

Maduro's exit inevitable, says Venezuela opposition leader, as election protests grow

María Corina Machado says president should understand he lost vote, amid international doubts over victory claim

The opposition leader battling to bring the curtain down on Nicolás Maduro's authoritarian regime has urged the Venezuelan strongman to accept that his exit from power is inevitable. The call came as thousands of protesters hit the streets to repudiate Maduro's disputed claim to have won a third term in power.

Venezuela's incumbent president was officially proclaimed the victor of Sunday's election by the government-controlled electoral authority on Monday morning.

Maduro called his supposed victory "irreversible" despite widespread international doubts over the veracity of his claim to have beaten the opposition candidate Edmundo González Urrutia and his campaigning partner, the conservative activist María Corina Machado.

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