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The Presidential Elections Committee notes that many media outlets and other persons have raised suspicions concerning some of the Committee's decisions, such as the decision on how the out of governorate voters cast their votes, claiming that the number of non-resident voters who wish to participate in the elections - in the opinion of some - exceeds six million voters, and initially the Committee wondered how it is possible for those who claimed that to calculate those numbers!! The Committee points out that similar claims were made ahead of the Referendum on the Constitutional Amendments in 2014.

Such claims have made the President of the Republic pass a law to allow for non-resident voters to cast their vote - despite the objections of the General Elections Committee at that time for fear of the threat of the invalidity of the results, which we will refer to later. However, the number of out of governorate voters who participated in this referendum did not exceed 424,000 voters, so where are the millions that were alleged by some in this regard, an answer is due!!

The Committee clarifies that for non-resident voters to vote without their pre-registration this will result in - at least in some districts - the invalidity of the elections and repeating it which in turn entails an additional security and economic burden for all, and the Committee requests that those calling for the abolition of pre-registration to respond to the following points:

First: If a non-resident casts his or her vote in their original polling station and then casts his or her vote for a second time in one of the non-resident polling stations, or in several non-resident polling stations for that matter, what can prevent him or her from doing that, especially with the lack of complete electronic internetworking of all polling stations - that amount to approximately 14,000 polling stations. And relating to what was noted that some people desire to boycott the elections; if out of governorate voters are allowed to cast their votes without prior registration resulting in their exclusion from their respective original polling -station and the impossibility of repeating the voting, thus whoever claims to boycott the election will hasten to vote several times, and nothing will prevent them from committing this electoral crime even with the criminal penalties that were stipulated for such kinds of crimes.

Others, regretfully judges, answer that the national ID card of voter can be punctured so as not to cast a vote again, (and the Committee demands an answer from their Excellency) on that the destruction of the national ID card constitutes a criminal offense, (which prevents the card holder from using it again, unless he extracts another card. So we ask, is the procedure of extracting another national ID card easier than simply recording the name of voter who wishes to change his election

domicile?). On the other hand, the law allows for the voter to establish his identity either by national ID card or by passport, so what can prevent the voter from casting his or her vote for a second time by using his or her passport, if their identity card is punctured?

Second, some have claimed that those who requested to change their election domicile, according to the Committee's relevant decree, do not exceed 67,000 voters, and the Committee would like to clarify that comparing to the number of non-resident voters who cast ballots in the referendum, which was about 424,000 voters, and deducting the number of voters who registered themselves, the deficit amounts to 357,000 voters approximately, and they all forget that the latter figure, in itself, is simply not worth exposing the entire electoral process to the threat of invalidity as explained above, and that this should not prevent them if they are indeed willing and determined from actually casting their votes in their original electoral domicile in accordance with what is originally and generally decided.

Third, some called for polling stations to be established in certain touristic or industrial places, which, if valid, does not prevent the above-mentioned caveats, and still exposes the electoral process for invalidity, not to mention that the Committee had facilitated the procedures of pre-registration for non-residents in these areas by sending registration committees to record their wishes to transfer their voting to the places of their agglomerations in such areas. New polling stations in those areas were indeed established, while time permitted that the registrants' names be deducted from the electoral rolls in their original electoral domiciles before the start of the electoral round.

Hence, the Committee calls upon everyone to cast their ballots in recognition of the right of their country, and demands from all - at this time which requires more accuracy and transparency in dealing with all the issues - to refer to the Presidential Elections Committee to explain any issues where confusion may occur and clarify what may be obscured, and also to take into consideration the benefit of citizens in what they aim to achieve. May God lead us to the good and prosperity of our nation.