



## **Republican Network of Independent Monitors**

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### **RNIM's History**

Association of Legal Entities Association Republican Network of Independent Monitors was founded in 1999 as a coalition of NGOs that were designed to implement voter education and engage citizens in the process of election observation. Originally RNIM's mission was monitoring parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan in 1999. Now RNIM's mission includes supporting the development of civil society in Kazakhstan and ensuring transparency and credibility of electoral process in Kazakhstan. In 2009 RNIM was re-registered and gained a status of the Foundation, thereby extending participation possibility of not only to legal entities, but also interested citizens of Kazakhstan.

In 1999 RNIM had monitored the Parliamentary elections, becoming the first in the history of independent Kazakhstan domestic organization of election observation. As part of monitoring 2500 observers were trained, who worked at the polling stations across the country. Based on information obtained during the monitoring RNIM prepared a report which was highly appreciated by both Kazakh and international community.

In 2000 RNIM held first in Kazakhstan nation-wide advocacy campaign aimed at improving the legislation on local self-government. The campaign collected more than 90,000 signatures of citizens of Kazakhstan, contributed to blocking poorly written law on local government. The campaign became the first in the history of independent Kazakhstan example of the civil sector influence on the legislative process.

In 2001 RNIM conducted the second advocacy campaign aimed at improving the amendments to the law "On Mass Media". NGOs participating in RNIM have sent hundreds of letters and made phone calls to members of Kazakhstani Parliament, which led to the postponement of consideration in the Parliament proposed by government amendments. In the same year, RNIM held a third advocacy campaign aimed at improving the electoral legislation in Kazakhstan. During the campaign RNIM gathered 55,000 signatures in support of the developed by RNIM amendments to the Law "On elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan". RNIM made suggestions on corrections towards greater democratization and transparency of the electoral process. RNIM's amendments were included in the overall table of amendments submitted by political parties, NGOs and social movements of the RK for further consideration by their members of Parliament.

In 2002, RNIM held its fourth advocacy campaign aimed at improving the housing legislation of Kazakhstan and its adaptation to international standards, as well as to increase citizen's participation in the management of citizens' own households. RNIM gathered 54000 signatures and held 300 meetings with members of the Parliament and local councils, representatives of local government offices, the Chairmen of household cooperatives. As a result of the campaign, four regional coordinators of RNIM joined the Kazakhstani Parliament working group on amendments and supplements to the Law on Housing Relations in Kazakhstan. All recommendations of the working group included in the draft law "On Amending the Law on Housing Relations in Kazakhstan". One of the concrete results of the campaign was increased number of citizens' applications to the courts about the violation of housing laws. In December 2002 RNIM held monitoring by-elections to the Parliament of Kazakhstan in Pavlodar, Karaganda and Atyrau. In preparation for the monitoring, the regional coordinators of RNIM were trained on the training conducted by experts on election monitoring of the partner organizations from Georgia and Ukraine. Subsequently, the regional coordinators conducted regional training sessions for the observers. On election day, RNIM deployed more than 300 observers. Monitoring results were presented in "Report of Independent Observers, as well as at the public hearings held in February 2003 in Astana with representatives of the CEC of the RK and the deputies.

In 2003 RNIM held the first in Kazakhstan, long-term monitoring of local council elections, which focused

its efforts on three areas: monitoring the activities of election commissions, monitoring the activities of local authorities and monitor the campaigns of candidates. Submissions received during the long-term monitoring, have been reflected in the Report of Independent Observers, as well as round table held in November 2003 in Almaty, with the participation of representatives of the CEC, political parties and deputies.

In 2004 RNIM held long-term monitoring of Parliamentary elections. In the period from October to December 2004 RNIM participated in ENEMO election observation mission (European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations) and took part in the long and short-term observation of the Ukrainian Presidential elections. RNIM sent 100 short and 5 long-term observers on both rounds of elections.

In 2005 RNIM held long-term and short-term monitoring of the Kazakhstani Presidential elections in 14 regions of the country. In addition, the advocacy campaign was carried out under the project "Long-term monitoring of the Parliament, which collected 60 000 signatures on amending the Parliamentary rules of procedure the immediate release of a roll-call vote of MPs in the adoption of bills. Also in 2005 RNIM participated in ENEMO mission and monitored Kyrgyz Republic Parliamentary elections.

In 2006 RNIM launched a project to monitor activities of local councils in RK. In the Fall short and long term election monitoring mission of district and cities Heads of Administration was implemented. In the spring of 2006 RNIM with ENEMO election monitoring mission has monitored Ukrainian Parliamentary elections (5 long and 40 short-term observers), the fall of that year 5 and 20 long-term observers had monitored the elections of local authorities in cities of Ukraine: Poltava, Kirovograd and Chernihiv.

In 2007 RNIM launched the third year of the project "Long-term monitoring of the Kazakhstani Parliament, in addition, Civic Forums were held that year in Aktobe, Taraz, and Kostanay. In May 2007 an international conference was implemented "Development of the institute of domestic election observers Kazakhstan" and in July of the same year, RNIM conducted training of trainers for NGO representatives and political parties of Kazakhstan on the topic "Establishment of domestic observers in the Republic of Kazakhstan " with international experts and organizations specializing in conducting election observation.

In addition, RNIM held short and long term monitoring of early Parliamentary elections, the next election of Kazakhstani local councils, and early Parliamentary elections of deputies elected by the Assembly of Peoples of Kazakhstan (July-August 2007) within the project "Long-term monitoring of Parliament". In November 2007 NGO Coalition was formed for the transparency of the Kazakhstani Parliament and implemented "The project to develop and lobby the recommendations of NGO Coalition for Transparency of Parliament (January-March 2008).

In September 2007, RNIM within ENEMO election observation mission monitored the Ukrainian Parliamentary elections (1 long and 25 short-term observers) and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan Parliamentary elections which took place on December 16, 2007.

In 2008, RNIM implemented several projects: "Access to information is basic right of citizens - in accordance with international human rights standards" (2008-2009) Supported by the European Commission in Kazakhstan, "Monitoring of the Parliament" (2008-2009) supported by NED. With the support of NDI Kazakhstan RNIM has implemented the project "Civic Dialogue" in Aktau, and Shymkent, aimed at establishing a civil dialogue between deputies of local councils and residents of the city.

In addition, RNIM developed and lobbied for conceptual recommendations to the electoral legislation of Kazakhstan, which were presented at the annual meeting of the Human Dimension of OSCE / ODIHR in Warsaw in October 2008. RNIM also joined a working group of the CEC on additions and amendments to the Kazakhstani Law "On elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan". Long-and short-term observation of the elections to Senate in Kazakhstan (August-October 2008) and an observation of Georgia Presidential elections on January 5, 2008 (1 expert, 1 Logistic and 3 short-term observer).

In 2009 RNIM took part in ENEMO election observation mission for monitoring Parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova (2 long-term and 11 short-term observers RNIM). In July 23, 2009 RNIM participated in monitoring the Kyrgyz Republic President elections (2 short-term observer, a deputy head of mission). Also RNIM participated in ENEMO election monitoring mission for the municipal elections in the Republic of Kosovo (7 short-term observers), and completed the project "Access to information is basic right of citizens - in accordance with international human rights standards", which aimed to increase transparency and openness in the work of Kazakhstani local councils and the project "Constructive dialogue: the voters and MPs. In Aktau, Karaganda, Taraz and Shymkent was carried out "information campaign to explain the positive aspects of Kazakhstan's chairmanship in the OSCE.

In June 2009, RNIM started the project "Kazakhstan citizens of the OSCE" in Astana, Almaty, Aktobe, Kyzylorda, Kostanay, Petropavlovsk with the support of the British Embassy in Kazakhstan. Conducted training sessions on "Enhancing political representation and participation of women in the Republic of Kazakhstan in the electoral process", trainings were held in Almaty, Kostanay, Kyzylorda and Taraz.

In 2010, four long-term and 36 short term RNIM observers observed the presidential elections in Ukraine. Head of ENEMO mission (European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations) to monitor the presidential elections in 2010 became President of the Public Fund "RNIM" Taskyn Rahimbekova.

To date, the project "Long-term monitoring of the Parliament of Kazakhstan including lobbying for amendments to the Parliamentary Rules of procedures with support from NED, to promote greater transparency of the MPs was implemented successfully. In addition to projects that RNIM implements independently, the organization also is a member of the NGO Coalition of "OSCE-2010", which aims to monitor the implementation of the commitments of Kazakhstan's OSCE human dimension. As part of the Coalition RNIM is actively pursuing international and national advocacy, conducts a quarterly analysis of the existing political system, as well as legislation and the monitoring of the obligations of Kazakhstan in the sphere of civil and political rights and civil liberties.

Since 2004 RNIM, is a member of the European Network for Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO). RNIM volunteers (observers - about 20,000) were trained participated in the ENEMO and in other international missions to monitor elections in Latvia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus and Russia, Macedonia, Belgium, Britain, Italy, Kosovo, Moldova and other countries. In addition, RNIM actively participates in the activities undertaken by the OSCE / ODIHR, the European Parliament, the United Nations. RNIM facilitators and observers constantly improve their skills at training sessions, seminars, training programs in the U.S., Britain, Belgium, Poland and etc.

RNIM is a member of the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO). As part of ENEMO RNIM observers worked on:

Kazakhstani Presidential elections (two rounds). 100 STOs, 5 LTOs (2004)  
Election of Deputies of the Verkhovna Rada Ukraine 5 LTOs, 40 STOs (2006)  
Election of parliament deputies, Kyrgyzstan 10 STOs (2005)  
Election of the President of Kyrgyzstan 5 LTOs 30 STOs (2005)  
Election of Deputies of the Verkhovna Rada Ukraine 5 LTOs 192 STOs (2006)  
Election of Deputies of the Verkhovna Rada Ukraine 25 STOs (2007)  
Election of parliament deputies Kyrgyzstan 1 long and 25 short-term observers (2007)  
Election of the President of Georgia, 1 expert, 1 Logistic, 3 STOs (2008)  
Election of the President of Kyrgyzstan, President RNIM Taskyn Rahimbekova served as a deputy head of mission, 2 LTOs (2009)  
Elections to the Parliament of Moldova 2 LTOs, 11 STOs (2009)  
Elections Local authorities in Kosovo, 7 STOs, (2009)  
Election of the President Ukraine (two rounds), president of RNIM Taskyn Rahimbekova served as a head of mission, 4 LTOs, and 36 STOs, (2010)