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Briefing Notes

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration

07 October 2024

Afghanistan

Security situation

According to their own accounts, the National Resistance Front and the Afghanistan Freedom Front attacked the Taliban in Herat, Kunduz, Kabul and Panjshir provinces on 03.10. and 04.10.24, killing a total of 20 Taliban fighters. The operations included an attack on an important Taliban army base in Panjshir Province in which 13 Taliban were allegedly killed.

On 01.10. and 06.10.24, armed clashes occurred between the Taliban and Pakistani border soldiers once again at the Afghan-Pakistani border. The course of the border is disputed, and attempts to fortify the border are a particularly frequent cause of conflicts.¹

Persecution

The Taliban reportedly flogged two people for alleged "moral wrongdoings" in Ghazni province on 01.10.24.

On 02.10.24 the Taliban are said to have arrested a driver in Badghis province for transporting women who were not escorted by a male relative (mahram). On the same day, the Taliban reportedly beheaded a former policeman in Badakhshan province. It has also been reported that the Taliban arrested the director of a radio station in Ghazni province on this day. He was accused of having spoken "disrespectfully" about suicide attacks by the Taliban during the era of the Republic.

On 03.10.24 the Taliban reportedly arrested two girls in Ghazni province for filming a wedding. They were released after a number of hours.

On 05.10.24 the Taliban are said to have shot dead a man at a checkpoint in Farah province after he failed to stop his vehicle. On the same day, the Taliban arrested six people in Kabul on charges of leading "illegal relationships".²

Humanitarian situation

At least one person died and six were injured in flooding in Kunar province on 05.10.24. Around 60 houses and 200 hectares of agricultural land were reportedly destroyed.³

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Situation in the east

Various NGOs and international organisations are warning that the population in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is exposed to severe suffering as a result of human rights violations and flagrant breaches of international humanitarian law in the continuing conflict. It is reported that a number of non-state groups are perpetrating ongoing violence in armed conflicts in the east of the country. This violence is said to have forced more than 940,000 people to flee the region in the first half of 2024. Tens of thousands of people have fled to the camp for displaced people in Goma, for example, where precarious medical and humanitarian conditions prevail. An

unprecedented number of victims and survivors of sexual violence were reportedly documented and treated in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2023, amounting to over 25,000 cases in total. This trend is reported to have continued in the first months of 2024. The overwhelming majority of these victims and survivors are said to have lived in the camp for displaced people in Goma. Considering that the number of cases of sexualised violence in 2023/2024 is by far the highest ever documented by NGOs and organisations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, all national and international actors are called upon to take action to afford protection to the people in the east of the country as a matter of urgency.⁴

Ecuador

New state of emergency declared

Following the end of the last state of emergency in September 2024, on 03.10.24 president Noboa issued a decree declaring corresponding new emergency measures for 60 days in Quito and other regions (Guayas, Los Ríos, Manabí, Santa Elena, El Oro, Orellana and Camilo Ponce Enríquez in Azuay province), on grounds including ongoing serious disturbances as a result of the continuing presence of gangs, gang violence and related crimes. The interior ministry has stated that corresponding measures are also intended to prevent violence ahead of the presidential elections in 2025 such as was witnessed in the run-up to the early elections in 2023 (cf. BN of 14.08. and 28.08.23).⁵

Ethiopia

Violent clashes and mass arrests in Amhara

It has been reported that at least 20 civilians were killed in violent clashes between government troops and the Fano militia near Gondar (Amhara region) on 03.10.24. In addition, hundreds of people with alleged links to Fano have been arrested since 28.09.24 in various towns and villages in Amhara. Many of those arrested were not brought before a court within 48 hours, as is actually prescribed by law. Human rights organisations have described the arrests as an arbitrary means of repression. The arrests and clashes took place in the course of a large-scale military offensive against Fano by the Ethiopian and regional armed forces. According to reports in the media, the employed measures also included actions against suspected Fano supporters, including arrests of academics and business people.⁶

Haiti

Attack by gang leaves dozens dead or wounded; consequences for food security

According to information from the UN, at least 70 people were killed and 16 injured in an attack by the Gran Grif gang in the town of Pont-Sondé on 03.10.24. The Reuters news agency has reported that some 6,000 people fled their homes. The gang reportedly set fire to at least 45 buildings and 34 cars. The police have stated that the Tactical Anti-Gang Unit (UTAG) has been dispatched to the town. Pont-Sondé is situated in the Artibonite region, where a large proportion of the country's food is produced. This means that the violence also has consequences for food security.

An Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report shows that 48 % of Haiti's population is living in acute food insecurity (IPC phase 3 or higher). Around 6,000 of these people are in a state of famine (IPC phase 5). The situation is most precarious for people in emergency accommodation in the metropolitan region of Port-au-Prince. Referring to the IPC report, Save the Children states that children are also severely affected by food insecurity. In addition to the gang violence, the inflation-driven sharp rises in food prices, which now account for the major portion of household expenditure, are also having a negative impact on access to food. Furthermore, armed violence and the lack of relief supplies and services are making work more difficult for aid organisations.⁷

Dominican Republic planning large-scale deportations of Haitian migrants

A spokesman for the Dominican government announced on 02.10.24 that the country was planning to repatriate up to 10,000 illegally resident Haitians per week, with immediate effect. He stated that this action was being taken

on account of the high number of Haitians seeking protection in the country and the limited success of the UN-backed Multinational Security Support Mission (MSS) in Haiti. The UN Security Council extended the mission by a further year on 30.09.24. The government's plans include increasing the number of border protection personnel and deploying surveillance drones at the border. Temporary repatriation camps are also to be built, while observing the human rights of those to be repatriated. In March 2024 the UNHCR repeatedly called for deportations to Haiti to be discontinued on account of the security situation.⁸

Iran

Increased level of repression against media representatives

According to a report published on 02.10.24 by Defending Free Flow of Information Organization (DeFFI), a human rights organisation which by its own account is committed to combating the suppression of media and journalism in Iran, acts of repression against media representatives and media were up by 30 % in September 2024 compared to August 2023.

In the report, DeFFI documents 31 cases of repression in all. In 28 separate cases, it is alleged that at least 24 media representatives and media houses have been subjected to repressive practices by the judiciary or security forces. In addition, the report claims that at least 25 incidents have occurred in which the rights of media representatives have been violated by security forces or legal proceedings. It is emphasized in the report that these measures took place around the time of the second anniversary of the "Woman, Life, Freedom" protests and that the freedom of the press is being systematically suppressed by the Iranian authorities. The repressive measures reportedly include blocking media representatives' SIM cards without corresponding court rulings and detaining media representatives.

It is further reported that at least nine new legal actions were brought against media representatives in September 2024. In addition, at least eight media representatives are said to be in custody at present.⁹

Iraq

Diyala: The struggle against IS

Four members of the Iraqi security forces were killed by presumed IS fighters in an attack in Diyala on 03.10.24. Two further members of the security forces died in another attack in the same province on the night of 06.10.24. According to information from the Iraqi security forces, more than 100 IS fighters have been killed since the beginning of the year.¹⁰

Kenya

Refugees called upon to surrender passports from their countries of origin

It has been reported in the press that the Department of Refugee Services (DRS) issued a directive on 01.10.24 requiring all refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya to hand in their passports from their countries of origin within 30 days. The directive has been issued due to a fear that some refugees have used these passports to leave the country, in contravention of international and Kenyan refugee law. The authority cited the 1951 UN convention on the legal status of refugees, its Protocol of 1967 and the Kenyan Refugee Act No. 10 of 2021, in which the travel regulations for refugees are stipulated. Refugees are entitled to have civil status, identification and travel documents issued, including machine-readable conventional travel documents for journeys outside of Kenya, with the exception of travel to their country of origin. The possession and use of such passports are now prohibited. Transgression may lead to legal consequences, such as the revocation of refugee status or expulsion from the country.¹¹

Lebanon

Escalation of the armed conflict between Israel and Hamas

The Israeli air force continues to carry out intensive air raids on targets in Lebanon on a daily basis. Leading Hezbollah figures, groups affiliated with Hezbollah and Hamas also continue to be systematically targeted. Key focuses of the attacks are southern Lebanon, the Beqaa Valley and the southern districts and suburbs of Beirut. As the number of incidents runs into three figures on a daily basis, only two are highlighted below:

On 05.10.24 Hashem Safieddine was killed in an air strike on the Danieh district of Beirut. Safieddine was Hassan Nasrallah's cousin, and after the latter's death he was the de facto leader of Hezbollah.

On the same day, one of the commanders of the Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing, died together with his family in a targeted attack in Tripoli. This was the only attack on Tripoli to date.

Large numbers of Lebanese have left their homes and fled to the country's interior and also to Syria. The recent hostilities are estimated to have resulted in 1.2 million new internally displaced people in Lebanon, in addition to which more than 375,000 people, for the most part Syrian nationals, are believed to have fled from Lebanon to Syria.

Due to the ongoing events, it is not possible to put an exact figure on the number of casualties at present. The Lebanese health ministry puts the number of dead on the Lebanese side at 1,400 or more, with adult men making up the overwhelming majority of casualties. No reliable reports are currently available on the number of soldiers killed in the launched ground offensive, as both sides are largely maintaining silence about the course of events. The deployment of a third division of the Israeli military to southern Lebanon is an indication of heavy fighting, however.¹²

Libya

Agreement on joint head of the central bank

On 30.09.24 the parliament residing in Tobruk, eastern Libya (House of Representatives) and the High State Council domiciled in the capital approved the appointment of Naji Issa Belgassim as the new head of the central bank and Mari Barassi as his deputy. The appointment was preceded by several weeks of wrangling between the institutions supporting the rival governments over who should become the new head of the central bank. As a result of this dispute, production at a number of oil fields was suspended by the actors controlling the east of the country and large parts of the south (cf. BN of 19.08. and 26.09.24). The National Oil Corporation announced on 03.10.24 that production and exports were being resumed at all oil fields.¹³

Military court: 16 people sentenced to death

According to reports in the media, a military court has sentenced 16 people to death in connection with the mass graves which were discovered in the town of Tarhuna in western Libya in 2020. Six other defendants received life prison terms. Some of the victims in the discovered mass graves showed signs of torture. Death sentences continue to be imposed in Libya, although no executions have been carried out since 2011.¹⁴

Nigeria

Tear gas deployed against demonstrators

According to reports in the media, police deployed tear gas on 01.10.24 against hundreds of people who were participating in the so-called #FearlessInOctober demonstration in the capital, Abuja. The protests on Nigeria's Independence Day, which had been announced and organised primarily via social media over several weeks, form part of a nationwide movement which is calling, among other things, for an end to the high costs of living and better governance. The demonstrations of 01.10.24 are linked to the demonstrations held over several days in August 2024 under the banner #EndBadGovernance, at which a number of people were killed (cf. BN of 05.08.24) Some of the people arrested at these protests are still in custody. Nigeria is going through an economic crisis with high inflation. Many people blame the growing poverty resulting from a substantial increase in the cost of living on the

economic reforms implemented by president Bola Tinubu in 2023. Rising fuel and food prices and a marked rise in the prices of imported goods are seen as consequences of these reforms (cf. BN of 10.06.24).¹⁵

Pakistan

Security situation

According to the latest reports on the security situation, 722 people were killed and 615 injured in attacks in the 3rd quarter of 2024 (incl. civilians, members of the security forces and insurgents). Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces, which border on Afghanistan, account for 97 % of casualties. At 1,534, the total number of deaths in the first three quarters of this year exceeds the total death toll for the entire year in 2023 (1,523).

Three people, including two Chinese nationals, were killed and eleven were injured in a bomb explosion near Karachi Airport on 06.10.24. The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) has claimed responsibility for the attack.

It was reported in the media on 06.10.24 that the capital, Islamabad, had been cordoned off due to continuing protests by supporters of the imprisoned former prime minister, Imran Khan. The protesters are calling for Khan's release. Thousands of security personnel are said to be in operation in the city, blocking access routes with containers, for example. One police officer has died in clashes with protesters.

On 06.10.24 the Pakistani government declared the non-violent Pashtun Protection Movement (PTM) illegal in accordance with section 11B of the 1997 Anti-Terrorism Act, on the grounds that it constitutes a threat to public order. PTM had announced a major gathering of its members which was planned for 11.10.24. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has condemned the banning of PTM.

20 people were abducted by unknown assailants in Balochistan province on 29.09.24. They are believed to be workers from Punjab province.¹⁶

Palestinian territories / Israel

War between Israel and Hamas

One year to the day after Hamas' large-scale attack on Israel and the subsequent onset of war in the Gaza Strip, the Hamas-directed health ministry announced on 07.10.24 that more than 41,600 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip and 96,600 injured. The ministry does not officially differentiate between combatants and civilians. According to information from the Israeli military, approx. 17,000 Hamas members have been killed, plus around 1,000 fighters who entered into Israel on 07.10.23. More than 40,300 targets in the Gaza Strip have been hit and some 4,700 tunnels localised.

According to figures released by the Israelis on 07.10.24, more than 728 members of the Israeli military have been killed and 4,576 injured since the attack by Hamas on 07.10.23. In addition, 56 members of the military are reported to have been killed by friendly fire or other accidents. According to Israeli reports, it is probable that 66 living hostages and the bodies of 35 hostages who are presumed to have been killed are still being held by Hamas.

More than 13,200 rockets, missiles and drones are alleged to have been fired at Israel from the Gaza Strip since 07.10.23. Over the same period, more than 26,000 projectiles have been fired at Israel from Lebanon, Iraq, Syria and Iran.

An analysis of satellite images is said to show that 66 % of buildings in the Gaza Strip have been damaged. The same analysis reveals that one quarter of all buildings have been either completely destroyed or have incurred substantial damage. The UN estimates that 90 % of the population have had to flee the hostilities at least once. The civilian infrastructure has collapsed. It is estimated that around 70 % of water and sanitary installations have been destroyed. The destroyed sewage and refuse infrastructure is leading to increasing contamination of the inhabitable areas and the spread of diseases while the war continues.¹⁷

Israel: Attacks and rocket fire cause deaths and injuries

Seven people were killed and 16 injured in attacks in Jaffa on 01.10.24. Two Palestinians from Hebron in the West Bank entered Israel illegally, opened fire and attacked people with a knife after getting off a tram in Jaffa. Armed civilians and a security officer stopped the attackers, one of whom was killed.

A border policewoman was killed in an attack on a fast food restaurant at a bus stop in the city of Beersheba on 06.10.24. The attacker was an Israeli national from the Bedouin village of Ugbi. Ten people were injured. Rockets from Lebanon injured five people in Haifa on 06.10.24. In addition, one person was injured by rocket fire on the Sea of Galilee.¹⁸

Russian Federation

Young anti-war activists sentenced to long prison terms

13 young anti-war activists have been sentenced to long prison terms for sabotage. On 02.10.24 a military court in the Russian city of Chita, capital of the Zabaykalsky Krai region, handed down prison sentences of up to 23 years to the men, who were aged between 17 and 20 at the time of their arrest in the spring of 2023. The court found them guilty of having carried out 13 attacks on Russian railway and energy supply installations. The offences were allegedly committed in Moscow and the Siberian region of Krasnoyarsk between December 2022 and January 2023. The group is also alleged to have planned to destroy a strategic bomber at an air force base. There have been numerous attacks on railway and factory installations in Russia since the beginning of the war of aggression against Ukraine on 24.02.22. It is presumed that the attacks are carried out as acts of resistance to the war against Ukraine. On 01.10.24 the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) announced the arrests of 39 people, including minors. They are accused of having prepared acts of sabotage with Ukrainian agents in internet chats.¹⁹

Russian journalists on trial for links with Navalny

On 03.10.24 the trial of four Russian journalists with links to opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who died in February 2024, began before a court in Moscow. Antonina Favorskaya, Sergei Karelin, Konstantin Gabov and Artyom Kriger are accused of having participated in extremist activities because they allegedly supplied content for YouTube channels which were associated with Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK). Gabov and Karelin are freelance journalists who have worked for various international news agencies, including Reuters and Associated Press. Favorskaya and Kriger both work for the independent news broadcaster SOTAVision, which is classified in Russia as a "foreign agent". The FBK and associated organisations were classified by the Russian authorities as "extremist" in 2021. As such, any connection with these organisations constitutes a criminal offence from the Russian judiciary's point of view. If found guilty, the journalists each face up to 6 years in prison. The court has ruled that the proceedings are to take place in camera, citing a warning from the Russian centre for combating extremism that FBK supporters could attempt to disrupt the trial, which forms part of a comprehensive clampdown on Navalny's former associates. According to information from human rights groups, dozens of journalists are currently being held in custody on similar grounds in Russia.²⁰

Syria

Hundreds of thousands of people from Lebanon seeking protection

Syrian media reported on 03.10.24 that a large number of people had fled from Lebanon to Syria since the beginning of escalations in Lebanon on 23.09.24. While the Syrian authorities state that some 197,000 Syrian nationals are among those who have fled Lebanon, at least 72,000 Lebanese are also reported to have fled to Syria up to 03.10.24. According to the UNHCR, 60 % of the refugees are under 18 years of age. Those entering Syria were headed for various regions, including those under government control, the areas governed by the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) and also regions in the north-west which are still under the control of rebel groups. According to a report from the pro-opposition media platform Enab Baladi, hundreds of people wishing to enter the north-west, which is controlled by opposition groups, were detained for days at the Aoun al-Dadat crossing point and refused entry. The hold-ups allegedly related to security checks by the military police of the so-called Syrian National Army (SNA), the rebel alliance in north-western Syria which is supported by Türkiye. Despite the completed security checks, 95 refugees were reportedly arrested by SNA groups during or after entry into the territories. The Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham group, which controls large parts of Idlib, also arrested 13 of these refugees, including five women, on 05.10.24. They are accused of cooperating with the Lebanese Hezbollah.

In its monthly report, the most recent issue of which appeared on 02.10.24 for September, the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) notes that it has been notified of a total of 206 cases of arbitrary arrest, including nine cases involving people who had fled to Syria due to the most recent escalation in Lebanon. According to the report, these nine arrests took place at border crossing points and concerned first and foremost individuals who had evaded service in the military or the reserves. No further information was available as to the whereabouts of the arrested individuals at the time of the report. SNHR stresses that, on account of numerous methodological and logistical restrictions and in view of the complex security situations, the numbers it has recorded cannot be complete and the actual numbers are substantially higher.

The North Press news agency, for example, cites a refugee who travelled to Syria herself and stated after arriving in the AANES territories that around 40 refugees had been detained by Syrian government troops when entering the country from Lebanon on 02.10.24.²¹

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. According to state media, three civilians were killed in strikes on targets in Damascus on 01.10.24 and three more died on the following day. It cannot be verified whether the victims were actually civilians. A state broadcaster has announced that a presenter has been killed.

According to various reports, it appears that on 29.09.24 an attack also took place on the private villa of the president's brother, Maher al-Assad, who leads the 4th Division. The 4th Division is believed to have close links to Iran and Hezbollah. Accordingly, the villa is said to be visited regularly by high-ranking members of the militia and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards. The Israeli authorities assume that important arms smuggling routes run through Syria to Lebanon and enable Iran to supply Hezbollah with arms. Since the outbreak of the war in the Gaza Strip, Israeli attacks on targets with links to Iran and its allies have increased substantially.²²

Southern Syria: Exploding war remnants kill two

Two people died when a landmine exploded in Dar'a governorate on 02.10.24. They were reportedly travelling in a car on farming land when a landmine exploded. One source has spoken of two young men, another of two children. The exact age of those who died is not known.²³

Türkiye

Documentary on dismissals following attempted coup in 2016 banned

According to reports in the media, the governor's office of Antalya province has banned a documentary film from being shown at a film festival by the name of Free Orange in the city of Antalya. The film portrays the fate of people caught up in the wave of dismissals following the attempted coup on 15.07.16.

The documentary, which is entitled Kanun Hükmü (English: "The Decree"), has been subject to censorship since its release in 2023 and was to be shown at the Free Orange Film Days which began in Antalya on 03.10.24.

According to the governor's office, the film may not be shown during the film festival because it undermines national unity and solidarity and among some sectors of the public it would stir up hate and animosity towards others on the basis of their different characteristics. The governorate has also cited a decision by the committee for the evaluation and classification of cinema films at the ministry of culture and tourism to the effect that the commercial distribution and showing of the film's content is incompatible with the principles of public order, the protection of the mental health of minors and adolescents and the constitution. The governor's office further accused the documentary of exploiting the "so-called victims" and asserted that the "distortion" of the facts in the documentation was aimed at destroying Türkiye's image and shaking public confidence in judicial decisions.

The documentary attracted international attention when it was censored for the first time at the 2023 Orange Film Festival in Antalya, ultimately leading to the cancellation of the 60th Golden Orange Film Festival in September 2023. Back then, the decision to remove the documentary from the festival provoked criticism among people who had lost their jobs on account of a legal decree and also among activists. The festival was cancelled after the Turkish ministry of culture and tourism withdrew its support and accused the festival's organisers of allowing so-called terrorist propaganda. Sponsors duly followed suit.

The documentary was also banned and censored by the local authorities in other towns and cities, despite the fact that the constitutional court had ruled that the bans imposed by local authorities infringed the right to freedom of expression, awarding director Nejla Demirci TRY 13,500 (approx. EUR 359 as per 07.10.24) in damages.²⁴

Ukraine

Civilian casualties

According to information from the local public prosecutor's office, seven civilians were killed at a marketplace in a Russian artillery attack on the city of Kherson on 01.10.24. The regional governor has stated that a further person died in attacks in the following days. Three people, including a baby, died in a Russian drone attack in the Chernihiv region on 03.10.24. According to information from the governor, one person also died in a drone attack in the Kharkiv region on the night of 05.10.24. The authorities have reported that four people have died as a result of Russian shelling in the Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions.²⁵

Course of the war

According to consistent information from the warring parties, the fortified city of Vuhledar (Donetsk region), which had been fought over virtually continuously since February 2022, has been taken by the Russian forces. According to the Ukrainian military leadership, the retreat took place on the evening of 01.10.24 in view of the impending complete encirclement of the city and the need to protect personnel and military equipment. According to information from the regional governor, only 107 of the original population of around 14,000 have remained in the city. On 30.09.24, president Zelenskyy had described the situation on all sections of the front in Ukraine as "very, very difficult". Observers note that the Russian forces are continually advancing, particularly in the east of Ukraine, and presently at a comparatively fast pace.²⁶

Treatment of prisoners of war

According to a report published by the UN High Commission for Human Rights on 01.10.24, 97 % of interviewed Ukrainian prisoners of war and 51 % of their Russian counterparts have reported mistreatment and torture by security personnel of the other warring party. According to information from the UN, mistreatment and torture, including heavy beatings, electric shocks, dog attacks, simulated executions and sexual violence are practised systematically in all stages of captivity in Russia and the Russian-occupied territories, while in the Ukraine unlawful physical violence is also a common occurrence directly after combatants are seized. From the time of arrival at the detention camps, however, the report states that the Russian prisoners of war are treated correctly in accordance with the Geneva Convention.

In contrast, the Ukrainian chief public prosecutor's office has by its own account on 04.10.24 evidence of 93 instances of Ukrainian prisoners of war being executed by Russian soldiers in the battle zone. Shortly before this report, the chief public prosecutor's office had announced that it was conducting an investigation into a further such case which may be the largest incident of this type: 16 Ukrainian soldiers are alleged to have been shot dead after surrendering to Russian troops in the area close to the city of Pokrovsk (Donetsk region). Back in the spring of this year, a report published by the UN documented the executions of 32 prisoners of war from Ukraine in the period from December 2023 to February 2024.²⁷

Pro-Russian employee at Zaporizhzhia nuclear power station assassinated

It has been reported in the international press that the security chief of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power station was killed by a car bomb planted by the Ukrainian military intelligence service in the Russian-occupied city of Enerhodar (Zaporizhzhia region) on 04.10.24. He was accused of voluntarily cooperating with the occupying authorities and denouncing pro-Ukrainian employees of the Russian-controlled power station.²⁸

Venezuela

Carter Center election monitors present OAS election returns

On 02.10.24 a group of election monitors from the Carter Center confirmed to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) the results of the presidential elections as stated by the opposition. In this

connection, the group presented what it maintained to be original election returns which had been published by the opposition, pointing out the QR codes on the returns which it claims to verify their authenticity. By the group's own account, it received the returns by international mail. On the basis of these data, the Unitary Platform's opposition candidate, Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia, won the election with 67 % of the vote. After the election and without publishing the classified election returns per polling station, the pro-government supreme election council (CNE) declared Nicolás Maduro to be the winner (cf. BN of 29.07. and 05.08.24).²⁹

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