

FINAL REPORT OF THE CARTER CENTER
LIMITED ASSESSMENT MISSION TO THE
**MARCH 2010 VILLAGERS COMMITTEE ELECTIONS IN
YUNNAN PROVINCE, CHINA**

THE
CARTER CENTER



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MAY 2010



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YUNNAN PROVINCE, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA



Source: The United Nations

Area	394000 sq Km	Location	South-western China
GDP	RMB 185.57 billion	Provincial Capital	Kunming
Per Capita GDP	RMB 4,452	Population	42.88 million

Ethnic Groups: Yi, Bai, Hani, Zhuang, Dai, Miao, Lisu, Hui, Lahu, Va, Naxi, Yao, Tibetan, Jingpos, Blang, Achang, Nu, Primi, Jino, De'ang, Mongolian and Derung.

Agriculture: Yunnan's major crops are rice, maize, wheat, tuber crops, peas and beans, rape seed, peanuts, tobacco, tea, cotton, sugar-cane, and fruits.



MAP OF YUNNAN PROVINCE





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One of the most important democratic experiments of the last 25 years has been the movement in more than 600,000 villages across China toward open, competitive elections, allowing 75 percent of the nation's 1.3 billion people to elect their local leaders.

For over a decade, at the invitation of the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs and the National People's Congress, The Carter Center

has worked to help standardize the vast array of electoral procedures taking place in this new democratic environment and foster better governance in local communities. Since 1996, The Carter Center has observed numerous village elections, provided training to local government officials on electoral procedures, and helped conduct a nation-wide survey on villager self-governance.



SEAN DING

Election officials guarding ballot box after voting in Zhongping Village. March 10, 2010.



Current state of village elections

Currently, villager committee elections face numerous challenges that affect the quality of village election procedures and the effectiveness of villager self-governance. First, many young, educated villagers have migrated to cities to take on various jobs, effectively causing a brain drain (as well as a drain of would-be voters) in the countryside. Second, the Chinese government's momentous decision to eliminate all villager taxes and fees has left villages with no way to raise revenue. Third, in places where village enterprises are vibrant, corruption also flourishes, with more cases of vote buying and voter intimidation. Lastly, there has been a significant policy shift by the Chinese central government to focus on delivery of public goods, but without allowing villager autonomy in managing these goods and services, thus causing rising resentment.

In spite of these problems, direct village committee elections are still held every three years, involving the participation of 900 million Chinese villagers. On May 30, 2009, the General Office of the State Council and the General Office of the Communist Party of the China Central Committee released a circular, titled "Strengthening and Improving Village Committee Elections," aiming to strengthen the organization and leadership of electoral activities, standardize election procedures, and provide stricter over-

sight of and punishment for bribery and other corrupt behavior. In December 2009, the National People's Congress (NPC) put forth these suggestions as draft amendments to the Organic Law. While they continue to face many challenges, villager committee elections remain the only institution through which candidates can openly compete and electors can experience true electoral choice.

Election observation in 2010

At the invitation of the Ministry of Civil Affairs, The Carter Center will observe villager committee elections in Yanjin County, Zhaotong Prefecture, Yunnan Province in March 2010. This is the first time the Center has observed village elections since 2005.

This observation mission is a rare opportunity for foreign experts to witness the latest development in China's exper-

iment with grassroots democracy. Although The Carter Center was only able to observe elections in two villages in its March 2010 mission, it continues to monitor villager committee elections as well as democratic reform measures adopted at other levels of government through the China Elections and Governance (www.chinaelections.org) web site. With the increasing awareness of political participation among the Chinese public, The Carter Center believes that villager committee elections will continue to play an important role in China's political transformation.

The Carter Center has observed numerous village elections, and provided training to local government officials on electoral procedures.



CARTER CENTER TARGETED MISSIONS IN CHINA

President Jimmy Carter made the brave and momentous decision to normalize relations with China in December 1978. Since leaving the White House, he has continued to offer his support to China through programs working with the disabled. More recently, at the invitation of the Chinese government, President Carter, through The Carter Center has provided assistance and advice to Chinese election officials in standardizing village election procedures and fostering better local governance. Today, while continuing to monitor local elections, the program is focused on rural and urban community building, and civic education about rights, laws, and political participation.

Advancing Political Reform

In addition to conducting voter education and monitoring direct local elections, the program cooperates with Chinese partners to introduce better election procedures and strengthen the capacity of elected deputies to oversee government performance. The program has formed close relationships with academic and nongovernmental organizations in China to advance political and social change.

Opening Internet Dialogue

Web sites sponsored by The Carter Center have become an important portal for political reform in China, engaging large audiences with articles in both Chinese and English. The

websites offer an online platform for China watchers and Chinese citizens to deliberate on the necessity of and means to promote political transformation in China. The websites, located at www.chinaelections.org (Chinese) and www.chinaelections.net (English), serve as an online information center for those who monitor, promote or debate political reform in China. It is also the largest free data center analyzing and reporting on electoral and governance innovation.



SEAN DING

Election officials pour ballots out of ballot box in Zhongping Village. March 10, 2010.



Community Development

The Center recognizes that meaningful democracy requires informed and involved citizens. To that end, the program works in rural villages, in cooperation with China's Ministry of Civil Affairs, to expand channels for civic participation and build volunteer corps. In urban areas, the program works with local nongovernmental organizations to address the rights and practical needs of new homeowners.

Access to Information

With implementation of new regulations that give citizens access to government informa-

tion, China recently marked a turning point toward greater transparency in government operations. To enhance citizen knowledge of their new rights, the Center has created www.chinatransparency.org, an Internet clearinghouse including all of the new regulations and comparative studies of successful access to information practices in other nations. The Center also will create exchanges among access to information officials and scholars in China.



STEVE MAXWELL

Liu Yong, 33, candidate for Hetao villager committee chair, delivers campaign speech. March 10, 2010



PAST VILLAGE ELECTION ASSESSMENT MISSIONS

- 1996** Dr. Robert Pastor, Carter Center Fellow, holds intensive meetings with senior officials in the Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA) on comparative election experiences, visits 3 villages in Shandong province and interviews numerous officials and villagers on village elections.
- The Carter Center is invited by the Department of Basic Level Governance at the MCA to observe and advise the spring 1997 village committee elections in Fujian province.
- 1997** A 7-person international delegation led by Dr. Pastor observes village committee elections in Fujian and Hebei provinces and holds discussions in Beijing.
- 1998** A 9-person team led by Dr. Pastor observes elections in 7 villages and interviews officials of 2 villages where elections had just been conducted in Jilin and Liaoning provinces.
- 1999** Dr. Yawei Liu and Mr. Thomas Crick work with the Times-Warner news tour to observe a villager committee election in Liujiachang Village, Xiantao City, Hubei Province.
- 2000** At the invitation of the MCA, The Carter Center sends a delegation to observe villager committee (VC) elections in Hebei Province. The delegation is led by Ambassador Gordon L. Streeb, Associate Executive Director of the Center, and made up of nine Center staff members, election experts and China scholars from various universities in the United States and Denmark.
- A Carter Center delegation observes village elections in Dehua and Xianyou counties, Fujian. The Standing Committee of the Fujian People's Congress approves amended provincial measures for villager committee elections on July 28, 2000. The amended law includes new regulations such as prohibiting proxy voting and limiting the use of roving ballot boxes.
- 2001** At the invitation of Minister Zeng Jianhui, Chairman of the NPC Foreign Affairs Committee, President Jimmy Carter leads a delegation to China. The mission of this visit is to promote the Center's China Village Election Project, observe a village election in Jiangsu Province.
- 2002** A Carter Center group observes a village election in Jining City, Shandong Province.
- 2004** At the invitation of the MCA, a delegation led by Dr. John Hardman, executive director of The Carter Center, observes village elections in Jilin Province and Beijing Municipality.
- 2005** A Carter Center delegation observes village elections in a Tibetan village in Qinghai Province and villager self-government training in Anshun City, Guizhou Province.
- 2006** A Carter Center delegation observes a village election in Tianjin and holds discussion with the MCA and Tianjin civil affairs officials on the improvement of village elections.
- 2010** At the invitation of the MCA and the Yunnan provincial Department of Civil Affairs, a Carter Center delegation observes village elections in Yanjin County, Zhaotong City, Yunnan Province.



VILLAGER COMMITTEE ELECTION IN HETAO VILLAGE

Observations from Joseph Fewsmith

Hetao Village, located in Zhonghe Town, Yanjin County, Zhaotong City, is populated by 2,933 people including many ethnic minorities. In the villager committee election that took place on March 10, 2010, there were three positions up for consideration: chair, vice chair, and a

committee member. Five of the candidates were Party members; one of the two people who were candidates for committee member was not a Party member, and he was not elected. All candidates were men.

The incumbent candidate for village chair, Liu Yong, is 33 years old, and a high school graduate. He owns a shop, which is mostly run by his wife. Liu Yong served as village secretary in 2002-2003, then served as village chair from 2004-2007, and then held both posts, 2007-present. In his campaign speech, he said that he would focus on the problems of drinking water, providing electricity to a remote village, and resolving conflict over the number of animals each villager is allowed to raise.

His opponent, Chen Zhaoyun, is 48 years old and is head of a village small group, but has never been a cadre at the administrative village level. He also emphasized water, electricity, and animal husbandry in his speech.

For vice chair, the two candidates were Jia Huaqian (the in-

STEVE MAXWELL



Ni Huixia, 56, casts ballot in Hetao. This is her 4th time voting.



cumbent) and Ni Shijun. For village committee, the two candidates were Wang Yan (the incumbent) and Zhang Shiwen. Of the six candidates running, Zhang Shiwen was the only one who is not a member of the Party.

Voters gathered in the village square with stools set into rows. The election began at noon, when the village election committee announced a head count of the voters present. The village had 1,794 qualified voters; of those, the initial voter count produced 1,509: 644 voters present at the election, 429 from the two distant polling places (which had run from 7:30 to 10:30 that morning), and 436 proxy votes, for a total vote count of 1,509. There was a recount of the ballots that discovered an additional two voters present, bringing the total to 1,511. After the voters were counted, the Organic Law of Villagers Committees was read aloud.

After the reading, the candidates came to the front to give speeches. Liu Yong and Chen Zhaoyun both gave short speeches, about five minutes each. Their speeches both stated that they would focus on the village problems of access to drinking water, getting electricity to one of the villages that still lacked it, and rights to animal husbandry.

After both had given their speeches, the ballot boxes were brought out and opened to show that they had not been tampered with. Then, the voting began. Voters approached two registration desks, where they were required to show an ID card. The voters were allowed to vote for themselves and for two others

through proxy. The voting booth was an abandoned building under renovation, with a sheet covering the entrance to provide secrecy.

After the balloting ended, the ballot boxes were dumped out in the square and sorted into piles. Two-person teams were sent to three large blackboards at the end of the square, one for each seat. One person in each team calls out the vote, while the other tallies the votes next to each name. The process took over an hour to finish. The number of votes was 1,477, with 1,471 of those ballots counting as valid entries. The final total was as follows:



Election officials tallying votes in Hetao Village. March 10, 2010.

*Chair: Liu Yong, 1,253; Chen Zhaoyun, 150
Vice Chair: Jia Huaqian, 1,232; Ni Shijun, 167
Committee Seat: Wang Yan, 1,215; Jiang Shiwen, 158*

As is apparent above, the election results were heavily skewed in favor of the incumbent candidates.



VILLAGER COMMITTEE ELECTION IN ZHONGPING VILLAGE

Observations from Kevin O'Brien

Zhongping Village, located in Shizi Township, Yanjin County, ran a relatively successful election. I saw no signs of fraud and considerable attention was paid to assuring villagers that their votes were counted fairly (e.g. by making a show of opening the remote ballot boxes, burning the unused ballots, and collecting the ballots on the stage in front of the assembled voters). Counting was also done openly on blackboards, and though voters generally paid little attention to it (not least because entertainment by a song-and-dance troupe was then underway), it appeared to be done with care and professionalism. The turnover of the village chop, at the conclusion of the election, was moving and likely cemented the idea that voting had real consequences.

If I had small suggestions for improvement, they would be: 1) Do everything possible to speed up the voting. From registration to announcement of the final result about 5 ½ hours passed; 2) Mix up the ballots before counting, so that it is

not clear whether one small group disproportionately favored a losing candidate (to head off possible retaliation); 3) Abolish the “*fan-duipiao*” (negative vote) in the interest of speeding vote-counting, reducing the number of spoiled ballots, and simplifying procedures. One mark for each race is sufficient, more marks do not provide new information, and as a Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA) official put it in response to my comments the night of the election, when it comes to election procedures: “the easier, the clearer.” 4) It was not relevant in this election because the outcomes were so lopsided, but the MCA



SEAN DING

Election official tallying votes in Zhongping Village. March 10, 2010.



Election officials counting ballots in Zhongping Village. March 10, 2010

should also consider plurality voting rather than requiring that a majority of registered villagers support a candidate for the election to be deemed valid. Especially in villages such as those in rural Yunnan, where settlements are highly dispersed and some people must walk 2 or even 3 hours to reach the voting location, it must be very disheartening to reach the end of a long day and to hear the words “not valid.”

As for results, the most interesting outcome was that the younger and more educated candidate won each of the five races we observed. It is also worth noting that none of the races were remotely close, with the victorious Village Committee chair and vice-chair winning 85-97% of the votes. The brief, pro forma campaign speech of the second candidate for chair couldn't help but create the impression that he was put up not as a serious alternative but simply to meet the legal requirement that the election have two candidates.



CHINA'S VILLAGE ELECTIONS AND POLITICAL CLIMATE IN 2010

Cheng Li

The great events, said Friedrich Nietzsche, the distinguished German philosopher, “are not our loudest but our stillest hours. Not around the inventors of new noises, but around the inventors of new values does the world revolve. It revolves inaudibly.” Nietzsche’s words may prove as profoundly relevant to and revealing of the socio-political evolution of 21st century China as they were of 19th century Europe. During a March 2010 trip to China, with which I was honored and privileged to participate as a member of the Carter Center’s delegation, I witnessed such a “quiet revolution” in values and attitudes in this rapidly changing country. In the course of my travels to the most remote rural areas of Yunnan Province to observe village elections, or back to Beijing to attend an academic conference with some of China’s most influential public intellectuals, I sensed some political developments that I had not fully recognized before and that may become consequential in the years to come. The academic communities that study China in the West have been dominated by a deep-rooted cynicism regarding political reforms in the PRC, including their experiments with local elections and intra-Party democracy. With a few notable exceptions, Western scholars generally consider these village elections to be

either “dead” or unable to affect the Chinese political system in any meaningful way. Similarly, they tend to regard the concept of intra-Party democracy to be little more than expedient Chinese political rhetoric, and are therefore hesitant to ascribe to it any measure of significance. In the minds of most Western scholars, multi-party competition through regular and genuine national elections is a bedrock feature of democracy and the Chinese leadership has shown no sign of moving in that direction. These critics are certainly right to point out that Chinese leaders are striving to bolster, rather than to undermine, one-party rule, but to assume village elections or intra-Party democracy are merely hollow rhetorical formulations risks overlooking dynamic and potentially far-reaching changes in the political landscape of the country.

On the Chinese side, the last two decades have witnessed the spread of negative views and fears concerning the feasibility of democracy among Chinese leaders, public intellectuals, as well as the general public. The two prevailing, and interrelated, negative views are as follows: first, a majority of the Chinese population, especially farmers in the vast rural areas who lack even primary education, is ill-equipped to responsibly avail themselves of citizens’ democratic rights. Second, political



competition and national elections, many feel, would necessarily undermine the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and this would inevitably lead to social unrest and even chaos throughout the country.

Based on my experiences during the trip, including both the time spent observing local village elections and the professional exchange with some of the leading Chinese scholars who specialize in China's political development, I found that neither the Western cynicism nor the Chinese fears discussed above are empirically well grounded. It might be a coincidence that China's Ministry of Civil Affairs chose two villages in Yunnan Province for our delegation. Yunnan is one of China's most remote provinces and its 2008 GDP per capita ranked among the bottom three. Educational attendance in Yunnan is also among the lowest in the country. The province is known for its multiethnic diversity, as ethnic minorities account for about 34 percent of Yunnan's total population. The two villages are located in a mountainous area in the northwest part of the province. They exist in the poorest area of the poorest province in the country.

In Hetao Village, which I visited, the average annual income per capita, including villagers who migrate to other places where they work as non-agricultural workers, is only 2,305 yuan (US\$341), below the absolute poverty line (one dollar per day or US\$365) as defined by the World Bank. Of the 1,748 villagers above the age of 18, none went to college. Only a

few received high school education. Among those over 50 years old, more than 40 percent are illiterate. In spite of all this, voter turnout was very high (87 percent). It should be noted that this year's election was the fourth in the village's history. As is the case elsewhere in the country, village elections are held once every three years. Nationwide, an overwhelming majority of villages have already held seven elections, and turnout averages over 90 percent. The organizers of the election should be complimented for facilitating two candidates' election speeches, questions from the audience (though only two questions, one for each), secret ballot booths, and other efforts to make the election procedurally fair to the candidates and completely open to the public. I do not have any problem with the fact that one candidate was much stronger than the other and that the election was therefore not contentious.

The real significance of these village elections lies in their educational function and role as a confidence-building measure for the entire population.

One should not expect most village elections in the country be contentious. I was, however, troubled by the fact that the village head and the village party secretary is the same person in almost half of China's villages. The real significance of these village elections, I believe, lies in their educational function and role as a confidence-building measure for the entire population of the country. If villagers in China's most remote, most poor, least educated, and most ethnically diverse areas can vote and participate in the democratic process on the regular basis, what is the argument that the country's entire population cannot do the same? Although



there is much to be improved in China's village elections, it is perhaps the most effective way for the vast majority of Chinese citizens to practice the basic democratic principle of "one person one vote" in what is the world's most populous country. No country will be judged as democratic simply based on its village or local elections, but this development may serve as an important learning process for more genuine and competitive national elections in the future.

It was interesting to hear from officials at the Ministry of Civil Affairs that the authorities do not plan to extend local elections from the village level to the township level, as top leaders such as Premier Wen Jiabao had promised. The reason, they stated bluntly, was that real political campaigns and competing political organizations would inevitably emerge if the direct election were elevated to the township or county levels. The current strategy of the CCP leadership is to experiment with so-called intra-Party democracy from the top down.

China still has a long way to go when it comes to its quest for

Chinese style democracy. But like elsewhere in the world, democratic values, incentives, and practice are often the first fundamental criteria for the country's eventual transition to democracy. China appears to be moving in that direction in a quiet yet significant way.



STEVE MAXWELL

Carter Center delegation observes village election in Hetao village. From left to right: Yawei Liu, Joseph Fewsmith, Cheng Li.



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

After the elections in Zhongping and Hetao villages, the Carter Center delegation met with representatives from the township and county governments, as well as officials from the Ministry of Civil Affairs to brief them on the findings of the observation mission. Since The Carter Center cannot offer any recommendations by itself based on this limited mission, the following are notes from delegation members, who at the debriefing meeting reviewed the results of the elections, discussed problems observed in both villages, and offered recommendations to the Ministry of Civil Affairs for the overall improvement of village committee elections.

Candidate Selection

The delegation members identified several problems during the meeting. The first issue was candidate selection. It was unclear how the original list of candidates was narrowed down to two for each position. For instance, in Hetao village, there had been 24 candidates for village chair on the poster, which was published outside the village committee headquarters building; however, only two candidates appeared before the village assembly on the election day.

Campaign Speeches

The second issue was candidate speeches and accessing information on candidates. Candidate speeches were very short, and gave little

insight into who the candidates were and what they represented; in addition, the question-and-answer sessions for each candidate were limited to only two questions each. The questions were a useful gauge for villagers of candidates' competence; as such, allowing more questions would give villagers a stronger base of information to work from.

Balloting

The third issue was balloting. The registration tables were not approached in an organized fashion in lines; instead, several voters at a time would flood the tables, and sometimes even fill their ballots there at the table. More registration tables are needed to improve efficiency, and the registration process has to be kept orderly. Once past the registration tables, voters faced further problems in the voting booth, as several people would enter the booth at one time. Finally, the ballots featured redundancies in that each candidate's name featured "for" and "against" boxes, complicating the process for voters, some of whom likely cannot read or have trouble reading.

Competitiveness

Next, there was the issue of competitiveness. There is no limit on terms of office, potentially enabling incumbents to run over and over again without leaving office. Besides term limits, the election results were obviously



heavily on the side of the incumbents, raising questions about fairness and possible interference in the election.

“One-Shoulder-Carrying-Two-Positions”

Another aspect of the elections the delegation members noticed was that in both Hetao and Shizi villages, the elected villager committee chairs are also incumbent village Party secretaries. This phenomenon is known among Chinese scholars and officials as “one-shoulder-carrying-two-positions” (*yijiantiao*). According to Mr. Zhan Chengfu, director of the Ministry of Civil Affairs’ Department of Community Building and Basic Level Governance, the central government has made it clear that it encourages “*yijiantiao*” but will not make any stringent requirements regarding the position-sharing between the village Party committee and the villager committee. Zhan Chengfu

also noted that the proportion of villages where the Party secretary also serves as villager committee chair varies across the country. For example, over 80% of the villages in Xinjiang adopted such a system, while the national average remains less than 50%.

When asked about the relationship between villager committee elections and village Party committee elections, and which one occurs first, Director Zhan explained that the majority of villages in China, with the exception of villages in 4-5 provinces would first elect the villager committee before holding the election for the Party committee.





APPENDIX A
CARTER CENTER DELEGATION AND STAFF

EXPERT OBSERVERS

Dr. Joseph Fewsmith, Professor, Boston University

Dr. Kathleen Hartford, Program Officer, Ford Foundation

Dr. Cheng Li, Senior Fellow and Director of Research, John L. Thornton China Center, the Brookings Institution

Dr. Jieli Li, Associate Professor, Ohio University

Dr. Kevin J. O'Brien, Professor, University of California, Berkeley

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Jason Kyriakides, Intern, China Program

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APPENDIX B 2010 ELECTION OBSERVATION CHECKLIST

Observation Checklist

Name: _____

Date: _____

Village Information

Village Name _____

Province _____

Township _____

County/City _____

Total population _____

Number of registered voters _____

Number of Households _____

Number of Small Village Groups _____

Number of Village Representative Assembly members: _____

Candidate Information

Village Chair

<u>Name</u>	<u>Current Position</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Education</u>	<u>Votes Rec'd</u>

Vice Chair

<u>Name</u>	<u>Current Position</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Education</u>	<u>Votes Rec'd</u>



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Village Committee

<u>Name</u>	<u>Current Position</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Education</u>	<u>Votes Rec'd</u>

Village Election Committee (VEC)

Number of members on the VEC: _____

Number of Party members on VEC: _____

Number of candidates on VEC: _____

Number of Village Committee Members on VEC: _____

Is the VEC Chair the Party Secretary? Yes No

Is the VEC Chair the Village Chair? Yes No

Is the VEC Chair chosen by the Township? Yes No

Nomination of candidates (please select one)

By Township:

By Village Party Secretary:

By Village Small Groups:

By Village Representative Assembly:

By Village Assembly:

By direct primary of entire village (*haixuan*):

Other (please specify: _____)

Selection of candidates (please select one)

By Township:

By Village Party Secretary:

By Village Small Groups:

By Village Representative Assembly:

By Village Assembly:

By direct primary of entire village (*haixuan*):



Voter registration

Has a registration list of voters been prepared? Yes No

Was the registration list posted? Yes No

If yes, how many days before election? _____

Were there any appeals against the list? Yes No

If yes, why/how many? _____

Were voter registration cards issued? Yes No

Election officials

How many election officials at each station? _____

Are the election officials Villagers From the township

Do officials appear well-trained? Yes No

Do officials explain the ballot and procedures to voters? Yes No

Are voters' ID cards checked against registration lists? Yes No

Are voters' ID cards marked to prevent multiple votes? Yes No

Voting process

Was the voting process orderly? Yes No

Were there any discrepancies? Yes No

Is there a secret ballot in private polling booths? Yes No

Were mobile ballot boxes dispatched? Yes No

Is there any evidence or complaints of vote-buying? Yes No

Are there problems with proxy votes? Yes No

Comments: _____

Method of voting (please select one)

Raise hands:

Write on a blank ballot where others can see:

Check on a pre-printed ballot where others can see:

Mark ballot in a private booth:

Take ballot home to mark:

Place a marker in a bowl behind candidates:

Other (please specify: _____)

Campaign, vote counting and proxy



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Is info on candidates available? Yes No

Did candidates campaign actively? (e.g. speech on election day) Yes No

Is proxy voting allowed? Yes No

Maximum proxy votes per voter: _____

Total number of proxies: _____

Were ballot boxes opened and counted publicly? Yes No

Are unused ballots accounted for and discarded? Yes No

Absentee/Moving Ballot Boxes

Is absentee balloting allowed? Yes No

Are moving ballot boxes allowed? Yes No

Total ballots cast in absentee/moving ballot boxes: _____

Were ballots counted separately? Yes No

Has the Election Result Report Form been completed and filed? Yes No

Were there any instances of protest in response to election results? Yes No

Were appeals made to higher authorities? Yes No

Results

Village Chair:
 Total votes cast: _____ Invalid _____ Absentee or Moving _____ Proxies _____

Vice Chair:
 Total votes cast: _____ Invalid _____ Absentee or Moving _____ Proxies _____

Village Committee:
 Number of members: _____ Total votes cast _____

How were the ballot boxes transported? _____

Is a run-off necessary? Yes No

For which post? _____ When? _____

Comments (e.g. on nature of voting, on relationship between Party Secretary and Village Chair, on the extent to which selection is run by villages or township):



THE CARTER CENTER AT A GLANCE

Overview: The Carter Center was founded in 1982 by former US President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, in partnership with Emory University, to advance peace and health worldwide. A nongovernmental organization, the Center has helped to improve life for people in more than 70 countries by resolving conflicts; advancing democracy, human rights, and economic opportunity; preventing diseases; improving mental health care; and teaching farmers to increase crop production.

Accomplishments: The Center has observed 76 elections in 30 countries, helped farmers double or triple grain production in 15 African countries, mediated or worked to prevent civil and international conflicts worldwide, intervened to prevent unnecessary diseases in Latin America and Africa, and strived to diminish the stigma against mental illnesses.

Budget: \$88.1 million at 2008-2009 operating budget.

Donations: The Center is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, financed by private donations from individuals, corporations, and international development assistance agencies. Contributions by US citizens and companies are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Facilities: The nondenominational Cecil B. Day Chapel and other facilities are available for weddings, corporate retreats and meetings, and other special events. For information call: 404-420-5112.

Location: In a 35-acre park, about 1.5 miles east of downtown Atlanta. The Jimmy Carter Library and Museum, which adjoins the Center, is owned and operated by the National Archives and Records Administration and is open to the public. 404-865-7101.

Staff: 160 employees, based primarily in Atlanta.

