

Alliance of National Networks and Organizations for Election Observation in Iraq

Media Center

General Election Day Observation Report

Council of Representatives Election 11 Nov 2025

This report is part of national efforts aimed at promoting the integrity and transparency of the democratic process in Iraq. It represents the outcome of a comprehensive field-based monitoring and observation effort conducted by the Alliance of National Networks and Organizations for Election Observation.

The Alliance serves as an inclusive national framework that brings together local organizations and networks operating across various Iraqi governorates. It was established with the core objective of strengthening public confidence in the electoral process through independent and impartial observation, grounded in a scientific methodology and a national vision.

On the general election day, 11 November 2025, the Alliance issued six reports: the Opening Report, the Process Progress Report, the Closing Report, and three reports on recorded incidents.

Executive Summary

Based on field monitoring data from polling stations, this report presents the following overview of Election Day:

Key Challenges:

- 501 cases of prohibited electoral campaigning
- 415 cases where opening procedures were not explained
- 382 cases of allowing mobile phones inside polling stations
- 359 cases where observers were prevented from monitoring the counting process
- 337 cases where observers were excluded during vote tallying

Key Positive Aspects:

- Acceptable security performance, with only 41 security-related incidents reported
- Low number of officially suspended polling processes (49 cases)
- Few discrepancies between electronic and manual results (48 cases)

Detailed Analysis by Phase

1. Opening Phase

- 415 polling stations did not explain the opening procedures.
- 228 stations opened later than the scheduled time (7:00 a.m.).
- 185 observers and 179 agents were denied access.
- 141 cases of absence among polling staff were recorded.

2. Voting Phase

- 501 cases of prohibited electoral campaigning.
- 382 cases where mobile phones and photography were allowed inside polling stations.
- 285 voters were unable to cast their votes due to technical issues.
- 218 stations experienced technical malfunctions.
- 185 cases of group or assisted voting.
- 107 voters cast their ballots without presenting identification.

3. Closing and Counting Phase

- 359 observers were prevented from monitoring the counting process.
- 337 observers and agents were excluded during vote tallying.
- 220 stations experienced delays in printing the results tape.
- 107 station managers faced issues sending results electronically.

4. Incidents and Security

- 327 cases where observer movement was restricted.
- 112 cases of intimidation or inducement.
- 73 cases of violence.
- 41 security-related incidents (shooting or assault).
- 20 cases of problems with polling materials.

Final Assessment

Level of Transparency:

- 40 stations – Low
- 267 stations – Acceptable
- 735 stations – High
- 732 stations – Very High

Quality of Administrative Performance:

- 38 stations – Poor
- 245 stations – Acceptable
- 751 stations – Very Good
- 739 stations – Excellent

Impact of Violations:

- 999 stations – No impact
- 396 stations – Limited impact
- 222 stations – Significant impact

Urgent Recommendations

1. Enhancing Transparency:

- Require all polling stations to explain opening procedures (in response to 415 recorded cases).
- Ensure freedom of movement for observers (in response to 327 cases).

2. Strengthening Integrity:

- Prevent prohibited electoral campaigning (in response to 501 cases).
- Prohibit the entry of mobile phones into polling stations (in response to 382 cases).

3. Addressing Technical Issues:

- Improve voter identification devices (in response to 285 cases of voters denied the right to vote).
- Enhance the efficiency of technical systems (in response to 218 malfunctions).

4. Ensuring Fair Counting:

- Guarantee observer access to the counting process (in response to 359 cases of prevention).
- Prevent the exclusion of observers during vote tallying (in response to 337 cases).

Conclusion

Free and transparent elections represent the cornerstone of Iraq's stability and progress. They are the constitutional mechanism through which the people express their will and ensure the peaceful transfer of power. The figures and data presented in this report demonstrate that achieving truly ideal elections still requires greater effort and cooperation among all stakeholders.

The Alliance of National Networks and Organizations for Election Observation in Iraq remains steadfast in its national mission to contribute to building a solid democratic system—one in which elections are fair, transparent, and genuinely reflect the will of the Iraqi people.

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