

**GENERAL UNION OF STUDENT IN THE  
IRAQI REPUBLIC**

**THE TRUTH ABOUT THE  
STUDENTS ELECTIONS  
IN  
IRAQI**

**NOVEMBER 17-24 1969**

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Forward

This pamphlet explains the position of the General Union of Students in the Iraqi Republic concerning the "students elections" which were held in Iraq on November 17th and 24th 1969 in the high schools and the universities respectively and reflects its rejection of their results as revealed by the numerous statements and reports which were published by GUSIR to this effect and are reprinted here.

The facts, as stated in this pamphlet, reveal the falsification of these elections and expose the methods of pressure and threats of terror which were utilized by the Government authorities against the student masses in order to create a suitable atmosphere for the victory of the "National Union's" slate of candidates.

The student masses in Iraq denounce these devious methods and maintain their legal right to hold free and democratic student elections. They will struggle to coordinate the work among their progressive forces in the national interest and their special academic interests.

The Truth about the Student Elections in Iraq

The General Union of Students in the Iraqi Republic (GUSIR) declares its rejection of the student elections which were held in the Iraqi Republic on November 17th and 24th 1969 in the high schools and Universities respectively, and earnestly calls upon all student forces including the National Union of Iraqi Students, to heed the necessary conclusions deriving from the results of these elections and to consider the need for continuing the struggle in order to obtain possibilities for a free student government through the genuine election of their representatives to a general union of students. Considering the present situation in the country, GUSIR renews its offer to create militant student cooperation which will struggle to achieve the national ideals of the Iraqi students. This could be concretised under the present circumstances through the establishment of a coordinating committee which would include all the progressive student organisations in Iraq. Such a committee would be the leading body of a progressive student front responsible to the student masses and people for the fulfilment of a progressive programme.

From a statement put out by the General Union of Students in the Iraqi Republic, published 3<sup>rd</sup>, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1969

Statement of the General Union of Students in the Iraqi Republic Concerning the Student Elections and their Results

To our colleagues!  
To the progressive student forces!  
To the valiant sons of our people!

For many years, GUSIR has repeatedly called and struggled for the holding of general democratic student elections in Iraq through which the students could express their choice and establish their student bodies. This objective has always been, moreover, one of the basic demands around which GUSIR has called on all other progressive student organisations in Iraq to wage a united struggle. Our Union renewed this demand once more, after July 17th 1968 (the coup d'état against Arif) and made close contacts with other student organisations including the "National Union of Iraqi Students" which represents the ruling power of the State and enjoys its support. After the proclamation of Law 108 for the year 1969, and in spite of our serious reservations about this law due to its numerous loopholes and shortcomings, we (GUSIR) once more demanded the holding of general elections, leaving the task of rectification of this law to the general student congress which would be convened after the elections. The method by which this law was enacted and the numerous restrictions it imposes on democracy have revealed the first signs of the true intention as to how the student elections were to be conducted. This situation has led GUSIR to make a number of demands connected with guaranteeing democracy in the elections, as stated in our statement of October 8<sup>th</sup>, 1969. With sincere objectivity GUSIR has stressed the importance and necessity of maintaining a true democratic atmosphere during the elections and the important effect this will have on the mass and national democratic movement at the present delicate stage of our struggle against imperialism, reaction and Zionism. In the meantime, GUSIR has called for establishing the widest possible alliance between all progressive student organisations, without any restrictions in this alliance on any of its parties but based on the principles of equality and full adherence to clear and specific demands. Unfortunately, these sincere proposals on our part met, in practical reality, with opposition from the "National Union of Iraqi Students", in particular.

In spite of the assurances of its representatives and their agreements during our joint meeting concerning the necessity for cooperation and the real existence of objective conditions for such cooperation, they have posed impossible conditions which have prevented any possibility of real cooperation; particularly their condition of giving the name

of their Union to the new General Union which would emerge from the elections, without offering any reason or acceptable explanations for this, and their intention of securing an absolute majority in the leading bodies of the new Union over all the other parties of the alliance, which would guarantee their control over the Union.

This position did not reflect any understanding or intention to realise the needed cooperation, or to accept it on the basis of mutual trust between the parties to the alliance.

Furthermore, the "National Union", supported by the State authorities, has exercised undemocratic methods of exerting all kinds of pressure on the students and their nominees to prevent them from expressing their will and to falsify this will. These methods have taken the forms of threats, assaults and beatings of students, the tearing up of election statements and other election propaganda, the organisation of provocative gangs, and the interference of the officials of some schools and colleges against the states of student organisations opposed to the "National Union". These forces have also relied on manoeuvring, by ugly means, to prevent the completion of the election states of the opposition. These are some of the methods applied in the election, to which can be added the undemocratic steps and regulations used by the responsible authorities, according to which the elections were held. These included:

- 1) The abrupt date of the elections which was a surprise to all the student forces - except the National Union, of course.
- 2) The short period permitted to prepare the acceptance of the state of candidates and to make the necessary election propaganda.
- 3) The restriction of the right of nomination to a complete slate only.

4) The full moral and material support of the State authorities for the states of the "National Union" (GUSIR S Secretariat has issued a detailed report about the elections, which was widely distributed in Iraq and to the progressive Arab World student organisations).

Due to their conditions our Union and the Association of Progressive Students declared in a common statement in the name of the Progressive Democratic front on the 20 elections of November 1969 their "rejection of the results of the elections at the colleges and institutes". What happened in the differ from the secondary school elections as has been proved by tens of examples which we have indicated in our

report and by the fact that the great majority university students did not participate in the elections which is why the states of candidates of the "National Union" was unopposed in more than half the colleges and institutes of Baghdad, Busrrah, Mosul and Sulaimanya. The total number of college students who participated in the elections was 12,497, only 4,969 of whom voted for the progressive democratic front out of a general total of 32,000 college students in Iraq. This means that the number of college students who voted for the "National Union" was less than one-quarter of the total number of university students, and that 95 per cent of the "results of the elections in secondary schools were won by the "National Union state of candidates" without opposition, i.e. without any election at all. As a result, we declare the rejection by GUSIR of these election results as not being general student elections but elections of the "National Union" branches, as has been clearly shown by the official media of propaganda. The announcement that the Seventh Congress of the "National Union of Iraqi Students" would be convened in December 1969 further emphasises the above-stated assertions that the elections and their results could not be considered even in the best of cases anything but those of the "National Union" and not general student elections to choose a student organisation which represents the Iraqi student movement.

Our Union once more sincerely appeals to all the student forces, including those of the National Union, to draw lessons from the results of these elections and to continue the struggle to allow the students to freely express their will and to choose their genuine representatives to the General Union. In the present situation, our Union calls for the fulfilment of militant student cooperation for the fulfilment of national and student demands in Iraq. This could be achieved in practice by the establishment of a coordinating committee comprising all progressive student organisations, which would become the leading body of a progressive student front responsible to the student masses and people prepared to undertake the fulfilment of a progressive programme.

This, naturally, demands that above all the existence of progressive student organisations should be respected and that the proper atmosphere for their functioning should be maintained and brotherly relations based on mutual respect and equality be fostered among them. The fulfilment of such a step, which is the demand of the widest student masses, will not only provide a healthy atmosphere in colleges and schools which would help the students to carry on with their studies, but would also constitute an important contribution toward the unity of the national struggle with the participation

of their political parties and forces in the present delicate stage of our nation's struggle against imperialism, reaction and Zionism and for the consolidation of our position against the manoeuvres and mounting activities of reaction against our people and their achievements. A responsible attitude towards the cause of our people would make the realisation of this noble ideal possible.

Long live the unity of the student movement!  
Long live the struggle of our people against their enemies!

December 3rd, 1969

The General Union of  
Students in the Iraqi  
Republic

General Report on the Elections of November 1969

The progressive student movement has waged a continuous struggle under all regimes to establish students' rights to form their democratic organisations which would truly reflect their student, social and national objectives. The students have offered dear sacrifices to achieve this, and the ranks of their progressive sections have been consolidated. But they were able to enjoy this right for the first time legally only after the Revolution of July 14th, 1958. They were able to achieve this once more in 1965 under the dictatorial regime of Arif when the law on general student elections was issued - Law No. 96 for the year 1965. When the student elections were held in 1967, the lists of GUSIR candidates won in the majority of colleges and institutes in Baghdad and the provinces, a fact which frightened the Arif regime which then hastened to annul the results of the elections and freeze the above-mentioned Law No. 96.

Since the fall of the Arif regime in 1968 and the control of power by the Baath Arab Socialist Party, the total student movement including GUSIR demanded the holding of democratic general student elections and permission for all student forces to work in freedom without the interference of the university and other official authorities, while being given equal material and propaganda facilities. GUSIR has put forth several times in its publications and contacts a joint programme of action with other student organisations including the "National Union", and has called for unity of the student movement in its struggle to achieve its demands, especially that of free democratic elections. Other student organisations have joined our union in this and published a joint statement on Sept. 1st 1969 which emphasised the necessity of holding elections after discussing the objectionable items in Law No. 108 for the year 1969, calling upon the student masses to struggle for the elimination of these from said law and for the participation of the representatives of all student organisations in the discussions and committees formed for the purpose of preparing for and supervising the elections. The statement called upon the authorities to take a neutral attitude with regard to all the competing states of candidates and to refrain from supporting any particular organisation.

GUSIR has demanded in a statement issued on November 8th, 1969 the necessity of guaranteeing freedom of nomination to run in the elections on complete states or on an individual basis, for all organisations and without any partisan-ship of the authorities for one side. It stressed the necessity to consider the preparatory committee of the "National Union" and its representatives as only one part of the competing organisations, without providing it with the material and moral support of the authorities as if it were the "legal"

student union.

On November 1st 1969, the progressive student front stressed in a statement the necessity to provide a democratic atmosphere and to give equal opportunities to all the students to exercise their syndicalist rights and to guarantee the freedom to elect and be elected. This was stressed once again in the statement of the progressive student front of the middle of November 1969.

In the face of the mounting demands of the progressive student movement, the government announced on November 5th 1969 the date of the holding of the student elections as November 17th for secondary schools and 24th for higher institutes and colleges. In spite of our basic observations about the strange methods that were applied in organising the elections, our Union decided to participate in the elections which were devoid of the most elementary conditions of democracy. Our nominees were subjected to various inconveniences and provocations. Students and candidates alike were beaten up and provocative meetings were organised in election centers, school officials in some schools interfered with some competing organisations and manoeuvred to prevent these organisations from handing in their slate of candidates altogether. They offered students of colleges and higher institutes holiday leave several days before the elections and finally limited the right of nomination to full slates only. All these actions lead us to one conclusion that of total rejection of the results of these elections and their legality.

Our union, conscious of its responsibility for the preservation of our militant student movements, has decided to publicise this matter and bring to your attention the reasons for its decision. It therefore wishes to inform you of some of the more flagrant violations which took place before and during the elections:

1) - The fact that the "National Union of Iraqi Students" has been considered as the sole legal student organisation since July 17th 1968

Since the fall of the Arif regime on July 17th, 1968, a certain student organisation - the National Union of Iraqi Students which is related to the Raath Party - started to function alone in an open and the "National Union". The authorities offered it their material, moral and propaganda means on the basis of its relations to the ruling party. Not only this, this organisation started to demand from the authorities that they consider its constitution as a substitute to the law on the student union in its effort to monopolise legal student

activities alone, while all other student organisations, including our Union, would have to continue to function in secrecy under difficult conditions. The ruling authorities responded to this harmful and mistaken demand by issuing a ministerial decree at the beginning of September 1968, ordering the formation of a preparatory committee, related in reality to this organisation, and thus it started to operate as if it were the sole leadership of the only student organisation in the country. In this way, the authorities have monopolised the right of work and organisation among the students. After more than one year of this unusual situation which could not go on indefinitely, especially with the beginning of the new academic year, this authority issued Law No 108 for the year 1969, which gave this organisation the right to monopolise the work among the students. This fact was not only reflected in the content of this law, and the manner of its enactment, but also in its name - the Law on the National Union of Iraqi Students. This law contained many shortcomings and serious blows which were considered as set-backs in comparison to the original law issued during the Arif regime.

## 2) The Surprise of the Election

The state authorities on November 5th 1969 abruptly fixed the date of holding the student elections as November 17th for the secondary schools and the 24th for the higher institutes and colleges. The surprise element in this and the very short notice exposed the intentions of the State to take by surprise the students who did not support the "National Union" in order to prevent them from adequately preparing and from exercising their right of participation in the elections. This abrupt declaration of the elections left the competing student organisations with only 12 days to prepare for the elections, compile the slates of their candidates and make election propaganda. But the state once more delayed the proclamation of the election regulations until a late hour on Wednesday, November 13th. This meant that the actual time for preparation left for the competing organisations was only one day (a study day), since the following day was a holiday and the next was the last day for handing in the slate of candidates. This strange action prevented the students from exercising their legal rights, from making sufficient preparations and from providing the necessary conditions for participation in the elections.

### 3/ Restriction of Nomination to Full States of Candidates

The election regulations issued by the Minister of Education restricted the right of nomination to run in the elections to full lists of candidates only, who were supposed to be representative of each stage of education. This prevented a great number of students from nominating their true representatives because individual candidates were not permitted. Because it was difficult to compile a full list of candidates for each stage of education under such conditions of illegal and undemocratic methods, most students were prevented from participating in the elections. These methods were particularly aimed at students in their final years of studies where the threat of unemployment played an important role in preventing the students from presenting their candidature on the state opposing the State. This was particularly evident in colleges and institutes where the United Student Front (Government supported) state won unopposed. Because of this restriction many colleges were prevented from the right to participate in the elections because our states could not represent one particular stage of studies or another in these colleges. For example, our list of candidates at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences whose students number about one thousand was refused because it did not have a representative of a newly-opened stage of study, opened shortly before the elections, whose number does not exceed 36 students and which is situated several miles from the college main building. The same thing happened at the Engineering College where the democratic front was denied the right of participation because it could not provide our representatives from the final year which has only 20 students due to the short notice of election time. In this manner the Government authorities were able to proclaim the victory of its states unopposed in a number of colleges and institutes. All the colleges at Mosul University were denied participation in the election for this very same reason and also because of the special situation prevailing in this area for a long time where the reactionaries are very active.

### 4/ The General Atmosphere and the Devious Methods Used

a) The secondary schools' elections were accompanied by the use of various pressures and illegalities which helped to create a terrorising atmosphere indicative of the undemocratic means which were to be utilised in the college elections. Candidates of the democratic front were arrested in a number of cities all over Iraq such as Diwanya, Nasirya, Sulaimanya and others. Others were arrested in the local centers of the "National Union" in Baghdad and subjected to pressure and threats. As an example, the representative of the agricultural institute

was arrested and statements and posters of competing states were destroyed, election propaganda was prevented, threats of murder and threats of the "End" - Palace of the End, the infamous torture center - were used, pressure to withdraw from the democratic state was exercised, and pressure and threats on the fathers and students' guardians were used to prevent their sons from presenting their candidatures.

The terrorising atmosphere was reflected in the ratio of participation in the college elections. According to the statistics quoted in the local newspapers, the total number of participants in the universities elections was 12,982 whereas the total number of university students in Iraq is 31,510. The total number of votes won by the "winning" state was only 7,628 or about 24 per cent of the students.

This clearly means that 76 per cent of the students were not able to choose their true representatives.

b) In addition to the various means of support given by the State to the organisation of the "National Union" since the 17th of July 1968, the State gave special support to this organisation prior to and during the election itself. This support has taken various forms directed towards the consolidation of this union, among which was the visits of the President of the Republic to the organisation's headquarters and his meeting with its leadership at a certain college which overwhelmed its supporters the democratic front, and the State-supported "National Union" was offered all the means to guarantee its success - including national broadcasts and the use of local newspapers and journals, etc.

c) The State authorities relied on the method of issuing false statements in the name of a non-existent organisation, the purpose of which was to confuse the situation and disintegrate the voting unity of the competing organisations.

d) In a number of cases, and in numerous colleges and institutes, the United Student Front (State-supported) did not have complete control of candidates representing all stages of education but it included the names of some students on these states without their prior knowledge or permission. In many cases, some of our candidates were included on their states and when they objected to this method they were simply ignored.

e) The declaration of an unopposed "victory" means that no elections were held at all, and this method does not conform with democratic principles because even in cases of no opposition there exists the need to count the number of votes.



In order to prove what we have already said we will give here some of the most outstanding examples of illegality amassed before preparing this report:

Baghdad - In Secondary School Elections

Al-Nidhal Secondary School: one nominee was threatened with murder if he refused to withdraw from the democratic slate. The supervising authority refused to accept the slate of democratic candidates.

The Industrial secondary school at Washash: the candidate of the democratic slate was beaten and was forced to take a quantity of aspirin tablets until he lost consciousness and was then closed in the sanitary closet until the elections finished. Then it was declared that the candidate of the democratic slate had withdrawn from the elections.

Qutaiba Secondary School: The director of the school /Mr. Nima Jaker Al-Doury/ demanded to meet the candidates of the victorious democratic slate in his school where he declared the results of the election. During this meeting he presented the winning candidates with "fraternal" advice and asked them to withdraw and hand over the union's premises to the old committee, otherwise they would disappear from existence. He explained this by saying: "your taking responsibility for the union center means your subjugation to the general union's center ... and your refraining from adopting any slogan unpopular with the State authority ... otherwise the internal and military security officers and the personnel of the ruling Baath organization would take the responsibility of liquidating you from existence... Furthermore, 200 Baathist students will be transferred to this school in order to sabotage your activities from the "grass roots". He concluded the "fatherly" meeting by asking them to withdraw and to hand over the union center to the old committee stating: "No democracy with the Baath ... put democracy in your right-hand pockets". The decision of the candidates was to refuse this strange demand and to uphold the confidence given them by the students.

Al-Kadhimiya Girls School: The teacher responsible for supervising the elections /Ramziya Al-Khairu/ refused to receive the list of democratic candidates saying: "If I allow it, you will get 95 per cent of the votes, and I threatened the representative of the list with internal and military security officers. When the students refused her demands, she declared that she would contact the "National Union" and then came out with the result:

"Karim Al-Mulla - representative of the United Student Front - has said: Do not accept this list, even if it had

the approval of Albakir /the President of the Republic/.

Quraish Girls School: The director of the school refused to receive the list for the same reasons stated above, declaring that she "does not allow in her school" the existence of two lists!

Jadidat Al-Shat Village secondary school: The "male sanitary nurse" who is the Baathist official of the area asked his attendant to meet the representative of the democratic candidates demanding his withdrawal, otherwise he would "destroy" the whole list because it was "Communist", and emphasizing that the slate would not be allowed to exercise its activities, even if it won the election. A special inquiry was held with the democratic candidate to find out who had encouraged him to nominate himself.

Al-Karkh Secretariat Institute: The authority of the institute refused to accept the list of democratic candidates because one of its representatives did not present himself in person to the authority /there is no such condition in the regulation/.

Kadhimiya /a Baghdad district/  
a/ Some persons met the fathers of some students /Ala Hamid from Kadhimiya Secondary School, Ubaid Abdula Al-Timiny, Salam Kassim and Said Jassim from Al-Shab Secondary School in order to press them to force their sons to withdraw from the list.

b/ One of the nominees was arrested in an "unidentified house" belonging to the "National Union" and was released four hours before the deadline specified for presenting this the slates of candidates. This resulted in preventing in the slate to which he belonged from participating in the elections.

c/ Al-Kadhimiya Secondary School: A number of internal and military security officers and outlaws were present in the school during the elections, headed by well-known hooligans Hadi Kizzan and Tahir Al-Majari and terrorise Qassim Odda in order to make provocations and the election the students ... Some demonstrators entered the election room shouting "United...United!"

Secondary School of Commerce: - Students Salih, Hussain and Satif were assaulted by the representatives of the United Front among whom were Salah and Hikmat. They were beaten up and were subjected to cheap insults in which the director of the school took part. The students had been searched and threatened before this.

The Central Secondary School: - Statements and slogans of the democratic front were torn up and its representatives were threatened. The director of the school refused to give

a receipt after the list had been handed in shouting in their faces: "Tear up this list and get out of here..." The day proceeding the elections, the school was filled with strangers and student Imad Muhammad Al-Kaisy was assaulted. Taking part in the assault were Salam-sixth class, Mahdi, Jahya and Said - forth class, and Riyadh from the fifth class.

**Al-Karkh Industrial School:** One student was forced to take five aspirins tablets and was taken to hospital and given five days sick leave, then threatened if he returned to school during his leave ... The students presented more than one substitute candidate in place of the "sick" one, but the school authorities refused to accept the list and declared the united slate victorious and unopposed.

**Al Tafainth Night School:** Many days before election day, supporters of the united front had been demonstrating to provoke the students. One candidate of the democratic slate was actually assaulted on leaving school. The list was torn up when it was handed in to the school authorities, upon which the students went to the general headquarters of the "National Union" to protest. A member of the leadership came to investigate the incident and a long discussion took place lasting until the closure of the school. In this way, the united front won unopposed.

**Al Tafainth Day School:** On election day, more than 200 students from other schools gathered in the school courtyard shouting hysterically in the name of the Baath and threateningly crying for blood. It must be stated that the total number of students at this school is no more than 150 because it has only one class. This atmosphere forced the majority of students to abstain from taking part in the elections and thus the united slate won unopposed.

**Al-Sharqiya Secondary School:** Student Mohammed Abbas Al-Mifayl was beaten up by the supporters of the united front on the 15th of November 1969. This same "front" sent a threatening note to student/Raid Jahid Fahmi, a supporter of the democratic front, through Nazzar, a member of the united front. Most of the supporters of the democratic front were subjected to threats from the internal security officers and members of the government-internal National Union. On the eve of November 17th, a candidate of the democratic front, threatening him with fire-arms in front of his parents and demanding that he does not go to school on the following day, otherwise his life would be in danger. Indeed he withdrew the next day and the school authorities refused to accept a substitute for him. And then the united list was unopposed.

**Industrial School of Tal-Muhammed:** Students of this school were assaulted by the supporters of the National Union and a number of internal and military security officers and policemen stood guard in front of the school on election day. Students were openly threatened with arms in order to frighten them away.

**Al-Rissafa Commercial Night School:** Ali Jamil, member of the united front, tore up the statements and slogans of the democratic front and the school was invaded by outsiders who threatened and beat up the students/Nazzar, Mohammed and Naim Jassain Al Zubaidi/ and demanded that the candidates of the democratic front /Khalid Abid Abdassa and Amir Faraiz/ withdraw from the list. Student Rassoul Israilfan withdrew his nomination after he has been threatened. Student Ibrahim Abbas was beaten outside the school by security officer Saad and an attempt to assault girl student Evelyn was even made by school clerk Jaffar and girl student Najat.

**Al Karkh Health Institute:** First year students were threatened with general dismissal if the democratic front slate won. Special threats were concentrated on students Nouri Jaffar, Hikmat Numtaz, Riad Al-Massoud and Haider Yesser. As a result of these threats one of the candidates withdrew and a substitute was from list won unopposed.

**Bayout Al-Umma Secondary School:** Some outsiders tried to enter the election hall and vote for the united front slate and a provocative gathering was organised outside the school. As a result out of 475 students, only 175 participated in the elections.

**6. Pressure and threats used against school authorities**

Threats and other means of pressure were not only used against the students, but were extended to school directors as well. At Karbala secondary school, the director of the school tried to maintain a natural atmosphere before and during the elections which led to the victory of the democratic front. But security officers forced the center to students to withdraw and hand back the afterwards surrendered the former committee. The director had been transferred to a teaching post in a provincial school. In a number of schools, school directors were afraid to take a neutralist position in the elections.

7. Some events that took place in colleges and institutes in Baghdad and outside

- A. In most of the colleges, statements and slogans of the democratic front were torn up and the front was prevented from making any election propaganda except in the strictest meaning of the term and it was prevented from opening any center.
- B. The united front/Government-supported/ continued to exercise its propaganda until the last minute of the elections, whereas the law forbids any election propaganda one day before the election.

Agricultural and Veterinary College

Non-Iraqi Arab students were threatened by the National Union, that unless they voted for them they would be sent dispatched to Palestine and their names would be sent to the authorities there as being "Communists". One girl student supporter of the democratic front was threatened by a supporter of the National Union. But the leadership of the National Union expressed its regrets to the girl, explaining that the behaviour of the student was individual.

The National Union supporters tore up the statements and slogans of the democratic front in this college, in order to create a terror-ridden atmosphere.

College of Letters

One student was beaten up but the leadership of the National Union expressed its regret to him later on.

One student was arrested because he was collecting signatures for the Palestinian guerrillas.

One leader of the National Union commented upon the tearing up of the democratic front propaganda materials by saying: "There is no need to work. The elections include the supporters of the united front only."

Administration and Commerce College

More than 20 armed internal and military security officers entered the college in a demonstration with their guns drawn and shouting "unity... unity...", in order to frighten the students.

Agricultural Institute

The candidate of the democratic front was twice arrested in the National Union center in order to force him to withdraw; he was threatened with death if he did not withdraw. But he did not yield and our slate won.

Academy of Arts

The supporters of the united front wounded one of their own supporters and then pretended that he was wounded by supporters of the democratic front. All students were threatened afterwards that unless the slate of the democratic front withdrew, 10 of its supporters would pay for the wounded students with blood.

Central Secondary School for Girls

The director of the school gathered the students on election day and started to make propaganda for the National Union and demanded that the students consider it victorious. When the students expressed their opposition to this, the director of the school started to insult the students then asked them to leave the school on the grounds that it was a holiday. Then the united front list won unopposed.

Higher Institute of Domestic Arts

The united front had no slate at this institute, but only one candidate. But one day after the end of elections, they compiled a slate which was declared unopposed winner by the director of the institute.

Al-Jumhuriya Secondary School for Girls

The daily newspapers published the victory of the democratic front slate. But next day the newspaper published that the united front list has won unopposed.

The Provinces

Samarray Dujaill Secondary School: The democratic front slate was rejected at the school and the director of the School, Sami, said: "The government-backed slate will win even if there were 20 opposition slates". This declaration was met with protests from the students and military further enraged by the presence of internal and military security officers of the district who were making sure that the unity front slate was unopposed. The students and walked the official declaration of the election results and out. In reprisal, the supporters of the National Union tore up the propaganda material of democratic front and two Baathist officials beat up the representative of the democratic front in the middle of the town he was threatened taken to the police station where he was further and was released on a bail of 1,000 Iraqi Dinars.

Al-Mahmudya Secondary School.

A School-teacher at this school together with a group of supporters of the National Union threatened one leg supporter of the democratic front who has only one leg by telling him: "If you do not withdraw from the "Communist slate", your other leg will be cut off too!"

The candidates of the democratic front were asked to withdraw in front of the director of the school /Khalid Shaheir/. On election day, supporters of the united front were armed in order to provoke incidents, and in fact they assaulted one girl student. As soon as their slate was declared victorious unopposed, they took to the town and drove around in vehicles provided with loudspeakers, insulting and threatening the democratic slate supporters:

Khanagin Secondary School:

The united front list won unopposed after the authorities refused to receive the democratic list.

Sulaimanya - Industrial Secondary School:

A group of government list supporters /Ibrahim Ahmad and savagely beat them up, demanding their withdrawal. The candidates attacked were taken to the hospital with broken and fractured bones. The students boycotted the elections in protest against this savage attack. In spite of the fact that no voting took place, the unity front slate was declared unopposed winner in the presence of the district governor.

Sulaimanya Secondary School Boys

The district governor refused to accept the democratic list and declared the unity front unopposed winner.

Sulaimanya Girls Secondary School.

On November 16th supporters of the united front went to the school authorities asking them to refuse to accept the democratic front list, but the school authority said that it was legally presented within the time stipulated in the law. However, the district governor himself refused to accept the list. As a result of this action, the girl students left the school in a demonstration which was joined by the population and remained for two hours demanding free elections.

Teacher's college girls.

The district governor refused to receive the list of the democratic front but was forced to do so when the students insisted upon this. Then he ordered three election boxes to be set up, one for the democratic front, one for the united front and one for neutralist slate. The result was 17 for the united, 34 for the democratic and 27 for the neutralist slate. But then the governor declared the united list the winner. The students presented a protest to the Governor signed by 44 students but he refused to receive them. But the students went out demonstrating in the town and were joined by the students of the girls secondary school and the people of the town. The governor was forced to receive the protest note.

Al Najaf:

Industrial Secondary School:

Representatives of the Baath Party called upon representatives of the democratic front each separately, threatening them with torture if they did not withdraw their candidatures. This dirty job was carried out by Khalid Al-Aran, Vice-President of the National Union in Najaf; student Raad and their representative at this school.

Al-Kindy Secondary School:

The father of one of the democratic front representatives was transported in a Baathist car to an unknown destination where he was threatened with the closure of his shop if he did not force his son to withdraw his candidature. He accepted in order to save his neck.

Al-Najaf Secondary School:

All kinds of pressure were used to force the representatives of the democratic front to withdraw their candidatures. A brother of one of the candidates was threatened with expulsion if his brother did not withdraw. The guardian of another candidate was threatened with imprisonment if he did not force his son to withdraw. When the list of the unity front was declared victorious unopposed, and the result was met with protest, the security officer of the district sent for the representative of the democratic front asking him to keep quiet.

Al-Kufa

Representatives of the democratic front were subjected to all kinds of pressure. Security officer Fadhil interfered to prevent supporters of the democratic commissary of the Ministry of the Interior asked the director of the united front to do all he could to guarantee the victory of the united front.

Hilla

Hilla Secondary School.

The director of the school refused to accept the list of the democratic front on the grounds that it was presented after the specified time, although it had been presented a quarter of an hour before.

Al Quassim Secondary School:

The unity list was declared victorious unopposed on the grounds that the democratic list was not complete. This was before the end of the official deadline time.

Al Faha Secondary School:

The fifth class of this school was transferred shortly before the election date. This was done because the list of the democratic front was complete. As a result, the united slate was declared victorious unopposed. One of the slogans of the united slate was: "The democratic front slate is a list of agents of imperialism, Zionism and heretical Communism..."

The Director of Education of Hilla district personally tore up one of the slogans of the democratic front which read: "The democratic list is the lawful heir of the first immortal Sibha Congress". The Sibha Congress was the first congress of the Iraqi student movement - GUSIR.

The government-backed slate distributed presents /money/ to the resident students at the agricultural and teachers schools, in order to bribe them to vote for their Unity slate.

Al Diwanya

The democratic front lists of candidates were forcibly seized under the direction of Hussian Abdullah and Mohammed Al Atiya at the following schools:

- Teachers' Institute
- Al-Jamhuriya Secondary School
- Al-Diwanya Secondary School
- and the girls secondary school

At all these schools, the united front lists were declared victorious unopposed.

Agricultural Secondary School:

Beginning on November 15th 1969, the Baathists sent a detachment of internal and military security officers to the students hostels. They maintained an all-night vigil there and awoke the students from their sleep

threatening them with fire-arms, asking them to vote for the united front slate

Teachers' Union secondary School:

The school was encircled by police and security officers and the students were assaulted during the counting of votes. The votes of the democratic front were transferred to the unity list.

Al-Hamza

Al Hamza Secondary School:

The district security officer came to the school and called the representatives of the democratic front and their fathers and threatened them with "serious consequences" if they did not withdraw from the slate. Two students withdrew but were soon replaced by others. But on the 17th of November /election day/, one of the representatives of the united front withdrew, which meant the failure of their slates. The director of the school made the following announcement: "Due to the weakness of the representatives of the slate and the fact that its aims are contrary to the ideals of the revolution of July 17th, 1968, we have decided to reject the result of its victory. We further, refuse to hold the elections..."

Al-Nasirya

Representatives of the democratic front were arrested and released only after the elections.

Dyala

The schools' authorities refused to receive the lists of the democratic front.

...further incidents will be published as soon as we receive them.

Secretariat of the General Union  
of Students in the Iraqi Republic

Baghdad, November 26th, 1969