

CEC: Pylypyshyn ahead of Levchenko in constituency No. 223

Nov. 8, 2012, 12:21 p.m. | Interfax-Ukraine

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/cec-pylypyshyn-ahead-of-levchenko-in-constituency-no-223-315765.html>



On 5 November, the CEC adopted a resolution on recognizing the impossibility of announcing election results in five constituencies – Nos. 94, 132, 194, 197 and 223. © Kostyantyn Chernichkin

With 94.05% of the ballots counted in constituency No. 223 (Shevchenkivsky district, Kyiv), self-nominee Viktor Pylypyshyn, who is the former head of Shevchenkivsky district council and district administration in Kyiv, is leading by 265 votes the candidate of the Svoboda All-Ukrainian Union, Yuriy Levchenko. According to the Central Election Commission, Pylypyshyn took 27.49% of the vote (25,808 votes), while Levchenko took 27.21% (25,543).

The CEC obliged district election commission No. 223 to count all the ballots and sign the relevant protocol by 1500 on November 9.

At the same time, the Central Election Commission adopted a resolution on November 5 recognizing the impossibility of announcing parliament election results in five single-seat constituencies – Nos. 94, 132, 194, 197 and 223.

CEC receives vote-count protocols from Kaniv constituency No. 197

Nov. 8, 2012, 10:13 a.m. | Interfax-Ukraine

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/cec-receives-vote-count-protocols-from-kaniv-constituency-no-197-315758.html>



In problematic district No.197, there is still a mismatch between the protocols and the public vote count. © AFP

The Central Election Commission (CEC) has received the vote-count protocols from district election commission No. 197 (Kaniv, Cherkasy region).

According to the protocol, self-nominee Bohdan Hubsy won in this single-member constituency with 29,084 votes (35.65%), whereas his principal rival – a representative of the Batkivschyna United Opposition, Leonid Datsenko, took 25,961 votes (31.82%).

However, the results of a public vote count in this constituency show that Datsenko is more than 4,000 votes ahead of Hubsy.

Communists propose to invalidate elections in single-seat constituencies

Nov. 8, 2012, 1:58 p.m. | Interfax-Ukraine

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/communists-propose-to-invalidate-elections-in-single-seat-constituencies-315766.html>



Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko wants to invalidate the result in all 225 single-member constituencies. © www.zhzh.info

Ukrainian Communist Party Leader Petro Symonenko has said the results of the parliamentary elections in all 225 single-member constituencies should be declared invalid.

"If we discard all this window dressing, the elections should be declared invalid in all single-seat constituencies," he said at a press conference at Interfax-Ukraine on Thursday.

Ukraine: Vote-rigging reports leave electorate cold

Citizens' apathy mars democratic prospects for post-election Ukraine

Posted: November 7, 2012



AFP Photo

A placard depicts Hitler, Stalin, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko and Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich and reads "Dictator" during a rally of the opposition Nov. 5.

By Harriet Salem

<http://www.praguepost.com/news/14744-ukraine-vote-rigging-reports-leave-electorate-cold.html?>

For the Post
KYIV, Ukraine

With nearly 100 percent of the vote now counted from Ukraine's controversial Oct 28 election, the Party of the Regions and its Communist allies look set to secure another term in power. While opposition forces are contesting the result, public protests are noticeably muted.

Voting day saw widespread allegations of fraud, but this is not unusual in Ukraine, a country renowned for endemic corruption. Vote-rigging sparked the 2004 Orange Revolution, and every subsequent election has been marred by claims and counter-claims of falsification. However, in the recent elections, social media and the innovative use of technology in election monitoring meant falsifications were more visible and clearly substantiated than ever before.

Polling stations in the Odessa region were temporarily closed after voters posted videos on YouTube of pens containing invisible ink. CCTV cameras providing live online streams of electoral stations captured incidences of ballot-box stuffing.

The depths of widespread disillusionment were exposed on Russian social networking site VKontakte.ru, where large numbers of votes were openly sold for as little as \$30. When civic organization Maidan Alliance had its website hacked, it utilized Twitter to continue to provide constant up-to-date source of information.

In one highly contested district in Kyiv, the opposition claimed election officials inflated the vote tally for Viktor Pylypyshyn, a government-aligned candidate. Pylypyshyn stands to win both a seat in the Verkhovna Rada and a convenient immunity from prosecution. He currently faces charges of abuse of office costing the taxpayer in excess of \$2 million.

As angry crowds gathered outside the electoral commission for the district, fights broke out and riot police used tear gas to quell trouble. The deputy head of the commission, Anastasia Prymak, blamed initial incorrect figures on a "computer malfunction" and broke down in sobs as she left a vote-counting session.

Against this gloomy backdrop, home-video footage of a man dressed in a giant panda suit casting his vote quickly went viral, providing some much-needed light relief.

Opposition parties Udar and Batkivshchyna have been quick to capitalize on these highly publicized problems of vote fraud. Vitali Klitschko, a former heavyweight boxer and leader of anti-corruption party Udar, has called for a cancellation of the election results. Jumping on the bandwagon, Batkivshchyna

leader Arseniy Yatseniuk's call on the electorate to "defend their vote" was reminiscent of the Orange Revolution. However, the number of protesters who showed up to the Nov. 5 rally was not. In 2004, an estimated 1 million people took to the streets to demonstrate against vote rigging; in 2012, this number was reduced to approximately 1,000.

The reasons for this comparatively dismal show are complex. One issue may be that the opposition is focusing on the wrong problem. While voter fraud undoubtedly occurred and deserved condemnation, the final vote count roughly corresponds to the findings of four independent exit polls. This suggests falsification was not extensive enough to affect the final outcome.

A second and related issue is the international community and opposition's failure to highlight and respond to issues of corruption much earlier in proceedings. As noted by the independent electoral monitoring body OSCE, "a democratic election is not just about being able to choose which party to vote for, it is about ensuring parties are competing on a level playing field." In Ukraine, this was decidedly not the case; the election outcome was to an extent determined long before any votes were cast.

In November 2011, the Verkhovna Rada approved constitutional amendments to the electoral system. The "new" mixed system, a combination of proportional representation and first-past-the-post seats, is almost identical to the one abolished after the 2004 Orange Revolution. According to political analysts, it heavily favors the incumbent party.

During the election campaigns Yanukovich and his cronies heavily controlled media coverage. Charismatic opposition politicians Yulia Tymoshenko and Yuriy Lutsenko were incarcerated and unable to register as candidates, following trials condemned by the European Union as unfair and politically motivated. Indirect vote-buying practices were widespread with gifts bestowed on the electorate ranging from food parcels to free bicycles.

Such voter manipulation tactics, while hard to quantify, were likely more pervasive and far-reaching than voter fraud. As there was virtually no public resistance to these corrupt practices prior to the elections, it is unsurprising there is little now.

A key issue highlighted by the recent elections is the extent and depth of political apathy in Ukrainian society. The electorate, increasingly tired of a corrupt political elite, lacks the motivation to resist encroaching authoritarianism for the second time in a decade. That apathy is undoubtedly what Yanukovich is banking on.

Harriet Salem can be reached at news@praguepost.com

Russia to U.S.: We Like Your Rigged Election

By Leonid Bershidsky Nov 7, 2012 1:29 PM ET

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-07/russia-to-u-s-we-like-your-rigged-election.html>

"Poor Americans! It's so hard for them to choose between Romney and Obama. Lucky Russians! They only had to choose between Putin and Putin." On Nov. 7, this joke made the top 20 on anekdot.ru, a popular Russian humor website.

If Russians could have voted in the U.S. election, President Barack Obama would almost certainly have won by a wide margin. After all, Republican nominee [Mitt Romney](#) had [brandedRussia](#) America's "number one geopolitical foe," earning President [Vladimir Putin](#)'s sarcastic [thanks](#).

"Great news this morning! Hurrah!" tweeted MTV Russia host Artem Korolev. "Obama is the new U.S. president, and Romney, a man still living in the 1950s, is good and gone." The names Obama and Romney were among the top trends on Russian Twitter the day after the election, and most bloggers celebrated the Republican's loss. "It's probably for the better that it's Obama," [wrote](#) master_5h00 on Twitter. "He just doesn't give a damn about Russia, and Romney doesn't give a damn aggressively."

In the Kremlin, too, one can imagine a huge collective sigh of relief at Obama's victory. Prime Minister Dmitri Medvedev eschewed diplomatic etiquette and [derided](#) the losing candidate: "I am glad that the man who considers Russia the number one enemy will not be president. That's ridiculous, some kind of paranoia. Obama is a known, predictable partner."

Actually, Obama's win probably won't change much in U.S. - Russian relations. "We don't have a modern agenda with America," political commentator Fyodor Lukyanov [told](#) the [BBC](#). "With Obama, Romney, Clinton, Bush, whomever -- we still discuss the same set of questions that arose during the [Cold War](#)," such as nuclear disarmament and the fates of various rogue nations.

If Putin cannot get any real strategic benefit from Obama's win, he will at least try to score a propaganda point or two. His allies undertook rather comical – or possibly tongue-in-cheek – attempts to show that Obama had more in common with Putin than a dislike of Romney.

On Election Day, a group connected to Russia's notorious Central Election Commission, widely believed to have rigged most of the nation's recent elections, released a report highly critical of the U.S. voting process, [according](#) to the pro-government newspaper Izvestia. The procedure for electing the U.S. president "does not meet international electoral standards," the report's authors wrote, noting unregistered voters and residency requirements as key problems.

“The probability of the incumbent winning is 90 percent,” Izvestia quoted one of the report's authors, Igor Borisov, as saying. Borisov pointed out that by working publicly to combat the consequences of [Hurricane Sandy](#), Obama effectively used the power of his office to tilt the scale his way. In a separate paper, Vladimir Churov, head of the election commission, stressed the role of big money in the American political process.

Putin's propaganda machine has done a lot since last year to convince Russians -- at least those who watch government-controlled TV -- that there is no such thing as a fair election anywhere in the world. Now that the vote is over, Russians are being told that Obama won re-election for the same reason as Putin: A nation's basic need for stability.

“US citizens are apt to trust the person they are used to, even if that person does not perform all too well,” [Vladimir Zhirinovsky](#), a Russian parliamentary veteran and currently a Putin ally, [wrote](#) in his LiveJournal blog. “Unemployment and the crisis are still there. Obama has failed to keep most of his promises.”

Zhirinovsky suggested that the [United States](#) could benefit from a constitutional change similar to the one Russia made last year, when it increased the president's term from four to six years: “Practically all presidents remain for a second term anyway.”

In Ukraine, the re-election theme played well with allies of President Viktor Yanukovich, whose ruling party just won its second parliamentary vote (amid reports of unfair play). Hence the joke in Kiev: “Yanukovich congratulated Obama by saying that America followed [Ukraine](#)'s lead in voting for stability.” Deputy Prime Minister Boris Kolesnikov, in all seriousness, recently likened Obama to Yanukovich, saying they both represented powerful local clans. “This is a law of life,” Time magazine [quoted](#) him as saying. “Obama is from [Chicago](#), so his whole team is from Chicago.” Yanukovich is the leader of the so-called Donetsk clan, with roots in Ukraine's second city. Kolesnikov, a multimillionaire, also believes that in the U.S., the political role of “oligarchs” is as important as in Ukraine.

The clumsiness of attempts to liken America's electoral system to Russia's and Ukraine's was not lost on local commentators. “Such candidates as [Barack Obama](#) and Mitt Romney would have lost outright if they ran in Ukraine,” [wrote](#) blogger Gennady Balashov. “What they talked about – the future – does not concern this country's citizens. The people of Ukraine voted for the stability of their poverty. ... There is no room for dreaming.” (Leonid Bershidsky, an editor and novelist, is Moscow and Kiev correspondent for World View. Opinions expressed are his own.)

To contact the writer of this column: bershidsky@gmail.com.

Polish president says cooperation will be “easier” with Obama

08.11.2012 09:43

<http://www.thenews.pl/1/10/Artykul/117759,Polish-president-says-cooperation-will-be-%E2%80%9Ceasier%E2%80%9D-with-Obama>

President of Poland Bronislaw Komorowski has said that he is confident in Polish-American cooperation during Barack Obama's second term in the White House.



President Barack Obama finally returns to the White House after his election victory: photo - EPA/Michael Reynolds

“I am happy about Obama's victory,” Komorowski said on Thursday in an interview with TOK FM, describing his American counterpart as a “warm and agreeable” man.

“It's easier to work with someone you already know – someone with whom you already have a few pre-arranged matters.”

The Polish president noted that among these matters were relations with Ukraine, a subject which he says he has discussed on several occasions with Obama.

“Poland has worked consistently to convince the West that Ukraine's doors must not close to the western world, on the contrary, they should be opened, as this path can lead to the solving of many of Ukraine's internal problems,” he said. Komorowski also stressed “the small but for us significant matter” of Obama's 2010 promise to scrap the necessity of Poles to have visas to enter the United States.

“I believe that President Obama's promise will be easier to meet after the election,” he said.

“Of course, this will require the mobilization of positive action on the part of the Republican majority in Congress, because this bill can only pass only through cooperation between the two American parties,” he noted.

Meanwhile, Komorowski said that there is “a very, very realistic” chance that Obama will return to Poland for the launch of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, an institution which has sponsors in both Poland and the US. [The project was presented in New York last month](#), and it is hoped that the museum will open in the autumn of 2013. (nh)

Official: Ukrainian law does not allow for Tymoshenko to be sent for treatment abroad

Nov. 8, 2012, 2:51 p.m. | Interfax-Ukraine

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/politics/official-ukrainian-law-does-not-allow-for-tymoshenko-to-be-sent-for-treatment-abroad-315773.html>



Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko cannot be sent to Germany for medical treatment under existing law, Andriy Lapynsky, a deputy chief of the State Penitentiary Service department for the Kharkiv region, told journalists on Thursday. © AFP

Kharkiv - Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko cannot be sent to Germany for medical treatment under existing law, Andriy Lapynsky, a deputy chief of the State Penitentiary Service department for the Kharkiv region, told journalists on Thursday.

"Not a single Ukrainian legislative act and not a single convention joined by Ukraine envisions that a citizen sentenced to imprisonment by a court can be temporarily transferred outside the country for any examination or treatment.

Taking into account that Tymoshenko is a citizen of Ukraine and that she has been convicted by a civilian court, her treatment and examination abroad is simply impossible in line with the existing law now," Lapynsky said in commenting on reports that doctors from the Berlin-based Charite clinic were prepared to treat her there or at home if she is placed under house arrest. Lapynsky noted that Tymoshenko cannot be placed under house arrest in line with the Ukrainian Criminal Code.

"The Criminal Code strictly determines 12 forms of criminal punishment. It does not envision house arrest. House arrest is provided for by the new version of the Criminal Procedure Code, which will take effect on November 19 this year, but

house arrest is applied to people under investigation. Yulia Volodymyrivna [Tymoshenko] has already been convicted, and her punishment is imprisonment," Lapynsky said.

Asked whether Tymoshenko could be transferred back to the penitentiary from the hospital where she is undergoing treatment now, Lapynsky said this issue is not under consideration now.

Doctors trying to help Tymoshenko during her hunger strike, say her condition is satisfactory

Nov. 8, 2012, 2:24 p.m. | Interfax-Ukraine

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/politics/doctors-trying-to-help-tymoshenko-during-her-hunger-strike-say-her-condition-is-satisfactory-315770.html>



A supporter of Ukrainian opposition holds a poster with jailed former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko during a rally in central Kyiv on October 26, 2012.
© AFP

The state of health of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko after ten days of fasting is satisfactory, according to the chief doctor of Central Clinical Hospital No. 5 in Kharkiv, Mykhailo Afanasyev.

"We see her every day, and ask her about her health. She is in pain, but on the whole, her condition is rather satisfactory. She attends to herself, and goes to the shower," he told reporters on Thursday near the hospital.

According to Afanasyev, Tymoshenko doesn't eat, and drinks only water on doctor's advice.

"During this time, her physical activity is certainly lower. This is due to fasting and the fact that she currently is not undergoing the procedures prescribed by German doctors," he said.

After a visit to Tymoshenko on Tuesday, November 6, members of the Health Ministry's medical commission and doctors of the Central Clinical Hospital No. 5 developed a number of measures to help her feel better in the absence of medical procedures, Afanasyev said. In particular, the former prime minister is taking a limited amount of drugs, he added.

According to Afanasyev, Central Clinical Hospital No. 5 has not received any recommendations from German doctors either by phone or by email since October 14.

He also noted that the Health Ministry had already asked the doctors of the Berlin-based Charite clinic three times to come to Ukraine, but hasn't received any response so far.

At the same time, Afanasyev expressed the hope German doctors would still come soon and help convince Tymoshenko to give up her hunger strike.

Tymoshenko's husband urges his wife to stop hunger strike

Nov. 8, 2012, 11:59 a.m. | Interfax-Ukraine

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/tymoshenkos-husband-urges-his-wife-to-stop-hunger-strike-315764.html>



"Your life no longer belongs to you, your life belongs to Ukraine", said Oleksandr Tymoshenko, urging his wife to end her hunger strike. © AP

Oleksandr Tymoshenko, the husband of the convicted former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, has appealed to international organizations asking them to help Ukraine in holding new fair parliamentary elections, and asked his wife to stop her hunger strike.

"I appeal to a wife and mother, the leader of the opposition, a brave fighter, a patriot of Ukraine - Yulia Tymoshenko - with a request that she stop her hunger strike. Your life no longer belongs to you, your life belongs to Ukraine, it belongs to eleven million Ukrainians who at the presidential elections saw you as the president of Ukraine and see you as the head of our country in the near future.

Through your actions you once again confirmed that even in the dungeons of the current government, one can fight for freedom and be stronger than the regime that fears you. But your fasting and its possible consequences may be playing into their hands," the press service of the Batkivschyna All-Ukrainian Union quoted Tymoshenko's husband, who received political asylum in the Czech Republic, on Thursday.

Oleksandr Tymoshenko also urged the international organizations of Ukrainians in the world, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the

Council of Europe, national parliaments of the EU countries to help Ukraine in its struggle for democracy and its European choice, in its struggle for the respect for human rights, for the new fair and democratic elections involving Tymoshenko and the imprisoned former interior minister, Yuriy Lutsenko.

"We're asking the international community not to support the dictator [Ukrainian President Viktor] Yanukovich, not to pretend that he is holding reforms, but to help us launch a public international anti-corruption inquiry into the outright shadowy financial activities of Yanukovich's family and his entourage, to stop all of them, and bring Ukraine into the European family and to European values," Tymoshenko's husband said.