



# HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

27 June – 03 July, 2022



**Human Rights are inherent to all human beings, regardless of the nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language or any other status without discrimination. These rights are all universal, inalienable, interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.**

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## LOCAL

**Monday**  
27 June 2022

### **Lebanon – Lebanon must act against torture, human rights groups warn**

On the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, a group of organizations, including Human Rights Watch (HRW), called on the Lebanese authorities to ensure the protection of detainees from torture and ill-treatment in Lebanon. For Aya Majzoub, Lebanon researcher at HRW, "Lebanon needs to show that it is serious about combating torture", as numerous complaints of torture pile up in courts without effective investigations behind them. In 2017, the Lebanese parliament passed a law criminalizing torture, but HRW denounces the law as incomplete, failing to meet Lebanon's obligations to the UN Convention Against Torture, as it does not criminalize inhuman or degrading treatment.

### **Lebanon – CLDH issues a joint statement with a group of organizations on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture**

CLDH issued a joint statement on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture with other local and international organizations, calling on the Lebanese authorities to enforce torture law in Lebanon and effectively protect everyone in its territory, including those in detention, from torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. The statement also stated that authorities should investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment and the perpetrators of such acts should be prosecuted, brought to trial and, if found guilty, sentenced to appropriate punishment.

**Tuesday**  
28 June 2022

### **Lebanon – Lebanon's ambassador to France attacks LGBTQIA+ allies**

On Monday, Rami Adwan, Lebanon's ambassador to France, attacked Lebanese activists after they hung pictures of anti-LGBT repression taking place in Lebanon, on the walls of the Lebanese consulate in Paris. After assaulting them, Mr. Adwan chased them into a café to try to confiscate their phones to avoid them to mediatize his practices. The activists claim that Adwan also tried to lure them into the embassy, by pulling them by the hands. He called the activists and their ideas "rotten". Mr. Adwan stated that the Lebanese embassy in France has no say in the LGBT repression in Lebanon, on the basis that the embassy does not represent the decisions of the government but represents the people. Shortly after the incident, an employee of the embassy apologized for the ambassador's behavior, stating that the embassy staff supports the rights of gender and sexual minorities.

### **Lebanon – Greece rescues a Lebanese migrant boat**

About 60 Lebanese citizens were brought to the Greek territories, who rescued them from their adrift boat due to an engine failure. The group of Lebanese had been traveling since last Thursday, had left from Abdeh in Akkar, and was trying to reach the Italian coast. According to Greek media, the Greek coast guard announced that it had rescued 220 migrants of different nationalities, including 60 Lebanese. The migrants were welcomed on the island of Kos.

**Wednesday**  
29 June 2022

### **Lebanon – After Fatima Fouad's testimony, Aya Metwalli: I am also a survivor**

Egyptian musician Aya Metwalli published her account of the New Year's Eve events at Barzakh on December 31, 2019, after which musician Bashar Suleiman raped her at his then place of residence in Beirut. Her testimony comes on the heels of the testimony published by activist Fatima Fouad, on Saturday, in which Fatima accused Bashar Suleiman of rape and Aya Metwalli of drugging and assault her and facilitating her rape by Bashar. Ms. Metwalli denied these accusations of assault but confirms that both women were raped by the musician. Ms. Metwalli's testimony is accompanied by text messages exchanged with the musician after the party and adds further evidence of Mr. Suleiman's involvement in rape crimes.

#### **Lebanon – [Homosexuality is not a disease](#)**

The Lebanese Psychiatric Association issued a statement in which it asserts that homosexuality cannot be considered as a disease, requiring treatment and that is the consensus of the medical community. Thus, the Lebanese association calls on the authorities to stop using offensive or threatening language regarding sexual orientation, which can endanger the lives of individuals. In reaction to the Lebanese Ministry of Interior's statement calling for the repression of pro-LGBT events, the association calls on the authorities to protect minorities from physical and psychological abuse.

**Thursday**

30 June 2022

#### **Lebanon – [Lebanese man offers to sell kidney to save wife](#)**

In a video that has gone viral on Lebanese social networks, a Lebanese man says he wants to sell his kidney to save his sick wife, becoming a symbol of the country's economic collapse. Khalil Adnan Al Dgheiry posted a video on his personal Facebook account, in which he announced that he would sell his kidney to raise money to save his wife, who is suffering from Crohn's disease and is admitted to Al Rai hospital, in Saida. He explains that he does not have the money to pay for his medical care, requiring \$400 per month over 3 months. His situation has generated a wave of support, with a Lebanese expatriate in Saudi Arabia offering to pay for a full month of treatment. Mr. Al Dgheiry is a symbol of Lebanon's economic collapse, which has led to the impoverishment of about 80% of the population, according to the UN. With the fall of the national currency and inflation, many basic goods and services are inaccessible.

**Friday**

01 July 2022

#### **Lebanon – [Lebanese order of psychologists condemn anti-LGBT campaign. Conversion therapy scientifically baseless](#)**

To complete the Lebanese Psychiatric Association's statement released on Wednesday, the Lebanese Order of Psychologists issued yesterday a circular concerning mental health in Lebanon and the societal view of homosexuality. It calls for not stigmatizing the LGBT community by "being carried away by some beliefs", while Interior Minister Bassam Mawlawi is leading a campaign of repression against LGBT people in Lebanon, supported by religious authorities. The circular reminds the scientific inefficiency of conversion therapies, as they have physical and psychological impacts on those who undergo them. The doctors call for the modernization of the Lebanese laws, in coherence with the scientific consensus, to protect the sexual minorities.

**Saturday and Sunday**

02 and 03 July 2022

#### **Lebanon – [Arab foreign ministers pledge support for Lebanon's IMF negotiations and reform process](#)**

At an Arab League meeting held in Beirut this weekend, Arab foreign ministers reaffirmed their support for Lebanon's reforms and negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to bring Lebanon out of the economic and social crisis that has hit the country. The Arab ministerial delegations met with Lebanese President Michel Aoun and highlighted their fraternal and regional relations. They maintained they would help Lebanon on several strategic issues: the weight of Syrian refugees in the country, or the negotiations with Israel for the delimitation of maritime borders. In exchange, Lebanon pledged to respect all United Nations and Arab League resolutions concerning it, such as resuming the sovereignty of the state over all its territory.



Monday  
27 June 2022

**Sudan – Sudan vows to respond as it accuses Ethiopia of executing seven soldiers, a civilian**

Sudan accused the Ethiopian army of executing 7 of its soldiers and a civilian taken prisoner, which Ethiopia has denied. Khartoum denounced "an act that contravenes all laws and customs of war and international humanitarian law" and announced that it was filing a complaint with the United Nations Security Council. According to the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, those executed were taken prisoner in Sudan on June 22, and taken to Ethiopian territory. Ethiopia denounces a political machination and violence orchestrated to undermine relations between the two countries, which have been in conflict for years over land and water.

**United Arab Emirates – Arab woman stabbed to death in UAE's Sharjah, police catch killer in two hours**

According to local Emirati media, a Jordanian woman was stabbed to death in her car by her husband in Charjah, United Arab Emirates, last Friday. Aged 20, she was stabbed by her husband about 15 times following an argument, according to the police of Charjah. On the run, the suspect has been arrested and confessed to the murder over personal differences. In recent days, highly mediatised femicide cases have hit Jordan and Egypt.

Tuesday  
28 June 2022

**Syria – 83 civilians killed every day in 11 years of Syrian civil war**

According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the war in Syria has killed a total of 306,887 civilians since March 2011, or about 1,5% of the country's pre-war population. This represents an average of 83 deaths per day, including 18 children. This count is based on information sources covering the conflict, but the OHCHR believes it is incomplete since it only counts civilian and direct casualties of the war: the figure would be much higher if those who died from lack of health care, food or water, due to the war, were counted. The UN has also established that 100 people, mainly women, have been killed in the camp of Al-Hol in Syria, in the last 2 years, where violence reigns.

**Tunisia – Tunisia's ex-prime minister Hamadi Jebali released, says lawyer**

According to lawyer Samir Dilou, the former Tunisian prime minister and ex-president of the Islamist-inspired Ennahda party, Hamadi Jebali, was released on Monday, 4 days after being arrested. Mr. Jebali remains under investigation for suspected money laundering, which he categorically denies. He denounces a political settlement of accounts by the Tunisian authorities, while the regime of Kais Saied has suspended the Ennahda-dominated parliament, dismissed the government and excluded the party from the national dialogue. Mr. Jebali has been on hunger strike since his arrest.

**Egypt – Egyptian TV presenter found buried in her garden as husband is issued arrest warrant**

According to a statement from the Egyptian Prosecutor General, the adviser and vice president of the Egyptian State Council Ayman Hagaj killed his wife Shaima Gamal, a famous TV presenter. On Tuesday, police discovered the woman's remains buried in the garden of a private house in the suburbs of Cairo. Probably beaten to death, Ms. Gamal's face also shows traces of nitric acid used to disguise the crime. Her husband reported her missing 2 weeks ago, explaining she had not returned home from shopping. He is now on the run and an arrest warrant has been issued against him after his immunity as a judge was lifted by the Egyptian State Council. He was denounced by an accomplice who helped him in this crime. This femicide is the 5<sup>th</sup> to shake the Arab world in the last 2 weeks. According to Megaphone News, women in the region are preparing to go on a full strike on July 6 to denounce these femicides.

Wednesday  
29 June 2022

**Libya – Migrants in Libya forced into rape for food: UN**

In a new report by United Nations (UN) investigators, the Independent Fact-Finding Mission to Libya confirmed that war crimes under international law are being committed in Libya, including against abused migrants. Women migrants are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence and often forced to submit to rape in exchange for food, according to the UN. Libya is a key departure point for migrants from Africa seeking to reach Europe, but they are regularly detained by authorities or human traffickers, who take advantage of the war context. Sexual violence concerns access to food, water, basic services or extortion of families. Overall, the report denounces "acts of murder, torture, rape and other inhumane acts" against migrants.

#### **Libya – Twenty people found dead in Libyan desert**

According to the local branch of the Libyan rescue and emergency service in the city of Kufra, 20 migrants were found dead of thirst in the middle of the Libyan desert, near the Chadian border, after their vehicle broke down. In the desert in summer, temperatures can exceed 40°C. Since the war, the desert south of Libya has become a place of smuggling and illegal immigration, and thousands of migrants try to cross it and then reach Europe, whereas the conditions are very dangerous.

#### **Iran – Iran ‘torturing’ prize-winning activist Narges Mohammadi: Amnesty**

According to Amnesty International, Iran is torturing Iranian human rights activist Narges Mohammadi, denying her medical care while she suffers from a lung condition, in retaliation for her activism. Ms. Mohammadi, winner of the 2011 Per Anger International Award, is being held in the Qarchak women's prison, where human rights activists are concerned about her conditions of detention. She was hospitalized on June 23 with shortness of breath and irregular heartbeat, but her return to prison was not accompanied by the necessary care, according to her husband Taghi Rahmani. Ms. Mohammadi has been convicted several times of undermining national security while advocating for justice for protesters killed in the 2019 crackdowns.

**Thursday**

30 June 2022

#### **Sudan – Anti-coup protesters in Sudan shot dead: Report**

On Thursday, 4 protesters were killed in demonstrations calling for the downfall of General Abdel Fattah al-Burhane in Khartoum, according to pro-democracy doctors, during a day of pro-democracy mobilization. Already on Wednesday night, a protester was killed. The activists intend to force the army to return power to civilians after the October 2021 military coup that plunged the country into political and economic chaos. According to AFP reporters, Internet and telephone access was difficult in recent days, to limit calls for demonstrations. Doctors say the crackdown has already left 105 people dead and thousands injured since the putsch. United Nations envoy Volker Perthes has called for an end to the violence.

**Friday**

01 July 2022

#### **Syria – ‘My roof was stolen’: Syrian homes looted after gov’t recapture**

An Al-Jazeera article published today reveals Syrian homes looted by the Syrian government, after it recaptured territories from the opposition. Drone pictures shows houses without roofs, foundations, windows or stripped after Syrians fled government captured areas, in 2019, in northwestern Syria. Displaced Syrians who fled Hama province and southern Idlib, as well as human rights observers, accuse Syrian government forces of taking over homes, ransacking neighborhoods and auctioning off Syrians' farmland or property. According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and the Syria Network for Human Rights, the state and its militias have stolen about 36 towns in southern Idlib over the past 3 years, and they are also reportedly stealing washing machines, refrigerators, or furniture, which are then resold at flea markets or online. The Syrian state has not responded to the accusations.

#### **Libya – Protesters storm Libya Parliament building demanding better living conditions**

Protesters stormed the parliament building in Tobruk to ask for better living conditions. They set fire to the building to denounce the inaction of political groups in the context of war, and to denounce unbearable living conditions, according to witnesses to international news agencies. According to local television stations, demonstrators managed to enter the parliament building and committed acts of vandalism. Heavy black smoke billowed from the parliament building as protesters burned tires. Other demonstrations took place in other Libyan cities, such as Benghazi, to denounce the government's inability to get the country out of the crisis. For several days, Libya has been suffering repeated power cuts, following a blockade of oil facilities. The country has been in crisis since 2011 and the fall of Gaddafi, which left power divided between two warring factions in the East and West.

#### **Iran – Executions in Iran soar in protest crackdown**

According to human rights groups, the number of executions in Iran has more than doubled in the past 6 months in an attempt to silence anti-regime protesters. 251 Iranians were hanged by the regime from January 1 to June 30, 2022, compared to 117 in the first half of 2022. According to Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam, founder of Iran Human Rights, the upsurge in executions coincides with a series of nationwide protests Iran's economic crisis and soaring prices. But the human rights group estimates the number to be higher, as the figures only include executions confirmed by official media or independent sources. Only strong international reactions could stop the growing trend. The United Nations (UN) is concerned about the increase: for Nada Al-Nashif, the UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, the charges leading to executions do not correspond to the most serious crimes and do not allow for "fair trials".

**Saturday and Sunday**

02 and 03 July 2022

#### **Occupied Palestine – Palestinian teenager shot by Israeli forces in West Bank dies**

On Sunday, a Palestinian teenager died after an Israeli raid conducted on Saturday, according to Palestinian medical sources. Kamel Alawnah, 17, died of wounds caused by Israeli army live ammunition to his abdomen and hand in the West Bank town of Jenin, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health. The Israeli army did not comment on the incident. Since April, 49 Palestinians have been killed in the Israeli-occupied territories, including civilians and militants.



## INTERNATIONAL

Monday

27 June 2022

### **Cameroon – [Over 30 villagers killed in Cameroon](#)**

Last week-end, more than 30 villagers were killed in western Cameroon by a rival ethnic group, a local NGO and military sources said. According to the Reverend Fonki Samuel Forba, spokesman for the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon, the massacres took place in the village of Bakinjaw in the Akwaya commune, near the Nigerian border, where men, women and children were burned and mutilated. The tragedy was said to be the result of a land dispute between the Olti and the Messaga Ekol of Akwaya, according to the reverend, who confirmed the inter-community nature of the violence. Conflicts between communities or ethnic groups are frequent in Cameroon: in December 2021, clashes left 44 people dead and 111 injured in 2 weeks in northern Cameroon.

### **Ecuador – [Ecuador president cuts gasoline price amid Indigenous strike](#)**

Ecuador is facing a political and social paralysis, especially in Quito, where indigenous activists have been demonstrating for 2 weeks against the rising cost of living, leading to clashes with police forces. According to the Alliance of Human Rights Organizations, police repression of indigenous people trying to enter the Parliament last week left one person dead, bringing the death toll to 5 since the beginning of the crisis, as well as dozens of injured. Nearly 14,000 demonstrators are mobilized throughout the country to protest the rising cost of living and to demand a reduction in fuel prices. The indigenous protest forced the president Guillermo Lasso to lower the price of fuel, which the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (Conaie) considers insufficient. The capital is completely blocked, shortages have already been reported and the government fears a complete halt to oil production in the next few days.

### **Norway – [Oslo shooting: Norway attack being treated as Islamist terrorism, police say](#)**

On Saturday, a man shot up the London Pub in Norway, a queer spot in the city of Oslo, killing 2 people and injuring 21, in the middle of Oslo Pride. The LGBTQ+ Pride march scheduled for the next day had to be cancelled. However, on Saturday afternoon, thousands of people spontaneously took to the streets of Oslo to defend the rights of sexual minorities. The perpetrator of the attack, Zaniar Matapour, 42, Norwegian of Iranian origin, was known to domestic intelligence services for his links with the Islamist movement. He was quickly arrested after the shooting. For Borge Enoksen, one of the heads of the Oslo police, the main lead is that of a hate crime against the LGBT community, combined with an Islamist attack and a mental imbalance.

### **Ukraine – [Rescuers dig for survivors of Russian missile strike on Ukrainian shopping mall](#)**

On Monday, a Russian strike hit a shopping mall in the Ukrainian town of Kremenchuk, killing 18 people so far and injuring 59 others, according to rescue workers. The death toll could be higher, according to Poltava region governor Dmytro Lunin, as rescue workers continue to work to clear the rubble for survivors. The shopping center was hit by missiles from the Russian region of Kursk. Ukrainian President Zelensky called the attack "terrorist" and deliberate, with the aim of hitting a shopping mall to cause maximum casualties, while the town of Kremenchuk had been relatively untouched by fighting until now. The G7 leaders, meeting in Germany, called the attack a war crime.

### **United States of America – [US opens criminal investigation after 51 migrants found dead in Texas lorry trailer](#)**

In the United States (US), 51 people were found dead in a truck in Texas, 39 men and 12 women, according to local authorities, who are still identifying the bodies. Several injured people were also taken care of and were suffering from heat exhaustion, according to Charles Hood, the fire chief of the city of San Antonio, close to Mexico, where temperatures of 40°C could be recorded these last days. Heavy trucks are a common means of transportation for migrants wishing to enter the United States, but the trips are dangerous and do not respect basic human dignity. US President Joe Biden has called for action to combat the criminal trafficking of migrants, which generates millions of dollars in human trafficking. 3 people were arrested for the truck found, according to police.

**Greece – [Revealed: Greek police coerce asylum seekers into pushing fellow migrants back to Turkey](#)**

In an investigation conducted in recent months by a consortium of media (Le Monde and its Lighthouse Reports partners: Der Spiegel, ARD Report Munchen and The Guardian), migrants have told of being used as slaves by Greek police to push back other migrants, in exchange for regularization of their papers. 6 testimonies collected by these media outlets reveal a system of forced labor at the Greek-Turkish border, where migrants are forced by border guards to illegally push back other migrants. Reduced to captivity, they were promised a one-month residence permit to organize their journey to Europe. What the media denounce as modern slavery.

**India – [Arrest of Journalist in India Adds to Press Freedom Concerns](#)**

In India, freedom of expression is increasingly under threat. An activist and a journalist, known for their commitment to justice and truth, were arrested within days of each other. Teesta Setalvad, an activist, and Mohammed Zubair, a journalist and founder of the Alt News website, which tracks down fake news from the Narendra Modi regime, were arrested in a blatant attack on freedom of expression. Mr. Zubair is accused of undermining religious harmony for a tweet posted in 2018, where he parodied the name of a Hindu god. Their arrests come in an increasingly repressive environment for intellectuals, activists, journalists and religious minorities in India.

**Wednesday**  
29 June 2022

**Ghana – [Protests over economic woes enter second day in Ghana](#)**

Protests against rising food and fuel prices continue in Ghana. On Tuesday, Ghanaian police arrested 29 people in a violent demonstration in Accra. There were clashes between protesters and police, who used tear gas to disperse them. Those arrested face trial on charges of assault and damage to public property. For several months, thousands of Ghanaians have been protesting inflation, which reached 27% in June, its highest level in 20 years, reinforced by Covid-19 and the war in Ukraine.

**Belarus – [Belarus 'engulfed in fear', Human Rights Council hears](#)**

Anaïs Marin, United Nations Special Rapporteur about human rights in Belarus, warned of the increasing deterioration of human rights in Belarus, and condemned a climate of fear and arbitrariness, at the Human Rights Council in Geneva. She stressed that government policies systematically reinforce legislation that restricts civil and political rights. She cited the extremely violent crackdown on demonstrators in August 2020 over the disputed re-election of President Lukashenko, or the amendment of the Criminal Code restricting freedom of peaceful assembly, association and expression. She also expressed extreme concern about the extension of the death penalty for crimes considered "terrorist" by the State, when this very broad definition of "terrorist" could be simply the legitimate exercise of fundamental rights. She calls on the international community to support and protect the fundamental rights of Belarusian exiles.

**Thursday**  
30 June 2022

**Ethiopia – [Ethiopia: more than 8,500 Tigrayans illegally detained in camps, according to an official body](#)**

The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC), an official body, estimates that more than 8,500 Tigrayans are being illegally detained in camps and denounces multiple human rights violations. It calls for the immediate release of 8,560 Ethiopians from Tigray, a region in conflict with the federal government. According to the EHRC, they are being held without legal basis and in a discriminatory manner in 2 camps in Semera, and families are separated. According to Daniel Bekele, head of the commission, the detainees "have been subjected to arbitrary and unlawful arrests based on their ethnicity". Officials in the Afar region, where the camps are located, claim that individuals' movements are restricted for their safety, while the EHRC claims that their detention is against their will. In these camps, several people have died of disease and access to health care and humanitarian aid is not allowed.

**Ukraine – [Ukraine: Deadly Mariupol theatre strike 'a clear war crime' by Russian forces](#)**

In an investigative report published Thursday, Amnesty International (AI) says the March 16 attack on the Mariupol theater was a "war crime" after hundreds of Ukrainian civilians fled there to escape Russian bombing. From March 16 to June 21, AI collected 53 testimonies and confirmed that the attack came from the Russian army, and that the theater was deliberately targeted without being a military objective: the theater was "clearly recognizable as a civilian object"; while the Russian word for "children" had been written on the ground in front of the theater's entrances, in letters large enough to be seen by aircraft. The exact number of victims remains uncertain, between 300 and 600 according to the latest Associated Press data, but partial evacuations conducted before the attack suggest that the number of victims would be lower, according to AI.

**Friday**  
01 July 2022

**Central African Republic – UPDATE 2-French prosecutors open war crime probe linked to Groupe Castel unit in Central African Republic - source**

An investigation has been opened in Paris for complicity in crimes against humanity and war crimes, after a report accused a subsidiary of the French company Castel of financially supporting rebels in the Central African Republic, according to Agence France Presse (AFP) and The Sentry, an NGO that specializes in tracking dirty money. In 2021, The Sentry accused Sucaf RCA, a subsidiary of Castel, of having negotiated a security arrangement with the Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique (UPC), an armed group accused of abuses against the population. In exchange for the UPC securing the company's site, Sucaf RCA financed the armed militia through direct and indirect cash payments and provided material support like vehicles and fuel. The NGO's lawyers claim that the investigation will recognize the responsibility of the French company in very serious international crimes. According to the United Nations, UPC has killed, tortured, raped, and displaced civilians, and engaged in arms trafficking, illegal taxation and warfare.

**Ukraine – Strikes kill 19 in Ukraine's Odessa**

In Ukraine, missiles fires killed 19 people, including 2 children, and injured 38, including 6 children, in the Odessa region, according to Ukrainian officials. The missiles hit an apartment building and a recreation center in the town of Serhiivka, south of the port of Odessa. According to Sergiy Bratchuk, spokesman for the Odessa military administration, the strikes were launched by Russian aircraft flying over the Black Sea. Russian forces have not commented on the strikes. These strikes come at a time when Russian troops have just abandoned their positions on Snake Island, a strategic territory located near the port of Odessa. They echo the worldwide outrage earlier this week when a Russian strike hit a shopping center in Kremenchuk, killing at least 18 civilians. Joe Biden just announced \$800 million in new weapons aid to Ukraine, at a NATO summit.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
02 and 03 July 2022

**Uzbekistan – Uzbekistan's president Mirziyoyev says there are casualties in provincial unrest**

Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said that recent anti-government protests in the autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan, in northwestern Uzbekistan, had resulted in civilian and law enforcement casualties. He did not precise the number of casualties, and whether they were dead or injured. Witnesses told Agence France Presse (AFP) that police used tear gas and smoke grenades against the protesters. In a country where the opposition is violently repressed, the state of emergency has been declared on Saturday, and the anti-government demonstrations forced the President to abandon a draft constitutional amendment seeking to reduce the autonomy of Karakalpakstan, a region of 2 million people, extremely poor. Mr. Mirziyoyev is accused of taking the country in a new authoritarian direction.

**India – Indian landslide searches enters third day with 25 dead**

On Saturday, the Indian government and the army announced 25 dead and about 40 missing after a landslide that occurred 3 days ago, in the state of Manipur. The remote northeastern region of India was hit by heavy rains, which caused landslides and flooding, and washed away a railway construction camp. According to Manipur state chief minister Nongthombam Biren Singh, rescue workers are still searching for possible survivors but are hampered by bad weather conditions, including rains. 18 people have been found alive, but 12 reservists and 26 civilians are missing. The rains are unusually heavy in India this year. Experts say climate change is increasing the number of extreme weather events. In India, dams, deforestation and development projects also contribute to disasters with heavy human tolls.

**Argentina – Miguel Etchecolatz, unrepentant dictatorship-era torturer and killer, dies at 93**

Miguel Etchecolatz, one of the most known torturers of the Argentine dictatorship (1976-1983) died Saturday of heart failure, at 93, according to media reports. Sentenced nine times to life imprisonment for kidnapping, torture and murder in 84 cases, he was the former deputy chief of police of the province of Buenos Aires and had commanded about 20 torture camps where thousands of people were killed. He never repented for his crimes, according to left-wing activist Myriam Bregman, but was currently held in Ezeiza prison. According to human rights organizations, 30,000 people disappeared during the dictatorship. Since the dictatorship's trials began in 2000, 1,060 people have been convicted of crimes against humanity.