

High National Elections Commission

Regulation On Media Representatives annexed to the Decision of the Head of Board of Commission No. (77) 2013

Having noted:

- The Constitutional Declaration issued on August 3, 2011 and its amendment,
- Law No. (8) 2013, on the establishment of the HNEC,
- Law No. (17) 2013, on the elections of the CDA,
- The minutes of the HNEC Board meeting (No.15) held on 21/9/2013,
- The International Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation, and Code of Conduct for International Election Observers.

This regulation has been enacted.

Article (1) Definitions

1. Commission: High National Elections Commission and its Electoral Committees.
2. Electoral Committee: A Committee established by the Commission to manage elections in each constituency.
3. Accreditation Card: A Card issued by the Commission. It includes the photograph and the personal information of the observer, the agent or the media representative, accredited according to special conditions. It authorizes the accredited person to accomplish the work assigned to him/her.
4. National and International Media: all media outlets which are registered by official state authorities.
5. Media Representatives (national and international): persons working for duly registered official or non-official media outlets.
6. Authorized Representative: A person assigned by the media outlet to complete all registration and accreditation procedures.
7. Electoral Process: It includes the various stages of the electoral process, starting with candidate nomination, voter registration, polling, counting and the announcement of results.

Article (2)

General Provisions

Media representatives are allowed to follow up all electoral processes and to have access to polling centers and stations during the polling day, for media coverage purposes.

Article (3)

Conditions and procedures for accreditation of media representatives

First: Conditions of accreditation

A. Local media representatives:

1. To be Libyan.
2. Not to be less than 18 years old and to be fully competent.
3. To be affiliated to an official or non-official registered media outlet.
4. To demonstrate impartiality, independence and integrity while covering the electoral process.
5. Not to be a candidate.
6. Not to be convicted of any felony involving moral turpitude unless he/she has been rehabilitated.
7. Not to participate, in any way, in election campaigns for the interest of any candidate.
8. To fill the application form of accreditation issued by the Commission.
9. To abide by the rules of the Code of Conduct, while covering the electoral process.

B. International media representatives:

Those who wish to be international media representatives shall meet the following conditions:

1. To be neutral, independent and professional while covering the electoral process.
2. To be affiliated with an official or non-official registered media outlet.
3. To fill the application form issued by the Commission.
4. To abide by the rules of the Code of Conduct while covering the electoral process.

Second: Accreditation procedures

The accreditation procedure shall be completed as follows:

1. To fill the accreditation application form issued by the Commission.
2. To sign the form for abiding by the laws and Code of Conduct.
3. To provide a copy of the ID card for local media representatives, and a copy of the passport and entry visa for international media representatives.
4. To provide a certificate from the relevant media outlet.
5. To provide a list of local and international media representative names and to nominate a representative to complete the accreditation procedures.
6. To provide two photographs for each media representative.
7. All the required accreditation documents for all national media representatives shall be submitted to the electoral committees who shall, in turn, issue the cards. The documents for international media representatives shall be submitted to the HNEC General Administration, during the period announced by the HNEC. No applications shall be accepted after the deadline. The announcement will be done through the media and the HNEC website.
8. The Accreditation office at the HNEC General Administration or at the Electoral Committees will consider the applications.
9. The Commission will issue the official accreditation cards for all persons who meet the accreditation requirements. The cards will be handed over at the same office where to applications are submitted.

Article (4) Rights of media representatives

1. The Commission will facilitate access to information and data related to the electoral process for accredited media representatives.
2. To cover the electoral process, accredited media representatives shall enjoy full access to all electoral sites, during all electoral phases.
3. Accredited media representatives can enter any polling centers or stations inside or outside of Libya.

Article (5)

Duties of media representatives

While carrying out their mission, media representatives shall comply with the following:

1. Make sure to respect all laws and regulations, in force, in Libya at all stages of the electoral process.
2. Respect the public order and morals.
3. International media representatives shall not interfere in the internal and sovereignty affairs of the state.
4. Ensure proper behavior towards the staff of the polling centers and stations during their visit to these centers on elections day. They shall request permission, from the Polling Center Manager for photography or recording.
5. Media representatives shall not interfere in the electoral process, under any circumstances.
6. Continuously and visibly display the media representative accreditation card during their visit to polling centers and stations on polling day.
7. Respect the principle of neutrality and refrain from making any statements to the public, which may question the credibility of the electoral process or may call for violence while covering the electoral process.
8. Do not wear or carry any logos, colors or symbols, similar or identical to any of those belonging to candidates during their visit to polling centers and stations on polling day.
9. Not to use any mobile phones during their visit to polling centers and stations on polling day.
10. Not hold weapons in electoral sites, avoid violence, and respect public morals.
11. Not to comment on elections results before the announcement of end of polling.

Article (6)

Offenses and penalties

The commission has the right to revoke the accreditation of media representatives in the case of violating the laws and regulations enacted in Libya, including Codes of Conduct for media representatives. Local and international media outlets shall bear full responsibility for their accredited representatives.

Code of Conduct

All media representatives accredited by the Commission shall comply with the following:

- Comply with all laws and regulations issued by the Commission, the relevant Libyan laws and the international Code of Conduct.
- Conduct their activities professionally, and comply with all instructions issued by officials.
- Respect the rights of all voters and candidates to express their opinions freely and to participate in elections.
- Respect the laws and authority of election officials, keep order and respect the customs and culture of the host country. At all times, adhere to professionalism, even when off-duty.
- Not to interfere in, or obstruct the electoral process in any way.
- To be fully committed to impartiality, all times, and not to influence any voters or candidates or staff members. They should be accurate in judging or drawing conclusions, using real evidence that could be proved.
- Not to conduct any kind of electoral campaign.
- Not to carry or display or wear any political symbols related to any candidates or any colors of a partisan nature.
- Visibly display accreditation cards while covering the electoral process.
- Not to photograph any materials without prior permission, and not to take any photographs which might affect the secrecy and integrity of the vote.

By this, I promise to respect and comply with all the provisions of this document.