



Elections Monitoring News Update at 8 p.m.

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“Public Movement Multinational Georgia” is carrying out the monitoring of the elections day in the regions of Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli under support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) within the framework of the project “Civil initiative on monitoring of Local Government Elections 2010 – Enabling ethnic minorities in Kvemo-Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti to secure fair elections”.

Samtskhe-Javakheti region

The members of the precinct election commission started dropping the bigger number of ballots in the ballot box upon the closure of Buzaveti # 38 polling station (Akhalkalaki # 40 election district). Such a behavior has been justified by the members of the commission with the will that they wanted to vote for themselves as well as on behalf of the family members. According to the assertion of the members of the precinct election commission they did not know that they had not been eligible to cast a vote on behalf of the family members.

The elections protocol produced at the precinct did not include the individual number of the seal belonging to the register of the polling station. Therefore, the protocol without the number of the register’s seal stamped on it was sent directly to the district elections commission. This fact has been challenged by the deployed observers. In addition, the chairman of the precinct election commission Mr. Hovik Akopian has refused to hand over the copy of the protocol to the attended observers.

On 12 P.M. the secretary of the Buzaveti # 38 precinct election commission has refused to count the number of voters’ signatures put in the voters list. The young girl has showed up in Buzaveti # 38 polling station complaining the illness of her mother and requested the election commission to cast a vote on her behalf. The register has asked the observer whether the girl was eligible to do so. As the observer explained the girl had no right to vote on anybody’s behalf. However, the girl had been given the right by the members of the commission to cast a vote on her mother’s behalf.

The additional voting list had been introduced in this polling station despite the fact that the existing legislature prohibits to vote from the additional voting list for 2010 municipality elections.

The precinct election commission has allowed the person to cast a vote despite the fact that she was not included in the voters list. As the observers had been advised by the secretary of the polling station the person willing to vote was the mother of one of the members of the precinct election commission living in the village for longer period of time.

The chairman of Kotelia # 42 precinct election commission as well as the members of the commission could not independently fill in the protocol of the commission. They did not know how to handle with this issue. Therefore, the chairman of Kotelia # 42 precinct election commission had taken the blank protocol to the village Baraleti to obtain the

assistance in filling in the gaps. This fact had been challenged by the observers. As a result of this the chairman handed over the blank protocol directly to the district election commission.

In Korkhi # 15 polling station the observers had identified the fact of dropping of ballots in the ballot box in big quantities on the part of the members of the election commission. This fact is recorded on video. Despite the protest on the part of the observers this incident had not been prevented.

The representative of Akhalkalaki city fall (Gangeoba) has appeared in Diliska # 24 polling station and expressed his will to attend the ballot counting process. After the observers protested this fact he left the polling station.

Maia Dalakishvili, the observer representing the PMMG has identified the fact according to which in Khando # 62 polling station the voter had tried to cast a vote for the second time. After the observer's intervention the fact had been prevented. Later on, the head of the village - Rtsmunebuli - (representative of Gangebeli in the region) appeared in the polling station and tried to impose the pressure on the observer. The head of the village left the polling station.

The fact of threatening physical retaliation against the observer had been identified in Kumurdo # 49 polling station. The aggressive behavior had been revealed by the persons representing both political entities "United National Movement" and "Movement for Fair Georgia" who with the imposition of pressure on the observer wanted to make provocations in the polling station.

The facts of repeated voting as well as voting on behalf of family members had been identified by the observer at Khaveti # 61 polling station. Moreover, the voters in this polling station had objected to undertake the marking procedures. However, after the intervention of the observers the voters had been forced to obey the rules and undertake the marking procedures.

It has to be noted that the vast majority of the precinct election commissions' protocols submitted to the district election commission had not been in conformity with the established electoral rules and norms – they did not satisfy the legal electoral requirements. This tendency had been widely witnessed throughout the election district. Therefore it can be inferred that the members of the precinct election commissions had not been adequately prepared to handle the electoral process that is they had not been equipped with the necessary knowledge as well as skills. Interestingly the members of the precinct elections had taken the modest number of training courses and were supposed to handle the electoral process in more adequate and consistent manner. Persistence of the mentioned tendencies has been shared and affirmed by the chairperson of Akhalkalaki district election commission. Interestingly, most of the chairmen of the precinct election commissions could not independently handle the election documentations that is appropriately fill in the journals and other respective documentations and consequently asking the members of the commissions the assistance.

Finally, the observers have identified numerous facts according to which the percentage of the voting outcomes as recorded in the protocols of the precinct election commission had been inconsistent (the aggregate percentage of the results exceeded 100 percent). Moreover, there had been the cases when the number of the voters recorded in the protocols did not correspond with the actual number of the voters participating in the voting process in the perspective polling stations.

Kvemo Karti region:

The electricity went off in # 26 polling station of Tsalka # 25 election district upon the completion of the voting process.

The PMMG has filed the complaint to Marneuli # 22 district election commission on the fact of electoral violation revealed by the observers in Kizilajlo # 49 polling station (Zakir Abdunaev has voted several times at village Kizilajlo # 49 polling station of # 22 Marneuli district. As he explained he was advised by the “United National Movement” to cast the votes in favor of number 5). This fact has been challenged at the level of precinct election commission however being left without any reaction on the part of the commission.

The complaint was filed to Gardabani # 21 district election commission as far as the initial complaint had not been satisfied by Karajalari # 58 precinct election commission (the same person has voted 3 times in the village karajalari # 58 polling station. Moreover, 3 persons without attaining the voting age has been identified in the polling station causing the vote. The marking appliance has not been functioning for a certain period of time. However, the polling station has continued to operate. Moreover, from the early morning forward the polling station has been left without electricity supply. In addition, voting process has been proceeded in an unusual environment – the members of the commission has been assuming responsibilities and working in one room and the ballot box has been stationed in another room.).

Finally, PMMG has applied to Gardabani # 21 district election commission with the complaint according to which the chairman of # 3 precinct election had been independently counting the votes upon the completion of the voting process. According to the elections legislation three persons should be singled out among the members of the commission to count the votes. This legal requirement was violated by the chairman of the mentioned precinct election commission.