



HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

1 April - 7 April 2024



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.

The articles shared in this brief are the liability of their respective news outlets and do not reflect the views of CLDH.



LEBANON

Monday

1 April 2024

A civilian sustained injuries due to an air raid on Hanine

The National News Agency reported that an airstrike targeted the town of Hanine on April 1, 2024, resulting in the serious injury of citizen A. Abbas. The airstrike targeted an area near his home, resulting in his injury due to flying shrapnel. He was taken to a local hospital for treatment.

Tuesday

2 April 2024

The retired engineers begin their open-ended sit-in

The National News Agency reported that retired engineers began their open-ended sit-in on April 2, 2024. The engineers announced that their sit-in will go on until demands for "improving the retirement salary to match the level of decent living and reducing hospitalization fees" are met.

In a statement, they called on the "Retirement Fund Administration to study their proposals and to increase the income of the Retirement Fund, which will in turn lead to raising the proposed pension in the proposed budget." The retired engineers stated that they "will not rest until the proposals are reviewed again to achieve our legitimate demands. We will continue this movement and all means daily without getting tired or bored." The retired engineers also called on their fellow engineers to stand in solidarity with their demands.

Cyprus concerned over spike in Syrian irregular migration from Lebanon

Reuters reported that Cyprus expressed deep concern on 2 April, 2024, over a spike in the number of largely Syrian irregular immigrants it said were coming from neighboring Lebanon after more than 350 such arrivals were recorded in two days. In uncharacteristically blunt comments, Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides said it was "deeply concerning" that the arrival of Syrian migrants was consistently on the rise in recent weeks. "I fully understand the challenges Lebanon is facing but exporting migrants to Cyprus should not be the answer and cannot be accepted," he said after a meeting with European Parliament President Roberta Metsola. Nicosia wants the European Union to consider declaring parts of war-ravaged Syria safe, which would allow for the repatriation of asylum seekers arriving at neighboring countries. Last month, EU Commissioner Margaritis Schinas said the European Union could strike a deal with Lebanon to stem the outflow of migrants, as Cyprus complained it was being inundated by a surge in arrivals from the Middle East. The EU has entered agreements with several countries to help them deal with increased migration burdens, and, ultimately, to prevent a spillover into the 27 member states of the bloc. Rights groups have sharply criticized the pacts.

Wednesday
3 April 2024

Hostile airstrike targets house in Yaroun town

On 3 April, 2024, shortly after 2 p.m. Israeli warplanes carried out an airstrike targeting the town of Yaroun in the Bint Habil, which led to the destruction of a house, according to a report by the National News Agency.

Thursday
4 April 2024

Council of ministers declares the south an agricultural disaster area

The media center [for](#) the Presidency of the Council of Ministers reported that during [a](#) ministerial council [on](#) April 4, 2024, prime minister Najib Mikati announced: "Our session will be held today at a time when the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon continues, causing martyrs, wounded and massive destruction.

Today we held a meeting with United Nations organizations and ambassadors of donor and concerned countries, and we had an extensive discussion about what is happening in the south and we asked for quick assistance, especially since there are about 100,000 displaced people from the villages of the south, 331 martyrs and about 1,000 wounded, and the biggest disaster is the damage caused to the agricultural sector, where there are 800 hectares that were completely damaged, 340 thousand heads of cattle were lost, and about 75 percent of the farmers lost their final source of income. I believe that we must declare the southern region agriculturally afflicted, especially since this problem will apply to the coming years. The same applies to the educational sector, where there are about 75 schools that are permanently closed, not to mention the issue of rebuilding what was destroyed and the priority of searching for sources of funding."

Cabinet approves doubling the minimum wage for private sector employees

Caretaker Minister of Labor Mustafa Bayram announced [on](#) April 4, 2024, following a Cabinet session that [the](#) government has agreed to raise the official minimum wage in the private sector to LL18 million (around \$200 at today's rate of LL89,500 to the dollar). Bayram described this as a "step forward with the previously approved 9 million Lebanese pounds as a transportation allowance, so that no one in the private sector will receive less than \$300."

Friday
5 April 2024

The Delegation of the European Union issues statement on the need for macro-economic and financial reforms in Lebanon

The news center for the The Delegation of the European Union reported that the Delegation of the EU together with the Embassies of the EU Member States to Lebanon, issued the following statement on April 5, 2024: "Two years ago, on 7 April 2022, Lebanon and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed on a programme of actions and reforms. Its implementation would have unlocked over \$3 billion in assistance, additional support from donors, put Lebanon back on the path of economic recovery and restored its international credibility. Unfortunately, since then, only limited progress has been made. The European Union recognises the very difficult reality that Lebanon is currently experiencing. This situation could and should serve as a driver for change. Electing a President and forming a fully functioning Government are critical. But a delay should not hinder the implementation of agreed key reforms, in order to restore the trust of international actors and Lebanese citizens in the financial system. The adoption of the 2024 budget within constitutional deadlines, the reforming of the bank secrecy law and the stabilization of the exchange rate, have shown that where there is a will, there is a way. Structural reforms are necessary to avoid Lebanon being trapped in a perpetual cycle of crises. Decisive leadership is needed. The answers to Lebanon's economic crisis can only come from within Lebanon. The European Union firmly stands by Lebanon and its people in their aspirations for a brighter future. The time to act is - always - now."

Saturday and Sunday
6 and 7 April 2024

[Airstrike hits Kfar Hamam, injures seven and causes property damage](#)

An

Israeli airstrike targeted the southern Lebanese town of Kfar Hamam on April 5, 2024, resulting in the injury of seven citizens, with injuries ranging from moderate to light, according to a report by the National News Agency. The airstrike also completely destroyed the home of citizen Salim Al-Sablani and caused direct damage to neighboring houses. Additionally, the electricity network was affected, prompting the municipality of Kafr Hamam to work on reopening roads blocked by flying debris from the airstrike.

[Two killed in air raid on south Lebanon's Aita Shaab town](#)

The National News Agency reported that two individuals were killed as a result of the Israeli air raid on the southern Lebanese town of Aita Shaab, on April 5, 2024. One injury was reported.

[Raid on Tayr Harfa targets a civilian home, no casualties reported](#)

An Israeli raid on Tayr Harfa targeted a house belonging to the Youssef family on April 6, 2024, according to a report by the National News Agency. The Civil Defense began the process of removing the rubble, adding that there are no casualties so far.

[Visiting Lebanon, WHO Regional Director affirms support to address multiple health system challenges](#)

World Health Organization's Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr Hanan Balkhy concluded a 2-day visit to Beirut, Lebanon, last week at a time when hostilities are escalating on Lebanon's southern border with Israel, according to a report published on 7 April, 2024, by the WHO's media center. The visit that took place on 2 and 3 April represented the third country visit on Dr Balkhy's official tour of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region since taking office in February 2024. "Lebanon's health system faces multiple challenges, from hosting 1.5 million Syrian refugees to hostilities in the south targeting health workers, facilities and ambulances," said Dr Balkhy. "The Ministry of Public Health and partners need significant support and sustainable financing. It will be critical to assist them to maintain positive health outcomes as they pursue health reforms." Other challenges that face the health system include critical shortages in the health workforce, including medical doctors and nurses, and in medicines, medical equipment and other essential health supplies. We need to ensure that everyone living in the country is having access to the basic health services they need, when and where they need them. With the escalation of tensions at the southern border, WHO was quick to initiate a readiness and preparedness plan in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health, partners and donors. One of the main components of the readiness plan is preparing the referral hospitals through training of trainers for health workers on clinical trauma care, mass casualty management, the management of psychiatric emergencies, and basic psychosocial support. Over 3906 health workers from 125 hospitals have received advanced training on mass casualty management, trauma care and mental health over the past 6 months. Critical trauma kits and other essential supplies were already pre-positioned in hospitals in southern Lebanon, while emphasis has been given to the continuity of essential services for displaced people.

REPORTING A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO CLDH

If you wish to report an incident that may potentially constitute a violation of human rights, kindly send an email to the following address: [**violations@cldh-lebanon.org**](mailto:violations@cldh-lebanon.org)

You can also report an incident anonymously through our [**website**](#).

When making a report, please ensure to include the following information:

- **WHERE:** City/village, governorate, additional details (e.g. what prison)
- **WHAT:** Nature of the violation
- **HOW:** A narrative description of what happened
- **WHEN:** Date of the episode (at least the year, if day and month are unknown)
- **TO WHOM:** Information regarding the victim (name, nationality, gender, date of birth, city of origin, phone number). Only share this information with the consent of the person.
- **WHO** is the person reporting (name, phone number) and how were they identified (e.g., victim him/herself, family member, eyewitness, journalist, humanitarian worker...)

The information referred will remain completely private. It will be fact-checked and registered into CLDH's internal system. No action will be undertaken without the explicit and written consent of the reporter.



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