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Contact: Taskyn Rahkimbek  
+7-333-232-9324



**REPUBLICAN NETWORK OF INDEPENDENT MONITORS**  
050026 Almaty, Tole bi str. 145 apt. 1, tel/fax 8 (3272) 688887, 696121

### **RNIM Observation Mission for the 2005 Presidential Election**

**Almaty** - December 5, 2005 - The Republican Network of Independent Monitors (RNIM) presented a report today on the results of monitoring the presidential elections the Republic of Kazakhstan on December 4, 2005.

On December 4, 2005, the RNIM conducted monitoring of the presidential elections. The monitoring was conducted in 11 regions of the country (Akmolinskaya, Aktobinskaya, Vostochno-Kazakhstanskaya, Zhambylskaya, Karagandinskaya, Kostanayskaya, Kyzylordinskaya, Mangystauskaya, Severo-Kazakhstanskaya, Yuzhno-Kazakhstanskaya oblasts) and two cities Astana and Almaty. More than 2000 volunteer monitors took part in the monitoring.

Monitoring consisted of two parts: monitoring of the precincts the day before the election, and monitoring during Election Day. The preliminary monitoring was aimed mainly at evaluating preparedness of polling stations and precinct election commissions prior to voting. There were violations of all election law regulations; however RNIM should make a distinction between single and systematic cases of violations. In many precincts, the violations were due to inadequate training of some election commissions, lack of control by the chairpersons of the commission, and many violations were not repeated after the RNIM monitors' recommendations.

On Election Day, RNIM monitors registered violations which can be considered as systematic, i.e. repeated during the whole day at the polling stations. In particular, there were violations connected with the electronic voting system "Sailau," low quality of the voter lists,' monitors' rights violations, and violations connected with inadequate training of the members of some election commissions. RNIM should also note the presence of some unidentified and unauthorized individuals at many Almaty precincts, who could threaten the legitimacy of the elections and pave a way for various falsifications at the polling stations.

**ABOUT RNIM:** *The Republican Network of Independent Monitors (RNIM) was established in 1999 as a coalition of independent NGOs dedicated to educating voters and enabling citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan to monitor the conduct of elections. The original mission of this NGO coalition was to monitor Kazakhstan's 1999 Parliamentary elections. RNIM's mission has since grown to include support for development of civil society and the promotion of transparency and fairness of political and electoral processes in the Republic of Kazakhstan.*

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