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**GRADANSKO NADGLEDANJE IZBORA**  
**ГРАЂАНСКО НАДГЛЕДАЊЕ ИЗБОРА**

# PRELIMINARY REPORT

## Municipal Elections BiH

### April 2000

**Sarajevo, April 9, 2000**

## **I. Background and Introduction**

*The Centres for Civic Initiatives (CCI)* is a BiH non – profit, non – governmental organisation that works to promote active citizen participation in democratic processes through three areas of activities: Strengthening Public Awareness, Local Advocacy Development and Coalition Advocacy Development. Through activities of Coalition Advocacy Development, CCI works to provide Bosnia citizens with the opportunity to participate in large – scale campaigns and social processes in order for citizens to influence the development and prosperity of BiH society.

CCI has been engaged in Advocacy work since 1996. In 1997 CCI organised the first Non – governmental (NGO) Coalitions to monitor the Elections. In 1998 and 1999 the number of coalitions increased dramatically, establishing the NGO Network. The Election Monitoring Campaign activities are conducted by the NGO Network comprising 254 NGOs from all across BiH.

### **Objectives of the Campaign**

- To ensure fair and free elections
- To promote citizen participation in electoral process as well as the voluntary work idea
- To detect and deter irregularities in electoral process
- To improve elections rules and regulations to provide impartial information
- To strengthen The NGO Network in BiH

### **Principles of work of CCI and The NGO Network of Bosnia – Herzegovina**

- Non- partisan and non – governmental work
- Non – profit work
- Accountability and objectivity
- Transparency and independence of work
- Multiethnic, gender, age and territorial balance
- Equality of NGOs involved in Election Monitoring Campaign

## **II. Activities:**

CCI and The Network of NGOs from BiH, comprising 12 Regional Coalitions monitored voting and counting process in entities, every canton, every region and every municipality throughout BiH.

Through this historic initiative, 4266 citizens – volunteers monitored voting and counting process at more than 2100 polling stations on April 8 elections. Their responsibility was to observe and report on irregularities in the polling stations and to forward them to authorities in charge of election organising. The citizen observers paid attention to illegal voting, inability to vote, fraud – pressure, voting and counting process, observance of timelines in polling stations and other election rules violations.

### **III. Initial Observations**

The observers of CCI and the NGO Network observed that almost every municipality had problems with incomplete voter lists at the polling stations, i.e. registered voters were not informed which polling stations they were assigned to. Our observers noticed a big confusion and disappointment with citizens. Due to this situation, a large number of citizens gave up and announced that they will not cast their vote on municipal elections. However, such cases affect the democratisation process in Bosnia and Herzegovina. CCI and the NGO Network will suggest to the PEC to undertake certain actions and to prevent the same in future elections. CCI will also seek support to monitor all components of election process including the work of the LECs, activities related to voter registration, etc.

The observers of CCI and the NGO Network observed that in municipalities of Prijedor and Doboj, in the polling stations for absentee voting, people coming from the Federation were not able to find their names on the voter lists. Nobody from authorised people knew which polling station to direct them to. Therefore our observers reacted and intervened so MECs solved the problem.

The observers of CCI and the NGO Network noted that 38 polling stations in BiH did not open on time. We believe that these cases can not influence the election process, but we would like to suggest to the PECO to prevent such cases in future elections.

At many polling stations, members of Polling Station Committees were not familiar with the presence of citizen, non- partisan observers at the polling stations. CCI and the NGO Network will recommend better education of election officials in order to prevent such situations in future elections.

The observers of CCI and the NGO Network informed that, some polling stations in Sarajevo changed locations and polling station number.

According to reports from our observers, in Stolac municipality, at polling stations 176A2011 and 176A2012, Mile Coko, the bearer of HSP list was turning over the voting boxes so local police and IPTF had to take the action. Those boxes contained torn ballots.

In Neum municipality, our observers noticed that in polling station 174A2001, voters were allowed to vote without presenting identification documents first.

CCI and the NGO Network estimate that regardless of issues mentioned, i.e. violations of rules and regulations, these elections were fair and free. As we expected, the presence of CCI and Network observers contributed to the successful conduct of voting and counting process.

#### **IV. Final report**

The Centres for Civic Initiatives and The NGO Network will, by the end of April, publish the Final report including research analysis and results of election violations. The summary of this report will be presented at the press conference, which you will be timely informed of.

Report made by:  
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**Annex number 1**  
**The overview of polling station coverage**

REGION	Number of polling stations covered by observers	Number of observers	Number of mobile observers	TOTAL
Tuzla Canton	228	457	16	473
Zenica – Dobo j and Central Bosnia Canton	273	546	28	574
Rudo region	112	224	7	231
Birac regija ( Zvornik)	172	344	13	357
	785	1661	64	1635
Banja Luka Region	261	522	18	540
Prijedor Region	161	322	14	336
Doboj Region	145	300	13	313
Una – Sana Canton	135	270	11	281
	702	1414	56	1470
Herzegovina – Neretva Canton	134	268	12	280
Livno Region	76	152	12	164
Trebinje Region	96	192	7	199
Sarajevo Region	245	490	28	518
	751	1102	59	1161
<b>Total</b>	<b>2238</b>	<b>4177</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>4266</b>