

The Alliance of National Networks and Organizations for Election Observation Media Center

Baghdad- 10th Nov 2025

Initial Observation Report for Special Voting Day in the 2025 Parliamentary Elections

Introduction:

The parliamentary elections in Iraq represent a pivotal milestone in the trajectory of democratic transformation and the enhancement of political participation. Amid the security, administrative, and technical challenges facing the electoral process, the importance of an independent monitoring role becomes increasingly evident to ensure the integrity and transparency of voting.

In this context, the Alliance of National Networks and Organizations for Election Observation in Iraq conducted an extensive monitoring operation, covering all phases of Election Day across the various governorates, through thousands of professionally trained field observers. 8,347 electronic monitoring forms were collected and analyzed, encompassing organizational, technical, security, and behavioral indicators, thereby enabling the presentation of an accurate and comprehensive picture of the electoral process.

This oversight effort is not limited to documenting violations; it also aims to strengthen accountability, provide practical recommendations to improve institutional performance, ensure the protection of voter rights, and foster a fair and secure electoral environment for all stakeholders.

Executive Summary

Election day in Iraq witnessed a large-scale monitoring operation implemented by the Alliance of National Networks and Organizations, through more than 8,300 monitoring forms distributed across the opening, voting, closing, counting and sorting phases, in addition to recording incidents and general assessment. Data was collected from 18 governorates, which gives the report high representational strength and reflects the diversity of administrative and security contexts in the country.

■ Sample Strength and Indicator Diversity

- The observation forms included 33 monitoring indicators covering organizational, technical, security, and behavioral aspects.
- A total of 3,273 incidents and violations were recorded, reflecting the magnitude of structural challenges facing the electoral process.
- Variations in performance among governorates and electoral teams enabled comparative analysis that highlights areas of strength and points of weakness.

▪ Implications of Discrepancies

- While some polling stations demonstrated a high level of compliance with procedures, others recorded serious violations, reflecting disparities in training, oversight, and operational readiness.
- These discrepancies highlight the need to standardize procedural criteria and further develop both internal and external monitoring mechanisms.
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▪ Scope of Monitoring Coverage by the Alliance of Networks

Observers from the Alliance of Networks participated in comprehensive coverage of election day, collecting a total of 8,347 monitoring forms distributed across the various stages of the electoral process as follows:

Type of Forms	Number
Polling Center Opening Observation Forms	2,132
Observation Forms for Voting Procedures	2,045
Observation Forms for Closing, Counting, and Tabulation	2,055
Incident Reporting Forms	674
General Assessment Forms for the Electoral Process	1,441
Total	8,347

These figures reflect the extensive coverage and methodological rigor applied by the Alliance in monitoring the electoral process, thereby enhancing the credibility of the findings and providing the analysis with a high degree of representativeness.

Most Prominent Violation Patterns

1. Organizational and Technical Problems

- Delayed opening at some polling stations
- Malfunctions in some verification and electronic transmission devices
- Absence of electoral team members in Diyala and Najaf

2. Violations Affecting Voting Integrity

- Voting without official identification in Baghdad and Nineveh
- Collective voting and bringing mobile phones into polling stations in Al-Muthanna and Baghdad
- Discrepancies between manual and electronic results in Erbil and Babylon

3. Violations Infringing on Voter Rights

- Prevention of assistance to persons with special needs in Najaf and Al-Muthanna
- Disenfranchisement due to fingerprint and photograph problems in Nineveh and Baghdad

4. Political and Security Interference

- Intervention by security forces in Anbar and Baghdad
- Pressure from party agents in Nineveh and Sulaymaniyah
- Recorded cases of threats and harassment at multiple centers

Violation rates by Types:

Types of Violations	Percentage
Technical Problems	35%
Delays in Operations	25%
Security Interference	20%
Procedural Violations	15%
Logistical Issues	5%

Analysis of Incidents and Breaches on Election Day

A total of 3,273 incidents and violations of various types were recorded in monitoring forms, distributed across the opening, voting, counting and sorting phases, in addition to security and organizational aspects. These data reflect the magnitude of challenges that confronted the electoral process and provide a basis for identifying reform priorities.

◇ Recorded Breaches:

- Voting without a second official identification document: 40 cases
- Voting in Group: 92 cases
- Presence of unauthorized persons inside polling stations: 89 cases
- Objections to announced results: 68 cases
- Bringing mobile phones into polling stations and photographing ballot cards

These cases undermine the essence of the democratic process and necessitate a review of verification and authentication mechanisms.

◇ Security and Behavioral Breaches:

- Prevention of political entity agents from being present: 86 cases
- Prevention of observers from being present during opening: 89 cases
- Threats or harassment: 28 cases
- Restriction of observer movement and rights: 89 cases
- Attempts to prevent voters from accessing polling stations: 23 cases

These breaches indicate unjustified interference with freedom of oversight and participation, and call for clear protective measures.

◇ **Procedural and Technical Breaches:**

- Delayed opening of polling stations: 108 cases
- Failure to implement closing procedures: 61 cases
- Failure to transmit results electronically: 65 cases
- Delay or failure in printing results tape: 115 cases

These indicators reflect weaknesses in technical and administrative readiness and affect the accuracy and speed of results announcement.

incident/Breach Description	Count
Absence of a polling station team member before the scheduled opening time	95
Political entity agents were prevented from being present during the opening of the polling station.	86
Observers prevented from being present during polling station opening	89
Opening procedures not displayed and explained before those present	791
Delaying of opening stations beyond the scheduled time of 7:00 AM for any reason	108
Technical problems occur related to verification devices and results acceleration during opening	126
electoral campaign material for political parties and candidates observed inside or around the polling center	238
attempts to prevent voters from reaching the polling center	23
unauthorized persons found inside the polling station	89
Observer or party/candidate agent excluded from the polling station	61
voting without presenting official identification	40
Assistance to blind voters or persons with disabilities prevented	0
Voting in Group observed	92
voting process officially suspended	51
Voting process obstructed	35
Complaints submitted at the station.	28
Voters excluded due to fingerprint reading failure or facial image mismatch.	0

Technical devices experience failures that caused voting delays	0
Lack of independence or bias observed among commission staff	81
instance of incomplete implementation of closing procedures by the station manager	61
The station manager face failure to transmit station results electronically	65
the station manager delayed or unable to extract the results tape	115
discrepancy between electronic and manual results	67
Object to the announced results?	68
Observer or entity agent excluded during the counting and sorting process?	134
Threats or incidents of harassment?	28
Observer movement and rights restricted?	89

Conclusion

The monitoring results confirm that the electoral process in Iraq continues to face structural challenges requiring serious reforms, particularly concerning field administration, the neutrality of security apparatus, and ensuring observers' and citizens' access to their rights without obstacles.

The Alliance of National Networks and Organizations presents this report to the concerned authorities—from the Electoral Commission to legislative and executive institutions—as a reliable source for improving electoral policies, developing oversight mechanisms, and enhancing citizen confidence in the democratic process.

The ultimate goal remains building an Iraqi electoral system that is more transparent, more equitable, and more capable of representing the will of the people.

Media coverage will be in cooperation with the platform (<https://964media.com>)

The parties indicated their intention to issue a series of periodic reports according to the following schedules:

Press Conference Topic	Date	Time
Initial Report on the Special Voting Process	10th Nov	11:00 Am
Report on Incidents During Polling Station Opening	11th Nov	9:00 Am
Report on Incidents During Voting	11th Nov	03:00 Pm
Report on Incidents During Closing, Counting, and Tabulation at Polling Centers	11th Nov	8:00 Am
Initial Report on General Election Day Baghdad: Mansoor Melia Hotel Erbil – Erbil International Hotel (Shiraton)	12th Nov	12:00 Pm