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CONTACT: Peter Williams, Country Director, IFES Yemen

Ph: (1) 421634 or 734 008811

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Will Yemen's democracy take a step back?

Pivotal issues of electoral reform and appointment of the SCER Commissioners are at a critical point in furthering Yemen's democracy.

The continued delay in dialogue means Yemen's parliament will pass through another recess period and Ramadan, resulting in the need to compress or abandon certain parts of the electoral process. While the Voters Registration Update is due to commence on 26 August 2008, parliament will not return till after this date.

"This delay could result in reduced opportunities for Yemeni citizens to register for the first time or even update their details," said Mr. Peter Williams, IFES Country Director. "Ultimately, if the delays continue, the registration process may not be possible, putting Yemen's democratic development process at grave risk."

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IFES is an international, nonprofit organization that supports the building of democratic societies.

IFES Yemen: Al-Surmi St. Behind Adewan Restaurant, near the Diplomatic Club, Hadda.
P. O. Box 16653, Hadda, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Phone: (967) 1-421-634 **Fax:** (967) 1-430012
Website: www.ifes.org