

12 Oct 2010: 24 days after E-Day

Afghanistan *Wolesi Jirga* Elections, 18 Sept 2010

For the 2010 Afghan *Wolesi Jirga* elections, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) is conducting an observation mission and analyzing the electoral process before, during and after election day. This mission involves more than 160 international analysts and Afghan observers throughout the country. For more information, visit NDI.org and AfghanistanElectionData.org.

IEC Announces Invalidations and Recounts

The Independent Election Commission (IEC) has invalidated votes from more than 442 polling centers and is recounting votes from an additional 828 centers. The decisions came after IEC tally center staff in Kabul identified irregularities in results forms retrieved from the provinces. Irregularities included a suspiciously high number of votes recorded for individual candidates and forms that were not signed by candidate agents who watched over the counting process on behalf of candidates.

Observer groups including the Free and Fair Elections Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA), the country's largest domestic monitoring group, and NDI are monitoring the recounts. Candidate agents and officials from the provincial Electoral Complaints

Commissions (PECCs) are also present. There was initial confusion at some provincial IECs regarding access to observe the recount. NDI observers in Khost province, for example, were at first denied access and told that FEFA was the only observer group allowed to watch the process. But the national office then clarified to provincial IECs that all accredited observers were welcome. FEFA has expressed concern that in some cases it was not notified in a timely fashion about recounts and was only able to attend on the second day of recounting.

The IEC has also asked the ECC to investigate more than 170 candidates across the country who are suspected of fraud. The IEC has requested the ECC to investigate a further *Continued on p.2*

Kabul Province

Kabul has received the most electoral complaints of any province, with 498 lodged on and after election day. Of those, 261 have been categorized as significant enough to affect the outcome of the vote. The PECC said 167 are considered serious but may not have a numerical impact, while the remaining complaints are less serious.

Kabul has an estimated 3.5 million people and is the most populated of the country's 34 provinces. More than 600 candidates ran for the 33 *Wolesi Jirga* seats allocated to this province — the highest among the provinces in both the number of seats and candidates. Nangarhar, with a population of 1.5 million and 278 complaints, received the second highest number of complaints on and after election day. Laghman, with a population of 409,000, ranked third with 238 complaints.

Complaints received by the Kabul PECC included ballot box stuffing, the removal of ballot boxes from polling stations, fraudulent vote counting and the obstruction of election observers. In addition to complaint forms filled out at polling stations, the PECC received some 70 complaints via telephone on election day. If the complaints were deemed serious enough, the commissioners went to the complaint site and advised people with justifiable complaints to visit the PECC office and file them in writing.

Investigations are ongoing and the PECC has not yet adjudicated complaints made on or after election day. The commission adjudicated 195 pre-election day complaints. None of those decisions were appealed.

Voting in Pul-e-Charkhi Prison

The majority of inmates in Afghanistan's largest prison were excluded from voting on election day, NDI learned during a visit to Pul-e-Charkhi prison, on the outskirts of Kabul. Inmates and prison officials said that only some prisoners from Kabul province voted. Pul-e-Charkhi holds almost 5,000 detainees from around the country. But only about 350 people, including prison staff, were able to vote, prison officials said.

Afghanistan's electoral law stipulates that prisoners have the right to vote. However, IEC officials announced in advance of the Sept. 18 election that they were unable to provide ballots for the Afghan National Army, the Afghan National Police, and prisoners in locations outside their home province. On election day, the IEC's mobile voting team arrived at the prison with ballots only for Kabul province. IEC officials visited only one of the prison's six blocks, leaving out voters in the other blocks.

Prison officials also said that during the registration period, election authorities did not bring enough voting cards to the prison to be able to register all inmates. The IEC visited Pul-e-Charkhi for three hours and issued 200 voting cards in only one of the six prison blocks, according to a prison block commander.

Observers from FEFA and the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) oversaw the voting process. Agents representing six candidates were also present. The vote counting process did not take place at the prison; ballot boxes were taken to another polling center, as required by the electoral law.

IEC announces invalidations (from p.1)

275 candidates who failed to provide campaign finance reports in time for the deadline, which was 48 hours prior to election day. In addition, the IEC has decided to accept data from 164 polling centers after investigations proved that initial suspicions of election irregularity were unfounded. The IEC has so far corrected discrepancies in data from a further 31 polling centers.

Provincial Reach of Police Training Program on E-Day Security Unclear

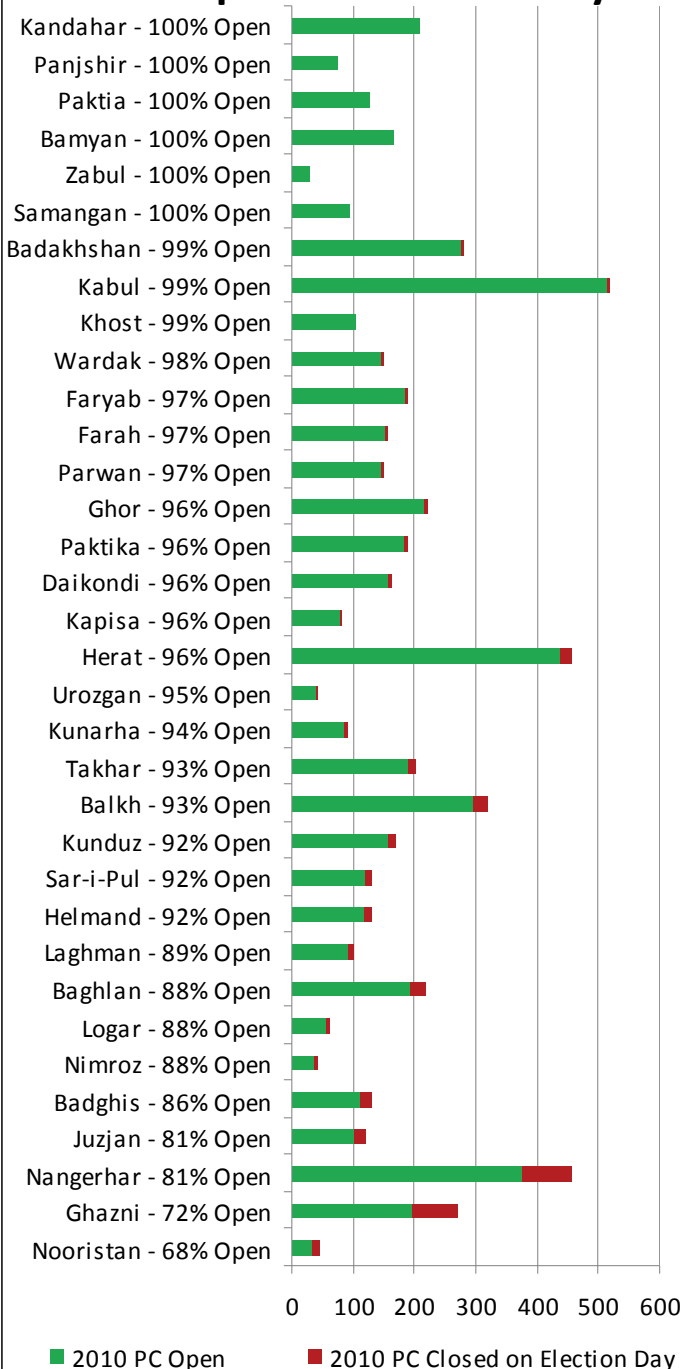
Mystery surrounds the outcome of a program by the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL) aimed at training 35,000 police officers around the country on Election Day security. In late August, EUPOL completed training 273 Afghan National Police trainers in four cities who were tasked with the subsequent training of thousands more ANP personnel. However, EUPOL said it has not received information from the Ministry of Interior (MOI) on how the training was rolled out in each province. MOI said it has not received information from provincial ANP offices.

The program focused on police conduct, police law and basic election procedures in order to enhance ANP performance throughout the country on election day. The program was to be rolled out in three stages: EUPOL international trainers first trained 350 ANP master trainers; MOI was to then manage the process of having each of the 350 master trainers train 10 additional local trainers, reaching a total of 3,500 local trainers; all trained were then to deploy to the districts to each brief a minimum of 10 policemen. In addition, EUPOL printed 40,000 training booklets in Dari and Pashtu outlining election security and proper conduct on election day. The layout of the booklet allowed it to be used by illiterate staff as well, as illustrations were included in support of the training.

In Balkh province, the deputy police chief told NDI that the training took place and praised its effectiveness. However, the program's reach in other provinces is unknown. Police officials in Herat and Khost told NDI they were not aware of the program.

EUPOL said it was initially reluctant to take up the mission because of a disappointing experience in preparation for the 2009 elections, but it agreed to implement the training after requests from European embassies. In 2009, the training reached only 10,000 of the targeted 35,000 ANP officers, and EUPOL described the program as having been poorly implemented by MOI. EUPOL said MOI's capacity had not improved this year, and the program was affected by the replacement of MOP's head of education on Sept. 1, which left the ministry with little institutional knowledge about implementing the program.

PCs Open on Election Day



Review of Polling Stations and Centers that Failed to Open on Election Day

Using data provided by the IEC, NDI has conducted a review of polling stations and polling centers that failed to open on election day. In considering polling stations — as opposed to centers — every province reported that more than 75 percent of its polling stations opened on election day. This indicates that smaller centers were generally those that failed to open: the average closed center had 2.8 stations while the national average is 3.2 stations. Of note, the two provinces from which no partial preliminary results have been announced are on opposite ends of the spectrum for openings on election day: Kandahar reported no closures while Nuristan reported that only 62 percent of its polling centers opened, the lowest percentage in the country.

NDI, which has worked in Afghanistan since 2002, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nongovernmental organization working to support and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide through citizen participation, openness and accountability in government. For the 2010 elections, NDI conducted seminars for over 1,700 candidates, organized training for political parties and more than 240 women candidates, and provided technical assistance to the Free and Fair Elections Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA), the country's largest domestic election monitoring organization. NDI also trained over 36,000 candidate agents nationwide to report on election-day activities.