



INITIAL REPORT ON THE VOTING PHASE OF EGYPTIANS ABROAD

NAZAHA COALITION TO MONITOR EGYPT'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
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Initial report on the stage of voting by Egyptians abroad

Integrity Coalition - Cairo 4 December 2023

The voting phase for Egyptians living abroad ended, which was conducted over three days (1, 2, 3 December 2023) in 137 Egyptian embassies and consulates in 121 countries worldwide. The decision of the Board of the National Electoral Commission No. (27) Of 2023 was issued to specify its headquarters and addresses. The number of Egyptians abroad is estimated at 14 million citizens, including about 60% residing in 7 Arab countries.

In the context of the “Integrity Coalition” efforts to monitor the 2024 Egyptian presidential elections, the coalition releases its initial report regarding its main observations during the monitoring process of Egyptians voting abroad.

First, the Integrity Coalition

First, Integrity Coalition forms the "International Integrity Coalition" to monitor the Egyptian presidential elections in 2024 through the collaboration of 5 foreign organizations and 2 local organizations, namely: “ECHO Organization – Greece; Eliska Organization – Ghana; Human Act - Romania, the National Forum for Non-Governmental Organizations in Uganda, and the Gales International Forum- Uganda; Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights – Egypt; Partners for Transparency - Egypt.” The coalition includes 54 foreign followers from 34 countries around the world.

The coalition agrees on Egyptian organizations monitoring the electoral process from the stage of opening registration and candidacy to the announcement of official results through a central operations room that operates around the clock. In contrast, international partners monitor the voting of Egyptians abroad in 34 countries representing the nationalities of the foreign observer team consisting of 54 foreign observers, then continue monitoring inside Egypt through a field monitoring plan that includes visiting 2400 sub-committees, representing about 24% of the total number of committees at the republic level.



Second, follow up on Egyptians voting abroad

Observers from the Integrity Coalition visited the polling stations of Egyptians abroad in about 34 different countries, equivalent to 25% of the total voting centers at Egyptian embassies and consulates abroad designated for voting, over the course of three days "1, 2, 3 December 2023". The international observers coordinated with the Coalition's central operations room in Cairo to receive testimonies, observations, and photos from the international observers regarding the monitoring process at Egyptian embassies and consulates abroad.

"Nazaha" has launched a hotline to receive complaints and inquiries from citizens around the clock.

The following points include the most prominent observations of the Integrity Coalition over the three days of voting:

- Egyptian embassies and consulates abroad were able to smoothly manage the voting process without complaints from citizens who went to cast their votes, with all necessary logistical capabilities available, including transparent ballot boxes, providing a screen for the voter to choose their candidate behind it, in addition to the availability of ballot papers approved by the National Electoral Commission.
- Egyptians abroad were allowed to vote even if their national ID card expired, ensuring that all those willing to vote could exercise their electoral right, especially after the overseas polling stations were equipped with modern tablets used to verify voter data.
- Discrepancies were noted in the participation rates of Egyptian voters abroad, with some Arab countries witnessing heavy turnout, especially on Friday, which was a public holiday, while some European countries experienced a relative decline in participation rates, particularly due to significant drops in temperature, rainfall, and snow.
- Despite a large voting bloc of Egyptians residing outside Egypt, the premises of Egyptian embassies and consulates were not sufficient to accommodate the



number of voters, especially in large countries where traveling between states or cities takes long hours, making voting participation a challenging task.

- It has been noted that there are initiatives to transport voters for free in several countries to encourage participation, especially due to the obstacle of distance. We monitored these initiatives in Italy and several Arab countries.
- Gatherings of voters were observed in front of polling stations in several European, Arab, and African countries, carrying Egyptian flags and pictures of one of the candidates. The National Elections Authority clarified that the matter was limited to some celebratory appearances by Egyptian citizens, which did not involve disrupting or obstructing the conduct of the electoral process.
- We have repeatedly noticed the provision of special means to transport people with disabilities and the elderly in front of polling stations to facilitate the process of their participation in voting.
- The Integrity Coalition received several questions regarding voting locations outside Egypt, without any complaints related to the conduct of the voting process.

Egyptians are scheduled to vote internally on "December 10, 11, 12, 2023" in 10,085 sub-committees at the republic level, while the Integrity Coalition is preparing to conduct field monitoring activities for international monitoring teams during the three voting days by visiting around 2,400 sub-committees, equivalent to 24% of the total sub-committees at the republic level. The coalition has identified 10 Egyptian governorates to carry out field monitoring activities, taking into account the geographical diversity to include all sectors of the republic.

The Integrity Coalition's Central Operations Room has launched an "Online Form" through the Google application, allowing international monitors to record their notes and observations in real-time to facilitate communication with the operations room and accurately pinpoint observation locations.

The central operations room, composed of a team of researchers and experts in electoral systems, follows up the progress of the electoral process, takes notes, and prepares reports related to the electoral process, as well as receiving inquiries or complaints from citizens via the hotline around the clock.