



## IHEC Regulation No.8

According to the authority which has been given to the Board of commissioners in the article (4), item (8) of the Independent High Electoral Commission's law No. (11), in the year 2007 and the amended law of the elections of Iraq -Kurdistan Region's Parliament Elections no. (1) Of 1992, we decided issuing the following regulation:-

# ((Mass media))

Regulation no. (8)  
Of 2009 of Iraqi Kurdistan Region's Parliament Elections

## (Preamble)

IHEC was established according to law no. (11) Of 2007 to be the only electoral authority in Iraq. It is a professional, governmental, independent, and neutral body with a legal personality belongs to the state and supervised by the Council of Representatives.

## Part 1 (Terminology)

The following terms represented the meaning in the face of each one of them:-

1. **"Commission"**:-means The Independent High Electoral Commission.
2. **"Iraqi Media Network"**:- Is an independent institution which entrusted with publishing information according to the order No. 66 of the year 2004.
3. **"Campaign period"**:- A period that started from the date of registering candidates of IHEC. And stopped before 48 hours



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from the time of opening polling centers through which coalitions and the political entities are doing their electoral campaign.

4. **"Media Outlets"**:-Are the specialized means of providing news, information, and public entertainment material by the use of audio/visual and printable media means.
5. **"Political Entity"**:- An organization includes the political party or nominated individual for Armenian component seat.
6. **"A coalition"**:- gathering of two political entities or more to produce a unified list of candidates in unified elections.
7. **"The Regional Electoral Office"**:- means IHEC office of Kurdistan region constituency.

### Part 2 (Transparent Media Coverage)

1. With the implementing of the principle of freedom of expression and access of information, those media outlets must be accurate, impartial, and perfect in its information and they should deal with all coalitions and political entities in a transparent treatment away from partially.
2. Emphasizing on the entire official Iraqi media network to provide the equal possibilities to help political entities and coalitions that participated in Kurdistan parliament Elections; and covering their activities.
3. A) Mass media must clearly notify that the formal information, data, and both the electoral regulations and procedures; are issued by IHEC and received from official resources in IHEC. They should make sure of this information before publishing them.  
B) Mass media must avoid deforming or distorting any information issues by IHEC from the paid materials related to



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elections, such as propagandas or data or the general media news.

### Part 3

#### (Using Media outlets for the Electoral Campaigns)

1. Calling on all the official Iraqi audio/visual and readable Iraqi media outlets in Kurdistan to provide a low price time of broadcasting for the coalition and political entities participated in Kurdistan Parliament Elections, on the same footing to broadcast the electoral materials.
2. Any Iraqi media means are not allowed to intend deforming, distorting, falsification, an offence, or deleting important information that might affect actually on the understanding of the public of the region for some event or an incident. Information related to the lists, procedures and the electoral policy should depend on official information that is given by IHEC or the Regional electoral office.
3. Calling on the Electronic Media to guarantee the principle of equally and not allowing any discrimination or removal of any candidate or political entity when inviting the electoral campaign's organizers to participate in the photographed programs for this purpose. It should contain the policy of steering invitations, allowing participating in the programs, and the equalization between men and women.
4. Political entities, coalitions, and candidates got the right to involve in the electoral campaign by the use of paid advertisements in the Iraqi Media Outlets which will be with simple conditions.



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### Part 4

#### (Commitments of the Iraqi media network)

Iraqi Media Network as a general broadcast body funded by the government and legally obliged with educating and informing voters with the following:-

1. Educate voters and informing listeners about the elections in Kurdistan region by the use of news broadcast, television and radio programs.
2. Providing the practical information for citizens of the region to vote, then all the arrangements will be taken to guarantee its reach to the different society spectrum of the region.
3. The providing of free broadcasting time and the allocations of studios and technical resources which are available in the region for the candidates to be shown at least once in the dialogues, programs or political discussions.
4. Provide free audible or visual broadcast for the programs mentioned to in the third point for the media broadcast means, which are not followed to them to work on broadcasting them without any modification.
5. Free broadcasting for information and programs that issued and provided by the national office and the regional electoral office. The network should provide free visual and audio recordings upon IHEC's request of such programs for other media broadcast outlets that are not following to the media net work to work on broadcasting them without amendment.

### Part 5

#### (Voters Education and Public Information)

1. According to the (Electoral Campaign) regulation no. (4) Of 2009, the Iraqi Mass Media in the region is responsible for



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informing listeners, readers, and viewers of the region's citizens accurately and in the appropriate time with the electoral ongoing procedure of the Iraq Kurdistan Parliament Elections. Information related to the procedures and political lists should be based on real, accurate, clear, official, and transparent resources that are gained by the national office or by the regional electoral office.

2. Specifying the period of the media campaign for PE 's, coalitions, and candidates from the date of registration of candidates by IHEC then stopped before (48) hours from the time of opening polling centers

### Part 6

#### (Media Media' attendance in the commission's offices in the governorates of the Region)

1. Media Representatives who wish to get inside IHEC locations such as the national office in Baghdad and the offices in the governorates of the region; should obtain the approval of the media officer first in these offices by cooperating with media chiefs.
2. Media representatives who wish to get inside registration centers, polling centers, and sorting stations; should obtain media accreditation from IHEC, regional electoral office, or governorates of the region.
3. It is prohibited to photograph or videotape any individual in these centers without his/her clear acceptance. Even after the voter's consent, the journalist should not tape and the photograph should not expose the voter's intention while voting even with his/her acceptance.





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### **Part 7 (Violations)**

1. BOC got the authority to withdraw the certification from any media outlet violated rules of this regulation
2. BOC could ask the Iraqi National Body Media of and communications imposing an appropriate penalty on any media outlet that violated the rules of this regulation.
3. IHEC could submit any criminal case to the judicial authorities if it gained any evidences proved the occurrence of a criminal violation.

### **Part 8 (Date of enforceability)**

4-1 This Regulation shall enter into force from the date of its ratification by the Board of Commissioners on 30/ 4/ 2009.

Board of Commissioners