



بنیاد انتخابات آزاد و عادلانه افغانستان د افغانستان د آزاد او عادلانه ټولټاکنو بنیاد

FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS FOUNDATION OF AFGHANISTAN

OBSERVATION REPORT, GENERAL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS OF 10 OCTOBER 2004

PREFACE:

The first general elections of Afghanistan were an important step toward democracy and peace. With wide participation in the electoral process, Afghans have proved that they want to leave war behind and that they desire peace and broad participation in political processes.

WHO WE ARE

The Free & fair Elections Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA) is a free and non partisan foundation that was established by civil society organizations in order to monitor the elections process in Afghanistan.

Objectives of FEFA are:

- monitoring the transparency of the electoral process
- strengthening democracy in Afghanistan.
- increasing the participation of the people in the electoral process.
- strengthening the confidence of the people in the electoral process
- work toward the improvement of future elections and of the electoral law

In order to improve organizing the elections process, FEFA is presenting its findings and suggestions on the Presidential elections to the people and related organizations.

OBSERVATION EFFORTS

FEFA conducted observation in 100 districts, including throughout the country and abroad (Pakistan). An estimated 2300 volunteers were trained to monitor the process. On elections day 2069 observers were fielded. They filled in 3 kinds of checklists: one for the opening of the polling centers (total, 1962); one per polling *station* they observed (total, 3088) and one per polling station closing (total, 2310 as observers could go from one polling station that closed on time to another closing late). In addition, in many cases the observers accompanied the ballot boxes to the “secure areas” and FEFA observers were present in all counting centers.

Province and District	Number of polling centers Given by JEMB	# of FEFA observers
<i>Badakhshan</i>		
1. Baharak	8	20
2. Faizabad	17	20
<i>Badghis</i>		
3. Qala-e Naw	18	15
4. Qadis	32	15
5. Ab Kamari	22	15
<i>Baghlan</i>		
6. Pul-e Khumri	33	20
7. Baghlan-e Jadid	22	20
8. Doshi	12	20
<i>Balkh</i>		
9. Balkh	25	20
10. Mazar-i Sharif	42	20
11. Nahr Shahi	8	20
12. Dehdadi	12	20
<i>Bamiyan</i>		
13. Bamiyan	19	20
14. Yakawlang	26	20
15. Shibar	9	20
16. Saighan	10	20
<i>Daikundi</i>		
17. Nili	9	20
<i>Farah</i>		
18. Farah	25	15
<i>Faryab</i>		
19. Shirin Tagab	13	20
20. Khwaja Musa	8	20
21. Maimana	9	20
22. Pashtunkot	3	20
<i>Ghazni</i>		
23. Ghazni Center	34	20
<i>Ghor</i>		
24. Chaghcharan	28	15
<i>Herat</i>		
25. Herat	30	20
26. Guzara	31	20
27. Enjil	48	20
28. Karokh	16	20
<i>Helmand</i>		
29. Lashkar Gah	23	15
30. Marjah	12 ?	15
<i>Jowzjan</i>		
31. Shiberghan	29	20
32. Khoja Du Koh	4	20
33. Aqcha	13	20

Province and District	Number of polling centers Given by JEMB	# of FEFA observers
34. Andkhoi	8	20
<i>Kabul City Districts</i>		257
35. One	13	
36. Two	12	
37. Three	14	
38. Four	8	
39. Five	18	
40. Six	16	
41. Seven	23	
42. Eight	22	
43. Nine	19	
44. Ten	24	
45. Eleven	13	
46. Twelve	4	
47. Thirteen	20	
48. Fourteen	3	
49. Fifteen	34	
50. Sixteen	7	
51. Seventeen	4	
52. Eighteen	2	
<i>Kabul Province</i>		193
53. Bagrami	6	
54. Char Asyab	10	
55. Deh Sabz	9	
56. Farza	6	
57. Guldara	4	
58. Istalif	5	
59. Kalakan	6	
60. Khaki Jabbar	5	
61. Mir Bacha Kot	10	
62. Musahi	5	
63. Paghman	16	
64. Qarabagh	12	
65. Shakar Dara	10	
66. Surobi	12	
<i>Kandahar</i>		
67. Kandahar	24	20
68. Dand	10	20
69. Daman	12	20
<i>Kapisa</i>		
70. Mahmood Raqi	9	20
<i>Khost</i>		
71. Nadershah Kot	5	20
72. Matun	11	20
<i>Kunar</i>		
73. Asadabad	9	20

Province and District	Number of polling centers Given by JEMB	# of FEFA observers
74. Chauki	6	15
75. Narang	6	15
<i>Kunduz</i>		
76. Kunduz	67	20
77. Char Dara	14	20
78. Ali Abad	11	20
79. Khan abad	36	20
<i>Laghman</i>		
80. Alishang	17	20
81. Mehterlam	29	20
82. Qarghayee	17	15
<i>Logar</i>		
83. Pul Alam	13	18
84. Mohammed Agha	10	20
85. Khoshee	4	10
<i>Nangarhar</i>		
86. Jalalabad	30	20
87. Kama	20	20
88. Batti Kot	15	20
89. Surkhrod	15	20
90. Behsood	14	20
<i>Nimroz</i>		
91. Zaranj	5	15
92. Kang	6	15
93. Chakhansur	6	15
<i>Nooristan</i>		
94. Wama	3	10
<i>Paktika</i>		
95. Sharan	12	20
<i>Paktia</i>		
96. Ahmad Abad	6	20
97. Gardez	11	20
98. Said Karam	11	20
<i>Panjshir</i>		
99. Bazarak	5	12
<i>Parwan</i>		
100. Charikar	32	20
101. Bagram	19	20
<i>Samangan</i>		
102. Aibak	16	27
103. Hazrat Sultan	11	13
<i>Sar-i Pul</i>		
104. Sar-i Pul	31	20
105. Sayaad	9	20
<i>Takhar</i>		
106. Taloqan	34	20

Province and District		Number of polling centers Given by JEMB	# of FEFA observers
107.	Baharak <i>Uruzgan</i>	6	20
108.	Tirin Kot <i>Wardak</i>	15	15
109.	Behsud 1	9	20
110.	Behsud 2 <i>Zabul</i>	30	20
111.	Qalat <i>Pakistan</i>	7	15
Peshawar		122 observed	184

During the elections day, FEFA received information by telephone from all its observers in all over the country. On the 10th of October FEFA has released its findings about the voting process in a report presented to the media. This includes cases of violations and mismanagements. Furthermore FEFA explained the need of establishing an independent body in order to investigate the violation cases.

Despite some cases of violations and mismanagements, the Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan consider the results of elections acceptable.

Hereby FEFA presents the checklist of its main findings reported by its observers:

No	Sort of problem	Description
1	Late opening of the polling centers	72 % of observed centers started their work at 7:00 am but others began their work later, namely: 2 centers in Kandahar, 4 centers in Nangarhar, 3 centers in Paktia, 8 centers in Kabul, 6 centers in Herat, 4 centers in Kunduz and 5 centers in Bamiyan.
2	Ink problem	In 60 % centers the ink applied to prevent multiple voting was reported to be washable: 4 centers in Kandahar, 7 centers in Balkh, 3 centers in Nangarhar, 2 centers in Laghman, 2 centers in Paktia, one center in Khost 10 centers in Kabul, 5 centers in Pakistan, 12 centers in Herat 2 centers in Kundoz, 2 centers in Bamiyan, 2 centers in Badakhshan, 2 centers in Faryab, 2 centers in Kapisa and 4 centers in Parwan.
3	Propaganda posters in polling centers.	There were lots of poster in polling centers although, according to article No 48 of the electoral law, all the propaganda materials should be at least 100 meters far away from polling centers: 4 centers in Herat, 2 centers in Bamiyan, 6 centers in Nangarhar, 6 centers in Kundoz, 7 centers in Mazar, 5 centers in Jawzjan, 3 centers in Logar, 8 centers Kapisa and 11 centers in Herat
4	Beating of the people by police.	one center in Kandahar, one center in Nangarhar, one center in Laghman
5	Interference by JEMB staff during the voting process	According to article No 4 and 5 voters have the right to vote free, but interferences by JEMB staff was seen in several polling centers: 7 centers in Kandahar, 5 centers in Nangarhar, 10 centers in Wardak,

		20 centers Pakistan and Herat , one center in Bamiyan.
6	Interference by representatives of the candidates in voting process	threatening of the voters by the representatives of the candidates were seen in the following provinces: 3 centers Balkh, 3 centers in Nangarhar, 2 centers in Paktia, 3 centers in Kabul ,one center in Panjshir, 8 centers in Herat,11 centers Kundoz, 7 centers Bamiyan,
7	Forcing the people to vote for a specific candidate	According to the article No 58 of elections law force voting is considered illegal, but it was seen in several places such as: Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, Herat, Badghis, Ghor, and Bamiyan.
8	Disturbing the voting process	disturbing of the voting process were seen in different provinces such as: one center Nangarhar, one center in Kunar, one center in Laghman, 3 centers in Herat, one center in Badghis, one center in Ghor, 4 centers Bamiyan
9	Shortage of ballot papers in polling stations	shortage of ballot papers caused more than 16% of the polling stations to stop functioning
10	Denying the observers access to the polling centers	has been seen in: 5 centers in Kabul, 3 centers in Pakistan, one center in Kunduz and one center in Bamiyan
11	Violation of the neutrality policy by JEMB staff	seen in: 3 centers in Nangarhar, 4 centers in Kabul, 4 centers in Herat, one center in Kandahar, one center in Ghor, 3 centers in Mazar, one center in Kunduz, one center in Logar, 3 centers in Bamiyan and one center in Wardak
12	Ballots not transported to counting centers	Balkh 2 centers, Kabul centers, Paktia 2 centers, Parwan 2 centers
13	Changes in the locations of the polling centers	Bamiyan one center, Herat 3 centers, Kabul one center
14	Lack of women polling stations	Kabul 2 centers, Nangarhar one center.
15	Voters under 18 years of age	8 centers in Herat, 12 centers in Kabul and two centers in Logar

Results of observation at the opening of the polling centers

Number of checklists: 1962

Number of polling center: 1962

No	Checklist item	# yes	% yes
1	Location of the polling center which selected by JEMB	1916	97.65
2	Location of polling station in polling center which is selected by JEMB	1916	97.65
3	Presence of security forces	1915	97.60
4	Presence of the representatives of the candidates in voting stations	1446	73.70
5	Presence of the national observers in polling center	1962	100.00
6	Presence of the international observers in polling center	415	21.15
7	Presence of the journalists in polling center	516	26.30
8	Beginning of the process at time 7: am	1428	72.78
9	Registering the stamps of the ballot papers by the representatives of the candidates	1489	75.89
10	People access to voting centers	1849	94.24
11	Showing the empty ballot boxes by area officer to representatives of the candidates and observers	1840	93.78

12	Entering of the voters in polling center	1821	92.81
13	Propaganda papers of the candidates in or around the polling center	535	27.27

Results of the observation during the voting process

Number of polling center: 3088

Number of checklist: 3088

	Yes	Percentage
1- Security situation in polling stations	3041	98.48%
2- Presence of the elections staff in polling stations	3028	98.06%
3- Presence of the representatives of the candidates	2543	82.35%
4- Presence of the domestic observers	640	20.73%
5- Presence of the international observers	160	05.18%
6- Presence of the journalists in the polling stations	850	27.53%
7- Checking for the finger prints	2645	85.65%
8- monitoring of the registration process	3030	98.12%
9- Checking the photos of the voters	2997	97.05%
10. Coloring the fingers of voters	2800	90.67%
11. Quality of the ink	1250	40.48%
12. Stamp on the ballot before voting	3027	98.02%
13. Secrecy of voting	2987	96.72%
14. Monitoring the ballot paper	3088	100.0%
15. Checking of the stamp	3008	97.41%
16. Casting the ballot	3088	100.0%
17. Monitoring the voting cabin for propaganda papers	1100	35.65%
18. Cooperation of electoral staff with disables	2373	76.84%
19. Elections campaign outside the voting center	714	23.12%
20. Shortage of voting materials	432	13.99%
21. Attempts to influence voting by candidate agents	248	08.03%
22. Distribution of new ballots in case of invalid ballots	2382	77.13%
23. Behavior of the elections staff during the voting	354	11.46%
24. Security problems outside the ballot station	409	13.24%
25. Presence of armed militia outside ballot station	429	13.89%
26. Complaints during the voting process	429	13.89%
27. Investigation of the proposed complaints	2590	83.87%
28. Delaying the voting process	512	16.58%
29. Falsification of the voting cards or other documents	312	10.10%

Results of observation during the closing of the polling centers

Number of checklist: 2310

Number of polling centers: 2310

No	Checklist item	# yes	% yes
1	Presence of the representatives of the candidates	1453	62.90
2	Presence of other domestic observers	200	8.60
3	Presence of the international observers	317	13.72
4	Presence of journalists	299	12.94
5	Closing of centers at 4:00 pm	1549	67.50
6	Collecting of ballot papers and other materials at the end of the process	2175	94.20
7	Noting of ballot boxes numbers by the representatives of the candidates	1659	71.80
8	Checking the number of voters and ballot papers	2200	91.01
9	Receiving the ballot boxes by JEMB observers from area officer	2160	93.54
10	Carrying the ballot boxes to counting center	1112	48.35
11	Problems during the transportation of the ballot boxes to the secure area	344	14.89
12	Management in the voting centers	1779	77.00
13	Morale of the voters during the voting process	1736	75.15
14	Successful completion of the voting process	1810	78.35

The salient issues

1. Posters and other elections propaganda materials were seen around and sometimes inside the polling stations. Even after the beginning of the voting process, new posters were pasted on the walls of the polling stations.
2. Bad quality of the ink that caused much dissatisfaction and distrust among the voters.
3. In several cases, people voted more than one time.
4. Unawareness of the elections staff and lack of proper training caused many problems. In some polling stations, most of the ballot papers were cancelled. Stamps and ink for finger printing were not used properly. On the other hand, shortage of the ballot papers caused people unrest and even in some areas demonstrations.
5. In some areas, the elections staff left the polling centers as soon as the voting is ended and left the ballot boxes unguarded. While the FEFA monitors stayed in the polling centers until the ballot boxes were transported to counting centers.
6. Some cases of intimidation and force voting were observed in elections day in which some of the representatives of the candidates tried to make the people vote for specific candidates and even encourage their supporters to disrupt the voting process by violent demonstrations.

Suggestions:

Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan believes that holding elections in Afghanistan that is ravaged by 23 years of war is an important step toward implementing democracy and peace. In order to be able to organize the future elections in a fair way, FEFA presents the following suggestions:

- Choosing proper date (considering the weather and season)
- Proper training for observers and elections staff.
- Appointing professionals and those who believe in their country as elections staff
- Preparing a clear map of polling centers and distributing them to observers.
- Preparing proper logistic materials.
- Preparing the list of the registered voters and distributing them to the observers.
- Everyone should vote in the center in which he/she has been registered
- Raising awareness of the people about the elections
- A commission independent from the JEMB should be formed to investigate the complaints and violations
- Reforms of the law and regulations of the elections