

ENEMO

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

Європейська мережа організацій,
що спостерігають за виборами
Міжнародна місія спостереження
Президентські вибори в Україні - 2004

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1,000 STRONG INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION MISSION RELEASES ELECTION STATEMENT

NOTES “COORDINATED, SYSTEMATIC PATTERN OF MAJOR VIOLATIONS LEADING TO AN OUTCOME THAT DOES NOT REFLECT THE WILL OF THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE.”

KYIV, UKRAINE – The European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) today released the findings of its observation of the presidential election. Mission co-head Peter Novotny said, “ENEMO has identified a systematic pattern of violations that seem to have been planned to influence the outcome of the election. This pattern included (1) intimidation of and violence against observers, campaign workers and journalists, (2) multiple voting and ballot stuffing, (3) massive busing of voters and (4) pressure on students and state workers to vote en masse for the government candidate. Given the closeness of the election, the blatant scale of violations could not but help to have influenced the outcome of the election. Even more important, these blatant and carefully targeted violations ensured that the election does not reflect the will of the Ukrainian people.”

Co-head Edil Baisalov noted, “Violations on election-day followed a first round election-day and campaign period that were found by ENEMO to have contained numerous, serious irregularities. However, the second round election-day on November 21 was far worse than expected, with a significantly higher level of outright fraud and significant incidents of violence. These violations call into serious question the integrity of the process and the credibility of the results.”

ENEMO is an association of civic organizations from 16 countries of the former Soviet Union and Central Europe. The group’s 1,000 observers, which included 200 from Russia, monitored at over 5,000 polling stations. ENEMO provided specific details of violations discovered in its statement released today during an afternoon press conference. For example:

- ❖ In Zakarpatia, in Tarnovci village, an ENEMO observer who was examining the location of a polling station on Saturday was threatened with a gun and told not to return. This happened at TEC 70 in PEC 89.

- ❖ In Cherkassy, a representative of Yushchenko's headquarters, who is also a city council member, was beaten by a group of men outside TEC 198, PEC 44.
- ❖ Throughout the country, observers noted the presence of large groups of men "overseeing" the voting, as well as a significant number of police inside polling stations. In several cases, police or other individuals watched how each individual cast their vote.
- ❖ In Odessa, a vehicle with a government-issued license plate escorted a bus to drop voters off at two polling stations in TEC 136. At another polling station in Odessa PEC 13 (TEC 142) absentee voting certificates dropped out of the pocket of one voter. When spotted, he fled the scene.
- ❖ Ten polling stations in Chernihiv were closed for considerable periods due to bomb threats. At one of these stations TEC 210, PEC 16, a bomb threat resulted in over 300 individuals being turned away from voting, according to ENEMO observers.
- ❖ In Chernivtsy, TEC 206/PEC 68 was shut down after police said they discovered mercury spilled inside. Another was closed for an hour for the same reason.
- ❖ In Cherkassy TEC 203/PEC 25, a voter dropped a chemical substance into the ballot box which after few minutes started to smoke, damaging ballots. There are several incidents of a similar nature involving glue, paint and other substances thrown in ballot boxes.
- In Kirovograd, polling station PEC 48 (TEC 101) a group of voters came with absentee ballot coupons, the names on which did not correspond to the names in their passports.
- ❖ In Poltava, four buses brought voters to TEC 148/PEC 52. They were accompanied by an official representative of candidate Yanukovich.
- ❖ In polling station 39, TEC 149 observers noticed several buses driving through the town of Kremenchug, apparently trying to find a polling station. They were not allowed to vote at the PEC 18 by the chairperson of TEC 149, although they later they voted in PEC 3.
- In Kirovograd oblast , several buses, all with Donetsk license plates, arrived in the towns of Aleksandria and Galavanovski. All individuals on board voted with absentee ballots. At PEC # 67 (TEC 101) ENEMO observers saw people filling out blank sheets for absentee voting certificates in a car near the polling station.
- ❖ A bus with about 20 people approached a Kyiv polling station. Those aboard said they supported Yushchenko. They fled when they saw international observers.
- ❖ In Sumy, polling station 68 (TEC 160) located at the Agrarian University about twenty people voted at least twice and were seen waiting in front of the entrance for a bus.
- ❖ In Cherkassy, 14 buses arrived to deliver voters to polling station TEC 198/PEC 44. At another polling station in Cherkassy *Oblast*, in the city Zolotonosha, 20 buses arrived to bring voters to the polls. These buses had Donetsk license plates.