HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

4 March - 10 March 2024

SOURCE: LEBANON MAP
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
4 March 2024

Israeli troops fired shots near farmers in the outskirts of Wazzani
On March 4, 2024 the National News Agency reported that Israeli forces fired shots into the air and at a close range to farmers who were spraying pesticides on their crops in the vicinity of the town of Wazzani in the Marjayoun district.

Phosphorous and smoke shelling targets the eastern side of the towns of Houla and Markaba
On March 4, 2024, the National News Agency reported that the Israeli army targeted the eastern side of the towns of Houla and Markaba with phosphorus and smoke shells.

“Al-Hayaa Al-sohiya Al-Islamiyya” mourns three paramedics as a result of the Israeli airstrike on Odaisseh
On March 4, 2024, Annahar reported that "The Islamic Health Association" issued a statement mourning three paramedics who were killed in the Israeli airstrike on the association's center in Odaisseh. The members killed are paramedic Hussein Muhammad Ibrahim, paramedic Ali Hassan Sweidan, and paramedic Abbas Ahmed Hijazi. Annahar also reported that Israeli warplanes raided the town of Odaisseh on March 4, 2024, and targeted a center for the Islamic Health Association.

Two injuries reported due to the Israeli shelling of Wazzani
On March 5, 2024, the National News Agency reported that a Syrian man (A.A.), and a young woman (N.G.) were injured as a result of the Israeli shelling of the Wazzani area.

Lebanese University professors strike over $2 hourly wage and unpaid salaries
On March 5, 2024, L'Orient Today reported that a few hundred professors on hourly-paid contracts with the Lebanese University staged a sit-in on in front of Ministry of Education and Higher Education headquarters in Beirut, to demand the status of "full-time part-timers," an intermediary between their current status and that of regular teachers. The initiative, led by LU's Committee of Contractual Hourly Teachers, accompanied a week-long warning strike, which followed two weeks of interrupted classes and exam marking. On Monday, the committee threatened a full-fledged strike if their demands are not met.

Tuesday
5 March 2024
Health Ministry figures for southern Lebanon: 308 dead and more than 1,100 injuries

On March 5, 2024, the Lebanese Ministry of Health's latest assessment on the clashes between Hezbollah and Israel in southern Lebanon. Based on hospital data up to and including March 5, 2024, it counts a total of 1,126 victims since Oct. 8, 2023, including 308 deaths and 219 wounded requiring hospitalization. Of the total number of victims recorded, both dead and injured, 88 percent were men and 96 percent were Lebanese nationals, 60 percent of whom were aged between 25 and 44. Of the injuries recorded by the ministry, 44 percent were due to trauma caused by Israeli bombardment, 34 percent to explosions, 18 percent to exposure to chemical products and 3 percent to gunfire.

Airstrike targets a house in Al-Dhayra

On March 6, 2024, the National News Agency reported that an Israeli raid had targeted a house in the town of Al-Dhayra.

OCHA is deeply concerned about continuing hostilities severely affecting civilians and civilian infrastructures along the Lebanon-Israel border and beyond

On March 6, 2024, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) stated its deep concern about the continuing hostilities severely affecting civilians and civilian infrastructures along the Lebanon-Israel border and beyond. This includes an Israeli airstrike on a health center in Odaisseh, in the south of Lebanon, on 4 March. Three volunteer paramedics were killed. The World Health Organization (WHO) condemned this incident, urging an immediate halt to attacks on civilians and health care in Lebanon. WHO reported that, since 7 October, seven attacks on health care facilities in Lebanon have been reported, resulting in seven deaths. The humanitarian situation in the south of the country remains dire, with more than 90,000 people internally displaced and at least 42 civilian casualties reported as a result of the fighting.

Rabi’ al-Yassin found dead after his house was attacked in Al-Dhayra

On March 7, 2024, the National News Agency reported that Civil defense teams found the body of the young man Rabi’ al-Yassin who was in his house in Al-Dhayra on March 6, 2024, when it was targeted by an Israeli airstrike.

Israeli tank in 'likely scenario' fired machine gun at reporters after deadly shelling, report finds

On March 7, 2024, Reuters reported that an Israeli tank crew killed a Reuters reporter in Lebanon in October by firing two shells at a clearly identified group of journalists and then "likely" opened fire on them with a heavy machine gun in an attack that lasted 1 minute and 45 seconds, according to a report into the incident published on Thursday. The report by the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) - which was contracted by Reuters to analyze evidence from the Oct. 13 attack that killed visual journalist Issam Abdallah - found that a tank 1.34 km away in Israel fired two 120mm rounds at the reporters. The first shell killed Abdallah, 37, and severely wounded Agence France-Presse (AFP) photographer Christina Assi, 28. In response to Reuters questions about the TNO report, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said it responded to attacks from Lebanese militants Hezbollah on Oct. 13 near Hanita with artillery and tank fire to remove the threat, and subsequently received a report that journalists had been injured.

The Lebanese Ministry of Finance announced that salaries for public sector employees will be accessible starting Friday, March 8

On March 7, 2024, the Lebanese Ministry of Finance officially announced that salaries for all public sector employees had been transferred to the Banque du Liban (BDL) and would be accessible for withdrawal from their usual banks starting Friday, March 8.
The Lebanon Humanitarian INGO Forum expresses profound concern over the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon, particularly in the South. The Lebanon Humanitarian INGO Forum, made up of 66 international non-governmental organizations, expresses profound concern over the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon, particularly in the South, that has now entered its sixth month. So far, a shocking 91,288 civilians have been displaced - 37% of whom are children and 33% of whom are women - and 42 civilian lives, including 7 children, have been tragically lost. 50 schools have also already closed, depriving 60,000 children's access to education in the region. Further, 9 primary healthcare centers have closed due to the security situation. The financial impact of the ongoing hostilities on Southern Lebanon has amounted to 1.2 billion USD in direct losses including affected agricultural lands, with an additional 300 million USD in indirect losses, including businesses affected. Independent researchers have also noted that 520 residences have been damaged, while 3,300 others have incurred partial damages. Worryingly, the unlawful use of white phosphorus munitions is a threat to civilian lives and agricultural lands, particularly in a region heavily reliant on agriculture for livelihood, with 47,000 olive trees and other crops already destroyed. These figures are extremely distressing in a country reeling from its worst economic crisis in decades, where the ongoing escalation of violence will continue to have a dramatic impact on civilian populations in the country, many of whom are already dependent on humanitarian assistance for basic needs.

A raid on a house in the commons area between Al-Mansouri and Majdal Zone
On March 8, 2024, the National News Agency reported that Israeli warplanes raided a house in the commons area between Al-Mansouri and Majdal Zoun, and completely destroyed it.

Protest in front of the UN Women's Headquarters in Sin el Fil in solidarity with the women of Gaza
On March 8, 2024, the National News Agency reported that activists, women's rights groups, and political groups in solidarity with the Palestinian cause held a protest in front of the UN Women's Headquarters in Sin el Fil. The protest was in support of women in the Gaza Strip and in objection to the UN Women's position on the rights of the people of Gaza, in the context of a different view of International Women's Day during the genocide in Gaza. The sit-in stressed the urgent need to stop the violence against women in Gaza and to provide them with protection and support, and to express full solidarity with those who live under harsh conditions and face enormous challenges in accessing healthcare and security. The activists participating in the protest raised several demands, including an end to the aggression against women and children in Gaza, and the provision of protection and healthcare for Palestinian women under difficult circumstances.

Depositors held a sit-in in front of the Banque du Liban building, raising flags and banners calling for the recovery of their money from the banks
On March 8, 2024, the National News Agency reported that dozens of depositors held a sit-in in front of the Banque du Liban building in Hamra, raising Lebanese flags and banners calling for the recovery of their money from the banks.

A Syrian man was arbitrarily arrested by the Lebanese Army Intelligence during his participation in a protest in front of the UN Women's Headquarters in Sin el Fil
On March 8, 2024, Akhar Al-Saha reported that a young Syrian man was arbitrarily arrested by the Lebanese Army Intelligence during his participation in protest in front of the UN Women's Headquarters in Sin el Fil in solidarity with the women of Gaza. His lawyer later commented on the details of his arrest, stating that the young man with special needs was subject to torture and other types of inhuman treatment.
Lawsuit alleging slavery against an Ethiopian domestic migrant worker sparks global attention
On March 8, 2024, Annahar reported that the Legal Action Network (LAW) announced an important development in the landmark case representing the Ethiopian migrant domestic worker "M.H." The last session, which was held on Thursday, February 29th at the Baabda Palace, saw the start of the interrogation of the defendant on charges of slavery and human trafficking for eight and a half years. The judge saw the need to extend the interrogation, which highlights the seriousness of the charges and the careful approach to ensure that the case is investigated thoughtfully. Proceedings are scheduled to resume later next month. The lawsuit of "M.H." filed by the Legal Action Network (LAW) on October 8, 2020, concerns the living conditions and treatment she was subjected to during her time working as a domestic worker in Lebanon under the "kafala" system. The charges include crimes of slavery, human trafficking, forced labor, deprivation of liberty, national, racial and gender discrimination, and torture for more than 8 years.

An empty house in Blida was targeted with a missile
The National News Agency reported on March 9, 2024, that the Israeli army targeted an empty house in the town of Blida with a missile from a drone.

5 killed and more than 9 wounded in a raid on Kherbet Selm
On March 9, 2024, the "National News Agency" reported that an airstrike on a house in Khirbet Slem killed a family of 4 people, and injured more than 9 others. The raid was carried out by fighter jets which fired two air-to-ground missiles at the house, which killed the father from the Marji family, his pregnant wife from the Faqih family, their two children, and another person. The airstrike also injured more than 9 people from the houses surrounding the targeted house, and completely destroyed the house and caused extensive damage to dozens of surrounding houses.
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

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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