

ENEMO

European Network of Election
Monitoring Organizations
International Observation Mission
Ukrainian Presidential Elections 2004

Європейська мережа організацій,
що спостерігають за виборами
Міжнародна місія спостереження
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MAJOR VIOLATIONS IN VOTING FOUND

HUNDREDS OF VOTERS CONFIRMED BUSED INTO KYIV TO VOTE FOR VIKTOR YANUKOVICH

LARGE NUMBERS OF VOTERS TURNED AWAY AT POLL

As we send this, ENEMO has received unconfirmed reports of violence in Sumy in TEC 160, PEC 45, resulting in the destruction of some or all ballot boxes. ENEMO is attempting to confirm this information and has an observer on the scene.

400 voters who were not allowed to vote are currently amassed in Lutsk in front of TEC 21

Edil Baisalov, co-leader of the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) said today that voting so far “has been hampered by numerous, serious irregularities.” Co-leader Peter Novotny said, “ENEMO observers have found repeated instances of voters being turned away because their name didn’t appear on voting lists, controlled voting by bussing voters to polls, and serious pressure on students by school administrators.”

ENEMO is a group of civic organizations from 16 countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Throughout the day, monitors will observe in approximately 300 polling stations. Should recent opinion polls be correct that a second round of the election is probable, ENEMO also is prepared to dramatically increase its presence by deploying over 1,000 monitors for that round. The organization has concentrated its first round monitoring on campaign observation, with an eye toward examining whether the pre-election environment appears open and fair. Two days ago, ENEMO announced its serious concern about the recent negative developments in the pre-election period such as mounting pressure on youth NGOS and the independent media.”

Today, violations uncovered can be grouped into three major areas of concern: voters not appearing on voter lists and being turned away, buses arriving in Kyiv to bring people to vote as controlled groups, and pressure on students by school administrators. For example:

- During only the first 1.5 hours of voting, 80 voters were turned away from one polling station in Kyiv (Territorial Election Commission 96, Precinct Election Commission polling

station 108), 60 in Kirovograd (TEC 100), 54 in Vinnitsa (TEC 11, PEC polling station 93), 20 in Dnipropetrovsk (PEC polling station 50), and fewer numbers in Sumy. Each number listed above represents just one polling station over less than two hours. It is unclear why Ukrainian citizens who believed they were on the voter rolls were not. Because of the high numbers of voters turned away, ENEMO is deeply concerned that a significant number of voters will not be afforded their right to vote.

- ENEMO has received several reports from coal miners in the Luhansk region about an organized effort to bring over 10,000 miners to Kyiv. According to the information provided to observers, trade union organizers have been tasked with recruiting 70 individuals from each of 150 mines, for a total of 10,500 miners. These miners were told they would be given absentee ballots so they could vote in Kyiv on behalf of Yanukovich. One observer saw four trains leaving the Luhansk region filled with miners, but it is unclear if organizers met their original goal.
- ENEMO has confirmed that 850 students from the organization “Hospice” were bused into Kyiv. According to at least one student, they were recruited to support Yanukovich on election day in Kyiv, and were promised to be paid 25 hryvnias and given tickets to a rock concert if they would vote in the city for Yanukovich.
- ENEMO observers witnessed buses with Ministry of Transportation markings dropping off voters in Kyiv at TEC 222, PEC 103. The buses waited and picked up voters when they exited the building.
- Residents in Kozin, 30-40 kilometers outside of Kyiv, reported that on Saturday night, between 2,000 and 3,000 men stayed in a local sanitorium on their way to Kyiv to participate in the election.
- An ENEMO observer witnessed approximately 100 individuals boarding a bus in Donetsk, and was told they were heading to Lviv in support of Yanukovich.
- ENEMO has identified at least two instances in Kyiv where voters arrived at the polls to find someone had already voted for them (TEC 214, PEC 72 and TEC 215, PEC 10). Although these cases seem isolated, combined with the above information about voters being excluded from the rolls, it is worrisome.
- ENEMO is also concerned about pressure being exerted on students. For example, in Kharkiv, university students were instructed to vote at the university facility. After they do so, the heads of the dormitories check their name from a list (TEC 172, PEC 29).

Edil Basailov and Peter Novotny are available for comment in English or Russian at any time.

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