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GYLA condemns the vandalism at Jikhashkari

Today, around 23:00 during the vote count and result summarisation, the unknown individuals broke into the polling station #108 of the Zugdidi district (village Jikhashkari). Those individuals threw stones and broke the windows of the polling station; entered the building by use of force, scattered the ballots, and damaged the electoral inventory. One policeman was present at the polling station who naturally was not able to respond adequately to the violent situation; Additional police forces came only later on.

According to the GYLA observer, 2 the observers of the Norwegian Helsinki Union-observer organisation, who were trying to record this violent incident by phone, are beaten up and have physical injuries. The danger was posed to the GYLA observer as well who left the polling station through the window.

We call on the government to ensure that the electoral process is carried out in a safe environment and to safeguard the safety of the stakeholders involved in the process.