



## **The Shams Network for Monitoring Election**

### **Monitoring Kurdistan Parliamentary Election**

**September 30,2018**

#### **Preliminary report**

#### **Election process on General Election day**

**Erbil 1 Oct. 2018**

The Shams network for election monitoring, monitored the election process in Kurdistan by 4 different methods through 21 local and non-governmental organizations. 62 monitors were based permanently at the polling stations in the four governors. 61 traveling teams monitored the outside situations of the polling stations. In collaboration with the Arab world, the election network hosted 32 international monitors through 7 travelling teams. For the first time, in collaboration with youth G12, in Kurdistan region towns 575 voting citizens assessed election process in the general election day.

The most important notes on the voting process in the fifth term of Kurdistan parliamentary election are the following:



### **Positive points**

1. The process is carried out peacefully
2. Most of the polling stations were opened on time and attended by commission members.
3. necessary equipment was provided for most of the polling stations
4. most polling stations were attended by participating party officers and representatives of local and international monitors.
5. The Commission took note of the concerns and suggestions of of the participating party officers and monitors.

### **Negative Points**

1. There were different interpretations of commission rules and regulations due to lack of proper training and experience of some commission officials.
2. Privacy of voting was violated. Some voted publicly and there was evidence of group voting. Some voters were also seen taking pictures of their voting with their mobile phones.
3. Witnesses observed party officials and security pressuring voters to divert their attention from regulations. As a result, some voters submitted 2 or 3 ballots trough ballot rigging.
4. There was continuous election campaigning inside and outside of the polling stations. This affected the election process.
5. Some votes were deprived from balloting due to changes of their polling stations and incorrect recording of their names.
6. Expulsion and expulsion of a number of agents of political entities and observers, especially at the start of counting and counting, and not to allow them to obtain the form No. (53).



## Recommendations

- 1- Releasing the preliminary election results as soon as its polls close, and then announce the result according to form number 51, 52,53 to compare the results in the pooling stations with data of Kurdistan High Electoral Commission.
- 2- Dealing with the complains according to the High Electoral instructions and taking actions against any kind of fraud and announcing the results in the KHEC website.
- 3- Taking actions against those staff of KHEC who violated the instructions and became biased in the polling stations.
- 4- Taking NGOs reports into consideration, especially those NGOs who monitored the election.

## Conclusion

After the ratification of the result by the relevant court, the Shams network for election monitoring, will release the final report of the 5<sup>th</sup> Kurdistan Parliament election.

<http://www.sun-network.org>