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PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS AND INFRINGEMENTS IN 1927

(Summary)

The information provided from different sources gives the opportunity to point out several types of violations. The first group of infractions is committed while setting the legal conditions for active and passive election rights. At some places are found breeches when compiling and publishing the electoral lists. The second group of infringements is committed when registering the tickets. By different means the official authorities hinder the opposition from certifying their tickets. The third group of violations is well known in the Bulgarian political history - depriving the opposition of normal conditions for electoral campaign, by threats, physical abuse, arrests, attacks against the party's offices, disbanding election meetings with the help of the police. The fourth group of offenses finds expression in seizing the opposition's voting-papers in order to obstruct the vote and the opposition party to lack ballot-papers. The fifth group of violations is expressed in preventing the opposition observers to use their legal right to assure a fair and objective vote. The sixth group of violations is the treats and agitation for certain members of the ruling party on the election day. The purpose is assuring the triumph of the ruling party. The seventh group of offenses is expressed in direct physical abuse on the election day of voters and deputies by the rulers and their sympathizers.. The eighth group of infractions is the pursuit of corrupting the secrecy of the vote. There are used techniques to monitor the votes. The ninth group of infringements shows these violations, which main aim to change the vote, but however are not connected with any violence. The tenth group of offenses is expressed in voting with ballot-papers

that do match the legal ones and are “changed” by the voters - for example stained, smudged, torn and etc. This leads to doubts for extra printed voting-papers, that are added later to the ballot- boxes. The eleventh group of infractions is the lack of normal conditions for the counting of the voting-papers, irregular readings, forging the vote, procedure violations and etc. The listed violations show that the Bulgarian way of voting is not in an alignment with the rules of democracy. The main goal in the electoral process of the Bulgarian political elite still remains to win more places by any means. The rulers take the best advantage from their empowered position and the opposition has no other choice but to plead for a democratic elections - although, after the opposition receives the power, they quickly update and they start to use the same methods as well.