

SAIMUN 2017 Research Report

Committee: General Assembly 4

Issue: Measures to Combat Electoral Fraud

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1. Description of Issue

Election is a formal and organized choice by vote of a person for a political office or other position. (Oxford Dictionaries) The origin of election is considered as Athens of the ancient Greece, where is also the source of democracy in 4th to 5th century B.C. The early election system has been limited to certain social class, such as male voters; however the system has developed and nowadays, it allows people's equal involvement of decision making regardless of their gender, incomes and race in various countries. On the other hand, humans' excessive avidity of authority causes errant behaviour: electoral fraud.

Electoral Fraud, election manipulation or vote rigging refers to any election which is held through unjustified ways and means. As the election spread through the world, and the system is changed with the times, new methods of electoral fraud were invented and passed off. However, electoral fraud is serious crime which infringes voters' rights. The article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, 1948) from the United Nations (UN) regulated that everyone has the right to take part in the government of his or her country, directly or through freely chosen representatives. Due to there are differences between each nation's election system, it is complicated to create a unified solution or monitoring system.

Despite these obstacles, the United Nations have endeavored to promote credible and transparent election; and the UN Peacekeeping classifies their electoral assistance into three sectors: technical assistance, election monitoring and organisation and supervision of elections. Technical assistance includes ensuring the protection for voters' rights by providing UN police or UN Military personnel, giving advices on national electoral laws and supplying any logistical supports such as distribution of materials for ballot. These assistance can be requested by countries. The other sector, election monitoring has not been first planned by the UN; in 1857,

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the election in Moldavia and Wallachia - which are called 'Romania' in nowadays - was monitored by the European commission that was formed with the Austrian, British, French, Prussian, Russian, and Turkish representatives. However in modern days, the UN is considered as the most confidential organisation and as a consequence, a number of nations request for election monitoring to them. The another sector, organisation and supervision of elections are allowing the UN to manage the entire election process. Notwithstanding these efforts, the electoral fraud is ongoing; rather, the means of illegality have become more diverse around the world. Hence, the entire Member states are encouraged to produce constructive, insightful and periodic solutions that eradicate any electoral fraud and ensure the rights of human beings.

2. Definition of Key Terms

Electoral Commission

Electoral commission is a constitutional institution which supervises and administers the entire business related to election, plebiscite and political parties.

Vote buying

Vote buying is an ancient way of electoral fraud; bribing people with money to persuade them to no vote or vote for certain candidate.

Ballot Stuffing

Ballot stuffing is augment of the number of votes by computing one vote as multiple votes or voting in more than one voting booths.

Electoral malpractice

Electoral malpractice is the manipulation of electoral processes and outcomes so as to substitute personal or partisan benefit for the public interest. (Sarah Birch, 2011)

Disinformation

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Disinformation is giving impacts on an election by providing fallacious information about other competitors to voters.

Misleading/ Confusing ballot papers

Misleading, or confusing ballot papers is designing ballot papers for encouraging voters to vote for certain candidate. In fact, it is hard to judge and punish those ballot papers however, it is one of electoral fraud.

Misuse proxy votes

Proxy votes is the legal way for people who experience difficulties of voting due to health problems or illiteracy; however, this system is abused by some proxies.

Destruction/Invalidation of ballots

Destruction or invalidation of ballots is rendering ballots for other candidates ineffective by destroying or adding any marks which change ballots to under-vote.

Tampering with electronic voting machines

As the term ‘tampering with electronic voting machines’ shows, it is programming voting machines to miscount the votes.

Voter impersonation

Voter impersonation is similar as the misusing proxy votes however, there is a small difference. It refers to voting by people who does not have right, in the name of eligible people.

3. Timeline of Key Events

Events	Description
10th of May 1948, the South Korean Constitutional Assembly Election	After the World War II, there was endeavor of establishing the government in the Korean Peninsula. In the meanwhile, the USA submitted agenda on Korean problem to the UN General Assembly on 17th of

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	September, 1945. This contrived the first universal suffrage in Korea under the UN's supervision however, it blocked the establishment of the unity government for both of South and North Korea.
10th of December 1948, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is adopted	In the General Assembly which was held in Paris, the UDHR is first adopted. This states the rights of being involved in country's government in whether directly or indirectly like voting.
22nd of November, 1965, The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was funded	The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was funded.
June, 1972 Watergate Affair	The electoral fraud which caused the resignation of Richard Nixon, 37th president of the USA. It was first time that a president steps down due to an electoral fraud.
1991 Electoral Assistance Division (EAD) under United Nations Department of Political Affairs was established (UNDPA)	1991 Electoral Assistance Division (EAD) under United Nations Department of Political Affairs was established (UNDPA) to provide an assistance to member states who need supports in elections.

4. Positions of Key Member Nations and Other Bodies on the Issue

Electoral Assistance Division (EAD) under United Nations Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA)

Electoral Assistance Division, or EAD was established in 1991 due to more than 100 member states have requested for the electoral assistance from the United Nations (UN). As, the then UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar's advocacy on the establishment of EAD which is showed in the General Assembly's resolution on enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections (A/RES/46/137, 1991), EAD has contributed to promote credible and sustainable electoral culture. EAD has five purposes and aims: ensuring the consistency of treating requests from member states, reporting considerate decision for member states' requests to appropriate offices, reflecting on past cases to develop the system, keeping the roster of electoral experts who can provide help in case of emergency, and maintaining the amicable relationship with intergovernmental organisations. EAD does not have regulated type of

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assistance; they are flexible in responding to a situation in each nation. Their assistance can be classified into three: technical assistance, organising (or supervising) Elections, and election observation and other assessments.

Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)

In peacekeeping and many post-conflict environments, assistance is generally provided through electoral components of field missions under the aegis of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. In those cases, EAD works closely with DPKO in planning and managing electoral support aspects of peacekeeping operations. (UNDPA)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP was funded on 22nd of November, 1965. There are three sectors which they aim for: sustainable development, democratic governance and peacebuilding, and disaster resilience. Elections is a part of democratic governance, and the UNDP is in charge of providing technical assistance to support developing election system; however, sometimes the purpose of assistance is for peacekeeping operations. According to the UNDPA, they superintend about 50 to 60 elections every year. UNDP releases the analysis of elections-related issues to report the achievement of the year. Also the UNDP collaborates with regional or intergovernmental organisations to strengthen their ability of managing elections.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

The OHCHR was established in 1993 as the result of the General Assembly to promote more robust human rights around the world with more efficient and stronger supports. Nowadays, the OHCHR takes the lead in any human rights related issues around the world. Everyone has the same right to vote, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has stated, this right cannot be violent in any reason. OHCHR creates the environment for credible elections, monitors country's situations before and after the election.

The ACE Electoral Knowledge Network

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The ACE Electoral Knowledge Network provides comprehensive and authoritative information on elections, promotes networking among election-related professionals and offers capacity development services. The ACE Electoral Knowledge Network was developed in 2006 by eight partner organizations, leaders in the provision of targeted technical assistance in elections management; namely: Elections Canada, the Electoral Institute of Southern Africa (EISA), the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico (IFE), the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the International Institute of Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IIDEA), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division (EAD). (UNDPA)

BRIDGE Project

Professional development course in election administration. Born from partnership between UN in collaboration with International Institute of Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Australian Electoral Commission and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. The project has been developed by electoral administrators. BRIDGE Workshops included many electoral assistance projects and missions to develop capacity of electoral authorities and other stakeholders. (UNDPA)

These are member nations which experienced (or are suspected) electoral fraud in last four years; 2012 to 2016.

Brazil

In 5th of October, 2016, the general Brazilian election held. On the same date, 66 of people were arrested due to the election crime, and there were more than 300 reports related to electoral fraud to police. In Rio de Janeiro, where is the second largest populous city in Brazil, there were 61 election malpractices, and 6 people were placed under arrest.

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

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5th of April, 2014, Afghanistan had the first democratic presidential election. Until the electoral commission declared the result of the election, both of candidates, Abdullah Abdullah and Ashraf Ghani have argued with suspicion that illegal methods have been used in the election. Abdullah Abdullah has made disclosure of recorded tape of electoral commission's worker who has commanded for electoral fraud, and this instigated the arguments on fair election process. Abdullah Abdullah won the election however, the Afghan electoral commission have not opened the number of votes per each candidate.

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

There was the Pakistani general election on 11th of May, 2013; and Nawaz Sharif has been selected for the prime minister of Pakistan. After the election, Imran Khan, the another candidate of the election has argued for the possibility of electoral fraud. His argument has continued as anti-government demonstration, and he and his supporters are demanding for Nawaz Sharif's resignation. According to the United Press International (UPI), there were at least 300 casualties including young children due to the clash between nation's forces and demonstrators.

Russian Federation

On 18th of September, 2016, there was a Russian legislative election; and the United Russia, which is the party of Vladimir Putin won. However, the videos of stuffing a ballot box after the election and it aroused suspicion of electoral fraud. Furthermore, according to the Russian electoral commission, more than 2000 reports of fraudulent elections.

Uganda

There was Ugandan general election on 18th of February, 2016; and as the result of election, Yoweri Museveni has been selected as the president of Uganda. This is his fifth time of winning the election, however the opposition parties and the majority of citizens argued that it was rigged elections. In some regions where supports the opposition parties, the voting booths were opened later than other regions. Also the violence nearby voting places caused two casualties from the opposition parties.

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The United States of America

There are many incidents in USA and many countries where electoral fraud seemed to becoming true. Some examples cases are:

- **Dead people voting in Colorado:** CBS affiliate's evidence voter fraud showed a dead World War II veteran voted in 2006 primary election and a dead woman who died in 2009 cast ballots in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013.
- **Illegal voting in Virginia:** Study by the Public Interest Legal Foundation found in 8 Virginia counties, 1046 alien non-citizens successfully registered to vote. These aliens were accidentally caught when they renewed driver's license and self reported. Moreover, FBI then opened an investigation in the state after 20 dead people turned in applications to vote.
- **Pennsylvania citizens vote twice:** Pennsylvania's secretary of state admitted data showed more than 700 Pennsylvania voters cast 2 ballots in 2015, yet she's powerless in investigating double voters.
- **Illegal voters in Philadelphia:** According Public Interest Legal Foundation, 86 non-citizens registered to vote in Philadelphia since 2013 and almost half them cast a ballot in recent election. The number only turned up after officials received specific requests from voters to remove their names from the rolls.
- **Underage voters in Wisconsin's vote:** Brow County election officials in April found 6 cases where underage voters casting ballots. (Riddell, K, 2016)

5. Suggested Solutions

Congressional Investigations. Congress to exercise constitutional duty to "oversight". It should investigate the numerous instances of voter fraud in each suspected states or county/ provinces of country.

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Statewide Investigations. Locations- states/ counties or provinces that suspected to have electoral fraud should be encouraged to initiate investigations of their own. These locations should be encourage to establish their own investigative task force.

Establish Electoral Review Commission. Seek to establish a commission to address voting irregularities and fraud.

Strengthen Current Vote Fraud Laws. Establish books against voter fraud and enforce them effectively. Strengthen the civil and penal penalties for vote fraud and to strongly enforce them.

Make Vote Fraud a "Federal" Crime. Enact legislation making vote fraud of any kind a federal crime.

Standardized Ballots. Eliminate punch-card ballots and replace them with simple, easy-to-read paper ballots. All machine votes should be authenticated with a verifiable paper trail at each precinct. Establish a separate, standardized paper ballot for presidential elections.

Expand Military Voting Rights. Allow easier voting for military personnel by placing voting booths on all U.S. military installations.

Create National Database of Criminal Voters. Pass legislation to create a national database which assists states and individual counties in scrubbing their voter registration rolls of felons and convicts. Otherwise create and maintain a national database of known illegal aliens which can performs the same task.

Ban Campaigning & Voter Registration Drives in Prisons. Some groups register prisoners with misdemeanors by exploiting prisons for campaign visits.

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Hold Media Accountable. Legislation should be considered which impose penalties and fines on any media outlet which reports false voting results in federal and congressional elections. (Conservative actions, 2001)

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