

The Monthly Report of the Iraqi Parliament Monitor for October 2013

Number of Sessions	8
Number of Items Included in the Agendas	31
Number of Items not Tackled	16
Number of Legislations that Passed First Reading	3
Number of Legislations that Passed Second Reading ...	7
Number of Legislations Passed by Voting	4
Number of Hosting Sessions	0
Number of Statements Read out	4
Number of Voting Rounds	2
Number of Speeches Read out	0
Number of Interrogative Sessions	0
Number of Reports	0

October 2013 Sessions in Detail:

(24)

On 2/10/2013, the Council of Representatives (CoR) held its 24th session of the 1st term of the 4th legislative period chaired by the Speaker H.E. Osama al-Nujaifi:

- 205 MPs attended the session;
- Voting on the legislative proposal for the Law of Political Parties was delayed till the CoR ends with voting on the Elections Law;
- Voting on the legislative proposal for the Law of Foreigners Residency was delayed to finish with some amendments to it;

- The CoR voted on the legislative proposal for ratifying the Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Iraq and the Government of the Republic of South Africa;
- The CoR finished the second reading of the legislative proposal for the National Informatics Commission Law. The Speaker H.E. al-Nujaifi decided that the Committee on Security and Defense and the Committee on Higher Education join the Committee on Services in the process of preparing the legislative proposal;
- In the name of the Committee on Human Rights, MP Ashwaq al-Jaf read out a statement on the resolution of the Korean Council of Representatives to consider the Anfal crime a genocide since they involved mass executions, forced displacement and chemical weapons;
- The CoR finished the second reading of the legislative proposal for the “Basra: the Economic Capital of Iraq” Law;
- Voting on the legislative proposal for the National Election Law was delayed after the Committee on Legal Affairs asked for an extension till October 3 to finish with the wording of some of the Law’s items most of which have been agreed upon;

(25)

On 3/10/2013, the Council of Representatives (CoR) held its 25th session of the 1st term of the 4th legislative period chaired by the Speaker H.E. Osama al-Nujaifi:

- 212 MPs attended the session;
- Speaker H.E. al-Nujaifi confirmed that there are some contentious issues regarding some of the options stated in the legislative proposal for the National Election Law despite efforts exerted to settle these issues. Al-Nujaifi pointed out that the political blocs

- asked for more time for consultations with the aim of arriving at a national concordance on this crucial law;
- Voting on the legislative proposal for the National Election Law, submitted by the Committee on Legal Affairs, was delayed till next Monday.

The Council of Representatives (CoR) held its 26th session of the 1st term of the 4th legislative period chaired by the Speaker H.E. Osama al-Nujaifi:

- 222 MPs attended the session;
- Speaker al-Nujaifi stressed that the national elections date will not be delayed since it is a constitutionally fixed date and the fixed date requested by the Iraqi electoral commission will not be bypassed. H.E. the Speaker pointed out that the political blocs have not reached yet an agreement on the legislative proposal of the Elections Law;
- In line with the stipulations of Paragraph 1 of Article 1 of the Constitution, the CoR voted on a resolution to hold the national elections on their constitutionally fixed date which is no later than 30/4/2013. The resolution stressed that the electoral commission should take the required technical procedures to hold elections on their set date, including updating the voters' registry, calling on the government to appropriate a contingent budget to the commission to meet its needs to prepare for the elections, provided that this budget is later deducted from the budget allocated to the purpose. The resolution also pointed out that if the legislative proposal for the elections law is not passed by 30/10/2013, the CoR is committed to start the legislative procedures to amend the Elections Law No. 16 amended in line with the resolutions of the Federal Court.

- Voting on the legislative proposal for the Law of Political Parties was delayed till the CoR ends with voting on the Elections Law;

On 22/10/2013, the Council of Representatives (CoR) held its 27th session of the 1st term of the 4th legislative period chaired by the Speaker H.E. Osama al-Nujaifi:

- 238 MPs attended the session;
- In the name of the Shabak community, MP Muhammad Jimsheed read out a statement denouncing the cowardly terrorist attacks committed in the Iraqi governorates, especially those targeting the houses, assets and worship places of the Shabak people;
- In the name of the Committee on Culture and Media, MP Ali al-Shilah read out a statement expressing its condolences marking the death of the intellectual and philosopher Dr. Husam al-Aloosi at the age of 79, pointing out that the deceased was one of the pillars of Islamic thinking;
- The CoR voted on the legislative proposal to ratify the Agreement of the Multi-means Goods Transportation among Arab States;
- The CoR voted on the legislative proposal for the accession of the Republic of Iraq to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;
- The CoR voted on the legislative proposal to ratify the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Iraq, on one hand, and the European Union and member states, on the other;
- The Speakership Council decided to delay voting on the legislative proposal for the Law of the Official Language of the country to give it its final shape. The Law is an implementation of Article 4 of the Constitution to honor the national and linguistic diversity of the people of Iraq and to highlight the human dimension of its civilization;

- The first reading of the legislative proposal for the Elections Law of Kirkuk Provincial Council was delayed;
- The CoR finished the first reading of the Unified Pension Law.

On 24/10/2013, the Council of Representatives (CoR) held its 28th session of the 1st term of the 4th legislative period chaired by the Speaker H.E. Osama al-Nujaifi:

- 225 MPs attended the session;
- The Committee on Endowments and Religious Affairs read out a statement congratulating the people of Iraq on the anniversary of Eid al-Ghadeer, wishing prosperity and love to the people of Iraq;
- The CoR finished the Second Reading of the legislative proposal for the accession of the Republic of Iraq to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction;
- The CoR finished the second reading of the legislative proposal for the Indemnification Law;
- The CoR finished the second reading of the legislative proposal for the Law of the Ministry of Transportation;
- The First Deputy Speaker H.E. Dr. Qusay al-Suhail, having chaired the session, decided to delay voting on the legislative draft for the Infrastructure Law due to the lack of quorum.

On 28/10/2013, the Council of Representatives (CoR) held its 29th session of the 1st term of the 4th legislative period chaired by the Speaker H.E. Osama al-Nujaifi:

- 247 MPs attended the session;
- Speaker H.E. al-Nujaifi decided that the CoR shall continue its sessions till voting on the legislative proposal for the National Elections Law, pointing out that if voting is not achieved, the effective law will be applied, calling on the Committee on Legal

- Affairs to submit its proposals to amend the effective law to be voted on in line with the procedures followed;
- The CoR did not vote on the legislative draft for the Infrastructure and Service Sectors Law, which resulted in returning the draft to the executive;
 - The CoR finished the first reading of the legislative proposal for ratifying the Agreement on the Encouragement and Protection of Investment between the Government of the Republic of Iraq and the Government of the Republic of Armenia to encourage and protect investments by the governments of the two countries;
 - The CoR finished the first reading of the legislative proposal for the Iraqi Academics Union Law, which aims at taking care of the teaching, educational and academic staffs and upraising the level of workers in this vital sector;
 - The CoR voted in principle to continue reading the legislative proposal for the Iraqi Academics Union Law;
 - The CoR finished the second reading of the legislative proposal for the amendment of the Judicial Regulation Law No. 160 for 1979.

On 30/10/2013, the Council of Representatives (CoR) held its 30th session of the 1st term of the 4th legislative period chaired by the Speaker H.E. Osama al-Nujaifi:

- 224 MPs attended the session;
- Speaker H.E. al-Nujaifi pointed out that negotiations among political blocs regarding the National Election Law have not come to a conclusion yet, suggesting that there is a need to have statistics from the Ministry of Planning on population increase;
- The Speakership Council decided to delay voting on the legislative proposal for the National Election Law;
- The CoR finished the second reading of the legislative proposal for the Private Universities and Colleges Law submitted by the

Committee on Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Committee on Legal Affairs.

On 31/10/2013, the Council of Representatives (CoR) held its 31st session of the 1st term of the 4th legislative period chaired by the Speaker H.E. Osama al-Nujaifi:

- 232 MPs attended the session;
- Speaker H.E. al-Nujaifi announced that the political blocs have not yet reached an agreement regarding the National Election Law, pointing out that the electoral commission was called upon and it stressed that it has reached a critical time which might lead to postponing the elections. H.E. Al-Nujaifi also pointed out that there was a conviction to take the statistical figures of the population of Iraq into consideration since these figures show that the population of Iraq has reached to more than 35,900,000, which will result in an increase in the number of parliamentary seats. Speaker al-Nujaifi explained that the number of seats for all governorates, including the KRG governorates, has increased based on the population statistics;
- The CoR embarked on voting on the legislative proposal for the National Election Law submitted by the Committee on Legal Affairs. The CoR finished voting on six articles of the proposal, to resume voting on the rest in the next session.