



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL anti-corruption center

Report on Observation of Yerevan City Council Elections

May 31, 2009

INTRODUCTION

Transparency International Anti-corruption Center (TIAC), jointly with Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Vanadzor Office and “Asparez” Journalists' Club, undertook observation of 33 precincts in electoral district 8 for May 31, 2009 Yerevan City Council Elections. The mission deployed a group of 50-member voluntary observers. This report includes the findings of recurrent facts, recorded by the observers on the election day and presentation of statistical data based on those facts.

GENERAL ASSESSMENT

Yerevan City Council Elections of May 31, 2009 in electoral district 8 were marred by gross violations, and for the most part failed to meet the requirements of Armenia's electoral legislation and commitments to international standards on the holding of free, fair and transparent elections.

CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

Opening of precincts

The process of opening of precincts was mainly held in compliance with the procedure stipulated by law. Nevertheless, some violations were registered in several precincts, which are particularly mentioned below.

Late opening of precincts

8/02, 8/03, 8/06, 8/11, 8/16, 8/17, 8/20

Presence of unauthorized persons

8/01, 8/02, 8/03, 8/04, 8/06, 8/07, 8/12, 8/14, 8/17, 8/21, 8/23, 8/24

Voting procedure

Numerous violations were observed during voting process as well. Below mentioned are the most frequently recurring incidents.

Ballot stuffing

8/01, 8/02, 8/03, 8/05, 8/06, 8/12, 8/13, 8/17, 8/22, 8/23, 8/24, 8/25, 8/27

Hindering journalists' work and physical assault against them

8/01, 8/02, 8/03, 8/07, 8/26

Hindering the Armenian National Congress (ANC) proxies' work, intimidating them and forcing them to leave the precinct.

8/02, 8/04, 8/06, 8/08, 8/13, 8/15, 8/19, 8/24, 8/31

Hindering TIAC observers’ work, intimidating them, and forcing them to leave the precinct

8/03, 8/06, 8/07, 8/08, 8/09, 8/10, 8/12, 8/14, 8/19, 8/20, 8/21, 8/22, 8/24, 8/25, 8/26, 8/27

Attempts to bribe TIAC observers

8/09, 8/10, 8/12, 8/25

Overcrowding of unidentified individuals at the precinct and in the vicinity of the polling station

8/02, 8/03, 8/04, 8/05, 8/06, 8/07, 8/08, 8/09, 8/10, 8/12, 8/13, 8/14, 8/19, 8/20, 8/22, 8/23, 8/24, 8/25, 8/27, 8/28, 8/30, 8/32, 8/33

The presence of more than one proxy per party, mainly those of the Republican Party of Armenia and Prosperous Armenia Party at the precinct

8/02, 8/03, 8/04, 8/05, 8/07, 8/13, 8/14, 8/15, 8/19, 8/20, 8/23, 8/27, 8/30, 8/32, 8/33

Free entry of unauthorized individuals to the voting room and the polling station

8/01, 8/02, 8/03, 8/04, 8/05, 8/06, 8/07, 8/08, 8/09, 8/11, 8/12, 8/14, 8/15, 8/17, 8/18, 8/19, 8/22, 8/23, 8/24, 8/25, 8/26, 8/27, 8/30, 8/32, 8/33

Open, multiple, directed or ‘proxy voting’ (voting on behalf of another persons)

8/02, 8/03, 8/04, 8/07, 8/08, 8/09, 8/15, 8/18, 8/20, 8/24, 8/25, 8/26, 8/27, 8/28, 8/30, 8/32, 8/33

Campaigning in the voting room and in the vicinity of the precinct

8/03, 8/04, 8/05, 8/07, 8/14, 8/19, 8/20

Taking voter lists, stamps, ballot papers and envelopes out of voting room

8/01, 8/02, 8/05, 8/13, 8/21, 8/22, 8/25

Implementation of Precinct Election Commission members’ functions by proxies of the Republican Party of Armenia, Prosperous Armenia Party, Rule of Law Party and Armenian Revolutionary Party-Dashnaktsutyun

8/07, 8/13, 8/14, 8/16, 8/23, 8/26

Closing of precincts/Summing up the results

This stage was not fully observed at 6 polling stations - three observers had to cancel their observation mission in **8/08, 8/09, 8/21** precincts before closing the polling station, and one observer was forced to leave the polling station **8/07** during vote count and two more observers had to leave **8/25** and **8/26** polling stations as a result of intimidation and pressures.

A number of violations, both already described and new ones, were recorded after closing the polling stations.

Delays in vote count and illegal time-outs during the counting process

8/01, 8/03, 8/04, 8/06, 8/10, 8/11, 8/12, 8/13, 8/15, 8/16, 8/17, 8/18, 8/19, 8/22, 8/24, 8/25, 8/28, 8/30

Hindering proxies', observers' and journalists' work

8/01, 8/02, 8/03, 8/07, 8/17, 8/18, 8/22, 8/23, 8/24, 8/28, 8/30, 8/25, 8/26

Facts of not canceling and/or not registering unused, returned and wrongly marked ballots by voters

8/07, 8/22, 8/24, 8/26, 8/30

Taking into account ballots and/or envelopes of not approved specimen when the results of elections were summed up

8/01, 8/18, 8/22, 8/24

Filling out voter lists and signing them during vote count

8/04, 8/11, 8/13, 8/25

Taking into account the votes given not for the party marked or their redistribution after preliminary count

8/01, 8/05, 8/18, 8/23

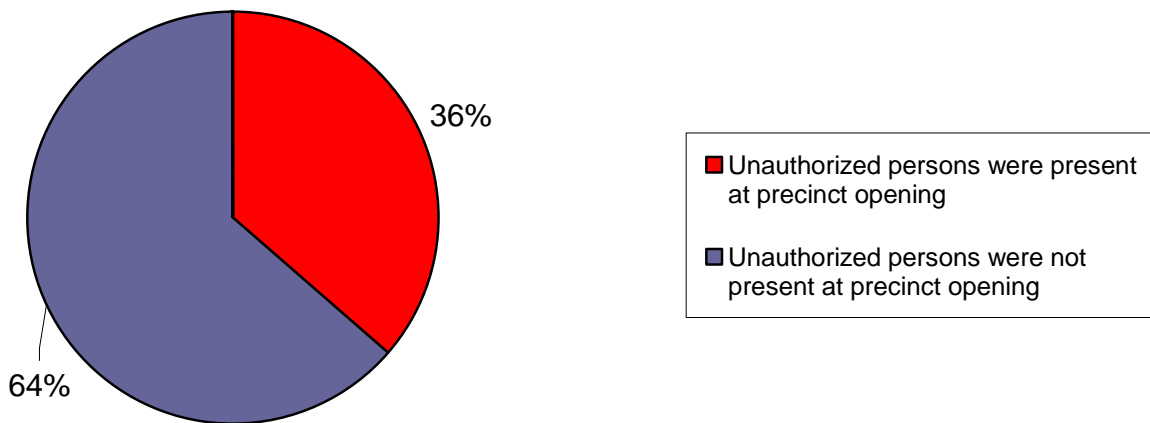
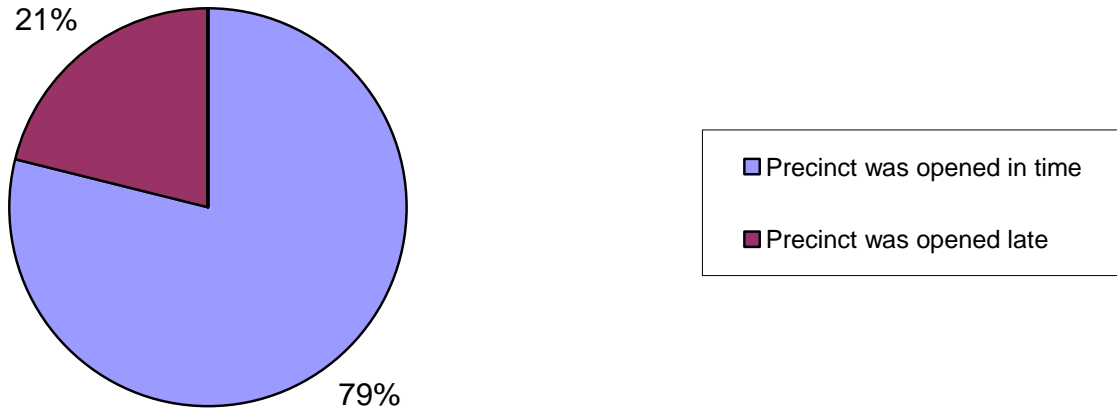
CONCLUSION

Based on the facts registered by the observation mission one may conclude that Yerevan City Council Elections in Electoral district 8 do not express free will of the voters.

Yerevan,
June 12, 2009

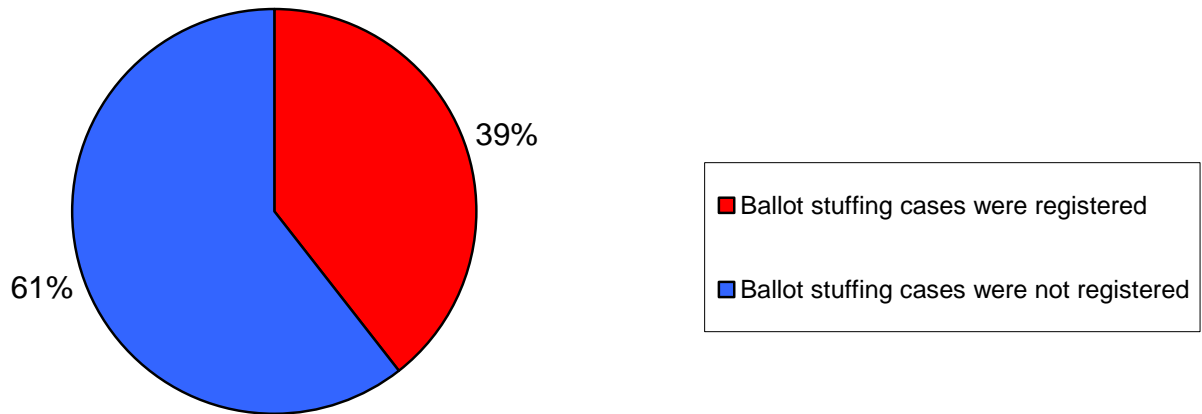
Statistical charts

Precincts (polling stations) opening

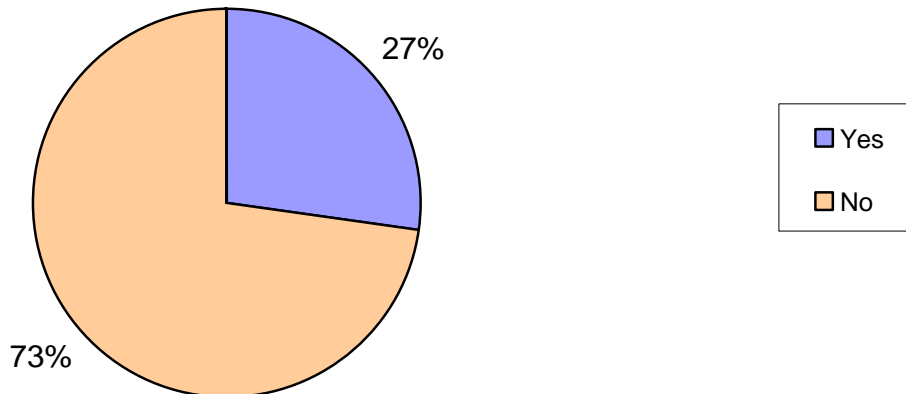


Voting

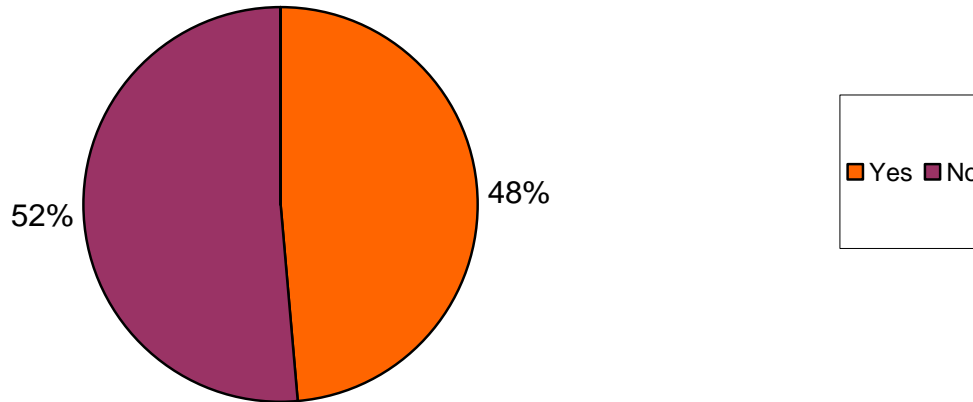
Ballot stuffing



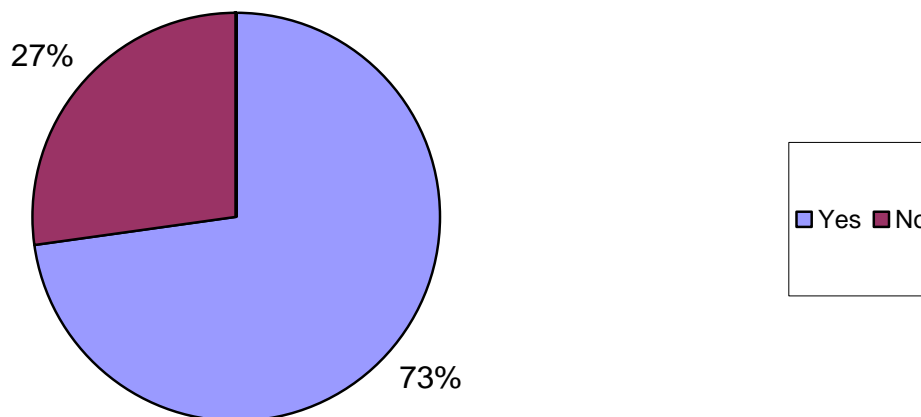
**Hindering Armenian National Congress (ANC) proxies' work,
intimidating and forcing them to leave the precincts**



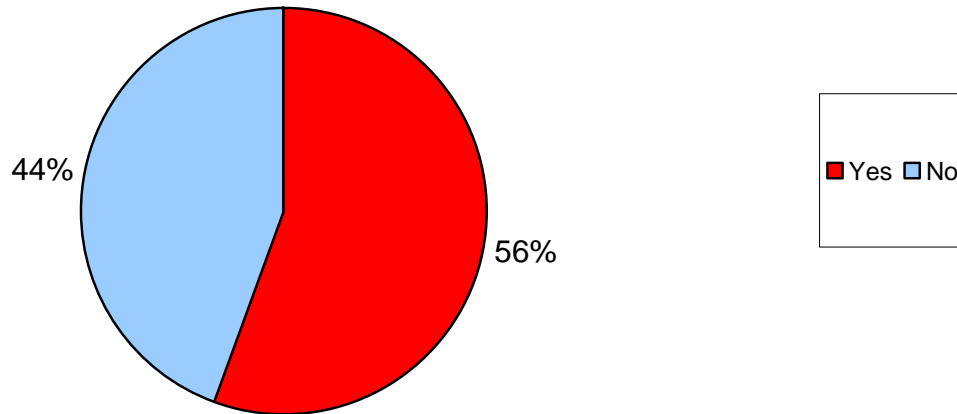
Hindering TIAC observers' work, intimidating and forcing them to leave the precincts, attempt to bribe them



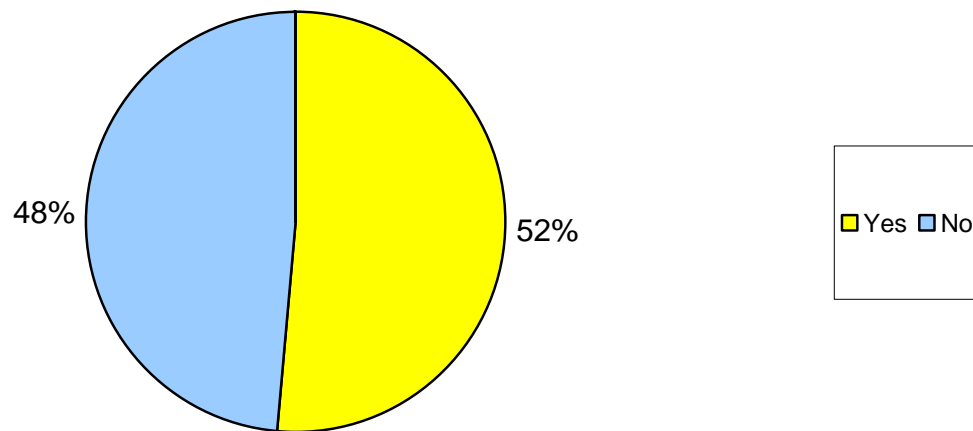
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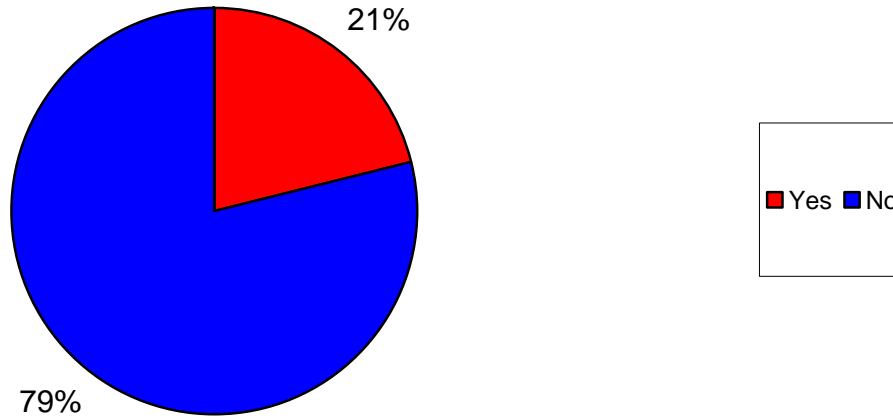
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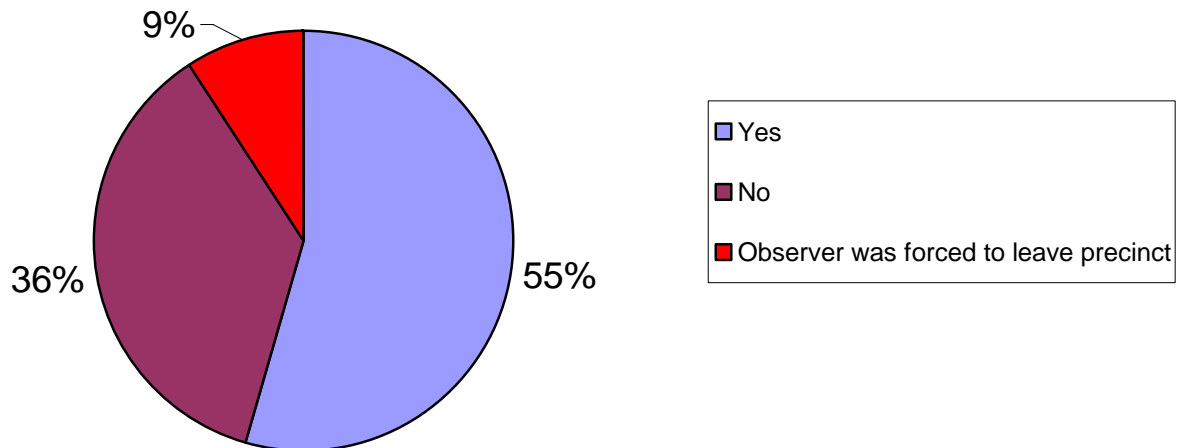


Taking voter lists, stamps, ballot papers and envelopes out of voting room



Precincts closing, votes counting

Delays in vote count and illegal time-outs during the counting process



Hindering proxies', observers' and journalists' work

