



*Enhancing the voter confidence in the electoral process
Provincial and district council elections*



THE SEVENTH REPORT

**2019 ,17 to November 5 For the period from October
provincial council elections 2020 Registering electoral alliances and lists of candidates for the**

**It is issued by Al-Noor Universal Foundation
2019 Project Nurakib**



Seventh Report Monitor alliance registration and submit candidate lists For the 2020 provincial council elections

Executive summary

In continuation of the long-term monitoring process of the Al-Noor Universal Foundation for the provincial and district council elections in Iraq, the Al-Noor Universal Foundation monitored the process of registering electoral alliances and candidates for the 2020 provincial council elections for the period from 5 October 2019 to 17 November 2019 in eight Iraqi governorates. Anbar, Baghdad, Basra, Diyala, Kirkuk, Najaf, Nineveh, and Salah al-Din.

The Al-Noor Universal foundation launching its project (**Noorakib**) with the support of the National Democratic Institute (NDI), which aims to enhance voter confidence in the electoral process, and work to ensure the integrity, impartiality and fairness of the electoral process by conducting long-term, impartial and effective monitoring in eight governorates: Anbar, Baghdad, Basra, Diyala, Kirkuk, Najaf, Nineveh, and Salah al-Din.

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he importance of the governorate councils is that they are considered the legislative and monitoring body in the governorates that are not organized in a region and responsible for electing and dismissing the governor , appointing governorates departments directors and dismissing them and approving the budget for developing regions, determining the governorate general policy , and the power of a number of ministries were transferred to them according to the law governing irregular provinces in the region No. 21 For the year 2008 and its three amendments (First Amendment Law No.15 of 2015 and the second amendment No. 19 of 2013 and the third amendment No. 10 of 2018). Which was scheduled to take place a year and a half ago. As it was scheduled to take place with the elections of the House of Representatives on May 12, 2018 and it was postponed to December 22, 2018, to set another date for it on November 16, 2019. Then, the date of 1 April 2020 was set according to Law No. 14 of 2019, the first amendment of the Governorate Council Elections Law.

Whereas, the (IHEC) set the period from 5 September to 5 October 2019 for the purpose of registering electoral alliances with the Department of Party Affairs and Political Organizations at the Commission, as well as it also allowed more time for political parties to enter the electoral alliances, when the registration date has been extended to October 25, 2019, and for lack of alliances registration due to the circumstances the country is going through the out break of demonstrations, which is calling for reform and eradication of corruption, so it was also extended until October 31, 2019, then another extension until November 17, 2019. Likewise, the Commission, through the Department of Parties and Political Organizations, has opened the door for submitting lists of candidates for parties, electoral alliances and individual lists from October 8, 2019 to November 5, 2019, and to be extended with the extension of alliances registration until November 20, 2019.

THROUGH THE FOLLOW-UP OF LONG-TERM OBSERVERS, DURING THIS PERIOD, THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS WERE RECORDED:

- 1 The decision of the Iraqi Council of Ministers to postpone the provincial council elections 2020, for a date to be determined later, needs to be studied, as the date of the governorate council elections 2020 has been decided on April 1, 2020 by law by the Iraqi parliament. Where the text of the law states ((Article (13), the two clauses (first and third) of Article (44) are amended to read as follows: First: The date of the elections is determined by a decision of the Council of Ministers based on a proposal from the Commission to be announced by the various media before the date set for holding it by (60) days. An exception, is to the provincial council elections for 2020, It should take place on April 4 2020. Third: The work of the irregular provincial councils in a region, the districts, and the current areas ends on 1/3/2020 , As this decision needs to be amended by the electoral law concerning this point.
- 2 Although the Political Parties and Political Organizations Department opened the door for electoral alliances, it did not witness the registration of any electoral alliances, and no lists of candidates were submitted except for the lists of candidates for electoral alliances, parties and individual lists.
- 3 The Commission continues to suffer from a lack of transparency and access to information due to the frequent closure of its website. Thus, it is difficult for the electoral process partners to follow the developments of the electoral process.
- 4 The Department of Parties and Political Organizations suspended the registration process for electoral alliances and refused to receive lists of candidates based on the decision of the Council of Ministers, and did not stop with the knowledge of the Iraqi Parliament's opinion that the law is in effect that the elections on 1 April 2020.
- 5 By the Al-Noor Universal Foundation observing , this important stage in the electoral process stages, During the electoral process, the institution's monitors did not record the presence or interest of civil society organizations and political parties in monitoring this stage.

RECOMMENDATIONS

After analyzing the results of monitoring electoral alliance registration and candidate lists during the period which covered by this report, the Al Noor universal foundation recommends :

1- We recommend that the (IHEC) must abide by its obligations and implement international standards for transparent elections in line with the right to access information through the perpetuation of its website and its interest in it and provide it with all electoral information in order to facilitate the process of tracking the work of the electoral stages by the electoral process partners.

2- We remind that the Iraqi Council of Ministers must immediately consult with the Iraqi Council of Representatives regarding the postponement of the provincial council elections to take legal steps in this matter.

3- We emphasize that the (IHEC) Before stopping the process of registering electoral alliances and receiving lists of candidates by addressing the Iraqi parliament to know the real situation, the law is explicit in determining the date of the elections on April 1, 2020.

4- We remind civil society institutions and political entities on the necessity to devote the principle of observation that is concerned with all aspects and stages of the electoral process, including electoral activities in the pre-polling day and post-polling day periods, and not to limit the monitoring process to polling day only.

Al-Noor Universal Foundation (NUF)

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:

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

(Noorakib) project

NUF continues deploying a long term observation mission and its monitoring efforts of the various aspects of the pre-election period processes in the eight targeted provinces (Anbar, Baghdad, Basra, Diyala, Kirkuk, Najaf, Ninawa, and Salahaddin). NUF conducts activities planned over, these activities include:

- * Strengthen civil society's capacity to effectively contribute to the legal framework reform process.
- * Long Term Observation: NUF conducts its long term observation efforts through field supervisors, and long term observers
- * Reform Process Monitoring: NUF tracks the progress or lack of progress on addressing recommendations by the IHEC and other key actors.
- * Open Election Data Barometer: NUF works on updating the Open Election Data Barometer on the Noorakib website.



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