

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	779
Land:	Afghanistan
Kilde:	Bundesamt für Migration and Flüchtlinge
Titel:	Information Centre Asylum and Migration. Briefing notes
Udgivet:	18. september 2017
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	29. januar 2018

Group 22 - Information Centre Asylum and Migration

Briefing Notes

18 September 2017

Egypt

Attacks on Sinai

On 11 September 2017 the official newspaper al-Ahram reported the explosion of a remotely triggered roadside bomb at the time a convoy of armoured vehicles of the Egyptian police approached. Subsequently another approaching vehicle blew up when the officials fired at it. It is assumed that a suicide bomber was driving an explosives loaded car. Thereafter terrorists ambushed the survivors. At least 18 police were killed and four vehicles were destroyed.

IS members sentenced to death

Seven members of the IS terrorist militia were sentenced to death for alleged participation in the decapitation of 21 Egyptian Copts on a beach near Sirte in Libya in 2015.

Prison sentence for ex-President Mursi reduced

The official Egyptian news agency al-Ahram reported that the Supreme Court of Appeal cut the prison sentence of former Islamist President Mohammed Mursi for espionage for the Gulf state of Qatar by 15 years to 25 years.

Ethiopia

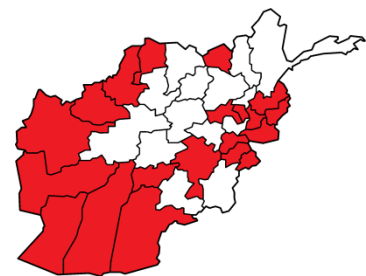
Violence between Somali and Oromo ethnicities

Up to 50 people died in violent clashes between members of the ethnic groups of the Somali and the Oromo along the border between the regions of Somali and Oromia. Information of 17 September 2017 said that about 50,000 people have been displaced by the confrontations that have lasted for about one week now. It is not known what triggered the violence. Both ethnicities repeatedly clashed violently because of border conflicts in the past.

Afghanistan

Armed confrontations

The fighting, purges, raids, air and drone strikes by the security forces continue as well as the ambushes and attacks of the insurgents which sometimes also kill or injure civilians. Following media reports the following provinces were affected last week: Jawzjan (north, allegedly the Afghan army liberated 15 villages from the Taliban in two of the province's districts), Faryab, Sar-e Pul (north), Kunduz (northeast), Nangarhar, Nuristan, Kunar, Laghman (east), Logar, Parwan, Kapisa (centre), Ghazni, Khost, Paktia (southeast), Herat, Farah, Badghis (west), Helmand, Nimroz, Kandahar, and Uruzgan (south).



Assaults and attacks

On 11 September 2017 six foreign soldiers and three civilians were wounded in a car bomb explosion in Bagram district of Parwan province. A cleric was shot by IS fighters in Nangarhar province (east), another

cleric was shot on 14 September 2017, bringing the number of clerics shot in that province within one month up to four.

On 13 September 2017 Taliban attacked a vehicle carrying government doctors and medics in Takhar province (northeast). A civilian died in Jalalabad (capital of Nangarhar) when a bomb exploded at a greengrocers, eight others were injured.

The head of police of Jaghato district in Ghazni (southeast) was killed in a bomb attack.

On 15 September 2017 IS fighters decapitated two civilians in Kunar (east).

On 16 September 2017 a Romanian soldier died in a suicide attack in Kandahar (south).

Four civilians lost their lives when a land mine exploded in Khost (southeast, 14 were wounded on 17 September 2017).

China

Xinjiang: Re-education camps for suspicious members of ethnic minorities

On 10 and 11 September 2017 Radio Free Asia reported that since about April 2017 the Chinese authorities have been running so-called professional education schools in the autonomous Uygur region Xinjiang, in which politically unreliable members of mostly Turkic Muslim minorities such as Uygurs, Kazakhs, and Kyrgyzes are housed. Among those that are considered to be politically unreliable are former prisoners, people of certain religious beliefs and those that have relatives abroad. The reports say that in these Counter Extremism Training Centers or Education and Transformation Training Centers they are subjected to propaganda promoting a Chinese identity for several months. It is unknown how many people are affected. According to an official media report more than 2,000 people had been assigned to such centers over an undefined period.

Since 15 July 2017 Chinese citizens of Kazakh origin holding an indefinite residence title for Kazakhstan (holders of Green Cards) may not stay there for more than six months continuously, otherwise they will become subject to re-education.

Cameroon

Boko Haram: Suicide attack on mosque

On 13 September 2017 a girl, some reports say a boy, blew herself up during morning prayers at the mosque of the village Sandawadijiri (Far North region, about 15 km from the Nigerian border), killing at least 4 people and wounding several others.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Refugees shot by security forces

On 22 September 2017 asylum seekers and refugees from Burundi protested against the deportation, either planned or already completed, of four Burundian refugees who, according to official information, were stopped with machetes in the night of 21 September 17 in the town of Kamanyola (South Kivu province) bordering on Burundi and Rwanda. The UN peace mission MONUSCO reported that Congolese security forces started to fire arbitrarily into the crowd of protesters after a soldier had been killed during the protest. The death toll was at least 36 refugees were killed and 117 were wounded. About 2,000 Burundian refugees are living in Kamanyola, most of them arrived in 2015.

Myanmar

Ethnic cleansing

Human rights organizations qualify the actions of the military against the Rohingya ethnic minority and the burning of their villages in Rakhine State as ethnic cleansing. Among the evidence they cite are the analyses of satellite images showing dozens of burning villages. UN Secretary General António Guterres and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein spoke of possible ethnic cleansing.

UN representatives said that over 410,000 Rohingya fled to neighbouring Bangladesh; every day another 10,000 to 20,000 are arriving. Their humanitarian situation is considered extremely difficult. In previous decades already 300,000 to 500,000 Rohingya had crossed over to Bangladesh. About 30,000 of them are living in camps in Cox's Bazar district as UNHCR-registered refugees, the remainder are distributed throughout the region and the entire country. Before the recent exodus of refugees, it was assumed that there are about 1.1 to 1.3 million Rohingya (depending on the source) in Myanmar, predominantly in Rakhine State.

Nigeria

IPOB declared a militant terror organization and activities outlawed

Military spokesman, Major General John Enenche, declared the organization IPOB that advocates independence for Biafra, a terrorist organization on 15 September 2017. He said that IPOB had also formed a Biafra secret service as a paramilitary unit that blocked roads, extorted money from civilians and had attacked a military patrol with weapons (stones, Molotov cocktails, machetes, and broken bottles) in September. On the next day the governors of the five federal states in the southeastern zone outlawed IPOB's activities. According to information from the Nigerian bar association for the federal state of Lagos the military is not authorized to declare IPOB a terrorist organization.

Criminal prosecution of 59 IPOB followers

On 17 September 2017 the head of police of Abia state said that arrested IPOB members would be sentenced according to anti-terrorism laws and persons possessing Biafra material would be arrested and prosecuted. This also applies, he said, to 59 presumed IPOB members, most of whom had recently been arrested in relation to the demolition of the Ariaria police station in the city of Aba (Abia federal state).

Palestinian Autonomous Areas/Gaza Strip

Hamas - Vanquishing the rule over the Gaza Strip?

The radical Islamist Hamas organization administering the Gaza Strip, indicated its willingness to negotiate with the Fatah government of the West Bank on how control of the Gaza Strip could be handed over to President Abbas' Fatah government. Fatah, which is supported by the West, had recently stepped up the pressure on Hamas. At the request of President Abbas Israel cut power supplies to the Gaza Strip which has a population of about two million.

Hamas had taken control of the Gaza Strip after weeks of civil war against Fatah in 2007. This resulted in a de facto division of the autonomous areas. So far all attempts at reconciliation have failed. In 2014 both Palestinian organizations formed a government of unity and announced general elections. However, this initiative failed as well.

Russian Federation/North Caucasus

Human rights and security situation

The region in North Caucasus remains the focus of human rights violations in Russia. In spring 2017 reports about arrests and deaths in detention of homosexuals in Chechnya made the headlines.

Despite the fact that the number of victims is falling, the general security and human rights situation remains tense. In recent years the major conflict zone in North Caucasus has shifted from Chechnya to the neighbouring republic of Dagestan. The human rights situation also remains critical in Ingushetia and Kabardino-Balkaria. Despite the massive economic support for the region by the Russian government, economic problems and instability still characterize North Caucasus.

The number of casualties in North Caucasus has dropped continuously since 2012. In 2016 the official number of deaths as a result of attacks and fighting between the security forces and separatist or Islamist insurgents was 202 (2015: 208; 2014: 341; 2013: 529; 2012: 700), 40 of these in Dagestan.

The tendency of falling numbers of victims continued in the first six months of 2017 as well: The Russian internet paper Caucasian Knot reported at the end of July that about 56 people were killed in the first six months of 2017 in the North Caucasus region, 50 of them in Dagestan and Chechnya. The considerable

reduction in the number of fatalities is probably due to the increasing number of North Caucasian fighters that have joined the terrorist militia Islamic State (IS) in Syria and Iraq since end of 2014, in addition to the consistently harsh controls by the security forces to exercise pressure. The flow of fighters returning to the North Caucasus region is expected to increase after the imminent collapse of IS.

Somalia

24 casualties in a suicide attack

The suicide car bombing of a military base in Balad Hawo near the Kenyan border reportedly caused the death of 24 Somali soldiers on 11 September 2017.

Al-Shabaab fighters killed

There is information that six al-Shabaab fighters were killed in air raids by the US air force about 250 kilometres south of the capital Mogadishu on 13 September 2017.

Syria

Withdrawal of IS fighters to Dier ez-Zor

The media reported that a convoy with 140 to 200 IS fighters and about as many civilians reached the only province that is still controlled by IS, Deir ez-Zor province (east), on 13 September 2017. After many weeks of fighting in the border region between Syria and Lebanon IS had agreed the withdrawal of its fighters with the Lebanese Hezbollah militia.

Astana talks

Russia, Iran and Turkey agreed on an observer mission for Idlib province in northern Syria in the sixth round of Syria talks in the Kazakh capital Astana last week; Idlib is to become a so-called de-escalation zone for which a ceasefire is agreed initially for six months. The three countries want to deploy security forces there to prevent clashes between the Syrian government army and opposition groups. A joint centre of the three countries will also control access to the area. Another Astana round is scheduled for the end of October.

Turkey

Arrests

The media reported another arrest of a German couple of Turkish descent in Istanbul on 10 September 2017. However, so far no official information has been provided by the Turkish authorities. The reports say that it can be assumed that one person is still held by the police, while the second one is banned from leaving the country. Up to now the German representation has not yet been allowed to see the couple.

Tunisia

Protests against amnesty law

Thousands of protesters, including leading opposition politicians, marched through the central Avenue Habib Bourguiba in the capital Tunis. On 13 September 2017 parliament had adopted the controversial act giving impunity to corrupt members of the regime of President Ben Ali who was ousted in 2011. The government maintains that the amnesty act shall close this chapter of the past and stimulate the economy. Originally the amnesty also covered corrupt businessmen with ties to the former leadership, however, this provision was deleted from the draft following harsh criticism. Critics are still demanding a comprehensive revision of the past.

Marriage law amended

Since 14 September 2017 female Tunisian Muslims may marry non-Muslim men. An act outlawing such marriages dating back to 1973 was repealed. In early 2017 human rights activists had brought action with the

Constitutional Court arguing that the ban violated the constitutionally guaranteed equality of women and men and the fundamental right to freely choose one's partner.

Group 22 - Information Centre Asylum and Migration
Briefing Notes
ivs-anfragen@bamf.bund.de