

**Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale**

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# Briefing Notes

## Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration

30 October 2023

### Afghanistan

#### **Expulsion of Afghan refugees from Pakistan**

The Pakistani foreign minister, Bugti, stated on 30.10.23 that the expulsion of refugees is to be carried out in two phases as of 01.11.23, following expiry of the announced deadline for voluntary departure (cf. BN of 09.10.23). In the first phase, refugees without a residence permit and travel documents are to be expelled, followed in the second phase by refugees who hold an ID card issued by the Pakistani government (Proof of Registration card) and who are registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It has further been reported that it is prohibited with immediate effect for refugees to rent accommodation in Pakistan. House owners are said to be urging refugees to leave their accommodation for fear of criminal prosecution. Refugees must not carry more than US\$ 180 on their person, otherwise their belongings will be confiscated. It was reported on 23.10.23 that the Pakistani government has already expelled 95,000 Afghans. Other media refer to the return of some 60,000 Afghans. It was further reported on 24.10.23 that Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency has installed a visa-checking system at Torkham border crossing in order to prevent Afghans from entering the country illegally. On 11.10.23 the Capital Development Authority Islamabad began demolishing a number of homes of illegally resident Afghan refugees (cf. BN of 16.10.23).

#### **Security situation**

The Afghanistan Freedom Front has reported that it killed four Taliban fighters and injured two in an attack on a Taliban base in Kapisa province on 22.10.23. It was reported on 26.10.23 that the Taliban had apprehended 20 suspected members of the Islamist organisation "Hizb ut-Tahir" in Ghazni province. This party was banned by the Taliban a few months after they assumed power.

According to reports on 26.10.23, a bomb attack on a boxing club occurred in Kabul's western district of Dasht-e Barchi, where ethnic Hazaras make up the majority of the population. The Taliban report that two people were killed and nine injured. The Etilaat Roz press medium puts the death toll at six, with eleven people injured. The Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP) has claimed responsibility for the attack.

#### **Persecution**

It was reported on 26.10.23 that the Taliban had shot dead four juveniles from Panjshir province at a checkpoint in the capital, Kabul. On the same day it was also reported that the head of the Pen Path Foundation, Matiullah Wisa, had been released from Taliban custody after 215 days (cf. BN of 03.04.23).

According to a new UNAMA report published on 23.10.23 which assesses the human rights situation from July to September 2023, the situation remains bad. The report states that more than 17,000 people are currently being held in Taliban prisons, which is pushing their capacities to breaking point. The number of prisoners reportedly rose substantially between July and September 2023 and treatment of the prisoners is not in compliance with minimum standards, which include unrestricted access to adequate food and healthcare. Inmates are allegedly routinely tortured. The report also documents human rights violations against the Hazara community in the Khas Uruzgan

district (including killings, destruction of property and damaging of crops). Furthermore, members of the former government continue to be persecuted, imprisoned, tortured and killed, despite a general amnesty.

## **Algeria**

### **Right to strike curtailed**

According to reports in the media, two amendments to the law tighten provisions governing the right to strike and the right of association in the areas of security, defence, the judiciary and customs, which are described as being of strategic relevance. Employees in these areas are prohibited from establishing trade unions, for example. The ban on establishing trade unions also applies to air traffic controllers, sea pilots, imams and directors of national educational institutions.

The purported aim is to maintain essential public services and to safeguard basic services and provisions for the population by preventing the country and the population from falling into a state of crisis or even danger as a result of strikes.

## **Bangladesh**

### **Disturbances at demonstration; BNP secretary-general arrested**

Violent clashes occurred at a large demonstration against the government in Dhaka on 28.10.23 organised by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which is the largest opposition party. The police used tear gas, flash grenades and rubber bullets against the participants, who were reportedly armed with clubs and bricks. Vehicles were set on fire. One police officer and one demonstrator were killed and more than a hundred people were injured. According to reports in the local media, violent clashes between demonstrators and security forces went on for two hours before the rally was broken up. Both the BNP and the Islamist Jamaat-e-Islami party separately called for nationwide general strikes on 29.10.23 in response to the police's actions and the break-up of the demonstration. Vandalism, arrests and three deaths reportedly occurred in the course of this strike. The secretary-general of the BNP, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, was also arrested.

For some months now, the BNP and allied groups have been calling for the resignation of the incumbent prime minister, Sheikh Hasina (Awami League, AL), and for free and fair parliamentary elections to take place under a neutral interim government in 2024.

## **Cameroon**

### **More than 30 people kidnapped**

It has been reported in the media that suspected street criminals abducted more than 30 people near to the town of Touboro in the north of the country on 22.10.23. No further details have emerged as yet. The mayor of Touboro has told the media that he presumes this to be a case of kidnapping in order to extort ransom money, rather than a military attack. Such incidents are said to be common in the country's conflict-ridden northern regions. The kidnap victims are presumed to include students and cattle traders from neighbouring Chad.

## **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

### **North Kivu: Intensified fighting; militant groups responsible for civilian casualties**

According to reports in the media, the M23 rebel group and armed pro-government groups resumed fighting in the south of North Kivu province on 24.10.23. The clashes which have been breaking out again since the beginning of October 2023 have reportedly now escalated in the town of Kibumba, around 20 km from the provincial capital, Goma. On 23.10.23 the Congolese government apparently accused M23 of having killed several dozen civilians.

On 26.10.23 M23 reportedly launched a new offensive on the town of Bambo, to the north of Goma, causing thousands of residents to flee in panic.