

STATEMENT

by the Armenian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

on Numerous Violations Recorded during the 6 December 2015 Referendum on Amendments to the Armenian Constitution

9 December 2015

We, the representatives of the Armenian National Platform (ANP) of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, express our deep concern regarding numerous violations recorded during the preparation, conduct and vote counting of the 6 December referendum on amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia (RA).

We stress that the authorities resorted to all possible leverages of influencing the outcome of the voting - use of administrative resources, vote buying, instruction of voters, pressure and violence exerted against opposition members of electoral commissions, proxies, observers and journalists, ballot box stuffing, voting for absent and dead citizens, as well as multiple voting by the same citizens, stealing of ballot boxes and voter registers, etc.

In those polling stations, where the observers, proxies and commission members from opposition forces managed to prevent the electoral violations, the turnout did not exceed 30-35 per cent. This clearly manifests that the turnout recorded by the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) is a result of electoral fraud.

It should be noted that the work of many ANP members engaged on the voting day in polling stations as observers, journalists, proxies or commission members was obstructed by the authorities' representatives of electoral commissions and local mobsters. Hrayr Manukyan, an ANP member and delegate to the EaP CSF Kyiv Annual Assembly, was subjected to physical violence. All this took place in the presence of law enforcement agencies and with their complete inaction.

Armenian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum declares that the process of the referendum on the amendments to the RA Constitution did not comply with democratic principles and the registered results cannot reflect the free will of the citizens of the Republic of Armenia.

We stress that electoral fraud significantly affected the results registered by the CEC.

We demand that

- the Central Electoral Commission nullifies the results of the 6 December Referendum;
- the Republic of Armenia law enforcement agencies bring to justice the organizers and direct perpetrators of the massive electoral fraud;
- the European Union institutions incorporate the fulfillment of the above-mentioned demands in the list of preconditions for the negotiations on the framework agreement launched on 7 December.

EaP CSF Armenian National Platform