

Beirut, April 14th, 2022

Maharat Foundation, Factual Certificate number 226/2006

New Jdeideh- Azure Center- Block B- 5th Floor

To Maharat Foundation

Subject: Request to publish all violations and correspondence, including the response of the Maharat Foundation, among the statements of the Supervisory Commission for Elections, on the official website of the Lebanese elections.

Maharat Foundation was surprised today by the issue of the second letter that your honorable commission sent to our foundation, which bears No. 1002, and we received it on April 26th. It was a reply to our letter, which included a response to your first letter on what you considered “illegal participation in accompanying and supervising the elections.”

Since Maharat considers that your decision to publish part of the correspondence between Maharat and the commission without publishing our response is selective to suggest that the work of our institution is illegal, at a time when we had refuted in our response as our work does not fall under the supervision of the concept mentioned in the legal texts, since our office work does not require being on the Land and obtaining licenses to enter public administrations or polling stations. The work of Maharat at the time of elections is at the core of its mission to monitor public policies and reform, propose alternatives, and push for policy development, especially the development of the media sector and its role in promoting diversity and accountability. Maharat’s work on media monitoring is also a continuous work, as Maharat publishes periodic studies on the performance of the media throughout the months of the year, depending on the coverage of various events and subjects in order to provide recommendations for the development of the media sector in Lebanon. Its work also falls within the framework of freedom of expression and publication.

Also, the official Lebanese elections website does not include any other correspondence or alerts against any violating party. Rather, the only accusation on your website comes to address our foundation.

Therefore, Maharat asks your honorable commission the publication of all correspondence, including the response of our institution, as well as all warnings and decisions of violations to any party, based on the law of the right to access information and the legal obligation to publish. If you do not wish to publish, kindly remove the letter from your site, otherwise this will constitute a selective act with the aim of defaming our institution.

Yours Sincerely,

Beirut, April 14th, 2022

Executive Director of Maharat Foundation