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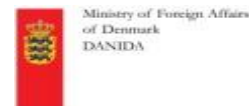
PROMO-LEX ASSOCIATION

PRESS RELEASE nr.2

Monitoring of the general local elections of June 19th 2011

Monitoring Period: 11:00 – 17:00 on Election Day (June 19th 2011)

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Legal appeals made by electoral candidates

Promo-LEX observers have reported a large number of cases in which electoral candidates have made use of legal means to contest the actions of rival candidates. At least nine such cases of this have been recorded.

Polling-station Electoral Bureaus (PEBs) supplied with a surplus of ballot papers

Observers have reported isolated cases of PEBs being supplied with a number of ballot papers larger than the number of voters listed on their basic electoral rolls. Such cases were recorded at VS 71 (a surplus of 123 voting ballots), VS 90 (a surplus of 410 ballot papers) and VS 91 (a surplus of 323 ballot papers) - all in Chişinău; at VS 1 in Briceni rayon (surplus of 54 ballot papers); at VS 2 in Hânceşti (surplus of 190 ballot papers); at VS 18 in Bulboci, Soroca rayon (surplus of 76 ballot papers).

Improper management of voting stations

Promo-LEX observers found that certain voting stations were being improperly managed, such that the continued observation of all the stages of the voting process was impeded. At a VS in Bulboaca, Anenii Noi rayon, the ballot box was placed behind the voting booths such that it could not be seen by all the PEB members present. At VS 20 in Duruitoarea Nouă, Râşcani, the ballot box is placed by the window, without any curtain in between the two.

Alcoholic drinks being sold in the vicinity of voting stations

Promo-LEX observers have reported at least 24 cases of alcoholic drinks being sold in the vicinity of voting stations. Such cases have been reported in the electoral constituencies of Călăraşi (1 case), Căuşeni (2 cases), Cimişlia (2 cases), Chişinău (1 case), Dubăsari (2 cases), Floreşti (2 cases), Ialoveni (4 cases), Orhei (2 cases), Râşcani (1 case), Rezina (1 case), Sângerei (1 case), Teleneşti (1 case), Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia (4 cases).

Unauthorised display of electoral campaign material

Promo-LEX observers have reported at least 13 cases in which electoral campaign material has been placed within 50 metres of a voting station. Such cases have been reported in the electoral constituencies of Cimişlia (3 cases); Floreşti (2 cases); Orhei (3 cases); Sângerei (3 cases); Soroca (1 case); Străşeni (1 case). In total, at the time of the writing, the displaying of electoral campaign material within 50m of a voting station has been noted at 41 out of the 300 voting stations in the municipality of Chişinău (i.e. 14%).

Attempt at multiple voting

A new attempt by a voter to vote more than once was reported at voting station 26 in Glinjeni, Făleşti rayon. PEB member Maria Buga handed two ballot papers to voter C.R. Before the Promo-LEX observer president could notify the PEB president, the voter inserted both ballot papers into the ballot box.

Intimidation of observers, and restrictions of observers' rights

One Promo-LEX observer was verbally abused by a voter in the vicinity of voting station 23 in Hruşova, Criuleni rayon, being told that they should get in their car and leave without asking PEB members too many questions. At VS 16 in the Botanica sector of Chişinău, the electoral authorities prevented observers from moving through the voting station. The situation was resolved only when a representative of the local Botanica council arrived and confirmed that observers have the right to move within the voting station.

Continued electoral campaigning

Observers have reported new cases of electoral campaigning being carried out in the vicinity of voting stations. At VS in Abaclia, Basarabeasca rayon, a recently elected councillor was campaigning in favour of the candidate for the office of mayor from his own party.

At VS 3 in Edineţ, supporters of one particular candidate carried out campaign activities for two hours in the vicinity of the voting station.

At VS 9 in Căplani, Ştefan Vodă rayon, a candidate for the function of mayor, together with some of his supporters, were campaigning in the vicinity of the voting station. Similar cases were reported at VS 43 in Văseni Teleneşti rayon; at VS 23 in Hruşova, Criuleni rayon; at VS 17 in Belicenii Vechi, Sângerei rayon.

Particularly alarming is a case reported at VS 3 in Cahul, where observers reported how one PEB member pointed out to a voter at least three times with their index finger which candidate to choose.

Organised transportation of voters

Observers recorded new cases of transport being organised to take voters to voting stations. Cases of this were recorded at VS 3 in Edineţ; at VS 10 in Cotuieni, Edineţ rayon (vehicle with registration SDAE805); at VS 6 in Leova rayon (vehicle with registration LVAE695).

Requests to use the mobile ballot box

Promo-LEX observers remain concerned at the large number of requests received to vote at domicile. For example, at VS 42 in Şuri, Drochia rayon, the electoral authorities registered 90 such requests.

Cases of more than person entering the voting booths

Isolated cases in which more than one voter entered a voting booth at one time were recorded at VS 14 in Ustia Dubăsari rayon; at VS 19 in Batâr, Cimişlia rayon; at voting stations in Sângerei Noi and Belicenii Vechi, Sângerei rayon; and at a VS in Varatic, Râşcani rayon.

Voting in the absence of the correct documents

Promo-LEX observers reported at least two cases in which voters voted either with incorrect identity documents, or without identity documents. Such cases were registered at a VS in Drochia, Drochia rayon; at VS 45 in Congaz, Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia; at VS 12 in Bravicea, Călăraşi rayon; at VS 253 in Durleşti, Chişinău; at VS 64 in Taxobeni, Făleşti rayon.