2007 Parliamentary Election Observation Project

“Al Rased”

Final Report
FOREWORD

Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development's initiative to observe the 2007 Jordanian parliamentary election presented an important step towards reinforcing the foundations of Jordanian democracy. Al Hayat's team is proud to present in this report the results of Al Rased election observation project. Al Hayat's observers were trained on international standards of free and fair elections, international best practices on domestic election observation, the principles of the Jordanian Constitution and the current Jordanian Election Law. Al Hayat affirms that the findings concluded by Al Rased project's observers have been the most comprehensive in the history of elections in Jordan. Al Hayat also takes pride in the fact that these results have been based on scientific foundations, systematic training and an impartial approach towards candidates and political contestants.

Al Hayat projects are aimed at enhancing the role of youth in the democratic process. Through its Al Rased's project, Al Hayat engaged more than 1,700 youth through training, recruitment and political activism. The project has delivered new skills and knowledge and thus enhanced the role of youth in Jordan.

Al Hayat started its activities related to elections at an early stage ahead of the November 2007 parliamentary election. In February 2007, the idea of the AHAMIEH "Importance of Youth Inclusion in Elections" project was developed, and the project was implemented by Al Hayat with the support of the National Democratic Institute, Addustour Newspaper and a number of Jordanian universities. More than 3,000 youth participated in the project's training and dialogue activities. Afterwards, Al Hayat discussed with its youth groups in all governorates means of engaging in election observation initiatives. That is how the idea for Al Rased project came about. Al Hayat hopes that this initiative becomes a step in the path towards acknowledging election observation efforts by civil society as an essential tool to assess the integrity and transparency of elections.

Al-Rased project presents the first organized domestic election observation effort in Jordan's history. Al Hayat's monitoring of the elections includes candidate registration, election campaign period, media coverage of the election and voting procedures. Ultimately, Al Rased project served many young people in local communities in all governorates by providing them with valuable, albeit short-term, opportunities to actively participate in their country's election process, in addition to training opportunities that have helped them to expand their horizons and improve their skills. Al Hayat hopes that this achievement inspires further steps towards enhancing civic political participation and promoting democracy in Jordan and the Middle East and North Africa region.
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Al Hayat Center for Civil Society Development would like to extend its sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to the success of Al Rased project through financial or logistical support. Al Hayat especially thanks and appreciates the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI); candidates in the 2007 parliamentary election; the Higher Council for Youth and all its directorates in the Kingdom; the Ministry of Interior and its administrative governors in all governorates; printed, audiovisual, and electronic media, with special thanks to the Jordanian Television, 7 Stars TV, Addustour newspaper, and Ammon News Agency; Jordanian public and private universities, with special thanks to Al-Balqa University, Al-Hussein Bin Talal University, Tafilah Technical University, Mutah University and AL- Yarmouk University; chambers of commerce in Aqaba, Irbid, Salt and Zarqa; and Al Hayat’s youth groups and field observers in all governorates.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Al Hayat Center for Civil Society Development (Al-Hayat) is a Jordanian non-governmental organization (NGO) that aims to empower and support Jordanian youth to meaningfully take part in building and enhancing democracy in Jordan. Al Hayat has a nation-wide outreach program and has been successfully engaging thousands of Jordan youth through training, workshops and candidate debates in its effort to provide the knowledge, skills and opportunities to actively promote and enhance the principles of transparency, accountability, political representation and civic political participation.

Al Hayat decided to implement Al Rased election observation process due to the significance of the 2007 parliamentary election to Jordan's democratic life. Al Hayat observed the election with transparency, integrity and neutrality, in compliance with international standards of free and fair elections. The Center’s mission during the project was to conduct the most comprehensive local election observation operation through its youth groups all over Jordan. The objectives of Al Hayat’s election observation effort were the following:

- Enhancing the principles of free and fair elections;
- Providing a comprehensive assessment of the electoral process and its legal framework; and
- Recommending ways to improve the process in the future based on the results of the observation.

To conduct its election observation activities, Al Hayat created three teams. The candidate registration observation team included 130 field observers supervised by 35 governorate and district coordinators. For media monitoring, a team of 15 members was in charge of observing local media coverage of the electoral process. Finally, Al Hayat recruited 1,500 field observers to observe voting procedures at polling centers in the country on Election Day.
Throughout their operation, Al Hayat's observers were able to document and report a number of interesting findings about the different aspects of the electoral process. To begin with, and upon assessing the legal framework of elections in Jordan, observers realized that Jordan's election legislation fails to include any provisions regulating the rights and responsibilities of independent, nonpartisan election observation bodies. Among the major observed irregularities during the election were the extensive vote-buying prior to and on Election Day and widespread public voting practices, which have damaged citizens' confidence in the process and created a tense election atmosphere of allegations. Al Hayat also observed discrepancies between candidates' campaigning opportunities and their access to the media, mainly due to their uneven campaign budgets. This observation effort has brought to light the issue of regulating campaign finances as well as media coverage of candidates' campaign activities. Although Al Hayat's observation operation did not cover the voter registration period and procedures, it was observed on Election Day that many voters' names were shifted between different districts and that voters' lists were in many cases inaccurate. Al Hayat believes that this inaccuracy has affected many candidates' chances and obviously influenced the final results of the election. On the positive side, Al Hayat's team observed an outstanding performance by the Public Security personnel, especially on Election Day, in maintaining security around polling centers and rapidly intervening to resolve individual disputes and violent acts to ensure a safe and smooth voting environment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Parliamentary elections constitute the most significant events in Jordan’s pursuit towards democratic development. Therefore, the 2007 election has drawn the interest and attention of Jordanian civil society activists and organizations, as well as international organizations. On 20 November, 2007, Jordanian voters took to the polls to elect the 110 Members of Parliament, including six reserved seats for women, as per the 2003 Election Law.

Democratic life in Jordan is based on the Constitution, which stipulates in its First Article that the system of government is parliamentary with hereditary monarchy. The democratization process was initiated in 1989, by legalizing political parties and holding parliamentary elections after a Martial Law period for a long period. The 2007 election in particular came at a critical time and amid several factors that have influenced the electoral atmosphere and the outcomes of the process. Most significantly, the election in all its aspects was generally characterized by the influence of tribalism due to the lack of partisan mobilization and campaigning. Moreover, this election came soon after the municipal elections, which were held in July 2007.

Unsurprisingly, the general mood of that election cast its shadows on the atmosphere surrounding the parliamentary election in November, including allegations of governmental fraud and manipulation, as well as the more positive indicators such as shifting to an elected vs.
appointed system of selecting council members, as well as implementing a 20% women’s quota in municipal councils. The 2007 parliamentary election also came amongst very sensitive local and regional circumstances and challenges. For example, rising prices, increasing unemployment, and radical social and economic transformations, in addition to regional political turmoil especially in Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine, have all contributed to intensive speculations by experts and ordinary citizens on the potential agendas and policies of the new parliament. These factors are likely to continue to render the current parliament subject to increased public scrutiny.

It is worth mentioning here that the 2007 parliamentary election also marked a number of new phenomena that have influenced its outcomes. For instance, many young candidates ran in the election, indicating an increasing interest by younger generations in competing for power and engaging in the public sphere. Also, the election witnessed a remarkable increase in the number of women running for parliamentary office compared to previous elections. In an equally interesting observation, monitors and analysts pointed to the disintegration of tribal influence on election results in certain areas.

The Legal Framework on Parliamentary

Parliamentary elections in Jordan are regulated by the Temporary Election Law of 2001, and the subsequent amendments especially in the year 2003. By law, the Ministry of Interior is the official election administration body, with the task of managing the voter registration, candidate registration, and voting procedures, to mention some. The law does not regulate independent domestic election observation. In fact, as the matter of election observation arose as a subject of debate upon civil society organizations’ initiatives to monitor the 2007 parliamentary election, it was contended by the government that the only party that the Constitution explicitly allows to observe voting procedures from inside polling stations beside election administration personnel are candidates themselves and their individual delegates. The election legal framework does not however overtly mention independent election observation.

Voter Registration Elections

Both prior to and after Election Day, much debate occurred around the announcement and accuracy of final voter lists. The law provides that voter lists should be managed and finalized through the Civil Status and Passports Department and its directorates throughout the country. Accordingly, the Department registers eligible voters by their national ID numbers. Eligible voters are required to notify the Department of any changes in their place of residence as the official voter lists are being finalized. However, the law does allow citizens belonging to certain districts but who reside elsewhere to register their names in that district as long as they submit an application to the Department along with supporting documents as instructed by the Minister of Interior to verify that they originate from the area where they wish to vote.
As for finalizing the lists, according to the law, Ministry of Interior (MoI), represented by administrative governors, is to publicize the lists submitted by the Department in local newspapers for one week, after which citizens can challenge the lists within another week. A period follows in which lists are finalized based on the considered challenges and relevant court appeals. While the timeline of this process is clearly described in the law, the specific date of its start is left to the discretion of the MoI.

Candidate registration

The candidate registration process starts thirty days before the date designated for holding the election, and it lasts for three days. Applications and corroboratory documents should be studied by election central committees, assigned by the MoI, and decisions to accept or reject them should be made within three days of submitting the application. Candidates may challenge the Committee's decision regarding their applications before the Court of First Instance, which should finally rule upon these challenges - a process that in total takes up to six days.

The law also stipulates that accepted candidates should be listed by the Committee according to the time and date of application submission. Final lists are to be displayed in the governorate center and published in at least two local newspapers.

Electoral Campaigns

Candidates are legally allowed to start with their campaign activities upon the official acceptance of the candidacy application. While organizing and conducting these activities, candidates are required to observe the provisions of the Constitution and Jordanian laws, respect others' freedom of thought and opinion and refrain from sabotaging other candidates' campaign activities. They are also prohibited from using governmental resources, including venues and official institutions' staff powers, in their campaigns. The law also clearly prohibits candidates from providing gifts and monetary assistance to citizens, although it does not otherwise regulate campaign expenditures. Finally, the law does not specify a time by which campaign activities should end.

Voting Procedures

The date of the election is designated by the MoI, and voting should be secret and direct. Election procedures are to be supervised by a Higher Commission headed by the MoI. Other sub-committees are assigned afterwards to oversee the process on the governorates and districts level, as well as polling station levels to oversee the balloting and canvassing process. In the 2007 election, MoI introduced a computer system to the polling station committees’ management of Election Day procedures with the purpose of adding to the efficacy of voter list validation and writing off voters’ names as they cast their ballots.

Noteworthy of pointing out as well is that while secret voting is compulsory according to the law, special balloting procedures are provided for illiterate voters that should guarantee secrecy. The law provides for starting the voting process at 7 am on Election Day, and ending it at 7 pm, and central committee chairs can decide to extend voting in certain districts for up to two hours if they deem it necessary.
ELECTION OBSERVATION FINDINGS

Candidate Registration Observation

Al Hayat’s observers were able to reach and interview 820 candidates out of 989 (82.9%) candidates all over Jordan on issues related to their political background, registration process, and campaigns, as well as the challenges that candidates were in this election. Below are Al Hayat’s candidate registration process observation findings and analysis.

• From the total number of applicants, only four were refused registration. Following an independent review and analysis, Al Hayat found that the four rejections have a strong legal justification and have been done according to candidate registration procedures. Therefore, Al Hayat deems the process regular and compliant with the legal framework.

• Candidates’ understanding and willingness to participate in Al Hayat’s project provided valuable support to the Center and other civil society organizations in their efforts to uphold the values of transparent, free and fair elections. However, much needs to be done by the Jordanian government and the election administration to guarantee the official right of civil society to play a meaningful role in election processes.

• 86.10% of the candidates said that the registration process was handled in a regular manner and that the election administration authorities abided by the legal framework.

• 84 candidates voiced concerns over irregularities during the candidate registration process. The main concern was that some of the candidates were listed on top of the list although they registered later (according to the law, they need to be listed according to the date of their application). The implication is that some of the candidates used their personal relationships to influence their standing on candidates’ lists.

• Overall results show that 75% of the candidates that were interviewed are running for the first time in an election. Only 12.93% of the total numbers of interviewees were previously elected as members of parliament, while 27.32% of to total number held important governmental positions. These results demonstrate a significant political rejuvenation in Jordan and are a strong indicator of an enhanced political environment that allows for political activism. The results also indicate a greater interest in political activism on the part of citizens that haven’t previously been part of legislative or executive authorities.

13 out of 807 candidates (1.59%) stated that election administration required them to provide extra documents as a condition of acceptance of their application, while 29 out of 791 candidates (3.54%) complained that they were subjected to governmental and/or governmental-oriented pressure.

• 12.56% of the candidates thought that the candidate registration process would need improvements through legal amendments. Their suggestions are summarized in the Recommendations Section of this report.
• The media has provided a fair coverage of the candidate registration process throughout the candidate registration period, including the cases of challenges and issues that arose during the process.

• Given that the candidate registration process coincided with the campaign period caused some concern. The time constraint meant that candidates that had to go through a review of their application and challenge any election administration process, were in a less favorable position than the candidates whose candidatures are automatically accepted.

Election Campaign Observation

Al Hayat’s observers reached 854 candidates all over Jordan, and a carefully designed questionnaire was used as an observation tool. 15 questions aimed to assess candidate’s activities with regard to the Jordanian legal framework on elections, and the freedom of candidates to wage independent campaigns. The questions sought to identify whether candidates used any governmental resources in their campaigns, whether they refrained from illegal campaigning practices (such as pinning their campaign materials on restricted locations), and whether they offered any services to their supporters during the campaign, which might be considered as vote-buying practices. Following are the campaign observation findings.

• Around one third of the interviewed candidates expressed concerns on the course of the election campaign, most importantly the lack of public venues to hold meetings and rallies, candidates’ assault on their opponents’ campaign materials, and the vote-buying phenomenon by wealthy and powerful candidates.

• Results show an obvious decline in the role of such social institutions as the tribe in directing candidate campaigns. Although tribes continued to play an important role in elections and have affected the election outcome,

• There were individual differences between candidates in terms of the ability to campaign, gauge public support and reach out to the media. 34% of the candidates stated that they felt discriminated against in terms of not having equal opportunities to compete, mostly due to their opponents’ personal connections and relationships that were put in use for individual campaigns

• 97% of the candidates pointed out that they did not face any difficulties in distributing their flyers and other campaign materials, and 97% said they did not file complaints against anyone

• The observation process revealed that most promises made by candidates focused on helping the poor and needy and providing financial and moral support to them, in addition to providing services to constituents, facilitating their paperwork in public institutions, conveying their voice to officials, achieving social equity, supporting women and youth issues, achieving comprehensive reform, committing to the party’s agenda (regarding the Islamic Action Front candidates), improving health care in the district, enhancing the role of youth in voluntary work, supporting national unity, and reducing university tuition fees
Election Day Observation

On November 20, Al Hayat’s observers covered all polling centers in Jordan. Irregularities reported by the observers can be organized into two main categories:

Irregularities Limiting Citizens’ Freedom to Access Polling Centers:

• Al Hayat’s observers reported several incidents of tense confrontation between the supporters of different candidates. Violent clashes affected the election process in several areas in the Kingdom, hindering many voters from enjoying their right to freely access polling centers. This also affected citizens’ confidence in the fairness of the election process. Among the disputes that Al Hayat’s observers reported were those between candidates’ supporters in Tafilah, Irbid and Mafraq, in addition to a reported violent confrontation near the Riyashi School in Jerash, where police forces were brought in to contain the situation.

• Four citizens were arrested in Mafraq for attempting to vote more than once, and another 6 were arrested for attempting to use forged IDs. A number of a candidate’s supporters were also arrested in Balqa for attempting to forge IDs, and in Madaba’s First District, a voter was arrested for attempting to vote using another person’s ID.

• Al Hayat’s observers noticed active campaigning around most polling centers. Campaigners tended to impose themselves on voters as they approached polling centers, and campaign materials were placed inside many polling centers and in the areas surrounding them. Al Hayat Center considers campaign activities near polling centers as a serious violation of voters’ right to vote freely.

Irregularities Limiting Voters’ Free Choice: Vote-buying and Violation of the Secrecy of the Vote

• Vote-buying obviously accompanied the campaign period and Election-Day. Some candidates’ supporters and citizens described the common buying scenarios, such as holding voters’ IDs by some candidates until Election Day in exchange of certain amounts of money, or requesting voters to swear on the Qur’an that they would vote for a specific candidate for a certain amount of money. Some candidates also confiscated voters’ IDs to prevent them from voting for their opponents. Observers reported vote-buying incidents in Amman, Zarqa, Ajloun, Mafraq and Tafilah. In Irbid’s Fourth District, the son of one of the candidates and another candidate’s supporter were arrested for vote-buying, and another was expelled from the polling center for the same reason.

Irregularities Limiting Voters’ Free Choice: Vote-buying and Violation of the Secrecy of the Vote

• Several incidents of breaching the secrecy of the vote were reported in Irbid, Tafilah, Mafraq and Ma’an. These breaches came in different forms. Most notably, many citizens in Irbid’s Third District voted publicly as illiterates, and similar cases were observed in Ma’an and Mafraq. Some whole tribes in Ma’an had planned to vote publicly in order to ensure that they all vote for the tribe’s candidate. It is worth pointing out that such public voting arrangements reduced vote-buying in some areas such as Ma’an. However, in other cases it was used as a tool to execute vote-buying deals. In all cases, public voting violates voters’ right to cast their ballots freely and secretly.
• On Election Day, Al Hayat's observers also reported several complaints of the inaccuracy of voters’ lists in Mafraq, Amman and North Badia. In Mafraq's First District, for instance, some voters were told that the computer system showed that they had already voted or that their names were not listed. Similar cases were reported in Jarsah, Amman's First and Second Districts, Madaba's First District, Tafilah, Irbid, and some polling stations in North Badia.

• In the early hours of Election Day, observers reported the suspension of voting in the following polling centers due to computer system breakdown:
  - Khawla Bent Al Azwar - Ajloun's Second District
  - Birin and Yaqout Al Hamawi Schools - Zarqa's Second District
  - Al Qarti School - Zarqa's First District
  - Al Tafilah and Abu Banna Schools - Tafilah
  - Six polling centers in North Badia
  - A polling center in Madaba
  - Most polling centers in Mafraq
  - Al Sukhna School - Zarqa
  - Souf and Loubna Bent Al Hareth Schools - Jarash

Al Hayat believes that using information technologies definitely adds a positive value to voting procedures as it could prevent multiple voting, which was among the most reported violations in previous elections. However, frequent computer breakdowns on Election Day negatively affected the voting process in some areas. Al Hayat observers noticed that most breakdowns took place early in the morning outside major cities and that most breakdowns were repaired later on.

**Media Monitoring**

Al Hayat's media monitoring process focused on observing the coverage of the election process by local media. Four daily newspapers were covered in the monitoring project (Al Ghad, Al Rai, Addustour and Al Arab Al Yawm), in addition to six news portals (Ammon News, Saraya, Amman Net, Rum, Petra, and Sawsana). The key media monitoring findings were:

• In general, media has provided a fair coverage of candidates and their political platforms. Candidates also vigorously pursued exposure, which is an indicator of increased freedom of expression.

• In terms of media coverage of political parties, media focused on covering the activities of the Islamic Action Front (IAF). 55% of this coverage was negative, 44% neutral and 5% was seen as supportive.

• Observers also reported incidents of electricity blackout in Ajloun, Mafraq, and Jarash, leading to the suspension of voting in polling centers in these areas.

• Election administration (Ministry of Interior-MOI) is mostly covered in a highly positive fashion. In total, 63% of this coverage was positive, 23 % neutral and 14% critical of MOI decisions and performance.

• Media rigorously covered electoral irregularities, especially vote-buying. 58% of their coverage has been critical towards the government's way of dealing with these violations, 31% neutral and only 11% supported how the government handled these alleged violations.
• Daily newspapers have allotted special pages for election coverage, starting with the candidate registration process which was positive in providing the readers with the opportunity to observe electoral activities in all regions and towns. Having all these topics in one space also made it more convenient for readers to follow the news and commentaries on elections.

• The team also observed several violations of the law by the Audiovisual Commission on media coverage during the election campaign. The provisions of this law emphasize the media's neutrality and bans language that is deemed to be offensive for candidates. This legislation also regulates the time that is allowed for candidates' radio and TV advertisements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on its observation of Jordan's 2007 parliamentary election, Al Hayat presents a number of recommendations, the application of which would significantly contribute to the advancement of the democratic process. These recommendations are:

• The Jordanian legal framework should be amended to recognize and guarantee non-partisan domestic observers' rights and responsibilities to observe different stages of the election cycle, including the candidate registration process. Independent, non-partisan domestic observation of electoral processes and guaranteeing observers' access to voter registration sites, candidate registration sites, meetings of election administration bodies, and voting stations, would improve the transparency and the integrity of the election process as well as increase citizens' confidence and ultimately increase voter participation in election.

• Laws regulating election campaign finances should be legislated in order to limit excessive spending on publicity campaigns and reduce the discrepancy in candidates' opportunities to compete on equal basis.

• The election legal framework needs to be amended to ensure the establishment of an independent election administration body that would take the responsibility to manage and oversee the electoral process.

• The election legal framework needs to be amended to empower an independent committee within the election administration to deal with electoral complaints and appeals, with the courts serving as the ultimate decision-makers in such matters.

• Election administration should provide comprehensive election process information well in advance of the registration and campaign periods. There should also be opportunities for candidates, media and citizens to obtain information about the process, specific candidates and the current state of each application (for example, one solution would be a website with information on applicants, their documents and the status of the review process for each applicant).

• Candidate registration and the process of complaints and appeals by the candidates and/or citizens should take place before the official political campaign starts. This would ensure that the principle of equality among contestants in an election is respected. Voters, candidates, media and election authorities have the right to know precisely who the contestants are at the very start of the campaign.
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• The candidate registration process should be extended from three days to at least two weeks in order to allow more time for applicants to respond promptly and prepare their applications, and to help decrease political tensions and voter confusion.

• Officially registered candidates should be listed in alphabetical order, as opposed to date of registration, in order to avoid bias.

• Voters' lists should be finalized as per clear and transparent procedures and made available to the public well before the election to ensure transparency.

• All forms of campaigning should be prohibited on Election Day to prevent restrictions on voters' free access to polling centers.

• All legal clauses related to election irregularities should be put into effect in order to limit violations committed by candidates and citizens.

• Election administration's transparency should be enhanced with regard to Election Day procedures, especially checking voters' lists, validating IDs and testing the efficiency of computer networks in advance.

• More training should be provided for administration personnel to ensure proper procedures and better communication with the voters.
AL HAYAT’S ELECTION OBSERVATION METHODOLOGY AND ACTIVITIES

Al Hayat started preparing for a national election observation project by building youth’s capacities through the AHAMIEH project which started in August 2007. The project included 14 training workshops in all governorates in which 700 youth participated, and then 25 debate sessions with electoral candidates in which 2,300 youth and 180 candidates took part. Through this project, Al Hayat was able to build its team’s capacities and create a group of active youth in each governorate. The Center was thus ready for the election observation process.

Media Monitoring

Through Al Rased election observation project, 15 youth were trained to observe the media to capture and analyze local journalists’ views about the Jordanian parliamentary election. Media monitoring also enabled the team to document and analyze Jordanian media’s coverage of the election.

Candidate Registration and Campaign Observation

Al Hayat also trained 180 youth to coordinate the observation of the candidate registration process and election campaign period. On October 19, Al Hayat conducted a coordinative session with all of its field coordinators. This was an important event for having a successful and organized observation of the campaign period. At this event, the coordinators had the chance to review, amend and adopt final monitoring forms, sign the “Observer’s Pledge” and agree with Al Hayat’s Code of Conduct on election monitoring, and adopt final organizational structure in terms of regional, governorate and district coordinators.

Observers were afterwards deployed in 45 districts all over Jordan. The observation process involved interviewing candidates and providing an objective assessment of the election administration’s performance during this period and the efficacy of registration procedures in light of the legal framework regulating this process. Based on its observation of campaigns and candidate registration, Al Hayat provided recommendations to improve the process by ensuring fairness and neutrality during this period.

Election Day Observation

For observing Election Day procedures, Al Hayat trained 1,500 youth from all over Jordan. Using especially tailored forms and questionnaires, observers monitored the integrity of the electoral process and government's transparency and impartiality towards candidates, as well as the behavior of candidates and voters.
ToT and Field Trainings

Within Al Rased project, 60 regional, governorate and district coordinators were trained in October 2007 on international standards for free and fair elections, in addition to the required skills to organize the observation operation. Coordinator training sessions focused on the Jordanian electoral legal framework and the principles of observation. These coordinators were also introduced to adult learning techniques and training skills, and were thus prepared to conduct election observation trainings for field observers as per a training program that covered all governorates.

Al Hayat also developed the set of observation forms and questionnaires which field observers used to collect the data on candidate registration, campaigns, and Election Day procedures. Moreover, observation training handbooks were developed for training purposes. Both the forms and handbooks were developed with the help of the National Democratic Institute, and were used in coordinators’ and field trainings.
Since its establishment in 2006, Al Hayat Center for Civil Society Development has concentrated on the necessity of integrating youth in the development process in Jordan. Al Hayat aims to provide the local community with the required skills to face its current and future challenges, enhance societies’ participation in decision making, and create a network of national and international governmental and nongovernmental organizations. The Center believes in the importance of cultural and professional exchange and interaction between Arab and international youth groups.

Al Hayat has implemented many activities that serve these goals. It started with the “Good Governance and the Rule of Law” project through educational activities in schools and universities around the country. The Center also participated in several international projects abroad, and it conducted a number of international activities in Jordan, such as the Jordanian-Danish youth exchange, Jordanian-American youth exchange, and a seminar involving 100 Arab and European participants to design future joint projects.

Al Hayat was proud to implement the AHAMIEH project, standing for the “Importance of Youth Inclusion in Elections”, in which 700 youth were trained on communication and advocacy skills and enhancing their role in the election process. The project also involved a tour around all governorates to conduct 25 debate sessions between the youth and candidates. Indeed, this project encouraged many young people to participate in the 2007 election.

Most recently, Al Hayat concluded Al Rased project in which 1,700 youth worked together to observe the 2007 parliamentary election.
Q1. Was the candidate previously nominated?

Q2. Did the candidate win any previous elections?
Q3. Have you occupied any previous high-level government position before standing for the parliamentary elections?

هل شغلت منصب حكومي رفيع المستوى قبل الترشح للانتخابات النيابية؟

Q4. Did the election administration request more documents for candidate registration than required by law?

هل طلبت إدارة الانتخابات منك وثائق أكثر مما يتطلبه القانون لتسجيلك كمرشح للانتخابات؟

Q5. Was any pressure exerted by the election administration or other governmental employees or institutions on candidates to withdraw or not submit their nomination papers?

هل مارست إدارة الانتخابات أو موظفون حكوميون أو مؤسسات حكومية أخرى أي ضغوط على مرشحك لكي تنسحب أو كي لا تتقدم بأوراق ترشيحك؟
Q6. Did the election administration generally abide by the law in the acceptance of your nominations?

هل تقيدت إدارة الانتخابات عموماً بالقانون لدى قبول ترشيحات المرشحين؟

Q7. Do you have any objections about your registration process?

هل يوجد لديك أي اعتراضات بشأن عملية تسجيل المرشح؟
Q8 In your opinion, how can the registration process be improved?

هل يكمن حسب رأيك خسبي عملية التسجيل؟

Q9 Do you have any complaints about the process of the election campaign? If the answer is yes recall three of them?

هل لديك أي شكاوى حول سير عملية حملة الانتخابات؟ If the answer is yes recall three of them?
Q10. Were you prevented from reserving a venue to hold your campaign activity?

هل سبق وأن مُنعت من الوصول إلى الموقع الذي تقيم فيه فعالية حملتك؟

Q11. Were any of your campaign activities disrupted? If yes, please describe the incident & state who initiated the disruption.

هل حصل وأن تم مقاطعة أي فعالية من فعاليات حملتك؟
Q12. Did you have equal access to the media as other candidates?
هل حظيت بفرصة للوصول لوسائل الإعلام يوازي وصول المرشحين الآخرين؟

Q13. Did you face any challenges in printing and distributing your campaign signs & literature?
هل تواجه أي تحديات في طباعة وتوزيع شارات ونشرات حملتك الانتخابية؟
Q14. Did you face any pressure by other candidates/parties or public figures during your campaign?

هل تعرضت لأي ضغوط من قبل المرشحين/الأحزاب الأخرى أو من قبل شخصيات شعبية أثناء حملتك؟

Q15. Did you file official complaints to the Higher Elections Committee about the violations you experienced? If yes, what were the results?

هل قمت بتقديم أي شكاوي رسمية إلى لجنة الانتخابات العليا حول المخالفات التي تعرضت لها.
Q1. Is the polling station clearly marked for the voters?

Yes 87%
No 13%

Q2. Is there any campaign material in the polling center premises? If Yes, specify for which candidate/party.

Yes 3%
No 97%
Q3. Did the members of the Committee attended the ballot on time?

هل حضر أعضاء لجنة الإقتراع في الوقت المحدد؟

Yes  No
12%  88%

Q4. Is there a large presence of policemen at the polling center? Approximately how many are there?

هل يوجد حضور غير طبيعي للشرطة في مركز الإقتراع؟

Yes  No
15%  85%
Q5. Did the polling center open at exactly 7:00 am?

Q5. هل مركز الإقتراع فتح تماماً في الساعة السابعة صباحاً؟

Yes: 94%
No: 6%

Q6. Did the representatives of candidates presence in the room at the place where the ballot to verify the safety and readiness of the polling box/s? ما نشأ من الأدبيات والاحتياطات عند التأكد من سلامة الصناديق ومدى جاهزيتها؟

Yes: 94%
No: 6%
Are polling station officials checking the voters’ identity?

- Yes: 94.50%
- No: 5.50%

 هل يتحقق المسؤولين في مكان الاقتراع من هوية الناخبين؟

Are voters being allowed to vote without their voter ID card? That shows the national number?

- Yes: 3.20%
- No: 96.80%

هل يسمح للناخبين بالاقتراع دون ابراز هويتهم التعريفية؟
Were any voters prevented from voting?

- Yes: 8.70%
- No: 92.30%

Were there any incidents of group voting?

- Yes: 5.40%
- No: 94.60%

Was any pressure exerted on the voter’s choice while marking their ballot?

- Yes: 3.10%
- No: 96.90%
Were voters able to mark their ballots in secrecy?

- 91% Yes
- 9% No

Did the polling station Commute sign the Polling card?

- 96.30% Yes
- 3.70% No
Was there any campaign material or active campaigning taking place inside the polling station?

- Yes: 9.10%
- No: 90.90%

Did anyone enter the polling station without the approval of the polling station chairman?

- Yes: 2.10%
- No: 97.90%

هل هناك مواد دعائية أو حملات دعائية داخل مقرات الانتخاب؟

هل دخل مكان الاقتراع أي شخص دون موافقة رئيس مكان الاقتراع؟
Were any official complaints filed during election day?

- Yes: 3.50%
- No: 96.50%

Do polling station officials seem to be managing the polling station in an efficient manner?

- Yes: 92.50%
- No: 7.50%

Was any pressure exerted on special needs voter's choice to change their opinion?

- Yes: 4.30%
- No: 95.70%