



HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

25 - 31 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
25 July 2022

Lebanon – [Violent crimes against women in Lebanon](#)

Dalal Andouri, a young girl born in 2017, was buried in Tripoli on Monday, after she was killed yesterday by M. K., known as Mahmoud Zarifeh, her mother's husband. Internal security forces raided the murderer's home yesterday and arrested him. It was revealed that Zarifeh abused his wife and her two children to the extent that it killed Dalal, who suffered several fractures and burns according to the autopsy report. Zarifeh also confessed to putting the young girl's body in a bag and taking it to one of the orchards around the Beddawi cemeteries. This double crime is just the latest in a growing number of increasingly violent crimes against women in Lebanon this year.

Lebanon - [Nursery In South Lebanon Accused of allegedly abusing kids](#)

When a mother tried to confront the administration of the nursery, the director Ekbal Jomaa reportedly denied the whole story and took her "connections" as a shield, according to the lawyer Hassoun. Many other parents have reached out to S.J and her lawyer saying that they have faced the same acts against their children. Subsequently, social workers in Nabatieh gave their testimonials to the court and filed a lawsuit against the nursery.

Tuesday
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Lebanon – [Parliament's General Secretariat denies MP Cynthia Zarazir's accusations](#)

The General Secretariat of the Lebanese Parliament on Wednesday denied the accusations made by Forces of Change MP Cynthia Zarazir, who claimed that, after being insulted during Tuesday's Parliament session, she had found erotic magazines in her office and that she had not been given a parking space at Parliament.

Wednesday
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Lebanon – [Amnesty urges Berri, MPs to end harassment of women MPs](#)

Amnesty International announced Wednesday that it is "shameful" that "women MPs in the Lebanese parliament, especially those who criticize the authorities, are being harassed by their male counterparts and by the Speaker himself simply because they are women in a parliament dominated by men. "Lawmakers , especially Speaker Nabih Berri, must shoulder the responsibility of ending this abuse of women and stop encouraging a hostile environment for women," Amnesty said in an Arabic-language tweet. "Parliament should respect human rights and implement the law criminalizing sexual harassment that was issued in 2020!" it urged.

Thursday
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Lebanon - [Amnesty slams Lebanon's parliament over sickening sexual harassment of MP Cynthia Zarazir](#)

Amnesty International has lambasted the Lebanese parliament over the sexual harassment and bullying of newly elected female MP Cynthia Zarazir. Zarazir says she was left pornographic magazines, used and new condoms and rotten food in her parliamentary office and has been a victim of catcalling by male MPs. She said colleagues have also made fun of her name by referring to her to as "sarsour" - Arabic for cockroach - and was refused a proper parking spot. She spoke out on her social media on Tuesday about the abuse she has faced in parliament. "I'm being catcalled by men whose misogyny overshadows any healthy masculinity within them, being given a filthy office that had Playboy magazines, unused and dirty condoms in the drawers and on the floor, being bullied because of my name, and not given a parking spot."

Friday
29 July 2022

Lebanon – [Public employees strike goes on as wage demands go unmet](#)

Public sector employees have been on an open strike for weeks now to demand an adjustment of their salaries, amid dire living conditions in Lebanon. The strike has paralyzed all public administrations, frustrating the Lebanese citizens who need to get an identity card, a diploma for university or a driving license. Authorities say they do not have the means to increase the salaries as requested by the employees. Instead, they suggested to increase the employees' daily transport allowance and to give them a monthly financial aid. Employees say their salaries barely cover transport costs as Lebanon's currency has lost around 90 percent of its value. They refused the government's offer, accusing authorities of taking their demands lightly. Amid a worldwide surge in fuel prices, wheat shortages, power cuts, and limited access to their savings in banks, tens of thousands of Lebanese have lost their jobs, and many have left the country.

Lebanon – [Lebanese face long 'insulting' queues to buy bread](#)

In bankrupt Lebanon, Khalil Mansour has to queue for hours every day just to buy bread for his family and some days he can't afford any. In a country once boasted the nickname "Switzerland of the Middle East" for its thriving banking sector before financial crisis hit in 2019, the chronic shortage of the staple of the Lebanese diet has been hard to take. Lebanon defaulted on its national debt in 2020 and its currency has lost around 90 percent of its black-market value. The World Bank has branded the financial crisis one of the worst since the 19th century while the United Nations now considers four out five Lebanese to be living under the poverty line.

Saturday and Sunday
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Lebanon – [Women's march against all forms of discrimination and violence in Lebanon](#)

Feminist groups organized a Movement in Beirut against the systemic discriminations perpetuated by the state; fighting all kinds of discrimination such as violence against women, rape, harassment, inequality, refugees, foreign workers, homophobia, transphobia and all marginalized groups in Lebanon. Under the slogan of **"We refuse, we unite, we move"**

Lebanon - [2 years later, hope for justice in Beirut explosion fades](#)

It's been two years since his 3-year-old daughter, Alexandra, was killed in a massive explosion at Beirut's port – and Paul Najjar has lost hope that outrage over the disaster will bring justice and force change in Lebanon. The investigation into one of the world's biggest non-nuclear explosions has been blocked for months by Lebanon's political powers. Many blame the Lebanese government's longtime corruption and mismanagement for the tragedy, but the elite's decades-old lock on power has ensured they are untouchable. In fact, some of those charged in the probe were re-elected to parliament earlier this year. Even as the wrecked silos at the port have been burning for weeks – a fire ignited by the fermenting grains still inside them – authorities seemed to have given up on trying to put out the blaze. A section of the silos collapsed Sunday in a huge cloud of dust.

Lebanon - [Part of Beirut port silos, damaged in 2020 blast, collapses](#)

A section of Beirut's massive port grain silos, shredded in the 2020 explosion, collapsed in a huge cloud of dust on Sunday after a weeklong fire, triggered by grains that had fermented and ignited in the summer heat. The northern block of the silos collapsed after what sounded like an explosion, kicking up thick gray dust that enveloped the iconic structure and the port next to a residential area. It was not immediately clear if anyone was injured.



REGIONAL

Middle East

Monday
25 July 2022

Occupied Palestine – [Palestinian lawyers protest against Abbas governing by 'decree'](#)

Hundreds of Palestinian lawyers have held a rare street protest in the occupied West Bank against the Palestinian Authority's "rule by decree", condemning President Mahmoud Abbas for governing without a parliament.

Libya – [Civilians in crossfire as shifting alliances spark Libya violence](#)

Fighting in Tripoli and Misrata has left at least 17 dead over the last week, many of them civilians. Fathi Bashagha, one of Libya's two rival prime ministers, is from Misrata – as is his rival, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, whose internationally recognized government sits in Tripoli.

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 mediatized femicide cases have hit Jordan and Egypt.

Wednesday
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Saudi Arabia – [Saudi police arrest Egyptian TikTok star for 'immoral' video](#)

Saudi Arabia has arrested a popular Egyptian social media influencer, accusing her of posting sexually provocative content on her platforms. Tala Safwan, an Egyptian resident, was arrested by Saudi police in Riyadh after posting a live video chat with a friend. The police said on Monday that they had arrested an Egyptian resident in Saudi Arabia "who appeared in a broadcast on a social media site talking to another woman with sexual content and suggestiveness that could have a negative impact on public morality".

Morocco – [Rights group slams Morocco's 'manual' of press repression](#)

Morocco is jailing journalists after flawed trials for non-political crimes, particularly sexual ones, in order to silence them, part of a range of "techniques of repression", Human Rights Watch said Thursday. "Moroccan authorities have developed and refined a full manual of techniques to muzzle the opposition, even as it claims to be simply applying the law against them in a neutral manner," it said. The New York-based group presented the findings in a 141-page report focusing on eight journalists and public figures prosecuted in cases it said were really "veiled political attacks". It accused the Moroccan court system of "procedural flaws that taint the handling of these cases".

Turkey - [Turkey urged to reverse decision ditching women's rights accord](#)

Officially, around one in four women in Turkey has suffered physical or sexual abuse by their partners, according to latest available government data from a 2014 survey, the Special Rapporteur said in a statement. There are also likely "hundreds of femicides" every year, she continued, pointing to serious underreporting of the issue, which was owing to a lack of confidence in protection mechanisms, widespread impunity and gender-related bias and discrimination. The problem has also been compounded by increasing economic hardship and the cost of hosting close to four million refugees, mostly Syrians under temporary protection, the Special Rapporteur said.

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Yemen – [War looms large as Yemeni children head back to school](#)

Thousands of teachers receive no salaries in Yemen, and many children drop out to work or fight. Education in Yemen has been a casualty of the war since it began in 2014, and particularly since the military intervention of the Saudi-led coalition in 2015. Schools have been damaged or destroyed, teachers have quit their jobs, and millions of school-aged children have dropped out or not joined at all. The civil strife between the Iran-allied Houthi rebels and the internationally recognized government has overshadowed the importance of education for multitudes of citizens. Ammar Saleh, who has been teaching for a decade, says students and teachers alike have had to deal with the effect of the war.

Friday
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Occupied Palestine – [UN Committee against Torture](#)

The Committee condemned casualties caused by the excessive use of force in Palestine. Particularly they condemn the use of lethal weapons by security forces and unidentified armed elements. One especially noteworthy case highlighted, was the arrest, beating and killing, allegedly by Hebron preventative security forces, of Nizar Banat, in June 2021. In response to Mr. Banat's case, the Committee has requested that the State of Palestine effectively investigate all allegations relating to the excessive use of force and ensure that all perpetrators are prosecuted and victims fully compensated. It also recommended that the State party guarantee that all officers can be effectively identified at all times, to ensure individual accountability.

United Arab Emirates – [UN Committee against Torture](#)

Concerning the involvement of the UAE in the on-going conflict in Yemen and its anti-terrorism efforts, the Committee expressed concerns over allegations of torture and ill-treatment by the State party's regular armed forces, state security agencies, and related non-State armed groups. The Committee placed a special onus on the investigation and prosecution of offences of torture and ill-treatment in these situations and called for a viable pathway for victims to seek justice, redress and rehabilitation. The Committee was also concerned about the continued practice of female genital mutilation in the UAE and the lack of legislation criminalizing it, it said. It called upon the State party to strengthen its efforts to stamp out gender-based violence and harmful practices by introducing new legislation and awareness-raising campaigns. The above findings, officially known as the Concluding Observations, are now available online on the session page. The Committee will hold its next session from 31 October to 25 November to review Australia, Chad, El Salvador, Malawi, Somalia and Uganda.

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Libya – ['Ready for rescue': Saving refugee lives in the Mediterranean Sea](#)

Every year, thousands of migrants and refugees depart from Libya, attempting to reach Europe in unseaworthy vessels. Last year, Frontex detections of what it calls "illegal border crossings" were at their highest since 2017 and attempts from January to May this year were 15 percent higher than during the same period in 2021, with the journeys across the Mediterranean becoming increasingly fatal, and around half being intercepted by authorities who return the refugees and migrants to Libya. The passengers on the small fiberglass boat knew the odds of succeeding, as they sat watching the lights of the ship in the distance. They hoped to be rescued but were also terrified of being returned to Libya, so they spent the next few hours trying to outrun the ship. Finally, they agreed on a different plan: to circle around and identify their pursuer from behind.



INTERNATIONAL

Monday
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Canada – [Two homeless people, attacker, shot dead near Vancouver](#)

Canadian authorities say the suspected gunman was shot and killed during an interaction with police. A man has fatally shot two homeless people in a suburb of Vancouver, British Columbia, before being shot and killed by police, Canadian authorities said. Authorities on Monday had earlier issued an emergency alert for multiple shootings in the city of Langley “involving transient victims” and asked residents to stay away from the area.

Myanmar – [Myanmar executes four anti-coup activists, drawing outrage](#)

Reported executions mark first use of capital punishment in the Southeast Asian country since the 1980s. Myanmar’s military regime has executed four anti-coup activists, including a close ally of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, drawing widespread condemnation and outrage. The four men were hanged over their involvement in organizing “brutal and inhumane terror acts”, the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper reported on Monday.

USA – [Inaccessible Cities: The experience of those with disabilities](#)

One in seven people worldwide live with some form of disability and many of them face daily challenges that include just getting around. AJ Contrast, tells the story of three women with different disabilities in Mumbai, Lagos, and New York City. In this episode, we speak with AJ Contrast Senior Producer Viktorija Mickute to learn more about these women and what can be done to make the world more accessible for all members of society.

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Russia – [Time to end Russian blackmail over humanitarian aid to Idlib](#)

In a widely expected move, Russia has recently vetoed the extension of the UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2585 which regulates the delivery of humanitarian aid to more than four million Syrians crammed in the northwestern enclave of Idlib. At the last moment, and after extracting a number of concessions in the negotiations with the US and other interlocutors, Russia agreed to extend the delivery mechanism one last time, but only for another six months, insisting that the aid must be delivered through Damascus and areas under the control of the Syrian leadership.

Nigeria – [Forgotten bomb kills 13 scrap scavengers in northeast Nigeria](#)

Thirteen scrap-metal collectors in northeast Nigeria’s Borno state have died after a bomb they excavated blew up, security sources told AFP. Sixteen metal scavengers from a displaced persons’ camp in Bama found the bomb while digging for scrap on Monday in the bush on the outskirts of town

Pakistan – [Millions in Pakistan without digital ID card: Rights activists](#)

Activists say millions still lack the Computerized National Identity Card as critics cite database breaches and privacy violations. After three years of repeated attempts to get her digital national identity card, Rubina, a woman from Pakistan’s largest city of Karachi, decided to take her battle to court, winning a landmark victory. Until then, Pakistanis had not been able to get the Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) unless they presented their father’s ID card – an impossibility for many people, including those like Rubina who were raised by single mothers.

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Hong Kong – [Top rights experts urge repeal of Hong Kong’s national security law](#)

The UN Human Rights Committee underscored the shortcomings of the National Security Law (NSL), including its lack of clarity on “national security” and the possibility of transferring cases from Hong Kong to mainland China. “There was a lot of discussions on recent legislation, including Hong Kong National Security Law. I think there was a constructive discussion on those issues and the committee did raise its concerns,” said Photini Pazartzis, Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee, at a press conference in Geneva. The panel urged Hong Kong to repeal the national security law and, in the meantime, refrain from applying it. “The Committee was deeply concerned about the overly broad interpretation of Hong Kong National Security Law, the NSL, which was passed by the National People’s Congress of China without consultation with the Hong Kong’s public,” said vice chair, Christopher Arif Balkan.

Thursday
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Mexico – [Investigating an epidemic of violence against women in Mexico.](#)

Every day in Mexico, around 10 women are murdered – almost always by men. It's an epidemic of gender-based violence that threatens to spiral out of control. Now, specialized police squads are trying to reverse the trend and bring the guilty to justice. But can they overcome years of machismo culture and indifference? In the past, too many murders of women have been half-heartedly investigated or simply dismissed as suicides. Special Prosecutor Sayuri Herrera says that hitherto perpetrators have relied on long-standing prejudices to evade the law. “They count on us believing their lies because society has somehow always proved them right,” she says. Mexico’s dedicated femicide detectives, Herrera insists, are now beginning to challenge that assumption. For this film, reporter Sarah Ferguson went behind the scenes to gauge their chances of success.

Myanmar – [G7 calls on Myanmar to refrain from more ‘arbitrary executions’](#)

The group was the latest to condemn the execution for pro-democracy activists by Myanmar’s generals. The Group of Seven (G7) – a coalition of the world’s wealthiest democracies – has joined a chorus of international condemnation following the execution of four pro-democracy activists by Myanmar’s coup leaders. In a statement on Thursday, the forum, which includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, called on the military, which seized power in 2021, to “refrain from further arbitrary executions” and to free all political prisoners.

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Botswana – [UN Committee against Torture](#)

The committee raised serious concerns over excessive and inhuman force concerning the use of the death penalty in Botswana. One aspect of Botswanan policy deemed to be out of step with the Convention is the practice of not providing advance notice of execution to the individuals on death row or their families. The Committee was further alarmed that hangings were used in executions and that the deceased were not handed over to family for burial. The Committee urged Botswana to commute all death sentences and to establish a moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to abolishing it, while ensuring that detention conditions for condemned prisoners do not constitute cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Moreover, The Committee expressed specific concerns that Botswana has yet to define torture as a specific offence and advises the establishment of a definition in line with convention guidelines.

Nicaragua – [Rights experts denounce shutdown of over 700 civil society groups](#)

In a letter to the Nicaraguan Government last Monday, the group of 16 UN experts upheld that the action “represents a clear pattern of repressing civic space”. The UN experts echoed a statement earlier this year by the High Commissioner for Human Rights regarding the crackdown. They expressed shock over the extent of the shutdowns by the National Assembly at the request of the Government – counting more than 700 closures, 487 in just the past month.

Saturday and Sunday
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Sri Lanka - [Soup kitchens in crisis-hit Sri Lanka feeding the poor](#) With no fuel and no money for food, HG Indrani and her family of nine trudged for an hour to a community kitchen in Colombo in hopes of finding a simple vegetarian meal. Rampant food inflation and chronic shortages of cooking gas and petrol are making daily life a battle for millions in the midst of Sri Lanka's worst economic crisis since independence from Britain in 1948. "There is no income," said Indrani, one of the hundreds queueing in the midday sun at a makeshift kitchen run by a church. "There is no food most of the time. We have been suffering a lot." Two dozen volunteers boil rice, dice onions and scrape the flesh from coconuts as they cook over open fires due to the shortage of gas in the space on the flat roof of the church near Sri Lanka's Parliament.

France - [World Day against Trafficking in Persons](#) On the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, it is important to recall that France prioritizes combating this serious form of crime and human rights violation. Every year across the globe, this trafficking, this exploitation of more than 25 million victims by sexual exploitation or forced labor, generates more than \$150 billion in criminal revenue. It represents a comprehensive security issue, fueling corruption, irregular migration and terrorism. According to the United Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Labor Office (ILO), there are currently nearly 25 million victims – women, men and children – of this trafficking worldwide for sexual exploitation and forced labor. Human trafficking is a gross violation of human dignity and fundamental rights, and targets vulnerable populations such as migrants and refugees in particular. One of the most concerning trends is the growing portion of children among the victims, which has tripled in 15 years, according to UNODC. This crime reportedly generates more than \$150 billion annually worldwide. It is increasingly considered a global security issue as it fuels corruption, irregular migration and terrorism.