



جمهورية العراق
المؤوضية العليا المستقلة للانتخابات
كۆميسونى بالآى سه ربه خۆى هه لىبارد نه كان
The Independent High Electoral Commission

Amended Media Regulation for CoR Elections 2010

Pursuant to the Authority granted to BoC, Article (4) paragraph (Eighth) of IHEC Law No. (11) of 2007, we decided to issue the following regulation:

Regulation No. () of 2009 Media Outlets

(Preamble)

The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) was established by Law No. (11) of 2007 to be the exclusive electoral body in Iraq. IHEC is a professional, independent, governmental and neutral body, with juridical personality subject to the supervision of the Council of Representatives.

Section One (Terminology)

The terms stated below indicate the following meanings:

1. IHEC: The Independent High Electoral Commission.
2. Iraqi Media Network (IMN): An independent institution assigned with disseminating information, as per Order No. 66 of 2008.
3. Campaign Rules: Media coverage instructions during the elections.
4. Campaign Period: It is the period starting from the date IHEC accredits candidates. It ends 24 hrs prior to opening Poling Centers (PCs).
5. Media: Media outlets specialized in providing the public with news, information, or entertainment materials via Audio/Visual, printed materials and **online media**.
6. Political Entity: An organization including a political party and or an individual, as defined in Order No. 97 of 2004.
7. Coalition: Is a gathering of two or more Political Entities, in order to produce a unified list of candidates in certain elections.
8. Code of Conduct: Particular set of rules issued by Communication and Media Commission in Iraq (CMC) for media representatives.
9. GEOs: IHEC's offices in Baghdad and the governorates.



Section Two (Impartial Media Coverage)

1. Since the freedom of speech and access of information had been implemented, media outlets must provide accurate, impartial, and comprehensive information. They should deal with all coalitions and political entities in a transparent impartial manner.
2. Official Iraqi media outlets should cover the activities of all political entities and coalitions equally.
3. Invite all audio/visual, and printed Iraqi media to reduce prices of ads during the electoral campaign; since these campaigns tend to have more of patriotic nature rather than commercial.
4.
 - a. Media outlets should clearly point out that official information, data, procedures and electoral regulations are issued by IHEC. Thus, they must refrain from disseminating such information without checking their accuracy.
 - b. Media outlets should avoid distorting electoral information issued by IHEC, whether paid for such as advertisements, data, or on general news.

Section Three (Employing Media in Electoral Campaigns)

1. Encourage official Iraqi media outlets (printed media, audio/visual) to provide IHEC with low-cost broadcasting times, in order to support its educational campaign programs.
2. Encourage official Iraqi media outlets (printed media, audio/visual) to provide low-cost broadcasting times for political entities and coalitions equally, enabling them to publicize their electoral materials.
3. No media outlet should intentionally distort, block, falsify, mispresent, or delete information, including systematic deletion that would actually affect the public understanding of a subject or an event. Their information regarding electoral rules and regulations must rely on official IHEC data.



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4. Call on online media to ensure the principle of equality, by not allowing any discrimination or alienation of any political entity or candidate, when inviting electoral campaign-organizers to participate in programs tailored for such purpose. Online media should guarantee the inviting policy, as well as providing equal participation opportunities for men and women.
5. Political entities, coalitions and candidates have the right to participate in electoral campaigns by using paid advertisements in Iraqi media. Printed media outlets are to publish such political ads.

Section Four (Iraqi Media Network (IMN) Commitments)

IMN as a public broadcast body, funded by the state is legally obliged to educate and inform the Iraqi citizens on the following:

1. Educating voters and informing listeners and viewers on the elections through newscasts, radio and television programs.
2. Providing practical information for citizens, enabling them of casting their votes, and taking certain measures to guarantee that information is available to all segments of society.
3. Providing free TV broadcast time and allocating available studios and technical resources for candidates, enabling them to be featured -once at least- in political debates or dialogues.
4. Free broadcasting of information and programs issued by IHEC, and seeking the aid of non-affiliated media outlets, in order to broadcast information without amendments.

Section Five (Voter Awareness and Public Media)

1. In accordance with the electoral campaign regulation, Iraqi media outlets are responsible of informing readers, listeners, and viewers of the election process in an accurate timely manner.
2. Information pertaining to political procedures and regulations must rely on transparent, clear, factual and official data from IHEC.



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3. The electoral campaigns period starts form the date candidates are accredited by IHEC and stops 24hrs prior to opening PCs.

**Section Six
(Media Presence in PCs and GEOs)**

1. Media representatives must obtain an official permission from IHEC or Media officials, in order to access IHEC headquarters such as N.O in Baghdad, GEOs and polling centers.
2. Photographing and videotaping of any voter inside the premises is forbidden without having the voter's clear consent. Even if the voter consents to the tape or photograph, it should not expose the voter's intention during the casting of his ballot.
3. Printed media (newspapers, magazines and websites) are permitted to access GEOs and centers across the country. However, videotaping is only permitted in certain centers (equipped with safety detecting devices) specified by IHEC.

**Section Seven
(Violations)**

1. BoC will withdraw the accreditation of any media outlet or representative that violates the provisions of this regulation and the Code of Conduct.
2. BoC will request CMC to impose proper penalties on media outlets that violates the provisions of this regulation and the Code of Conduct.
3. IHEC will refer any criminal case to the appropriate authorities, should there be supporting evidence of the violation.

**Section Eight
(Entry into Force)**

This regulation is effective from the date of ratification by BoC on ----/---
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Board of Commissioners



Amended Procedures for Accrediting Media Representatives for 2010 CoR Elections

-Polling Stage-

Preface:

The media plays an important role in promoting credibility and transparency in the electoral processes. They serve as the eyes and ears of the general public, and report events with integrity. Consequently, media representatives should access all electoral processes, in order to perform comprehensive coverage that reflects their adherence to laws, regulations and instructions. Their success is measured through their transparent and impartial coverage.

In this regard, IHEC strives to set methods and procedures for accrediting media representatives during the polling period, in order to guarantee the freedom of media in accessing ballot boxes and IHEC headquarters and GEOs in a manner that doesn't negatively influence or disrupt the electoral process.

First: Definitions

- Media representatives: they are individual journalists, cameramen and other media equipment operators, and their support staff & interpreters working as employees in daily, weekly and periodical newspapers on regular basis for accredited media, including print, radio and television stations and online media.
- Centers: are polling centers which are places where voters and ballot boxes are present.
- Code of Conduct: are the instructions and principals adopted by Communication and Media Commission in Iraq (CMC).

Second: General Rules

1. Media outlets have the right to access polling centers (PCs) where voters are present. Freedom of movement of media outlets



shouldn't be restricted except for overriding reasons such as security.

2. Journalists will have the right to access all polling centers and write reports in that regard. However, media representatives are forbidden to carry tape recorders, cameras, or video recorders except in specified centers, according to IHEC accreditation procedures.
3. Media representatives shall be accredited by IHEC. Accreditation must not conflict with implementing other media laws that are in force, including CMC's Code of Conduct.
4. Polling center officials have the authority to run those facilities; accordingly, media representatives must abide by instructions from these individuals.
5. The procedures aim to facilitate access to VRCs, Therefore, providing media representatives with security remains the responsibility of media outlets that assign them with these tasks.

Third: Rights and Responsibilities of Accredited Media Representatives

1. Accredited Media representatives have the right to access all polling centers. Yet, videotaping is only permitted in certain centers as previously mentioned.
2. Provide media with news and topics to be disseminated to the public through newspaper, radio, televisions and websites.
3. Media representatives comply with the instructions and directions of polling center officials, ensuring that these procedures do not conflict with the journalists' freedom in disseminating electoral information.
4. Media representatives must wear their valid picture ID cards issued by IHEC.



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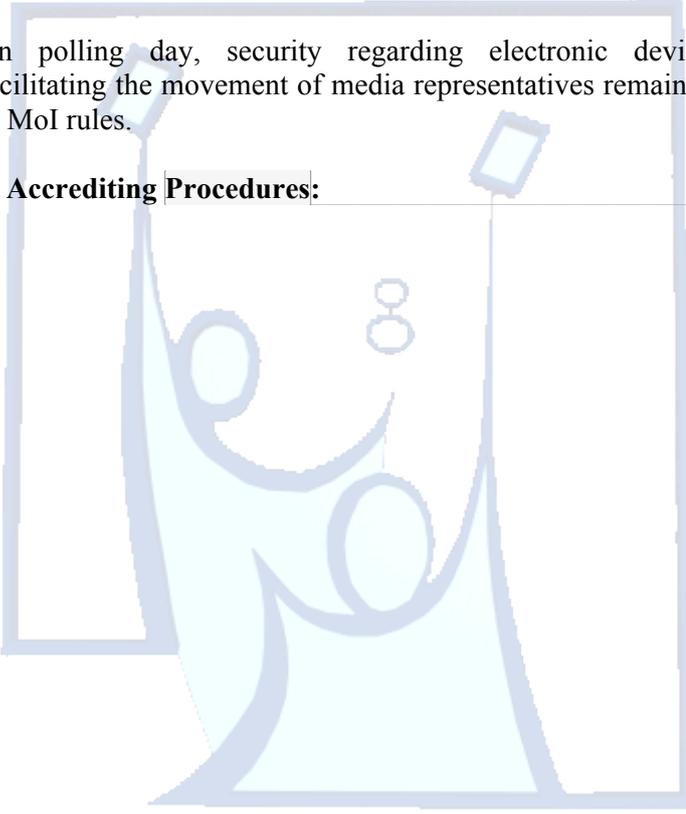
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5. Media representatives who wish to cover the polling stage media campaign should be neutral and non-partisan, by avoiding all that might influence the voters from entering the polling centers.
6. Media should have the consent of the voter prior to interviewing or videotaping him.
7. On polling day, security regarding electronic devices and facilitating the movement of media representatives remains subject to MoI rules.

Fourth: Accrediting Procedures:



Batayneh 6/11/09 20:07

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