



Sunlight

Shams sends
A beam of sunlight
On every voting day



Special Voting Day

The Iraqi people passed an important day in their march toward democracy, through the completion of the special voting day, which included members of the armed forces in the army and the police, hospitals and rehabilitation facilities and prisons.

Shams Network has distributed its observers who included the leaders of mobile teams to monitor polling stations in polling centers designated to the special voting.

In the face of the challenges facing the process, the latter was a success. The most important of those challenges are;

- The Security Situation: Despite the fact that a ban on the movement of vehicles and not cutting the roads among the governorates, life continued normally and no significant security breaches were recorded.
- The Political Environment: Most of the competing political entities maintained self-restraint and were not drawn to the trap of rhetoric and provocation of others.
- The Election Campaign; continued intensively and through different means, but there have been only limited violations at and around the polling stations.
- The Media; provided a distinguished coverage of the special voting day, and some satellite channels dedicated their entire program to the process and met with stakeholders.
- Monitoring Teams: teams were deployed to various polling stations designated to the special vote and have issued reports and variance statements to the media throughout the day.
- Representatives of Political Entities: the presence of representatives of political entities was strong in most polling stations, particularly the major entities.
- IHEC; has provided the requirements for the voting process. Most stations had opened on time. The commissioners and the electoral directorate had followed the process directly and urgent measures were taken to address some of the problems that occurred here or there.
- Broad Participation: There is no doubt that the special vote is one of the toughest stages of the electoral process, in particular due to the participation of the military personnel of the army and the police, who require special complex measures. However, the broad participation of this segment, with no serious incidents is an indication of the remarkable success of this process.

Shams Network, had kept a record on some of the deficiencies and observations from the special voting day, to be announced at the end of the electoral process in a comprehensive report. However, Shams regard the special voting day a good start for the electoral process, which will encourage voters to actively participate in the general vote, and in the days of voting for voters abroad.