



1.3.3. Presidential elections of 2024

On 17 October 2023, the government and the opposition signed an agreement in Barbados, observed by Norway and Mexico, to hold presidential elections in 2024, following widespread international criticism of the 2018 electoral process.^{[117](#)} On 22 October 2023, the opposition held primary elections to select a candidate to challenge President Maduro, electing María Corina Machado, a former lawmaker, with 93 % of the vote.^{[118](#)} The opposition coalesced around the PUD.^{[119](#)} However, the Comptroller General disqualified Machado and barred her from holding public office for 15 years.^{[120](#)} For additional background information on the 2024 electoral agreement and the opposition primaries, see EUAA COI Report – Venezuela Country Focus November 2023. Presidential elections were scheduled for 28 July 2024.^{[121](#)}

Sources reported multiple irregularities in the months leading up to the 28 July 2024 presidential elections,^{[122](#)} including the appointment of a new board of directors for the CNE in June 2024^{[123](#)} and the disqualification of opposition presidential candidates through bans on holding public office and obstacles to candidate registration.^{[124](#)} In January 2024, the TSJ upheld María Corina Machado's disqualification, prompting condemnation from the opposition and several countries.^{[125](#)} The US stated that it would re-impose sanctions on Venezuela, arguing that the ruling violated the terms of the Barbados agreement.^{[126](#)} María Corina Machado designated academic Corina Yoris as the opposition's candidate, but Yoris was prevented from registering her candidacy two days before the 25 March 2024 deadline, reportedly due to 'computer problems'.^{[127](#)} After the CNE granted an extension, the opposition succeeded in registering González Urrutia as its official candidate for the presidential elections.^{[128](#)}

Shortly after midnight on 28 July 2024, the president of the CNE announced that Nicolás Maduro had won the presidential elections with 5.15 million votes (51.2 %), compared to González Urrutia's 4.44 million (44.2 %), following several hours of delay that the government attributed to a 'cyber-attack'.^{[129](#)} The opposition rejected the official results and, on 29 July 2024, released electoral tally sheets indicating that González Urrutia had won with approximately 70 % of the vote.^{[130](#)} Following the CNE announcement, mass protests erupted across the country, resulting in more than 2 000 detentions and 24 deaths.^{[131](#)} The opposition, the US, and several other countries demanded the publication of the official tally sheets.^{[132](#)} However, on 22 August 2024, the TSJ ruled that Maduro had won the election and declared the tally sheets published by the opposition to be "'faked'".^{[133](#)} The original electoral acts were never released.^{[134](#)}

On 1 August 2024, González Urrutia was recognised as the legitimate president by several governments and international bodies, including the US and the European Parliament.^{[135](#)} On 2 September 2024, a terrorism-specialised tribunal issued an arrest warrant against González Urrutia on charges of "'conspiracy, usurpation of functions, forgery of public documents, incitement to disobey the laws, computer crimes, criminal association and conspiracy'".^{[136](#)} On 8

September 2024, González Urrutia travelled to Spain, where he was granted asylum by the Spanish government.^{[137](#)} Following the elections, Corina Machado spent most of her time in hiding.^{[138](#)} In December 2025, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and arrived in Oslo only hours after the ceremony.^{[139](#)} In April 2026, Corina Machado remained outside Venezuela.^{[140](#)}

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