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COUNCIL FOR THE DEFENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS  
THE NETWORK OF THE LOCAL NGO



# **PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS**

## **Final Raport**

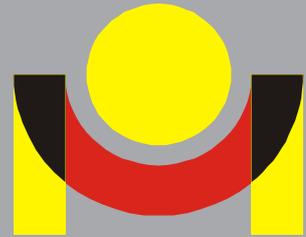
# **2004**

**PRISHTINA 2004**



# Final Report

## MONITORING OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 2004



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# INTRODUCTION

The organization of free and fair elections is seen as one of the biggest challenges in societies in which democracy is in its early stages and in particular in societies, which have emerged from totalitarian systems.

Kosova already has a tradition in the organization of elections (bearing in mind the fact that 4 elections were organized within a period of less than 4 years).

The civil society in Kosova, and in particular the organizations, which were involved in the monitoring process, have gained considerable experience in this area, through their work to monitor different phases of the electoral process.

Practice has shown that the civil society has an indispensable role to monitor the electoral process as a whole and in particular the activities of the political entities and the Election Day.

It is an undisputable fact that the activities to monitor the events related to the elections have a positive effect on the observance of procedures. It is a well-known fact that all the elections in Kosova have been characterized by a tolerant atmosphere. The organizations which have monitored these activities have played an important role in this direction. If we compare the first elections in Kosova with the recent ones, there has been a sharp decline in the number of incidents and violations of electoral rules.

The Network of the CDHRF played a special role in monitoring

the Election Day. The monitoring activities have contributed to the observance of procedures during the Election Day and the elimination of the possibility for fraud. Despite the fact that monitoring activities cannot eliminate all problems, they can reduce them. Practice has shown that a smaller number of problems are reported in the polling stations, in which there is a presence of independent observers.

Independent observers play a very important role in monitoring the vote counting process as well.

During its activities to monitor the elections in Kosova, the CDHRF has closely cooperated with the Observation Mission of the Council of Europe, the OSCE (Department of Elections), the Central Election Commission Secretariat (CECS), the CEC of Albania, as well as institutions and organizations, which deal with such activities.

The CDHRF would like to thank Mr. Tim Baker and Edita Mustafa from NDI for their continuous support and for sharing with us their experience on how to monitor elections and in particular the methodology of Parallel Vote Tabulation.

The CDHRF would also like to thank Mr. Marcin Walecki, Political Finance Expert from IFES.

The CDHRF would like to thank all the organizations, which were part of the network, for their dedication during the monitoring activities.

The CDHRF and the Network of Kosovar NGOs would like to thank USAID for its financial support.

The CDHRF would also like to thank all the political entities for their cooperation.

Those who played the greatest role in the successful completion of this project are the observers, who showed great dedication during the whole process as well as the regional and municipal coordinators, who were involved in all the phases of the monitoring process.

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Free and fair elections are one of the main characteristics of democratic systems. In multi-ethnic societies, the elections, together with the rules and laws, which regulate the functioning of the state and society, guarantee the representation of ethnic communities and other groups in state institutions. Elections and the electoral system in particular are the main elements to guarantee such representation. During the last 5 years, the latter is being implemented in practice in Kosova. The current system guarantees the representation of all the ethnic communities in the Assembly of Kosova (20 seats are reserved for the minority communities) as well as a quota of 30% for female candidates.

The parliamentary elections in Kosova, which were held on October 23, 2004, were characterized by a tolerant and democratic atmosphere and were in harmony with the international standards for the organization of free and fair elections. 33 political entities participated in these elections.

The administration of the elections by locals, with the unreserved support of international institutions, proved that the Kosovars are ready to deal with complex issues (as are the elections) with great professionalism and responsibility. Through the latter, the Kosovars showed that they are ready for the transfer of competences in a number of areas (as are the elections), which are considered the foundation of democracy. Yet, it must be stressed that the unreserved support of international institutions and in particular that of the OSCE was of great significance, especially if

we bear in mind that this was the first time that the elections were fully administered by locals.

The work of local bodies and in particular that of the CEC Secretariat was characterized by great dedication in the technical organization of the elections.

A very important role in creating a tolerant atmosphere during the parliamentary elections in Kosova was played by the political entities participating in the elections, which proved that Kosova is not so far away from countries with well developed democracy. Their actions had a direct influence in the actions of the citizens of Kosova, during the elections, before and after them.

The CDHRF and the Network of Kosovar NGOs contributed to the tolerant atmosphere during the elections, through their impartiality.

The greatest role in creating a tolerant atmosphere during the elections was played by the citizens of Kosova, who have begun to understand the political race as a competition of values. Through their behaviour, the citizens of Kosova have shown that they are ready to be part of the democratic world, as are other nations.

Fortunately, certain predictions, according to which, the elections in Kosova would be marred by acts of violence against members of the minority communities in Kosova, as well as within the Albanian community, did not come true. Once again, the citizens of Kosova (as well as political entities) showed that they respect values and that they can participate in a political race in harmony with the international standard for fair and free elections.



The parliamentary elections in Kosova were qualified (by local and international observers) as free and fair elections in full accordance with international standards. A similar view was expressed by political centers and different analysts.

**CDHRF**

## II. Recommendations

- the Assembly of Kosova must adopt a Law on the Elections
- changes must be introduced to the electoral system (the territory of Kosova must be divided into a larger number of electoral units and open lists must be applied).
- members of the MECs must be appointed by the municipal assemblies
- MECs must be completed at least 6-months prior to the elections
- the deadline for the certification of political entities must be respected (the failure to do so can cause technical problems in the organization of the other phases of the elections)
- a population census must be held and all those eligible to vote must be registered
- better coordination must be established between the civil registry (which is administered by UNMIK) and local institutions (this would enable the constant update of the voter's lists).
- the Final Voter's List must be a competence of the CECS
- mobile teams must be established to communicate with rural areas
- the distribution of information materials must be improved
- the period for the verification of data in the voter's list must be extended
- greater efforts must be made for the training of the members of the PSCs
- better preparations are required for the process of early voting
- An official must be appointed in each polling station to help those who cannot vote on their own and to prevent the possibility of manipulation with the will of the voters.

*According to the CDHRF, one of the main reasons for the low turnout of voters in the parliamentary elections in Kosova was the use of closed lists. The CDHRF in cooperation with a number of Kosovar NGOs established the "Reforma 2004" Coalition, which called for changes to the electoral system in Kosova.*

*Open lists would provide for greater accountability by those elected towards their voters.*



## III. ELECTIONS 2004

### III.1. ELECTORAL SYSTEM

The legal provisions, which regulate the general procedures of the electoral process, consist of the Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self-Government in Kosova (2001/9)<sup>1</sup>, the regulations adopted by the CEC, the SRSG as well as Administrative Directions.

According to the Constitutional Framework, Kosova is a single electoral district. The Assembly has 120 members, who are elected through a proportional system with closed lists<sup>2</sup>. Twenty of the 120 seats are reserved for the non-Albanian communities: 10 seats are reserved for the Serb community, 4 for the RAE communities, 3 for the Bosniak community, 2 for the Turkish community and 1 for the Gorani community.

Each entity needs a quota of 0.50 - 1% to win a seat in the Assembly of Kosova. 33 political entities were certified for the parliamentary elections of October 23, 2004.

<sup>1</sup> *The Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self-Government in Kosova, Chapter 9.*

<sup>2</sup> *A number of NGOs initiated the "Reforma 2004" campaign calling for changes to the electoral system in Kosova, according to which Kosova would be divided in 7 electoral units and open lists.*

The seats in the Assembly are distributed in proportion to the number of votes each entity receives.

The Assembly of Kosova has 120 seats.

100 seats shall be distributed amongst all parties, coalitions, citizen's initiatives and independent candidates.

20 seats are reserved for the non-Albanian communities.

The reserved seats shall be distributed in proportion to the number of votes the non-Albanian entities receive.

## III.2. CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION (CEC)

<sup>3</sup> Regulation no. 2004/9 on the Central Election Commission-Section 2/ Composition and Remuneration.

2.1 The Commission consists of a Chairperson and 11 members ("Commissioners"), who are appointed by the SRSG. Two Commissioners are selected by the SRSG in consultation with UNMIK Pillar for Institution Building from among international representatives having relevant professional qualifications and practical experience in electoral matters, and 9 are nominated in accordance with section 3. The Deputy SRSG for Institution Building shall be a Commissioner ex-officio and shall serve as the Chairperson.

2.2 Each Commissioner, except for the Chairperson, shall have an alternate appointed by the SRSG. An alternate shall serve as a temporary member of the Commission if the Commissioner concerned is unable to attend a meeting. An alternate shall have the rights and obligations of the Commissioner for whom he or she is substituting.

2.3 The Commission is composed having regard to gender representation.

The CEC was established pursuant to UNMIK Regulation 2004/9 and is responsible for the administration of elections in Kosovo. The role of the CEC is to regulate the electoral process through the adoption of electoral rules and the supervision of the whole process in order to ensure the fulfillment of international standards.

Pascal Fieschi, the deputy SRSG for Institution Building and the head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, is the chairperson of the CEC. The CEC has 3 international and 9 local commissioners. The international commissioners are selected by the SRSG, whereas the local commissioners are nominated by the political entities not eligible for reserved seats that received the highest number of votes in the most recent election for the Assembly and the political entities that received the highest number of votes among those entities that contested the seats reserved for the communities, including the Serbs, RAE, Turks, Bosniaks and Gorani<sup>3</sup>

Two commissioners are nominated by NGOs (one that has expertise in relation to persons with physical and mental disabilities and one that has expertise in electoral, human rights or gender issues). The CEC adopts decisions by consensus. If a consensus cannot be reached the chairperson shall make a decision, which shall be deemed to be the decision of the Commission.

There have been no problems within the CEC, which would threaten the management of the elections.

The CDHRF addressed the CEC asking for the right to monitor its work. This request was not met due to legal obstacles and technical problems.<sup>4</sup>

According to the CDHRF, the work of the CEC was characterized by a lack of determination to respect legal deadlines (the extension of deadlines resulted in delays to prepare voting materials). The CEC made concessions to the representatives of the Serb community allowing them to delay the decision to participate in the elections.

According to the CDHRF, such measures threatened to devalue the whole process and to create frustration and dissatisfaction among the political entities, which were supposed to respect procedures (otherwise, they would have been subjected to sanctions).

The CDHRF expressed its concerns regarding the consequences of such delays for the electoral process as a whole and the technical part of the management of the elections in particular.

The CDHRF did not agree with the pressure that was put on the representatives of the Serb community to participate in the elections (such a thing is in contradiction with the international standard for free and fair elections). The stance of the representatives of the Serb community not to participate in the elections and the calls of the international community to do so have put the citizens under great pressure (denying them the right to freely decide whether they will participate in the elections or not). The CDHRF has called upon the CEC as well as local and international mechanisms to create equal conditions for all the

<sup>4</sup> See: The letter of the CEC in reply to the request of the CDHRF.





citizens and ethnic groups in Kosova, including the Serbs, to participate in the elections. Yet, the decision whether to participate in the elections or not must be left to the free will of the citizens, respecting their right not to take any decisions under pressure.

The CDHRF has criticized the interference of the Belgrade authorities and their pressure on the Serb community to boycott the elections.

According to the CDHRF, Serb citizens (voters) have been put in a difficult position to choose between the stance of the Serb authorities not to participate in the elections and the calls of the international community to do so, which was a violation of the UDHR<sup>5</sup> and the ICCPR<sup>6</sup>.

The CDHRF had suggested the establishment of polling stations in Serbia and Montenegro<sup>7</sup> as well as other places, in which IDPs from Kosova are currently sheltered, in order to guarantee them equal conditions to participate in the elections (taking into consideration the fact that by-mail voting is a more complicated process).

<sup>5</sup> Article 21.1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

<sup>6</sup> ICCPR/Article 25

<sup>7</sup> The CDHRF requested the establishment of polling stations in places with large concentrations of Serbs from Kosova.

### III.3. MUNICIPAL ELECTION COMMISSIONS (MECS)

The nomination and appointment of the members of the MECs is regulated by electoral rule no. 7/2004<sup>8</sup>. The rule determines the appointment process and the composition of MECs.

Generally, the MECs have between 3 and 5 members. The number of members of an MEC can be increased, taking into account the population size of the municipality, the number of polling stations to be established within the municipality, and the geographical area of the municipality. The observers of the CDHRF, who have monitored the process for the nomination and appointment of the members of the MECs, have not noticed any violations of electoral rule 7/2004 or other legal procedures.

Most of the political entities have complained regarding the composition of the MECs claiming that it favors the biggest parties.

The role of the MECs is: *to provide information to voters of all communities, impartially provide political parties, citizens' initiatives, coalitions and independent candidates with information about their rights and obligations in relation to elections, assist in the training and appointment of the Voter Services staff and Polling Station Committees, assist in the technical arrangements at the Polling Stations and any other technical preparations for the elections including receiving all non-sensitive election materials, ensure the proper conduct of polling and counting and compiling the results of the elections within their*

<sup>8</sup> Electoral Rule no. 7/2004/  
M U N I C I P A L  
E L E C T I O N  
C O M M I S S I O N S.

1.2 A member of an MEC must be a person with high professional and ethical standing with administrative or electoral experience and knowledge sufficient to efficiently perform the work of the MEC.

The MEC Executive Officers, who are appointed before this Rule comes into force, shall continue to serve as MEC members until the CEC revokes their appointment (Transitional Provision).



*jurisdiction, collect and store election-related materials after the election and perform other duties required by any CEC rule or decision.*

#### **ASSESSMENT:**

- The CDHRF was not able to fully investigate the complaints of the political entities regarding the composition of the MECs. The CDHRF believes that the members of the MECs should have been appointed by the municipal assemblies with the consent of the CEC;*
- The MECs failed to meet their obligations as far as their duty to provide information to the voters is concerned, especially in the rural areas<sup>9</sup>;*
- There was no cooperation between the police authorities and the MECs during the transport of election materials<sup>10</sup>.*

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- The CDHRF recommends that the MECs be appointed by the Municipal Assemblies in the future.<sup>11</sup>*

<sup>9</sup>Materials were distributed in urban areas. Very little was done for the distribution of such materials in remote areas.

<sup>10</sup> The chairman of the MEC in Dardana/Kamenica was stopped and put in police detention (while receiving the election materials). An investigation was initiated against him. The CDHRF has condemned the action of the police authorities and has called for better cooperation between the two.

<sup>11</sup> The appointment of the members of the MECs should be a competence of the Municipal Assemblies.

### III.4 CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION SECRETARIAT (CECS)

In order to implement its functions and responsibilities, the CEC is assisted by the CECS, which acts in accordance to Administrative Direction 2003/28.

The Secretariat provides administrative and other necessary support to the CEC. The Secretariat assists the CEC in the implementation of functions and responsibilities assigned to it. During its work the Secretariat had the support of the Election Department of the OSCE.

The Secretariat is managed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

The appointment of Adnan Merovci (as CEO) was opposed by the LDK<sup>12</sup>. The LDK addressed the chairperson of the CEC calling for the removal of Mr. Merovci. These calls were rejected on the grounds that Mr. Merovci was appointed in accordance with the law.

A letter expressing the views of the LDK regarding this issue was sent to the CDHRF.<sup>13</sup>

The CDHRF did not notice any irregularities during the appointment of the CEO. According to the CDHRF, all the legal procedures were respected on this occasion.

The CDHRF had a very close cooperation with the CECS.

According to the CDHRF, the Secretariat has fulfilled all its duties



<sup>1</sup> According to the LDK, there was no consensus regarding the appointment of Adnan Merovci (the latter was accused of bias against Ibrahim Rugova and the LDK).

<sup>2</sup> See: LDK letter addressed to the CDHRF.



(despite the fact that it was a newly established body). On a number of occasions the Secretariat was put in a difficult position due to the decisions of the CEC (especially, while waiting for an answer regarding the participation of Serbs in the elections).

The CDHRF believes that the Secretariat should have paid greater importance to the training of the members of the Polling Station Committees. The latter were not properly trained on the Election Day procedures as well as vote counting and reconciliation of results.

To some extent the Secretariat has failed to assist in the technical arrangements at the Polling Stations, especially due to the lack of information materials for the voters.

### III.5. ELECTION COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS COMMISSION (ECAC)

ECAC was established due to the need for the existence of an independent body, competent to adjudicate complaints and permitted appeals concerning the electoral process<sup>14</sup>. The Commission consists of the international Chief Commissioner and 4 national Commissioners, who are appointed by the SRSG.

The ECAC imposed sanctions for violations of the electoral rules. Upon the complaint of a number of political entities (alleging irregularities during the process of vote counting and reconciliation of results)<sup>15</sup>, the ECAC directed the CEC to order the recount of all the ballots of the parliamentary elections in Kosova (with the exception of conditional ballots)<sup>16</sup>.

Compared to the previous elections, the number of complaints presented to the ECAC was smaller.

During the counting of votes, the observers of the CDHRF noticed certain irregularities and warned on their effect.



<sup>14</sup> UNMIK Regulation no. 2004/12

<sup>15</sup> A number of political entities complained of irregularities during the transfer of data to the Reconciliation and Results Forms. Similar remarks were made by the CDHRF.

<sup>16</sup> Decision PD04/058 dated October 29, 2004 and PD04/058s dated October 30, 2004. See: [www.ecac-ko.org](http://www.ecac-ko.org).

### III.6. POLLING STATION COMMITTEES (PSC)



The members of the Polling Station Committees must satisfy the criteria for appointment specified in Electoral Rule 9/2004<sup>17</sup>.

According to the CDHRF, the members of the PSC were not properly trained on the election procedures.

On a number of occasions, the members of the PSCs showed a lack of responsibility<sup>18</sup>. They also showed a lack of seriousness while in the polling stations.

The above-mentioned resulted in certain problems during the process for the counting and reconciliation of results, which led to the need to recount all ballots a few days later.

The observers of the CDHRF noticed that the members of the PSCs did not know the procedures, in particular the help desk officials.



<sup>17</sup> Electoral rule no. 9/2004/the appointment of Polling Station Committees.

<sup>18</sup> For more information see: Monitoring of the Election Day.

#### IV. PREPARATIONS TO MONITOR THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN KOSOVA

The work to monitor elections requests serious efforts and great dedication. Therefore, in order to achieve the objectives, which have been set, it is necessary to prepare a strategy and plan of activities.

In the beginning of 2004, the CDHRF commenced its work to prepare a strategy and plan of activities (setting the priorities), in parallel to the activities to change the electoral system in Kosova, within the “Reforma 2004” Campaign.

Simultaneously, the forms of action were determined.

Since the monitoring activities were to cover the whole territory of Kosova, there was a need to appoint municipal coordinators. The latter apart from their role in designing a general strategy had to adapt this strategy to the circumstances in their municipalities. They were also responsible to coordinate the activities between the NGOs within the network.

During meetings with the municipal coordinators the plan of activities was prepared.

The monitoring process was divided in three different phases:

**Phase 1** – the activities prior to the election campaign;

**Phase 2** – the activities during the election campaign and;

**Phase 3** – the activities during and after the Election Day.





**a. The plan of activities:**

The CDHRF and the network of Kosovar NGOs prepared a plan of activities<sup>19</sup>, in compliance with the plan of activities of the CECS.

**b. Trainings**

The training of the staff involved in the coordination of activities began in March. After the assessment of the previous elections and the identification of problems, special attention was paid to the efforts to prepare a strategy and plan of activities (dividing it into different phases).

The coordinators were trained on human resource management.

Special attention was paid to the issue of communication between the head office in Prishtina-the municipal coordinators and the observers.

The municipal coordinators (30) and the staff of the head office in Prishtina, who will participate in the monitoring process, attended these trainings.

*b1. Trainings for the observers of the election campaign*

In the course of August and September, the CDHRF, organized a number of trainings for the observers of the electoral campaign. The trainings were organized with the support of IFES and NDI. A group of 100 observers were trained on how to monitor the electoral campaign, monitoring techniques, etc.



<sup>19</sup> See: annex 1/Plan of activities.

The observers were also trained on how to monitor the spending of the political entities<sup>20</sup> participating in the elections. This activity will be carried out by the CDHRF and its observation mission.



#### *b2. Trainings for the observers, who will monitor the Election Day*

Between October 1 and 20, in the organization of the CDHRF, more than 2300 observers were trained to monitor the Election Day.



The observers were trained to monitor the Election Day, as well as the procedures envisaged for the Election Day. The observers were supplied with the materials required to monitor the Election Day. Special attention was paid to parallel vote tabulation. The observers were trained on the modalities of the monitoring process as well as the communication of results from the polling stations<sup>21</sup>.

### **MEDIA CONFERENCES**

During the preparations to monitor the parliamentary elections in Kosovo and the monitoring process itself, the CDHRF organized a number of media conferences in order to inform the public opinion on its monitoring activities and the views of the CDHRF regarding different phases of the electoral process.

Apart from the above-mentioned, the CDHRF issued a number of statements expressing the views of the observation mission of the CDHRF on different issues having to do with the elections<sup>22</sup>. Officials of the CDHRF developed very close cooperation with

<sup>19</sup> See: annex 1/Plan of activities.

<sup>20</sup> During a two-day training on how to monitor the costs of the political entities during the election campaign the following topics were discussed: the financing of the election campaign, the importance to monitor campaign expenditure, etc. During the training sessions examples from Lithuania, Romania, Poland, Russia, the Ukraine, etc., were presented.

<sup>21</sup> PVT – Parallel Vote Tabulation.

<sup>22</sup> Annex II/Statements dated July 22, 2004, August 6, 2004 and October 14, 2004.



the electronic media and the press in order to publicize its monitoring activities.

The media have played a very important role in informing the public opinion on the monitoring activities of the CDHRF. The CDHRF would like to thank them for their role in this direction.



## V. MONITORING

### V.1. POLITICAL PARTY' ASSEMBLIES

The CDHRF monitored the assemblies of the biggest political parties in Kosovo. This was done due to the fact that the latter reflect themselves directly on the elections.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the LDK was held on June 19, 2004. More than 5000 delegates attended this Assembly.

Observers of the CDHRF, NDI and the OSCE monitored the work of the Assembly.

The election procedures were not applied. The Assembly had only a formal character. Due to this, a number of delegates expressed their discontent.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly of the AAK was held on June 19. 47 delegates attended the Assembly. The procedures were fully respected during the election of the highest executive body of the party. Open lists were used and the secrecy of the vote was respected. Apart from the party leadership, the delegates voted for the AAK list of candidates for the parliamentary elections in Kosovo.

Observers of the CDHRF, NDI and the OSCE monitored the work of the Assembly.

According to the CDHRF, there were no irregularities during the election procedure.





370 delegates attended the Assembly of the PDK, which was held on June 27, 2004. The Assembly decided to extend the mandate of the party leadership until after the elections.

## V.2. THE VOTER'S LIST

According to the CDHRF, a number of problems emerged during the registration process, which was mainly the result of the poor information campaign to promote the work of the Voter's Service Centers. A large number of citizens, especially in the rural areas, were not properly informed on the commencement of the registration process. The electronic media and the press were used to inform the citizens on the work of the VSCs (despite the fact that there is no radio or TV signal in certain parts of Kosovo or the fact that most of the citizens cannot afford to buy the press). The CDHRF has requested greater efforts in this direction (new forms of communication must be found, which are more accessible to the citizens). One of the main remarks of the CDHRF had to do with the fact that voters were not duly informed when they had to vote in a different place from that in which they voted in the previous elections. Due to the limited period of time to confirm or challenge the data presented in the voter's lists as well as the remoteness of the VSCs the number of those who addressed these centers did not exceed 10.000.



Due to the above-mentioned, the voter's lists were incomplete.

Another obstacle, which hindered the efforts to revise the voter's lists, was the lack of coordination between the civil registry and

local institutions. Consequently, the names of many people, who are dead, figured in the Final Voter's List, whereas the names of many others, who were eligible to vote, did not figure in it.

According to the CDHRF, the voter's lists should have been distributed throughout the voting centers (enabling the voters to check the data in them).

### **Recommendations:**

- *A population census must be held and all those eligible to vote must be registered;*
- *better cooperation must be established between the civil registry, which is administered by UNMIK, and local institutions, which would help update the Voters List;*
- *mobile teams must be established to communicate with rural areas;*
- *greater efforts must be made to distribute information materials in remote areas;*
- *the verification period must be extended;*





### **V.3. THE CERTIFICATION OF POLITICAL ENTITIES AND THE REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES**

33 political entities (26 political parties, 5 independent candidates and two citizens' initiatives) were certified for the parliamentary elections in Kosovo.

The deadline for the certification of political entities had to be extended due to the failure of a number of political entities to apply on time.



The Serbian List for Kosovo and Metohija applied for certification only a few days before the elections.

The LKÇK did not participate in the elections despite of applying for certification.



#### **Recommendations:**

- The deadline for the certification of political entities must be strictly respected in the future. The failure to do so can result in problems in the implementation of the other phases of the electoral process.*



## VI. THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

The duration of the political campaign for the parliamentary elections in Kosovo, which were held in October 2004, was reduced to 30 days (compared to 45 days in the previous elections)<sup>23</sup>.

The 30-day political campaign period began on September 22, 2004<sup>24</sup>.

### THE DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE OF KOSOVA (LDK)

The LDK opened its campaign with a meeting of the Women's Forum in the town of Prizren.

The CDHRF monitored 93 meetings organized by the LDK throughout Kosovo. In general, these meetings were organized in harmony with the required procedures. No incidents were reported, which would threaten the regular course of the campaign. In general, the officials and the activists of the LDK respected the Code of Conduct. Nonetheless, there were also cases in which accusations and insults were launched against political opponents.

The gravest case was registered during a rally in Fushë Kosova. During this rally, officials of the LDK violated the Code of Conduct accusing and insulting their political opponents<sup>25</sup>.



<sup>23</sup> After the municipal elections, which were held in 2002, the CDHRF had recommended that the duration of the election campaign should not exceed 30 days.

<sup>24</sup> No activities were held on September 22, as the political entities thought the campaign would start on September 23.

<sup>25</sup> In the electoral meeting of the LDK, which was held in Fushë Kosova, the chairman of the Municipal Assembly violated the Code of Conduct using offensive words against political opponents. Rexhep Osmani, the Minister of Education, Science and Technology, used similar words in this meeting.

## DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF KOSOVA (PDK)

The PDK opened its campaign with a meeting in Prishtina.

The CDHRF monitored 82 meetings organized by the PDK. The general assessment of the CDHRF is that the officials of the PDK, its members and supporters have respected the procedures envisaged for the election campaign. Representatives of the PDK organized meetings with different categories of people. During these meetings no incidents or violations of the legal procedures were reported.

The CDHRF did not notice any kind of voter intimidation.

The gravest incident was reported during a meeting in Fushë Kosova. A supporter of the LDK was said to have provoked the participants chanting for Rugova. The latter was attacked and suffered body injuries.<sup>26</sup>

During this meeting, PDK officials insulted the LDK officials in Fushë Kosova<sup>27</sup>.

## THE ALLIANCE FOR THE FUTURE OF KOSOVA (AAK)

The AAK opened its campaign on September 23. Its campaign was characterized by numerous activities (small meetings with different groups of people).

The representatives of the AAK promised the integration of Kosova in north Atlantic structures.



<sup>26</sup> The CDHRF could not precisely determine who provoked and what happened during this incident (due to the tense atmosphere following the scuffle).

<sup>27</sup> The chairman of the PDK accused Skender Zogaj, the chairman of the LDK branch in Fushë Kosova, of being the head of organized crime and a person who compiled lists for the execution of people. On October 12, Mr. Zogaj had indirectly accused the leaders of the PDK and ORA as "killers, thieves, blackmailers, liars, etc. The chairman of the PDK accused Burim Berisha, the CEO in Fushë Kosova, for bribery as well as Fadil Krasniqi for corruption.

No incidents were reported during the election campaign of the AAK.

The CDHRF monitored 78 meetings organized by the AAK.

#### **“ORA” CITIZENS’ INITIATIVE**

The activities of “ORA” were characterized by small meetings throughout Kosova, which were used to promote its candidates for the parliamentary elections in Kosova.

“ORA” organized a number of debates in which different issues were discussed (with the presence of experts). The CDHRF monitored 53 meetings organized by this initiative.

#### **PEOPLE’S MOVEMENT OF KOSOVA (LPK)**

The LPK held small meetings with its supporters throughout Kosova. The CDHRF monitored 26 public meetings organized by the LPK. No violations of the procedures were reported.

#### **THE ALBANIAN CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF KOSOVA (PSHDK)**

The CDHRF monitored 23 meetings organized by the PSHDK. No incidents were reported during the campaign.

Apart from the above mentioned, the CDHRF monitored more than 200 meetings of the political entities participating in the parliamentary elections in Kosova. In general, the campaign can





be qualified as peaceful and in harmony with the procedures<sup>28</sup>.

### **General assessment:**

*According to the CDHRF, the campaign was characterized by a tolerant atmosphere.*

*All the political entities cancelled their electoral activities as a sign of solidarity with the families of the pupils, who died in the tragic accident in Fushë Arrëz<sup>29</sup> (Albania). Following this event, all the political entities in the municipality of Malisheva cancelled their activities for the rest of the campaign.*

*According to the CDHRF and the Network of Kosovar NGOs, the citizens, the members and the supporters of the political entities participating in the elections, as well as their leaders, showed high political maturity during the campaign.*

*Similarly to the previous elections, there were minor incidents in which posters were removed, covered or destroyed. This can be considered the gravest violation of the electoral rules.*

*Similarly to the previous elections, official vehicles and governmental employees were used during the election campaign.*

*On October 14, 15 pupils were killed and tens of others were injured in an accident, while returning from an excursion to Albania. On the decision of the President of Kosovo, October 14 and 15 were declared official days of mourning. No electoral activities were held during this period.*



<sup>28</sup> During the election campaign in the municipality of Gjakova, Leme Xhema, a candidate of the Liberal Party of Kosovo, handed money to the families of those who were killed during the war, the families of the missing and war invalids. Mrs. Xhema stated that the money she was handing had nothing to do with the elections but was a form of humanitarian aid.



## VI.1. CAMPAIGN SPENDING

Within their activities to monitor the parliamentary elections in Kosovo, the CDHRF and the Network of Kosovar NGOs, have also monitored the spending of the political entities participating in the elections, pursuant to Election Rule no. 8/2004.

The aim of the latter was to check whether political entities exceeded the campaign spending limit for the elections (Electoral Rule no. 8/2004)<sup>30</sup>.

*According to the CDHRF, no political entity exceeded the campaign spending limit.*



<sup>30</sup> Electoral Rule no. 8/2004. Section 1 – Campaign spending limit. 1.1 The Campaign Spending Limit for the Parliamentary Elections in Kosovo shall be 0.50 Euros per Registered Voter.





## VI.2. EARLY VOTING

The CDHRF monitored the process of early voting, which took place on October 21 and 22 (in hospitals, homes for the aged, detention facilities, etc.).

A number of voters could not exercise their right as they had no identification documents with them<sup>31</sup>.

No violations were reported, which could affect the process as a whole.

According to the CDHRF, the technical preparations for this kind of voting should begin much earlier<sup>32</sup>.

<sup>31</sup> Voters in the home for the aged and the Prishtina Hospital.

<sup>32</sup> In a number of municipalities there were difficulties to implement this process.



## VII. ELECTION DAY

### A) OUTSIDE THE POLLING CENTERS

The CDHRF did not register any violations of Electoral Rule 13/2004. According to the CDHRF, the area of a polling center should be extended to include everything within a radius of 50 meters around the PCTR (instead of the current 25). This would help eliminate election campaign materials in the vicinity of polling centers.

The security situation in the polling centers and around them was satisfactory. The KPS played a very important role in this direction.

### B) INSIDE THE POLLING CENTERS

In general, the buildings, which were used as polling centers, met the criteria set in Electoral Rule 13/2004. Yet, in a number of polling centers information signs were not clearly displayed. In a number of polling centers the help desks failed to do their job. Observers reported the presence of unauthorized persons in a number of polling centers and outside them<sup>33</sup> (the latter tried to influence voters).

The CDHRF recommends that all those involved in the organization of the elections be provided with identification cards, which would be issued by the CEC or MECs.



<sup>33</sup>The CDHRF called upon the ECAC to undertake measures against these persons, whose presence in the polling centers was illegal.



<sup>34</sup> At 6 p.m., the chairman of the PS in the "Elena Gjika" Primary School in Prishtina could not be found inside the PS (as well as the line controller). During their absence, political party observers played their role.

<sup>35</sup> In a number of polling centers information signs were not properly placed. A similar problem was noticed with the help desks (due to this, voters had to queue before them). On the intervention of the observers of the CDHRF these problems were eliminated.



On a number of occasions the members of the PSCs were negligent in their work<sup>34</sup>.

## **VII.1. THE COURSE OF THE ELECTION DAY**

2200 observers were engaged by the CDHRF and the Network of Kosovar NGOs to monitor the parliamentary elections in Kosova, which were held on October 23, 2004.

According to the CDHRF, despite certain incidents and irregularities, which were reported during the Election Day, the elections were held in a tolerant atmosphere.

The administration of polling stations and polling centers was in accordance to European standards.

The members of the Polling Station Committees were not properly trained. The latter resulted in certain irregularities, in particular of a technical nature, which caused discontent among the voters.

In a number of polling centers information signs were not properly placed due to this, a number of polling stations were not easily identifiable<sup>35</sup>.

The observers of the CDHRF sent regular reports on the course of the elections (from polling stations throughout Kosova).

## a) Opening of the polling stations and procedures in the polling station

The polling stations were opened at 7 a.m. Yet, in 13% of the polling stations there were delays to start with the voting process due to the absence of the members of the PSCs or the lack of voting materials.

Until 10 a.m., only a small number of people voted. By 3.30 p.m., over 45% of those eligible to vote cast their ballots.

The turnout of Serbs was symbolic.

- According to the CDHRF the voting procedures were observed:
- Each voter was checked for the invisible ink stain. Afterwards, they were checked off against the Voters List. Upon signing the voters list, their finger was marked and they were given the ballot paper.
- Yet, there were also cases when the procedures were not respected by the members of the PSCs<sup>36</sup>.
- On a number of occasions, more than one person was allowed inside the polling booth.
- Furthermore, the rule according to which one person can help only one voter was not respected.<sup>37</sup>



<sup>36</sup> After the recount of ballots, a number of voters, who voted more than once were identified.

<sup>37</sup> In a number of polling stations the will of the voters was not respected (people who needed help to vote).

*In the year 2000, 79% of all those eligible to vote participated in the elections. Ever since, participation in the elections has decreased continuously (64% in 2001, 54% in 2002 and 52% in 2004).*



<sup>38</sup> In a number of cases people expressed their discontent for having to cast conditional ballots. In a number of cases this resulted in incidents due to which the KPS had to intervene. A number of voters were escorted to police stations (e.g. in Podujeva, Gjilan, Prishtina, etc.).

<sup>39</sup> Each polling center must have a PS in which those, who cannot find their name in the FVL can cast a conditional ballot.

<sup>40</sup> Many voters gave up their right to vote due to problems in finding their PS.

## Recommendations:

- Bearing in mind the large number of people, who need help to vote, the CDHRF recommends that an official be appointed to do this job. By doing so, the possibility to manipulate with the will of the voters would be reduced.

### b) Problems during the voting process

The CDHRF registered a number of problems during the Election Day. Most of the problems had to do with the Final Voter's List and difficulties to find PS.

More than 5% of all those who participated in the elections were conditional ballot voters<sup>38</sup>, despite the fact that most of them were regular voters in the previous elections. There were also cases when people were told that their names do not figure in the FVL and advised to cast a conditional ballot. Consequently, conditional ballots were cast in regular PS<sup>39</sup>.

A number of voters had problems to find the PS where they were supposed to vote (this was due to the reduction of the number of polling stations compared to the previous elections). This problem was most evident in Prishtina, where voters had to run from one PS to the other. Due to the above-mentioned a number of voters did not vote at all<sup>40</sup>.

The help desks failed to complete their job. Their staff showed no dedication to help voters<sup>41</sup>.

### **c) Incidents during the Election Day**

A number of incidents were reported during the Election Day.

A scuffle involving an observer of the LDK and an observer of the PDK was reported at the PS 1828E/01 in the village of Hertica (in the municipality of Podujeva). The two were arrested by the police. A gun was seized from the observer of the LDK. After this incident, the voting process continued normally.

An incident involving members of the PSC (LDK and PDK) was reported at the PS in the “Rilindja” Primary School in the village of Maxhunaj-Vushtrri.

An incident involving political party observers was reported at the PS 2515d/03 in the village of Koshare-Ferizaj. Upon the intervention of members of the KPS (Kosova Police Service) the voting process continued normally. Those involved in the incident were taken to the police station.

A quarrel was reported at the PS 2515d/1 in the village of Varosh (between a member of the PSC and an observer of the PDK). The situation was normalized upon the intervention of the other members of the PSC.

An incident was reported at the PS 0901X/02R. The polling center manager interfered in the work of PSC and ordered observers to

<sup>41</sup> On a number of occasions, the CDHRF called upon the CECS to undertake measures to deal with this problem.





move away from the place where votes were being counted. The incident occurred upon calls for a recount of ballots. An observer of the LDK called the polling center manager, who threatened to remove observers from the PS<sup>42</sup>.

The voting process at the PS in the village of Bresalc-Gjilan was stopped for 20 minutes (after claims by the observers that 3 persons were allowed to vote without showing any documents).

<sup>42</sup> The remarks were registered in the Polling Station Book.



## VIII. PARALLEL VOTE TABULATION

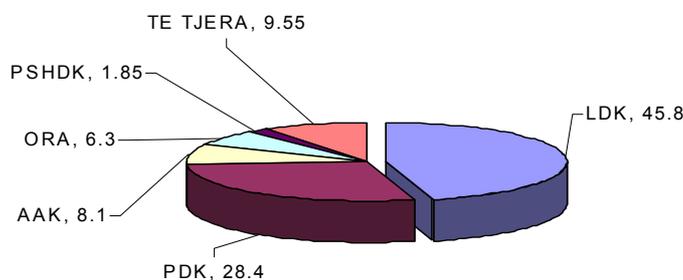
### VIII.1. PARTIAL PRELIMINARY RESULTS

The CDHRF has attained considerable experience in parallel vote tabulation. This technique ensures quick counting and release of election results.

The model, which was applied, was similar to that from the previous elections. Votes in 19% of the polling stations (throughout Kosova) were counted.

During the application of this method, the margin of error is 1% (which was confirmed upon the publication of the official results by the CEC).

The preliminary results were based on the results from 324 PS throughout Kosova. They showed turnout in the elections and the



*Chart presenting the preliminary results published*

*on October 24, at 12.15 a.m.*





percentage of votes each party won.

Only regular ballots were calculated.

The PVT forms contained the names of the political entities, which were thought to have the best chances to win seats in the Parliament.

## VIII.2. COMPLETE PRELIMINARY RESULTS

The CDHRF published the preliminary results<sup>43</sup> of the parliamentary elections in Kosova on October 24, 2004, at 5 p.m., in a press conference, which was held at the Grand Hotel in Prishtina. These results were published upon the collection of 90 % of the results from PS throughout Kosova.

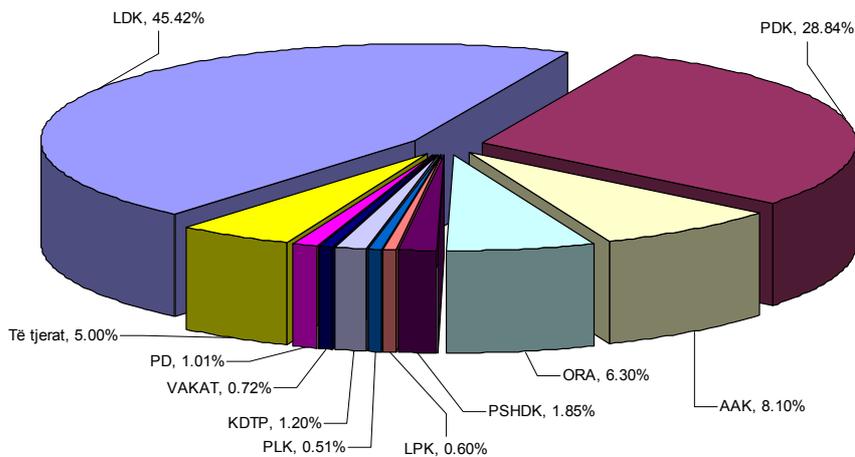
The preliminary results did not include the votes which were cast Out-of-Kosova, conditional ballots, by-mail ballots and the votes, which were cast during the early voting process (Special Need Voting). These votes will be counted and the C&RC after the elections.

During the work to process the results of the parliamentary elections in Kosova, due to certain problems of a technical nature, a mistake occurred, as a result of which the PDK was damaged for 17.000 votes (in the municipality of Drenas). Consequently, this mistake had an impact on the overall results of this party.

During the publication of the preliminary results the CDHRF realized the mistake but did not correct it immediately in order to avoid misunderstandings. After the conference, the CDHRF issued

<sup>43</sup> A number of political entities expressed doubts regarding the accuracy of the preliminary results published by the CDHRF.

The leader of the "ORA" Citizen's Initiative accused the CDHRF for a lack of professionalism. Later on, he apologized to the CDHRF claiming that he had been misinformed by his observers.



*Chart presenting the complete preliminary results published on October 24, at 5 p.m.*

a press release informing the public opinion and the PDK on this mistake<sup>44</sup>.

The preliminary results, which were published by the CDHRF, were identical with the preliminary results published by the CEC (with a slight margin of error) and the Final Results, which were published upon the completion of work to recount all ballots at the Count and Results Center, which were certified by the SRSG.

## **IX. MONITORING OF THE COUNT AND RESULTS CENTER**

The observers of the CDHRF, who monitored the vote counting process, did not register any violations of the relevant procedures.

No irregularities, which could affect the results of the elections, were noticed. The CDHRF was allowed to observe all the activities conducted at the Count & Results Center. According to the



<sup>44</sup> See the explanation sent to the media and the PDK on October 24, 2004.





CDHRF, the staff of the C&RC showed great dedication and professionalism in its work.

The observers of the CDHRF have also monitored the recount of ballots, upon the decision of the CEC to recount all ballots, with the exception of conditional ballots and the ballots cast Out-of-Kosova. The whole process was conducted in harmony with international standards.

During the recount of ballots the mistakes of the PSCs were identified and corrected.

9843 conditional ballots were invalidated (out of a total of 39.814). Most of the ballots, which were invalidated, were cast by people who voted more than once. Therefore, the CDHRF called upon the ECAC to take legal measures against the individuals and political entities involved in this violation<sup>45</sup>.



<sup>45</sup> See: Annex III: the letter of the CDHRF and the reply of the ECAC.

## X. ANNEXES

### ANNEX I

## ANNEX II

### Press release

Prishtina, July 22, 2004

Prior to the commencement of the election campaign for the parliamentary elections in Kosova, which are to be held in October 2004, the CDHRF and the Network of Kosovar NGOs call upon the political entities participating in the elections, their members and supporters to contribute through their actions to the organization of a peaceful, tolerant and democratic campaign.

Bearing in mind the fact that Kosova is going through a difficult period of transition, facing numerous problems, the organization of the election campaign is one of the most important activities of the electoral process.

The Kosovar society is interested in the successful organization of the elections, in harmony with the international standard for free and fair elections.

The CDHRF and the Network of Kosovar NGOs will monitor the election campaign (some 100 observers have been engaged in this process). During the implementation of these activities the CDHRF looks forward to the cooperation of political entities, their members and supporters.

Bearing in mind the contribution of the political leaders during the previous elections in Kosova, the CDHRF and the Network of Kosovar NGOs call upon them to be an active part of a peaceful and tolerant campaign once again.

# Press release

August 6, 2004

In order to guarantee free and fair elections, as well as transparency during the electoral process in Kosova, as preconditions for the development of a democratic society, the CDHRF and the Network of Kosovar NGOs will monitor the activities of the political entities participating in the elections as well as the Election Day.

The activities of the CDHRF are based on Regulation 2004/12, the Declaration of the Inter-Parliamentary Council on the Criteria for Free and Fair Elections, which was adopted in 1994, and article 21 of the UDHR.

## **Composition/structure of the network**

The network is comprised of different NGOs and includes members of all the ethnic groups living in Kosova.

## **The objectives of the monitoring process:**

- to ensure fairness and transparency in the electoral process
- to give credibility to the electoral process
- to prevent irregularities during the electoral process
- to give recommendations - how to improve the electoral process in Kosova in order to guarantee the best representation of the interests of the citizens in the institutions of Kosova.

### **Phases of the monitoring process:**

1. The election campaign/the activities of the political entities participating in the elections
2. Campaign spending
3. Irregularities during the elections
4. Voting and vote counting procedures
5. The publication of preliminary results
6. The allocation of seats in the Assembly

### **Recruitment of observers**

The CDHRF submitted a request for the accreditation of 90 observers to monitor the activities of the MECs, political entities, including campaign spending, as well as cases of violence during the election campaign.

The CDHRF submitted a request for the accreditation of 2300 observers to monitor the voting process in polling station throughout Kosova as well as the vote counting process.

### **Monitoring activities of the CDHRF**

The CDHRF monitored the assemblies of the biggest political parties in Kosova (LDK, PDK and AAK) as well as the application for certification and the submission of candidate lists. The CDHRF has also monitored the activities of the CECS.

## **The election campaign**

In order to contribute to the efforts for the organization of a peaceful campaign, the CDHRF will organize a round table with the political entities participating in the elections. The aim of the round table will be to try and prevent any kind of violence during the elections.

The publication of the preliminary results of the parliamentary elections in Kosova

Once the polling stations are closed and the counting of votes is completed, the CDHRF will come out with the preliminary results of the elections.

The CDHRF will provide information on its monitoring activities, in order to provide impartial information on the activities of the political entities as well as the mechanisms, which are involved in the organization and administration of the elections.

The CDHRF would like to thank NDI for its support (professional and financial) to strengthen local capacities to monitor the political processes in Kosova.

# Press release

October 15, 2004

In order to guarantee free and fair elections, as well as transparency during the electoral process in Kosova, as preconditions for the development of a democratic society, the CDHRF and the Network of Kosovar NGOs will monitor different phases of the elections.

The activities of the CDHRF are based on Regulation 2004/12, the Declaration of the Inter-Parliamentary Council on the Criteria for Free and Fair Elections, which was adopted in 1994, and article 21 of the UDHR.

## **The objectives of the monitoring process are:**

- to ensure fairness and transparency in the electoral process
- to give credibility to the electoral process
- to prevent irregularities during the electoral process
- to give recommendations - how to improve the electoral process in Kosova in order to guarantee the best representation of the interests of the citizens in the institutions of Kosova.

The monitoring activities of the CDHRF during the election campaign

Within its activities to monitor the Parliamentary Elections in Kosova, the CDHRF has trained a group of 100 observers to monitor the election campaign.

The electoral campaign began on September 22. During the campaign the citizens, the members and the supporters of the political entities participating in the elections, as well as their leaders, showed high political maturity. This contributed to a peaceful and civilized campaign.

Compared to the previous elections, the citizens did not show great interest in attending meetings organized by the political entities participating in the elections. On the other hand, the latter intensified their activities organizing “door to door” meetings with their supporters (as a very popular form of campaigning in democratic countries).

Posters and other materials related to the election campaign were distributed throughout Kosovo (on a number of occasions, even in places where such a thing is prohibited). There were also cases when posters were removed, covered or destroyed (in violation of Electoral Rule 1/2004).

Observers of the CDHRF have reported the use of official vehicles during the election campaign.

The CDHRF did not register any incidents, which could threaten the electoral process or the lives of those attending activities related to the elections.

Within its activities to monitor the elections, the CDHRF is monitoring campaign spending in order to guarantee transparency and to check whether political entities exceed the campaign spending limit for the elections.

Observers of the CDHRF have also monitored the work of the bodies involved in the administration of the elections (e.g. MECs). Once again the CDHRF was not allowed to monitor the work of the CEC.

The CDHRF and the Network of Kosovar NGOs are also monitoring the work of the media during the elections. After the elections, a special report will be prepared regarding this issue.

Bearing in mind the fact that a number of polling centers were located in remote areas (making it impossible for a number of people to vote), the CDHRF and the Network of Kosovar NGOs called upon the CEC to consider the possibility of opening polling stations, access to which would be easier. Furthermore, the CDHRF called for the extension of the deadline for the registration of special need voters.

### **Monitoring of the Election Day**

More than 2000 observers were trained to monitor the voting process and the counting of votes. The CDHRF is considering the possibility to send observers to Serbia to monitor participation in the elections and the voting process itself. Until recently, the OSCE and UNMIK have stated that no polling stations would be opened in Serbia.

The CDHRF has close cooperation with the observation mission of the Council of Europe.

The CDHRF has close cooperation with the CECS as well (body that deals with the administration of the elections).

The CDHRF would like to thank NDI for its support (through which an efficient and credible mechanism to monitor the electoral process was created).



Case Number PD04/072  
9 November 2004

### JUDGEMENT

In the matter of a request by the Council for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms (CDHRF) to access conditional ballots which were deemed invalid.

#### Facts

The Election Complaints and Appeals Commission (ECAC) received a request from the CDHRF stating that, as an observer of the 2004 Kosovo Assembly Election, it wished to examine conditional ballots cast in the Election.

The CDHRF noticed that a number of conditional ballots were declared invalid during the count conducted in the Count and Results Centre (C&RC), because they were identified as ballots where the same voter had voted twice, in violation of the applicable rules and regulations. In order to ensure complete transparency during the process, the CDHRF requests access to those invalid ballots.

The count of conditional ballots was concluded on 30 October 2004.

The ECAC received this request, which was signed but not dated, on 4 November 2004.

#### Analysis

Article 3.3 of the ECAC Rules of Procedure states:

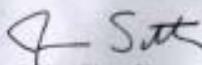
*Unless a different deadline is specified elsewhere, a Complaint must be filed within three days after the occurrence of the alleged violation or within three days after the alleged violation became known to the Complainant.*

As the CDHRF submitted its request to the ECAC on 4 November 2004, five days after the count of conditional ballots was concluded, this request was not submitted within three days after the event in question. Also, the CDHRF did not submit the request within three days of becoming aware of the event, even though, as an observer of the count, the CDHRF became aware of the event on 30 October 2004. Therefore, the request is not timely.

The ECAC further notes that this request by the CDHRF does not contain any allegations that a violation occurred during the count of conditional ballots, and therefore the ECAC does not need to take any action in this matter.

#### Decision

The request is hereby dismissed as untimely. The ECAC advises the CDHRF that it may submit its request to the OSCE Department of Elections, which is in possession of the conditional ballots cast in the Election.

  
Janie Allison Sitton  
Chief Commissioner



## Press release

*issued to explain the error, which occurred during the publication of  
the preliminary results of the Parliamentary Elections in Kosova –  
October 25, 2004*

After the publication of the preliminary results of the Parliamentary Elections in Kosova, the CDHRF and the Network of Kosovar NGOs, noticed an error in the data presented to journalists. The PDK was damaged for 17.000 votes in the municipality of Drenas (affecting the overall results of this party for 3%).

The CDHRF apologizes to the PDK and the public opinion for this mistake, which occurred due to certain problems of a technical nature.

The preliminary results, which were published by the CDHRF, show the percentage of votes each political entity won after the calculation of 90% of regular ballots. A further 10% of regular ballots need to be counted as well as conditional ballots.

The CDHRF thanks its observers, who contributed to the successful implementation of this project as well as NDI, IFES and USAID for their support to monitor the elections.