

Ombudsman's letter on the possible violations during the Referendum

Today Ombudsman Karen Andriasyan sent a letter to the Prosecutor General, the Head of the Police, the Head of the Investigation Committee and the Head of the Special Investigation Service regarding the possible violations of the Referendum. The text of the letter is presented below:

'We have received 67 emergency calls regarding the possible violations occurred during the Referendum of December 6, 2015. Besides the mentioned emergency calls, there were various publications on the similar violations, the credibility of which has not been completely checked yet. We, various citizens, as well as separate political forces and some international partners are deeply concerned about this information.

From the received information, as well as from the published data, we have selected the issues which are the most problematic and obviously contain criminal features.

We expect effective cooperation. This could be achieved if all the persons directly or indirectly involved in this and other incidents and who have committed a criminally liable act concerning the Referendum, are identified as soon as possible and are strictly punished.

It is also extremely important that all the cases involving abuse of administrative resources are discovered, as well as relevant officials are held liable as a result of detailed investigation of all the calls and complaints.

We express readiness to support, as much as possible, the objective examination of the cases based on the information available to us. We are sure that identifying the perpetrators and holding them liable would reinforce trust towards both the law enforcement system and the electoral processes.

Below we present the list of suspicious incidents known to us. New complaints, as well as relevant publications might be added to this list in the future:

- Polling station № 4/26 – Compliant on theft and replacement of ballots: the citizen informed us that the ballots have been stealed and replaced. Further information can be provided upon the consent of the citizen.
- Polling station № 1/32 – Complaint regarding unlawful acts during the calculation of votes (emergency call from a representative of the Armenian National Congress).
- Polling station № 4/5 - Compliant on theft and replacement of ballots (emergency call from a representative of the Armenian National Congress).

- Polling station № 4/32 - Compliant on theft and replacement of ballots (emergency call from a representative of the Armenian National Congress).
- Polling station № 4/33 – Compliant on theft and replacement of ballots (emergency call from a representative of the Armenian National Congress).
- Polling station № 4/28 - Compliant on theft and replacement of ballots (emergency call from a representative of the Armenian National Congress).
- Polling station № 4/20 – Suspicion on unlawfull acts during the calculation of votes.
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPVxEdpAy0U>),
- Polling station № 9/27 – Emergency call on ballot-staffing (according to the citizen, there was ballot-staffing. Further details can be provided upon the conent of the citizen).
- Polling station № 12/11 – Emergency call on ballot-staffing (according to the citizen, there was ballot-staffing. Further details can be provided upon the consent of the citizen).
- Polling station № 27/37 – Suspicion on ballot-staffing (emergency call from the Armenian National Congress).
- Polling station № 7/2 – Complaint on the attempt of ballot-staffing and replacement of ballots (emergency call from a representative from the Armenian National Congress).
- Polling station № 13/22 - Suspicion on ballot-staffing
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6w-UXnWNao>)
- Polling station № 13/22 – Suspicion on ballot-staffing
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6w-UXnWNao>)
- Polling station № 25/33 – Ballot-staffing
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vk29A9IO32I>),
- Polling station №34/28 – Ballot-staffing
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yunpd12R1y8>),
- Polling station № 7/14 – Suspicion on election bribe
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOYbpSrPx1o>),
- Surrounding area of the Polling station № 7/32 to 7/33 – Suspicion on election bribe
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1a7xGMTiGg>),
- Polling station № 1/8 – Suspicion on guided voting
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gr9ytPdDxXw>),
- Polling station № 3/18 - Suspicion on guided voting
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAFbXIIzbvM>),

- Polling station № 4/13 - Suspicion on guided voting
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHn-e3RELiA>,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rS1Z33STBEw>,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a97aVDts2lU>),
- Polling station № 10/18 - Suspicion on guided voting
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBtjFKB6Rgo>),
- Polling station № 34/30 - Suspicion on guided voting
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4OW9FX31rw> 0:02-1:35),
- Polling station № 2/14 – Voting on behalf of another citizen (The citizen called and informed that someone had already voted on behalf of her, her husband and her daughter. Upon the consent of the citizen, further details can be provided).
- Polling station № 8/4 – Voting on behalf of another citizen, complaint on the attempt of guided voting (the citizen informed that someone had voted instead of her and her family. Further details can be provided upon the consent of the citizen).
- Polling station № 22/12 – Complaint on voting on behalf of another person (the citizen informed that someone had already voted on behalf of her. Further details can be provided upon the consent of the citizen).
- Polling station № 23/01 – Complaint on voting on behalf of another person (the citizen informed that someone had already voted on behalf of her. Further details can be provided upon the consent of the citizen).
- Polling station № 1/8 – Complaint on voting on behalf of another person
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=roRPtOMBysg>),
- Polling station № 4/5 - Complaint on voting on behalf of another person
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nh87f34jUyk>),
- Polling station № 5/21 - Complaint on voting on behalf of another person
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zj2o2OKhjkM>),
- Polling station № 5/21 - Complaint on voting on behalf of another person
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcs_U22OquU),
- Polling station № 5/21 - Complaint on voting on behalf of another person
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLw85wf5zpo>),
- Polling station № 6/16 – Suspicion on voting on behalf of other person
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MK3NsC6aAEI>),

- Polling station № 6/4 - Complaint on voting on behalf of another person (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QuU306lz-Lc>),
- Polling station № 8/25 - Complaint on voting on behalf of another person (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKq1yv6A1Bo>),
- Polling station № 9/32 - Suspicion on voting on behalf of other person (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=II1a5aie1qY>),
- Polling station № 11/21 - Suspicion on voting on behalf of other person (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2pupn46sCI>),
- Polling station № 12/28 - Complaint on voting on behalf of another person (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7CMFqzwi2E>),
- Polling station № 14/4 - Complaint on voting on behalf of another person (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8PRI2WxCXs>),
- Polling station № 34/01 - Complaint on voting on behalf of another person (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtUm1fJRPVs`0:02-2:25>),
- Polling station № 34/19 - Complaint on voting on behalf of another person (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtUm1fJRPVs`2:26->),
- Polling station № 34/31 - Complaint on voting on behalf of another person (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gu5e9xrt7IE>),
- Polling station № 35/37- Complaint on voting on behalf of another person (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14gQ8z7koOI>),
- Polling station № 35/40 - Suspicion on voting on behalf of other person (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCLjBSXM38>),
- Polling station № 11/3 - Double voting (<http://newsbook.am/?p=72107/tarber+hagustnerov+krknaki+qvearkutyana+erkrord+depqn+e+ardzanagrvel&l=am>),
- Polling station № 11/3 - Double voting (<http://newsbook.am/?p=72101/mievnuyndzy+qvearkel+e+tarber+hagustnerov+lusankarn+er&l=am>),
- Polling station № 16/23 - Suspicion on double voting (<http://past.am/?p=25475&l=am>),
- Polling station № 37/9 - Suspicion on double voting (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TqPNOOH_HY):

- Polling station № 3/6 – Suspicion on making false entries in the election documents. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlTbYgmOqbY>),
- Polling station № 7/4 – Complaint on possible unlawful acts during the process of calculating the votes (emergency call from the representative of the Armenian National Congress),
- Polling station № 7/24 – Complaint on unlawful acts during the calculation of the votes (emergency call from the representative of the Armenian National Congress),
- Polling station № 4/17 - Complaint on unlawful acts during the calculation of the votes (emergency call from the representative of the Armenian National Congress),
- Polling station № 10/18 – Suspicion on altering the results of the Referendum (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bPEI2j--YY>),
- Polling station № 13/23 – Suspicion on altering the results of the Referendum (<http://yn.am/?index&p=54830&l=am>),
- Polling station № 35/1 – Complaint on altering the results of the Referendum (<http://galatv.am/hy/news/132855/>),
- Polling station № 5/28 - Complaint on hindering the work of a journalist (The editor of the media informed that the equipment of the journalist had been taken away. Further details can be provided upon the consent of the editor).
- Polling station № 7/14 – Complaint on hindering the work of a journalist and observer (the citizen informed that there had been conflicts between the members of the Committee, journalists and observers. Upon the consent of the citizen, further details can be provided)
- Polling station № 10/14 – Complaint on hindering the work of the member of the Committee (emergency call and a complaint from the representative of the Armenian national Congress)
- Polling station № 5/1 – Violation against the person (emergency call from the representative from the “Heritage” Party).
- Polling station № 1/8 – Hindering the work of journalist/observer (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87tmXS6cUKQ>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIcTsraxW5k>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=paEUDcIoZL0> 4:02-4:55 minutes),
- Polling station № 6/9 – Complaint on hindering the work of a journalist (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBxFvWVQxh0>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzQzeOFETkA>),

- Polling station № 4/28 - Complaint on hindering the work of a journalist
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ab7eiu33ZUs>,
- Polling station № 10/18 - Complaint on hindering the work of a journalist
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jn67v_plkQ 2:05-2:15),
- Polling station № 10/20 - Complaint on hindering the work of a journalist
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IeEvj9_Pyvw),
- Polling station № 10/20 - Complaint on hindering the work of a journalist
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wlnsIN-aLL4>),
- Polling station № 4/1 - Complaint on hindering the work of a journalist/observer
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjRXqAHYkKI>,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsbToL7HCK8>),
- Polling station № 9/1 - Complaint on hindering the work of a journalist/observer (the citizen informed that his photo camera had been taken away. Upon the consent of the citizen further details can be provided. The video material is here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmtslZzy7t0>),
- Polling station № 35/1 - Hindering the work of the observer
(<http://galatv.am/hy/news/132855/>),
- Polling station № 6/6 - Hindering the work of the journalist
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6iCIIh4od0>),
- Polling station № 8/27 - Hindering the work of the journalist, not allowing to have access to election documents (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cm4Prn6sulw>),
- Polling station № 6/9 - Hindering the work of the committee member
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBxFvWVQxh0>,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzQzeOFETkA>),
- Polling station № 9/14 - Attack on the polling station, hindering the work of the Committee
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lP-jewuGUK4>),
- Polling station № 10/24 - hindering the work of the committee member
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qhxyzCu_thY),
- Polling station № 9/23 - Suspicion on violating the rules regarding the official stamp
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGohY-4D6DE>),
- Polling station № 9/23 - Suspicion on violating the rules regarding the official stamp
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGohY-4D6DE>),

- Polling station № 34/28 – violating the rules regarding the official stamp (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhDOh4DCgnw>),

Besides the above mentioned cases, some other materials have also been published. The numbers of the polling stations are not known in those publications, however, they also contain information on possible election violations, including information on guided voting, hindering the work of journalists (transporting via public transport, taxi and Ambulance Service vehicles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrHUXNH9Tdw>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzCCTmle0FA>), on ballot-staffing (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_c-n6T-bbE):

We ask to investigate the mentioned cases in your power, take relevant measures and present the results to us at the earliest date possible.

Office of the Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia