

**High Elections Committee  
(2014)**

**High Elections Committee  
Decree no. 27 /2014**

On the Regulations Governing the Observation of the 2014-2015 House of Representatives  
Election by Foreign and International Civil Society Organizations

**The High Elections Committee,**

Having perused:

The Constitution;

and Law no. 45 /2014 on the Regulation of Exercising Political Rights;

and Law no. 46 /2014 on the House of Representatives;

and Presidential Decree no. 231 /2014 on the Formation of the High Elections Committee;

and the approval of the High Elections Committee in its session held on Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014;

**Decided:**

**Article (1)**

Foreign and International Civil Society Organizations working in the field of Election Observation, Human Rights and Supporting Democracy, as well as Foreign Elections Agencies and Commissions, shall be allowed to observe the 2014-15 House of Representatives Election, according to the regulations prescribed herein, upon obtaining an Observation Permit from the High Elections Committee. The Observation Permit may not be considered as license or basis for practicing any other activity in Egypt.

**Article (2)**

Observation of the Electoral Process refers to all activities of observation of all procedures in connection with candidate registration, election campaigning, polling, ballot-counting, and announcement of election results.

Observers are prohibited from interfering with or disrupting the electoral process in any way; as well as influencing voters or campaigning for candidates; and they may not under any circumstances give any grants, gifts, assistance or benefits to, or accept any of that from any candidate or his/her supporters.

**Article (3)**

Foreign and International Civil Society Organizations applying for an Election Observation Permit must meet the following requirements :

- 1- Being of good international reputation and of recognized impartiality and integrity;
- 2- Having Election Observation, Human Rights and Supporting Democracy among the organization's original areas of activity;
- 3- Having previous experience in the field of observing elections.

**Article (4)**

An Organization wishing to observe the 2014-2015 Election of the House of Representatives should submit an application to the High Elections Committee for permission to observe this election in the time determined by the Committee. The following documents must be attached to the application:

- 1- An executive summary on the organization, its activities and previous experience in the field of Election Observation;
  - 2- A list of states where it has participated in observing elections during the three years preceding the date of voting;
  - 3- A statement of the number of observers nominated by the organization who wish to obtain permits for observing the electoral process;
  - 4- The name of the representative of the organization before the High Elections Committee;
- The Committee may request any other documents as it sees fit.

#### **Article (5)**

A committee shall be formed by virtue of a decree to be issued by the High Elections Committee Chief, consisting of members of the General Secretariat of the High Elections Committee and others whom are deemed suitable, to receive and examine the applications of organizations wishing to be permitted to observe the 2014-2015 House of Representatives Election. The said committee's recommendation to accept or reject an application shall be submitted within the following twenty four hours to the High Elections Committee for a decision.

#### **Article (6)**

The High Elections Committee issues its decision on accepted organizations, and gives each a number of non-replicable codes (valid for one use only), equal to the number of observers included in the organization's application at the Committee's headquarters at 117 Abdel Aziz Fahmy st. – end of El-Merghany metro line. The codes are to be used for registration by the observers themselves through the official website of the High Elections Committee ([www.elections.eg](http://www.elections.eg)) provided that the observers register themselves in the time determined by the Committee. The registration details to be filled by observers include:

- Full name;
  - Occupation;
  - Nationality;
  - A recent personal photograph (4x6 and white background);
  - A copy of passport;
  - A copy of both sides of the national identification card for interpreters;
- All of the above shall be provided by scanner.

The committee formed of the General Secretariat shall examine separately the forms submitted by observers. The High Elections Committee is entitled to decline forms with incomplete data.

#### **Article (7)**

The Committee shall issue permits to accepted observers. An official representative of the organization shall receive all permits from the headquarters of the Committee. The observers themselves are not allowed to frequent the headquarters of the Committee.

#### **Article (8)**

Observers shall be entitled to enter polling and counting stations and district committees by virtue of the identification cards issued by the High Elections Committee.

An observer may not remain within any polling station for more than half an hour. Chairpersons of polling stations and of district committees may, when necessary, reduce the duration of observer presence and/or limit the number of observers in the station or committee location, so as not to hamper the work of the committee.

The instructions of the Chairpersons of polling stations and of district committees in this regard are to be observed at all times.

#### **Article (9)**

Organizations permitted to observe the election shall abide by all provisions regulating the electoral process in laws, regulations and decrees; they should perform their observing functions in accordance with the regulations set out by the committee; and they should adhere to accuracy, impartiality and objectivity.

#### **Article (10)**

A permitted organization should immediately inform the High Elections Committee of any remarks revealed during observation and deemed important for the High Elections Committee to be notified of.

The Committee shall study and verify such remarks, and take the necessary measures.

An organization may not announce any election results before being formally announced by the High Elections Committee.

#### **Article (11)**

The organization shall prepare, upon the conclusion of the electoral process, a report on the results of observation, the High Elections Committee with regard to the remarks of the organization.

In its preparation of this report, the organization should maintain impartiality, and rely on demonstrable facts and technical evaluation that highlights the positive or negative aspects revealed during observation. The report should reflect - objectively - the official response that will have been issued by the High Elections Committee with regard to the remarks of the organization.

#### **Article (12)**

The Committee may invite any chairpersons or members of Foreign Election-Oversight Agencies and Commissions, Embassies, and International and Regional Unions to observe the 2014-2015 House of Representatives Election.

#### **Article (13)**

Without prejudice to the penalties provided for in Law No. 45 /2014 on the Regulation of Exercising Political Rights, the High Elections Committee may revoke the permit issued to any election observer in the case of violation of the regulations prescribed herein.

The Committee may revoke the permit issued to the organization if it was found responsible for the violation.

#### **Article (14)**

This decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enters into force as of the day following its date of publication.

Issued in Cairo on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 A.D.

**Chairman of the High Elections Committee**  
**President of the Appeals Court**

**Justice/Ayman Abbass**  
Member of the Higher Judicial Council