



The National Society for Human Rights

***The Final Report of the Supervision
on the Municipal Elections***

In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

1425-1426 H

The National Council for Supervision of Elections

Riyadh 1428 H

*In the Name of Allah, the
compassionate, the Merciful*

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Summary

This report presents a comprehensive review of the procedures and the steps that were adopted to accomplish the supervision operations on elections in the voting and in the votes counting stages.

It deals with the methods of preparing for participation, communication with the General Elections Committee in the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, Communication with the International Organizations, and then the constitution of the National Council for the Supervision of Elections.

The report, also, sheds light on the mechanism of information collection, reviewing the related international literature and extracting the international supervision criterion.

The report, further, reviews the plan for attracting supervisors and volunteers and the workshops that were organized in the different cities of the Kingdom to train them, on supervision operations.

The review also included looking into the resources availability for financing supervision affairs.

The report is concluded by demonstrating the findings and recommendations.

Preface

The National Society for Human Rights, welcomed the Government resolution for expanding the citizens participation in managing their local affairs through elections, and considered it to be a great pillar of support for the values and concepts that the Society is striving to spread among the public, such as right of expression, right of meeting, right of selection, right of nomination, right of supervision and the other rights established for human beings by all the international conventions at the top of which is the international Human Rights Declaration and the International Convention of Civil and Political Rights.

The Society, on the other hand, considers that resolution to be an effective means for creating an environment for the development of the civil society institutions, at the front of which is the National Society for human Rights that have the capacity to generate conformity between what is theoretical and what is applicable with regards to the concept of human rights in addition to the opportunity to disseminate human rights culture between the people.

On the basis of that understanding, the Society, has not been merely satisfied with welcoming that resolution, but decided to participate in the election operations by assuming the role of a neutral independent supervisor towards the guarantee of the elections impartiality, transparency and neutrality.

The Society adopted that role after getting the approval of the General Elections Committee, and with the help of Allah, were able to fulfill that mission, together with the other societies within the framework of the National Council for the Supervision of Elections.

That was the first experience in the history of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the Civil Society institutions to participate in elections supervision.

That was really a rich experience that had to be recorded, as it activated the dissemination of elections culture through the training courses that were organized by the Council for the supervisors in the different cities of the Kingdom and through the press conferences that were held by the Council immediately after the end of the voting operations in addition to the radio and T.V. interviews in which some the Council members had taken parts.

It worth to be noted here, that the experience also resulted in the preparation of a good number of qualified citizens in the fields of election planning, supervision and implementation, as the Council was able to train about 1500 persons to participate in that mission, and the whole activity represented the transfer of the traditional role of the civil societies institutions to a role more reactive to the society questions.

Those achievements could not have been realized without the help of Allah in the first place and secondly by the availability of the suitable work environment that was provided by the General Committee of Elections. The role of His Excellency Dr. Abdullah Bin Saleh Al Obaid the Ex-President of the Committee was also considerable, especially with respect to communication and co-ordination

with the official authorities, in addition to the active contributions of my colleagues in the council and to that of the volunteering supervisors who were understanding of the importance of elections and its positive impacts on the development and modernization of their country.

In this instance, I extend my thanks and appreciation to all of them and in particular to Dr. Abdullah Al Jahlan the Deputy Chairman of the Council and Secretary the Saudi Journalists Organization for the distinguished efforts they exerted. My thanks are also extended to Dr. Saleh Al Khathlan who revised the international literature, summarized them and extracted the mechanisms suitable for supervision in compatibility with the international standards. My special thanks also include Dr. Ali Bin Shiwail Al Qarni and Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Otaibi for their prominent role in organizing the training courses and in the preparation of the information material in both the Arabic and English languages and for organizing the press conferences. I also have to thank Dr. Salim Bin Saeed Al Gahtani who compiled, prepared and edited the reports of each single phase of the election and then arranged them into one report which is the one before you now. Special thanks are also forwarded to all the observers, the supervisors and the volunteering co-ordinators who used to stay awake for long late night hours waiting votes counting. Thanks are also offered to each of Okaz Press Organization, Jeddah, to Al Youm Press Organization of Dammam, to the Commercial and Industrial Chambers of Abha, Najran, Al Baha and Tabuk, to Al Qassim University, who prepared all the logistic services for the supervision operations room and for the press conferences hall. I also offer my thanks to Al Yamamah Press Organization who

supported the Council specially in printing the supervisors card and the appreciation certificates.

A special word of thanks is extended to Saud Al Babin Charitable Center for Heritage and Culture for their continuous support to the National Society for Human Rights and for the National Council for Supervision of Elections, as they have prepared for the Council a temporary location equipped with all the necessary means required for fulfilling the work.

In the end, I offer my thanks to the United Nations Development Program in the Kingdom for their co-operation with the Society since the time of its establishment and for providing it with all the technical assistance it needed.

I pray to Allah to help us in supporting the government efforts for reformation and modernization.

*President of the National Society For Human Rights,
President of the National Council for the Supervision of Elections:
Dr. Bandar Bin Mohammed Hamza Hajjar.*

Preparation and participation

After the Government has resolved to expand the citizens participation in the administration of their local affairs by means of elections, the National Society for Human Rights submitted an application to the Elections General Committee at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs expressing its desire to supervise the municipal elections as a neutral and independent component of the civil society organizations. After the approvals is given to the Society, a committee from among its members was formed to lay a general plan and a work program. That was followed by a contact with the United Nations Development Program /Riyadh, asking for technical support by specialized experts in that respect and for having an insight over the other nations similar experience, so that the society can be able to apply the international standards in the supervision operations.

Then, a meeting was held with international experts at the society location where the supervision methodology was discussed in accordance with the international standards.

During that period some of the Civil Society Organizations applied to the Elections General Committee expressing their desire to participate in supervising

elections, and the approval was given on condition that all of them shall work under the umbrella of the National Society for Human Rights.

Co-ordination between those institutions and the National Society for Human Rights led to the formation of a Council under the name of " The coordinative Council for Elections Supervision", but latter changed to be named "The National Council for the Supervision of Elections."

The National Council for the Supervision of Elections.

This council incorporates seven of the civil society institutions which are : the National Society for Human Rights, The Saudi Journalists Organization, the Saudi Society for Information and Communication, the Saudi Geographical Society and the Saudi Organization for the Chartered Accountants.

The Council, then, distributed the responsibility and the tasks between its members in the following manner:-

1. Dr. Bunder bin Mohamed Hajjar :
President of the National Society for Human Rights:
President of the National Council for the Supervision of Elections.
2. Dr. Abdullah bin Abdul Rahman Al Jahlan
Secretary General of Saudi Journalists Organization:
Deputy President
3. Dr. Saleh bin Mohamed Al Khathlan
Member of the National Society for Human Rights:
Council Secretary
4. Dr. Muflih bin Rabaian Al Qahtani
Member of the National Society for Human Rights:
Treasurer

5. Dr. Abdul Rahman Bin Abdullah Al Otaibi
Member of the Saudi Society for Information and Communication:
Information Speaker
6. Dr. Rashid Bin Abdul Aziz Al Mobarak
Member of the Saudi Society for Human Rights:
Member
7. Dr. Salim bin Saeed Al Qahtani
Member of the Board of Directors of the Saudi Administration Society:
Member
8. Dr. Ali Showail Al Qarni
Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Saudi Society for Information and Communications:
Member
9. Dr. Saleh bin Abdul Rahman Al Shiraidah
Member of the Nation Society for Human Rights:
Member
10. Dr. Mohamed bin Hamad Al Ginaibit
Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Saudi Economics Society:
Member
11. Dr. Mohamed bin Shawgi Malki
Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Saudi Geographical Society:
Member
- 12- Dr. Ahmed bin Yahia Al Bahekli
Member of the National Society for Human Rights:
Member

13. Dr. Mohamed bin Ibrahim Al Biaiz
Member of the Saudi Society of the Chartered Accountants:
Member

Once the Council was constituted, series of meetings were held , during which the Council got acquainted with the international experiences to make use of in establishing a suitable mechanism and a methodology for the elections supervision. Then the council divided the works and the tasks and defined the council activities mechanism. The members, then , prepared the lists of the volunteering supervisors who are interested in participating in that national mission.

Upon that arrangement, the council produced two forms, one form was for the supervision of polling and the other for the vote counting (see supplements (1) and (2).

For speeding up the work and guarantee of perfection, the Council composed from among its members, specialized teams to supervise the preparation of the supervision forms, the supervisors guides, and the ways of analysis and classification results from the beginning of the supervision from arrival. Moreover, the information center was entrusted with the preparation of the information materials and the arrangement of the press conferences related to the council works.

For the purpose of building up an accumulation of experience for the service of the national interest, the council constituted a specialized team entrusted with the study and analysis of the elections supervision operation, in

Riyadh Area, which shall be used for the enhancement and development of supervision operations that will subsequently take place in the kingdom.

For the reason that the constitution of the national council for elections supervision, came late, the council was not able to supervise the first stages of the elections process whether with respect to elections law, registration of the voters or to the candidates propaganda campaigns. The council activity, then, was limited to supervising voting and vote counting operations only, but in future the council will have to expand the scope work to include all elections stages.

The Components that were the Subject of Supervision

This part of the report sheds light on the elections components that were supervised by the supervisors who registered their related observations in the forms designed for both voting and vote counting stages.

The Council had, before hand, organized workshops and concentrated on that side of the work to ensure that those who shall perform supervision should know exactly what they are supervising, how and why.

Such an understanding, during the supervision process , shall enable the analyzers of the voting and vote counting forms, to clearly answer two basic questions which are :-

* Have the voting and votes counting operations took place and in accordance with the elections law and its executive regulations that were endorsed by the Elections General Committee.

It has to be easy and quick so that voter shall not wait for a long period of time. The entry to the polling station should be simple and so shall be identity proving, receiving the ballot paper, depositing it in the box and getting what shall prove he has voted. Supervision shall also be related

to whether there were unwarranted persons inside the polling station, the conduct of security personnel towards the voters, attempts to direct the voters to vote in a certain way or whether there are any sorts of bribery or pressures on the voters.

And as for the outer environment, what is meant is the electioneering companies in the proximity the voting center or in the limits of 25 meters front it. Moreover, consideration must be given to the location of the polling center and whether it is accessible to the voters and its address is not changed without notifying the voters.

- There also has to be clear answers to the two following questions:-
 - 1- Has the process of voting took place in accordance with the election law and its regulations that were endorsed by the Elections General Committee?
 - 2- Are the informations registered in the forms or communicated verbally have any basic impact on the elections result?

On the basis of that, the basic components that ought be supervised and the remarks that are to be made on them, were identified. They included the following:-

The elections centers internal and external environment. What is meant by the internal environment is the way in which the polling stations are designed from within so as to ensure the privacy that enables the voter to cast his vote in secrecy and that the design should be suiting the movements of the voters.

Elections Supervisors

The Council has charged each one of its members who is associated with a civil society institution to contact the members of his society for the purpose of attracting volunteering supervisors for the elections.

The, the Council prepared lists of the supervisors volunteering from the different institutions and organizations that are members of the National Council For the Supervision of Elections. Following that, the Council provided those volunteers with sufficient training in accordance with the international standards and acquainted them with their supervisory role and with the rules set for the purpose. That was accomplished through the work shops that were held in different cities of the Kingdom, with regard to each stage of the elections process. A basic role in that task was also performed by the Council members representing their societies as they are more aware of what is required for the supervision operations.

The number of the supervisors and the co-ordinators from the different administrative areas through the three stages, amounted to (1450) supervisors and co-ordinators and they were in place around the clock in the operation rooms of the related areas (see schedule No. (1)).

The Council has specified mechanisms of work that connect the local co-ordinators with the regional center of

the supervision of elections in the area that is usually located in a city that is in a middle place between the areas in which elections is on going.

The supervisors have shown great enthusiasm for that voluntary duty throughout the three stages and some of them forwarded numbers of suggestions for the development of the supervisions process for the elections operations in general.

The number of supervisors and the experience as a whole represent a great outcome ready for investment in reinforcing the elections process in futures.

Schedule No. (1):

The number of the supervisors who participated in the supervision of the elections in all stages:-

The stage	Area	Number of Centers	Number of Supervisors	Number of Co-ordinators
The first	Riyadh	140 Centers	240 supervisors	**
The Second	Eastern Region Al Baha Asir Jazan Najran	216 Centers	533 supervisors	8 co-ordinators
The third	Makka Al Mokaramah Al-Qassim Al Jouf Al Madinah Al Munawara Hail Tabuk Northern Borders	258 Centers	676 supervisors	8 co-ordinators
Total Number	13 years	644 Centers	1430supervisors	(16)
	* In this stage there were no local co-ordinators, but one of the supervisors was asked to perform the role of the co-ordinator in each supervision committee that was entrusted to supervise a number of elections centers.			(1446) Supervisors and co-ordinators

The Mechanisms of Supervision and Finance

The ensure fairness and transparency of the voting and vote counting processes, the Council set forth the mechanisms that shall realize those both objectives and shall be suitable for each one of the elections process stages.

- **The mechanisms adopted in the first state of the Elections:-**

In the first stage (Riyadh Area), the election centers were distributed over thirty four committees covering 73 centers inside Riyadh City and 67 centers in the Area different provinces. Those committees were composed of representatives of the different civil society institutions that are participating in the supervision process. The number of the supervisors was 240 distributed over the committees formulated to supervise the elections center in Riyadh Area, and there was one operations room in Al Babtien Center in Riyadh City.

For co-ordination sake between the committees, the members were distributed over the centers so that there shall be at least one member in each one center from the

moment of starting supervision and opening the polling boxes until the end and closing the boxes. The members shall also exchange visits over different centers so that supervision is made by different persons over one election center. Such arrangements shall raise the level of the accuracy of supervision and assurance of the integrity of the results.

- **The mechanisms adopted in the second stage of the Elections:-**

In the second stage (the Eastern Area and the Areas of Asir, Najran, Al Baha and Jazan), the council decided there shall be at least two supervisors in each one election center), so supervisors from the first stage were called upon for assistance in addition to some supervisors from the same areas where elections were running. The number of the supervisors has reached 533 in the second stage for 216 election centers.

In the election day the National Council performed supervision through six operations rooms in Dammam, Al Ahsa, Abha, Najran and Jazasn and also two regional centers in the cities of Abha and Dammam.

- **The Mechanisms adopted in the Third stage of Elections:-**

The third stage covered the areas of (Makkah Al Mokaramah Areas, Al Madina Al Munawarah, Al Qasim, Hail, Tabuk, Al Jouf and the Northern Borders), and the Council applied the same procedures that were followed in

the second stage. The council placed at least two supervisors in each center, but despite that directive, some centers remained unsupervised due to shortage of supervisors in similarity to what had happened in the second stage.

In the third stage the number of participating supervisors was 676 in 258 election centers.

The council performed the overall supervision in the elections day of this third stage through eight operations rooms in Makka Al Mokaramah, Jeddah, Al Taif, Al Madinah Al Monawarah, Tabuk, Buraidah, Hail, Al Jouf in addition to two regional centers in Jeddah and Hail.

On the other hand, the Council was keen to formulate a mechanism for the presence of its members in the operations rooms that were constituted in the election days in the main cities in election area, in order to supervise the election process and follow up the operations various details. That mechanism was also intended to enable the members to be in continuous contact with the supervisors and the co-ordinators in the different cities and provinces and to answer their questions, giving directives and solving the problems that may arise with some of the local committees officials similar to what had happened in the elections first stage, where the role of the council supervisors was not well-understood by the elections committees members.

A method was set for analyzing the voting supervision forms when received by the operations room by fax from all the supervisors of the different administrative areas

where elections were going on. For that purpose the council from among its members composed a specialized team to be continuously working on analyzing and categorizing the results of the supervision process results that are contained in the forms that arrive from the supervisors from the different areas. With respect to that activity, different scientific and advanced methods were employed. It became usual that a press conference is held after only two hours from ending the elections in order to explain the preliminary remarks that will be followed by issuing the final supervision report in a few days time. Later on will follow the issuing of the comprehensive report that shall comprise the final observations of the council with respect to the elections procedures in the different areas of the Kingdom. That report shall express the opinion of the Council on the whole municipal elections process in all its stages within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

- **Finance:**

For the purpose of maintaining the independence of the National Council elections supervisory role, the National Society for Human rights decided to bear all the elections supervision expenses, being a mission closely related to protection of human rights. However, the Society and the Council did not excluded the possibility of the major national companies that are not affiliated with the candidates, in the issue of financing supervision, but non had participated and the Society had to bear alone of those expenses.

The workshops

To ensure that the supervisors shall perform their duties in the required proper ways, they were called upon to attend the workshops that was arranged by the council in the last week before elections. During that workshops the council's supervision objectives shall described together with the required accompanying procedures. Moreover, the terminologies contained in the voting and vote counting forms shall be explained and the supervisors shall be provided with the necessary guiding instructions required for their mission. (See supplement No.-3).

The members of the National Council for the supervision of Elections, were able to hold fifteen workshops for training the supervisors in Riyadh, Dammam, Al Ahsa, Abha, Najran, Jazan, Al Baha, Jeddah, Makkah Al Mokaramah, Taif, Al Madinah al Monawara, Buraidah, Hayil, Tabuk and al Jouf.

Schedule No. (2) Workshops that were held in the different Areas and cities:-

Area	City	Workshop date
Riyadh	Riyadh	7.2.2005 G 27.12.1425H
The Eastern	Dammam / Al Ahsa	24.2.2005G 15.1.1426H
Asir	Abha	24.2.2005 G 15.1.1426H
Najran	Najran	24.2.2005 G 15.1.1426 H
Al Baha	Al Baha	24.2.2005 G 15.1.1426H
Jazan	Jazan	24.2.2005 G 15.1.1426H
Makka Al Mukaramah	Jeddah Makkah Al Mokaramah Taif	14.4.2005 G 5.3.1426 H
Al Madina Al Monawarah	Al Madina Al Monawarah	14.4.205 G 5.3.1426 H
Tabuk	Tabuk	14.4.2005 G 5.3.1426 H
Al Qassim	Buraidah	14.4.2005 G 5.3.1426 H
Hayil	Hayil	14.4.2005 G 5.3.1426 H
Al Jouf	Al Jouf	14.4.2005 G 5.3.1426 H
Northern Borders	Arar	14.4.2005 G 5.3.1426 H

Elections Stages

The municipal elections in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia took place in three stages which are:-

First stage:

Included Riyadh area.

Second Stage:

Included the Southern Areas (Asir, al Baha, Najran and Jazan), and also the Eastern Area.

Third stage:

Included Makka al Mokaramah Areas, Al Madinah Al Monawarah, Hayil, Tabuk, Al Jouf, Al Qassim and the Northern Borders.

Schedule (3) shows the three stages according to dates and areas where the elections took place in each stage.

It worth noting that the Elections General Committee at the Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Areas, is the party who organized and supervised the Municipal elections in the Kingdom.

Schedule (3)

Elections Stages in the Kingdom for the year 1426H.

Stage	Area	Elections date
The first	Riyadh	10.2.2005 G 1.1.1426 H
The Second	The Eastern	3.3.2005 G 22.1.1426H
	Asir	
	Najran	
	Al Baha	
Jazan		
The Third	Makka Al Mokaramah	21.4.2005 G 12.3.1426 H
	Al Madina Al Monawarah	
	Tabuk	
	Al Qasim	
	Hayil	
	Al Jouf	
The Northern Borders		

First:

The first stage:-

The first stage of the municipal elections in the Kingdom comprised Riyadh Area with all of its provinces. After finishing preparation for supervising the elections, National Society for Human rights contacted all its members available in Riyadh area who are interested in the supervision of elections in its first stage and so did all other institutions participating in the Council. The number of the supervisors in this stage was 240 supervisors and they were distributed over the committees entrusted with supervising the elections centers in Riyadh Area. The election centers of Riyadh area were distributed over 34 committees covering 73 centers inside Riyadh City and 17 centers in its

provinces. Those committees were composed of representatives from the different civil society institutions participating in the supervision process. Co-ordination was made with the supervisors interested in the supervision in order to attend the workshop that will be held on 7.2.2005G for the purpose of explaining the different supervision issues. Most of the Council members participated in executing that workshop and exerted great efforts in explaining the objective of the Council and the institutions participating in the supervision process.

That was the first workshop to be held for that task and a good number of supervisors got a lot of benefits from what has been discussed and so did the Council members as so many questions had the answers, that furnished a good foundation for the two following stages of the elections process.

After the workshop, a press conference was held where the tasks of the National Council for the supervision of elections were explained and its intended activities were also surveyed. The role of the civil society institutions that are participating in supervision was equally high lighted during the press conference.

In the election day there was an election operation room already established in Riyadh City. Its role was to follow up the progress of the supervisory activities and to ensure communication between the supervisors for that purpose. In that day and after two hours from closing the boxes, a press conference was held during which the president of the Council and the members reviewed the most important

remarks they received from the field after being well revised. It appeared that there were several observations on some actions that used to be repeated in several centers during the different elections stages and they shall be mentioned later, within general observations report.

As for this stage particular remarks, the following can be mentioned:-

- 1- Elections halted in four centers in Eastern Riyadh and these were centers No. 12,17,19 and 20. The halting continued for about twenty minutes to an hour. The reason was due to a sort of confusion outside the elections center following wrong attempts by some elections officials who tried to organize the push forward crowds of voters.
- 2- Some of the government presidents of the elections committees and their deputies misunderstood the role of the supervisors in those centers, and their sitting places. That misunderstanding had a negative effect on the level of co-ordination and on facilitating or otherwise, the mission of the supervisors.
- 3- Delay in checking the names of the candidates in the lists. It has also been observed that some of the officials did not arrive in the specified time and some of them wasted time in unnecessary talks with some of the voters.
- 4- Some of the ballot papers were not similar and some incomplete and had to be changed by correct papers by the elections committee. Also some papers were printed in very small letters and the candidates names

were not clear and that was a great problem for the voters as the page contained a big number of unreadable names. The problem was specially an obstacle for the elderlies and for weak sighted people.

- 5- In some ballot papers the names of some of the candidates were not the same as they appear on the voting lists. That led to confusion and delay in voting as the voter had to look for the name instead of the number.
- 6- Some of the voters holding election cards, did not find their names in the center lists and some of them were not aware of the elections procedures nor the way of voting and even did not know the required number of the candidates to be voted for in each election area.
- 7- Some of the election officers were extremely tired as a result of the lengthy time of working from the early hours of the day and that was specially observed in Riyadh City.
- 8- It was clear that some of the officials lack sufficient training on voting procedures and also in vote counting and they appeared confused on collecting the votes and counting them.
- 9- In this stage and as the experience is new at all levels in elections operations and equally in the supervision practices, a few misunderstandings occurred between the independent supervisors and the government officials in some elections centers. Conflicts were on the role of supervision limits, but was immediately

contained through contacts between the Council secretariat and the Elections General Committee. In the workshops that preceded the second and third stages, the supervisors were instructed to strictly adhere to supervision standards and to evade getting into discussions with the elections centers officers and limit that to the only necessary intervention for ensuring the integrity of the voting process.

Second:

The Second Stage:

The Eastern Area and the Southern Areas (Asir, Al Baha, Najran and Jazan), are the places where the second stage of elections took place. Co-ordination was achieved with the members of the civil societies institutions in those areas for the purpose of participating in the process of supervision. Each one of the participating societies had specified a co-ordinator to receive the applications from the volunteers who are interested in participation. The co-ordinator role included communication with those volunteers in addition to the organization of workshops and handing over the supervision and vote counting forms to the supervisors and receiving them at the end of the elections.

In this stage the following steps were taken:-

- 1- A number of workshops were held in Dammam, Al Ahsa, Abha, Al Baha, Jazan and Najran. The objective was to explain what is required from the supervisors during elections and also to give answers to their questions.

- 2- An operations room for the follow up of the elections process was established in each of the cities of Dammam, Al Ahsa, Najran, Jazan, Al Baha and Abha.
- 3- Two regional operations rooms were also established in Dammam and Abha for the collection of observations and formulating the press release that was declared to the press after two hours from the end of the elections in which the members of the National Council explained their observations on the elections operations in that stage.

It has been observed that the elections in this stage has passed very smoothly with the exception of some snags that showed up in the first stage and were to be repeated in the subsequent stage. There were also some other observations seen in some centers and are referred to in each stage alone as follows:-

The Eastern Region:

The number of the supervisors in the Eastern Region was, (77) in Al Ahsa out its provinces and (183) in the rest of the Eastern Region Provinces. They were distributed over (106) election centers. Of these centers (38) were in Al Ahsa province and its other locations, and (68) were in Dammam Province, Al Qatif, Hafr Al Batin and the other provinces of the Region. That Region witnessed an only one case of re-election in the election center No. (265) in Hafr Al Batin. The elections there was halted due to the dense crowd and the weakness of organization that led to

the discontent of the voters followed by the over-run of the center by some of them and the process had to stop. The situation became more deteriorated when an election officer tried to organize the voters by collecting their cards and to call them for voting one by one, but that aroused their suspicions. The center No. (364) also witnessed similar incidents that led to halting of the election process. The Council in press conference held after voting indicated that what happened in the two above mentioned centers, had disturbed the voting process.

The most prominent observations sited in that Region were as follows:-

- 1- The election contests committee has cancelled the candidacy of a candidate in a very late time in a few hours before the start of voting and that confused the voters specially that the candidate name was not stricken off the candidates final list. That situation led some voters to suppose that the matter is not correct and is a mere rumor and no truth in the notice issued by the election center. Another observation is that some voters were not allowed to vote for the reason that their names do not appear in the final list of voters, although they were holding elections cards.
- 2- In several occasions, it was observed that more than one voter were present behind one curtain. Also one elderly said that the elections officer did not ask him about the candidates he wishes to vote for them, but he filled the form as he liked and asked him to cast it in the box. Another voter declared that an officer of

- the center had chosen a candidate different from the one he liked because of his illiteracy.
- 3- There were crowds of voters in front of the center after they had voted, a matter that can effect on the voters waiting to vote. That can be attributed to the negligence of the security team which is supposed to organize the crowds outside the center.
 - 4- In center No. (364), there was chaos, congestion and disorganization inside the center, a matter that led to hating the voting for more than two hours. Then the voting started, but chaos increased and voting halted for the second time. It was also observed that the polling boxes were very close to the vision of the voters which made it easy to have effects on them. It can also be added that the number of the security personnel was not sufficient and the voters papers were not given enough care.
 - 5- In the center No. (151), the supervisors noticed that there was a big shortage in the number of the local committee members. They also observed the arrival of important personalities to the center who were met by special treatment and were allowed to fill in their papers on the table of the president and not behind the curtain.
 - 6- The presence of a person called the Religious consultant in center No. (159) and he was more senior than the center president and used to talk intensively with the candidates. The supervisors noticed that advertisements were heavily distributed

outside the center and there were cars with banners stuck over them parking near the center.

- 7- A group of people were seen sitting center outside the elections center from which they distributing leaflets carrying the names of candidates and that was observed near center No. (171).
- 8- The election committee was composed from the locality citizens as was seen in center No. (173). It was observed that the assistant of the committee president, is Al Oyoun Municipality director and the committee members were employees of the municipality. That situation caused some discomfort to the employees when dealing with the citizens in applying the elections regulations and instructions.
- 9- Some confusion occurred with respect to the copy of the application for registration. Some voters kept that copy and tried to make use of it to vote for a second time.

It was also observed that time was extended in that center to compensate for the halting time that occurred due to disorganization.

The Southern Regions:

A regional Center was established in Abha to follow up the running of the election process in the Southern Regions.

There were certain observations related to repeated actions similar to what had happened in the first stage.

In some centers the following observations can be indicated here:-

a) Asir Region:

There were 47 centers in Asir Region and its provinces. A list of the voluntary supervisors for the centers was made and their number was (116). Those supervisors were provided with the necessary guidance and instructions in the workshops that were organized in Abha City in cooperation with Abha Commercial and Industrial Chamber.

In two hours after the end of that second stage of elections, some members of the National Council held a press conference during which they explained the most prominent observations they received from the supervisors. The most important of these observations were:-

- 1- The electric current went off in center No. (215) for a defect outside the control of the center, and continued off from the start of voting till 9:30 am.
- 2- No computer was used in all Asir Region Centers, though it could have made the operation easier.
- 3- The elections place was not wide enough and so it was very crowded specially in the morning period in Center No. (220), and on the other hand the congestion can also be attributed to shortage of awareness between the voters.
- 4- Some of the security personnel came inside the center No. (233) and took seats to supervise election, but were directed to leave by the center president after a short while.
- 5- There was shortage in the number of the security personnel in center No. (244), despite that fact that the center was very near to the Yemeni Borders and

some voters used to enter the center attired in white weapon and pistols of different kinds.

- 6- Some candidates in center No. (216), tried to talk to the elections committee and have a look on the voting papers that about to be deposited in the box and tried to shed their effects on the voters.
- 7- Resort to tribal relations that had effects on the voters was observed in the center No. (211), but that did not continue due to the intervention of the committee.
- 8- The suitable materials for closing the boxes such as wax, were not available in some centers, and the committee had to use the ordinary adhesives for that purpose.

b) Al Baha Region:

Al Baha Region comprised (16) elections centers that covered all the region provinces and cities. The volunteering supervisors were (32) and most of them were teachers and there was one co-ordinator for supervision and communication in the Region. A workshop was held for them and was attended by all. In that workshop were explained the Council objectives, the duties of the supervisors, the two forms of voting and vote counting were clarified and the answers for questions were given.

Al Baha Region was also quiet and no major deviation had occurred. During the press conference that followed in Abha the most important observations received from the supervisor were surveyed. Actually the snags were very few and similar to what had repeatedly occurred in the previous stages and Regions. Some of them are as follows:-

- 1- Some voters of the center (246) were not aware of how to vote and did not know the number of candidates they are supposed to vote for. That was an indication of deficiency in awareness in that Region.
- 2- There were some mistakes in some of the voters card which curtailed their ability to vote, but the committee was able to make the necessary corrections.
- 3- The entrance of the candidates and their representatives to the inside of center No. (247) was observed during the time of voting and were making attempts to put pressures on the voters and affect their conduct of voting, by distributing leaflets.
- 4- The members of vote counting committee in center No. 261 refused to inform the supervisors about the number of votes and asked them to leave the center when the re-counting of votes was made after the candidates left the center.

c) Najran Region:

There were 12 election centers in Najran Region and its provinces. The number of supervisors in that region was 32 and were trained in the workshop that was held in Najran City in a week before the elections.

Elections in Najran Region like the other Regions was not void of snags which were actually not very significant and shall be referred to within the general observations.

The Council held a press conference in its regional office in Abha city from which the elections were

supervised in all the Southern Region. Their most important observations with regards to elections in Najran Region can be referred to as follows: -

- 1- Center No. 195 was late in opening for three hours and forty five minutes. That was due to the intensity of the voters crowds and to the unorganized movements outside the center.
The center was, then, opened at 10:45 am, then halted once again due to crowds and pushings by the voters. Then after an hour and half it started to work and continued to the end as the period was extended to about 8 pm.
- 2- Some of Najran election centers witnessed cases of disorganization in the early morning hours due to the presence of the candidate who were raising their voices in attempts to have effects on the voters, but the local elections committee was able to cool down the situation and control it.
- 3- There was chaos in the center No. 187 at the start of voting as there were people outside the center working for certain candidates and trying to exert effects on the voters.
- 4- There was an election location of a certain candidate near the elections center No. 193. It was also observed that the banners and the propaganda sign boarders were not removed from the center and were there till the day of voting.
- 5- There was collective voting in some periods in the center No. 196 and that may be due to the ignorance

of the voters and inability of the committee to intervene.

d) Jazan Region:

There were 34 election centers in Jazan Region covering all its provinces. The elections were followed up by 94 supervisors. A workshop was held for the supervisors in the Literary Club in Jazan where they got acquainted with the supervision objectives and voting and counting forms. They were also trained on how to observe the deviations and their questions on their responsibilities and duties were answered together with the explanations on some general related practices.

Two hours after closing the boxes, the results of elections supervision were declared in the press conference that was held in Abha City. The declaration was based on the observations that were received from the supervisors and from the co-ordinators in Jazan Region. No serious observations were there in Jazan Region as in other southern Regions. There were few minor snags which shall be referred to within the general observations review, but some of the special occurrences which were immediately corrected can be cited here as follows:-

- 1- Center No. 274 was late in opening for five minutes, a matter that led to some disturbances.
- 2- Disorganization and intensity of crowding in centers No. 278 and 289 due to the presence of big numbers of illiterate voters, but the committee was able to contain the situation.

- 3- There were a relatively big numbers of voting boxes not waxed in an acceptable manner in some elections centers in Jazan Region, and the reason may be due to lack of sufficient closing materials.
- 4- The outer door was closed for a third of an hour in center No. 267, and that caused suspicions of some of the voters and some murmuring.
- 5- There was only one voting box in center No. 280, and it was not at all sufficient to the needs of the center as the number of the registered voters was great.

Third:

The Third Stage:-

The third stage of the Kingdom Municipal elections comprised seven regions which were:- Makka Al Mukaramah, Al Madinah Al Monawarah, Tabuk, Al Qasim, Hayil, Al Jouf and the Northern Borders.

Hereinunder, we shall survey the most prominent supervision results for each Region as were registered in the periodical reports which were previously prepared. Those observations were as follows:-

Makka Al Mokaramah Region:

Makka Al Mokaramah Region is considered one the biggest administrative Regions in the Kingdom and for that there were 119 election centers.

There were 267 election supervisors in that Region selected from the different civil society institutions. Three

workshops were held for the training of the supervisors in Jeddah, Makka Al Mokaramah and Taif. They were being acquainted with the objectives and tasks of supervision. A discussion on the voting and vote counting forms took place and also their questions were answered.

Supervision of elections in Makkah Al Mokarama Region was performed through the supervisors and their co-ordinators and through the operations rooms which were constituted in Makka Al Mokaramah, Jeddah and Taif.

Then the most important observations were declared in the press conference that was held in Jeddah two hours after closing the boxes. Most of the observations were only repetition of what has been observed in the previous Regions and shall be referred to within the general observations survey.

Of the most important observations related to elections in Makka Al Mokarama Region are the following:-

- 1- The intense use of the mobile phones by some of the candidates or by their representatives and also by the voters inside some of the election centers such as centers No. 628 and 606.
- 2- There were some election forms that do not bear the official seal in some centers such as centers No. 418, 422 and 610.
- 3- In some centers, the officers were not holding their official cards which will facilitate their recognition and direct questions to them and justify their intervention. That was observed in centers No. 628 and 612.

- 4- The area in some centers was very limited and narrow which led to the congestion of voters in the waiting halls as was observed in centers No. 417 and 614. That situation also made the passage to the identifying check equally congested and it was difficult for the supervisors to observe the assistance of the illiterates behind the curtains by one of the committee members.
- 5- The pressures exerted by some candidates or their agents on some voters in order to vote for them by distributing some brochures or cards near the election centers such as what happened in centers No. 619 and 625.

Al Madinah Al Monawarah Region.

The number of election centers in Al Madinah Al Monawarah Region and its provinces was 30 centers. They municipal elections process there was followed up by 60 volunteering supervisors. Within the Council efforts of supervision, a workshop for the volunteering supervisors was held a week before elections, in Al Madinah Al Monawarah where they were acquainted with the council objectives with respect to supervision of the municipal elections in addition to explaining the contents of the voting and vote counting forms and answering their questions.

In the day of elections there was an operation room in Al Madinah Al Monawarah through which the coordinators were following up the running of the elections.

Follow up was also performed through the regional location that was constituted in Jeddah.

Two hours after closing the boxes, a press conference was held in the regional location in Jeddah and the results of elections supervision in Al Madinah Al Monawarah Region were declared. In that press conference the observations related to the declared results were surveyed and they were not very different from what had been seen in other regions.

Some of the special observations encountered in Al Madinah Al Monawarah Region were as follows:-

- 1- The registration of the voters names through internet was halted in center No. 435 due to the great pressure over the network and that led to content with voters registration of the National Committee of Elections special program. That was an indication that the computer technology was not successfully utilized during candidacy stage.
- 2- There were no special arrangements for the disabled nor for those of special needs in center No. 436 and also there were no catering services in that center. In the same center there were no signs forbidding the use of mobile phones and some of the elections officers were not wearing the Saudi Official uniforms.
- 3- Some candidates advertisement cards were distributed in constituencies number 2 and number 35. Leaflets of some candidates were also distributed nearer to the elections center such as what happened in center No. 434 where a person even got inside the center distributing about 400 certain candidates

advertisement, but he was sent out and also followed out of the center. It was observed that work in that center continued up till 5:28 pm as the center area was very narrow and crowded.

- 4- There were shortages in lists papers specially in constitutions 3 and 4 and groups of candidates were active in inciting people to vote for their candidates. On the other hand the hall was very crowded from 11:30 to 1:30 hour and that made the continuation of elections somewhat improper.
- 5- Exit after voting was not organized in center No. 443 and some leaving persons use the entry path as there were no guiding signs. Also there were no identification insignia for the officials and their locations were not clear. Moreover, secrecy for the voting cabin was not kept and the curtains where falling every now and then.
- 6- Center No. 453 was closed by the order of the president as the electric supply went off, and that led to delay closing of voting boxes for quarter an hour at the end of the day.
- 7- The number of the policeman around center No. 460 was insufficient in the early hours and that led to congesting the voting entrance and increased the responsibility of the committee members. The difficulties were also increased due to failure of air conditioning in the voting hall for a time.
- 8- Some of the voting cards were incomplete and some were of different colors and also the fifth page was missing in some forms, but correction was made immediately.

Tabuk Region:

In Tabuk Region and its provinces there were 20 election centers and were supervised by 64 volunteering supervisors from the national Council for the supervision of Election. A workshop was constituted in Tabuk Commercial and Industrial Chamber. During the workshop, the supervisors were acquainted with the role and objectives of the Council and with what is required from them during supervision. They were also got acquainted with voting and vote counting forms and their questions were answered.

In the day of elections, an operation room was formed in Tabuk commercial and Industrial Chamber for the purpose of elections follow up in addition to the following up that was going on in the Regional location that was erected in Jeddah.

There were no basic observations with regards to the election process in Tabuk Region, but some few remarks similar to what used to occur in other regions can be referred to here.

Those observations were surveyed in the press conference that was held in Jeddah two hours after closing the elections boxes. Some of those observations are:-

- 1- There was no favorable responses to the supervisors from the part of some elections presidents such as what happened in center No. 525 due to their misunderstanding of role of the supervisors and its importance, and some of the committee members did not understand well the duties of the supervisors.

- 2- There was some pressure on the voters by some candidates in some centers in order that the voter shall vote for them such as what happened in center No. 530 and 538.
- 3- Some candidates used to meet with groups of voters outside the center and to tried to convince them to vote for them.
- 4- Some security men arrived at center No. 536 and were informed about the process of candidacy before the start of voting and there was no justification for that. Then they were asked to leave and they did.
- 5- Some of the candidates sites were very near to the elections sites such as center No. 544 and also some of candidates relatives were members of election committee.

Al Qasim Region:

Al Qasim Region comprised 39 centers distributed over its provinces and the elections process was supervised by 127 supervisor.

A workshop was held in Al Qasim University for training the supervisors. They were acquainted with the objectives of supervision, the tasks required from them and explanations about the voting and vote counting were made in addition to receiving answers on their questions.

In the election day an operation room for the follow up of elections operations, was erected in Buraida City so that the supervision co-ordinators can supervise elections through that room. In addition to that the members of the

National Council for the supervision of Elections, were also following up the process from the regional office of the Northern Regions which was situated in Hayil City.

The results of supervision did not point to any basic problems in running the election in Al Qasim Region with the exception of a few remarks which we shall refer to in our general remarks report.

But there are some other remarks related to certain center we ought to mention them here and they included the following:-

- 1- In center No. 381 the supervisors observed that there were differences in the serial numbers of the candidates, a matter that aroused confusion as it may lead to voting for the wrong candidate.
- 2- In center No. 389, one of the committee members used to accompany the voters to the inside of the voting chamber and attempt to have effects on them.
- 3- In center No. 392 there was a voting box without a number and the air conditioning was not proper.
- 4- Some voters were prohibited from voting because they had no civil status cards, although they were holding elections cards such as what happened in center No. 396 in Al Badyie and the center itself was not prepared in the way suitable for voting.

Hayil Region:

There were 24 elections centers in Hayil Region and its provinces and the elections was supervised by 74 supervisors.

A training workshop was held in Hayil City to acquaint the supervisors with the objective of supervising the municipal elections and the methods of supervision. Explanations were given with regards to both voting and vote counting process and the questions of the supervisors were answered.

Hayil City was the center of the operations room for the municipal elections in the Kingdom Northern Regions and the Regional Center in Hayil was entrusted with supervising the process of elections.

Two hours after closing the boxes, a press conference was held and explanations were given with respect to some observations which were not new to the supervisors who took part in the previous stages of elections.

The results did not indicate any basic observations in the election centers of Hayil Region, but certain occurrences may be suitable to point to in this connection. These include:-

- 1- The situation in center No. 551 was not quiet and organization was not enough because most of the voters were illiterate and for that the process was very slow in the morning. It was also observed that a representative of a certain candidate interfered and started to organize entrance while the committee members were occupied with other procedures.
- 2- It was observed that some pamphlets of a certain candidate were being distributed in elections centers 546 and 548.
- 3- In elections center No. 553, the security men were observed to be present in the election hall.

- 4- It was reported that there were cases affecting the voters inside and outside center No. 547.
- 5- Some people who have no right to enter the centers were observed to present inside them.

Al-Jouf Region:

In Al Jouf Region and its provinces, there were 15 elections centers supervised by 44 supervisors who were trained in a workshop held in Al Jouf. In that workshop the supervisors were acquainted with the objectives of supervision, with their role and with the details related to the voting and vote counting forms in addition to answering their questions.

An operations rooms was established in Al Jouf Region for following up the elections process through the coordinators who were in contact with the field supervisors and then convey the remarks to the Elections Supervision Regional Center of the Northern Region of Kingdom in Hayil City.

Then the Regional Center held a press conference where the supervision results were surveyed. There were no basic problems, but some remarks related to some centers were registered and they were similar to what used to happen previously in other regions and of those observations were:-

- 1- In centers 551 and 582 the employees were not holding their identification cards and nothing differentiated them from the voters who were present in the centers.
- 2- In center No. 575, the supervisors were placed in a location that was not suitable and they were not able to carefully follow the elections running.

The Northern Borders Region:-

There were 11 election centers in the Northern Region and its provinces and were supervised by 22 volunteering supervisors.

The supervisors were trained in the workshop that was held in Arar City a week before the elections starting date.

In that workshop the supervisors were acquainted with the procedures of supervision and the methods of performing the mission. They also received explanations related to the voting and vote counting forms and their questions were answered.

An operation room was established in Arar City for the following up of the elections process and also there was continuous following up from the Regional Center that was erected for that purpose in Hayil City.

Two hours after closing the elections boxes, a press conference was held where the supervision results were surveyed. There was no serious incidents, but some remarks were pointed to with regards to some election centers in the Northern Borders Region and those were as follows:-

- 1- Secrecy with regards to the illiterate voters was not kept in center No. 584 as the candidacy form used to be filled in front of voters, a matter that caused embarrassment to the voter.
- 2- Pressure was exerted on the voters to vote for certain candidates and that was evident in center No. 591.
- 3- In center No. 594 a great number of voters was not aware of the importance of the voting process, specially that most of them were illiterates. That indicated the serious shortage of awareness efforts on the voters rights and on the role of the municipal Councils.

The Prominent Results of Elections Supervision

The general results of elections supervision in the different stages, indicated that the voting process was generally good in all conditions and centers, though it was performed in that level in some regions for the first time in the Modern history of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

By analysing the forms we received from the different Regions of the Kingdom, we are in a position to survey the following detailed results that are based on the repeated observations related to the elections process.

According to the categorization shown on both the forms of supervising voting and vote counting and after analysing the different reports on the three stages of the municipal elections in the Kingdom for the year 2005G, and upon the scientific standards that are to some extent compatible with the international standards, it is evident that there were some observations of repeated occurrence in the different regions and centers and those observations can be grouped in categories as follows:-

a) The environment outside the polling center:-

The result of the municipal elections in the Kingdom, indicate that the organizational environment in most of the elections centers and their surroundings were good. But, the situation could be a little different with respect to the elections centers that were located in the schools rented buildings or in the municipalities rest houses or in the municipalities where the level of organization was less than good. There was difficulty in finding government buildings in the areas where the villages and small towns are highly dispersed and that was noted in the different Regions of the Kingdom. It was also observed that there was no presence of the security men near some centers and even they were late when they come and some of them were totally unaware of their role around the center. There were election campaigns and distribution of leaflets near some centers and there were also some attempts to cast effects on the voters in front of the centers. It has also been noticed that there were no guiding signs leading to the voting centers, with the exception of Riyadh City where those guides were exceptionally available.

b) Voting Procedures:-

It was established that the voters cards were revised and their identities we registered as required and the secrecy was well-kept for the voters, though there were simple remarks related to voting procedures for example:- The curtains were not sufficient in some places or were not properly fixed and some voters were taking part in voting together behind the curtains. There were incidents of inaccuracy with respect to the illiterates voting where the

committee officers used to write on their behalf. In addition to that there was another minor observation note repeated in most election centers and which may have effects on the process. That was the use of the mobile phones inside the election centers. It was also seen in some centers that the voter's names were repeated and that led to prohibiting those of repeated name from voting. Some of the registered voters names were missing although those voters were holding election cards and that was a violation to their voting rights. That may be due to the insufficiency of awareness and it could have been possible to avoid that by canceling the last registration centers and keeping the first center.

c) The Employees performance:-

The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs has made great efforts in training the election committees employees and that was what has helped them to perform their duties in a good manner. There were no basic remarks on their performance with the exception of their disregard to the role of the supervisors specially in the elections first stage and employees attempts to prohibit the supervisors from performing their supervision tasks. Perhaps that was due to the fact that the role of the supervisors was not understood as the National Council for the supervision of Elections has not been established at that time. That problem diminished in the second and third stages, but continued in the villages and in the small towns more than in the big cities. Another remark can also be made and expressed in the fact that some of the employees did not hold their identification cards. A note can also be pointed to the confusion of the

employee in some centers at the start of voting and their inability to control the situation and the insufficiency of their number in other centers a matter that made the process very low. Moreover, the employees complained of tiredness for the long hours of work and supervision of both voting and vote counting specially in the mult-constituency areas where their work continued till the early hours of the next day.

d) Voting materials and Requirements:-

Most of the materials were available in most of the centers and there was no shortage disrupting the election process. But, some centers suffered from some voting papers of double pages or of missing pages. In such cases, the committee was quick in supply the correct alternative papers. In some paper the writing was in small letters which made the reading of the candidates names difficult specially where a paper was full of names as what has happened in some cities and in other instances the candidates names were not the same in the voting lists and in the voting papers a matter that led to delaying in voting as some voters left the names and began to search for candidates numbers instead. In some other centers the curtains were few and the lines of voters were very long and some of the voters chose to leave. Some other centers witnessed weakness of light, unsuitable air conditioning and in others there were no shades to mitigate the sun heat. Bad smells were also felt in some centers and may be due to the crowds and bad air conditioning and in others there was shortage of drinking water and light food.

The performance of the voters

The process of voting in the Kingdom different Regions went on very well with the exception of some incidents that took place due to unawareness of some voters such as what happened in two of Riyadh centers, in one center in Hafr Al Batin and another in Habona in Najran Region. It can also be added to that the attempts of some candidates to put pressures on the voters and some co-ordinated efforts of same candidates or their representatives to attract voter for their favour and distributing cards and pamphlets for that purpose.

It was observed that some voters formed a sitting location outside a certain center through which they were attracting voters towards a certain candidate. In some of Eastern Region Centers, an active Caller was seen assuming a role higher than that of the center president and he was inciting voters to vote for certain candidates. It was also noticed that the level of awareness with regards to the voting procedures was very low among some voters as that was the first experience and there were no sufficient enlightenment and information campaigns.

According to what has been said, it is clear that there was great similarity between the incidents observed in the different Regions, and that the observations were limited to

certain centers. In the opinion of the National Society for Human rights and of the National Council for the Supervision of Elections, those observations had no negative effects on the running, integrity and the success of the elections process in the Kingdom.

Hereinunder is a summary of the basic elections supervision results:-

- 1- The informational awareness campaigns of all sorts were not adequate with respect to both the candidates and the voters.
- 2- The locations of elections centers were not suitable as dependence was on the schools and rented buildings instead of government buildings.
- 3- Some candidates did not stop propaganda on the day of elections and continued campaigning and distributing leaflets.
- 4- There were big numbers of illiterates, a matter that constituted burdens on the committees and confused the elections running. That situation may have been utilized by some weak committee members and had been a point of suspicion specially that there were not enough candidates identification materials.
- 5- Use of mobile phones did not cease inside elections centers by the election committee members or by the candidates or their representatives or even by the voters themselves.

- 6- Voting boxes and curtains were not sufficient in some centers and crowds were huge in others, though the registered number of voters was known and arrangements could have been done to evade problems at the time of voting.
- 7- There were voting cards that did not bear the official stamp and in some cards some pages were missing and in other cards writing was in very small letters and some voters found difficulty in reading them.
- 8- Some employees in some election centers were not holding their identification cards.
- 9- The area in some centers was very narrow and led to congestion and in other centers there was lack of air conditioning.
- 10- Some voters were subjected to the pressures of the candidates or their representatives in order to vote for them.
- 11- In some centers the security men were late in attendance and some of them were not aware of their duties and tasks in that respect.
- 12- There was no privacy for the disabled and for those of special needs and in some centers there were no catering services like cold water and light food.
- 13- Some employees in some centers were wearing dresses different from the official Saudi dress.
- 14- After voting the exit passages were not clear and some voters used the entrance path as there were no guide signs and in some centers there was only one guiding conductor.

- 15- Some centers presidents were not co-operative with the supervisors and did not understand the role and the importance of supervision and even they were not aware of their own duties in that respect.
- 16- Some security men interfered into the process of candidacy without reason at the start of voting.
- 17- Some of the voters were not aware of voting procedures as that operation was the first experience and there were not enough information campaigns.

RECOMMENDATIONS

By going through this report we can reach a very decisive, import and final result. The inference is that the Saudi Arabian Official Authorities never directly or indirectly interfered in the elections process in any manner that may affect its integrity, transparency or validity.

The Election National Council supervisors did not observe any illegal intervention in the elections process that can be attributed to the official authorities.

The following are the most important recommendations that the National society for Human Rights is of the opinion that they ought to be given consideration so that the coming elections can be conducted in the best manner:-

- 1- Informational awareness should be intensified at all levels and by all means towards candidates and voters. That shall enhance the general awareness and the mechanism of voting in particular.
- 2- Care should be given to the environment of the election centers and they should be well designed, equipped and organized in a manner suitable for the elections process. Passages, election boxes and curtains should be increased in number and air conditioners ought to be provided. Special prepared

places should be specified for the elderly and the disabled. Parking sites for the voters cars should be prepared and there should be cafeterias and cold water in the centers so that elections can go on easily.

- 3- Voting period should be extended to give enough chances for the voters to choose the suitable time for voting and for the evasion of congestion and crowds.
- 4- Intensifying meetings and symposiums to disuses the role of the municipal councils and their future importance specially in the field of urban development in order to encourage the voters to register and to increase attraction to the elections as the elections in the southern regions has reflected general weakness of voters registration.
- 5- Directing the attention of governmental and private information organizations to importance of high lighting the role of the National Council for the Supervision of Elections and to the results of its efforts. That will assure the citizens and those interested that the elections is going on in a sound and fair manner as the Council itself is impartial.
- 6- To permit the relatives or those trusted by the elderly, the disabled or the illiterates to help them in filling-in the voting forms.
- 7- The elections committees employees should be directed to form methods of entry and exist starting from outside the centers in order to facilitate the process and avoid long waiting.

- 8- The election committees should be informed that the voters card is the main evidence of right to vote and not the civil status card and exception to that can be taken in some cases at the discretion of the center president.
- 9- Making sure that there are enough voting cards in all centers to avoid any shortage occurrence during the voting period.
- 10- To direct the presidents of the committees to ban advertising campaigns in and outside the centers in the election day and prevent pressure on the voters by candidates representatives and to inflict suitable penalties for that.
- 11- Increasing the awareness of all those participating in the elections whether they are employees, supervisors or representatives with respect to their different roles during the elections different stages.
- 12- The candidates should make undertakings with regard to their performance related what is permitted or not permitted specially propaganda in the election day.
- 13- To arrange an intensified training courses for all government employees participating in the elections to increase their awareness of their best dealing with the voters and the others inside the election centers.
- 14- Increasing the number of employees in the centers with high numbers of registered voters as the supervisors have observed that the confusion that occurred in some centers was due to the inadequate

number of the employees and the big crowds of voters.

- 15- To appoint another committee or committees independent of the voting committee to perform process of classifying and counting operations to avoid the tiredness and the responsibilities to which the employees could be subjected to, as a result of performing all the processes alone. That shall also help in avoiding delay and mistakes that could happen out of tiredness.
- 16- To speed up transfer to electronic voting and automatic counting to ensure the validity of elections and to shorten its period.
- 17- The photos or the symbols of the candidates should be fixed on voting papers so that the illiterate voter can identify them and to make sure that his vote has gone to the candidate he chooses.

The supplements:

Supplement No.: (1) Municipal Elections Supervision Form (Voting Stage Form)

Region: City / Province /
District:
Elections Constituency No.
Election Center No.
Day and Date of Elections:

Names and Signatures of the Supervisors:-

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.

Particulars of the Supervision Form

Question	Yes	No	Observations
Elections Center Environment:			
1	Is it difficult to get to the elections center?		
2	Have you seen what indicates propaganda companies inside the center or near to it in about 25 meters?		
3	Are there any candidates locations near the voting center?		
4	Have you observed the presence of persons inside the center without permission to enter?		
5	Have you found out that the performance of the security men not acceptable by the voters?		
6	Have you observed attempts to direct voters to vote for a certain candidate?		
7	Have you observed what can indicate pressure or bribery towards the voters?		

Before the start of voting :

8	Have you seen voting papers inside the box before voting?		
9	Have you observed that the voting box is placed in a location not to be seen by all the people?		
10	Are the voting rooms not ensuring privacy an secrecy for the voter?		
11	Were the candidates representatives who are allowed to participate absent?		

Voting procedures:

12	Was the voting late of the starting time?			
13	Have you observed any carelessness in verifying the voters cards to make sure of their identities?			
14	Have voters cards been verified in an incorrect way?			
15	Have you observed that the voter name was not registered after voting?			

*** Elections Center No:**

16	Have you observed that the required secrecy was not available to the voter when casting his vote?			
17	Has the voting been performed outside the rooms specified for voting?			
18	Have you observed the presence of collective voting (more than one person) in the voting room?			
19	Has a voter been given more than one voting paper?			
20	Have you noticed that the voting boxes were completely filled and congested with voting papers?			
21	Were there any noticeable slowness in voting procedures?			
22	Has there been any indications that the candidates representatives were making pressures on the voters and casting effects on them?			

The Employees:-

23	Was any of the responsible officials absent during voting?			
24	Have you observed that the responsible employees in the election center were not aware of their responsibilities?			
25	Have you observed that the group of the election team were not fair in dealing with the observations of voters, and the candidates and their representatives?			
26	Have you noticed that any of the employees tried to cast effects upon the voters?			
27	Have observed that the voters were not provided with the assistance they required?			
28	Have you observed any sort of restriction on the employee duties in the elections centers?			

The materials

29	Have you noticed any shortage in the voting papers?			
30	Have you observed the voting papers were not organized and were not kept properly?			
31	Did you notice that the voting papers were not bearing the center official stamp and the signature of the center responsible official?			

The voters:-

32	Have you noticed any contradiction between the electoral roll and the number the voters?			
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33	Have any voters whose names appear in the electoral rolls, been prohibited from voting?			
34	Have any persons whose names were not in the electoral roll, been given chance to vote?			
35	Have you noticed that the voters were not aware of voting procedures?			

*** Election Center No:**

Question	Yes	No	Observations
General Observations:-			
36	Have you noticed that the voting process was halted earlier than the fixed time?		
37	Was the voting process performed in an unquiet atmosphere and was unorganized?		
38	Was the voting process generally unsound?		
39	Was the voting process generally partial and untransparent?		

**** Other remarks not mentioned above shall registered here:**

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Supplement No.: (2)
Municipal Elections Supervision
Form – No: (2)
(Vote counting stage form)

Region: City / Province /
District:
Elections Constituency No.
Election Center No.
Day and Date of Elections:

Names and Signatures of the Supervisors:-

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.

- Polling Box No.
- Time of opening Polling Box:

	Question	Yes	No	Observations
1	Were assurances made with regards to locks and waxing before opening the box?			
2	Was the vote counting performed in the presence of the candidates representatives and the polling supervisors/			
3	Were the persons who attended counting given permission to be present?			
4	Had the representatives seen counting clearly?			
5	Were the doubtful cards put aside alone?			
6	Was the decision on the unused cards acceptable by all?			
7	Were all representatives agreeable about the result?			

** Time of vote counting end:

Supplement No. (3)

Guiding steps

Dear Supervisor:

Herein is a collection of guide lines that may assist you to complete your mission and safeguard the neutrality of your role and the Council integrity:-

- Always remember that the basic objective of supervision is the confirmation of elections unbiasedness and impartiality. Hence, remember the principle of neutrality during your work and at any time you ought not to appear supporting any candidate.
- Be subjective and accurate in what you register of observations.
- Be careful to be present in the elections center half an hour before voting in the elections day.
- Do not forget to take your supervision identification card with you in a way where it can clearly be seen during the whole process.
- Immediately after you arrive identify yourself to the center employees and the candidates representatives.

- Choose a sitting place from which you can supervise the different elections procedures inside the centers without interference. If your place is specified by the election center committee, you will have to accept it, but if it not suitable, you can ask the center supervisor to change it and in all cases you have to abide by the center discipline.
- Keep following up what you believe to be important for the voting operations.
- If there is an important observation not included in the supervision form, you have to register it in details in additional papers.
- Avoid talking with the center employees, and if you notice a matter that you believe to have effect on the voting, convey it quietly to the center supervisor.
- Avoid talking to the media as that may have affect on your supervision neutrality.
- Together with your colleagues in the supervision committee, arrange methods of co-ordination in supervising the centers that fall under your joint responsibility and choose one of you to perform co-ordination with the central supervision committee.
- At the end of supervision, send the form that you have filled to the local supervision fax room that the local co-ordinator shall inform you with, or take it directly to the location of the local supervision administration.
- Be keen to send the voting forms just after finishing them and after closing the voting boxes in a period of time not more than half an hour in the evening of Thursday.

Remarks

- The voting box will be shown to those who are present at 7:30 hour a.m.
The elections centers will open for the voters at eight in the morning and close at five evening, but voting shall continue till all the present voters cast their votes.
- The process of classifying and counting the votes papers, shall start directly after the end of voting and each center shall convey its results to the local supervision committee.

Supplement No. (4)

Societies participating in Elections Supervision

Hereunder is a brief identification of the Societies participating in elections supervision and which are component of the National Council for the Supervision of Elections.

1- The National Society for Human Rights:

This society was established in the year 1425H. It is an independent society not attached to any governmental organization. It was established by forty members ten of them were women and started to function after getting approval vide Royal Decree No. 24/2 dated 18.1.1425H., to realize the following objectives:

- Defending human rights in accordance with the provisions of the Saudi Basic Governance Law and other Saudi Applicable laws. Moreover, the defence shall also be in accordance with what is stipulated in the Declaration and Covenants issued by the Arab League, The Islamic Congress Organization and the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, in what shall not contradict with the Islamic Sharia.

- Co-operation with the International Organizations working in the same field.
- To stand against injustice, oppression, violence, torture and intolerance.
- To realize those objectives the law has given the society a number of powers some of which are:-
- To ensure that what is stipulated in the Basic Law and in the local laws, is being implemented.
- To ensure that the Kingdom is performing its obligations comprised in Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam, in the United Nations Charter and in other International Covenants related to human rights.
- To receive complaints and follow them up with the concerned parties, and to look into the claims and excessiveness related to human rights.

The Society has a site on the internet which is : www.nshrsa.org and a contact phone: 01 2102223, and a fax No.: 01 2102202.

2- The Saudi Administration Society:

This society was established in the year 1402H. It is an independent, non-profit and a professional organization. The number of its members is more than 2500, and its objectives include the following:-

- 1- To avail the chances for the specialist working in the administrative fields to participate in the activities aiming at developing the scientific thinking in the field of administration and in promoting the profession.

- 2- Participation in promoting scientific advance.
- 3- Facilitating exchange of scientific products and thoughts in the field of administration.
- 4- Provision of consultancy and performing the necessary studies to rise the level of practice in the sphere of administration in both the public and private sectors.
- 5- Encouraging scientific researches in the administrative field and in other related spheres.
- 6- Publication of researches results, distributing and exchanging them with the related organizations. Moreover, to issue and print the books specialized in administration and distributing them to disseminate administrative knowledge among the different society sectors.

For realizing its objectives the society performs the following activities:-

- 1- Holding symposiums, conferences, periodical meetings, scientific and training courses, and specialized campings, to look into the cases related to thinking and administrative development at the international level in general and at the level of the Kingdom in particular.
- 2- To issue a monthly magazine concerned with the news of administration and administrators and disseminate their ideas. Also to issue a serious scientific magazine for publishing the scientific researches and studies.

3- The Saudi Economic Society:

This society was established in the year 1407H. Its objective is the promotion of scientific thinking in the field of economics and facilitating the participation of those working in the field of economics in the development movement of that sector. The society is also aiming to encourage exchange of economic researches results and thoughts with the related organizations. Another objective of the Society to provide consultancy and perform researches in the economic field in general and with respect to the activities in the Kingdom in particular.

The Society membership is open to those holding university degrees in economics whether they are working in the public or in the private sector.

The Society used to hold an annual general assembly for its general affairs and also for discussing economic issues related to the Saudi economy. Moreover, the Society activities include general lectures each year and organizes discussion circles related to the Saudi different economic aspects and those lectures are usually attended by officially responsible personalities.

The Society, on the other hand formed a women committee from the women who are members of the Society. The objective of that committee is to increase economic awareness between Saudi women and families.

4- The Saudi Geographical Society:

This Society was formed in the year 1391H, and the number of its active men and women members is 353 till now.

The Society used to publish two series of scientific publications, which are “Geographical Researches” and “Geographical Studies”, in addition to other specialized researches and books.

Recently the society issued “The Arab Magazine for the Geographical Information Systems”.

The Society also participates in the Scientific dialogues, symposiums and discussions accompanying its annual meetings. In addition to that the Society comprises several specialized research groups. The Society E-mail is sgs@ksu.edu.sa and a site on the internet: www.saudigs.org , a contact phone: 01 4678798 and a fax No. 01 4677732.

5- Saudi Society for Information and Communications:

This Society was established in the year 1422H., and has 1200 members from the different informational specialties at the academic and professional levels. It is a member of the International Union of Communications Societies (Canada) in addition to membership of several other scientific societies.

The Society had organized a number of annual informations meetings that tackled different prominent information issues and subjects that included studies related to the Saudi Informational activities and the international

informational image of the Kingdom in addition to education and training in the field of information in the Arab World.

The Society was able to organize the first meeting of the scientific and professional societies in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the year 1422H, where the representatives discussed the way of activating their roles as civil society institutions.

The society also used to arrange and hold training courses and specialized workshops aiming at raising the level of professional performance with respect to the informational activities in the kingdom.

The activities of this society include and the organization of an annual prize under the title "Informational Excellence" for the different branches of Information. The society also comprise several specialized groups in different fields such as the press, radio, T.V., internet, public relations, advertisement and so forth and on the other hand the society has active branches in the main regions of the kingdom.

6. The Saudi Accountants Society :-

This Society was established in the year 1412H, aiming at developing accountancy profession along with auditing and all the activities that shall lead to the promotion of that profession and raise its level of performance and its specific objectives include :-

1. Revision, promote and endorsing accountancy standards.
2. Revision, promote and endorsing auditing standards.
3. Laying down the necessary rules of examination for acquiring the fellowships certificate.
4. Organization of the continuing education programs.
5. Laying down the necessary rules of field supervision to ensure that the chartered accountant is applying the professional standards and is adhering to the accountants law provisions and regulations.
6. Arranging researches and studies related accountancy, auditing and related subjects.
7. Issuing periodicals, books and pamphlets in the fields of accountancy and auditing.
8. participation in the symposiums and in local and international committees related to accountancy and auditing professions.

7- The Saudi Journalist Organization:

This organization was established in the year 1422H. It is an independent corporate institution striving to serve the professional objectives of the journalists in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is a non-profit seeking organization and its activities include holding symposiums, conferences, training meetings, workshops, cultural and social events arrangements, performing researches and studies that shall assist in the promotion of the society services in addition to

all sorts of activities that facilitate the realization of its objectives.

The number of the Society members is (1178) of whom (62) women journalists, and the Society Board of Directors is chosen by direct elections.

The Society Objectives:-

- 1- Raising the level of journalism profession , defending its interests and rights, striving to promote and develop its concepts, strengthening journalism respect and defending freedom of expression on the basis of the prevailing and accepted general principles in addition to laying down a professional covenant that shall be observed by journalists.
- 2- Taking care of the organization members interests and defending their moral and legal rights inside and outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- 3- Representing journalists in front of official authorities and the other professional organizations inside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and in front of the organizations that are related to the profession outside the kingdom.
- 4- Striving to enhance the financial and administrative rights of the journalists and to prevent subjecting them to pressures by their employers.
- 5- Strengthening the relations between the journalists and the organizations with which they are working and enhancing mutual co-ordination

and solve the problems that may arise between them by amicable means.

- 6- Exerting efforts to promote the journalist professional abilities towards the best, by holding training courses and workshops or local or external scholarships.
- 7- Making efforts that journalist shall attend the public meetings in addition to the meeting of the municipalities, the rural councils, Majlis Al Shora and also the meetings of clubs, societies and other public organizations.
- 8- Encouraging the principle of specialization between the organization members and to provide the necessary training for those specializations.
- 9- To go along to provide the journalist job that will suit the members qualifications and to accommodate those unemployed and defend and preserve the rights of the members that may be dismissed without reason and to render assistance in cases of sickness and disability.
- 10- Promotion of professional performance mechanisms of the organization members and to lay down the related scientific and technical studies that shall organize the financial and administrative aspects in the least costs possible.
- 11- Searching for providing special advantages and facilities for the organization members.
- 12- To follow up professionally the activities of the members and to make sure that they are abiding

with the Organization regulations and instructions.

- 13- To encourage the information institutions to cite the talented in the journalism profession and give them care and to open opportunities of progress in front of them.