



HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

09 - 15 OCTOBER, 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
09 October 2023

Residents flee Israeli bombing in South Lebanon following border clash

Residents of towns along the southern Lebanese border fled their homes as Israeli helicopters launched dozens of airstrikes in southern Lebanon. The bombings were a retaliation after several Palestinian Islamic Jihad fighters crossed the border into Israel and clashed with Israeli troops, resulting in 4 Palestinians killed and 7 Israeli soldiers wounded. Israeli media said that the airstrikes, which lasted over 2 hours, were targeting Hezbollah positions, killing at least one of its members. Lebanese press reported traffic jams on the highways leading out of the south, as the displaced took shelter further north. This displacement was encouraged by the Lebanese Army, which warned citizens to leave areas close to the border “in order to preserve their safety”. Residents on the Israeli side of the border were also told to leave.

Tuesday
10 October 2023

One dead, three injured after Gaza solidarity march in Ain Al-Hilweh

One man was killed and three people were injured after gunfire targeted a Gaza solidarity march in the Ain al-Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp. After the Hamas attack on the Israeli regime, dozens participated in a march on Monday evening, waving Palestinian flags and chanting nationalist and religious slogans. Shots from an unknown source struck three protesters and a Fatah activist who was in front of the Fatah office. One of the victims was shot in the chest and abdomen and passed away Tuesday morning. Efforts were underway to prevent further tensions, as the camp has experienced 2 deadly clashes between Palestinian factions since late July of this year.

Wednesday
11 October 2023

South Lebanon schools remain closed on Wednesday

In Lebanon-Israeli border areas, around 50 Lebanese schools remained closed on Wednesday for the second consecutive day. After the beginning of the Al-Aqsa flood operation, the Blue Line experienced tensions, with reciprocal bombings from and to Lebanon. The fear of wider fights over the border pushed the caretaker Education Minister Abbas Halabi to close schools neighboring the border. For many, the school year was expected to begin on Monday but had to be postponed. Many families left the area towards the North, especially Beirut. Further decisions are expected to be taken on a day-to-day basis, as the situation over the border remains volatile.

Thursday
12 October 2023

Israel fired white phosphorus in Gaza and Lebanon, HRW confirms

Human Rights Watch verified videos taken in Lebanon and Gaza on October 10 and 11, 2023, showing multiple airbursts of artillery-fired white phosphorus over the Gaza City port and two rural locations along the Israel-Lebanon border and confirming previous reports. White phosphorus ignites when exposed to atmospheric oxygen and continues to burn until it is deprived of oxygen or exhausted. Its chemical reaction can create intense heat (about 815°C/1,500°F), light, and smoke. Even relatively minor burns are often fatal. For survivors, the trauma of the attack, the painful treatment that follows, and appearance-changing scars lead to psychological harm and social exclusion. White phosphorus has a significant incendiary effect that can severely burn people and set structures, fields, and other civilian objects in the vicinity on fire. "Any time that white phosphorus is used in crowded civilian areas, it poses a high risk of excruciating burns and lifelong suffering," said Lama Fakih, Middle East and North Africa director at HRW, adding that such a weapon is "unlawfully indiscriminate when airburst in populated urban areas." The use in such areas was only documented in Gaza and not in Lebanon.

3 civilians injured in Southern Lebanon following renewed attacks by Israeli forces

On the fifth day of the Hamas-Israel war, Hezbollah claimed to have renewed shots against Israeli territory with guided missiles, as an act of revenge for the death of 3 of its members. The Israeli army retaliated with bombings on Lebanese bordering villages, injuring 3 civilians and damaging a dozen houses. It also targeted a Hezbollah military observation post.

Shelters opened in Tyre for internally displaced from South Lebanon

Following renewed tensions in Blue Line neighboring areas, including bombings targeting civilian villages, many residents have fled their homes and moved north, a phenomenon that parallels the 2006 war. The mayor of the municipality of Alma Al-Shaab claimed that out of the 800 residents his town usually has, only 100 remain, the rest having left for distant areas, especially Beirut. Tyre's shelters opened for these internally displaced persons, especially public schools, and hosted more than a thousand individuals. A new center in the North Tower area is being secured and equipped in anticipation of any new displacement.

Friday
13 October 2023

Lebanon submits complaint to UN over Israeli killing of journalist Issam Abdullah

Lebanon will submit a complaint to the UN Security Council over Israel's "deliberate" killing of a Lebanese journalist and wounding of several other journalists in a missile strike on Friday, October 13th. The group of journalists was reporting on the fighting between Israeli soldiers and Hezbollah on the Lebanese-Palestinian border when they were targeted by an Israeli unit. The Israeli statement, which reports that Israel "does not target journalists", and that the group was located close to where "anti-tank missiles" were fired from, contradicts what witnesses report. Footage taken by the journalists shows a group of journalists, clearly identified as they were all wearing protective jackets with the word PRESS written on them. A high-ranking security official reported that the journalists were located about a kilometer to a kilometer and a half from the fighting, contradicting Israel's official statement. Under international law, attacks intentionally targeting journalists constitute a war crime. According to Reporters Without Borders (RSF), at least 7 journalists have been killed "as a result of Israel's indiscriminate response to the horrific massacre committed by Hamas".

Saturday and Sunday
14 and 15 October
2023

Two civilians killed in Israel shelling of Lebanon: mayor

Shebaa village's mayor reported to AFP that 2 civilians, a man and his wife, were killed in their home by Israeli shelling. The incident on Saturday followed heavy fire between Israeli forces and Hezbollah along the Blue Line. The Israeli military said it launched strikes into Lebanon in response to a Hezbollah attack on the same day. "Approximately 30 mortar shells were identified as being fired towards Israeli territory, with some of them crossing into our territory."



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