UN Urges Protection of Children in Conflicts, Disasters

UNITED NATIONS - The United Nations on Monday urged governments to protect children in conflicts and disasters, making a strong call for the end of the worst atrocities against children.

The statement emphasizes the importance of protecting children in conflicts and disasters, pointing to the need for governments to take measures to prevent and respond to these atrocities. It also highlights the urgent need for international cooperation to address this critical issue.

The statement is signed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, and is co-sponsored by 134 States, reflecting the widespread support for this call to action.

The statement calls for the implementation of the Declaration on the Protection of Children in Armed Conflict, which was adopted by the General Assembly in 2018. It also highlights the importance of the Paris Declaration, which was adopted in 2020 and reaffirms the commitment of States to protect children in armed conflict.

The statement underscores the role of the United Nations in monitoring and reporting on violations of children's rights, and calls for increased support for the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

The statement concludes by urging all States to take immediate action to protect children in conflicts and disasters, and to work together to ensure their safety and well-being.

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Macron’s Camp Urges Voter Participation while Win Set in Big Election

PARIS - French President Emmanuel Macron’s campaign urged voters to participate in legislative elections which are due to start on Monday, as results showed the centrist Party en Marche (LREM) and its ally on track to win a sweeping majority in the second and final round of elections.

The latest exit polls released by media outlets indicated that President Macron’s party and its allies would win about 32.32 percent of the ballots, suggesting the rookie president’s campaign would nonetheless lose some seats in the National Assembly.

The LREM’s majority in the current Parliament was 282, compared to the 308 seats needed for a working majority in France’s lower house.

Final results released by the Interior Ministry on Monday showed that Macron’s party and its allies had captured 41.44 percent of the vote, putting them on track to win a majority in Parliament.

The centrist party and its allies, including the ecologist party EELV and a centrist group of former Socialist Party members, are projected to win around 41 percent of the vote, giving them a strong chance of securing a majority.

The results, which are not yet official, suggested a significant drop in support for the mainstream parties which have traditionally dominated French politics.

The left-wing Socialist Party, which held the majority in the previous Parliament, won just 10 percent of the vote, while the far-right National Rally (RN) won 14 percent.

However, the far-right party is not expected to win enough seats to form a government, and the government is expected to remain a coalition of several parties.

French voters are expected to head to the polls in the next three days to vote in the second round of the legislative elections.

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Putin Signs Order to Approve Anti-Doping Measures before June 30

Some 3,000 Migrants Rescued Between North African Coast, IOM

GENEVA - The UN-migrant agency IOM reported on Tuesday that at least 3,000 migrants have been rescued between Tunisian and Libyan territorial waters.

The IOM rescue operations were carried out by the Libyan coastguard, the UN-helmsed Libya National Army and a Libyan navy vessel, according to the International Migrants Organization (IOM).

According to the IOM, the operations were carried out on Tuesday, as the number of migrants rescued in the Mediterranean Sea continues to rise.

The IOM said that 3,000 migrants were rescued on Tuesday, bringing the total number of migrants rescued in the Mediterranean Sea since the start of the year to at least 24,000.

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