



## The 2010 Parliamentary Election:

## Vote Counting Process of Women Quota Seats

## Nazra for Feminist Studies

### About the Coalition:

The Independent Coalition for Election Observation includes three non-governmental organizations: Egyptian Association for Community Participation Enhancement (EACPE), Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS), and Nazra Association for Feminist Studies. Throughout the electoral process, EACPE has monitored the situation on the ground through an extensive network of field monitors, CIHRS has been observing the media,

الإئتلاف المستقل لمراقبة الانتخابات  
الأعضاء



هذا التقرير صادر بدعم من الإتحاد الأوروبي . وكل الآراء الواردة به لا تعبر عن موقف المفوضية الأوربية بالقاهرة، وإنما تعبر عن رأي الإئتلاف المستقل لمراقبة الانتخابات ممثلاً في الجمعية المصرية للنهوض بالمشاركة المجتمعية وجمعية نظرة للدراسات النسوية.

تابعونا على فيس بوك



تابعونا على تويتر



and Nazra has been monitoring women both as voters and candidates in general seats and women quota seats.

### **Background on the vote counting process for women quota seats:**

The process of counting votes for the women quota seats differs from that of the general seats. The counting process for women quota seats takes place in two phases as stipulated in Presidential Decree number 140 in 2010, which amended a 1956 law regulating political participation.

According to this decree, the votes of women quota seats are counted in the general committee with the general seats in the first phase. However, the general committee does not publicize the results after this phase. Rather, the ballot cards are sent to another general committee at the governorate level comprised of the High Election Commission. This general committee then reviews and edits the reports of the other general committees of the governorate and publicizes the results of the women quota seats.

### **Nazra observed the following about the vote counting process:**

1. The lack of knowledge about the quota system in the electoral process was obvious in the vote counting process. Ballot cards for the women quota seats were placed in the general seat ballot boxes. Moreover, many people only voted for one candidate not two candidates (one professional, one labor).
2. Representatives of independent and opposition party candidates were barred from entering their committees to monitor the counting process by security personnel.
3. There were more ballot cards in the ballot boxes of the women quota seats than the general seats, which suggests that these boxes were stuffed.
4. During the counting process in some committees, ballot cards were marked in favor of National Democratic Party (NDP) candidates.

### **Daghliya Governorate**

#### Mansora Constituency

- Only the representatives of the candidates, not the candidates themselves, were allowed to attend the first phase of the counting process. In contrast, only candidates were allowed to attend the second phase when the results were announced. The attending candidates included: Siham el Gamal (labor – Muslim Brotherhood MB ), Amany Hegazy (professional-independent), Aman Ismail Abdel Khalaq (professional- independent), Azza Mahmoud el Ghalba ( labor-independent ), Amany Hosny Hassan ( labor –independent ) and Zeinab el Shazly (professional –independent)

- Candidates Siham ElGamal (labor –MB), Amany Hegazy (professional – independent) and Azza Mahmoud elGhalba ( labor- independent) filed a complaint because the head of the committee responsible for announcing the results of the women quota seats, sequestered himself in a room guarded by security personnel for three hours so that he could change the results in favor of NDP candidates.

### **Alexandria Governorate**

In Alexandria, three different violations took place:

First, representatives of candidates were barred from attending the counting process in some committees.

Second, ballot cards were marked during the counting committees.

Third, there were more women quota seat ballot cards than general seat ballot cards.

#### Bab Shareq Constituency

Muslim Brotherhood (MB) candidates complained that ballot cards were being marked in favor of NDP candidates in the counting committee session. The MB candidates entered the committee by claiming that they were affiliated to the NDP candidate, Mohamed Moslhey. Then when they complained, the head of the committee told them that he would investigate their complaints, but continued to allow violations to take place.

#### Ramal constituency

Only representatives of NDP candidates were allowed to enter the counting committees. Inside the counting committees with the head of the counting committees present, ballot cards were marked and amended in favor of NDP candidates. In addition, invalid votes were counted and the counting committee ignored the fact that there were a larger number of ballot cards than registered voters.

#### El Montazha constituency

There were a greater number of ballot cards for women quota seats than general seats. For example in committee 88, there were 950 ballot cards for women quota seats and only 120 ballots cards for general seats.

#### Ghorbal constituency

In committee 68, NDP women quota candidates Nadia Abdu ( professional) and Souad Saleh (labor) obtained 239 votes. Yet there were only 39 votes cast in the general seats of this committee.

## **Bani Souif Governorate**

Representatives and candidates of all parties were allowed to attend the committee's announcement of election results at the Bani Souif military school, however when the committee began calculating the results, independent and opposition parties were dismissed by the order of the head of the committee.

In the second constituency of Quota in Cairo ( the headquarter in Qaser el Nile police station, the election was marred with many violations. For example, there was a flagrant lack of knowledge about the quota system. At many polling stations, voters thought that only women could vote for the quota seats, so many did not vote for these candidates. Moreover, many quota ballot cards were placed inside the general seat ballot box. Others were invalidated because voters only voted for one candidate and rather than voting for one professional and one labor candidate.

## **Bahira Governorate**

### Bandar Damnhour Constituency

Candidates Osma Soliuman (professional- MB), Ismail el Khouly (professional- NDP) and Manal Ismail (professional –MB-women quota seat) filed petitions to exclude boxes at the polls 114, 115 and 116 in Om el Mo'mneen because there were more ballot cards than registered voters. The votes for the general seat were in favor of NDP candidate Alaa el Sharqawy (professional – NDP) and those for the women quota seats boxes were for NDP candidates Amal Abd el Wahab (professional- women quota seat) and Abeer el Zoqom ( labor - women quota seat). The head of the counting committee postponed his decision regarding these boxes, but later invalidated boxes number 108, 114 and 116.

*More information on the monitoring results of the three election phases (candidate registration, campaigning period, and Election Day) available [here](#)*