manual counting and sorting in the audit center?	41	519
8	Have copies of the results been handed over to the agents of political entities and representatives of candidates?	523	70
9	Were the results sent to the National Center successfully before 12 pm?	601	0

Question to the Coalition Panel of Experts: Any feedback on the special voting day?

- 1- The special voting day was conducted without major problems. Some voters have violated the ban on cameras and smartphones, which requires punishment.
- 2- The large number of invalid votes may be deliberately the result of the pressure of the parties in power on their armed forces. This is problematic because the Peshmerga and security forces should not be affiliated with the parties. This is an indication that so far

there is no concept of the region as an entity, let alone the question that it is part of Iraq. This pressure may not have been liked by some voters as well as poor governance, so the answer was invalid votes.

- 3- Voters were directed by their officials to vote, and there was propaganda at the centres.
- 4- The adoption of electronic verification and counting of the electoral process reduced cases of fraud.
- 5- The special voting process took place smoothly, and voters from the security forces went to the polling stations and stations from the early hours and from the morning, and it is noticeable that they brought telephones to the voting stations and the presence of electoral propaganda near the polling stations.

Question to the Coalition's Panel of Experts: Any comments on the day of public voting?

1. In the upcoming elections, attention must be paid to verification devices, and biometrics of the national card will be the basis
2. The problem of not showing fingerprints for a number of voters repeated, as well as the presence of advertisements close to the voting place
3. The public voting process was done in a very good, peaceful and professional manner. The Board of Commissioners and UNHCR staff deserve thanks for being able to solve technical problems in a short period of time.
4. Things were settled before the day of the vote. On the day of the vote, things were normal, except for some technical problems or partisan excesses, which, compared to past experiences, were relatively few.
5. It was more peaceful than a special vote, and there was no fingerprint reading. The KDP and PUK have placed people at polling stations to guide voters, problem biometric fingerprints, and deny voters voting.
6. The organization process was good and there were few breaches.
7. • well trained voting staff in voting mechanisms and their good interaction with voters, observers and agents of political entities.
8. The continuation of electoral propaganda near some polling stations as well as on social media, disrupted some voting machines in the early hours of work and the matter was remedied by employees and logistical support teams.

9. The security forces' facilitation of the work of the IHEC staff as well as cooperation with observers and agents, the presence of large numbers of invalid ballots, is mainly due to the fact that voters do not know the voting process accurately.
10. The day of public voting for the 2024 Kurdistan Parliament elections was characterized by extensive organization and advanced technical preparations that ensured high flow, as the process witnessed wide participation of local and international observers, including 16 consulates, 15 international organizations and 43,000 representatives of political parties.
11. The High Electoral Commission praised the conduct of the electoral process and confirmed the absence of any significant security breaches. It also reported that the turnout was high, reflecting voter interaction with the elections. Technically, election data was sent seamlessly to the headquarters in Baghdad, enhancing the transparency of the electoral process.
12. There are hopes that the election results will translate into concrete changes that meet the aspirations of voters and strengthen the democratic process in the region.

Question to the Coalition's Panel of Experts: What are your observations on the role of the security forces?

1. in the protection of polling stations.
2. How impartial is it in dealing with voters?
3. The nature of dealing with electoral process partners, including observers and the media.
4. Did it facilitate electoral campaigning?

1. In general, the security forces helped voters to reach the polling stations with professionalism and integrity. Their interaction with electoral process partners was professional and cooperative, with the exception of a few partisan and closed areas where some unwanted incidents occurred, but they did not discredit the security forces.
2. The facilities provided by the security forces throughout the electoral process deserve praise and deserve great respect and thanks.
3. Her role was positive. Previously, all efforts were made on election day, but this issue does not currently apply. But it allowed for a few excesses in favor of the parties in power.



4. Basic protection was excellent. The main security forces had no interference. They treated voters very well. The role of the security forces was good in protecting the polling stations and they were neutral with voters.
5. The security forces play a major role in protecting the electoral process at all stages, as well as in participating in the process to exercise their right to special suffrage.
6. We did not see any interference from the security forces in the will of the voter or the work of the Commission, as well as facilitating the entry of observers and agents in accordance with the procedures and instructions of the relevant security authorities as well as the procedures of the Commission
7. It was also its duty to protect electoral propaganda, whether it was to protect electoral propaganda means or to protect candidates during seminars and conferences within the duration of electoral campaigning.
8. Protection of polling stations: Security forces played a major role in securing polling stations by ensuring the safety of voters and preventing any security incidents. No security breaches were recorded during the special and public voting days, demonstrating the success of the security plans in place.
9. Neutrality in dealing with voters: In general, the security forces' treatment of voters was impartial and professional. However, there has been ongoing concern in previous elections about the impact of military hierarchy on security forces voting during private voting, with some may feel indirect pressure to vote for certain parties.
10. Nature of engagement with electoral process partners: Security forces dealt well with domestic and international observers, as well as with the media.
11. Contribute to facilitating electoral campaigning: The primary role of the security forces is to protect, but they indirectly contributed to facilitating electoral propaganda by providing a safe environment free from violence. However, it is not believed that security forces directly intervened in supporting or restricting political party campaigns.

Question to the Coalition Panel of Experts: Are there any specific proposals for the above questions?

1. To provide guarantees for parties and candidates in the electoral process, legislators in the House of Representatives and the Kurdistan Parliament should either amend electoral laws or draft new laws with a clear interpretation and without difference (for counting and separating votes). A day or two before the voting process and a few

minutes after the polling stations close, to lists and candidates who want to ensure the integrity of the electoral process.

2. A real review of the reasons for the existence of thousands of invalid papers that appeared in the counting and sorting processes .
3. Allow voters who were marked in the registration period not to read their fingerprints and not to set a skipping percentage.
4. Improving logistics procedures:
  - Increase the number of polling stations to ensure easy access for all voters, especially in rural areas.
  - Promote the use of technology in voting and counting to ensure accuracy and speed up the announcement of results.
  - Providing special facilities for people with disabilities and the elderly to ensure their participation without obstacles.
5. Enhancing transparency and accountability:
  - Publish periodic reports from the IHEC on all stages of the electoral process.
  - Strengthen campaign monitoring to ensure a level playing field for all candidates, including controlling electoral spending and limiting the use of public resources for the benefit of particular candidates.
6. Strengthening local and international control:
  - Support local regulatory networks with training and funding to improve their coverage and impartiality.
  - Strengthen cooperation with international monitoring organizations to cover all stages of the electoral process.
7. Raising the level of electoral awareness:
  - Launch extensive awareness campaigns before elections explaining the importance of participation and how to vote.
  - Use traditional media and social media to disseminate accurate and transparent information about elections.

## Chapter six – The Role of the Judiciary in Elections

The Federal Court issued its decision No. (83 and its units 131 and 185/federal/2023 on 21/2/2024), which made the number of seats in the Kurdistan Parliament 100 seats instead of 111 seats, in addition to making the number of electoral districts consist of no less than four districts, and authorizing the Independent High Electoral Commission in Iraq to organize the elections of the Kurdistan Parliament, in addition to other paragraphs. Due to the delay in the issuance of the above Federal Court's decision, it became impossible to hold elections on February 25, 2024, whereby after consulting with the Presidency of the Kurdistan Region the order of the Presidency of the Region was issued to set 10/6/2024 as the date for its conduct.

However, a number of parties for the components announced their boycott of these elections, due to the lack of allocation of seats to the components, and the lack of a mechanism for representing the components in the Kurdistan Parliament. Later, on 18/3/2024, the KDP also decided to boycott these elections for reasons that were explained in a statement issued by the political bureau of the aforementioned party. But in view of the appeal submitted by the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government before the Federal Court in Article (2) of the system of registering and approving candidate lists for the Kurdistan Regional Parliament elections No. 7 of 2024 issued by the Independent High Electoral Commission. After the issuance of the Federal Court's decision No. (126/Federal / State Order/2024) on 7/5/2024), which decided to suspend the procedures for applying this article of the system of registering and approving candidate lists. As a result, the Commission decided to suspend its technical and financial procedures for organizing the elections of the Kurdistan Parliament according to its decision No. (1) for the extraordinary minutes (28) on 7/5/2024, as it is no longer possible to hold those elections on 10/6/2024, until the original lawsuit is decided by the Federal Supreme Court on 20/5/2024.

According to Articles 19 and 20 of the amended IHEC Law No. 31 of 2019, a judicial panel of three part-time judges of the first class is formed to hear appeals against decisions issued by the Board of Commissioners of the Independent High Electoral Commission, called the Judicial Electoral Commission. The affected parties have the right to appeal the decisions of the Board of Commissioners, including the decision to announce the results of the elections, where the Judicial Authority for Elections is a competent court to consider electoral disputes, that is, it has the right to investigate the appeal and even conduct pleadings before it by the

litigants in the case, and its decisions are final and binding on everyone, including the Commission, candidates and political parties.

Based on the above, the Judicial Commission for Elections issued its decision No. 355 / Judicial Authority / 2024 on 20/5/2024, as a result of submitting appeals against the instructions for registering and approving candidate lists for the year 2023, where the Commission decided to allocate five seats to the components within the hundred seats of the Kurdistan Parliament, two seats in Erbil Governorate, the same in Sulaymaniyah Governorate, and one seat in Dohuk Governorate. The commission later clarified that a seat would be allocated to Turkmen and one for Christians in Sulaymaniyah province, the same in Erbil province, and a seat for Christians in Dohuk province. As a result, the Federal Court decided to dismiss the lawsuit of the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Region also on 20/5/2024, due to the absence of the need and reason for issuing it after the decision of the Judicial Commission for Elections on the same subject. The Commission issued instructions for the registration and approval of candidate lists for the year 2024 in light of the decision of the judicial body.

After the announcement of the full results, the field was opened for submitting appeals before the Judicial Authority for Elections, where 41 appeals were submitted against the results of the elections of the sixth session of the Kurdistan Parliament 2024, as follows:

1. Dohuk constituency: 3 appeals.
2. Erbil constituency: 12 appeals.
3. Sulaymaniyah constituency: 25 appeals.
4. Halabja constituency: 1 appeal.

According to the context followed by the Commission since the 2021 House of Representatives elections, the Commission is the one who received the appeals, prepared the necessary answers for each appeal and within a period of one week from the date of receipt of the last appeal, and then sent the appeals with its answers to the Judicial Authority for Elections, which has a period of 10 ten days to issue the necessary decisions regarding each appeal. The appeals submitted were considered by the Judicial Election Authority, where all appeals were resolved by it and the Board of Commissioners was informed of this under the Judiciary Corps No. 5 issued on 18/11/2024. The Board of Commissioners approved the final results according to its competence based on the seventh paragraph of Article X of the Independent High Electoral Commission Law for the year 2019 by its decision No. (4) for the regular minutes (44) issued on 24 m 11/2024, and the final results of the presidency of the Kurdistan Region were sent according to its letter No. (Kh/24/R.M/144) on 24/11/2024, thus lifting the hand of the Commission from the results of the elections and the winning candidates.

Question to the Coalition Panel of Experts: Assessing the Role of the Judiciary and the Electoral Judiciary

1. Its handling and decisions regarding appeals submitted during the electoral process
  2. The nature of the decisions and the extent of their professionalism and impartiality towards appeals submitted against the results of the elections
1. The role of the judiciary is important. Aggrieved parties must submit their appeals directly to the electoral court.
  2. The role of the electoral judiciary was very professional and fair.
  3. The nature of the decisions of the election judiciary was very impartial in dealing with appeals after the announcement of the final results of the elections.
  4. The Judicial Commission for Elections is the body for resolving electoral appeals submitted to the Commission according to a context that was applied in previous electoral elections, and the Commission was committed to the legal periods as well as its high professionalism in resolving appeals.
  5. Their handling and decisions regarding appeals submitted during the electoral process:
    - Transparency and legal procedures: The electoral judiciary has demonstrated compliance with the laws governing the electoral process. Appeals and objections from political parties were received in accordance with the specified procedures, reflecting seriousness in providing electoral justice.
    - Speedy processing of appeals: It was noted that the commission worked to speed up the procedures for handling appeals within the specified timetable, which contributed to reducing political tension between parties.
  6. The nature of the decisions, their professionalism and impartiality regarding the appeals submitted against the results of the elections:
    - Professionalism and impartiality: The decisions of the judiciary were praised by some political parties, as the appeals were considered transparently and independently away from partisan influences. However, there was limited criticism from some opposition parties who argued that some decisions did not take all the evidence into account.
    - Based on evidence: Decisions were based on legal standards and concrete evidence, which underscores the role of the judiciary in promoting electoral integrity and justice.

## Chapter seven – Use of Technology in Elections

The use of technology in Iraqi elections is an important step towards improving integrity and transparency in the electoral process, especially in light of the challenges facing electoral processes in Iraq. This approach comes as part of the quest to improve the electoral process and consolidate democracy in Iraq and the region.

### **1- Voter registration using biometric data:**

Biometric Recording:

Iraq began using biometric voter registration systems at the beginning of 2015, mainly using the biometric card to reduce the recording of violations. Registration involves collecting data such as fingerprints, facial images. The main objective of this step is to prevent repetition or voting in the names of voters who are absent or residing abroad.

#### **Benefits of biometric data:**

1. Eliminate box stuffing, frequent voting, and proxy voting.
2. improving the accuracy of the voter register.
3. Increase confidence among citizens in electoral processes.

### **2. Electronic counting and counting of ballot papers**

1. **The use of electronic counting machines with a biometric card means in practice the exclusion of the human factor (polling officials) from the counting of ballot papers. This means ending repeated voting, proxy voting, group and family voting, stuffing boxes with unused ballots at the end of voting day, not giving way to voters other than the station specified therein, deliberate invalidation of ballots, and ending erroneous and sometimes deliberate filling of party and candidate results in the paper results form.**
2. **The use of the biometric card exclusively, and the possibility of voting only by it.**
3. **• verifying the identity of the voter by means of a biometric card in which the voter's biometric data is stored, in the verification device containing the voters' biodata.**
4. **The presence of a link wire between the verification device and the electronic counting and sorting device.**
5. **The triple match between the voter's fingerprint, and the fingerprint in the biometric card stored in the verification device and his fingerprint in the machine.**

6. **The verification machine stops working programmatically in receiving voter cards at six o'clock in the evening, which prevents the extension of the voting period, or station employees in cooperation with a party agent and at some stations filling out unused ballots in the ballot box, as was the case previously in some stations before using the electronic counting machine.**
7. **Using a special device to send the results to the national office, which is done through an electronic counting machine called (RTS).**
8. **The presence of a specialized examining company that examines all the software of the devices used and the process of transmitting voices.**
9. **Matching the fingerprints of all voters in all voting operations and in all governorates within ten days of voting day.**
10. **Two surveillance cameras are installed at each station, recording the progress of the voting process, one of which is directed towards the process of entering voters, carrying out the process of verifying identity and granting them the ballot paper, and the second is directed towards the electronic counting and counting device.**

Challenges:

1. **Despite the use of this technology, the electoral process faced widespread criticism, especially from parties that questioned the fairness of the results.**
2. **Some reports have shown hardware failures or delays in reporting results.**
3. **There is still a lack of trust among segments of the population in the voting system, with some believing that technology may be used to enhance manipulation rather than reduce it.**

Recommendations:

1. **To ensure the success of this development in the electoral process, investment must be made in improving technology.**
2. **Continuous training of UNHCR staff.**
3. **Ensure that there is continued independent oversight of the electoral process.**
4. **Addressed issue where fingerprint is not read (334.882) voters.**

## Chapter eight – Participation Rates

### Final participation rates in the Kurdistan Parliament election 2024

1. The number of biometrically registered voters was (2,899,578) as follows:

<b>erbil</b>	1,023,606
<b>Sulaymaniyah</b>	1,087,192
<b>Duhok</b>	722,397
<b>Halabja</b>	60,252
<b>Special Voting Outside the Region</b>	6131

2. As for the number of voters, it reached (2,089,335) votes as follows:

<b>Erbil</b>	763,019
<b>Sulaymaniyah</b>	715,871
<b>Duhok</b>	565,388
<b>Halabja</b>	41,671
<b>Special Voting Outside the Region</b>	3386

3. The percentage of voting according to the number of biometric registered, which is considered by law as a prerequisite for the voter, which was announced by the Independent High Electoral Commission, reached 72% of the total number of biometric registered votes, as follows:

<b>Erbil</b>	%74,54
<b>Sulaymaniyah</b>	%65,85
<b>Duhok</b>	%78,27
<b>Halabja</b>	%69,16



4. But if we calculate the number of voters who reached the age of eighteen in the 2024 election year, their total is (3,789,360) voters as follows:

<b>Erbil</b>	1,366,462
<b>Sulaymaniyah</b>	1,416,432
<b>Duhok</b>	926,746
<b>Halabja</b>	79,720

5. Therefore, the percentage of voting or participation is only 55.13% as follows:

<b>Erbil</b>	%55,83
<b>Sulaymaniyah</b>	%50,54
<b>Duhok</b>	%61
<b>Halabja</b>	%52,57

Since the participation rate announced by the Commission is in accordance with the electoral law, as a number of voters did not register themselves biometrically in order to be registered in the biometric voter register, and for various reasons, perhaps a large number of them are not interested in political and electoral issues. The failure to register another large percentage of these segments in the biometric voter register is considered a negative opposition, perhaps because they do not believe in democracy and elections, or in the style of state administration and governance, both in the region and in Iraq in general, or their lack of conviction that elections are a tool for the process of expression of opinion and participation as well as for change. Therefore, boasting that the participation rate is high, and that it expresses overwhelming popular satisfaction with the political and electoral process is inaccurate and cannot be relied upon in the future.

## Chapter nine – Analysis of Results

**First: The official results announced by the Independent High Electoral Commission.**

**Erbil Governorate:**

Total number of valid votes	669,273
Number of seats for women	10
Number of minority seats	2
<b>Total Number of Seats</b>	<b>34</b>

Number of seats	Total Votes	Names of entity	Number of entities	s
17	347,786	Kurdistan Democratic Party	190	1
6	111,102	Patriotic Union of Kurdistan	129	2
5	104,222	New Generation	157	3
1	24,178	Kurdistan Islamic Union	148	4
1	20,265	Kurdistan Justice Group	147	5
1	16,871	The National Attitude Movement	161	6
1	9,776	People's Front	169	7
1	6,753	Rami Nouri Odesch Daniel (Christian)	229	8
1	3,666	Mona Nabi Nader Abdullah (Turkmen)	208	9
<b>34</b>	<b>Total seats</b>			

**Halabja Governorate:**

Number of seats	Total Votes	Entity Name	Entity Number	s
1	12,530	Patriotic Union of Kurdistan	129	1
1	7,847	Kurdistan Islamic Union	148	2
1	4,940	Kurdistan Democratic Party	190	3
<b>3</b>	<b>Total seats</b>			

**Sulaymaniyah Governorate:**

626,224		Total number of valid votes		
11		Number of seats for women		
2		Number of minority seats		
38		Total Number of Seats		
Number of seats	Total Votes	Entity Name	Entity Number	ت
15	257,359	Patriotic Union of Kurdistan	129	1
8	136,447	New Generation	157	2
3	57,916	Kurdistan Democratic Party	190	3
3	42,687	Kurdistan Islamic Union	148	4
2	36,707	Kurdistan Justice Group	147	5
2	29,416	The National Attitude Movement	161	6
1	20,355	People's Front	169	7
1	9,736	Goran (change)	114	8
1	8,399	Kurdistan Regional Alliance	133	9
1	6,203	dana Najib Shimon (Christian)	207	10
1	5,664	najdat Nouri Mohammad Arab (Turkmen)	228	11
38	Total seats			

**Duhok Governorate:**

548,015		Total number of valid votes		
8		Number of seats for women		
1		Number of minority seats		
25		Total Number of Seats		
Number of seats	Total Votes	Entity Name	Entity Number	s
18	402,152	Kurdistan Democratic Party	190	1
2	46,631	New Generation	157	2
2	42,732	Kurdistan Islamic Union	148	3
1	28,557	Patriotic Union of Kurdistan	129	4
1	8,438	The National Attitude Movement	161	5
1	5,535	James hasso Hideo David (Christian)	213	6
25	Total seats			

Second: the electoral system and the division of electoral districts.

The decision of the Federal Court did not change the electoral system applied in the elections of the Kurdistan Parliament, as the proportional representation system was continued to be applied, and the strongest remainder formula was used to distribute the vacant seats after the first distribution. But the court’s decision has divided the Kurdistan Region into four electoral districts instead of one district, which means extracting the electoral rate in each electoral district alone, by dividing the number of valid votes in each constituency alone by the number of seats allocated to it, and then dividing the correct votes for each list or individual candidate on the electoral average, so that the result is the number of seats obtained by each party or list after neglecting the decimals, and the distribution of seats that were not distributed to the lists that remained with them The highest votes and from the highest to the lowest, and whether they obtained seats in the first distribution process or not, according to the system of distribution of seats and replacement of members No. 9 of 2024.

Third: Comparison of results:

2024 year		2018 year		2013 year		Party
Number of Seats	number Of votes	number Seats	number Sounds	number Seats	number Sounds	
<b>39</b>	<b>812,794</b>	<b>45</b>	688,070	38	743,984	Kurdistan Democratic Party
<b>23</b>	<b>409,548</b>	21	319,912	18	350,500	Patriotic Union of Kurdistan
<b>1</b>	<b>11,125</b>	<b>12</b>	186,903	24	476,736	Movement for Change
<b>15</b>	<b>290,353</b>	8	127,115	-	-	New Generation
<b>3</b>	<b>63,719</b>	7	109,494	6	118,574	Kurdistan Justice Group
<b>7</b>	<b>117,444</b>	5	79,912	<b>10</b>	186,741	correction Front (Islamic Union)

Fourth: The most important notes:

1. The division of Kurdistan into four districts in terms of high voter turnout in one region did not affect the other electoral regions due to the limitation of the number of seats for each district, and thus the competition intensified and was limited to the administrative boundaries of that constituency or governorate.

2. By observing the votes of the parties that were competing in the previous elections for the Kurdistan Parliament in 2018, and those that preceded it in 2013, we note that the votes of the Kurdistan Democratic Party have increased from the results of the 2018 elections by 124724 votes , and the results of the 2013 elections by only 68,810 votes, and if we know that six newborns were included in the right to vote after the 2018 elections, eleven births for the 2013 elections, we note that the party has regained its votes, and its votes did not increase much. On the results of the Kurdistan Parliament elections 2013.
3. This is the case with the votes of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, where its votes increased by 89,636 votes from the results of the 2018 elections, and increased from the results of the 2013 elections by 59,048 votes, as if we calculate the births acquired for the right to vote after 2018 and after 2013, the same observation is concluded, which is that its votes did not increase as much as it recovered its votes.
4. If we calculate the number of seats obtained by other parties except for the two major parties, it amounted to 33 seats and constitutes approximately 35% of the number of general seats (95) seats, so if we assume that they formed one bloc in the Kurdistan Parliament, this enables them to play important roles within the parliament. Where it can impose many of its orientations and the vocabulary of its programs in the laws that legislate from the Kurdistan Parliament, and submit draft laws to others, and constitute an important mechanism to organize oversight of the government and its ministries, in terms of forming committees Investigate and investigate, organize and direct interrogations, in addition to being able to disrupt many government plans and programs.
5. The results announced by the Independent High Electoral Commission included determining the number of seats for (men) and this is a legal error, as the electoral law did not specify seats for men to be contested only by male candidates, but a percentage of at least 30% of the seats in each electoral district was determined for women, and they are met according to the seat distribution system No. 9 of 2024, as if women win all the seats in an electoral district, it is not considered an infringement on ( men's seats) and are not considered a legal violation. This mistake started from the announcement of the results of the unorganized provincial council elections in the region in 2023, and was repeated in the 2024 Kurdistan Parliament elections, so it must be avoided in the future.
6. There was an opinion circulated by some, especially from the cadres of a number of political parties, which is regarding the system of distribution of seats, this opinion was calling

for depriving lists whose number of votes do not reach the electoral average, from entering the competition and obtaining seats in the process of distributing vacant seats after the first distribution. Although this opinion is contrary to the law and also to the process of distributing seats that took place in the distribution of seats in the regional parliament from 2005 to 2024, and that Two decisions have been issued by the Federal Court under the numbers (12/Federal/2010) regarding Law No. 26 of 2005, and Decision (67/Federal/2012) on Law No. 36 of 2008, which recognized the unconstitutionality of the issue of not counting the votes of electoral lists and (interpreting) or (converting) to other lists, because this is contrary to the freedom of the voter, i.e. it is contrary to the provisions of Article (20) and paragraph (a) of Article 38 of the Constitution. But realistically, the proponents of this opinion did not put This possibility also occurred in the Halabja district, where none of the winning lists reached the electoral average, and therefore clearly shows the error of this opinion, and the Commission did well not to adopt this in the seat distribution system No. 9 of 2024.

7. In these elections, the political parties worked to mobilize the largest number of their members, supporters, friends and family members in order to ensure that the largest possible percentage of each party voted in each electoral district. Since the electoral system as well as the system of approving candidates helped political parties to submit electoral lists of candidates up to twice the number of seats allocated to each district, so the decision-makers in each party worked to distribute candidates to ensure what we mentioned above based on tribal and regional distribution. In the first place, for large clans, I tried to satisfy even the heads of the thighs by nominating a candidate from each thigh as well. After the announcement of the results, it was noted that the victory was guaranteed, first, by the clan candidate and secondly by the candidate who has great financial means, and we also note that the sons of large cities who moved away from tribal loyalty, and despite their functional, partisan and scientific positions, but it was also difficult for them to ensure victory, except rarely.

## Chapter Ten – Minorities in Elections

The Iraqi constitution recognizes the existence of diverse components, nationalities and minorities in Iraq and calls for their inclusion and representation. Most election laws also guaranteed reserved seats (quotas) for some minorities, but it largely failed to achieve their true political representation, the seats do not include all minorities, and there is also no reliable demographic data on minorities in their absence even after the recent census.

The continuous conflict between the influential parties in the Kurdistan Region in the previous electoral cycles, and the attempt to acquire the 11 quota seats, led to what was interpreted as the cancellation of these seats based on the decision of the Federal Supreme Court No. 83 and its units 131 and 185 / federal / 2023 on 21/2/2024, and the decision led to reducing the number of seats in the Kurdistan Parliament from (111) to (100) seats only.

Subsequently, based on the decisions of the Judicial Commission for Elections No. 354 of 2024 issued on 16/5/2024, and Resolution No. 355 issued on 20/5/2024, it was decided to grant (5) seats to minorities distributed over 3 electoral districts in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk, 3 for Christians (one in each district) and 2 for Turkmen (one each for Erbil and Sulaymaniyah districts). Thus, the issue was not limited to reducing the seats to 5 only, but He limited it to only two components, after the previous seats were allocated 5 each to the Syriac-Chaldean Assyrians and Turkmens and one seat to the Armenians. The three seats allocated to Christians were won by 3 Chaldean Syriac-Assyrian but not Armenians, while all other minorities still do not include quota seats, except for the victory of a Yazidi candidate in Dohuk province through the Kurdistan Democratic List.

Therefore, most minority stakeholders oppose the mechanisms of participation in elections, as the system allows the results of the reserved seats race (quota) to be decided by voters and political parties that do not belong to these minorities, in clear contradiction to the spirit of the law and the idea of meaningful political participation. In addition to ignoring Law No. 5 of 2015 (Law on the Protection of the Rights of Components in the Kurdistan Region - Iraq), which recognized more than 10 minorities of non-Christians and Turkmens, but they were not represented in the election law unless their representatives won through the lists of the majority parties of minorities (Yazidi, Kakai, Kurd-Fili, Zoroastrianism, etc.).

Minority parties opposed the recent decisions issued by the Federal Court and the Judicial Authority for Elections, and what their results led to, especially most Christian parties, so they decided to boycott the parliamentary elections because of that, so the competition for the five seats, especially in light of their distribution according to the new division of districts and not on the basis of considering the region as one district, the competition was more clearly limited this time between the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, and the result was the victory of the Christian candidate supported by the democrat in Dohuk and his candidates Christian and Turkmen in Erbil, in contrast to the victory of Christian and Turkmen candidates supported by the Union in Sulaymaniyah, thus entrenched the idea and reality that the participation of minorities in these elections is unreal, ineffective and meaningless for minority communities.

### **The most important recommendations:**

1. The need to review the number of seats allocated to the quota of components, in terms of number and distribution among electoral districts, to be fairer and according to population density.

2. The need to grant quota seats to religious and national components authentic in the Kurdistan Region.
3. The need for an electoral register for minorities, based on free registration by the members of each component separately.

## Chapter eleven – Women's Participation

The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) has worked to ensure women's participation in elections, despite social customs and traditions, especially in rural areas, but not many cases of electoral violence against women have been recorded.

There is theoretically no political, social and cultural impediment to the nomination of women for parliament or political and administrative office, women in the region work significantly and effectively in elections as candidates and there are no apparent restrictions around them, and parties and government channels give almost equal opportunity to women candidates.

Women have a good position in the administrative and political aspects and almost 50% of the staff in government departments are women and the same percentage of staff in the Commission are women, but the percentage of women leaders who occupy senior positions is still limited in parties and the state.

There is a large turnout of female candidates and they have the right to nominate, monitor and vote without barriers from society and the state, we note that political parties have begun to influence women through the media and frequent visits of candidates to citizens' homes and educate women about their rights to political participation and how the parliament will represent a minimum of 30% women in parliamentary seats.

However, there are obstacles to women's political participation in public life, including:

- 1- Lack of funding sources equal to men competing in party lists and candidates.
- 2- Despite the efforts made by the official authorities, including the Supreme Council for Women and Development in the Kurdistan Region, the continued abuse of female candidates was monitored through videos and comments on social media.
- 3- There are social and cultural obstacles to women's representation in the political process.

Despite this, women participated as candidates and voters, the number of women candidates (368) and the number of winners in all lists (31) candidates.

As for the participation rate of women in the vote, it was lower than men, but at an acceptable rate compared to the previous elections in the Kurdistan Region.



## Chapter twelve – Electoral Management

The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) is the constitutional body with broad administrative, regulatory, and (legislative) powers to manage voter registration and elections. Stakeholders' perception of the IHEC differed markedly. Some stakeholders expressed a lack of confidence in the independence of the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC), and the perception of being pressured and interfered by politicians. However, some political parties indicated a higher legitimacy for the new IHEC. UNAMI is mandated to advise, support and assist the Independent High Electoral Commission.

The Board of Commissioners of the Independent High Electoral Commission, composed of seven judges of first instance and two consultants appointed by the Council of State, affirmed its independence and respect for the law. Although all members of the Board of Commissioners have been chosen by lot from among the pre-selected candidates, some civil society representatives recognize the Commission as a politically independent institution, but as an EMB whose composition reflects a balance of components.

Transparency in the work of the Commission was good, although many more improvements were called for, important information, such as the list of voting stations, candidate lists and training manuals, was available on the IHEC website, as well as an online database of voter voting stations to verify voter registration records and voting sites assigned to them. However, the regular publication of the full text of IHEC's decisions, regulations and instructions was in both Arabic and less in Kurdish on the website of the Independent High Electoral Commission. Regarding the Kurdistan Region elections, the public outreach at the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) was ineffective, as participation with stakeholders in explaining the decisions of the IHEC, the use of technologies and the ability of the IHEC to manage those technologies were inadequate. Information regarding software guarantees embedded in electronic devices has not been reported, especially with regard to the confidentiality of voting and the clear transmission of results.

An independent examiner evaluated the integrity of the electronic counting and IT system for results management, where three simulation exercises were conducted by the Independent High Electoral Commission in a limited sample of the voting station in all districts. Simulation The election day process was replicated including the use of an electronic voter verification device, an electronic counting device and a result transmitter. Reports on simulation results have not been published. In addition, transparency measures, such as the publication of descriptions of electronic systems, including details regarding hardware and software technical components, and the results of the audit certificate have not been made publicly available.

Technical preparations for private and public voting were conducted efficiently. The overall performance of the National Office of the Independent High Electoral Commission, three electoral offices in the governorates and the Office of the Kurdistan Regional Commission, were positively evaluated by long-term observers, with the operational stages of the electoral process implemented in a timely manner. Despite some challenges and frequent postponement of the Kurdistan Regional Parliament elections, about 60 have been appointed and trained. A polling officer, with special attention to the operation of electronic devices and the conduct of manual counting, the Commission published on the preparations for the elections through its social media pages and weekly statements issued by it and held a few press conferences. However, all stakeholders pointed to the lack of a solid voter education programs.

Question to the Coalition's Panel of Experts: Assessing the Role of the Independent High Electoral Commission:

1. How to deal with political parties?
2. How to deal with electoral partners, especially observers and the media?
3. The impact of the decisions of the Board of Commissioners to impose fines on electoral violations during the electoral campaign, to reduce the size of violations first, and to reduce tension in the electoral discourse of a number of political parties second.
4. The extent to which they have developed procedures to assist the voting of people with disabilities.
5. How to deal with complaints submitted for the days of private and public voting and the work of audit centers.
6. How to deal with the time after the announcement of the incomplete preliminary results until the announcement of the final uncertified results.
7. The extent to which it is able to manage the electoral event with integrity, impartiality and transparency.

1. The role of the Commission in dealing with partners in the electoral process is constantly evolving and reflects positivity stemming from benefiting from experiences.
2. Imposing fines is important in reducing violations, but the most important thing is to apply the provisions of the law in referring to the judiciary.
3. Dealing with complaints, time management, and the neutrality of the Commission are positive points recorded for the Commission.
4. Unfortunately, and under internal and external pressures, the Board of Commissioners withdrew the license of political activity from three political parties and decided to dissolve and confiscate the property and funds of these Kurdish parties. The Commission was also forced to exclude some candidates from running without taking into account party penalties.

5. The Commission's treatment of observers and journalists was good.
6. The impact of the Board of Commissioners' decisions to fine electoral violations during the election campaign, reduce the number of violations, and ease tension in polling stations was good, but it could have been better to prevent violations in the electoral process.
7. The procedures for assisting the disabled were not bad, but they could be improved by appointing a polling officer at each polling station to assist the disabled voter from the time he arrives at the polling station until the end of voting and his departure from the polling station.
8. The Commission's handling of complaints on special and general polling days and the procedures of the audit centres was professional and neutral.
9. The Commission's handling of the period following the announcement of the preliminary results and even the announcement of the results that were not acceptable to some was professional and very long.
10. The Commission has sufficiently adhered to the basic principles of integrity, neutrality and transparency. In general, its role was good. However, the political file was present in some paragraphs, such as overcoming the violations on the day of silence and after it. In terms of timing, it was good. Regarding people with special needs, it was not successful, and I understand that a large part of the issue is related to Iraq as a whole because it is not designed to see these people and facilitate their lives.
11. Their treatment was good, but in some polling stations they were not treated well, and the Commission was unable to implement its procedures regarding the violations. Fines were not imposed on violators properly, procedures for persons with disabilities were not implemented properly, and complaints were not received properly in several places. The Commission had shortcomings in announcing the preliminary results.
12. The Commission was not successful in imposing fines and removing electoral violations.
13. The Commission has acquired sufficient experience and competence in managing electoral events and how to deal with political parties and forces during the stages of the electoral process.
14. As for the Commission's partners from parties, observers and the media, the Commission was sending invitations directly through its departments or issuing statements for each task of the electoral process.
15. As for the Commission's decisions towards political parties for violating the electoral campaign system, there were many violations of the electoral campaign controls, and monitoring was not at the required level for these violations, and the fines were simple and not deterrent to the parties and the nature of these violations, and the method was to warn the party to remove the violation within three days and if it did not remove it, a financial fine was imposed. We hoped for the opposite by imposing the fine and removing it within three days.

16. The existence of special procedures for people with disabilities to vote through assisted voting, as for the process of announcing the results within 24 hours, it is credited to the Commission in managing the time factor.

17. How to deal with political parties: The Commission dealt with political parties according to the specified legal frameworks, and provided equal opportunities for all parties to participate. However, there were some complaints from small parties regarding their lack of adequate coverage or support in the face of major powers.

18. How to deal with electoral process partners (observers and media): The Commission cooperated significantly with international and local observers, as 15 international organizations and 16 consulates participated in monitoring the elections. The media also allowed coverage of the electoral process without major restrictions.

19. Impact of the Board of Commissioners' decisions to impose fines on electoral violations: Imposing fines on electoral violations had a positive impact, as it helped reduce violations during the election campaign. These measures also contributed to reducing tension between parties during voting, as violations were dealt with in a clear and transparent manner.

20. Measures to assist voting by persons with disabilities: The Commission allocated accessible centres and ballot boxes for persons with disabilities, while providing procedures that allow them to vote in secret and independence. However, there are calls to enhance support for them in the future to ensure wider participation.

21. Dealing with complaints submitted during the special and general voting days: The Commission dealt seriously with the complaints submitted, as audit centres were established to review objections and complaints, which enhanced confidence in the electoral process. Violations were monitored and documented and worked to address them as quickly as possible.

22. Time management between preliminary and final results: After announcing the preliminary results, the Commission opened audit centres for the stations referred to it according to the law, in the presence of political party agents and observers, focusing on dealing with objections and correcting errors to ensure the accuracy of the final results.

23. Integrity, impartiality and transparency of the electoral process: The Commission demonstrated a high degree of integrity and impartiality, following clear legal procedures and closely monitoring the process. The presence of international and local observers contributed to enhanced transparency, but there are still calls for improvement in certain areas, such as dealing with complaints more quickly.

## Chapter thirteenth – Domestic and International Surveillance

Despite the lack of funding to observe the Kurdistan Regional Parliament elections, a group of civil society organizations deployed their observers in the four electoral districts in the Kurdistan Region and outside the region for the special voting day, which contributed to increasing the transparency of the process.

A joint operations room was established in Erbil governorate to manage the monitoring process for the days of private and public voting by covering more than 90% of the electoral centers and stations through (600) observers on the day of the special voting in the governorates of the region and 7 other governorates outside the region and by 80% of the centers and 39% of the stations on the day of the general poll through (1600) observers and 30 mobile teams, and field coordination between observers of the coalition parties in all Electoral districts with geographical coverage of up to 85% district and sub-districts in four governorates in the Kurdistan Region.

The Independent High Electoral Commission announced the number of local and international observers and media participating in the 2024 Kurdistan Regional Parliament elections, that "the number of registered political entities agents reached 43,139 entity agents, in addition to 9,610 local observers distributed among the various governorates, and pointed out that "there are 1,830 international observers representing 16 consulates and 15 organizations." in addition to 22 international media outlets and 109 local media coverage of the elections."

One of the most prominent observations that were monitored is that the small number of local observers is due to the lack of funding and the restriction of the existence of a biometric card for observers deprived many young people to work as observers, and there is no difference between the observers, translators and protections.

### **Therefore, networks recommend that:**

1. Encourage young people to participate in election observation by lifting the requirement for a biometric card for observers.
2. No Iraqi observer is registered under the designation of an international observer, even if he is registered by an international organization, because the international observer is a person who holds a non-Iraqi nationality.
3. Different packages should be given to the observer, translator and protectors for the purpose of knowing the real numbers of international observers and participants in monitoring the process.

Question to the Coalition Panel of Experts: Assessing the Oversight Role of International and Local Regulatory Networks and Organizations

1. The extent to which the reports of local monitoring networks are impartial.
2. What is the role and impact of international monitoring in the Kurdistan Parliament elections?

3. Are the reports of local organizations and monitoring networks having an impact on the nature of the decisions, procedures and regulations issued by the IHEC for the development of electoral processes?
1. They can be improved and be more neutral.
  2. Most reports from local monitoring networks were professional and unbiased.
  3. All reports of IMN were professional and impartial.
  4. The reports of local and international observation networks have a positive impact on the nature of the Commission's decisions, procedures and regulations for the future development of the electoral process. It is the most prominent role and has proven its usefulness in raising awareness as well as electoral observation.
  5. Local monitoring networks and organizations were transparent and impartial in the process of monitoring the electoral process and diagnosing some of the negatives that accompany the electoral process, for international observers they have a great impact by ensuring the integrity of the elections, especially countries undergoing democratic transition, as well as contributing to raising voter confidence through international reports towards the elections, certainly the decisions, regulations and procedures issued by the Commission to organize the electoral process are It takes into account the reports issued by monitoring networks and organizations to take advantage of the opportunities and challenges that accompany the electoral process, as well as during the holding of workshops for lessons learned for the elections, as well as to be used by departments, sections and governorate offices to avoid mistakes in the future.
  6. Neutrality of local monitoring network reporting: Transparency and professionalism: Local networks have shown varying levels of neutrality. Some organizations have submitted professional reports based on international standards to monitor violations and objectively monitor elections.
  7. The role and impact of international monitoring in elections: International presence: Many international organizations participated in election observation, such as the United Nations and European organizations, which enhanced the credibility of the electoral process. This international monitoring was necessary to ensure transparency, especially in light of political tensions in the region.
  8. The impact of local oversight reports on IHEC decisions: Improving electoral processes: Local network reports play an important role, for example, these reports pointed to the need to improve procedures related to special voting and provide greater accessibility for people with disabilities, prompting the Commission to take corrective action.
  9. In general, there is international and local monitoring, but monitoring is supposed to start with the drafting of the law. If there had been effective and integrated monitoring, we would have found Iraq after all these elections during 29 years a country where democracy is strengthened and political participation increases. etc. We even find the opposite.

## Chapter Fourteen – The Role of Government

On September 5, 2024, the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) asked all ministries and institutions to cooperate with the Electoral Process Success Committee for the sixth session of the Kurdistan Parliament.

Observers of electoral observation networks recorded their observations on the role of the government before the electoral process:

1. Appointing a large number of employees by the Council of Ministers decision on 25/9/2024, numbering about (37,000) employees, and distributing (100.000) thousand plots of land for employees, which began distributing the first phase before the electoral process, in addition to canceling several fees and taxes before the elections, opening several projects, laying the foundation stone before the elections, and promising the people to benefit from the capabilities of the state.
2. Dozens of government vehicles and employees participated in the electoral campaign, including the cars of the Ministry of Electricity, to suspend propaganda, gather employees in offices, and carry out partisan propaganda, especially for candidates of the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.
3. Pressure voters to vote, participate in elections, collect biometric cards and use them as a tool to pressure voters, especially on voters to vote privately.
4. Spending large sums of money before the elections, which is not part of the investigation and follow-up of the IHEC, the financial supervisory institutions and the Integrity Committee.
5. Despite the sanctions imposed by the commission on political parties in the electoral process, they have not adjusted their impact on voters and their orientation.

### Question to the Coalition Panel of Experts: Assessing the Role of the Federal Government and the Regional Government

1. The extent to which the federal and regional governments stand on the principle of neutrality towards partisan parties in the electoral process
2. The extent to which they are able to provide the required support, assistance and facilities to the IHEC in order to carry out the electoral process, for example the Ministries of Education and Interior

1. Apart from the federal government's pressure on the IEC to dissolve the three Kurdish parties, the federal government has maintained a great deal of neutrality in its dealings with parties involved in the electoral process. The same applies to the Kurdistan Regional Government.
2. The two governments cooperated very well with IHEC in providing polling stations, namely schools, and ensuring a peaceful and safe environment for the electoral process.
3. Generally, there were no negative sensitivities counted. Facilities were provided for the elections.
4. The KRG was not neutral, but its institutions were used to propaganda for ruling parties.
5. The issue of neutrality was not good and at the required level and for the support was good.
6. The federal government and the regional government have been supporting the electoral process at all stages, whether this support is through the provision of the necessary funds for the elections or their support by the ministries supporting their work, such as the Ministry of Interior and Education, as well as other ministries, and the Supreme Security Committee for Elections. We also note that the government has begun to take the side of neutrality towards the electoral process by appearing in the media and media discourse, and there has not been any clear bias from the government towards a particular party participating in the electoral process.
7. The extent to which the federal and regional governments stand on the principle of neutrality towards partisan parties:
  - Federal Government: Demonstrated a clear commitment to neutrality, focusing on supporting the Independent High Electoral Commission without interfering in the political process within the region. There were no significant complaints of direct interference by the federal government in the conduct of the elections or support for a particular political party
  - KRG: Despite declared efforts to maintain neutrality, it has faced some criticism from opposition parties who have indicated that there is indirect influence by some government agencies in favor of major parties. However, the government reiterated its support for transparency of the process without bias.
8. The extent to which support, assistance and facilities are required for UNHCR:
  - Federal Government: provided logistical and technical support to ensure the success of the electoral process. Coordination between IHEC and federal ministries, such as the Ministry of Interior, has contributed to providing security and ensuring the smooth transmission of electoral data
  - KRG: She worked with IHEC to facilitate procedures, such as allocating polling stations and providing administrative support through the Ministry of Education to provide voting places. The Ministry of Interior in the region also played a pivotal role in securing the electoral process and protecting voters and polling stations.



## Chapter fifteen – Political Environment

The situation in Iraq in general and in the Kurdistan Region in particular is characterized by intertwining and complexity in light of the accumulation of problems and challenges at various political, economic, social and cultural levels, and is reflected in the vortex of intertwined crises and their external extensions, in addition to the interdependence and mutual influence between the situation in Iraq and the situation in the Kurdistan Region.

### First: The Iraqi situation

1. Iraq's transition from a centralized, non-democratic state (monarchy and republic 1921-2003) to a federal state whose constitution (2005) stipulates the principles of democracy and human rights. However, the march towards democracy has witnessed and continues to witness obstacles and difficulties that have led to the faltering of the transition in practice and led to negative results in various fields.
2. Important steps have been made in terms of building institutions and mechanisms of democracy, including: the 2005 Constitution and its referendum / 6 electoral cycles / political and party pluralism / the broad activity of civil society organizations / economic recovery and improvement of the standard of living / quantitative development at the level of education.
3. Some elements of democratic transition are provided in a way where form prevails over substance. Where the appropriate environment for democratic transformations at the state and community levels was not created due to social and religious influences and a political heritage associated with repression in addition to external interventions.
4. Consociation adopted an approach to managing the state and society, which was applied through ethno-sectarian quotas with the first formation of the state administration - the Governing Council. The formula of the components (Shiites / Sunnis / Kurds) was adopted and fixed in the constitution and was translated through norms that undermined social development and political stability.

**These premises have led to results or have been translated into mechanisms that are incompatible with democracy:**

1. Consociation has turned into unsectarian political and partisan quotas, and the state has turned into a booty – the spoil state – for every political component or party that invests it for its narrow interests.
2. Institutions have turned into ineffective structures, hindered development and stability, swelled in huge unproductive numbers, failed to achieve the lowest levels of economic and social development, and dominated the rentier state overall economic structures.
3. The decline of the common national identity, the escalation of sub-identities and their disharmony in terms of belonging and loyalty, the growth of tendencies of hatred, hatred and suspicion of the other, and the growth of the values of triviality, lamentation, selfishness and vulgarity.
4. The state is no longer the sole monopoly of force and arms, as sub-state forces (terrorist organizations and militias) have gradually increased and encroached onto the state. The phenomenon of multiple sources of power has negatively affected the prestige of the state and political and social stability. Some reports indicate that there are more than 67 armed factions operating in city centers. This is apart from the weapons of clans, organizations and terrorist groups.
5. The rampant corruption that penetrated state institutions and controlled all their joints. We suffice here to quote from Finance Minister Ali Allawi's resignation letter dated August 16, 2022: "Vast underground networks of senior officials, businessmen, politicians and corrupt state employees are working in the shadows to control entire sectors of the economy, withdrawing billions of dollars from the public treasury. These networks are protected from major political parties, parliamentary immunity, the armament of the law and even foreign powers. This octopus has reached every sector of the country's economy and institutions."
6. It is noteworthy here that impunity has become a public phenomenon in the Iraqi case, whether with regard to corrupt people or murderers and criminals.
7. Increasing human rights violations, narrowing the margin of freedoms, especially freedom of expression, and arbitrary arrests of journalists, writers, intellectuals and civil activists, including in the Kurdistan Region. Minorities suffer from political pressure, discrimination and persecution, especially Christians, Yazidis, Sabeen Mandaean and others, whether in the ISIS phase or beyond, or to a lesser extent.

8. The growing strong presence of political religion and its symbols through direct and indirect intervention in politics and stoking sectarianism within the state and society through the politicization of religion, the religiosity of politics, the political employment of religious symbols, the expansion of the size of the sanctities and the growing phenomenon of takfir.
9. The sharp deterioration in education and culture and the expansion of the phenomenon of obsession with obtaining higher degrees from masters and doctorates for the purposes of social appearance. Manifestations of luxury consumption have increased, commodification has spread, a climate of savagery, superstition and hatred have spread, and the values of tolerance and fraternity have declined.
10. The effects of the phenomenon of terrorism as violence used for political purposes (Al-Qaeda and ISIS), which led to the occupation of a third of the area of Iraq in 2014 and the accompanying heavy human and material losses, the repercussions of which are still present.
11. The growth and expansion of tribalism as a means of social organization, management and resolution of conflicts through force and negotiation according to tribal norms and the mentality of revenge away from state institutions, with its weapons, money and support from influential parties, to become a parallel force to the state and penetrated to the point that it became difficult for state institutions to control it, and more than that, tribal values and customs have become means of pressure on the state, and parallel to it.
12. Civil society, despite its expansion in quantity and quality, as a link between the state and society, has not become an effective force in influencing the course of the situation. This is due to the interference of the authority and its parties on the one hand, and the mistakes and gaps that accompanied the construction and work of these organizations on the other hand.
13. Regional and international interventions in direct and indirect forms, and because of them, Iraq has turned into an arena for settling scores and disputes and a field for the interests of neighboring countries economically and politically, as these countries have enormous military, economic and political areas of influence.
14. All these factors' results led to the weakening of the Iraqi state and its political system and threatened civil peace in addition to political and social instability. Crises have also spread, such as the spread of cancer in the weak body, and made it unable to cope with

the deadly disease. Politics in Iraq has shifted from benefiting the common good to serving narrow interests and financing the deals of the corrupt.

15. After 2003, Iraq moved from a one-party dictatorship to a plurality of authoritarianism, loyalties, escalating dependency, foreign interventions, the spread of corruption and terrorism, the growth of hatred and hatred, the proliferation of leaders and militias, and the increase in disasters, crises, frustration and disappointments.

## Second: The nature of political crises and blockages

1. For example, we find that elections as a democratic mechanism have in fact turned into its opposite, that is, a means of attacking democracy and undermining it through fraud, political money, the election law and other methods, which led to the phenomenon of political reluctance and indifference. The parliamentary elections (2021) and the irregular provincial council elections in the region (2023) did not achieve what the citizen hoped for in real reform and did not address the crises, and the silent majority and the opposition that boycotted the elections, which are estimated at 60% of the voters, served as a warning bell and punishment for political performance.
2. Political parties have turned from tools to achieve political and social stability into an obstacle for them, due to the absorption of their narrow interests at the expense of society, their focus on power, adherence to it, and neglect of the state.
3. The power struggle over interests did not stop at a limit and took several methods: mobilization and mobilization, media warfare, burning headquarters, kidnapping and assassination of personalities and even fighting. Violence has become part of dealing with problems regardless of its cost and outcome. The parties to the conflict drained the state and wealth by consensus and did not want to work in the form of a ruling majority and a minority opposition.
4. The contradiction between state and non-state intensifies. The militias have imposed a fait accompli policy through weapons and have become a parallel force to official institutions and even threaten them to serve the interests of political parties and countries that owe public allegiance to them, leading to the recruitment of fighters and sending them to neighboring countries to fight under religious and sectarian justifications. These militias view the state as a mere machine for pumping money to

finance their activities, including those that contradict and oppose state policy and official orientations. What is remarkable here is its strong involvement in the files of politics and economy and its representation as a political force in the House of Representatives.

5. The political class with its various spectrums has not been able to establish a stable political system that allows for a peaceful transfer of power linked to the dynamics of conflict, resort to arms, tendencies of hegemony, monopolization and multiple problems, including between the federal government and the Kurdistan Regional Government since 2014. All components have witnessed the phenomenon of fragmentation and disharmony between their parties, which in turn has produced deep differences within each component: the Shiite (current + framework). Sunni (progress + sovereignty + determination). Kurdish (Kurdistan Democratic + Patriotic Union). The influential political forces did not absorb the lesson, but were characterized by stubbornness, arrogance, insistence on positions and adherence to their external orientations, affiliations and loyalties, which perpetuated the deadly spiral of turmoil, boiling and division.
6. Non-ruling civil and democratic political forces and civil society organizations warned of the repercussions of the situation and called for a peaceful resolution of the crisis and a rejection of resorting to violence. It provided a rational road map for the solution. However, she was not listened to and even not included in political dialogues.
7. The United Nations called for serious dialogue to get out of the crisis. In her briefing to the UN Security Council on May 17, 2022, the UN representative pointed out that "the political class is preoccupied with the struggle for power," and that "the price of political impasse is very high and the possibility of a popular explosion is possible."
8. The new chapter of political crisis and tension that Iraq has witnessed since after the results of the parliamentary elections (2021) was expected to lead to an explosion of the situation due to the intensification of the internal conflict over the spoils of power and not over the priorities of community service.
9. All these conditions and their developments have made Iraq a soft ground and provided the appropriate conditions for the country's direction towards chaos after the inability of the influential political forces to find a common language to get out of the state of political intractability. Everyone recognizes the existence of the dilemma and the need to get out of it, but sharp differences arise when discussing solutions, and this indicates the absence of a real will for a solution.

### Third: Kurdistan Situation

The Kurdistan experience extends for more than three decades, specifically since 1991, when the March uprising broke out against the dictatorial regime in Iraq, where the three Kurdish governorates (Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk) came out of the control of the central government:

1. It established its own administration and held the first parliamentary elections in 1992, and international protection helped preserve the region in light of UN Security Council Resolutions 688 of April 5, 1991 after the million-man migration.
2. Since 1992, in light of the results of the first parliamentary elections in the region, the administration of the regional government was formed according to the agreement between the two main parties (the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan) on the basis of consensus that was translated into the parity mechanism known as (Fifty Fifty), which did not resolve the differences as much as it led to temporary calm.
3. The conflict between the two parties exploded and led to what is known as the war of brotherhood - which lasted during the period 1994-1998, during which the region was divided into two administrations (Erbil and Sulaymaniyah) until the Washington Peace Agreement under the auspices of the United States.
4. The change of the political system in Iraq in 2003 provided an opportunity for new dealing with the Iraqi government in light of the interim constitution of 2004 and then the permanent constitution of 2005, but the relationship between the regional government and the federal government was characterized by lack of clarity and stability and led to new challenges related to the constitutional entity of the region defined by the constitution in force, as well as the principles of the relationship that the Kurds sought to achieve, namely: Partnership / balance / compatibility, but the application led to the opposite of those trends.
5. The referendum held in the region and Kirkuk on September 25, 2017 represents another development in the relationship between the two parties. While all international conventions and human rights affirm the right of peoples to self-determination, the timing of the referendum amid the rejection of Iraq and neighboring countries reflected negatively on the relationship between the region and the federal government.
6. Differences between political forces, especially between the two main parties over positions, resources and management, have had a negative impact on the region's position at the center of Iraqi decision-making, leading to a crisis within the region, the disruption of parliament and the postponement of elections. The crises within the region have deepened as a result of the wrong policies of the two ruling parties, and this has generated a number of negative manifestations at the level of society, the absence of good governance, violations of human rights, the curtailment of freedoms and the weakening of government institutions.

7. The ambiguity of the relationship between the ruling powers in the region and the federal government is the result of the adoption of undeclared deals and agreements and the process of mutual servitude instead of institutions and the constitution, whether with regard to the constitutional powers of the region or issues of legislation. This is related to the lack of understanding of federalism in the Iraqi experience and its lack of understanding despite the constitutional text, in addition to the legacy of central governance in Iraq (and we can say that there is a retreat from federalism reflected in the absence of any region except Kurdistan despite popular demands). Although the Kurdish forces joined the State Administration Alliance after the 2021 elections and agreed on a set of issues, they did not find their way to implementation, including: Article 140, the Oil and Gas Law, the Federation Council, the regional budget, and others.

Through all of the above, we find that the experience of 22 years in Iraq and 33 years in the region was based on fragile stability and continuous crises and was based on the duality of consensus - mutual consent of leaders and elites, not society - and disharmony leading to conflict and armed clash. Deals and trades replaced institutions, the constitution and the law. In both cases, the lack of transparency and mutual trust between the political parties is noticed, and all of this has led to a move away from the state of citizenship.

It also underscores the nature of the political system – at the level of Iraq and the region – which is characterized by rigidity, inflexibility and weak response to challenges under a rigid constitution. This requires the formulation of a new social contract that responds to the changes during the past two decades and adopts new mechanisms to implement mutual obligations between the ruling forces, return to the people, the source of legitimacy, and seek to build a state of equal citizenship. In this context, we need political elites capable of organizing and managing political and societal dialogue and finding practical exits to crises with the help of civil society and the United Nations, and that the role of political parties is focused on serving public affairs and not hindering it.

## Recommendations

1. The Kurdistan region needs a political and societal reconciliation document in order to strengthen constitutional institutions, by drafting a constitution for the region approved through the referendum process.
2. The need to invite the President of the Kurdistan Region to a dialogue table between political parties to find appropriate solutions.
3. The need to reach radical solutions by all parties during dialogue, negotiations and bargains.
4. The need to continue the work of the United Nations Mission in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region. And to play a more active role in solving political problems.
5. The media dealt rationally with the elections, disseminated correct information and did not irritate the street.

## Accident Report/Appendix

	<b>Governorate</b>	<b>Centre</b>	<b>Station</b>	<b>Event</b>
1.	Sulaymaniyah	Blend Elementary School 226408	3	The voting machine was turned off from 7:13 to 7:23 and the first vote was cast at 7:23
2.	Erbil	122250dinkara school	1	Stop all voting machines at 7:23 a.m. at dinkara School Station
3.	Sulaymaniyah	127008Serchnar Primary School	5	There was a defect in the fingerprint reading, 5 cases of skipping out of 6 voting numbers were detected only at the fifth station. This situation was detected in most stations in the aforementioned center.
4.	Erbil	Hardi School for Girls121609_	3	A person came who voted instead of two people saying that they are old and do not know how to vote without making sure that he is one of the relatives of the two people
5.	Sulaymaniyah	Ahmadi Khani. (126904)	3	Voting began at 7:00 a.m., but the fingerprint at Station 3 did not read any fingerprints until 7:53 a.m.
6.	Sulaymaniyah	Rozhalat School for Boys (126210)	3	Oriental School for Boys Station 3 Central 126210 We are not allowed to use mobile phones to transmit information and must be used outside the station. The information so far has been made two jumps, meaning that 5 people voted at the station
7.	Sulaymaniyah	126706	05	Whoever didn't read his card came... While she was new, he had an official card... The device considered it an old card... He was excluded from the operation
8.	Erbil	Dankara122250	1	Voting was delayed by an hour due to ballot boxes disruption and resumed at 8:5 a.m.
9.	Sulaymaniyah	Dleran School	04	There are 3 cases where fingerprints were skipped – there are many problems they say came to the station by mistake. Someone votes incorrectly or re-votes – someone whose name was not on the list and was added.
10.	Erbil	Hammurabi	3	Someone promotes and goes to the polls and says that voting for Rami 229 is very active.
11.	Erbil	Kosrat Base 121703	01	Voting cards are hung in front of the door of the polling station next to the voter registration form
12.	Duhok	123206/ Islamic Institute	01	Police inside a polling station
13.	Sulaymaniyah	Ranjدران Elementary School328704	4	There are two cases of fingerprints due to fingerprint not being read at 8:00 am at the Rangran Center
14.	Sulaymaniyah	Kojar Basic School328701	1	One person at the polling place took a photo of the vote at 8:37 a.m. at the first station and got into an argument with the station manager.
15.	Erbil	Hawkari Elementary School 320307 /	2	At 8:30 a.m., a man came with his mother to vote but had trouble with his mother's fingerprint. There was a dispute with the staff and managers of the station.
16.	Sulaymaniyah	El Haramain School - Base Number (229811)	5	In the center (5), the number of voters so far (8:30) 11 people voted... There are 6 cases of fingerprint reading
17.	Duhok	Laila Qasim223108..	5	The KDP distributes cards to citizens.
18.	Duhok	Laila Qasim223108..	5	The box fails. Paper does not enter the box.
19.	Erbil	Zanest Center 121703	01	Candidate cards will be distributed in front of the door of the polling station



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20.	Erbil	Al Hadba Primary School	1	At al-Hadbai primary school 121201 the coordinator of the base and the second station division did not wear the identity of the IHEC. Security forces were also present inside the polling station. I saw these cases until eight o'clock in the morning.
21.	Sulaymaniyah	Ringdaran Elementary School 328704	4	Four fingerprint cases recorded due to not reading at 9:00 a.m. at Madras Rangaran Primary School
22.	Sulaymaniyah	Bamo226503	1	One of the cameras in Station 1 is down for an hour and has not been repaired
23.	Sulaymaniyah	Kojar Basic School328701	2	Cougar Station 328701 Station 11 Mobile Use Case at 9:25
24.	Erbil	Jouna Lee Elementary School 122404	1	Station No. 1 in this center is Jouna Lee Elementary School The cameras do not work from the opening and have been switched, but they did not work and there are no cameras in this station Also the ballot box does not accept the paper upside down according to the instructions of privacy and confidentiality and until now it accepts papers and writing upwards and this is contrary to laws and procedures
25.	Sulaymaniyah	Sharo Elementary School 226502	3	Shakar Azad Nurisharu Basic Polling Station No. 226501 Center No. 3 There is a high percentage of skips at station 3 out of 70 voters: there are 15 skips in a total of 450 voters. The station manager says our only solution is according to the law, that's what they think. They can't read their fingerprints and can't vote.
26.	Sulaymaniyah	Kurdistan School for Girls 126705	2	There are many problems represented in not reading fingerprints and the fingerprint device does not allow them to pass, especially in females
27.	Erbil	Soran Computer Institute 122605	1	Soran Computer Institute 122605 There was a great chaos in the center and pressure on voters to vote, the presence of security forces inside the center, at Station 1 the voting machine did not work until 9:05 a.m.
28.	Sulaymaniyah	226502Sharo Primary School	3	Shakar Azad Nuri Sharu Primary Rule No. 226501 Station No. 3 There is a high percentage of skipping all polling stations which is 10 polling stations, so far at 9:38 about 70 people have voted in each polling station, more than 16 skipped in any polling station since opening.
29.	Sulaymaniyah	126706	05	The case of a logo on the clothes.To a certain party
30.	Sulaymaniyah	Kani Korda School - 127009	4	Kani Kurdi Primary School - 127009 Station 4 9:44 am. The voter's first ballot paper was changed. Ali was stamped more than the candidates, so he was given the ballot again and voted
31.	Erbil	Dildar School (37714 )	4	So far, about 10 people haven't read their fingerprints, voting is very slow, and there's mobile use and photography.
32.	Erbil	221304	1	The KDP and regional organizations have all been present at the base since this morning.
33.	Sulaymaniyah	Kojar Basic School 328701	1	kojar Elementary School 328701 Station 11 Mobile Phone Use Case at 9:52

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34.	Duhok	Laila Qasim 223250 .	5	Many voters walk only to those with voter cards without any other cards or ID.
35.	Sulaymaniyah	Chwarqwrna high school	5	Failure to read the ballot paper due to expiration at 10:0
36.	Sulaymaniyah	1263006	1	1- There are intellectuals affiliated with a particular party who campaign for the party near the polling station. 2. Registering the attendance of voters by a particular party to ensure that it comes to vote.
37.	Sulaymaniyah	kojar Elementary School	2	Gujar Station 328701 Station 11 Mobile Use Case10:06
38.	Duhok	Ala	3	The camera entered the polling hall at Station 3 at (9:52 am) and a political party flag entered the school at (9:55 am) at the Ayala school
39.	Duhok	Varrar1234	4	He was a child carrying the KDP flag on his neck at 10:30 a.m. at Warrar base.
40.	Duhok	Eylos elementary School 124302	04	The presence of a party official in the area at the polling station
41.	Sulaymaniyah	Kojar Elementary School 3	1	Cougar Station 328701 Station 1 8 skip cases
42.	Sulaymaniyah	226711	03	Fingerprint issue so far at 10:30, 63 votes cast and 9 skips occurred
43.	Erbil	Department of Agriculture 222603	1	Suspension of international observers for a period of time, many cases of skipping
44.	Sulaymaniyah	226506	1	There is an educational camp for a certain party in front of the polling station
45.	Erbil	Ankawa Primary School	4	Entering the husband with his family and voting on behalf of the wife, who can write and read.
46.	Duhok	Perlman .223402	7	Security forces are present inside the campus of the training center
47.	Duhok	Duhok Preparatory Center	04	There is a campaign and distribution of passenger cards outside the center by individuals who follow passengers for a distance of less than 100 meters
48.	Sulaymaniyah	Papa Gore Gore School	7	A gathering of military forces in civilian clothes voted in a special vote, pressuring the voter, there are party observers in the name of independent observers, and there is the distribution of the propaganda card outside the center by the National Union.
49.	Sulaymaniyah	kojar Elementary School 328701	1	A man took a picture of his vote at the polling place at 9:37
50.	Sulaymaniyah	126706	05	The presence of propaganda inside the center. such as the flag and slogan of the ruling party
51.	Sulaymaniyah	226503	1	There is an educational center for a certain party in front of the polling station
52.	Sulaymaniyah	127803Rasty Primary School	05	There was one case for a mobile phone
53.	Erbil	121602Alwand School	1	The Mukhtar and members of one of the parties stand outside the base At the beginning of the vote, the Pecos machine had problems and was later replaced. At Station 1, some voters only voted on ballot papers
54.	Sulaymaniyah	Kani Kurdi Primary School	4	More than 8 voters have this polling station symbol on their ballot cards, but when they insert their cards into the identification machine, their names are not written

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				in that polling station and they have another polling station code.
55.	Erbil	141214Great River	1	KDP distributes candidate cards in front of school door
56.	Sulaymaniyah	Rozhhalat school for boys (126210)	3	1- There are 14 cases of skipping who did not read their fingerprints. 2- There is one sheet (excluded) because the paper is stuck in the device. 3- 9 voters were unable to vote, 8 voters due to fingerprints and the voter was carrying from the old voter card. That is, out of 450 votes, 56 people voted, of which 14 votes exceeded Station No. (3) until 10:45 Rozhalat Center 126210
57.	Duhok	Aylul Elementary School	04	- Taking mobile phones and photocopying ballots
58.	Sulaymaniyah	226502Sharo Primary School	3	There is a high rate of skipping at the third station Out of 107 voters: 23 skipped and no longer have that option. and people who have circumstances that prevent them from voting. As of 11:06 a.m., no more than 12 people had been able to vote.
59.	Sulaymaniyah	Sardasht School-	4	The fingerprint device suffers from many problems and most voters cannot vote
60.	Sulaymaniyah	New Kurdistan 1648	7	They have set up tents outside the office and those named in the local committee of the Union Party must go and sign after the vote to prove their attendance
61.	Sulaymaniyah	Martyrs of Qarka 226210	3	An inactive team of the committee is present at this station and they do not act responsibly, they send people home in a way that denies them their rights.
62.	Sulaymaniyah	Rangran Elementary School328704	4	15 fingerprint skips recorded at the Rangran Primary School polling station as of 11:26 a.m.
63.	Sulaymaniyah	Rastgo School 127802	5	PUK candidate Salar Baziani in front of Rastco school at 11:10 a.m.
64.	Duhok	.123201jgarxwen High School	4	Many people claim that they will vote in the center of Jakarkhwin and in Bishrau abroad.
65.	Sulaymaniyah	New Kurdistan	7	A man came early in the morning and they didn't read his fingerprint, they didn't pass him, whether intentionally or unintentionally, now he says I want to vote and it's over.
66.	Sulaymaniyah	.226503pamo School	1	The presence of a tent for an electoral campaign near the gate of the center for a specific political entity
67.	Duhok	blind(123110) 1	6	The problem with the private polling station was that 5% of people showed up and not all of them had to vote because skipping ended.
68.	Erbil	Kora too preparatory school 122703	1	There are individuals from political entities at the door of the center who have lists that register from the ban to the center in order to vote.
69.	Erbil	shanader Elementary School 122502	3	There are political entities at the door of the center with ready lists and they register from the ban to the center for voting
70.	Duhok	Duhok High School 123408	04	Fingerprint reading 10 were skipped from 100 voters Total 450 voters
71.	Erbil	Science 121703	01	The voter came to the polling station wearing party clothes and slogans, and the director of the polling station did not say anything.

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72.	Duhok	Ordekhan School 233410	2	The identification officer walked one voter without any other identification card, at 12 p.m.
73.	Erbil	Hammurabi121202	1	UNHCR delegation with Joint Security Forces Arrives at Hammurabi School
74.	Halabja	Shahrzor School 128208/	3	Some voters took pictures of their forms, IHEC staff remained silent about the violations, and members Halabjaof violations there campaigned openly outside the polling station.
75.	Halabja	Ahmed Mukhtar Jaff - 128202	2	The presence of candidates outside the polling station by two political parties. and distribution of promotional cards outside the base
76.	Sulaymaniyah	128801	3	The authorities stand in front of the polling station, monitor the voters who came and did not come, register those who did not come and call them, and give candidate cards and lists that give instructions to voters, and the crowd in front of the polling station is very large
77.	Sulaymaniyah	226502Sharo Primary School	3	I can't take the reports of the other stations because the manager of the eighth station says it is not permissible to take the report and the supervisor of the authority does not allow that
78.	Duhok	Laila Qasim Preparatory School 223108 .	5	Voters cannot cast their ballots because they will not read their fingerprint and the skip rate is over.
79.	Duhok	Derillock	4	Party Clothing
80.	Duhok	Sardasht Foundation School223703	01	Mobile phones were used in the voting compartment and the polling station manager, the person who ignored the door and the person who fled fled the security forces fled
81.	Halabja	Sorin228202	03	Some voters at different times in the morning at polling station 228202 polling station 3 , some publicly, some secretly, some voting for three people who were not the first person, and representatives of political parties did not file a complaint in The ban outside the polling station is a group of people supporting the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan party combined.
82.	Duhok	Laila Qasim High School 223108	5	The ballot is photographed by voters
83.	Sulaymaniyah	Rangin Girls Center 126510	4	1. Photocopy 3 ballots behind the locker of Shahrzor Center in Sayed Sadiq. 2. Setting up tents near the Shinyar polling station in Bakrjo, Sulaymaniyah, about 25 meters from the base (photo taken and available)
84.	Sulaymaniyah	Martyrs of Qarka 226210	3	They are an unhappy group that violates people's rights and does not have the ability to deal with citizens
85.	Erbil	Amanj School 120905	2	Indeed, their political entity attracted the attention of the people because it was the color of their party, and the rubber band on their hands, which was used as a seal of names, was a sign of the future of the political entity. Their offices created crowds in front of the station and inside the station and the station manager made a mistake The first few

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				minutes passed by not taking the voter card from them until the station manager 1 came and corrected him.
86.	Duhok	Karawan School (123407)	4	Mobile phones were used heavily in the hall
87.	Sulaymaniyah	Sablakh Center-2	03	A large number of voters have illegible fingerprints and have been passed at the time of writing, and 11 voters have been passed
88.	Erbil	122905	05	<p>At 10:00 a.m., there was an altercation between Observer Ittihad-i-Islami and the director of the Rwnds Commission over voter walking without a national identity card.</p> <p>Meetings were also organized in front of the school in the morning and chairs for the PDP-PUK campaign were set up right outside the entrance door of the school to vote.</p> <p>Since morning, there have been about 30 voters who have come to vote with people from the party, and they will vote with literate people.</p> <p>Also, due to the lack of fingerprint reading, more than 50 voters were returned and then returned and tried to do so.</p>
89.	Duhok	hazhar	5	The mother did not laugh out loud
90.	Duhok	Jim Kirk 323903	1	<p>1- Electoral campaigning for PKK candidates and distributing candidate cards at the doors There are polling stations in all polling stations in Zakho</p> <p>2. I saw up to four people from my polling station without taxes and PKK organizations</p> <p>3. PKK officials stood in front of voters in front of polling stations They had to spread fear and influence the mind</p>
91.	Sulaymaniyah	326606Handicraft Center	04	List 129 Voting suspended from 09:50 to 10:01 to 11 minutes due to VVD device
92.	Erbil	Kosrat School	04	The tension due to illiteracy and the request of a friend to go with him led to an altercation with the political entity of the Popular Front and no one was allowed to go except the station manager
93.	Sulaymaniyah	Rangin Secondary School for Girls 126510 /	01	<p>The first incident</p> <p>was a brawl over the exhaustion of the 23 ballots cast at our center, which prompted some voters, especially the top three, to use bad language against the commission's staff. So far, at 1:40, there are about five of us and he brought them back to vote near the end of Vote because they couldn't read their fingerprints, but it is not believed that two of the five people will return due to lack of time.</p> <p>The second incident [taking a photo of ballot forms]</p> <p>was too much photographing by voters very clearly but of course the station manager was not aware of it at</p>

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				<p>the time! For example</p> <p>, one of them happened before 12 noon when one of the voters stayed in the closet for about 5 minutes, after which we found out that he was sending the audio image to the group</p> <p>The third event is the voter entering in the uniform and logo of a particular political entity.</p> <p>3 cases so far. Only one of them was a child carrying a party coffin.</p>
94.	Duhok	Salahuddin Basic School 123402	07	Independent observers were taken out at Station 7, and at 12:30 they did not give a political entity the space to rest.
95.	Sulaymaniyah	Blend High School226408	3	At 2:25 minutes the percentage of unread fingerprint in the last half hour is very high
96.	Sulaymaniyah	Rozhalat Boys School ) (126210	3	1- From 7 am to 12:14 pm (23 skips and voting cases were conducted ) 2- There is one ballot paper excluded because the paper is stuck in the machine - There was a case where the card was ordered three times The barcode on the head has finished the card.
97.	Sulaymaniyah	226502Sharo Primary School	3	Two cars belonging to a political party (the National Union) stand directly in front of the door of the Sharo Primary School and no one tried to exclude them
98.	Sulaymaniyah	Blend School 226408	3	2:31 - 2:29Minor tension due to the loss of the voter's vote
99.	Sulaymaniyah	Bamo School 226503	1	There are many fingerprint problems, many people do not read their fingerprints
100.	Halabja	Shahrazor School	3	Fingerprint reading is one of the biggest problems at all polling stations in Halabja and needs to be addressed.
101.	Erbil	bwazhi School 121704	01	Observers tested anyone whose fingerprints did not work once or three times, some were sent home and others were given a ballot.
102.	Sulaymaniyah	226502Sharo Primary School	3	<p>Sharo Primary School Station 3</p> <p>suffers from many problems with not reading fingerprints and is still continuing until now in addition to the initial 23 voters, 38 voters came and lost their right to vote due to not reading fingerprints Many of these people do not know the details of the matter and believe that they are being deceived and their votes stolen.</p> <p>Until 2:51 PM</p>
103.	Erbil	121412Zee Kora Center	6	.
104.	Sulaymaniyah	Kojar Basic School328701	1	At 2:45 p.m., the head of the PUK party committee entered the polling station.
105.	Sulaymaniyah	Kani Kurdi Primary School 127009	4	One voter brought his cell phone to the polling station and took a picture of the form. Authority employees saw him and stopped him. The image has been deleted.

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106.	Sulaymaniyah	kojar Elementary School	1	The ballot bears the logo of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.
107.	Erbil	121701	1	Reasons for not reading fingerprints caused voting delays for some people
108.	Sulaymaniyah	Bamo School 226503	1	The voting process is slow at Station 1. Many voters are waiting to enter.
109.	Duhok	Nawroz Basic 1234	4	At 3:35 p.m., the promotional card was brought to the station.
110.	Duhok	September 11 .123406	05	A large number of voters came with the problem of fingerprint reading
111.	Duhok	123504	1087	Voters are allowed to bring their phones to the polling station at the Itout School.
112.	Duhok	.3Derillock	5	- Bring use cell phones and party clothes
113.	Duhok	123402	7	2 replacement, bean mode, 2 people what I use finger ink, political entities give information to each other, 1 open the mobile phone in the ballot box
114.	Erbil	.221708Yekiti Primary School	1	3:23 p.m. Since the ballot reached 23 people, not many people will be able to vote
115.	Erbil	Saman School	2	The woman was a voter but her husband voted while she was alive, and while the woman did not take the pen, she probably did not want the party that her husband voted for
116.	Erbil	Saman School	2	The absence of the committee's staff to monitor the work of citizens is proof of this.
117.	Sulaymaniyah	226506Shahid Ghafoor Zazli	03	Yes, people were campaigning for the PUK at the station, they took their mobile phones to take pictures, they took pictures and didn't leave them. People complained that their fingerprints could not be read.
118.	Sulaymaniyah	matin428103/	3	There is only a topic of skipping up to 20 voters
119.	Sulaymaniyah	Saeed Ghafoor Zazli 226506	03	Yes, the PUK official told voters to vote for PUK, and when they entered the house, they complained to us afterwards, taking pictures of their cell phones.
120.	Sulaymaniyah	Baban127404 _	1	Use and operate the mobile phone in the terminal normally
121.	Sulaymaniyah	Kurdistan Basic School129104	2	There is the use of a mobile and photo capture
122.	Duhok	Aras School 124101	04	At 3:15 p.m., the Union candidate arrived at the school door, and the candidate and the security forces of the Union's political entity came out of the course and said that the situation opened after a while and the security forces came, and now a good number of security forces have arrived at the school.
123.	Sulaymaniyah	Martyrs of Qarka 226210	5	Some people used mobile phones to take pictures during the elections, and some were wearing party clothes with the party logo on their clothes
124.	Erbil	Hausang School/121413	2	School Balance / 121413 Station 2 About five minutes the machine stopped at 3:39 to 3:44
125.	Sulaymaniyah	127002	3	There were more than four cases of taking pictures and it was deleted. A man came in with a gun under his clothes
126.	Sulaymaniyah	126802, Khanzad Secondary School for Girls	1	Two people used their mobile phones but were taken and the photo was deleted



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127.	Sulaymaniyah	126802, Khazada Secondary School for Girls	1	Two people used their mobile phones but were taken and the photo was deleted
128.	Sulaymaniyah	Martyrs of Qarka	5	There is a lot of skipping and many people who returned after the registration process were unable to vote
129.	Erbil	Bahrka contemporary	02	Two cases of fingerprint not reading
130.	Sulaymaniyah	chinar Elementary School 124302 /	03	A large number of people have illegible fingerprints
131.	Duhok	.124302September elementary School	04	Photocopying of voting papers
132.	Erbil	121403 Mullah Omarzab Primary School	2	Note: 1- All voting machines operate from 7 am to 4 pm without any problems. 2- No complaint has been filed by voters, political parties and any party.
133.	Sulaymaniyah	zmkan127409-	2	I got permission before ten o'clock in the morning and went to cast my vote at the polling station where my name was. After a while, when I returned, they told me that I could only enter the polling station if I was a party observer, a party delegate and a number of policemen. He told me in front of the checkpoint that this is the committee's decision. You can't enter unless you are a party observer, and after communicating with the eye network, they solved the problem and I went back to the polling station.
134.	Erbil	Bahrka contemporary	02	Lack of inhabitants of one form
135.	Sulaymaniyah	Nawar Al-Asasiya1	1	There were only two attempts to film the voter's vote, but they were reportedly omitted.
136.	Sulaymaniyah	Mama Yara basic school	226205	Two people used their mobile phones to take photos but deleted their photos.
137.	Sulaymaniyah	peshkawtn Primary School	3	Outside the polling stations, there is attracting citizens for political purposes and collecting votes Belongs to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan party Azadi Committee Sulaymaniyah
138.	Duhok	Sardasht Elementary School 223703	01	There is a PKK campaign at the base gate and in the school yard at 2:20 pm in the presence of PKK flags and teachers
139.	Sulaymaniyah	Kermanj Elementary School	2	We had filming, but we deleted it
140.	Sulaymaniyah	129103	2	There have been several cases that are not allowed  . Use a mobile phone to capture sound.  2. The PUK observer secretly campaigned and even asked me to vote for him.  3. Several children from different families came wearing T-shirts with the PUK logo, and this happened on three different occasions.
141.	Duhok	Nawroz elementary 1234	4	There is mobile entry to the voting station
142.	Erbil	Mixed High school Ble 122501	1	Medium Mixed Ball The presence of members of political entities in front of the polling station with voters' lists and recording the names of those entering the polling station



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143.	Sulaymaniyah	Nali elementary-127105	5	There are 3 cases of mobile use at the polling place
144.	Erbil	yaketi Elementary School 221708	1	Political cadres publicly tell voters who they will vote in front of polling stations and question voters
145.	Duhok	.11dezen	1	Two political cadres from the same party, one abroad and the other inside, giving all the information freely, and I even saw them taking people's wishes at the door of the base
146.	Erbil	Mixed sipani	2	Nothing happened
147.	Erbil	122001bejan	3	There were no accidents
148.	Erbil	shelan220208	2	One of the reasons is that the voting card does not read a fingerprint ps60.214
149.	Erbil	hawsang Primary School	2	It's going without problems yet, but once the device turns off and on again without problems
150.	Sulaymaniyah	226711	1	Using a mobile phone to take pictures 10 cases
151.	Erbil	220207	2	There were no problems, everything went well, just the device stopped for two minutes, and it was fixed as quickly as possible
152.	Erbil	.2Aladdin	02	They had a fingerprint problem that affected the voting process at polling station No. 2 at Aladdin Sajjad School at ten in the morning where most of them did not read their fingerprints and did not vote.
153.	Sulaymaniyah	Sara Basic	1	Many people came to this polling station because the machine could not read their fingerprints, and they were angry and made noise because they considered voting to be their basic right.
154.	Sulaymaniyah	128903. Belfat Basic School 128903	4	The problem of fingerprint not being read has been repeated several times since the beginning of voting, especially by women.
155.	Erbil	Razan 121401	7	People. Their fingerprints are illegible. People. It contains. Since the morning, he participates several times and his voice does not read.
156.	Sulaymaniyah	kojar School of Politics	2	There are unauthorized persons inside the base at 4:35
157.	Erbil	Martyr Hassan Najjar School	2	The fingerprints were not read by the identification device, preventing them from casting their ballots, prompting some voters to protest and worry about losing their votes.
158.	Erbil	Khabat School Center 120402	2	23 people were skipping
159.	Erbil	Aladdin Sajjadi 2	02	At 2:58 p.m., the camera stopped working at Aladdin Sajjadi Station No. 02 and at 3:16 p.m.
160.	Erbil	Qasri school	2	Hardware failure, not reading many ballots and many problems with fingerprint not reading
161.	Erbil	Qasri school	2	Hardware failure, not reading many ballots and many problems with fingerprint not reading
162.	Erbil	Al Howqari Primary School /	2	Incident 1: At 8:30 a.m., a fight occurred for several minutes, a man came with his mother and she had a fingerprint problem, at the station that was number 3, there was no contact and he was angry.  Incident 2/3:00 am A pilgrim had a problem with a young man on duty and it was time to argue but it was

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				good to come between them. Fortunately, it didn't last long.
163.	Sulaymaniyah	126504	2	Some voters lost their right to vote because their fingerprints were not read.
164.	Erbil	Erbil Industrial High School 220210 /	1	Problems not reading fingerprints on electronic devices
165.	Erbil	11March Primary	2	Everything is normal, and only the device does not read the fingerprints of some voters
166.	Duhok	123504	1087	What do they put Cleans for voters when they put their hands in ink?
167.	Sulaymaniyah	Syed Ghafoor Zazli 120406	03	Dilshad Abdul Karim Nawa campaigns for the PUK
168.	Sulaymaniyah	Martyrs of Qarka 226210	3	At this station, the number of permits is exhausted at 12 noon, leaving no need for a good condition, and now the beneficiaries or persons with disabilities are deprived of them.
169.	Erbil	Bijan122001 .	3	No fingerprint reading. She was a woman. Hours 3
170.	Sulaymaniyah	126451	04	More than a dozen people can't vote because they can't read their fingerprints, but there's a rumor that the commission says they can vote after five o'clock.
171.	Sulaymaniyah	226506Shaeed Ghafoor Zazli	03	Dilshad Abdul Karim conducts a campaign for the PUK in Shahid Ghafoor's office
172.	Erbil	120108/ Ziyar Primary School	02	There were no undesirable factors, just that citizens did not read their names, their votes were old, or many other factors.
173.	Erbil	Barch Elementary School	2	A large number of voters were not fingerprinted, which led to a large number of people protesting, which led to voters' rights and giving them another chance.
174.	Erbil	Sibani Makhtat	2	Most people's fingerprint problems, which lead to wasting too many sounds
175.	Erbil	Shawis / Berzin	122003	Ballot box machine stopped for no reason at 4:21 p.m.
176.	Sulaymaniyah	Nawar Core 127401	1	Devices don't read the fingers of many people, especially the elderly
177.	Erbil	Shawis / Berzin	122003	Many cases of fingerprint reading
178.	Sulaymaniyah	Rangran Primary School	4	fingerprint problem was so acute that more than 5% of voters could not vote at 328704 polling stations.
179.	Sulaymaniyah	126802, Khanzad Secondary School for Girls	1	Many people have fingerprint problems, the device does not read their fingerprints so they cannot vote
180.	Sulaymaniyah	126802, Khanzad Secondary School for Girls	1	Many people have fingerprint problems, the device does not read their fingerprints so they cannot vote
181.	Sulaymaniyah	129003Razan School	1	No 13 votes were cast due to errors in the committee One burning sound at 2:03 One person did not read the paper and got another paper at 8:05 Finish 50 sheets in 8:40
182.	Sulaymaniyah	126814 Sara Basic	1	Many citizens lost their votes at this station because the device could not read their fingerprints.
183.	Erbil	Zikaf120114 -	2	The biggest problems were related to fingerprints + bringing mobile phones into the polling station
184.	Halabja	128208 - 128208	5	1- Cadres and administrators of the headquarters of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan move easily in the center without being prevented and campaign for their list. 2- Ask people to vote for their list

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185.	Erbil	Masterpiece Center2-122003	3	18 people were examined without fingerprints and no other problems occurred
186.	Sulaymaniyah	Sur Kew School 226601	226601	A man with a red card pointed his finger at Japo Dola and filled his long-eyed face with color.
187.	Sulaymaniyah	Masterpiece Center2	03	The problem of not reading the fingerprints of citizens was the biggest problem and attributed the main reason to the lack of experience of the Commission on this day because the voting day was the main cause of chronic diseases at the same time. More than 30 citizens were sent to their homes for not reading their fingerprints
188.	Erbil	School of Democracy	2	Five percent did not read the fingerprints
189.	Erbil	rawandz Preparatory School for Boys 122902	2	1 I am a man of the same age Upon completion of the jump rate for those who do not have fingerprints and still a large number of people, about 25 or more people, do not have fingerprints and cannot vote Give 2. A large number of people, over 40 years old, cannot read their fingerprints on a VVD device and cannot vote.  These two situations have created problems, and voters are dissatisfied and demanding solutions . Rounds Preparatory Committee (2)
190.	Halabja	We're going to take a look at the Lib Descendants.	3	At 4 p.m. at Shahrazor school, a large number of rapid intervention forces entered the center and the officer assigned to protect the center was noisy, causing the voting process to stop for 10 minutes.
191.	Sulaymaniyah	Sorkyo226601	226601	There's a woman who has an old card and wants to vote.
192.	Sulaymaniyah	Sablakh Center-2	3	At 5 p.m. at Station 3 of a polling station 226209 six people were excluded from voting because the passing process was complete and they could not pass anyone else.
193.	Sulaymaniyah	Ardalani Primary School,	2	The mobile phone entered and the picture was taken and deleted
194.	Erbil	220802 Industrial School for Girls	04	A large number of voters have problems not reading their fingerprints
195.	Erbil	04	220802	Use of mobile phones for the purpose of modeling
196.	Erbil	04	220802	The manager's misconduct towards the Authority's employees to the point of crying of the employee
197.	Sulaymaniyah	Al Tawari Secondary School for Girls	3	21. Lack of complete information on the addresses of polling stations. The Independent High Electoral Commission should have taken better measures – publishing the addresses of polling stations to voters through the media, internet connection or hotline, etc. 2. Starting equipment is time-consuming and working late Opening polling stations to voters. 3. The problem of not reading fingerprints is one of the obstacles to exclusion Some voters have the right to vote. Independent High Electoral Commission Various other measures should be taken to prevent this from happening again It's a problem. Other options should be added to the ballot instead of just the fingerprint background.

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				<p>4. For each station has only 23 options for skipping fingers, which is a small number at the moment there is a problem with fingerprint not reading. This percentage should be increased or choose to skip fingerprints added to the voting card.</p> <p>5. Spreading awareness should be paid more attention to it. Facilitate the identification of the voting form, identify candidates in voting forms, and how to vote, do not use mobile phones and protect personal privacy.</p> <p>6. Encourage more people to get their voting cards and renew their old ones</p> <p>7. Take stricter measures to limit electoral campaigning in the near future polling stations, the use of mobile phones and the introduction of mobile phones into voting stations.</p>
198.	Sulaymaniyah	Kani Korda Primary School 127009 -	4	A citizen used his mobile phone during voting at 2-3 p.m. and refused to leave it before entering the polling hall. So his vote was cancelled.
199.	Erbil	Dalouba Primary School - 220005	2	No unwanted incidents were reported. The voting process was conducted in a democratic and successful manner .
200.	Sulaymaniyah	Razao Office 226505	6	I went to Nowruz school and they took my picture and took me out and said you are not allowed.
201.	Duhok	Preparatory school is mixed 323504	02	Paying for voting tickets for photography candidates
202.	Duhok	Faculty of Basic Law	03	The Democratic Party publishes its candidates' papers outside the polling station.
203.	Erbil	Contemporary Sea	02	Tuesday 23 fingerprint 23 cases
204.	Sulaymaniyah	Mardin Primary School 1	3	4 people who did not read their fingerprints and did not open a special form
205.	Erbil	Contemporary Sea	02	Replace 3 places
206.	Erbil	Contemporary Sea	02	Case of exclusion 1
207.	Duhok	12440 1	7	No one was allowed to enter twice.
208.	Erbil	Al Majd School for Girls	4	From 7:30 to 7:45 the voting machine broke down, causing significant congestion
209.	Sulaymaniyah	fakhour	126101	More than seven people took pictures of the sounds.
210.	Sulaymaniyah	Shahd Primary School	3	. From noon until evening. In front of the base and in front of it outside, they were beating drums and horns and forming a large crowd of people.
211.	Duhok	Karwan School	5	There are no cases only those whose fingerprints you have not read
212.	Duhok	Dustak Mixed High School 224306	4	Checker stop
213.	Sulaymaniyah	Basic 127805	2	Photography *lack of purgatory*
214.	Sulaymaniyah	Azadi Preparatory School	02	1. Do not read fingerprints . 2. Not reading ballots because voter negligence
215.	Sulaymaniyah	Sulaymaniyah High School of Commerce 226605	1	Nothing happened, everything went well thank God
216.	Erbil	122250 Dungara School	1	At 11:7 a.m., political entity Joan Zakho came to the polling station and said, "Vote for me and don't forget me."

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217.	Sulaymaniyah	Shahd Primary School	3	An armed force comprising a member of the Committee. About 5:20 minutes. Inside the base. They made a fuss and almost hit one of the committee members with a chair. The committee member asked him to remove the logo from his shoulder, and then the problem emerged.
218.	Duhok	Derillock School (02)	6	4 cases of bringing mobile phones to polling stations and taking pictures of their voting forms
219.	Erbil	Razan121402	3	Completed successfully
220.	Sulaymaniyah	Gramian School/2	1	Not reading fingerprints with no card reading
221.	Duhok	123604	2	The phone was used only twice
222.	Duhok	Federal School124601	1	Many people's fingerprints won't read
223.	Sulaymaniyah	Al Salam Secondary School	1	Not reading the voting card and the fingerprint problem
224.	Duhok	Smil/3/Tanahi Basic School for Girls323605	6	The electronic device did not work properly, there was a problem with the fingerprint.
225.	Duhok	Sherhat223404	7	There are old cards
226.	Erbil	Sarjum Primary School	1	Mobile phones and armed internal forces were brought to the polling station at the last minute and altercations broke out between voters and internal forces.
227.	Duhok	Sherhat223404	7	There was no fingerprint reading on the voting card.
228.	Duhok	Zannar Elementary School 223405	2	Fingerprints are illegible
229.	Duhok	123404	1	There are many cases of unread fingerprints in a station
230.	Duhok	223408	1	Not reading the voting cards of some citizens
231.	Duhok	bamarni423502	1	Not reading the names and voting cards of citizens who have increased their number to vote
232.	Sulaymaniyah	226502Sharo Primary School	3	And in several stations the devices stop and do not print reports
233.	Duhok	Halgord Basic School	1	During the voting process, there was a large number inside the center who appeared in the status of "fingerprint does not exist , you cannot vote" and for the number one station in which I was observing, their number was 34 voters who did not vote and proved that the Commission staff did not contact them to receive the new lists, and some say that the card is new and their fingerprints did not appear.
234.	Sulaymaniyah	Jilan Jalal Hassan	1	Not reading cards The problem of fingerprinting has become ugly for the upcoming elections with the renewal of the card
235.	Duhok	Aylul elementary school 124302	04	The presence of party officials inside the polling station, taking mobile phones and photographing votes
236.	Duhok	223804	1	The fingerprint device did not read
237.	Duhok	Mankesh Elementary School 523501	1	Not reading too many fingerprints
238.	Duhok	Nahri Elementary School (223905)	1	1- A man causes a problem at 8 a.m. because of a card and his wife was at the ballot box and it was taken from him. 2- There is a woman who has not read.
239.	Erbil	Kani Miran Mixed / 222304	02	A large number of voters were unable to cast their ballots due to damage to the basket

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240.	Duhok	Barzani Secondary School (224203)	7	The process was delayed for three minutes until voting began, but the problem was quickly resolved due to the wire and the process went smoothly and successfully.
241.	Erbil	Dalouba Primary School - 220005	2	ballot box device between 6:37 and 7:18, causing problems in determining electronic counting results until about 7:4
242.	Erbil	Don School	1201	At 7:15 the device encountered a technical problem and was fixed at 7:3
243.	Erbil	1208Daban School	3	The voting went well, except that three children were with their families wearing party flags and necklaces.
244.	Erbil	121403 Mullah Omarzab Primary School	2	As of eight o'clock in the morning, there had been no incidents that could disrupt the counting of votes.
245.	Erbil	320306/ Day School	01	Many mobile phones were used to encourage people to vote at polling stations
246.	Erbil	120307	1	There is no unwanted event
247.	Duhok	Sanperka Foundation School	1	15 Audio Reading Cases
248.	Erbil	320306/ Rose School	02	We had a fingerprint problem
249.	Sulaymaniyah	Kesha School 226409	3	For PCOS failure at two different stations and at different times: 1. At station 3, it broke down around 2:30 to 3:10 when they brought in the voters' papers. He resumed work and received the papers in one way only, then the equipment repair team of the committee arrived at station 3 and were able to solve the problem that caused the delay of voting at this station for 30-40 minutes to fix it
250.	Duhok	Sherhat Malta School – 223404	01	There is a model for not reading the fingerprint There were 1 excluded There were 3 switches
251.	Sulaymaniyah	Shaheed Mullah Ahmad 227503	5	Not reading voters' fingerprints
252.	Duhok	Al Assas Gymnastics School 2	1	5 Basma not read once the identification device stopped 31 councils were 23 voted 8 did not vote
253.	Duhok	Al Bashirian School for Boys	3	In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. The security forces played an important role outside the polling stations to ensure that the process was conducted in a very transparent, calm and peaceful manner. My brothers the Commission, the table is very strong and harsh. They were doing their job so that voters could vote freely without any institution being able to intervene. It is truly commendable that no one was allowed to work for the electorate because they voted freely. I wish success to all Kurds and pray to God to help them. The citizens of Kurdistan will always be at peace. Yes to a happy Kurdistan for all of us without discrimination.
254.	Duhok	Halcord Basic School	1	During the voting period, there was an error that occurred when using the thumbprint before voting. It

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				was printed on the ballot paper, which led to the invalidation of the paper. The machine took it out twice and then returned it to the box after invalidation. After counting and manual sorting, the papers were actually viewed. Most of them were voting correctly, but the thumbprint was also on the paper, which led to its invalidation and calculation of a third seal.
255.	Duhok	223403-Malta Ziri	4	The members of the committee, dressed in red, wore the color Barzani and he loved it so much that he identified himself as the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).
256.	Duhok	Qabadlas12703	1	Not reading the names of citizens and not giving their votes to those most of whom were militants from any side was one of the most heartbreaking scenes Lack of voting equipment at the center
257.	Duhok	June Primary School 124208	2	There was no accident and everything went very well
258.	Duhok	124207Zain Primary School	5	And the operation was done in a beautiful and organized way
259.	Duhok	Duhok Preparatory School for Girls	5	The most common incident was that some people did not read their fingerprints because they had an old card and did not bring a new one. They were unable to vote and went home. There were about 30 people.
260.	Erbil	Between elementary 120404	1	Concludes the KDP list several times Pecos was not considered invalid
261.	Sulaymaniyah	Rangin Secondary School for Girls /	01	Most voters who lost their votes due to fingerprints have now gathered outside polling stations, waiting for journalists to protest their protests. Some polling station staff, especially No. 01, wrongly told voters that they could vote despite the absence of fingerprints.
262.	Duhok	Prep School Matina Amedi 123701	2	23 cases of skipping 14 votes did not vote in Samawan not read yet clearing the apartment 5 percent 4 ballots where invalid 8 votes were invalid were rejected by the agency
263.	Erbil	122903Khanqa Elementary School	01	Tensions between security forces and citizens erupted but were quickly brought under control at 3:20 p.m.
264.	Duhok	11 March Simmel School	1	The coordinator of the Commission in the name of Aqeedah Isaja The place was replaced by the director of station 1 in the name of Ramadan
265.	Sulaymaniyah	127508kani	1	Do not read the voting card in the machine, do not read the fingerprint
266.	Sulaymaniyah	balen127605	1	Failure to read ballots and voter ballots in case of voter problems
267.	Duhok	Dildar School	6	Not many people are read in a fingerprint. Many people's voting cards were not created
268.	Duhok	Darto School for Boys 324301	6	1. At the beginning of the opening of voting, half an hour after the agents of the political entity of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the representatives of the candidates of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan secretly inside the base, the candidates were propaganda materially and morally
269.	Duhok	Bamernay Mixed Preparations/4	1	Many cases of illegible fingerprint



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270.	Duhok	11 March Simmel School	03	March 11 School Center Center 123601 Coordinator Norwegian Colonel A strict and disrespectful person towards the observers.
271.	Halabja	Shenroi 09	03	In general, the fingerprint reader had an impact on the voting process, as some citizens were unable to vote until the end of the process despite repeating their fingerprints on the fingerprint reader several times.
272.	Erbil	Qandil School 121801	5	The process went smoothly.
273.	Duhok	4	4	The PKK claimed to have taken mobile phones to the polling station.
274.	Sulaymaniyah	Harsin School /Darbandkhan/127406	3	Low voter turnout and fingerprint problems slowed down the electoral process
275.	Sulaymaniyah	Parque School (128106)	3	No noteworthy incidents occurred
276.	Duhok	Shiladze Mixed School: 124603	2	Hello, as an observer of Zev Omid Amin, there has been no incident that has become an obstacle to the voting process. It went very nicely
277.	Duhok	223702Jazira	2	SIM cards didn't come to read, but they didn't come to read
278.	Duhok	azadi124211	1	The station manager was very weak and did not know where to go
279.	Duhok	Azadi124211	1	The station manager was so slow that he didn't know what to do
280.	Duhok	Bykova Elementary School (124004)	1	Invalid (10) Skips (19) For Replaced Ballots (2)
281.	Erbil	221304. Rural base in Kani qrzhalá	6	KDP Group 1. The Group Democratic Party 2-Asayish 3. The Mukhtar 4. The security forces had a significant influence on voters
282.	Sulaymaniyah	Bamo School 226503	1	In general, the voting was very good and in the first place one of the surveillance cameras had a problem, and the committee staff continued to inform the concerned authorities, but none of them solved the problem because only one camera was not working, and the voting process arrived and the votes were separated. The camera is not turned off. Another problem was fingerprints, as many people were unable to read fingerprints. The voting rate soon ended at 22, so the number of people who could not vote decreased. Representatives of political parties had a very good relationship with the staff of the Commission, and there were no problems among the staff of the Commission because it was not possible to read the fingerprints of many voters. Station 1. The brothers were a bit slow because they jumped several times. The voter's fingerprint reading made the process a bit slow and brought together many voters, but the committee staff did their best to make the process run smoothly.
283.	Sulaymaniyah	126204. Siwan Primary school	4	1. Many people were unable to vote due to fingerprints or problems with their national cards. 2. Some political observers from the PUK and KDP asked for the names of other observers
284.	Erbil	Naz School 121503	3	The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) throughout the day, through its branches and regions, put great pressure on citizens, set up tents near polling stations,



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				distributed bread, water and sweets to residents, and distributed candidate cards through children near polling stations.
285.	Erbil	Darklee Primary School 1	2	1- More than once the security official enters inside polling station 2. Introduction of mobile phones by voters to polling station 3. Trouble being raised by an autistic child while entering polling station 4. Party flag on children's clothing inside polling station 5. Forgetting the national ID and using the image of the national ID with a movable inside it and referring it to vote
286.	Duhok	123201	11	this
287.	Duhok	123201/ jigarkhwin School	6	There is no violations
288.	Erbil	Darkeley Primary School 122910	2	1- More than once the security official logged in inside the polling station. 2. Introduction of mobile phones by voters to the polling station 3. Trouble being raised by an autistic child while entering polling station 4. Party flag on children's clothing inside polling station 5. Forgetting the national ID and using the image of the national ID with a mobile inside it and referring it to voting.
289.	Duhok	124602. Seri Primary School	5	Voting at polling station No. 5 was postponed for one hour and 25 minutes due to the fingerprint device not charging
290.	Duhok	2234	2	23 skipping cases There is a mobile problem
291.	Sulaymaniyah	Sever School 226905	1	9:35 pm - Problem at Sever School in Sulaymaniyah. 9:35 PM - Problem at Sever School in Sulaymaniyah
292.	Duhok	Sardasht Center	223703	They stopped the equipment and did not receive the ballots for several minutes
293.	Duhok	223402	5	22 whips were skipping
294.	Erbil	122906	1	Introducing mobile phones. Only one person
295.	Erbil	Media Center for Girls	03	It went very well
296.	Duhok	Sharmaine Basic/124204	4	It started at the beginning of time, but the weak point was that 23 people did not read their fingerprints before noon and I was pleased to see representatives of several parties present but there were no problems or publicity.
297.	Duhok	224208El Boar Elementary School Akre	1	The electoral process began at seven in the morning 17. Empty sound 450 public electoral stations
298.	Duhok	Badan Foundation School 223705	1	Failure to read voters' names will affect the voting process, and any foreign vote must be repeated several times to be accepted, as will the use of mobile phones by voters in Indian political entities. The article on India wasted more time and the use of ballots was one of the causes of congestion. The process went very well.
299.	Sulaymaniyah	Alai Center 127801	3	Overall, the vote was good. Most voters voted freely, except for some people who the polling station

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				director said would help the girls. There were few committee staff in general. There were five people in my room they were tired but there were few people, which slowed down the process. People were tired and although everyone voted in the end, they didn't stop them from bringing mobile phones to the polling station. I only saw a small promotional card in the hall. who was expelled by the director and noticed a large crowd outside the polling station, and when voting was over, the machines were turned off
300.	Erbil	121602Alwand School	1	<p>1. Election campaigns were held outside and inside the polling station, candidate cards were distributed and photos of the candidates were published.</p> <p>2. The Pecos machine did not work at the beginning of voting and was replaced in the first stop Alwin School The first to vote was a ratio of 7: 1</p> <p>3. Mobile phones were introduced and voting photos were taken.</p> <p>4. There is a voter voting only on a ballot.</p>
301.	Sulaymaniyah	Susanan School	12930301	VVD teams did not work. There was a technical problem. VVD teams were in Kurdish. Issue resolved at 7:50
302.	Duhok	Kalkji Mixed High School 324104	4	The problem of not reading voters, which causes complications in the polling station by the PUK team and the removal of the observer
303.	Sulaymaniyah	rozhhalat School (126210)	3	<p>1- From 7 am to 12:14 pm, 23 skips and voting cases were conducted.</p> <p>2. There is only one ballot paper (excluded) due to the adhesion of the paper to the machine where the voter chose his party but the ballot stamp was displayed on the ballot.</p> <p>4. There was a case where the card did not read 3 Once the card was requested, the machine would order the barcode on the card.</p> <p>A large number of voters were unable to vote for the following reasons: they could not read their fingerprints.</p> <p>3. Or that their voting cards were old and they did not renew them 2 . Or voters never had fingerprints before. The jump ended up in the third leg, where 450 voters would have voted, jumped 5% to 23%. The voter finished early from the beginning of the process That's why they couldn't jump for it.</p> <p>All this caused the slow resumption of the process.</p>
304.	Duhok	Sever 1232	5	Fingerprint & Device
305.	Duhok	324101maqqlop School	6	Problems not reading toothpicks after cleaning
306.	Duhok	Kurdmand Basic 123503	1	There were many illegible fingerprints
307.	Duhok	323505Kaddash Primary School	02	Not there
308.	Halabja	Burhan School 128206	1	Only a few furniture was seen and photographed at the station. The whole process went well
309.	Erbil	320705. Nosha Primary School	2	- The machine had problems from the beginning from 7:00 to 7:13

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				- 9:57 there were problems in the box from 10:09 to and there was a favorite vote which is (4 people cannot read because they cannot read their fingerprints vote) (3 votes rejected)
310.	Sulaymaniyah	Martyr Aram 127502	2	Not reading fingerprints
311.	Erbil	Al-Diwan Center in Kani Karzala 221304	6	The KDP has influence over voters, with Mukhtar, security forces, districts and organizations controlling polling stations.
312.	Duhok	maqlupp High School 324101	324101	Very crowded at the entrance
313.	Duhok	Burji Foundation School 123704	1237	The voting machine was delayed until 8:20 and no one was able to vote at both stations 1-2
314.	Erbil	late Kasnazani	1	There's not much not reading fingerprints
315.	Duhok	Zuzek Center	03	There is no
316.	Duhok	Kurdistan Teachers Center Name 1 Duhok Center No. 123405	6	The accident happened when Maura Basma did not shake hands with him and many people had to vote on everything.
317.	Sulaymaniyah	127008 Sargnar Elementary School	8	1. The machine must be installed before the start of the voting process Issuing a report with zero but at station number 8 in front of the observers and away from them, they caught our attention before six o'clock and showed us the speech at 7:15 2:16 and there were cases of taking pictures that were prevented and prevented by the director of station 3. Someone insisting on filming his voice He caused problems with the management of the station from station 8, the voter dropped his vote because of the manager's resistance and did not put it in the ballot box. 4. An investigation failed at 5:52 p.m. and again at 5:56 p.m. he returned to work
318.	Duhok	Hendren Foundation School 123203	2	Illegible voter card 50 Voter card without photos 10
319.	Duhok	Sardashti School 223703	2	1. Not reading a citizen's fingerprint 2. Lack of ID cards for citizens 3 Spend voting 4. Use mobile phones behind the voting place
320.	Sulaymaniyah	127004Zamwa Primary School	1	7:00-7:10 PM Ballot box machine malfunction 4 cases of mobile phone use12:13-12-19 Ballot box machine malfunction A large number of citizens lost their right to vote due to not reading their fingerprints
321.	Duhok	Malta Boys Junior High School	2	Price is a problem with smell
322.	Sulaymaniyah	Rawda Naz	226708	There is no accident affecting the operation
323.	Duhok	Malai Jaziri/3	224206	Not there
324.	Duhok	bazar123305	4	There were many cases of voters refusing not to read the voter's name. There was a problem accessing the room for cell phones
325.	Duhok	bazar123305-	3	Patty isn't around.
326.	Erbil	Haji Qadri koy School (121701)	01	In general, the voting process was very slow because some citizens did not read their fingerprints, which caused more than 5% of citizens to be deprived of

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				voting because their fingerprints were not read, and the attempt took a long time several times. Citizens from voting because he prevented a large part of them from voting before the specified date between employees and citizens
327.	Sulaymaniyah	1268 Safar 9 Khazadi Primary School	4	The PUK had formed three committees, one inside the polling station and the other near the entrance with a list of voters' names and phone numbers, and they called them one by one and ordered them to come and vote early, and independent voters were asked to take their names and numbers The voting card, called the candidate's number, with an audio image. Indeed, this situation has had a negative impact on the psyche of voters, violating the freedom of voters.

## Thanks, and Acknowledgments

The Alliance of National Networks and Organizations for Election Observation in Iraq extends its thanks and gratitude to a group of electoral experts and specialists, for their support in the process of monitoring the election of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq Parliament, for providing feedback and recommendations, either via the electronic form link, or through the assistance of the long-term monitoring team, and they are:

1. d. Mahdi Jaber – Professor of Political Science – Najaf currently lives in Erbil.
2. d. Sarhang Barzani – Professor of Constitutional Law at Salahaddin University – Erbil.
3. a. Sardar Abdul Karim – Former Member of the Board of Commissioners – Erbil
4. a. Rabbin Rasoul Ismail – journalist and writer – Erbil.
5. Mr. Michael Benjamin – Minority Affairs Specialist – Duhok
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9. Dr. Wael Munther Hassoun - Academic specializing in constitutional law - Baghdad
10. Dr. Saeed Hamid Amin Kakyi – Former Member of the Board of Commissioners – Sulaymaniyah.
11. Salam Mohammed Islam - Civil Society Organizations and Democratic Transition - Erbil.
12. Dr. Sarwar Abdul Rahman Omar – President of Bey Foundation – Sulaymaniyah.
13. Duraid Tawfiq Shafiq - Researcher in electoral affairs - Baghdad
14. Avin Khalid Abdul Rahman – Dean of the College of Law, University of Duhok
15. Mohsen Jabbari Hassan Al-Musawi – Former Member of the Board of Commissioners – Baghdad
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Finished