



## Hayat Center - Rased

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## THE INTERVENTIONS OF CURRENT MPS ARE AFFECTING THE COURSE OF FAIRNESS OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

- RASSED: Electoral justice is at stake.
- Current MPs' interventions are affecting the course of the fairness of the electoral process.
- MPs are using the current parliament to promote their campaigns and electoral ads.
- MPs are using the current parliament to influence the freedom of voters in the upcoming elections.

\* This work was carried out by long-term monitors as part of the process of monitoring the parliamentary elections 2020



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COURSE OF FAIRNESS OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

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Amman, Jordan

The RASED team is following with great interest the progress of the 2020 parliamentary election process, especially with regard to the standards of electoral justice and the extent of its dedication and ensuring that it is applied to all female and male candidates. Within this context, the RASED team has received complaints from some of those who intend to run in the elections, and the complaints were centered on the exploitation of some current MPs of the powers available to them and the privileges that the MPs possess, even though they are now candidates for the current parliamentary elections, which all contribute to violating the electoral justice standard.

The complaints included some reservations related to giving priority to some candidates over others, and the continued presence of current MPs with their privileges, such as their use of their offices in the Parliament's building to receive citizens, using their red license plate vehicles which facilitate entry into ministries and government institutions in an easy manner, and by using their status as current MPs, which affects the course of the electoral process, thus the exploitation of this situation by current MPs and their promotion by making use of their relations with some current ministers and government officials to provide them with facilities and services, given that these facilities and services provide a service for the sake of citizens, but in reality, they can be used as electoral propaganda for these MPs when they are viewed chronologically.

With 103 MPs announcing their desire to run, RASED received many complaints from those intending to run or their supporters about the continuing work of these MPs in providing services to their electoral bases, and at the same time, these MPs present themselves as candidates.

Some of the situations that were flagged by the RASED team for some of the current MPs that may affect the electoral process in general and the electoral justice standard in particular as electoral propaganda, were as follows:

- A current MP has published on his personal Facebook page a post announcing to the citizens of his district that the door will be opened for registration file for the distribution and sale of lands in his governorate at prices subsidized by the state.
- A current MP has published a letter signed by a minister indicating that the necessary approvals have been obtained regarding the sewage network at costs of tens of millions, which angered

other candidates in the same district and considered this letter as an electoral promotion in favor of the MP who intends to run in the elections.

- A current MP directed a letter to the Prime Minister and the President of the Civil Service Bureau regarding the appointments of his governorate's sons to a newly established hospital in the governorate. He also sent a letter to the president of a public university to ask to cancel the fees for academic-exempt subjects.
- A current MP announced on his official Facebook page that he had visited the Ministry of Education to continue building classrooms for a school in his governorate.
- A current MP, who posted on his official page on Facebook, stated that he had received requests from parents of doctorate students abroad and sent a letter to the Prime Minister asking him to cancel the residency requirement for them.
- A current MP announced on his official Facebook page that he had contacted the Prime Minister and the Minister of Education to solve the problems of schools in his governorate.
- A current MP reported on his official page on Facebook that he had contacted the Minister of Education regarding complaints of citizens of his region regarding the absorption of students coming from private schools into public schools.
- A current MP has published on his official page on Facebook a message that he addressed to the Prime Minister regarding opening the door for evaluation of major and subsidiary specialization certificates for all doctors in the various health sectors.

In this context, Dr. Amer Bani Amer, General Director of Hayat-RASED, affirms that the official authorities must provide the necessary guarantees in order to achieve electoral justice, establish the principle of equality of opportunities and competition among all candidates, and take legal measures against anyone who tries to influence the course of the elections.

Dr. Amer also stressed the need to stop some MPs from exploiting their legal parliamentary status and privileges, canceling the facilities and special services for them by some current ministers and government officials, and that they should be treated as everyone who intends to run, because this affects the entire course of the electoral process, and thus the true essence is not achieved for electoral justice, which is ensuring equal opportunities for all candidates of the 2020 19th Parliament's elections.