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The Washington Post opens fire on the electoral process in Jordan, describing it as the least democratic in the kingdom's history

0 November 21, 2020





The next parliament will be as weak as the questionable legitimacy of the electoral process that **
produced it

The epidemic caused more than endangering the safety of voters, it undermined the integrity of **
the elections

Some have taken turns taking up positions as musical chairs, which can be risky **

The Legislative Council does not have the main decision-making powers ... Parliamentarians focus **
.instead on standing

The ambiguous electoral system in Jordan leads to the parliament being devoid of unified political **
blocs

Given the turbulent electoral process, it is not unlikely that wealthy businessmen will dominate **



Our District - Amman - Rasd - The "Washington Post" newspaper described the parliamentary elections in the kingdom as "one of the least democratic elections in Jordan's contemporary history." She said, "The next parliament will be as weak as the questionable legitimacy of the electoral process .that has produced it

The newspaper added, in an analytical article on the impact of the pandemic on the Jordanian parliamentary elections, that "the epidemic has caused more than endangering the safety of voters, it undermined the integrity of the elections, noting in the same context that the participation rate .decreased from 36% in the previous elections to 29% in This time She mentioned that before the polling process, the slogan "Boycott the elections for your life" had .become one of the most popular social media pages in the Kingdom

It also reported that "about 60 other countries have postponed their elections instead of sending people to vote during the pandemic. The Jordanian government has not clearly explained why it has not done the same. The head of the Independent Election Commission indicated that since Covid-19 .will not disappear soon, there is no point in postponing the elections

And she continued: "The Legislative Council does not have the main decision-making powers - in fact, the government made all of its decisions regarding the Coronavirus without consulting the institution. Parliamentarians are focusing instead on standing and access to resources that come with the seat. They can establish and maintain outstanding relationships, secure lucrative public contracts .for their friends, and direct local development projects to their audiences

The "Washington Post" also described the rotation of some to fill positions with the game of musical chairs, which could be fraught with risks. She pointed out that "due to the turbulent electoral process, .it is not unlikely that wealthy businessmen will dominate

She criticized the electoral list system in the form on which the elections were held, describing it as "ambiguous," and "reinforcing divisions," and "leading to the parliament being devoid of unified



political blocs, noting that the 2016 elections showed that this system makes it difficult for any list.

.Winning more than one seat per district

The newspaper added, "The government's intervention also weakened the lists, perhaps because of the

lack of international observers who attended the elections." And she continued: "The pandemic has

led to an increase in the unemployment rate by 23%. The government announced that after the

elections, there would be a four-day closure in Jordan, which led to the closure of work for millions

of workers, who could not afford to lose one day's wages. As a result, many candidates have publicly

” .paid to vote

