HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK
18 - 22 DECEMBER, 2023
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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LEBANON

Monday
18 December 2023

The Judicial Council postponed the follow-up session of the trial in the Al-Tilal explosion file until next January 19
The Judicial Council postponed until next January 19 the follow-up session of the trial in the fuel tank explosion in the town of Al-Tilal Al-Akkariya. The Council’s body had met at the Palace of Justice in Beirut under the chairmanship of the first president, Judge Suhail Abboud, and the membership of the advisors, judges: Jamal Al-Hajjar, Afif Al-Hakim, Jean-Marc Owais and Maya Majid, and in the presence of the representative of the Cassation Public Prosecution, Judge Sabouh Suleiman.

Israel targeted mourners in Aita al-Shaab with an air strike, no casualties were reported
The Israeli army targeted people who participated in the funeral of the martyr on the Jerusalem road, Hassan Maan Sorour, in his town of Aita al-Shaab, with an air strike that targeted the roof of one of the buildings at a distance of less than forty meters from the funeral procession.

Tuesday
19 December 2023

UNDP Report: Lebanon faces potentially dire socio-economic and environmental impacts from Gaza war
On December 19, 2023 the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched a report titled “Gaza War: Preliminary Findings on the Socio-Economic and Environmental Impact on Lebanon”, providing a preliminary analysis of the impacts and potential consequences of the ongoing Gaza war for the Lebanese economy, key economic sectors and the environment, with a focus on the Southern Lebanese border areas.

Israeli army targets outskirts of Blida and Muhaibib with incendiary, phosphorus shells
On December 19, 2023 the outskirts of the southern Lebanese towns of Blida and Muhaibib were targeted with incendiary and phosphorus shells.

Wednesday
20 December 2023

A civilian was shot in the head by an Israeli sniper on Wednesday in his car on the road near Kfarkela village
A civilian was shot in the head by an Israeli sniper on Wednesday in his car on the road near Kfarkela village. Hassan Cheet, mayor of the village and leader of its emergency medical services team, told The National, “It is the first time the Israelis killed by shooting directly at people. They usually shoot near the village, around us, but not directly at us,” Mr Cheet said. A second person in the car was unharmed, he said.
**Human Rights Watch Report “Meta: Systemic Censorship of Palestine Content”**

Meta’s content moderation policies and systems have increasingly silenced voices in support of Palestine on Instagram and Facebook in the wake of the hostilities between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups, Human Rights Watch said in a report released on Wednesday, December 20 2023.

**Israeli strike kills civilian and injures another in southern Lebanon**

On Thursday, 21 December 2023 the Israeli army’s bombing that targeted the town of Maroun al-Ras led to the death of a woman and the wounding of her husband. Israeli artillery targeted residential neighborhoods in the town of Maroun al-Ras, and the house of citizen Majed Muhanna was directly hit, leading to the death of his wife Nihad Musa Muhanna and wounding him.

**World Bank report: Lebanon’s Fragile Economy Pulled Back into Recession**

According to the latest World Bank Lebanon Economic Monitor released on Thursday, 21 December 2023, the spillover effects from the ongoing conflict centered in Gaza pose yet another large shock to Lebanon’s precarious growth model. Without the implementation of a comprehensive crisis resolution plan, no long-term investment is feasible, and the country’s physical, human, social, and natural capital will be further eroded.

**EU allocates €205.5 mn in support for Lebanon**

On December 15, 2023 the National News Agency reported that the European Union delegation to Lebanon released the following statement:

The European Union reaffirms its support for the people of Lebanon and has decided to allocate €205.5 million to cover several priority areas to support the country’s stability and recovery. As a first priority, the European Union will continue to support Lebanon in strengthening border management, by providing financial and technical assistance, in line with international standards. This will contribute to Lebanon’s security and stability in general, in the face of regional unrest and threats.