



**NABZ IRAN**

## **Election Violations Monitoring in Iran**



*This Pocket Guide is based on the Nabz Iran online course, "Citizen oversight of elections: How to get involved in elections beyond voting," which can be found at [www.nabz.com](http://www.nabz.com).*

**Just as millions of people globally have done for several decades, you can do more than just vote in the elections -- you can observe and assess them. You can strengthen the demand for improvements in the election process by observing and calling attention to violations. Watching what is happening around the election is one of the most significant contributions that you can make to the Iranian electoral process. Based on your informed observations, Nabz Iran will be collecting anonymous election reports and publicizing them through a variety of means, including social media and interactive mapping.**

The Nabz Iran "Citizen Oversight of Elections Pocket Guide" is as an easy, portable reference tool for observing and reporting on the June 14th elections, based on Iranian election law and international standards for elections. The guide is organized according to the three major stages of the election cycle - before, during and after the elections - and lists specific violations you can look for and report during each stage. Remember to document and report any violations you encounter to the Nabz Iran website here [www.nabz.com](http://www.nabz.com). All reports are anonymous and will be critical in drawing attention to potential flaws and rights violations in the elections.

### **What to observe and report before election day**

*Violations in the pre-election period could include (but are not limited to):*

#### **Campaign conduct violations**

- Vote buying (distribution of goods, cash or benefits in exchange for votes).
- Campaign messages that defame or incite violence against other candidates or their supporters.
- Intimidation of voters or supporters of a particular party or candidate by government forces.
- Government and/or election officials campaigning for a particular candidate.

#### **Abuse of state resources**

- State-sponsored construction in a certain neighborhood or district immediately before the elections.
- Posting of campaign materials on any state-run institutions.
- Intimidation or harassment of candidates by law enforcement or security forces.
- Threats directed at a government worker over their job if they vote for a certain candidate.
- Offers to individual voters of cash, welfare benefits, university scholarships, or other government benefits if they vote for a certain candidate.

#### **Media environment**

- Significantly more state-sponsored media coverage of one candidate.
- Suppression of news outlets and/or internet sites that tend to favor non-incumbent candidates.
- Disruptions in internet access that obstruct access to outside information.
- Pressure on or violence against journalists or bloggers.
- Inflammatory media inciting public anger or violence towards a particular candidate.

## What to observe and report on election day

### *Violations on election day could include (but are not limited to):*

- Candidates conducting campaign activities on election day.
- Candidate campaign materials posted inside or near a polling station.
- Polling stations not set up to provide secrecy of the vote.
- Voters who present a shenasnameh but are turned away by polling officers, or voters without proper identification who are permitted to vote.
- Long lines to vote, which can result in disenfranchisement of disabled or elderly voters.
- Highly inaccessible polling station location, making it difficult for you or others to vote.

### **Serious Violations:**

- Ballot box stuffing (a voter or official submitting more than one ballot in the ballot box).
- A voter unlawfully prevented from casting a ballot.
- An accredited candidate representative prevented from entering the polling station.
- Vote buying (the distribution of goods, cash or services in exchange for votes).
- Any incident of overcrowding, fighting, rioting or chaos inside or near a polling station.
- Any general incidents of violence or intimidation including protests or riots, use of excessive force by security personnel, or any other effort to coerce citizens to vote a certain way.



## What to observe and report after election day

### *Important things to consider after election day include (but are not limited to):*

#### **Results tabulation and announcement of outcome**

- Are the results tabulated and made public within a reasonable timeframe?
- Were candidate representatives able to observe the counting of ballots?
- Are news sources reporting any disputes in the Ministry of Interior regarding the counting of ballots or results tabulation?
- Are news sources or witnesses alleging any instances of tampering with results?

#### **Resolution of election challenges and disputes**

- Did you speak to any voters or candidate supporters who attempted to file complaints? If so, were they able to file them, and have the complaints been addressed within 24 hours?
- Were complaint resolutions announced publicly over mass media?
- If any polling stations' votes were declared void, were they located in the strongholds of a particular candidate, potentially affecting the overall election result?
- Have you noticed any patterns in the types of electoral disputes filed (ex. widespread complaints of poor election administration, multiple violations of ballot secrecy)?

#### **Reactions to the results**

*In the event of any protests, riots or rallies in your community (or in the news), here are several types of information you might gather and report through Nabz Iran:*

- Where and when the protest is taking place;
- The political affiliation (if any) and age demographic of the protesters;
- Approximately how many people are involved;
- The degree to which the protest is peaceful or violent; and/or
- Any backlash or forceful crackdown from an opposing political group or government forces (documented with photos or videos, if possible).