



## Hayat Center - Rased

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## RASSED Releases the Final Report for Monitoring the 19<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary Elections of 2020

January 31, 2021

Amman, Jordan

Hayat - RASSED: Dr. Amer Bani Amer, General Director of the RASSED coalition team for the 2020 Parliamentary Elections, stated that the political regime's determination to run the 19th parliamentary elections is considered an attribution to apply the rules of democracy to ensure the participation of citizens in the decision-making process with regards to the challenging conditions due to the pandemic.

Dr. Bani Amer pointed out the efforts made by the Independent Election Commission exhibited a great deal of impartiality and integrity in administering the elections. Furthermore, he ensured the need to prevent intervention whatsoever in the election process other than the IEC's to stop affecting the outcomes of the electoral process.

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



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According to the issued report , RASED team detected a number of complaints of interventions by some official and semi-official bodies prior to the end of the withdrawal deadline of candidates to encourage neutralization and withdrawal . This had a direct influence not only on the freedom of candidates but also the freedom of voters .These interventions contributed, directly and indirectly, in affecting the outcomes of the electoral process, for example, the case of the third District in Amman and the Madaba District.

The report showed that the cases of corrupt money and vote buying ,which were witnessed before and during the election day ,had an impact on the overall electoral process, especially since we had seen an unprecedented increase in this phenomenon. During all stages of the electoral process fifty-one cases related to vote buying and the use of corrupt money were detected. Nine of which were transferred to the security services, while 42 cases were transferred to the prosecutor .Even though all cases were transferred to the prosecutor only a small number of the cases were truly handled regardless of the fact that all cases were supported with evidence provided by IEC.

The continuation of prosecuting the transferred complaints lead to the weakening of the citizens' trust in the adequacy of the legislations and practices in prosecuting crime producers and reducing the incidence of such crimes. Furthermore, such stance led to the more vote-buying. RASED stresses that this phenomenon has violated electoral justice between candidates and has violated the electoral freedom of voters. Moreover, this reaction allowed for more pressure to guide voters toward certain candidates

In regard to the performance of electoral workers in elections, members of the election committees deployed in all parts of the Kingdom showed a significant weakness in executing procedures and instructions specified for the elections. In particular the final vote counting stage, which saw numerous practices based on personal perspective. The observation team revealed that there was a difference in the clarity and application of the procedures which was a key factor in increasing tension in the final vote counting centers. Repetitions of errors were also witnessed during the data entry stage especially when the input was on live broadcast Infront of the audience. This particular issue weakened the trust and credibility of the female and male candidates in the committees

RASED calls for developing the legislative frameworks governing the elections with the aim of promoting democratic development and electoral reform, to contribute to the reduction of electoral irregularities and crimes and to ensure the achievement of elections in harmonization with international best practices and international standards of freedom, transparency, justice and integrity, and ensuring fair representation of women and youth.

RASED recommended the development of procedures that adopt the integrity of the electoral process regarding the adequate timeframe for correcting distortions in polling centers in addition to opening the door for electronic objections to a certain voting center within a constituency, and the need to develop a training system for the polling and counting committees. In addition to enhancing quality control mechanisms in terms of equipping these committees with the necessary skills to fully execute the voting process, vote counting and tabulation within the legal framework and in a uniform manner with other voting centers.

A number of recommendations were presented regarding consolidating electoral justice, most importantly to ensure non-interference by any party in the electoral process, and to form field teams at the constituencies' level whose mission is to monitor spending on election campaigns and their compatibility with the legislative framework governing electoral campaigns and to limit practices related to the use of corrupt money. The report included recommendations related to enhancing electoral transparency and achieving electoral freedom.

It is noteworthy that nearly 29 studies, statements and reports were issued during the elections that were transparently published for the media and the citizens. RASED worked through a total of two hundred and fifty-two CSOs distributed among all constituencies in addition to a number of three thousand observers following all stages of the elections. The report included a comparison of the electoral procedures with international standards governing the elections. For the final report, please visit the following link: <https://ibit.ly/c2VR>