



მედიაცენტრი • MediaCentre

Statement №2

*January 5, 2008
14:00*

According to the information available to ISFED as of 14:00, the voting process is conducted in a tense environment. The observers of the organization observed the following violations:

Not Allowing observers in the Election Precincts

The representatives of ISFED and other observer organizations were forcibly led out of the election precinct #22 of the #25 Tsalka Election District. As a result, these persons are precluded from conducting their observation missions. After contacting the Central Election Commission, ISFED observer was allowed in the precinct. However, other observers were still precluded from implementing their observation missions. It is noteworthy, that the PEC Chairperson Pikria Saghbov made ISFED observer leave the precinct eventually. Moreover, the Head of the local police Iuri Modebadze threatened the observer to physically insult him in case he did not cease the attempts of entering the election precinct. The problem has not been dealt with yet and the organization is prevented from implementing its non-partisan observation mission despite the fact that the CEC has been informed about this violation immediately.

ISFED observers were not allowed in #72 Election Precinct of #59 Kutaisi Election District and #6 Election Precinct of #70 Poti Election District. According to the explanation provided by the PEC members, the observer has the right to enter the precinct only after 8:00. Similar violations were observed in precincts #35 and #68 of the #67 Zugdidi Election District as well as #6 (military) Election Precinct of #81 Kobuleti Election District and precincts #5 and #54 of the Batumi Election District #79. It is noteworthy that, the observers were eventually allowed in the abovementioned election precincts only after the involvement of ISFED lawyers.

Procedural Violations in the Election Precincts

Demonstration protocols together with samples of the ballots and voting instructions had not been yet posted by 10:00 in election precincts #33, #34 of #44 Ambrolauri Election District, as well as in election precincts #45 and #84 of the #59 Kutaisi Election District. As PECs clarified, they had not been provided with the abovementioned instructions by the DEC. Nevertheless, as of present period, the documentation are posted in the PECs except for the instructions and the demonstration protocols are filled in accordingly. The demonstration protocols were not posted also in precincts #30 and #71 of the #79 Batumi Election District at the time of their opening. According to the PEC of the same DEC, they have not received any demonstration protocols. The demonstration protocol was posted with delay in #11 precinct of #83 Khelvachauri Election District only after the ISFED observer's notice to the PEC members. The samples of filled in ballots have not also been posted in precinct #5 of the #14 Dedoplistskaro Election District.

The Precinct Election Commission #22 of the #24 Dmanisi Election District has not received the envelopes of the different size and color. The Election District is trying to provide this particular PEC with the envelopes, however they are hampered by the bad weather.

UV lamp was damaged in #2 election precinct of the #52 Bagdati Election District. However, despite the instructions made by ISFED observer, the voting process continued without checking inking during half an hour. As of the present period, there is already a new UV lamp device at the abovementioned election precinct. There was a delay during the voting process for the same reason – the UV lamp went out of order in #30 election precinct of #79 Batumi Election District and in #18 election precinct of #80 Keda Election District. The problem is solved now – the DEC's provided the PECs with new UV Lamps. There was an attempt of PEC members in #48 election precinct of the #12 Election District to enable voters vote without inking. Although, after directions by ISFED observer the attempt has not been repeated.

ISFED observer wrote a complaint in #55 election precinct of the #60 Ozurgeti Election District as the control sheet was thrown in the ballot box before it was sealed.

The casting of lots has been already finished by 7:00 in #18 and #19 election precincts of #15 Lagodekhi Election District.

The Acceptance and Delivery Act did not indicate the number of the ballots received in #37, #38 and #39 election precincts of #17 Telavi Election District. The polling was conducted in 2 rooms with the registration desk and the ballot box placed in separate rooms in the #39 election precinct of the same Election District. The Acceptance and Delivery Act does not exist in the #46 election precinct of #82 Shuakhevi Election District and the Acceptance and Delivery Act in #94 election precinct of #9 Nadzaladevi Election District does not indicate the number of the ballots received.

Voters' lists

The copy machine does not operate in #95 election precinct of #59 Kutaisi Election District. As a result, the voters who are not included in the unified voters' list can not vote by means of an additional list. Due to not having the form of an additional list, the voting process by means of an additional list was delayed in the #14 election precinct of #60 Ozurgeti Election District.

The employees of the Border Police Department are erroneously added to the unified voters' list according to the place of their dislocation in #4 election precinct of #79 Batumi Election District. The same violation was observed at #8 election precinct of #1 Mtatsminda Election District, where the State Security Policemen were voting by means of the unified voters' list, however their living address did not fall within the boundaries of that precinct. According to the CEC, this process is conducted in accordance with the article 9 paragraph 5 of the Unified Election Code of Georgia, which provides that those police members whose work conditions require that they live at different addresses from their actual places of residence are included in the unified voters' list. However, it must be mentioned that the abovementioned members of the Defense police were registered in other Election Districts and could vote according to their places of registration.

The unified handwritten list of police employees was submitted in the morning to #1 election precinct of #56 Chiatura Election District.

14 voters were added to the special list on the election day in #14 election precinct of #7 Chugureti Election District. In addition, the special list is posted separately from the polling room.

Documentation Needed for the Voting

In election precinct #8 of the #67 Zugdidi Election District, the Internally Displaced Persons vote by means of an additional list while providing only ID cards without IDP cards.

Several cases were observed in #53 election precinct of #59 Kutaisi Election District when the voters were allowed to vote despite the fact that the information in their ID cards did not match the data of the voters' list.

The voters were allowed to vote by means of outdated ID Cards in election precinct #42 of the #79 Batumi Election District. After the note made by ISFED observer this violation was eliminated.

Various

50 ballots were transferred to the #75 election precinct from the #2 election precinct of #79 Batumi Election District by the reason as if the latter election precinct did not have the sufficient amount of ballots. ISFED observer has already written the complaint accordingly.

Serious violations were observed at the #40 election precinct of the #22 Marneuli Election District. The PEC members did not ink the voters and in most cases also did not check the inking. ISFED observer observed two activists of the United National Movement, one is dealing with the voter flow while the other activist is standing at the voting booth stating that the voters can not read and write and need assistance while filling in the ballot. The abovementioned activists also agitated actively in support of one of the presidential candidates. In addition, cases of double voting were observed. The observer noticed that voters in many instances have two or more ID cards and voted again by means of them. The same situation was observed in the election precinct #30 of #22 Marneuli Election District.

An unidentified person ran into the election precinct #1 of the #17 Telavi Election District and stuffed ballots in the ballot box. As a result, the aforementioned election precinct has been closed.

It is noteworthy, that the voters who passed through the inking procedures attempted to vote again in election precinct #80 of the #3 Saburtalo Election District. It is worth mentioning, that these voters were transported by the same bus.

It is important to mention that the activists of the United National Movement created the so called "cordon" and stuffed ballots into the ballot box in # 13 election precinct of # 37 Akhaltsikhe election district. The ISFED observer was not given a chance to write a complaint.

Voters' Turnout

We present the voters' turnout as of 12:00

According to the official data of the CEC – 13.4%

According to the data of ISFED – 13.0%

As of the present moment, 0.8% of the registered voters have voted by means of additional lists.

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