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PRESS RELEASE

Elections for the Peoples' Assembly in TAU Găgăuzia: free and fair

The League for the Defence of Human Rights of Moldova (LADOM) delegated 58 independent national observers to observe the second round of elections for the Peoples' Assembly of Găgăuzia on 30 March 2008. LADOM observers –volunteers have observed the integral process of voting on the Election Day and informed the LADOM Central Office about the development of the voting. Based on the final results received from the copies of the records of the polling stations, LADOM carried out the Quick Vote Counting.

In the lack of an adequate electoral campaign, the voting process on the E-day was generally in compliance with the provisions of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Moldova, the Law on the elections for the Peoples' Assembly of Găgăuzia and the international principles of free and fair elections.

At the same time, LADOM observers found some negative issues which, however, could not affect the integrity of the electoral process:

similar to the elections on 16 March 2008, the second round of elections repeated the already traditional electoral problems of Moldova: slight deviation of the electoral legislation of Găgăuzia from the stipulations of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Moldova; up-dating the voters' lists is still a challenge for the organisation of free and fair elections; opening with insignificant delay of the polling stations; more than one persons entering the same booth; presence of the unauthorised persons inside the polling stations for a period longer than needed for voting; „organised” campaigns for voting “at the domicile”.

The voting process was held in a free way, the voters not being prevented to exert their right to universal, equal, direct, secret and free suffrage.



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