

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	852
Land:	Libanon
Kilde:	Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF)
Titel:	Briefing Notes
Udgivet:	14. oktober 2024
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	11. december 2024



Briefing Notes

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration

14 October 2024

Afghanistan

Security situation

It was reported in the media on 12.10.24 that an explosion had occurred in the western part of Kabul. The Taliban have not commented on the incident. The Afghanistan Freedom Front (AFF) claimed responsibility for the attack, stating that it had killed three Taliban. On the same day, three Taliban were killed in Ghor province by members of Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKAP).¹

Governance and persecution

A former general of the Republic of Afghanistan was killed by the Taliban in Kabul on 11.10.24. It was reported in the media on 12.10.24 that the Taliban had arrested five people in Takhar province for playing music. In Kunar province, the Taliban have had eight people flogged for offences including sodomy and theft. According to reports in the media, in the past three months a total of 14 religious schools have been inaugurated or the construction of such schools has begun in nine of Afghanistan's 34 provinces.²

Eritrea

Film team arrested

Following the release of the film "Verso" on the YouTube platform, it has been reported that the film team, including actors, the director and cameramen have been arrested, along with the writer. The film was produced several years ago and was released in the autumn of 2024. It is suspected that the arrests have been carried out in the wake of negative reactions in the social media. The film has been criticised, among other things, for depicting homosexuality, sexual intercourse and excessive alcohol consumption. Homosexuality is a punishable offence in Eritrea. The government has yet to comment on the incident; the film has been removed from the video platform.³

Ethiopia

New president appointed

Taye Aske-Selassie Amde was officially appointed as Ethiopia's new president on 07.10.24. He succeeded the country's first female president, Sahle-Work Zewde, after a six-year tenure. Taye's previous posts included that of UN ambassador in New York and he had served as Ethiopia's foreign minister since February 2024. There have been reports in the media of discord between Sahle-Work and the incumbent prime minister, Abiy Ahmed. The head of state assumes a largely representative role, while it is the prime minister who wields political power. Taye has already expressed a willingness to enter into dialogue at national and international level and has announced that Ethiopia will play an active role in efforts to bring peace to the Horn of Africa.⁴

Ghana

Demonstrations relating to the anti-LGBT bill

At a demonstration in Accra on 08.10.24, hundreds of people called for the anti-LGBT bill to finally become law. The bill was passed by the Ghanaian government on 28.02.24 and must subsequently be ratified by the president (cf. BN of 04.03. and 22.07.24). According to reports in the media, the demonstration was led by a member of the opposition National Democratic Congress party (NDC). Apart from prescribing more severe penalties for homosexual acts, the contentious anti-LGBT bill also criminalises the intentional promotion, facilitation or support of LGBTIQ activities. President Nana Akufo-Addo announced on 05.03.24 that he would not approve the bill until its constitutionality was confirmed, stating that he intended to wait until the country's supreme court had reached a decision on the matter (cf. BN of 11.03.24). Supporters of the bill maintain that Nana Akufo-Addo is bowing to international pressure in order to avoid losses of funding.⁵

Further protests against illegal mining

On 11.10.24 bishops of the archdiocese of Accra protested in Accra together with hundreds of people, including Catholic parishioners and civil-society groups, against illegal gold mining, which is known as "galamsey", and handed in a petition calling for a ban on illegal mining, which they described as a dangerous and environmentally harmful practice.

Thousands of people had previously demonstrated for an end to "galamsey" illegal gold-mining in Accra from 03.10. to 05.10.24. At another demonstration on 21.09.24 which was organised by the civil-society group Democracy Hub, the Ghanaian police arrested more than 40 people in Accra (cf. BN of 30.09.24).

Illegal mining is widespread and constitutes a growing danger for the country. The unregulated mining of natural resources, particularly gold, causes substantial environmental damage and has already contaminated some 60 % of the most important water resources. The national water company has been forced to close a number of water treatment plants which have proven unable to cope with the levels of contamination and has had to ration water in parts of southern Ghana. Experts fear that from 2030 Ghana will have to import water, if the problem is not tackled more effectively. While president Nana Akufo-Addo has ordered the deployment of police and military personnel to take action against illegal mines, a similar attempt in 2017 failed to solve the problem. According to reports in the media, the government is under pressure to act in view of the upcoming presidential elections on 07.12.24.⁶

Haiti

Multinational Security Support Mission

During a state visit to Kenya by Haitian prime minister Garry Conille, Kenya's president William Ruto confirmed on 11.10.24 that the dispatch of 600 additional police officers to Haiti as promised in September 2024 would go ahead at the beginning of November 2024 (cf. BN of 30.09.24). The deployment is to take place in the context of the UN-backed and Kenya-led Multinational Security Support Mission (MSS). In all, ten countries have promised to send a total of approximately 2,900 security personnel to participate in the MSS. So far, 430 personnel are in operation, including around 400 from Kenya (cf. BN of 03.06.24). Ruto also called on the international community to support the mission as a matter of urgency, as it was being hampered by a chronic shortage of funding. Conille's visit took place a week after gang members killed 109 people and wounded around 40 in an attack in the town of Ponte Soudé, some 100 km from the capital, Port-au-Prince (cf. BN of 07.10.24).⁷

Iran

Freedom of the press: Journalist sentenced to 13 months in prison

According to reports by human rights organisations, a journalist was sentenced to a prison term of around 13 months in Ajab Shir (East Azerbaijan province) on 06.10.24. He was charged with spreading misinformation via his personal account in Instagram. The journalist reportedly runs an online media company and works as a reporter for Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB).⁸

Reports of prison sentences for activists

It has been reported in the media that a number of activists have been sentenced to prison terms independently of one another.

According to a report on 12.10.24, the well-known imprisoned activist Maryam Akbari-Monfared has been sentenced to a further two years in prison. The additional sentence is to run on from her 15-year prison term which ends this year.

According to reports from human rights media on 11.10.24, a civil rights activist and teacher has been sentenced to three months in prison in Bukan (West Azerbaijan province). The woman was reportedly arrested by the security forces in May 2024, after which she was temporarily released on bail. No details of the grounds for her arrest have been reported.

According to reports in the media on 08.10.24, the well-known medical student and internet activist Motahareh Goonehi, who has been banned from the University of Teheran, has been arrested by the security forces. By her lawyer's account, the woman has been handed down a one-year prison sentence after being charged by the judicial authorities with participating in propaganda activities against the Islamic Republic. According to the lawyer, the activist is active in social media and had already received previous convictions relating to insult charges and breaches of national security.

Citing information from a Kurdish human rights network, it was reported on 07.10.24 that a woman in Sanandaj (Kordestan province) had been sentenced following an appeal hearing to a 28-month prison term. The charges included security-related offences, such as propaganda against the Iranian government and forming an illegal group. The woman was reportedly arrested for the first time in September 2022, after which she was temporarily released on bail. In June 2024 she was sentenced at first instance to 21 years in prison and punished with banishment.

According to a report in the media on 07.10.24, a 22 year-old activist has been sentenced to a one-year prison term in Rasht (Gilan province). The man was reportedly charged, among other things, with having incited other persons to violence, with the aim of jeopardising the country's national security.

The reports cannot be independently verified.⁹

Iraq

The struggle against IS

On 08.10.24 the Iraqi army announced that six suspected members of IS had been killed in an air strike in Salah al-Din province on 07.10.24. According to information from the Iraqi army, the leader of the regional IS cell for Salah al-Din was among those killed.

Salah al-Din is among the territories contested by Iraq's central government and the autonomous Kurdistan-Iraq region (KR-I). While territorially defeated since 2017, IS nevertheless remains active in some parts of the country, above all in the disputed regions.¹⁰

Lebanon

Armed conflict between Israel and Hezbollah

The Israeli armed forces continue to carry out daily attacks by air and on land against targets in Lebanon.

In addition to attacking ammunition dumps, military infrastructure and roads leading to Syria, leading figures of Hezbollah and other groups associated with Hezbollah also continue to be targeted systematically. Key focuses of the attacks are southern Lebanon, the Beqaa Valley and the southern districts and suburbs of Beirut. With regard to operations to eliminate leading figures in particular, the attacks are now extending beyond these and other areas which are traditionally regarded as "Shiite" and increasingly also taking in regions which have not previously been affected by the hostilities. In addition, the Israeli army regularly issues evacuation orders for regions in which ground operations are imminent or in which large immobile targets are located. The UN mission United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which has been in existence since 1978, has also been ordered to withdraw its soldiers from the embattled areas in the south and relocate them at least 5 km further north.

According to consistent reports, a number of incidents occurred on 10.10. and 11.10.24 in which observation towers of the UNIFIL mission came under fire from the Israeli side. As a result, two Indonesian UN soldiers suffered minor injuries on 10.10.24 and on 11.10.24 a number of Sri Lankan UN soldiers were slightly injured. UNIFIL has no mandate to militarily enforce UN Resolution 1701 from 2006, which called, among other things, for the withdrawal of the Israeli army and Lebanese armed groups.

It is estimated that 1.2 million people are currently internally displaced in Lebanon as a result of the hostilities. The IOM confirmed a figure of around 670,000 internally displaced people on 09.10.24. In view of the prevailing circumstances, this is considered to represent a minimum conservative estimate. Most of the displaced people are believed to belong to the country's Shiite population. Some 185,000 people are reportedly living in emergency shelters.

According to a UNHCR press statement on 11.10.24, up to 09.10.24 at least 420,000 people had fled from Lebanon to Syria, including some 310,000 Syrians and 110,000 Lebanese.

The death toll on the Lebanese side since 08.10.23 is currently put at 2,170 or more, with adult men making up the overwhelming majority of casualties (approx. 80 %) and most of the deaths reportedly having occurred since 23.09.24.¹¹

Mozambique

National elections

Following the second term in office for Filipe Nyusi of the FRELIMO party, which has governed the country for five decades, on 09.10.24 a new president was elected in Mozambique. More than 17 million people were called upon to cast their votes. The candidates were Daniel Chapo from the governing party (Frente de Libertação de Moçambique – FRELIMO), Ossufo Momade (Resistência Nacional Moçambicana – RENAMO), Lutero Simango (Movimento Democrático de Moçambique – MDM) and Venâncio Mondlane (Coligação Aliança Democrática – CAD). Initial predictions indicate that Chapo will take 54 % of the vote, with Mondlane on 34 % and Momade claiming just under 10 % of votes cast. An official election result is expected at the end of October 2024. In addition to the presidential election, parliamentary, provincial parliamentary and gubernatorial elections also took place. The 250 parliamentary seats were contested by 37 political parties. Election monitors indicated irregularities during the elections. Media representatives and election monitors were excluded from various polling stations, for example.¹²

Nicaragua

Renewed reports of compulsory military training camps for civil servants

A number of former civil servants recently reported in interviews that their employers had forced them to participate in military training camps on orders "from above". The camps reportedly lasted around one week, and some of those interviewed had had to attend them several times. While at the camps, the participants were allegedly allowed little food and sleep and in some instances they were subjected to physical violence and psychological abuse from the instructors. They also stated that no contact with outsiders was allowed during the camps and that they were threatened with prison terms, should they pass on information about the camps. Interviewees with physical restrictions also reported that they had had to attend in order to avoid losing their jobs. Civil servants, including teaching staff, had already reported about such "further training" back in 2023.

According to information from an NGO and an expert, such measures are particularly prevalent in the north and the interior of the country, and have recently become more widespread. According to current research by Divergentes, political secretaries draw up lists of individuals for enrolment and subsequently assess the performance of the men and women who have attended the training. According to the sources consulted for the article, such training is intended, among other things, to provide civil servants with military skills in the event of new protests, such as occurred in 2018, or a coup, and also to scrutinise the employees' loyalty to Ortega's government, so as to ensure that state institutions are staffed by people who are loyal to the government. Most recently, it is reported that employees of companies which are closely associated with the government have also had to attend the training.¹³

Nigeria

North-east: Flood disaster and cholera

According to reports in the media at the beginning of October 2024, the north-eastern state of Borno is suffering particularly severely from the consequences of flooding in the region (cf. BN of 16.09.24). Almost two million Nigerians are reportedly homeless as a result of the flood disaster. In addition, a cholera outbreak has occurred. Cholera cases are said to be no rare occurrence in Borno State, the epicentre of Islamist terrorism which has been ongoing for 15 years now (cf. BN of 17.06., 29.07. and 09.09.24). The state is reported to have received 300,000 doses of cholera vaccine from the Nigerian health ministry to combat the latest cholera outbreak. These vaccines are said to have been distributed in refugee camps and communities affected by the flooding. Further vaccine doses are expected. According to official figures released by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) at the beginning of October 2024, 359 people have died of cholera nationwide in the first nine months of 2024. The number of suspected cases of cholera over the same period is put at approx. 11,000. Most of those affected by the disease are reported to be children under five years of age.¹⁴

Military reports successes

In the space of one week, the Nigerian military has killed 165 members of armed groups designated as terrorists and arrested 238 suspects. This emerges from media reports of 10.10.24 citing official information released on the same day by the Nigerian Defence Headquarters (DHQ). In addition, 188 kidnap victims were reportedly freed and numerous weapons, vehicles and other items of equipment were confiscated from violent groups which are classified as terrorist. 65 illegal oil refineries were apparently also shut down. The DHQ's declared aim is to destroy terrorist networks in various parts of the country. The DHQ issues such announcements of successful operations with a certain regularity (cf. BN of 02.09.24).¹⁵

Pakistan

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Escalation of violence between Sunni and Shiite tribes

The conflict over land between Sunni and Shiite tribes which has been ongoing for several weeks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has once again claimed at least 15 lives and left twelve people injured. In response, government agencies and schools have been closed, roads blocked and the mobile internet shut down. The most recent escalation of violence occurred after a nine-day ceasefire to which the tribes had agreed on 28.09.24. According to information from the health authorities, the police and local leaders, 44 people have been killed in the region and more than 130 people have been injured in the conflict since 20.09.24 (see BN of 30.09.24).¹⁶

Anschläge und Kampfhandlungen

Am 10.10.24 eröffneten laut Behördenangaben bewaffnete Kämpfer in der Stadt Tank (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) das Feuer auf ein Polizeifahrzeug und töteten zwei Sicherheitskräfte. Wenige Stunden später meldete das Militär die Tötung von vier Kämpfern im Stammesdistrikt Nord-Waziristan.

Am 11.10.24 töteten Unbekannte 20 Bergleute in einem Kohlebergwerk im Distrikt Duki in der Provinz Belutschistan. Keine Gruppe hat sich zu dem Anschlag bekannt.¹⁷

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Major PTM gathering despite government ban

Following the murder of three of its members by security forces, it has been reported in the media that on 11.10.24 the Pashtun civil rights movement Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) stated its intention to hold its previously announced gathering to discuss the security situation in the north-west of Pakistan (cf. BN of 07.10.24). On 10.10.24 thousands of people attended a funeral service for the three killed activists. On 11.10.24 tens of thousands of members of the Pashtun ethnic group gathered for the large-scale three-day event in the vicinity of Peshawar.

On 06.10.24 the authorities declared a ban on the civil rights movement, which by its own account champions the rights of the approx. 35 to 40 million people who make up the Pashtun minority in Pakistan (cf. BN of 07.10.24). On 10.10.24 the PTM rejected the interior ministry's accusation that the movement was seeking to establish a parallel justice system and to divide society. The PTM has reported a series of raids and arrests in recent days, targeting its leaders and members ahead of the mass rally.

The majority of Pashtuns in Pakistan live in areas close to the border with Afghanistan, where the military carried out large-scale offensives against Islamist fighters in the 2010s which also claimed civilian lives and displaced people from their native regions. Militant violence has recently flared up again in the region on a substantial scale, however. The Pakistani Taliban have claimed responsibility for the majority of this violence.¹⁸

Palestinian territories / Israel

Gaza Strip: Current developments; humanitarian situation

According to information from the Hamas-run health ministry, more than 42,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip since the war began. The ministry does not officially differentiate between combatants and civilians. According to information released by the Israeli military on 10.10.24, a total of 352 members of the Israeli military have been killed since the beginning of the ground offensive.

Meanwhile, the war continues. Most recently, the Israeli military issued evacuation orders for territories in the south and north of the Gaza Strip. An air strike on a school in Deir al-Balah on 10.10.24 killed 28 and injured 54 people who were reportedly using the premises as an emergency shelter.

According to information from the UN, humanitarian aid is at its lowest level for months. In particular, it reports that the border crossings in the north of the Gaza Strip have been closed since 01.10.24, leaving the 400,000 people who have remained there increasingly cut off from aid. The Israelis claim that the crossings remain open and operational, however. Food prices and the price of gas for cooking have risen sharply over the course of the year. According to the WFP, only canned food and flour are currently available on the market. Fruit, vegetables, eggs and dairy products are scarce or totally unavailable.¹⁹

Republic of Moldova

Russian attempts to exert influence ahead of presidential elections

In all, 17 people are set to run in the presidential elections on 20.10.24 – the largest number of candidates ever. Analysts assume that Moscow is trying out candidatures and campaign strategies ahead of the Moldovan parliamentary elections in July 2025, as at least half of those running can be categorised as pro-Russian. At the same time as the presidential elections, a referendum is to be held on whether the aim of accession to the EU is to be enshrined in the constitution.

In order to minimise Russian attempts to influence developments in the run-up to the elections, in keeping with international sanctions four Moldovan banks have blocked the sole remaining money transfer service from the Russian Federation, which goes by the name of Zolotaja Korona. Experts are of the opinion that this decision will hit parts of the Moldovan population severely. According to information in the media, substantial sums from two fugitive pro-Russian oligarchs are said to be flowing into online propaganda with the aim of sabotaging the country's pro-European course.

It has been reported in the media that Moldova's Supreme Court of Justice has ratified the decision by the central electoral commission (KEK) to reject an application from the party of pro-Russian oligarch Ilan Shor to participate in the campaign for the constitutional referendum. Prior to its decision, the KEK had refused registration of the party because requested information was not submitted on time.

According to reports in the media on 26.09.24, on the previous day the Moldovan intelligence and security service (SIS) ordered the blockage of seven predominantly Russian news sites, including the state news agency RIA, on grounds of "national security risks".

The police and the anti-corruption prosecution office stated on 03.10.24 that forces close to the Kremlin were attempting to influence the population in the current election campaign through bribery. In September 2024, the equivalent of over US\$ 15 million was allegedly transferred from Russian banks to the accounts of approx. 130,000 Moldovan citizens. The money is said to have been channelled into the country by people linked to Ilan Shor. The deputy prime-minister, Adrei Spinu, asserted on 29.09.24 that Shor had promised via Telegram to pay people who persuaded others to vote "No" in the forthcoming referendum on European integration. In response, the National Investigation Inspectorate (INI) shut down 15 Telegram channels belonging to Shor and other pro-Russian propagandists as well as 95 related chatbots.²⁰

Vetting of the judiciary

With regard to the vetting of the judiciary and the public prosecution department in the matter of accession to the EU, justice minister Veronica Mihailov-Moraru has stated that this process aimed at combating corruption represents a major challenge and must not be rushed. The minister acknowledged that the process was meeting a degree of resistance, but insisted that it is necessary in order to restore the public's confidence.²¹

Syria

Israeli air strikes

A number of people have been killed in air raids which are presumed to have been carried out by the Israeli air force in Syria. State media have reported that seven civilians were killed and eleven injured in a strike on a residential building in the Damascus district of Al Mezzeh on 08.10.24.

A Yemini national and his wife and children are said to have been among the dead. According to contradictory reports in the media, the target was either a high-ranking commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard or a high-ranking member of Hezbollah. This was reportedly the third attack on targets in this district since the beginning of the month.²²

North-west: Hostilities

It has been reported in the media that Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) began air strikes on positions of the Syrian army and allied militias in Aleppo and Idlib governorates on 11.10.24. HTS, which controls large parts of Idlib and is the largest force within the so-called "Al-Fatah al-Mubin" operations room - a network for the military coordination of a number of opposition groups in the north-west - is reported to have attacked positions of forces loyal to the government in a number of localities, including Saraqib and Basratun. The Syrian military has shelled positions of HTS and other groups in Idlib and Aleppo. Military skirmishes on an unusual scale are said to have been ongoing for a week. Numerous families have reportedly left their homes close to the course of the border for fear of a greater escalation. According to the pro-opposition Enab Baladi media platform, a local aid organisation has counted 7,315 people who have fled their homes. At least eight people are believed to have been killed and 38 wounded.²³

Türkiye

Prison term for dismissed mayor affirmed

According to reports in the media, on 09.10.24 the Supreme Court of Appeals affirmed the prison term of nine years and four and a half months imposed on the former Kurdish mayor of Diyarbakir, Adnan Selçuk Mızraklı.

Mızraklı, a member of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), which now goes by the name of the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM), was elected mayor of Diyarbakir on 31.03.19 and subsequently removed from office by the interior ministry on 19.08.19. The ministry stated that he was dismissed because he was under investigation on suspicion of terrorism. Mızraklı was subsequently replaced by a trustee. On 21.10.19 he was arrested and charged with membership of an armed terrorist organisation. Mızraklı has been in custody since 22.10.19.

The decision by the Third Chamber of the Supreme Court of Appeals was the second decision to be made by this court with regard to Mızraklı: New proceedings were instituted against him after the Supreme Court of Appeals overturned a lower court's verdict in December 2022. At the time, the Supreme Court of Appeals declined to uphold Mızraklı's conviction on the grounds that the charges against the former mayor had not been investigated sufficiently.

In March 2020, the Ninth High Criminal Court in Diyarbakir found Mızraklı guilty of membership of a terrorist organisation and sentenced him to nine years and four and a half months in prison. In a retrial with recourse to new witness statements, Mızraklı was again sentenced to nine years and four and a half months in prison for membership of a terrorist organisation in November 2023. Mızraklı appealed to the Supreme Court of Appeals, which this time affirmed the verdict.

Mızraklı's lawyers have announced their intention to contest this verdict before the Constitutional Court, stating that if this court also ruled against Mızraklı, they would bring Mızraklı's case before the European Court of Human Rights, as they consider it to constitute a violation of his fundamental rights. His party, the DEM, denounced the decision of the Supreme Court of Appeals as a "judicial coup" and declared it "null and void".²⁴

Tunisia

Official election result announced; criticism of use of decree no. 54

According to reports in the media, on 12.10.24 the supreme electoral commission (ISIE) announced the official result of the presidential election of 06.10.24. The incumbent president Saïed was re-elected, taking 90.69 % of the vote.

Since he came to power on 25.07.21 (cf. BN of 26.07.21), president Saïed has pursued a policy of repression against political opponents (cf. BN of 26.08.24) and media representatives. On 13.10.24 the Association of Victims of Torture in Tunisia (AVTT) released a press statement criticising the criminal charges brought against the former minister, lawyer and professor of constitutional law Abdelwaheb Maâtâr pursuant to decree no. 54 of the supreme electoral commission. The AVTT claims that the decree, which enables the criminal prosecution of so-called fake news, is being used to restrict freedom of expression. Maâtâr is accused of having criticised the government.²⁵

Ukraine

Civilian casualties

It was reported in the media on 08.10.24 that Russian attacks killed two people in the Sumy region and one person each in the Kherson region and in Sloviansk (Donetsk region) respectively. According to information from the regional governor, Russian missile attacks on the port of Odessa on 07.10. and 09.10.24 claimed one and eight lives respectively. According to the regional authorities, two people were killed in Kharkiv on 08.10.24. According to information from the governor, four civilians died in a further Russian missile attack on Odessa on 11.10.24. The regional public prosecutor's office stated on 12.10.24 that two people had been killed near Kurakhove (Donetsk region).

Ukraine's human rights commissioner, Dmytro Lubinets, reported on 11.10.24 that the Ukrainian journalist Victoria Roshchyna had died in Russian detention. The freelance journalist, who worked for Ukrainska Prawda, Radio Free Europe and Hromadske, disappeared in August 2023 while reporting from occupied eastern Ukraine. The Russian defence ministry only provided notification that she had been taken prisoner in April 2024.

Lubinets stated that the Russian authorities had confirmed Roshchyna's death. No information as to the circumstances of her death has been forthcoming to date.²⁶

Course of the war and recruitment

The Ukrainian military stated on 07.10.24 that Russian troops had advanced into the town of Toretsk (Donetsk region). Intensive fighting was reported on 10.10.24 from the front sectors of Lyman, Pokrovsk and Kurakhove (Donetsk region). According to an assessment by the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), the aim of Russia's military leadership is to increase the pace of its advance so as to make territorial gains quickly before the autumn weather and accompanying difficult ground conditions impede the advance. According to information released by the Ukrainian government on 10.10.24, there have been almost 60 Russian air strikes on the port of Odessa in the past three months, targeting Ukraine's export capabilities, particularly with regard to grain.

Meanwhile, president Zelenskyy announced on 10.10.24 that his proposed "victory plan" is to be presented in detail at the beginning of November 2024. At the same time, the Ukrainian leadership is denying media reports alleging that Ukraine is prepared to accept a ceasefire at the current front line in return for assurances of security guarantees from the west and swift accession to the EU.

The head of the special staff for Ukraine at the German defence ministry, Christian Freuding, has reported a significant rise in Ukrainian recruitment figures since the spring of 2024 – the mobilisation bill was passed in April 2024 – stating that recruitment is now in the five-figure range. With regard to the current situation, however,

Roman Kostenko – a Ukrainian MP sitting on the defence committee – claims that recruitment numbers are declining and warns that the Ukrainian armed forces will soon no longer be able to make up for their losses. According to information from individuals in the field, personnel problems also result from impaired health, stress and deficiencies in the (de-)mobilisation and rotation system. Sources on the ground also report attempts to flee into neighbouring countries and cases of corruption in connection with people smuggling and the issuance of medical unfitness certificates for men who are fit for military service.

Poland's ambitious plan to put together a "volunteer legion" from Ukrainian refugees and to train these for war deployment as part of a bilateral security treaty with Ukraine is considered to have failed due to a lack of interest from the Polish government.

According to reports in the media, recruitment officers from the Ukrainian army checked the military registration documents of men fit for military service in concert halls, restaurants and bars in Kyiv and other towns and cities. Arrests are said to have taken place where those apprehended were not in possession of the required documentation.²⁷

Energy infrastructure

The US ambassador in Kyiv has stated that the USA has handed over nine power transformers to Ukraine. These are intended to help restore severely damaged power grids and to ensure a stable power supply, in particular for the Ukrainian towns and villages close to the front.²⁸

Accusation of interference with freedom of the press, tax increases, demographic trends

In a statement released on 09.10.24, the influential Ukrainian news portal Ukrainska Pravda revealed that the president's office had attempted to bring influence to bear on its editorial policies. According to the statement, bans are imposed on speaking with journalists and journalists are excluded from events. It is also claimed that the portal is being pressured to discontinue placing advertising on the internet site. The editorial staff have announced that any further attempts to influence its reporting will be made public. President Zelenskyy's office has yet to comment on the accusations.

According to information in the media on 10.10.24, the Ukrainian parliament has voted with a clear majority in favour of tax increases to fund the war. The focus is reportedly on increasing the war levy on employees' income from 1.5 to 5 %. The increase will not apply to soldiers. It remained unclear what other increases are to be included in the final wording of the law.

A Ukrainian government strategy paper on the country's demographic situation and trends reveals that a strongly declining population is expected in the coming years. Compared to 52 million in 1991, Ukraine's current population stands at 36 million. 31 million of these people are living in the territory controlled by Kyiv. The demographic institute at the Academy of Sciences forecasts a further decline to 29 million by 2041.²⁹

Venezuela

More arrests, mandate for UN Fact Finding Mission on Venezuela extended

On 01.10.24 the opposition mayor of the city of Maracaibo, Rafael Ramírez Colina (Primero Justicia, PJ), was arrested together with three municipal employees. The chief public prosecutor's office announced that he has been charged with corruption. Various figures, including the opposition governor of Zulia State, Manuel Rosales (Un Nuevo Tiempo) denounced the arrest, while Colina's family spoke of politically motivated arrests. Ramírez Colina is the fifth opposition mayor to be arrested in 2024. The opposition claims that 154 politicians are currently being held in custody. And so the number of arrests continues to rise. A spokesperson of the NGO Foro Penal stated on 09.10.24 that the number of people detained on political grounds had increased to 1,916. 1,767 of these were arrested in the wake of the disputed 2024 presidential elections and eleven were detained in the first week of October 2024. Among the latter were once again two members of opposition leader María Corina Machado's security team (Vente Venezuela).

On 11.10.24 the UN Human Rights Council extended the mandate of the UN Fact Finding Mission on Venezuela and the OHCHR by a further two years, with a remit which includes documenting the ongoing human rights violations in the country.³⁰

- 1 AmuTV: Sources report blast in Kabul's Darul Aman area, 12.10.24; Hasht-e Subh: آزادی جبهه ادعای: کشتیم کابل در را طالبان جوی جنگ سه [Freedom Front behauptet, drei Taliban-Kämpfer in Kabul getötet zu haben], 12.10.24; AmuTV: Three Taliban members shot dead in Ghor, sources say, 12.10.24; Hasht-e Subh: گرفت بر عهده را غور در طالبان بر حمله مسوولیت داعش [ISIS übernimmt Verantwortung für Taliban-Angriff in Ghor], 12.10.24.
- 2 KabulNow: Former Military General Killed in Taliban Vehicle Attack in Kabul, 13.10.24; AmuTV: Taliban establish 14 religious seminaries in past three months, 12.10.24; AmuTV: Taliban arrest five for playing music in Takhar, sources say, 12.10.24; AmuTV: Taliban publicly flog eight people in eastern Afghanistan, 13.10.24.
- 3 Martin Plaut: Eritrea: 'Verso' film crew arrested, 06.10.24.
- 4 Africa News: Ethiopia's FM elected president, replaces country's first female head of state, 08.10.24; Yibeltal, Kalkidan: Ethiopia president replaced after falling out with PM, in: BBC, 07.10.24
- 5 Africa News: Controversy surrounds Ghana's unpassed anti-LGBTQ law, 09.10.24; Pink News: Protesters in Ghana urge supreme court to approve anti-LGBTQ+ bill, 10.10.24; Ghana Web: Delay in Anti-Gay Bill Approval: Proponents give 2-week ultimatum for judgment to be delivered, 09.10.24; Ghanaian Times: Anti-LGBTQ+ protest hits Accra, 09.10.24.
- 6 Reuters: Hundreds march against Ghana's damaging informal gold mining boom, 11.10.24; Africa News: Ghana: Catholic Church takes stand against illegal mining also known as 'Galamsey', 13.10.24; Africa News: Thousands demonstrate in Accra against illegal mining in Ghana, 06.10.24.
- 7 BBC: Kenya's president makes urgent cash call for Haiti mission, 11.10.24; Reuters: Kenya to send more police to Haiti after new gang attacks, 11.10.24; Voice of America: Kenya says extra police ready for Haiti in early November, 13.10.24.
- 8 Iranwire: Iranian Journalist Sentenced for Instagram Posts, 10.10.24; Human Rights Activists News Agency: Journalist Hossein Jafarian Sentenced to Imprisonment, 09.10.24.
- 9 BBC News Farsi: «سه سال زندان» به دو سال حبس محکوم شده اعدام شریفه محمدی «تنقض شد»، مریم اکبری منفرد با پایان [Sharife Mohammadi's death sentence was "overturned", Maryam Akbari Monfard was "sentenced to two years" after completing 15 years in prison], 12.10.2024; Iran International: زاده، فعال مدنی و مدرس زبان کردی در بوکان به سه ماه حبس تعزیری محکوم شنسوسن حسن [Sosan Hassanzadeh, a civil activist and Kurdish language teacher in Bukan, was sentenced to three months in prison], 11.10.24; Human Rights Activists News Agency: Zhina Modares Gorji Sentenced to 28 Months in Prison on Appeals, 07.10.24; Human Rights Activists News Agency: Azerbaijani-Turk Activist Mohammadreza Khalili Sentenced to One Year in Prison, 07.10.24; Iranwire: Medical Student Jailed for Activism in Iran, 08.10.24.
- 10 RUDAW: Iraqi airstrikes kill six suspected ISIS members in Salahaddin, 08.10.24; Shafaq News: Iraqi JOC announces death of ISIS leader in Saladin, 08.10.24.
- 11 UNRWA: UNRWA Situation Report #6 on the Lebanon Emergency Response, 11.10.24; BBC: 22 killed in Israeli strikes on Beirut, Lebanon says, 11.10.24; Anadolu Agency: UN says 420,000 fled from Lebanon to Syria amid Israeli attacks, 11.10.24; Naharnet: Israel recommends that UNIFIL move north to avoid danger, 11.10.24; Naharnet: Lebanon displacement 'devastating', support insufficient, UN official says, 11.10.24; TAZ: Angriff auf Wafiq Safa, 11.10.24; Naharnet: New Israeli attack wounds UN peacekeepers in south Lebanon, 11.10.24.
- 12 DW: Wahlen in Mosambik: Hat die Opposition eine Chance?, 09.10.24; France 24: Mozambique casts ballots for president, parliament in tense vote, 09.10.24; Reuters: Mozambique counts votes amid allegations of irregularities, 09.10.24; Barron's: Mozambique's Governing Party Wins Capital Election, 13.10.24.
- 13 Divergentes: Régimen sandinista reactiva "servicio militar obligatorio" en los empleados públicos, 19.09.24; El País: Tiro al blanco, AK-47 y emboscadas: el régimen de Ortega obliga a empleados públicos a recibir entrenamiento militar, 13.07.24; La Prensa: "Nos sacan de las aulas a tomar armas". Régimen obliga a maestros a participar en curso de "policías voluntarios", 22.03.24; 100% Noticias: Empleados públicos obligados a recibir entrenamiento militar en Nicaragua, 12.04.23.
- 14 Reuters: Nigeria's Borno state hit by cholera amid flood devastation, 04.10.24; tagesschau.de: Zwischen Cholera und Hunger, 01.10.24; Reuters: Nigeria reports 359 cholera deaths in first nine months of year, 07.10.24; Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC): An update of Cholera outbreak in Nigeria for Week 39, 02.10.24.
- 15 This Day: Troops Kill 165 Terrorists, Arrests 238, Destroy 65 Illegal Refining Sites in One Week, 10.10.24; The Cable: Troops arrest 'high-profile terrorist informants', rescue 188 kidnap victims in one week, 10.10.24; Channels Television: Troops Kill 165 Terrorists, Arrest 238 Bandits, Rescue 188 Hostages In One Week [Full Briefing], 10.10.24.
- 16 RFE/RL's Radio Mashaal: At Least 15 Dead In Pakistani Shootings Linked To Sunni-Shi'a Land Feuds, 12.10.24.
- 17 RFE/RL's Radio Mashaal: Pakistan's Pashtun Movement Plans To Go Ahead With Assembly Despite Recent Violence, 10.10.24; RFE/RL's Radio Mashaal: Gunmen Kill 20 Coal Miners In Pakistan's Balochistan, 11.10.24.
- 18 RFE/RL: Pakistan's Ban On Prominent Civil Rights Group Will 'Alienate' Pashtun Minority, 12.10.24; RFE/RL's Radio Mashaal: Pakistan's Pashtun Movement Plans To Go Ahead With Assembly Despite Recent Violence, 10.10.24; RFE/RL's Radio Mashaal: After Police Shootings, Pashtun Rights 'Jirga' Begins In Pakistan, 11.10.24.

- 19 Associated Press: The UN says that aid entering Gaza is at its lowest level in months, 11.10.24; UN OCHA oPt: Humanitarian Situation Update #227 | Gaza Strip [EN/AR/HE], 08.10.24; Reuters: Israeli airstrike kills 28 people sheltering in Gaza school, 10.10.24; Reuters: Israeli strikes kill 29 people in Gaza, tanks push north, 13.10.24; Reuters: Thousands trapped in Jabalia camp as Israel escalates deadly attacks in northern Gaza, 13.10.24; The Times of Israel: 3 reserve soldiers killed in northern Gaza as IDF presses offensive in Jabaliya, 10.10.24.
- 20 BalkanInsight: Pro-Russian Candidates Line Up Against Moldova's Sandu. But Why? 30.08.24; BalkanInsight: Moldova's Banks Stop Money Transfers from Russia, 06.09.24; BalkanInsight: Fugitive Moldovan Oligarchs Exploit Online Weaknesses to Spread Disinformation Before Elections, 10.09.24; BalkanInsight: Moldova Bars Fugitive Oligarch Shor's Party From EU Referendum, 24.09.24; RFE/RL: Moldova Blocks Russian Websites Ahead Of EU Referendum, Presidential Vote, 26.09.24; RFE/RL: Moldova Says It Has Uncovered A Russian-Funded Voter-Rigging Plot, 03.10.24; BalkanInsight: Moldovan Oligarch Offers Money for Votes Against EU Integration, 30.09.24; BalkanInsight: Moldova Takes Down Pro-Kremlin Oligarch Shor's Telegram Accounts, 11.10.24.
- 21 BalkanInsight: Moldova's Justice Minister: Vetting of Judiciary 'Uncomfortable' but Essential, 19.09.24.
- 22 Reuters: Israeli strike on residential building in Syria's Damascus kills seven civilians, state media says, 09.10.24; Reuters: Israel carries out airstrikes on sites in Syria, state TV says, 10.10.24; Syria Direct: As Israel strikes Iran-linked figures in Damascus, civilians pay the price, 10.10.24; Enab Baladi: Seven killed in Israeli bombardment on Damascus, 09.10.24; Syria TV: سورية أم مقتل [Syrian mother and child killed after Israeli attack on Mezzeah neighborhood], 09.10.24; North Press Agency: Israeli airstrike kills deputy commander of IRGC-QF in Damascus, 09.10.24; North Press Agency: Israel kills "terrorist" linked to Hezbollah in southern Syria, 10.10.24.
- 23 North Press Agency: HTS launches deadly attack on government forces in Northwest Syria, 11.10.2024; Enab Baladi: Idlib: Rumors of a potential "military action" cause residents to flee, 10.10.24; Syria TV: حلب ريف على "قصد" النظام لقوات يقصف فتى إصابة [A boy was injured in shelling by regime forces and the SDF in the Aleppo countryside], 12.10.24; Syria TV: النظام انتهاكات تصاعد بعد [After the escalation of the regime's violations... "Al-Fath Al-Mubeen" announces its readiness for any development in northern Syria], 12.10.24, Enab Baladi: Ongoing shelling by regime forces in Aleppo and Idlib countryside, 12.10.24.
- 24 Medya News: Turkish court upholds 9-year prison sentence for former Diyarbakır mayor Selçuk Mızraklı, 10.10.24; Birgün: Yargıtay, Selçuk Mızraklı'ya verilen hapis cezasını onadı [The Supreme Court approved the prison sentence given to Selçuk Mızraklı], 10.10.24; Stockholm Center for Freedom: Turkey's top court upholds prison sentence for ousted Kurdish mayor in retrial, 11.10.24; ANF News: Urteil gegen früheren Oberbürgermeister von Amed rechtskräftig, 11.10.24; Artı Gerçek: Selçuk Mızraklı'nın avukatı Muhsin Bilal: Yargıtay kararı normalleşmenin illüzyon olduğunu gösteriyor [Selçuk Mızraklı's lawyer Muhsin Bilal: The Supreme Court decision shows that normalization is an illusion], 11.10.24; Yeni Özgür Politika: Yargıtay, kararına rağmen Mızraklı'ya cezayı onadı [Despite its decision, the Supreme Court upheld the sentence for Mızraklı], 10.10.24; Turkish Minute: Turkey's top court upholds prison sentence for ousted Kurdish mayor in retrial, 10.10.24; Rudaw: Selçuk Mızraklı'ya verilen ceza onandı [Sentence given to Selçuk Mızraklı was approved], 10.10.24; Evrensel: Avukat Aktar: Cezalandırılan, Selçuk Mızraklı'nın siyasi tavrıdır [Lawyer Aktar: What is being punished is Selçuk Mızraklı's political stance], 11.10.24; Voice of America Türkiye: Eski Diyarbakır Büyükşehir Belediye Başkanı Mızraklı'ya verilen hapis cezası onandı [The prison sentence given to former Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Mızraklı was upheld], 10.10.24; Evrensel: Yargıtay, Selçuk Mızraklı'ya verilen hapis cezasını onadı [The Supreme Court approved the prison sentence given to Selçuk Mızraklı], 10.10.24.
- 25 Business News: L'association des victimes de la torture dénonce la plainte déposée contre Abdelwaheb Maâter, 13.10.24; LaPress.tn: L'ISIE annonce les résultats définitifs de la présidentielle 2024 : Kaïs Saïed, Président de la République dès le premier tour, 12.10.24.
- 26 The Guardian: Ukraine war briefing: Hypersonic missile targets major Ukrainian airbase, 08.10.24; The Guardian: Ukraine war briefing: End the war in 2025 through 'decisive action', says Zelenskyy, 10.10.24; Tagesschau.de: Weiteres Todesopfer infolge von Angriff auf Odessa [Liveblog], 10.10.24; The Guardian: Ukraine war briefing: Zelenskyy says Ukraine needs to achieve faster results on the battlefield, 09.10.24; RFE/RL: Russian Missile Strike On Odesa Kills 4, Including 16-Year-Old Girl, 11.10.24; The Guardian: Ukraine war briefing: Zelenskyy presents 'victory plan' to European allies as long-range strikes discussed, 11.10.24; The Guardian: Ukraine war briefing: Zelenskyy says forces are holding positions in Russia's Kursk region, 13.10.24; Tagesschau.de: Ukrainische Journalistin in Gefangenschaft gestorben [Liveblog], 11.10.24.
- 27 The Guardian: Ukraine war briefing: Hypersonic missile targets major Ukrainian airbase, 08.10.24; Tagesschau.de: Russische Armee kontrolliert gut die Hälfte von Torezk [Liveblog], 11.10.24; Tagesschau.de: Russische Armee greift in Ostukraine weiter an [Liveblog], 11.10.24; Tagesschau.de: US-Experten zu russischem Vormarsch [Liveblog], 10.10.24; Tagesschau.de: Fast 60 russische Angriffe auf Hafenanlagen in drei Monaten [Liveblog], 10.10.24; The Guardian: Ukraine war briefing: Zelenskyy presents 'victory plan' to European allies as long-range strikes discussed, 11.10.24; Tagesschau.de: Ukraine weist Medienbericht zu möglichem Waffenstillstand zurück [Liveblog], 10.10.24; Tagesschau.de: Bundeswehr: Steigende Rekrutierungszahlen in der Ukraine [Liveblog], 09.10.24; Tagesschau.de: "Wir brauchen eine Pause", 08.10.24; DPA: Millionen gescheffelt. Ärztin schrieb Ukrainer wehrunfähig, 04.10.24; DPA: Polen: Geringes Interesse von Ukrainern an Militäreinheit, 02.10.24; The Guardian: Ukraine war briefing: Zelenskyy says forces are holding positions in Russia's Kursk region, 13.10.24; Tagesschau.de: Gedenken an verstorbene Journalistin [Liveblog], 12.10.24.
- 28 Tagesschau.de: USA lieferten Transformatoren an die Ukraine [Liveblog], 12.10.24.

-
- 29 Tagesschau.de: Ukrainisches Nachrichtenportal beklagt staatlichen Druck [Liveblog], 09.10.24; RFE/RL: Ukrainian Media Outlet Says It's Being Pressured By Zelenskiy's Office, 09.10.24; Tagesschau.de: Kiew: Parlament erhöht Steuern [Liveblog], 10.10.24; DPA: Ukraine geht von stark schrumpfender Bevölkerung aus, 02.10.24.
- 30 CNN: Dictan privación de la libertad del alcalde de Maracaibo en Venezuela, confirma su esposa, 02.10.24; Efecto Cocuyo: Alcalde de Maracaibo será acusado de corrupción, adelanta la Fiscalía, 02.10.24; Efecto Cocuyo: Detención de alcalde «en nada ayuda a conseguir el sosiego», dice gobernador Manuel Rosales, 02.10.24; Efecto Cocuyo: ¿Quiénes son los cinco alcaldes opositores arrestados en Venezuela durante 2024?, 02.10.24; Efecto Cocuyo: Denuncian detención del alcalde de Maracaibo, 01.10.24; Efecto Cocuyo: Concejales opositores advierten que Psuv no tiene mayoría para designar alcalde encargado en Maracaibo y denuncian represión, 09.10.24; Efecto Cocuyo: Concejo Municipal designa a Adrián Romero como alcalde encargado de Maracaibo, 10.10.24; Efecto Cocuyo: Lista de presos políticos en aumento: Foro Penal eleva cifra a 1.916 per-sonas, 09.10.24; Foro Penal: Presos Políticos en Venezuela al 07 de octubre de 2024, 07.10.24; Crónica Uno: #EnClaves | Concejo Municipal nombra alcalde temporal para Maracaibo, 10.10.24; Efecto Cocuyo: Vente Venezuela denuncia detención de dos miembros del equipo de seguridad de Machado, 29.10.24; Amnesty International: Venezuela: Decisive action by UN Human Rights Council supports victims and signals at perpetrators that the world is watching them, 11.10.24.

Imprint

Published by

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge,
90461 Nürnberg

ISSN

2943-0690

Valid as of

CW 42/2024

Printed by

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge

Design

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge

Reference source

Publikationsstelle Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge
www.bamf.de/publikationen

You can also download this publication as an accessible PDF document.

This publication is issued by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees as part of its public relations work. The publication is distributed free of charge and is not intended for sale. It may not be used by political parties or by election campaigners or election workers during an election campaign for the purpose of election advertising. This applies to federal, state and local elections as well as to elections to the European Parliament.

www.bamf.de