



**Liga Apărării Drepturilor Omului din Moldova**  
**League for Defence of Human Rights of Moldova**

Address: MD-2009, 13 V. Alecsandri str., offs. 24-28,  
Chisinau, Moldova  
Mail address: MD-2068, P.B. 2801, Chisinau-68  
Tel/Fax: +373 22/ 280512 / 729352  
E-mail: paul-ladom@cni.md  
Web: www.lado.ngo.md www.iatp.md/ladom

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **„Calm atmosphere at the polling stations, despite the suspicious behavior of electoral authorities vis-a-vis the independent monitoring of elections”**

The League for Defense of Human Rights of Moldova (LADOM) has delegated 128 independent national observers to the second round of the Election of the Bashkan of the „Gagauz Yeri” TAU, held on 17 December, 2006. All the observers have been accredited by the Central Electoral Commission of the „Gagauz Yeri” Territorial Administrative Unit (TAU) and have observed the whole process of voting and have informed the LADOM Central Office on the way the elections were held. According to Art. 63 of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Moldova and art. 76 on the Election of the Bashkan in ATU „Gagauz Yeri”, the observers received a copy of the Protocols. On the basis of the final results at the polling stations LADOM conducted a Parallel tabulation of votes (PVT).

The electoral process has been organized mainly according to the principles of free and fair elections. At the polling stations in „Gagauz Yeri” there was generally an apparent calm atmosphere. The voters have not been impeded to exercise their right to the universal vote, equal, direct, secret and freely expressed. At the same time, the observers have registered a few irregularities, which have not influenced the final result of the elections (the second round of elections).

Despite the fact that that LADOM has submitted in reasonable terms the necessary documents for the additional accreditation of 20 observers, CEC from Comrat issued the accreditations only in the morning of Election Day. Repeatedly LADOM observers faced registration problems at the polling stations, situation generated by the lack of coherence of the Central Elections Commission of Gagauzia, that should have informed the electoral bureaus about the validity of the accreditations issued during the first round of elections, a principle which has been normally applied during previous elections. Furthermore, we consider unfortunate the CEC declarations on alleged irregularities in several localities without prior verification of facts.

A negative phenomenon observed during the second round consisted in the influence of voters through various ways, for instance, in Gaidar village most of the voters were drunk majoritatea and subsequently we found out that the supporters of the electoral contestant N. Dudoglo were offering to voters alcoholic drinks to make voters vote for the aforementioned candidate. A similar situation was also registered in Chirsova village.

LADOM is also concerned about the use of mobile voting for specific interests and the illegal involvement of the Gagauz Authorities in the electoral process. During the Election Day, Mr. Cernev Serghei Afanasievici, member of the Popular Assembly of the „Gagauz Yeri” TAU and supporter of Mihail Formuzal, visited 6 polling stations (polling stations no. 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26), and submitted to these polling stations requests for mobile voting. LADOM comparative analysis of both rounds showed that the number of mobile voters during the second round has considerably increased at the aforementioned polling stations.

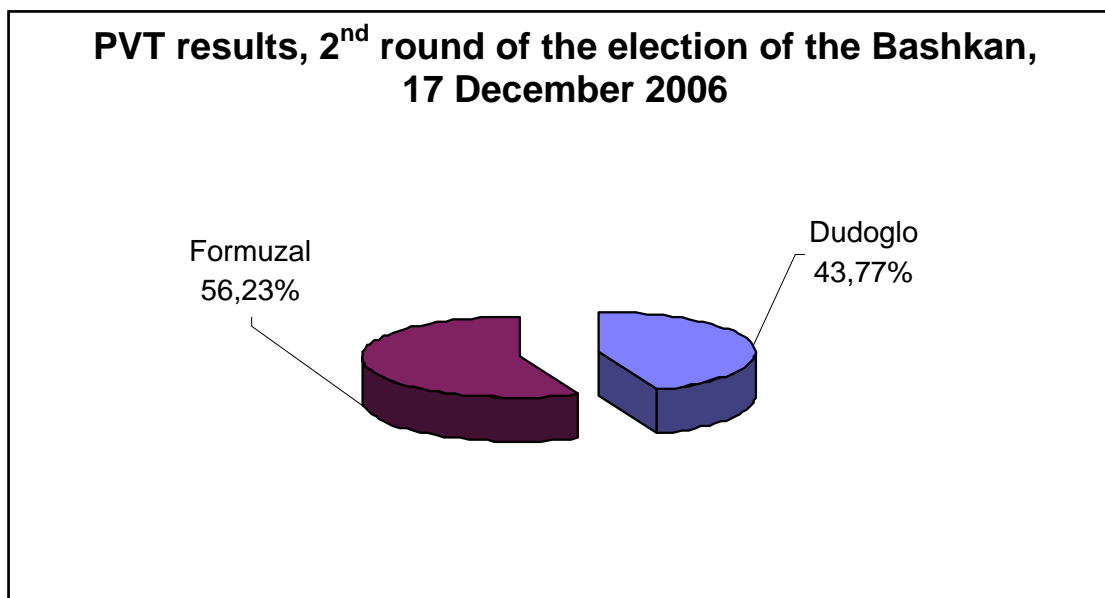
Repeatedly, during the second round LADOM observers noticed actions of insistent bringing of the voters with buses to the polling stations in the Dezghingea village, as well as hostile attitude towards observers and limitation of their access to electoral materials, electoral propaganda.

There was not an exception and already traditional infringements in Moldova were registered: presence of policemen inside the voting sections, unjustified entering of 2 people in voting boxes, etc.

## PVT RESULTS BASED ON COLLECTED FROM 64 POLLING STATIONS(100%)

### PVT methodology

- 128 accredited observers
- 64 polling stations 100% covered polling stations
- 4 long term observers and 1 regional coordinator involved
- On 17 December 2006, at 11:40 LADOM processed 100% of polling stations from the "Gagauz Yeri" TAU



Turnout – 62,8%

On additional lists– 5,96%