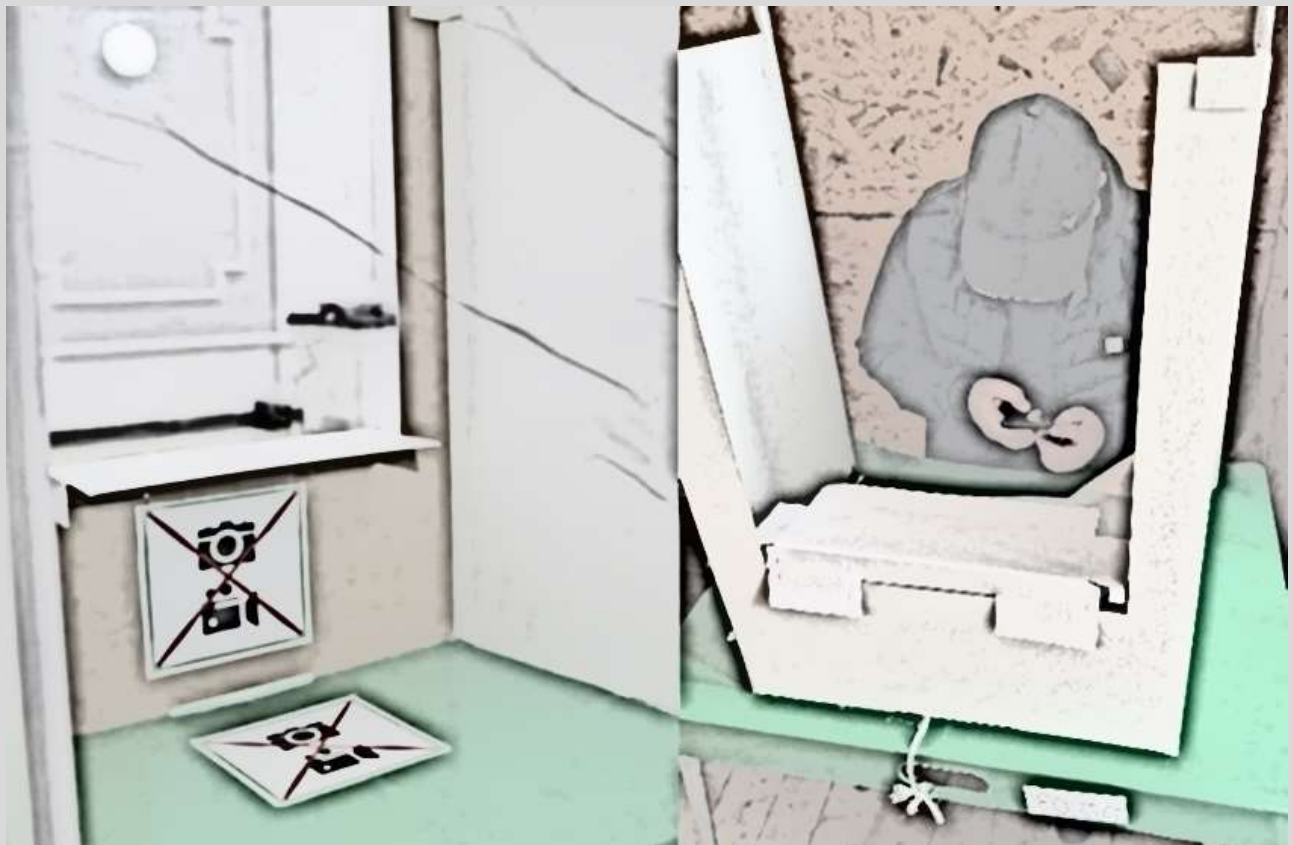


**MONITORING REPORT OF 2024 PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTIONS IN GEORGIA: ELECTION VIOLATIONS IN
THE REGIONS INHABITED BY ETHNIC MINORITIES**



Union of Human Rights Defenders – Human Rights Center



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Introduction

The Report of the Union of Human Rights Defenders – Human Rights Center is prepared based on the monitoring reports of election observers of its partner organization Human Rights Center. On October 26, 2024, Human Rights Center (HRC) observed the Parliamentary Elections in the regions of Kakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Shida Kartli. The HRC had static and mobile groups of observers deployed in the villages inhabited by ethnic minorities in Sagarejo, Gardabani and Marneuli municipalities as well as in the villages adjacent to the division line in Shida Kartli region. 20 election observers monitored different stages and procedures of the polling, among them, opening the polling stations, balloting and counting process, the completion of summary protocols, etc.

Human Rights Center observed the Parliamentary Elections with the financial support of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee. On the other hand, the international mission of observers of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee also monitored the elections in Georgia. They had permanent communication with the head office of Human Rights Center.¹

The Report was prepared based on the information provided by the observers of HRC. In their monitoring reports, the observers described election violations in the villages of Sagarejo municipality – Munganlo, Lambalo, Keshalo, Duzagrama; in Marneuli and in the village of Kizilajlo in Marneuli municipality; in Gardabani and in the villages of Gardabani municipality – Vakhtangisi, Nazarlo, Kesalo, Agtaklia; in Gori, in the IDP settlement in Chala neighborhood in Gori and in the ABL villages of Ditsi and Adzvi in Gori municipality.

Monitoring of the HRC observers revealed that significant violations happened in the polling stations in the villages inhabited by ethnic minorities. The Report aims to evaluate the observed violations in details. Consequently, the Report reviews major violations observed in the polling stations, such as: presence of unauthorized people; oppression on voters; violations related with marking procedures; unlawful use of ID documents;

¹ See, joint statement of Human Rights Center and Norwegian Helsinki Committee; [link](#)

repeated voting; violation of privacy of voting and facts of ineffective reactions to the observed violations from the side of the election administration.

Arrangement of Polling Stations

Miscarriages were observed in relation with the arrangement of the polling stations: tables of registrars and promotion materials were not properly arranged in polling stations.

In accordance with the Election Code of Georgia, campaign material is a poster, flag or any other material on which an electoral subject/candidate for electoral subject and/or his/her sequence number is displayed.² Campaigning material may not be placed at a distance of 25 meters from the entrance of the polling station. The material shall be subject to removal/dismantling/taking off.³ Regardless these provisions in the Election Code of Georgia, for example, in the polling station No 5 of the Marneuli Election District No 22, campaigning material of the Georgian Dream, namely announcements and posters were placed in the polling station, which was a class room of a public school. HRC's observer stated he was going to write a complaint about this violation but the PEC members removed the campaigning materials from the wall. In another polling station, 41 – election number of the Georgian Dream, was written in the polling booth but later the PEC members removed it.

Significant violation was observed with regard to the placement of tables of registrars in polling stations. In accordance with the Election Code of Georgia, election observer has right to be present in the precinct at any time on the Election Day, move without restrictions within the precinct territory and observe all stages of polling process from any point in the precinct in a free and unhindered manner.⁴ However, it was impossible to observe how the ID documents of voters were checked because in all polling stations tables of registrars were placed close to the walls. As a result, election observers could not monitor the activities of the registrars and because of electronic devices it was

² Election Code of Georgia, Art. 2 (Z⁷)

³ Election Code of Georgia, Art. 45 (12)

⁴ Election Code of Georgia, Art. 41 (1^b)

impossible to monitor the verification process and check the information whether the voter at the registrar's table really was the person on the photo in the monitor. There were instances, when polling stations failed to meet the technical requirements, for example – polling station No 35 in the Sagarejo Election District No 11 was located in a very small space – insufficient for the election procedures.

HRC monitors reported about unfair placement of the registrars' tables, who were deployed in the following polling stations: Polling Station No 3 in the Marneuli Election District No 22; in the polling stations No 43, 44 and 2 in the Gardabani Election District No 21; in the polling stations No 12, 48 and 80 in the Marneuli Election District No 22. According to the observers, on the one hand they could not properly monitor the verification process because of the improper placement of the registrars' tables in polling stations, but on the other hand, monitors from pseudo-observation organizations hindered them to conduct monitoring, they were standing in front of the independent observers to prevent them to check the activities of registrars (Polling Station No 12, Marneuli Election District No 22). When HRC observer stated that she had right to observe the work of the registrar, which was unfairly restricted in the concrete polling station, the PEC chairperson, instead resolving the problem, answered that "there was no chance for her to implement her duties." (Polling Station No 48, Marneuli Election District No 22). HRC monitors wrote notes in the logbooks (Polling Station No 80 in the Marneuli Election District No 22). In one case, the complaint was effectively addressed and problem was resolved. Namely, in the polling station No 38 in the Gori Election District No 32, a table of the PEC secretary/chairperson was placed so that person sitting at the table could see the voters standing in the polling booth from behind. After the HRC observer made a remark, the PEC chairperson resolved the problem and accepted the remark.

Coordination, Mobilization and Oppression: Unauthorized People in the Polling Stations

Pursuant to the Election Code of Georgia, people may not be gathered or voters may not be counted on the polling day within the distance of 100 meters from a polling station

(exit poll is an exception)⁵. From the moment of publication of the respective legal act calling elections, including the polling day, it is prohibited to bribe a voter. Among others, it is prohibited: for electoral subjects, candidates for electoral subject, and their representatives to give funds, gifts, and other material possessions to the citizens of Georgia, personally or through other persons. If any of abovementioned prohibited actions are conducted, registration of concrete election subject will be annulled.⁶ As for the coercion, intimidation of a voter and violation of privacy of voting, it is subject of criminal liability.⁷

HRC monitors observed particular violations with regard to gathering of unauthorized people in the vicinities of polling stations in the election districts of Gardabani, Marneuli and Sagarejo.

- **Situation in the Polling Stations in Sagarejo Municipality**

A group of people were identified in and nearby the polling stations No 35 and 37 in Sagarejo Election District No 11, who were systematically speaking with voters in Azerbaijani language. Even with their body language it was easy to understand that one of them was in charge of mobilization and coordination of voters. In addition to that, he often entered the polling station. The PEC members could not explain to the HRC monitor who was the person, why he was entering the polling station and what his function was. Hence, the HRC personally requested the unauthorized person to show the ID document. After that, he never entered the polling station but stayed outside the facility.

3-4 persons were particularly active in the polling stations No 28 and 29 in the Sagarejo Election District No 11. One of them had a badge of a representative of the Georgian Dream. They were actively giving instructions to voters in Azerbaijani language and explained it as if they were helping people. Periodically, they brought voters by minibuses, who, allegedly were taken from their agricultural plots considering moody cloths and shoes they had on. An observer, who knew Azerbaijani language, heard that one of the activists standing at the entrance was warning everybody to mark 41. The observers informed the chairperson of the PEC No 28 about it, who said the observer had

⁵ Election Code of Georgia, Art 45 (12, 13)

⁶ Election Code of Georgia, Art 47

⁷ Election Code of Georgia, Art 3 (d, b)

no right to monitor the situation outside the precinct and recommended them to continue monitoring inside the facility.

In the polling station No 24 in the Sagarejo Election District No 11, a woman was present in the polling station without accreditation. Initially the PEC members said the woman was a PEC member but she arrived later and therefore had no responsibilities. The HRC observer lodged a complaint about this fact.

Unauthorized person in the polling station No 35 in the Sagarejo Election District No 11 seized ID documents and passports from several voters, and then disappeared about 30 minutes. The alleged owners of the ID documents did not answer questions of the election observers.

A group of men was standing nearby the polling station No 30 in the Sagarejo Election District No 11, who were giving instructions to voters. They also seized ID documents from voters and took photos of them. HRC monitor several times made remarks about these facts and the group stopped seizing ID documents and taking photos. However, they continued accompanying the voters into the polling station.

- **Situation in the Polling Stations in the Gardabani Election District**

In the polling station No 2 in the Gardabani Election District No 21, representatives of the ruling party, allegedly coordinators, were coordinating the voters' lists; they were bringing voters to the polling stations and then organized their departure as well. As the HRC monitor later observed, they even gave them money. It is noteworthy that one of the women brought a group of voters to the polling stations several times but when the monitor asked what her function was, she said she was assisting family members. After that, the woman continued the same action and the observer lodged a complaint, which was signed by the HRC monitor too.

In the polling station No 32 in Gardabani Election District No 21, which was arranged in the building of a public school, activists of the Georgian Dream used to enter the precinct very often, observed the polling process and accompanied voters to the door. None of the voters they accompanied were disabled persons and did not need any help. GD coordinators were standing at the entrance of the polling station together with the 20-30 member activists group, who were creating a permanent barrier at the entrance. HRC

monitor protested this fact with the PEC chairperson and called 112 but there was no reaction.

In the polling stations No 16, 43 and 44 in the Gardabani Election District No 21, unauthorized people used to enter the PEC without any permission. One of them stated that he was single mandate deputy. A person with the badge of another person entered the polling station No 44, who ran out of the polling station after the monitor noticed him. Later, the real owner of the badge entered the PEC, who also ran out of the building after he was reminded that unauthorized person was wearing his badge.

- **Situation in the Polling Stations in Marneuli Election District**

In the polling station No 12 in the Marneuli Election District No 22 unauthorized people were present all day long, who had communication with the PEC members, including the chairperson. When the observer recommended the PEC chairperson to expel unauthorized people from the precinct, the chairperson asked them to leave the area, but they return back soon. A group of 25-30 men was standing at the entrance of the precinct.

Unauthorized people were present in the polling station No 48 in the Marneuli Election District No 22 too. The HRC observer requested one of them to show the accreditation badge but he answered that "had left it in the car." Having gone to fetch the badge, the man never returned back to the precinct but stayed outside the precinct. The HRC monitor approached him outside the precinct too and in the presence of the PEC member asked him to produce the document but he answered he never claimed that had any accreditation document.

About 15 men were outside the building of the polling station No 80 in the Marneuli Election District No 22. From the morning of the Election Day, men were mobilized nearby the polling stations No 5 and 48 too, who were reading names and looking for the voters from the unidentified lists they were holding.

In the polling station No 12 in the Marneuli Election District No 22, the registrar told the voter, who arrived at the precinct, that he was not registered. When HRC observed tried to inquire and check the voters' list on the website of the Central Election District, it was found out that the voter had come to the precinct correctly. Afterwards, the observer informed the PEC chairperson about the fact. However, two members of the pseudo-

observation organization Politics and Justice Observer removed the voter from the precinct by force. Outside the precinct, people gathered in the yard approached him and started to speak in Azerbaijani language. As a result, the voter changed his mind to vote at all and stated that did not want to participate in the elections at all.⁸

In the polling station No 3 in the Marneuli election district No 22, a group of unauthorized people was controlling the situation all day long. They were accompanying voters into the precinct and requesting to take the photo of the ballot paper. The PEC chairperson said he was not responsible to control the situation outside the precinct.

Marking Procedures

In the polling stations in the villages inhabited by ethnic minorities, systematically, registrars and the regulators of the voters' flow did not perform or improperly performed marking procedures of voters or/and did not check whether voters were marked or not.

In accordance with the Article 64 of the Election Code of Georgia, a registrar is responsible to mark voters,⁹ but they performed these duties improperly. For example, in the polling station No 61 in the Gardabani Election District No 21, HRC observer had to permanently remind the registrar to mark the voters. In the polling stations No 28 and 29 in the Sagarejo Election District No 11, the registrars superficially marked or did not mark voters at all, particularly if there was no election observer nearby.

On the other hand, the regulators of the voters' flow did not check or improperly checked whether the voters were marked before coming to the precinct. For example, in the polling station No 30 in the Sagarejo Election District No 11, the regulator was checking the marking of voters only on thumb fingers. (HRC monitor video-recorded this fact)

In the polling stations No 43 and 44 in the Gardabani Election District No 21, in Kesalo village, several voters, who had been marked before, were allowed into the precincts. The HRC observer lodged a complaint about this fact. One of those citizens said his hands were dirty with the car oil and not with marking ink. The representatives of the District

⁸ Video taken by the HRC monitor [link](#)

⁹ Election Code of Georgia, Art. 64(3)

Election Commission (DEC) stated that the trace of the marking should be white; when checked, the citizen's marking had yellow color and therefore he was allowed to vote.

Another significant violation of the responsibilities of the regulator of the voters' flow was observed in the polling station No 12 in the Marneuli Election District No 22, where the regulator was away from the precinct for some time. Consequently, citizens were entering the precinct without being checked on marking. The PEC members in the polling station No 48 in the same village – Kizilajlo did not check marking of voters properly and as the HRC monitor observed, several people repeatedly voted in the precinct. The similar situation was observed in the polling station No 3 in the Marneuli Election District No 22, where HRC observer discovered that the person, who was allowed into the precinct, was already marked.



Unlawful Use of ID Documents

In the villages inhabited by ethnic minorities, where HRC monitors observed the elections, ID documents were unlawfully used systematically. For example, people either voted or tried to vote with the ID documents of other people. In the polling station No 12 in the Marneuli Election District No 22, a voter tried to vote with the broken ID card of another person. As a result of the protest of the HRC observer the voter left the precinct but returned later and voted with passport. It is not known how authentic the passport was because the observers could not approach the registrar's table to check the process. As for the marking procedure, this particular voter was not checked on marking in the previous instance to.¹⁰ In addition to that, one of the voters was holding two ID cards; when the HRC monitor asked him the question, he said the second ID was of his brother.

¹⁰ Human Rights Center; video-footage of the incident. See [link](#)

Furthermore, one of the voters, man, presented the ID document of a woman to the registrar. He left the precinct only after the HRC observer made a remark.¹¹

Repeated Voting

In the villages inhabited by ethnic minorities, the HRC monitors observed that one person voted several times in many precincts. In the polling station No 12 in the Marneuli Election District No 22, the HRC monitor observed that the registrar gave two ballot papers to a citizen.

In the polling stations No 28 and 29 in the Sagarejo Election District No 11, citizens voted at least twice in the same precinct. In one of similar incidents, the HRC observer told the PEC member that she recognized the voter, who had come to vote repeatedly. The PEC member denied but the voter himself confirmed it saying that he had already voted but had come to repeatedly vote.

In the polling station No 3 in the Marneuli Election District No 22, one man was particularly active and gave instructions to citizens. He voted twice. Although the observers informed the registrar and the PEC chairperson about the violation, instead addressing the problem, the PEC chairperson helped the man to vote for the second time and put the ballot paper in the voting machine.

Violation of Privacy of Voting

Privacy of voting and demonstration of free will of a voter is the key principle of the elections in Georgia. Violation of privacy of voting, intimidation or coercion of voters shall result in criminal liability.¹² Nevertheless, on the Election Day, the privacy of voting was widely violated in Georgia.

¹¹ Human Rights Center; video-footage of the incident. See [link](#)

¹² Election Code of Georgia, Art.3 (d, d.b)

Among others, in the villages inhabited by ethnic minorities, the privacy of voting was violated when two and more persons were entering the polling booths, when they took photos of the marked ballot papers, etc. In the case of electronic voting, the ink of the marker oozed on the other side of ballot papers.

- Taking photos in the polling booths



In accordance with the Election Code of Georgia, it is prohibited photo and video-recording in the polling booth to ensure privacy of voting.¹³ Nevertheless, citizens intensively took photos of ballot papers. Observers systematically made notes about similar violations. The most photos of ballot papers were taken in the following polling stations: polling stations No 12 and 5 in the Marneuli Election District No 22; in the polling stations No 2, 43 and 44 in the Gardabani Election District No 21; and in the polling station No 3 in the Marneuli Election District No 22.

More precisely, in the polling station No 3 in the Marneuli Election District No 22, according to the HRC monitor, every third voter tried to take a photo of the ballot paper. The monitor even lodged a complaint about this violation. Mostly, voters denied the facts of taking photos and tried to leave the precinct fact.

In the polling station No 5 in Marneuli Election District No 22, the complaint lodged by the HRC observer could not eradicate the practice of taking photos by voters. However, in the polling station No 2 in the Gardabani election district No 21, after the request of the HRC observer, six voters deleted the photo taken in the polling booth. In some cases, citizens refused to delete the photos (the monitor lodged a complaint about it).

¹³ Election Code of Georgia, Art.58 (6)

It is worth to mention that in the polling station No 3 in the Marneuli Election District No 22, after 18:00 pm, the PEC chairwoman was illuminating ballot papers with her own cell phone for the voters in the booths. When the HRC observer asked the question about it, she said there was no other choice as there was not enough light inside the precinct. This fact, of course, violated privacy of voting – voters had feeling that their photos were taken that influenced the free will of voters.

- **Group entry in the polling booths**

Almost in every monitored polling station, HRC monitors observed facts when several people entered the polling booth together. Citizens were mobilized in groups outside the precincts and they often accompanied voters into the polling station and tried to help them based on various reasons. Each time, the HRC monitor protested similar facts but both the voters and the PEC members stated that the voter needed help because of age, poor eyesight or disability to walk. Also, they were indicating at the relationship between the voters and companions. Furthermore, in the polling station No 30 in the Sagarejo Election District No 11, the PEC members justified assistance of the voter in the polling station by claiming that the companion just wanted to teach her how to vote and did not aim to request her to mark any concrete election subject. HRC monitors took many photos and videos of similar violations, which clearly show that the voters standing in the polling booths had no health problems and consequently did not need help.



The facts when two persons entered the polling booth together systematically repeated in the polling station No 3 in the Marneuli Election District No 22. The HRC observer lodged a complaint about this violation but the incident was not eradicated. Furthermore, the PEC members gave remarks to the HRC observer as if she was not allowing people to assist the voter.



**Two persons in the polling booth in the PEC No 3 in the Marneuli Election District No 22*

According to the HRC observers, they identified many facts when campaigners of the Georgian Dream accompanied voters into the polling station in the polling station No 16 in Gardabani Election District No 21. The same situation was in the polling stations No 48, 12 and 5 in the Marneuli Election District No 22. Additionally, in the polling station No 32 in the Gardabani Election District No 21, in the village of Nazarlo, the PEC chairperson often justified entry of two persons in the booths claiming that the voters were illiterate and needed help. In the polling station No 28 and 29, in the Sagarejo election district No 11, when PEC members said the voter was accompanied into the booth by another person because she had problems with the eyesight, the HRC monitor saw that the second person indicated to mark election number 41 in the ballot paper. And the voter marked it without any problem.

Summary of Election Results

In the process of summarizing the election results, the HRC observers, in several polling stations, were not allowed to observe the counting process from a close distance. For

example, in the polling station No 12 in the Marneuli Election District No 222, the PEC member told the HRC observer that she did not have right to approach the table where the votes were counted. Moreover, the PEC member touched the observer and tried to drop her phone (see video).¹⁴

There were problems in relation with the mobile ballot boxes too. For example, in the polling station No 16 in the Gardabani Election District No 21, a seal of the mobile ballot box was damaged. Also, in the polling station No 28 in the Sagarejo Election District No 11 and in the polling station No 43 in the Gardabani Election District No 21 the mobile ballot boxes were delivered back to the precincts without sealed cover. The HRC monitor in Sagarejo district lodged a complaint and requested to annul the results from the mobile ballot box. As for the precincts in the Gardabani district, the observer made a remark in the logbook. It is worth to mention, that in the polling stations No 43 and 44 in Gardabani Election District No 21 electricity supply was cut off and dynamos were off either; therefore the votes were counted under the lights of mobile phones.

Reasons of Ineffective Responses to Election Violations

Often, the violations observed in polling stations were not addressed or were ineffectively addressed. The problem was caused by the number of pseudo-observers mobilized in polling stations, biased and incompetent PEC members or hostile attitudes towards independent observers.

- **Biased PEC members and hostile attitudes towards independent observers**

In the polling station No 12 in the Marneuli Election District No 22, PEC secretary was not giving the paper to register the complaint as if they did not have relevant forms in the precinct; however, after the CEC representative arrived in the polling station, she immediately found the papers. The PEC secretary did not allow the observer to take a photo of her remark made in the logbook. Also, the PEC Chairperson and the member refused the observer to register complaint with regard to disciplinary violation during

¹⁴ Human Rights Center. Video footage of the incident see [link](#)

the vote counting process. In general, PEC members were hostile towards observers. For example, one of the observers reported that the PEC member verbally insulted her, called her “impolite” and “uncultured,” while the PEC chairperson kept saying that “she was fed up” with the presence of observers in the polling station.

The PEC chairperson in the polling station No 48 in the Marneuli Election District No 22 was negligent towards the remarks of the observers. The secretary used to complain when observer was asking her to make a note in the logbook. Other PEC members were hostile too. They, sometimes, started conflict with the observers without any reasons.

In the polling station No 30 in the Sagarejo Election District No 11, the PEC members hindered the observer to write a remark in the logbook, when two people entered the polling booth together. Unauthorized activist was particularly active in this incident, who was giving instructions even to the PEC chairperson. The HRC monitor was allowed to write a remark in the logbook after 20-minute long dispute and argument.

In the polling station No 3 in the Marneuli Election District No 22, when observer wanted to write a remark in the logbook about the attempt of a citizen to repeatedly vote, the PEC secretary refused the monitor to do it. She was telling that only she was authorized to make remarks in the logbook. Therefore, nobody could write remarks in the logbook until the HRC coordinator arrived at the precinct and clarified as it was regulated by the Election Code.

In the polling station No 32 in the Gardabani election district No 21, village of Nazarlo, the PEC chairperson was protesting when observers indicated at any violation and tried to lodge a complaint. The PEC members were speaking in Azerbaijani language with the voters in the polling booths. The observer asked question about this fact and she was advised to learn Azerbaijani language if she wanted to understand what they were speaking. Furthermore, when two persons entered the polling booth together, the PEC chairperson made the observer to drop mobile phone to prevent her from taking the video of the violation. In that moment, activists of the Georgian Dream rushed into the polling station, some of whom had accreditation. They were asking the observer why she was going to write a complaint. In the end, the HRC observer was surrounded by about 30 men, who allegedly tried to seize the ballot paper from her. The PEC secretary got so irritated when the observer made a remark with regard to the presence of more than voters in the booth that he decided to expel the observer from the precinct. Before this

incident, a PEC member asked the observer whether she was going home or not. The observer understood this question as a threat because about 30 aggressive men were standing in the vicinities of the polling station outside.

In the polling station No 32 in the Gardabani Election District No 21, Nazarlo village, although there were members in the PEC, who allegedly represented the opposition political parties United National Movement and European Georgia, all members of the commission were supporters of the Georgian Dream. They kept saying that they did not want to face any problems. For example, the PEC member on behalf of the United National Movement saw how people repeatedly voted and could recognize them, but she preferred to stay silent.

- **Pseudo-observers**

Pseudo-observers did not react to the violations during the polling process, or in the opposite, they were initiators of violations and violent incidents, who mostly acted on behalf of the political party Georgian Dream. They hindered independent observers to work and were hostile towards them. For example, the HRC observer deployed in the polling station No 50 in the Marneuli Election District No 22 reported that so-called observers from the organization Politics and Justice Observer were at the precinct, who used to enter the area in group of two or three that is violation but the PEC members did not react about it. More than one representative of this organization was present in the polling station almost all day long, which is blatant violation of the election law.¹⁵

Furthermore, the video taken by the HRC observer shows how the representatives of the organization Politics and Justice Observer and unauthorized people present in the polling station started physical controversy against an election observer. Afterwards, they took the observer from the precinct by force.¹⁶

In the polling station No 12 in the Marneuli Election District No 22, 2-3 members of the Politics and Justice Observer were permanently present, who hindered the independent observers to monitor the polling process. For example, when they tried to approach the registrar, the members of the Politics and Justice Observer stood in front of them. If PEC

¹⁵ Humanrights.ge; pseudo-observers – active participants of fabrication and violence, 31.10.2024; see [link](#)

¹⁶ Human Rights Center, video of the incident see [link](#)

chairperson gave them a remark, they used to leave the polling station but returned 10-15 later.

Several pseudo-observers from the Politics and Justice Observer were present in the polling station No 30 in the Sagarejo Election District No 11 and in the polling station No 48 in the Marneuli Election District No 22, Kizilajlo village. In the polling station No 48 in Marneuli, a representative of such pseudo-observation organization physically and verbally insulted the independent observer and started conflict. In the polling station No 80 in the same election district, the HRC monitor noticed that the representative of the Politics and Justice Observer showed numbers 4 and 1 to a voter, who was standing in the polling booth.

In the polling station No 3 in the Marneuli election district No 22, three members of the Georgian Dream, one member of the European Georgia, who said that she was financed by the government and two monitors from the OBSERVERS were present in the precinct. They were in very close communication with the members of the Georgian Dream. The monitors said, the same situation was in the polling station No 32 in the Gardabani Election District, Nazarlo village, where pseudo-observers never reacted to violations.

- Competence of the Precinct Election Commission Members

The PEC members demonstrated their incompetence in many aspects. Often, they were not aware of the election procedures and relevant legislation at all. For example, in the polling station No 12 in the Marneuli Election District No 22, when observer asked the PEC members to give the election code, they gave her the toolkit of the Central Election Commission. In the same precinct, the PEC member did not know that it was necessary to seal the annulled ballot papers. The HRC observer explained them about these procedures.

In the polling station No 5 in the Marneuli Election District No 22, the PEC chairperson misinterpreted the regulations about taking of photos in the polling booth by a voter; he was sure the citizen had right to take a photo in the booth.

In the polling station No 48 in the Marneuli Election District No 22, in Kizilajlo village, the PEC members did not react to various violations. In the polling station No 30 in the Sagarejo Election District No 11, the PEC members were not aware that the observer

could make a note in the logbook. In the polling station No 32 in the Gardabani Election District No 21, the PEC secretary was not aware that they had to place printed lists of voters on the walls, etc.

Summary of Observed Violations

20 election observers of Human Rights Center lodged 12 complaints in the polling stations on October 26. They made 26 notes in the logbooks.¹⁷

Among election violations, the following tendencies were identified:

- Although it is prohibited by the Election Code of Georgia, on the Election Day, people were gathered or recorded names of the voters within the 100 meter distance from the polling station; as a main tendency, coordinators and campaigners of political parties were mobilized in the vicinities of the polling stations and systematically interfered in the free will of voters.
- HRC monitors observed facts when the will of voters was interfered while they were in the polling booth, as unauthorized people accompanied them into the booths and dictated which election subject they should mark.
- Nearby the polling stations unauthorized people checked voters and in some instances restricted their rights to vote. Unauthorized people coordinated lists of voters.
- Two voters used to enter the polling booth together. When PEC chairperson had no reaction to similar facts, the HRC observers were writing complaints.
- Unauthorized people, PEC members or representatives of pseudo-observation organizations often dictated the voters in the polling booth to vote for the Georgian Dream.
- In most polling stations, voters were brought by cars and handed ID documents that may influence their free will.

¹⁷ Human Rights Center; Violent incidents and violations had impact on the polling process during the Parliamentary Elections – Assessment of Human Rights Center; 26.10.2024; see [link](#)

- It was systemic problem that voters took photos of ballot papers after they had marked the election subject on it. The observers permanently requested the voters not to take photos of ballot papers and tried to delete the photos when it was possible. If PEC chairperson did not react to similar facts, the observers wrote complaints.
- Facts of voting with the ID documents of other people were observed in polling stations.
- Often, the regulators of the voters' flow did not check people on marking; and on the other hand registrars did not mark voters.
- There were several instances, when registrars gave 2 ballot papers to one voter.
- In most polling stations the tables of registrars were placed in a way that observers could not monitor the process of checking the ID documents of voters.
- Both PEC members and representatives of the pseudo-observation organizations hindered the independent observers to perform their duties. There were instances of intimidation and violence from their side towards observers.
- As a tendency, it was observed hostile attitude towards observers, verbal insulting and expelling them from the polling station. The PEC members violated the rights of the observers. Additionally, the observers were deprived from the right to move around the precinct, to take photo and video.
- PEC members, chairpersons and secretaries were aggressive when observers wrote complaints or/and notes.
- Biased PEC members (among them representatives of the opposition political parties, who in reality supported the ruling party) were in the polling stations.
- Two or more observers of pseudo-observation organization were deployed in one polling station.
- The mobile ballot boxes were damaged in several polling stations.
- PEC members, mostly, were active participants and promoters of election violations.
- Incompetence and improper performance of PEC members were observed in many polling stations.
- Where elections were conducted with electronic system, privacy of voting was violated by the oozed ink mark. Also, often, voters showed the marked ballot papers to a PEC member before placing it in the envelope.

In accordance with the assessment of Human Rights Center, violent incidents and violations, which were observed by HRC monitors in some polling stations during the election process, influenced the polling process during the October 26, 2024 Parliamentary Elections.

Human Rights Center believes the government and ruling party Georgian Dream is fully responsible for the violent incidents and violations in the polling stations, whose representatives, mostly, were initiators or active participants of provocative, unlawful and violent actions.¹⁸

¹⁸ Human Rights Center; Violent incidents and violations had impact on the polling process during the Parliamentary Elections – Assessment of Human Rights Center; 26.10.2024; see [link](#)