**PRESS RELEASE**

**IMMEDIATE 2.3.2017**

**ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS (STILL) FAIL TO MEET**

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS**

The election is marred by the facts that:

some parties are still campaigning, even today, with loudspeaker cars, whatever;

at some polling station entrances, voters have to run a gauntlet of party activists;

inside some polling stations, party activists are allowed (and are assisted) to record the presence of individual voters; and

the ballot paper is not anonymous.

All of the above is legal, here; but none of it would be allowed in elections run by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, osce, where:

a moratorium on campaigning is initiated, usually 24 hours before polling day;

polling stations and the surrounding area, normally at least 50 metres distant, must be neutral, with not even a poster on display;

inside some polling stations, party agents are allowed (and are assisted) to observe the voting in the round, but are not given access to information as to the presence or otherwise of individual voters; and

the ballot paper is anonymous.

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