



► What are human rights?

Human rights represent a fundamental area of international law which developed following the atrocities committed during World War I and II. Amongst the first instruments is the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) - championed by Eleanor Roosevelt – marking the first time that a statement existed that human rights do not simply belong to the national level but exist on the international plane as well. Subsequently, human rights were defined internationally as we know them today – rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of the nationality, place of residence, sex, national/ethnic origin, colour, religion, language or any other status without discrimination. These rights are all universal, inalienable, interrelated, interdependent and indivisible. They are subject to national implementation and international protection. Therefore, it remains the responsibility of states to act in certain ways or to refrain from certain acts, in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups.



LOCAL

Monday

10 January 2022

Lebanon – [Schools reopening, beginning of an extraordinary Parliament session, candidate filing period opens for May elections: Everything you need to know to start your Monday](#) Schools across Lebanon are reopening today, with a variety of COVID-19 restrictions in place, while some schools postponed the return to classes.

Lebanon – [Lebanon power company says protesters behind national blackout](#) Lebanon's state electricity company said Saturday that its power plants had stopped working after protesters stormed a key substation and tampered with the electrical equipment. The small Mediterranean country is already grappling with round-the-clock power cuts that last at least 20 hours a day due to a financial crisis that has hampered key imports, including fuel for power stations.

Tuesday

11 January 2022

Lebanon – [Lebanese judge imposes travel ban on central bank governor amid probe](#) A Lebanese judge said on Tuesday she had imposed a travel ban on central bank governor Riad Salameh, who is at the centre of investigations into alleged fraud and other misconduct launched after Lebanon was plunged into a deep financial crisis. Salameh, who said he had no knowledge of the ban and denied any wrongdoing, is being probed by the authorities in Lebanon and at least four European countries, including a Swiss inquiry over alleged money laundering.

Lebanon – [Rise of US dollar shakes Lebanese food and fuel security](#) The Lebanese pound reached 33,000 to the US dollar on Lebanon's black market on Monday. Protesters blocked roads in response to the news, which were quickly reopened by the Lebanese Armed Forces, with further demonstrations expected in the days ahead, with Thursday expected to see serious trouble due to impending fuel supply issues.

Lebanon – [Brutal beatings...scenes bring slavery back to the front](#)

Painful scenes put the spotlight back on the Kafala system. According to the Executive Director of the Lebanese Centre for Human Rights, Fadel Fakih "The kafala system is a system of slavery, this is why human rights organizations stand by [migrant workers], and for our part we have met with a number of consulates to urge them to play a bigger role in protecting them and securing shelter and safe return to their country. But unfortunately, there has been disregard of responsibilities by consulates, which has led to workers being left without any social, legal or even moral assistance."

Wednesday
12 January 2021

Lebanon – [Extortion, kidnappings on rise in crisis-hit Lebanon](#) While hardly a day passes in Lebanon without a car being stolen, a house being burgled or a pocket being picked, figures suggest that in recent times there has been a sharp rise in more serious crimes in the country, including kidnapping, extortion and even murder.

Thursday
13 January 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanese bus, truck drivers block roads over soaring prices](#) Lebanon's public transport drivers blocked roads on Thursday, paralyzing traffic throughout the country in protest against the manipulation of exchange rates that has left them out of pocket.

Lebanon – [Liliane Cheaito and the double injustice... The story of a mother injured in the Beirut port explosion and deprived of her son](#)

Liliane is currently under the custody of the court and cannot travel for treatment abroad, as recommended by her doctors, which poses a threat to her life.

Friday
14 January 2022

Lebanon – [How Lebanon's antiquated citizenship laws deny stateless people and their children basic rights and welfare](#)

Under Lebanese law, if a father is deemed stateless, his children inherit his legal status, even if their mother is a citizen. At least 27,000 people are classified as stateless in Lebanon, denying them access to work, travel and public services.

Saturday and Sunday
15 and 16 January
2022

Lebanon – [Lebanon faces Internet service interruption amid fuel crisis](#) Internet services were disrupted in Lebanon Sunday because of diesel shortages, according to the state provider, adding another essential service to the list of casualties of the country's snowballing economic crisis. Imad Kreidieh, the head of state Internet provider Ogero, tweeted that starting early Sunday a major station in west Beirut, Al-Mazraa, would run out of diesel and go offline. The outage affected over 26,000 subscribers, including the country's General Security operation rooms, he told Al-Jadeed TV. By midday Sunday, a resident donated diesel, allowing the station to get back online, he said. Meanwhile, another neighborhood in east Beirut, Achrafieh, was out of diesel and operated on batteries.

Lebanon – [Greece's Aegean Airlines halts flights to Lebanon capital after plane damage](#)

Greek carrier Aegean Airlines has suspended flights to Lebanon's capital after damage was found on the fuselage on one of its planes, when it landed in Beirut. The damage was identified by ground staff at Beirut's international airport on Monday, AP reported. The airline did not identify the extent or type of damage and said the suspension of flights was announced the following day after informing authorities in both countries.

Lebanon – [OGERO Head Threatens to Quit after Lack of Diesel Causes Beirut Outage](#)

Imad Kreidieh, the head of state-run telecom provider OGERO, on Sunday threatened to resign over the authority's "lack of capabilities," after a diesel shortage led to an hours-long communications outage in half of Beirut. "At 11:15 pm communications went down in Corniche al-Mazraa due to a silly reason, which is the delay of a Telecom Ministry accountant in signing a paper, because he was not present there," Kreidieh told al-Jadeed TV, lamenting that "bureaucracy is killing our efforts to provide services to citizens in this country."



Monday
10 January 2022

Turkey/Cuba – [Cuban asylum seekers in Greece 'forcibly expelled' to Turkey](#) At least 30 Cubans, hoping to claim asylum in Europe, were forcibly expelled from Greece to Turkey towards the end of last year, according to interviews conducted by Al Jazeera and rights organisations.

Occupied Palestine– [Palestinians summon Dutch envoy over NGO aid cut](#) The Palestinian Authority (PA) has summoned the Dutch representative to object to the Netherlands' decision to halt funding to a Palestinian civil society group that Israel banned as a "terrorist group" in October 2021.

Sudan/ UN– [UN starts talks in Sudan over post-coup crisis](#) The United Nations mission in Sudan said it was starting consultations on Monday with the goal of launching direct negotiations to resolve the country's political crisis after an October coup. The military takeover derailed a transition towards elections in which the army had agreed to share power with civilian groups following the overthrow of longtime leader Omar al-Bashir in a 2019 uprising.

Egypt– [Egypt: Leading rights group closes citing government persecution](#) One of Egypt's last independent human rights organisations has closed down, according to a statement by the group, citing government persecution. Egypt's government has engaged in a widespread crackdown on dissent for years that has stifled many of the country's civil society groups and jailed thousands.

Tuesday
11 January 2022

Egypt - [Egyptian rights group suspends operations after 'hostile' targeting of staff](#) One of the few remaining human rights groups in Egypt announced on Monday that it was suspending operations. In a statement on Monday, the Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI) said its decision to shut down came after "many strenuous attempts to continue to operate, despite the difficult conditions." The Egyptian legal organization, which was founded in 2004, worked to defend freedom of expression in Egypt by training journalists, documenting violations and raising awareness.

Wednesday
12 January 2022

Iran– [Iran sends French-Iranian academic back to jail at key point in nuclear talks](#) Iran has sent back to prison from house arrest French-Iranian academic Fariba Adelkhah, a shock development in the midst of delicate talks on the Iranian nuclear drive. Adelkhah was sentenced in May 2020 to five years in prison for conspiring against national security, accusations her supporters have always denounced as absurd. She was allowed home in Tehran in October 2020 with an electronic bracelet.

Occupied Palestine– [Palestinian-American man, 80, found dead after Israeli raid in West Bank](#) An 80-year-old Palestinian-American man has been found dead after being detained and handcuffed during an Israeli raid on a village in the occupied West Bank. The US state department said that Omar Abdalmajeed As'ad was a US citizen and that it had sought clarification from Israel over the incident. His body was found in Jiljilya in the early hours of Wednesday morning with a plastic zip-tie still around one wrist.

Syria– [Cross-border Syria aid gets 6-month extension sans new UN vote](#) Cross-border humanitarian aid to northwest Syria – not green-lit by Damascus – remains "essential," the UN said, as the measure was de facto extended for six months without a new Security Council vote.

Thursday
13 January 2022

Syria– [Jailing of Syrian intelligence officer 'step towards justice', say former detainees](#) For survivors of Syria's brutal detention system, the landmark conviction of a former Syrian intelligence official for crimes against humanity represents a vital step towards justice.

Egypt– [Egyptian media owner detained after trafficking and sexual assault claims](#) An Egyptian media tycoon with close ties to the government has been detained pending an investigation into allegations of sexual assault. The Egyptian public prosecution service says it is investigating reports that businessman Mohamed al-Amin sexually abused girls living in an orphanage that he owned and took them on trips to his holiday villa. Amin, best known for establishing the pro-government CBC network in 2011, was arrested on Friday to be held for four days. The court decided to extend Amin's pre-trial detention for a further 15 days in a hearing on Sunday where he told the court: "I never did anything wrong. I treated those girls like my own children."

Occupied Palestine/ World– [Hollywood stars stand with Emma Watson over Palestinian solidarity post](#) Dozens of Hollywood film stars have issued a statement in support of actress Emma Watson after she was criticized by Israeli officials for standing in support of Palestinian rights. More than 40 actors - including Mark Ruffalo, Susan Sarandon, Viggo Mortensen and Oscar-nominated directors Asif Kapadia and Mira Nair - endorsed a letter organized by Artists for Palestine UK, a cultural network "standing together for Palestinian rights". "We join Emma Watson in support of the simple statement that 'solidarity is a verb', including meaningful solidarity with Palestinians struggling for their human rights under international law," the letter said. "We recognize the underlying power imbalance between Israel, the occupying power, and the Palestinians, the people under a system of military occupation and apartheid," it added, citing last year's report by Human Rights Watch that said Israel was committing crimes of apartheid. The letter also references the ongoing attempts to evict Palestinians from their homes in the East Jerusalem neighborhoods of Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan, which made major headlines last May.

Friday
14 January 2022

Syria– [Syrian survivors cling to hope Raslan case will mark end of regime's impunity](#) It was a moment thought nearly impossible after a decade of impunity: a senior Syrian intelligence officer jailed for life for helping direct the horrors of one of modern history's most brutal wars. But as Anwar Raslan, a former colonel in Bashar al-Assad's forces, bowed to his fate, survivors of the barbarous regime of torture that he helped run finally had something to cling to.

Saturday and Sunday
15 and 16 January
2022

Egypt– ['Terrifying': Egyptian opposition activist arrested off plane after emergency landing in Luxor](#) Hossam Sallam was travelling from Sudan to Turkey when his flight was forced to land in his home country where he is facing a life sentence. The arrest of an Egyptian opposition activist in the city of Luxor after his plane was forced to undertake an emergency landing while en route from Sudan to Turkey has shocked human rights advocates in the country. The young man, identified by a rights group as 29-year-old Hossam Menoufi Mahmoud Sallam, was on board Badr Airlines flight No. J4690 from Khartoum to Istanbul on Wednesday when it landed at Luxor Airport in southern Egypt. Egyptian authorities have not confirmed the detention of Sallam, which the Istanbul-based rights group We Record called an "enforced disappearance" as he has been held incommunicado since.



INTERNATIONAL

Monday
10 January 2022

World – [Climate crisis: last seven years the hottest on record, 2021 data shows](#) The last seven years were the world's hottest on record, with the first analysis of global temperature in 2021 showing it was 1.2C above pre-industrial levels. The assessment of the year, by the European climate agency Copernicus, also found carbon dioxide in the atmosphere reached record levels and that the potent greenhouse gas methane surged "very substantially", also to a new record.

Tuesday
11 January 2022

United Kingdom – [One child disappears every week from UK's refugee hotels: Report](#) Experts believe 'inappropriate' hotel accommodation could put kids at risk of abuse, exploitation. Govt says it works 'closely' with local authorities to ensure vulnerable children are supported. Roughly one lone child refugee disappeared every week from unregulated government hotels during the second half of 2021, The Independent reported on Tuesday.

Wednesday
12 January 2022

Afghanistan/UN – [UN seeks record \\$4.4 bln in aid for Afghanistan's future](#) U.N. agencies on Tuesday asked donors for \$4.4 billion in humanitarian aid for Afghanistan in 2022, calling the funds an "essential stop gap" to ensure the country's future after a period of turmoil marked by the Taliban's seizure of power and a hasty U.S. exit.

Philippines– [Philippines bars unvaccinated from Manila public transport](#) The Philippine government announced on Wednesday a "no vaccination, no ride" policy barring unvaccinated people from using public transport in the capital Manila.

Thursday
13 January 2022

Ethiopia – [Warning over fuel and food stocks as 'hellish' Tigray reels from airstrikes](#) Humanitarian organisations in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia are running perilously low on food and fuel stocks as an intensified wave of airstrikes further hampers a threadbare aid effort already stymied by lack of access.

World – [2021 was 45th year in a row with a warmer-than-normal global temperature](#) The last 45 years have all been above the 20th century average for global temperature, new data shows, as Earth continues its relentless warming due to heat-trapping fossil fuel emissions.

Friday
14 January 2022

Ukraine hit by 'massive' cyber-attack on government websites Ukraine has been hit by a "massive" cyber-attack, with the websites of several government departments including the ministry of foreign affairs and the education ministry knocked out. Officials said it was too early to draw any conclusions, but they pointed to a "long record" of Russian cyber assaults against Ukraine, with the attack coming after security talks between Moscow and the US and its allies this week ended in stalemate. Suspected Russian hackers left a message on the foreign ministry website, according to reports. It said: "Ukrainians! ... All information about you has become public. Be afraid and expect worse. It's your past, present and future."

Saturday and Sunday
15 and 16 January
2022

Tonga – [Underwater Pacific volcano sends tsunami waves to Tonga, cutting off contact with outer islands](#)

The fate of thousands of Tongans remained uncertain Sunday after a powerful eruption of an undersea volcano cut off communications to the outer islands of the Pacific nation. In the capital, Nuku'alofa, tsunami waves washed boats and large boulders ashore, according to officials. Shops along the coast were damaged, and the islands were covered in a thick layer of volcanic dust. On Twitter, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said he is "deeply concerned for the people of Tonga as they recover from the aftermath of a volcanic eruption and tsunami," adding that the United States "stands prepared to provide support to our Pacific neighbors."

Tonga – [Pacific volcano: New Zealand sends flight to assess Tonga damage](#) New Zealand has sent a plane to Tonga to assess the damage after a huge volcanic eruption triggered a tsunami. The eruption has covered the Pacific islands in ash, cut power and severed communications. Up to 80,000 people there could be affected, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) told the BBC. New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said the tsunami had wreaked "significant damage".