



## Election Processes in Turkistan (Organization, Conduct and Violations of Elections)

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.18415/ijmmu.v8i12.3318>

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### **Abstract**

This article highlights the incompatibility of the electoral process in Turkestan with legal documents, in particular the conduct of elections, in which the will of the local population is taken into account.

**Keywords:** *Election; Muslim Rights; Local Population; Voting, Candidate; Political Literacy; Governance; Public Security Committee*

### **Introduction**

*"In the election process, all of us, first of all, our worldview, political and legal culture, our civic position will be reflected once again." Sh.Mirziyoev. [1.]*

It is important for every country to have a real election. At the same time, it is important that voters are active and strive to elect potential, reliable people. Because the inaction of the electorate leads to the fact that only certain groups of society can elect the people they want and put the interests of others aside.

The February Revolution of 1917 marked the beginning of new political movements in Russia and Turkestan, as well as the emergence of new forces in the formation of societies, the political awakening of the population, the protection of Muslim rights and political freedoms. In the growing democratic process in the political arena, the protection of the interests of the local population, the formation of local government has begun to play an important role. Simultaneously with the formation of local councils, elections of executive committees of public organizations and committees of public security began. These committees took the path of convincing themselves of their legitimate right by claiming the role of interim government bodies on the ground. One of the main tasks is to ensure the participation of local people in the executive committees of the country, to unite the various social strata, and most importantly, to strengthen the unity of the Muslim population.

In the socio-political processes of Turkestan, the conduct of elections in the system of population management has played an important role. Relevant decisions and instructions were adopted on the conduct of elections to the governing system, especially in the lower echelons, and the introduction of the Bolshevik system.

## ***The Main Part***

According to this Charter. The structure, composition and activities of election commissions for elections in Ovud, villages, settlements, volosts and districts were discussed. However, according to the decision, the chairmanship of each relevant election commission is entrusted to representatives of higher organizations. In addition, the decision of the election commission, all the instructions and instructions given by the district election commission to the precinct election commissions were entrusted to the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs (CPCI).

Although the goal of holding elections in the regions was to alleviate the burden of the people, to change their lifestyle, as well as to establish public control over the implementation of decisions, in practice only the government would be interested in the outcome of the election. Because the people (voters) did not even know the purpose of the election, where the election will be held, for what purpose they are voting, and what their participation in the election will decide. The reason for this was, firstly, the low political and legal level of the population, and secondly, the fact that the government did not increase the political and legal level of the population.

The available archival sources show that the population of Turkestan has not been well informed about their political activism, understanding of their rights, participation in various elections, their goals and objectives, and their benefits to the people. For example, the purpose of the Public Security Committee (PSC) established in the province, the procedure for its elections, the purpose and functions of the elected members have not been explained to the local population. It can be said that this was a manifestation of the fear that the indigenous people of Turkestan would become better aware of their rights after that February (1917) revolution, as well as a manifestation of indifference to the local population. Such "ignorance" is relatively common, especially in remote villages far from Turkestan's regional centers.

The Committee on Public Security did not carry out any propaganda work during the elections, nor did it explain the goals and objectives of the organization and the powers of the organization. If we take into account the narrow distribution of the periodicals in the early twentieth century, the fact that the vast majority of the population meets the daily needs: long-term field work, crafts, literacy, political activism, we can imagine the real situation. In particular, the local public security committee and its chairman, the procedure for electing its members were not systematically implemented, and were organized in a hurry and in some places in a hurry. In particular, the organization of local elections to the Committee of Public Security is so confusing that the population "inexperience in this process ... in a number of elections, the situation of the population has not improved, but rather worsened."

The people participating in the elections were not informed about the goals and objectives, their rights and consequences. Voters were not told "about freedom and equality ... the purpose of the Public Security Committee." Election officials gathered a handful of people and shouted "freedom" ... formed a public security committee. Due to the low legal literacy of the population about the elections, as well as the inexperience of election leaders, many irresponsible people have joined this (public safety) committee" [3.].

In addition, non-compliance with the normative and legal documents on elections in the studied archival sources, as well as incomplete implementation of them, were encountered in each election process transferred to elected positions and councils. For example, the election of volost governors, elders, and people's judges in the regions is often not observed on the ground. Although the process was officially considered an "election" [4].

The "voters" who participated in the elections without knowing or understanding, did not understand who they were voting for and for what purpose. In addition, if an elected official is fired (volost governor, people's judge ...), the nominee is a person who has never worked anywhere before and

even has no knowledge or skills in this field, ... instead of the dismissed, the population There were candidates who could be elected by, flawless, formal and legitimate positions” [5.].

As mentioned above, one-sidedness in the electoral process and non-compliance with the requirements of the law were also observed in the elections to the local Dumas. For example, in a letter sent by the Namangan Public Security Committee to the Provisional Committee for the Administration of Turkestan on June 14, 1917, on the basis of a telegram sent by the Fergana Regional Commissioner on June 5, 1917, the Public Security Committee, the Council of Workers 'and Soldiers' Deputies, a joint meeting of Russian and Muslim representatives of the Union of Industrial Workers, the Union of Local Workers and Peasants, the Cultural and Enlightenment Society, the Union of Working Women and other public organizations was held.

The joint session decided to elect 60 deputies to the local Duma. 4106 Europeans and 7409 locals will take part in the elections to the City Duma. At this joint meeting, they decided to distribute the 60 seats equally, despite the sharp differences in the number of indigenous peoples and European voters. In particular, it was decided to allocate 30 seats in the city Duma for indigenous peoples, as well as 30 seats for them, despite the small number of European voters. The letter said that a separate Muslim Duma was not appropriate, adding that "the local population is not ready for public affairs and [they] have a relatively low level of cultural life ... which is supported by all representatives of indigenous [peoples'] organizations."

## ***Conclusion***

In short, in the management of Turkestan, especially in the local government system, the main focus is on the Russians, and the rights of the local population are neglected. At the same time, it is artificially embodied in the eyes of the locals that the electoral process is taking place in Turkestan, that the majority of the local population is Muslim, and that in their eyes the rights and wishes of the local population are being fully taken into account.

## ***References***

1. Pre-election speech of Sh. Mirziyoyev at the congress of the UzLiDep party.
2. FVDA, Fund 52, List 1, Case 65, Sheet 19.
3. FVDA, fund 121, list 1, case 12, back of page 43, page 44.
4. FVDA, Fund 121, List 1, Case 36, Sheet 3
5. FVDA, Fund 121, List 1, Case 36, Back of page 36.
6. UzRMA, I, fund 1044, list 1, work 19, pages 66-66 and back.

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