



**SHAMS NETWORK REPORT TO MONITOR
THE ELECTIONS OF PARLIAMENT
CANCELLATION OF VOTING FOR IRAQI
RESIDENTS ABROAD**

REPUBLIC OF IRAQ - 2021

Background on monitoring Iraq's 2021 parliamentary elections

Since 2005, Iraq has had several electoral experiments and Shams network has played an active role in monitoring the elections as one of the most prominent institutions of Iraqi civil society and its contribution to supporting the transparency and integrity of the elections through the monitoring programs and reports it has issued, in addition to its proposals and opinions in the procedures of electoral processes.

For the 2021 Iraqi parliamentary elections, Shams network has prepared a program of work to monitor the full cycle of Iraqi elections, which was implemented by the self-efforts of the network and its member organizations and with the partial support of the French and Dutch Embassies, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and the Elections Network in the Arab World (ENAR).

Shams Network, through its experts and advisers, issues report on the electoral process in all its stages.

Introduction

The development of the concept and role of the state in the international community, which has turned into something like a global village thanks to the great and effective role of the communication revolution and the technology of information in communication between human beings which gave the state a growing ability to communicate with its citizens wherever they are and in a very short time, which made immigrant citizens know closely about the daily events taking place in their country and follow what is happening immediately, which contributed to the consolidation of the national belonging of expatriates despite the distances and the multiplicity of environments they live, and from this point of view, the participation of expatriates in the electoral process has many positive benefits for residents abroad because it ensures to continue to exercise their citizenship effectively and continuously without interruption from caring for the affairs of the homeland, and to consolidate their participation in democratic life, and this contributes to giving a good impression of the culture and civilization of the motherland and secures the link between the mother country and the host country and thus contributes to the development of political, cultural, social and economic relations between the two countries. Their vote as a voting bloc is surrounded by different and diverse experiences that contribute to the experience of elections and the democratic process.

Iraqi experience of abroad elections

Democratic countries have been keen to involve their citizens outside the borders of the motherland in voting in various forms, to ensure the rights of their citizens and their participation in public life, and the applications of this process came not long after the transformations in understanding the participation and expansion of the elections, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Sweden, Spain, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and others, in addition to the Arab countries such as Algeria, Tunisia and Lebanon.

Perhaps what is in the interest of the democratic experience in Iraq is that it implemented the program of including expatriate Iraqis in the first free democratic elections held in Iraq after the

fall of the tyrannical regime, which was the elections of the National Assembly in 2005 and by relying on the efforts of the International Organization for Migration(IOM)and then established the Independent High Electoral Commission based on its expertise in the program of electing the parliament for Iraqis abroad.

In fact, the achievements in the process of elections for Iraqis abroad would not have been possible without the support and provision of the host countries of the program by providing logistical, security and technical support in some cases and allowing expatriate Iraqis to exercise their rights under international human rights conventions, as well as supporting and backing up the international electoral assistance team.

Legal framework for abroad elections in Iraq

First: The Iraqi Constitution and international conventions

Elections are one of the basic elements of democratic life and the main means by which citizens can express a range of political and social choices by selecting their representatives in representative councils.

Considering the people as the source of powers and the sovereign exercised through constitutional institutions makes the process of securing the ballot of the broadest possible segment of the citizens (voters) a fundamental necessity in any fair electoral system because of the importance of pushing the democratic transition towards greater legitimacy and credibility in the results of the elections.

In this regard, the importance of the subject of the right to vote has been linked to the expansion of the circle of citizens who have this right, which has passed in several stages before it became a comprehensive and general for all citizens without discrimination.

As the concept of citizenship has evolved and the exercise of the right to vote in modern societies has expanded, and the search for mechanisms has been sought to ensure the participation of all segments of society in a way that does not entail any of them, and this right is often enshrined in the special constitutional texts of each state as well as stipulated in international procedures and agreements.

As for Iraq, the right to participate in public life is guaranteed under Article 5 of the Iraqi constitution, which stipulates (sovereignty of the law, and the people are the source of powers and their legitimacy is exercised by direct public secret ballot and through its constitutional institutions).

The amended Iraqi Parliament Election Act No. 16 of 2005 affirmed the right of expatriate Iraqi citizens to vote for their representatives in the parliament.

In addition to what is stipulated in the UN charters, specifically the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Article 21, which stipulates:

1. Everyone has the right to participate in the management of the public affairs of his country either directly or through representatives who choose freely.
2. Everyone has the same right as others to hold public office in the country.

3. The will of the people is the source of the authority of the government, and this will be expressed by fair and periodic elections conducted on the basis of secret balloting on an equal basis for all or according to any similar measure that guarantees freedom of voting.

With the increasing rate of movement of citizens outside the borders of their country and mass migrations of multiple reasons, many countries have resorted to researching and approving mechanisms that guarantee citizens living outside the borders of the homeland their rights to participate in the electoral process and thus choose their representatives like other citizens within their countries, and there has been a recognition of the right to vote for expatriates.

As a result of these continuous migrations of different orientations and trends, large Iraqi communities have been formed abroad.

The choice of living outside national borders is linked to the freedom of movement maintained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Article 13, which states:

1. Everyone has the freedom of movement and choice of place of residence within the borders of each country.
2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his or her own, and he or she has the right to return to it.

The Iraqi constitution gave this right to citizens without legally depriving them of any of their personal rights.

1. The Iraqis have freedom of movement, travel and housing inside and outside Iraq.
2. The Iraqi should not be exiled, deported or denied repatriation.

One of the most important of these rights is their participation in the public voting, to freely express their will to participate in the management of the affairs of the country through the selection of their representatives.

According to the Iraqi constitution, the exercise of their rights by Iraqis, including the right to participate in voting, can only be restricted by law without affecting the essence of this right, as stipulated in Article 46 of the constitution:

((Restricting the exercise of any of the rights and freedoms contained in this constitution or restricting them is only by law or accordingly, but that limitation and restriction do not affect the essence of right or freedom)), Therefore, the geographical aspect cannot play any negative role, and those who are far from their hometown lose any right, hence the right to vote for all citizens, residents and expatriates. Therefore, the vote of expatriates should not constitute any exception under a democratic system or in the process of democratization.

Second: The legal basis for implementing the process of including Iraqis abroad in the elections

The implementation of the Iraqi elections process abroad requires a legal basis that the commission can legally deal with without the constitution and international conventions, which cannot be a legal basis for the implementation of the process. The Electoral Act represents the legal basis for the implementation of elections, along with the regulations and procedures

established by the Commission (Board of Commissioners) which earns its legal status for the management and implementation of elections on the basis of the Commission Act No. 11 of 2007, which stipulates in article 2 first: (Laying the foundations and rules adopted in local federal and regional elections and referendums throughout Iraq to ensure their fair and just implementation)) and article 4 VIII on (establishing regulations and instructions that preserve the integrity of the electoral process).)

Commission Act No. (31) of 2019, which stipulates in article (1) paragraph first (the development of regulations and instructions adopted in federal elections and referendums)

Paragraph II (the announcement, implementation and supervising of all types of elections and referendums federal and local in governorates in accordance with the provisions of the constitution), and the Independent High Commission in Iraq has relied on the electoral laws approved by the Iraqi parliament to organize the elections of Iraqis abroad and according to each election cycle: -

1. First elections: 2005 National Assembly elections, administered by the Commission in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration.
 - ❖ Interim Coalition Authority Order No. (96) for 2005
2. Second election: 2005 Parliamentary elections, administered by the Independent High Electoral Commission through its head office in The Kingdom of Jordan in cooperation with the United Nations.
 - ❖ Iraqi Parliament Election Law No. (16)2005
3. Third election: 2010 Parliamentary elections, administered by the Independent High Electoral Commission through its head office in Erbil in cooperation with the United Nations.
 - ❖ Amended parliament Election Act (26) 2009 (Electoral Law Amendment Act No. 16 of 2005)
4. 4th election: 2014 parliamentary elections, administered by the Independent High Electoral Commission through the Abroad Election Management Unit in Baghdad in cooperation with the United Nations.
 - ❖ Parliament Election Act No. (45) of 2013
5. 5th Election: 2018 parliamentary Elections, administered by the Independent High Electoral Commission through Abroad Election Management Unit in Baghdad
 - ❖ Amended parliament Election Act (45) 2013
6. 6th election: Elections to the parliament 2021 (scheduled for 10/10/2021) in which the elections abroad were cancelled by the decision of the Electoral Commission.
 - ❖ Parliament Election Act No. (9) of 2020.

The mechanism to determine the countries where elections are held abroad for Iraqis

The countries where the elections are held in cooperation with a number of Iraqi institutions and international organizations are determined by adopting the criteria below:

Criterion 1: The number of Iraqis residing in the country concerned and according to available statistics.

Criterion 2: The possibility of Iraqis travelling from some of their countries of residence (where polling stations have not been opened) to neighboring countries where elections are held (e.g. Scandinavia).

Criterion 3: The agreement of the states concerned to hold elections on their territory.

Criterion 4: Previous elections experiences, and the number of voters in each country.

Thus the number of countries in which elections will be held and the number of voters in each country are determined.

The number of countries at each electoral stage was determined as follows:

- Number of states in the 2005 National Assembly elections (14) states
- Number of states in the 2005 parliament elections: (16) states
- Number of states in the 2010 parliament elections: (16) states
- Number of states in the 2014 parliament elections:(20) states
- Number of states in the 2018 parliament elections: (21) states

Mechanism to determine the number of voters

Knowing the number of voters is one of the most important areas of planning for elections abroad before starting any electoral process, and the task of obtaining the numbers of Iraqi voters abroad has been one of the most difficult and challenging tasks faced by the administration of elections abroad in general, as it was found that there are no accurate statistics on the numbers of Iraqis abroad even at Iraqi embassies.

Three statistics on the numbers of Iraqis in the countries where the elections are held are adopted by approaching institutions and those with statistics on the number of Iraqis living outside Iraq, and from which the statistics are listed:

1. Iraqi Foreign Ministry.
2. Iraqi Ministry of Immigration and Displaced.
3. United Nations International Organization for Migration.

In addition to the numbers of voters in previous elections.

Schedule

One of the most important steps to be put in each operational plan is to establish a timetable that sets out the tasks to be implemented, the duration and dates for the implementation of each task, and who is the one who is carrying out that task, taking into account the possibility of updating this schedule and introducing new developments and variables according to the development of the operational plan and taking into account the circumstances, events and workflows that have been completed.

Procedural aspect

First / eligibility for registration and voting:

The voter is required to meet the legal requirements of the Electoral act so that he or she can register and vote in elections, including:

- Iraqi nationality.
- Full eligibility.
- Completed 18 years of age in the year the elections are held.
- Registered in the voters' register in accordance with the provisions of the law above and the regulations and procedures issued by the Commission.
- Iraq's Parliament Elections Act No. 9 of 2020 stipulates that Iraqis should be electing abroad exclusively by the Biometric card.

Second/ Documents required to prove the voter's eligibility to register and vote:

Documents are determined according to the following criteria:

1. Provide full opportunity for all Iraqi voters to exercise their right to vote.
2. Ensuring that the one who exercises the election process is a full-fledged Iraqi who belongs to a particular Iraqi province
3. Ensure that repeated voting is not allowed.
4. To emphasize the quality and credibility of the documents that the Iraqi voter must carry.

Accordingly, a set of basic and supporting documents to prove the eligibility of Iraqi voters abroad has been identified, which have been divided into three types:

- **Basic Iraqi documents:**
 - Unified national card.
 - Iraqi passport.
 - Civil status identity.
 - Iraqi citizenship certificate.
 - The Iraqi identity book of 1957 (provided it contains a photograph proving the person).
 - The voter's electronic biometric card containing a picture.
 - Iraqi driving license.
 - Document (registration copy / 57) issued by the Iraqi Ministry of Interior / Directorate general of Nationality, certified by the Iraqi Embassy and Foreign Ministry issued to members of the Iraqi community abroad as a basic document alternative to the identity of civil status if submitted by the Iraqi voter.
- **Supporting Iraqi documents:**
 - Food ration card.
 - Residence card (can be considered a basic document for the head of the family only).
 - Electronic registration form for the registration of Iraqi voters abroad.
 - Voter's electronic card that does not contain a photo or biometric card for those who own it (2018).
- **Foreign supporting documents:**
 - UN refugee card (UNHCR).
 - Red Cross certificate or Red Crescent certificate.

- Driving License from the country in which they reside.
- The identity of the residence issued by the country of residence.
- Passport for the country of residence.
- The birth certificate from Iraqi embassies with another supporting document.
- Graduation certificate from foreign universities to be certified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (carbon copy).
- National asylum document for Iraqis abroad (issued from the country of residence).
- White residence card.

Electoral procedures (2005/2010/2014)

First: Registration and voting time:

Registration and voting take place simultaneously on the same polling day. It will be for two or three days as decided by the Board of Commissioners at each electoral stage and on the predetermined dates, with the period ending at the end of the general voting day.

Second: registration process:

1. Registration is on paper using a paper voter register that is blank lists entitled to the required data as well as a field for voter signature.
2. Create a paper voter register that contains all the required information, including document data provided by the voter and the province to which he or she is eligible to vote.
3. Turning the paper record into an electronic record.

Sending the electronic register after the voting days to the National Office / Baghdad to analyze the voter register data sent from all countries, and conduct the following operations:

- a. Making sure the voter submitted the specific documents.
- b. Comparing the documents provided by the voter with the databases available in the office (Passports database + Nationality).
- c. Issuing reports excluding those who do not meet instructions and procedures in order to exclude their conditional envelopes from the sorting and counting process.

Third: Voting process:

Voting shall be in accordance with the conditional voting mechanism where the voter is handed two envelopes with the ballot paper, one of which is the conditional envelope that includes the voter's data to be recorded from the identification officer and the other is the secret envelope bearing the name of the province to which the voter belongs, the voter's ballot paper is placed after marking inside the secret envelope and to close it, then the secret envelope is placed inside the conditional envelope and then the conditional envelope is placed in the ballot box.

Fourth: Counting and sorting:

After receiving the numbers of excluded envelopes for voters from the offices of the countries sent from the National Office/Operations Department/Register section for the purpose of starting the sorting and counting process. The process of extracting and sorting out

the rejected conditional envelopes containing the secret envelope and ballot paper is carried out from adequate envelopes.

1. Start the counting process at the stations for acceptable envelopes only by opening them and opening the secret envelopes inside them and sorting them on the basis of the provinces and then extracting ballot papers.
2. Ballot papers are sorted and counted on the basis of entities, then candidates, and then filling out the results forms.
3. Sending the results forms immediately after the sorting and counting process to the National Office/Data Entry Center.

Registration and voting process 2018

1. Registration and voting lasts for two days.
2. Registration and voting at the same time for Iraqi voters living abroad. Registration and voting in person and it is not permissible to act on behalf or authorize.
3. Voting in accordance with the conditional voting mechanism as mentioned earlier.
4. The counting process is electronically done at polling stations using the electronic sorting and counting device of the polling station, where sorting and counting the ballot papers is electronic without human intervention. Once the voting process is over, where the counting of votes is conducted electronically for each polling station and then filling out the clearing and paper matching form of each station, after which the results are sent electronically to the National Center To collect and label the results, the agency then issues a detailed report of the results of the votes at the station, which includes the correct votes obtained by the political parties, individual lists, candidates and incorrect (invalid) votes, after which the ballot papers of the other stations are counted and the ballot papers are counted to the center stations one by one electronically.
5. The station manager will announce the preliminary results of the elections to the Iraqi Parliament after the completion of the counting process of ballot papers using the electronic sorting and counting of the polling station to those present inside the station
6. Printing the results report from the electronic sorting and counting device by only one report per station.
7. Sending and transmitting results electronically from polling stations to the National Center for collecting, analyzing, organization and announcing results in each country is done through VPN program by internet cable and in the event of failure to transfer the results, an RTS device is used to transmit them.

Challenges of foreign elections (2005/ 2010 / 2014 / 2018)

1. It is difficult to know the numbers of Iraqis in other countries, where accurate statistics are not available at Iraqi embassies abroad, the Ministry of Immigration and Displaced, international bodies or statistics obtained after every election conducted for residents outside Iraq.
2. Determining the number of countries targeted for holding elections is based on statistics available at the time from several sources, including the numbers of voters who voted in

each country at each electoral stage, noting the significant change in the movement of migration out of Iraq over the past years depending on the security, political and economic changes in the country.

3. The numbers of Iraqis in some countries abroad, which are estimated by some bodies and organizations, may be exaggerated, resulting in higher polling centers and stations being estimated at the initial deployment than is actually required.
4. The above statistics received from the relevant authorities have led to the preparation of materials and supplies for the electoral process abroad in large numbers, reflected in the high speculative cost of the entire process and the destruction of a large number of materials that were over-needed, especially publications.
5. The difficulty of implementing the deployment of polling stations in countries is due to the disparity in the regions and countries where voters reside, most of which are expansive areas. that lead to difficulty in locating those centers.
6. The process of organizing elections abroad in countries takes a long time and should start early from the election date to be implemented correctly enough to address the problems that may arise and avoid them and address them before the elections.
7. The existence of legal materials that is difficult to implement in the elections of residents outside Iraq, especially the issue of documents, as many voters abroad do not have enough documents to enable them to vote, in addition to the fact that some of them do not carry any Iraqi documents.
8. One of the most interesting challenges faced in applying the procedures for the implementation of the articles of the electoral law is the vote of the voter abroad to his province and the challenge was to prove the voter's province because most of the documents in the voter's possession do not indicate the province to which he belongs.
9. The very high financial cost of holding elections abroad, where the cost of a voter abroad is more than ten times that of a voter at home.

Challenges of abroad elections (2021)

In addition to the challenges that accompanied the previous elections mentioned above, new challenges have been added to the elections of Iraqis abroad for the election of the Iraqi Parliament in 2021, including:

1. Iraq's Parliament Elections Act No. 9 of 2020 stipulates that Iraqis should elect abroad exclusively under the Biometric card.
2. The Iraqi Parliament Elections Act No. 9 of 2020 provided for the division of electoral districts by 83 districts across Iraq.

These paragraphs in the law add another challenge and complexity to the establishment of elections abroad, for the first paragraph and despite its importance to reduce manipulation and forgery, but the difficulty lies in the implementation of this paragraph because most Iraqis abroad do not have a biometric card and the process of issuing a card to them requires many measures because the biometric card contains fingerprints and a photo of the voter, which requires the registration of the voter in attendance. The Iraqi foreign ministry said it was

impossible to open such centers because of closures in most countries of the world because of the measures to prevent the Corona epidemic, and the electoral Commission addressed the High Commission for Safety, and the answer was that unable to open registration centers in those countries at this time, forcing the Independent High Electoral Commission to decide to cancel the elections of Iraqis abroad for this election cycle. The division of electoral districts into 83 districts adds to the extremely complex difficulty of taking measures to restore the voter's vote to his constituency because there is no document abroad proving that he belongs to that constituency.

Costs of overseas elections

Overseas voting involves logistical arrangements, employment arrangements, rental allowances, security and other matters that usually cost one voter more than one voter in elections held within the home country. This section provides some examples of the costs associated with external voting in states that exercise such an election. The figures shown here are not complete or directly comparable, but are provided here simply to give an idea of the cost of external voting in some countries. It is difficult to estimate the cost of external voting, for many different reasons. Crisis resources depend in part on the procedures in place for external voting, as some require additional costs. Costs may be covered from different budgets, all of which may be paid from the EMB budget, so it is difficult to track all related costs, as it is difficult to compare costs with external voting in a single election.

Examples of voting costs abroad from some countries

Country	Estimated costs of the external voting program (in US\$ million)	Cost per voter registered in US dollars
Iraq (January 2005)	92	300-400
Iran (December 2005)	17	45
Afghanistan (2004)	24	20 in Iran /32 Pakistan
Indonesia	6	13*
East Timor (1999)	1	161*

• Source: IOM

Recommendations

- 1- Providing the relevant authorities with the number of Iraqis abroad (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Immigration and Displaced) with a list of voters who voted in the targeted countries as a method of joint cooperation and may be useful to them in

knowing the spread of Iraqis to countries and cities within countries, noting that they cannot be adopted to know the number of Iraqis (population) in those countries.

- 2- There is a clear need to have a longer period of time than those previously worked from the establishment of the office to election day, and that states office managers should be sent to the countries before the date of the elections in order to have statistics closer to the truth of the numbers of voters depending on the efforts of offices abroad and their contacts with all concerned authorities about Iraqis outside the country.
- 3- When enacting the electoral law by the legislator, the process of implementing the elections of residents outside Iraq must be taken into account and what can be applied, especially determining the voter's belonging to the electoral district.
- 4- The obligation of the concerned authorities to provide IHEC with the numbers of Iraqis living outside Iraq periodically and annually so that the preparation of statistics is closer to real than the number of voters eligible to participate in elections abroad, including the age of residents and their areas of residence.
- 5- If voting based on the biometric card is maintained exclusively for Iraqi voters abroad, there are two proposals for the implementation of this condition:
 - a. Opening registration centers at the headquarters of Iraqi embassies and consulates in countries designated to open polling stations for Iraqi voters abroad in an appropriate period of at least six months in order to be able to register as many as possible and issue them biometric cards, taking into account the distribution process after production.
 - b. Coordination with the Ministry of Interior / Directorate of passports and Nationality to take the data of residents abroad eligible for election as it includes the fingerprint and personal photo of the citizen in addition to other data required and this proposal requires the creation of software and servers that can reverse that data to become compatible with the software used by IHEC.

اعداد مراكز ومحطات الاقتراع لانتخابات مجلس النواب الخارج ٢٠٠٥ OCV-2

NUMBERS OF POLLING CENTRES AND POLLING STATIONS - OCV-1 & OCV-2 2005

OCV-2									
نسبة المشاركة turnout OCV-2 2005	الناخبين الذين صوتوا number of voters voted OCV-2 2005	محطات الاقتراع لعام ٢٠٠٥ Polling Stations OCV-2 2005	مراكز الاقتراع لعام ٢٠٠٥ Polling Centres OCV-2 2005	تعدد المدن number of cities	تعدد الناخبين في الخارج لعام ٢٠٠٥ estimated number of voters OCV-1 2005	تعدد العراقيين في الخارج لعام ٢٠٠٥ estimated Iraqi population OCV-1 2005	اسم الدولة country name	رمز الدولة country code	
28.14%	328,710	560	94	48	1,168,063	1,923,770		16	
20.58%	30,876	50	4	3	150,000	250,000	UK	بريطانيا 83	
43.94%	14,500	24	1	1	33,000	44,000	Netherlands	هولندا 84	
21.65%	12,176	30	8	5	56,250	75,000	Australia	استراليا 85	
65.02%	31,209	40	9	2	48,000	80,000	Sweden	سويد 86	
83.08%	23,262	24	4	2	28,000	40,000	Turkey	تركيا 87	
14.87%	33,449	80	13	4	225,000	450,000	Jordan	اردن 88	
16.00%	24,000	42	11	2	150,000	300,000	Syria	سوريا 89	
--	3,300	20	5	2	--	--	Lebanon	لبنان 90	
34.35%	8,750	28	4	4	25,471	36,385	Canada	كندا 91	
27.23%	17,698	25	2	2	65,000	100,000	UAE	الإمارات 92	
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Egypt	مصر 93	
--	1,500	8	2	1	--	--	Austria	النمسا 94	
90.59%	13,588	18	3	1	15,000	26,000	Denmark	الدنمارك 95	

2010 Parliament election statistics

				Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Total voters
code of the county	Name of the country	Number of polling stations	Number of stations	Number of voters	Number of voters	Number of voters	days (1+2+3)
80	Iran	18	54	6689	6615	10250	23554
81	USA	9	46	3857	10700	13904	28461
82	Germany	4	42	2205	6802	11009	20016
83	Britain	4	51	2570	6269	13444	22283
84	Netherlands	1	25	1363	4023	6940	12326
85	Australia	8	21	1687	4202	6179	12068
86	Sweden	7	60	5603	13514	17813	36930
87	Turkey	4	23	860	2019	3309	6188
88	Jordan	16	119	7579	9216	7946	24741
89	Syria	23	102	14193	17407	14765	46365
90	Lebanon	4	19	567	1162	2044	3773
91	Canada	7	29	1646	4994	5592	12232
92	UAE	2	28	5090	6207	4695	15992
93	Egypt	6	28	1950	1789	1178	4917
94	Austria	2	8	274	520	806	1600
95	Denmark	4	20	1581	3164	4565	9310
Total	16	119	675	57714	98603	124439	280756

- Source: Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq

2014 Parliament election statistics

اعداد المصوتين لانتخابات الخارج 2014 ليومي 27-28 / 4 / 2014											
مجموع اليوم الاول والثاني		اليوم الثاني		اليوم الاول							
عدد استمارات الشكاوى الكلية	عدد الكلي للمصوتين لليوم الاول والثاني	عدد استمارات الشكاوى المستلمة	عدد الكلي للناخبين الذين صوتوا	عدد استمارات الشكاوى المستلمة	عدد الكلي للناخبين الذين صوتوا	عدد محطات الاقتراع لعام 2014	عدد مراكز الاقتراع لعام 2014	عدد المدن التي ستفتح فيها مراكز الاقتراع	اسم الدولة	اسم الدولة	رمز الدولة
141	165,532	81	80,350	60	85,182	656	103	77		20	
1	22575	0	14622	1	7953	60	18	10	Iran	ايران	80
18	17099	11	6963	7	10136	60	9	7	USA	امريكا	81
22	10734	10	3195	12	7539	45	4	7	Germany	المانيا	82
15	11495	6	4317	9	7178	59	5	5	UK	بريطانيا	83
15	5422	7	1721	8	3701	28	2	1	Netherlands	هولندا	84
9	10874	7	4916	2	5958	26	8	7	Australia	استراليا	85
19	20462	14	8296	5	12166	74	8	5	Sweden	سويد	86
4	7053	0	2914	4	4139	30	4	2	Turkey	تركيا	87
12	22375	7	14474	5	7901	96	14	4	Jordan	اردن	88
0	2514	0	1320	0	1194	25	5	5	Lebanon	لبنان	90
12	9337	9	3913	3	5424	34	9	9	Canada	كندا	91
7	7270	7	4876	0	2394	39	2	2	UAE	الإمارات	92
0	3611	0	2044	0	1567	32	5	3	Egypt	مصر	93
4	5928	2	2686	2	3242	21	4	4	Denmark	الدنمارك	95
0	212	0	60	0	152	2	1	1		اسبانيا	
0	717	0	193	0	524	5	1	1		فرنسا	
0	1156	0	316	0	840	5	1	1		النمسا	
0	771	0	113	0	658	6	1	1		نيوزيلندا	
3	4673	1	2748	2	1925	7	1	1		النرويج	
0	1254	0	663	0	591	2	1	1		فنلندا	

عدد وكلاء الكليات السياسية (1432)
 عدد المراقبين المعتمدين (386)
 عدد الاعلاميين المعتمدين (394)

State	Expected number of voters	Total number of voters	Number of voters accepted	Number of rejected voters
Iran	100216	22576	22289	287
Sweden	90765	12747	12410	337
Jordan	38418	23944	23781	163
America	146534	15384	14624	760
Germany	36713	14736	14038	698
Australia	59305	7864	7189	675
Britain	79810	6841	6598	243
Canada	47871	5499	5244	255
UAE	11953	3449	3132	317
Turkey	141720	32745	29090	3655
Denmark	18938	2963	2844	119
Netherlands	25122	3178	3039	139
Egypt	15780	2380	2261	119
Syria	15477	2171	2123	48
New Zealand	8750	453	279	174
Finland	7170	962	947	15
Belgium	7280	870	844	26
Norway	1751	1902	1786	116
Austria	8641	800	743	57
France	3060	367	340	27
Lebanon	3719	2767	2681	86
Total	868993	164598	156282	8316

Implications of the decision to cancel the vote of voters living abroad in parliamentary elections

In a move that sparked widespread debate about its constitutionality, Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) decided to cancel the vote of electors living abroad in October 10th parliamentary elections, for technical, legal, financial and health reasons.

Political and popular groups in Iraq were divided between supporters of the decision of the Council of Commissioners of the Electoral Commission and a rejection of the decision to take from Iraqis abroad the right of participate in the elections.

Reactions to the decision varied, with opinions and reactions as follows:

- 1- "The first step would prevent fraud and reduce the waste of public money." "We bless the move of the Independent High Electoral Commission; we call it a valid and irreparable decision, and we appeal to the Commission to take other similar decisions to ensure the integrity and independence of the electoral process."
- 2- "The problem we suffered in the elections abroad is the large number of frauds that took place, and this was a direct reason to press for their abolition."
- 3- Overseas voting in the legislative elections for 2018 was marred by suspicions of fraud and vote rigging, which some political forces and parliamentary blocs considered a "lifeline" for those who did not win votes in the internal elections because of their declining popularity.
- 4- "IHEC's justifications are illogical and technically and administratively unacceptable, so it must review this decision, which is as if it tells citizens abroad that they are not the compatriots, and they do not have the right to self-determination," he said.
- 5- "This decision is incorrect and lacks legal basis," he said, adding that "severing the link between Iraqis who have been forced to leave the country does not benefit the political process."
- 6- "Constitutionally, every Iraqi has the right to vote, which is indisputable, and a clause in the electoral law has been specified indicating that the Commission has updated the records of Iraqis abroad, with their elections being exclusively in the biometric, as well as the displaced and the security services."
- 7- "We found that IHEC was unable to carry out modernizations and issue biometric cards because of the spread of the Corona pandemic in those countries, and therefore we have a compelling reason not to involve citizens abroad."
- 8- "Although the lack of elections abroad is unconstitutional, but it is required as a de facto": "There are many reasons, including the political crisis that Iraq is going through, which needs to win the confidence of the voter, and the voice of the outside does not represent the reality of the tragedy suffered by the citizen at home", that: "Elections abroad are financially costly and have a great waste of public money, as well as a wide area of manipulation and fraud, and therefore it is difficult to ensure their integrity"
- 9- This decision will neglect about four million Iraqi votes living in the diaspora, which constitutes a high percentage of those entitled to vote, and this decision means not even

paying attention to the formal aspect, in addition to the substantive aspect of the election process, pointing out that in any case what matters to IHEC is to reach results consistent with the interests and dominance of the ruling political forces, by working in a suppressed and controlled environment that is not existing in the Iraqi immigrant environment.

- 10-The election commission's decision to cancel voting for Iraqis abroad, most of whom suffer from forced displacement, is not their desire to leave their homeland and properties, exposing themselves and their families to risk. There are important areas where people are not allowed to return to their homes from which they have been forcibly displaced, which means that this decision is an explicit violation of the current constitution and election laws, and constitutes a major blow to democracy, which has great observations within Iraq.
- 11-"It is not necessary to hold elections abroad for Iraqis who live there permanently," he said, noting that "from past experience, the participation of overseas voters is less than 10 percent in all previous elections."
- 12-That: "The decision of the Board of Commissioners is contrary to the law that expressly stipulated that it should be held, and the Commission argued that the reason for the cancellation of the elections abroad is due to time constraints and the difficulty of opening accounts and others, i.e. the legitimacy of the cancellation is based on the theory of emergency circumstances and this is a convincing justification for its cancellation."
- 13-The decision of the Electoral Commission is courageous, that the elections abroad were accompanied by the sale, purchase, forgery, and waste of funds.
- 14-The cancellation of the vote abroad has stopped a great deal of money waste and a dangerous door of fraud and manipulation. "Those who are keen to vote are prepared before the elections."
- 15-that the vote of Iraqis living abroad is not a bounty or charity from anyone, and many countries in the region do so,
- 16-The Electoral Commission, by deciding to cancel the elections abroad, has proved unable to meet the challenges of some powerful political blocs and the inability to secure transparent elections.
- 17- Most Iraqis have no hope that the elections will lead to the desired change because they do not trust the current political system, the urgent need to develop a new socio-political contract that will draw up a road map for the country's administration and political system in the next phase.

End of Report