



HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

8 April - 14 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
8 April 2024

Roads blocked, shops closed in Jbeil in protest against LF official's kidnapping

Angry residents blocked roads and store owners kept their businesses shuttered on April 8, 2024, in Jbeil, a day after local Lebanese Forces (LF) coordinator Pascal Sleiman was allegedly kidnapped in broad daylight for unknown reasons, according to L'Orient Today. Hundreds of people gathered to block the main roads in protest of the alleged kidnapping, demanding the safe return of the LF official. Sleiman, who had been visiting the nearby town of Kharbe on Sunday afternoon, was forced off the road on his way back home, according to Charbel Abi Akl, a former LF official from Jbeil.

Prime Minister Mikati confirms news of the murder of Pascal Suleiman

The media office of Prime Minister Najib Mikati, on April 8, 2024, issued the following statement: "This evening, His Excellency the Prime Minister was informed by the security services of the killing of the official in the Lebanese Forces party, Pascal Suleiman, who was kidnapped yesterday evening. He said that since the news of his kidnapping spread, the security services had begun their investigations to uncover the perpetrators and those involved in the crime and return the kidnapped person to his family safely, but it appears that the kidnapers committed this heinous crime. We condemn and denounce this criminal act, and we extend our condolences to his family and the Lebanese Forces Party, and we stress on the importance of continuation of investigations to uncover the full circumstances behind the kidnapping and those involved in it and the assassination of the kidnapped person and bring them to justice."

Cyprus president and Lebanese caretaker premier urge EU financial aid to curb migration from Lebanon

The Lebanese caretaker prime minister and the Cypriot president are calling on the European Union to provide financial support to help cash-strapped Lebanon stop migrants from reaching European shores, according to a statement by the media office of the Prime Minister. President Nikos Christodoulides' visit to Beirut on April 8, 2024, alongside his country's interior and foreign ministers and army chief, came after he urged the EU last week to intercede with Lebanese authorities to help stop boatloads of Syrian refugees from heading to the east Mediterranean island nation. Migration in recent years has become a priority issue between the two countries. Najib Mikati said the Lebanese military and security agencies have been doing their utmost to curb migration, but the situation was so dire that it needed "a framework agreement" with the EU.

Tuesday
9 April 2024

Lebanese army receives the body of Pascal Suleiman

In a statement, posted on "X" the Lebanese army announced that it received the body of citizen Pascal Suleiman from the Syrian authorities, on April 9, 2024. According to the statement "the body will be transferred to the Central Military Hospital for examination to complete the investigations, and then it will be handed over to his family."

Municipalities set a curfew for Syrians

Annahar reported that municipalities have banned the movement of all Syrians residing within the municipal area, whether workers or displaced persons, on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. Municipalities have also asked residents not to employ any Syrian workers on that day for any reason under penalty of legal prosecution. This comes after some individual clashes took place on the roads in Jbeil and Bourj Hammoud, targeting Syrian workers and displaced persons due to the tension caused by the killing of Jbeil coordinator for the Lebanese Forces, Pascal Suleiman.

Wednesday
10 April 2024

Mohammad Sarur found riddled with bullets in Lebanon villa

A body identified as Mohammad Sarur, who had been accused of funneling tens of millions of dollars from Iranian authorities to the terrorist group, was found at his home in the mountain town of Beit Meri outside Beirut after being shot at least five times on April 9, 2024, a security official told the AFP news agency. His money remained at the scene and was not taken by the gunman. Sarur was sanctioned by the US Treasury Department for acting as a "middleman" between Iran's Quds Force and Hamas as he was reportedly in charge of "all money transfers" between them, according to a report released by Reuters on April 10, 2024.

Thursday
11 April 2024

Videos of Anti-Refugee Violence in Lebanon Goes Viral

In the aftermath of the recent killing of Lebanese Forces coordinator Pascal Suleiman, and the army's statement suggesting Syrian involvement in the incident, anti-refugee violence has erupted across the country, according to a post on X by Daraj released on April 11, 2024. A new video circulating on social media shows Lebanese men brutally assaulting a Syrian refugee in the coastal town of Tabarja, leaving him bloodied and with broken limbs.

Syrian Individuals kidnapped in Bekaa Valley

In Baalbek, unidentified individuals intercepted a taxi carrying two Syrian men of unknown identity on the Rayaq-Qaa international highway near the Chaat town junction in the northern Bekaa Valley on April 11, 2024. The assailants abducted the two men to an unknown location, according to the National News Agency. The taxi driver managed to escape from the kidnappers, who were driving a black, unlicensed four-wheel drive vehicle of the "Prado" type. Security forces have opened an investigation into the incident.

Friday
12 April 2024

Shooting from an Israeli settlement at Al-Mayadeen team's car

National News Agency's correspondent in Marjayoun reported that the Israeli army opened fire with machine guns from the Miskvam settlement towards the Al-Mayadeen TV team's car and the cars that were passing through Mahalla, while they were passing by the border fence on the main road to the town of Odeisseh on April 12, 2024.

[Lebanese Army arrests journalist Rami Naim following ready to 'fire at security forces' comment](#)

The Lebanese Army on Saturday arrested journalist Rami Naim, who, during an interview broadcast Tuesday on the "Manchette el-Masa" show on the VDL radio station, claimed he was ready to fire at security forces, according to a report by L'Orient Today which was released on April 13, 2024. During the interview, Naim, who writes for the online news platform elsiyasa.com, also criticized the security forces' double standards in dealing with people close to Hezbollah and others in the country. Speaking about the interview on the social media platform X, Naim notably commented on the killing of Lebanese Forces official Pascal Sleiman – a murder many LF members say Hezbollah is behind. According to video footage of the [interview's](#) recording, which Naim shared on X on Friday, he said, "Let the security forces make a mistake in an area that I am in; we will shoot at the security forces and the Lebanese Army ... either we get treated like them [Hezbollah] or we will disobey all of these security forces."

[Journalist Rami Naim released after interrogation](#)

Journalist Rami Naim left the investigation branch of the Army Intelligence Directorate after he was interrogated due to his [comments](#) on the Lebanese army in an interview, according to reports by Annahar. Naim was arrested on April 13, 2024 at his home and was taken to the investigation branch of the Army Intelligence Directorate due to a statement he made in an interview in which he stated that he would open fire on the army patrol and security forces if they decided to raid him, and demanded autonomy in certain areas in Lebanon.

[Israeli raid on Bayt Lif destroys three-story house](#)

The National News Agency reported that a raid launched by Israeli aircrafts on the outskirts of Bayt Lif on April 13, 2024, targeted a three-story house that was completely destroyed.

[Cyprus suspends Syrian asylum applications as it struggles with arrivals spike](#)

Cyprus has suspended the processing of asylum applications from Syrians following a sharp increase in irregular arrivals this month, authorities said on Sunday, according to a news report released by Al Jazeera on April 14, 2024 .

More than 1,000 people have arrived in [Cyprus](#) on boats from Lebanon since the start of April amid deepening tensions in the Middle East. It has triggered calls from Nicosia to its European Union partners to do more to assist Lebanon, as well as reconsider the [status](#) of war-torn Syria, which is at present considered unsafe to repatriate [asylum](#) seekers.

"This is an emergency measure, it's a difficult decision to protect the interests of Cyprus," Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides told reporters.

Christodoulides and EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen later discussed the possibility of offering a reinforced package of economic aid to Lebanon, a Cypriot government spokesperson said in a statement. To this end it was agreed they would jointly visit Lebanon after a preparatory visit by Commission officials, the statement added.

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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