

**Monitor the process of reforming the electoral path in Iraq
Through Iraqi and international civil society organizations reports**

First report

The Independent Electoral Commission in Iraq (IECI) encourages the independent local monitoring of civil society institutions but it does not follow the implementation of its actions within the local control mechanisms teams. Most of these team's lack training and mechanisms for effective systematic monitoring and non-compliance with reporting to the effectiveness and objectivity and non-follow-up of the results of its recommendations. With a good number of recommendations contributed significantly to the improvement of the electoral process.

As part of the monitoring the electoral reform process in Iraq, Al Noor Universal foundation has tracked and collected a large number of Iraqi civil society organizations reports through its monitoring of local or federal elections and the referendum in all Iraqi governorates except Kurdistan Region from 2005 until July 1, 2019, Civil society in reforming the electoral process in Iraq and as one of the tools that enhance public confidence in the electoral process by ensuring that a responsible reform process complies with the recommendations of those reports.

These networks and organizations were contacted by various means of communication, an announcement was made on the social networking site, meetings were held with commission sub-offices in eight governorates (Basra, Najaf, Baghdad, Diyala, Salah al-Din, Anbar, Kirkuk and Nineveh). The National Office in the presence of Commissioners Board member and a large group of commission senior officials' departments in the National Office, including those responsible for receiving these reports

The first phase was completed by Al-Noor Universal Foundation, review and study 50 thematic recommendations reports that issued by different networks and organizations and to various local and federal elections. During this period, Al-Noor Universal Foundation faced several challenges in this area, and those challenges were:

- 1** - the Independent High Electoral Commission offices of in the provinces doesn't keep copies of those reports even the provincial council reports, which should be put a great attention to them.
- 2**- The Independent High Electoral Commission offices in the governorates do not study these reports and draw up a summary of the most important challenges they face, as well as not holding any meeting with the institutions that monitored the challenges of the electoral process after the elections.
- 3**- The National Office does not professionally archive and store reports, and it does not possess many of those reports.
- 4**-The National Office does not hold meetings to discuss such reports except in indivial cases that have occurred sporadically.
- 5**- Civil society organizations do not follow up on a regular basis of their recommendations reports with the competent authorities
- 6** - Lack of a large number of reports of civil society organizations to professional and literate writing of reports, which include many gaps.
- 7**- Many organizations operating under surveillance networks know nothing about the network's reports, since a number of networks do not provide them with such reports and those institutions are not interested in requesting them.
- 8**- Many organizations are committed to reporting if they are committed to a donor, but they do not follow up or keep a copy. Some organizations have reported to us that some donors have received data from partner organizations and have prepared the monitoring report without providing a copy of it.
- 9**- There is no Iraqi agency has adopted a study or archiving or follow the reform of the electoral process through the reports of civil society institutions.
- 10**- It was found that a number of reports were issued by the organizations and are located on social networking sites but were not handed over to the IHEC.
- 11**- A number of institutions change the reports of their monitoring several times during the monitoring of a particular electoral process according to changes in the electoral process and not according to their real monitoring.
- 12**- The absence of reports monitoring that deal with all aspects of the electoral process, including electoral activities in the pre-polling and post-polling periods, despite the fact that these teams are entitled to observe all aspects of the electoral process.

13- The Commission do not to follow up and demand the non-governmental organizations that have obtained monitoring instruments to submit their reports, despite the law that impose submit an initial report within three days at the end of polling day and a final report within 30 days from the end of the polling day. According to the local control system teams issued by the Commission, Article (Observers shall submit their observations to their superiors and the team may issue an official public report commenting on these observations and submit an initial report within 3 days of polling day and final report to the Commission on the results of their activities within one month The elections of the Representatives Council witnessed large number registration of the organizations and the annexation of 1000 observers, but reports were submitted only in a very limited number without taking any measures to the Commission to ensure the procedures implementation issued by them.

14- Many non-governmental organizations that monitored the elections did not interest for the proper reports archiving and resulted in the loss of many of them as a result of poor archiving or websites technical malfunction other reasons.

15- Its notable that some Iraqi institutions have provided some good and important reports and if they have been objectively pursued to make significant progress in the reforming the electoral process.

16- A number of networks and non-governmental organizations are committed to the monitoring process at different stages with high impartiality and objectivity.

The importance of electoral monitoring by civil society organizations is that it gives great transparency and credibility to any electoral process and represents a guarantee for an independent, impartial and objective electoral process evaluation, encourages participation and builds voter confidence in the electoral process, provides confidence to candidates and encourages results acceptance and contribute to the disputes resolution on related issues, while also strengthening the civil society institutions role in society. Therefore, **Al-Noor Universal Foundation has taken upon itself the responsibility to follow up as many recommendations as possible and to follow up the implementation of a number of these recommendations according to the classification that established by Al-Noor foundation to comply with the international standards of electoral integrity, and its impact on the electoral process and lessons learned. For researchers and interested in monitoring the civil society of the electoral process and its role in the reform process.**

The Adopted mechanism by Al-Noor universal Foundation includes the recommendations follow-up in the following ways:

1- Compile all the exists recommendations in the monitoring reports of networks and non-governmental organizations based on a recommendations detailed database of civil society

obtained including (organization name and recommendation, context, recommendation party, analysis / observations, follow-up)

- 2- Al – Noor universal Foundation will follow-up (25) recommendations that meet the criteria of Al – Noor universal Foundation (which is within the framework of the electoral process, identify the responsible party, the problem existence within the report context that led to this recommendation)
- 3- The Al-Noor Foundation will prepare a specific form for each selected recommendation in the purpose of clarifying them in a number of ways, including: the institution / party concerned with the recommendation, legal change, relevant standards, formal action / response, other necessary procedures, analysis and notes)
- 4- The Al-Noor Universal Foundation will prepare a special form to follow up on each selected recommendation in paragraph 3.
- 5 - Al - Nour Universal foundation will allocate a window on (Noourakib) website only for these recommendations.

About Al Noor Universal Foundation

Al-Noor Universal Foundation (NUF) a non-governmental organization, local, independent, voluntary, moral lyceum in Iraq, founded in Diyala province, June 10, 2003 and works at the national level aimed at building and developing the capabilities of state institutions, civil society institutions, independent bodies and community citizens leaders in the following programs:

- 1- Promote rationalize governance Programs. (Building local governments to adopt a policy of rationalize governance)
- 2- Anti-corruption programmes (Building popular and political will to confront corruption))
- 3- Stability of unstable and liberated areas (safe and sustainable areas)

(Noorakib) project

Noorakib a project is launched by the Al Noor universal Foundation with the support of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in eight governorates: (Anbar, Baghdad, Basra, Diyala, Kirkuk, Najaf, Nineveh and Salah al-Din.) It aims to strengthen the role of civil society institutions in the long-term monitoring of the electoral process, which aims at:

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1. Analysis of the electoral law framework

Strengthening the civil society capacity to contribute effectively to the legal framework reform process.

2. Long-term monitoring

Enhancing the transparency and integrity of the electoral process through effective supervision of the pre-election process.

3. electoral reform process Monitoring

Enhancing public confidence in the electoral process by ensuring commitment to responsible reform.

4. data bar Open elections

Building the capacity of civil society to effectively monitor the technological aspects of the electoral process



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