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
21 June 2021

Lebanon – AUB and LAU students denounce restrictive measures, universities deny Some AUB and LAU students have complained about dollar parity and tuition fees. They are now stuck in a legal dispute with their schools.

Lebanon – Lebanese military police interrogate student activist Karim Safieddine, a Lebanese activist, was interrogated by the military police after being accused of throwing rocks at soldiers. According to human rights groups, Lebanese civilians can be tried in military court with trials often violating international law.

Tuesday
22 June 2021

Lebanon – Horrific traffic accident in south Lebanon kills five members of same family A car crash in South Lebanon, along the Jiyyeh-Sidon highway, killed 5 members of the same family while they were searching for fuel.
**Lebanon – In times of crises, Lebanon’s elderly must fend for themselves** The Lebanese financial crisis has pulled the elderly into poverty. Almost 80 percent of 65-year-old and older have no retirement benefits or healthcare coverage.

**Lebanon – Lebanon’s migrant pump attendants feel the pain of fuel shortages** Fuel shortages forced drivers to wait in line in front of gas stations. Petrol station workers, mostly migrants, have been threatened, attacked, and even shot at by angry drivers and motorists.

**Lebanon – Judge orders release of 7 detained over Beirut Port blast** Judge Ghassan Khoury ruled to release 7 junior port employees who were detained after last year’s deadly massive blast at Beirut’s port.

**Lebanon – Meeting on fuel shortage in Baabda: Brax asking for drastic solutions** The Union of service station owners in Lebanon called the head of state, Michel Aoun, who leads a meeting this morning on the fuel shortage issue.

**Saida / Tripoli – Road closures in Saida and Tripoli** Infuriated Saida residents shut one of the main city’s road because of the unsolved economic crisis.

**Lebanon – Spike at 16,000 Lebanese pounds per dollar on the black market** After days of continuous rising, the Lebanese pounds / dollar rate reached a historical record.

**CLDH - International Day in Support of Victims of Torture** CLDH shared a video testimony from a torture survivor to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of torture.

**Lebanon – Several injured in Lebanon protests over plunging currency** As the currency depreciated further, angry Lebanese took the street to denounce harsh living conditions.

**Lebanon (Tripoli) – Almost 20 injured during night demonstrations in Tripoli** Around 20 people, protesters and soldiers, have been injured during Sunday’s demonstrations in Tripoli.

**CLDH - Conference - International Day in Support of Victims of Torture** CLDH, the bar association of Tripoli, and other associations gathered for a conference about torture.

**Lebanon - Protesters' coalition in Lebanon defeats parties in power in Engineers' Syndicate elections** In the midst of protests throughout the country, the engineers’ syndicate elections voted for a coalition of grassroots parties with historic turnout, challenging once more the current political elite.
Monday 21 June 2021

**Gaza Strip** – Gaza survivors face rebuilding – again – after Israel’s attack The 11-day Israeli fight in May 2021 destroyed 1,148 housing in Gaza. Palestinians are forced to reconstruct their homes, which were mostly turned into dust.

**Israel / Gaza Strip** – Israel allows limited Gaza exports, one month after truce After the 11-day offensive on Gaza Strip, Israel limited exportations from the area to preserve “security stability”.

**Qatar / Norway** – Qatar 2022: Norway rules out boycotting football world cup Because of Qatar's bad treatment of migrant workers, some countries have considered boycotting the football world cup which will be held in the country. However, Norway decided not to boycott the event despite the pressure.

Tuesday 22 June 2021

**Occupied Palestine** – Palestinian Authority arrests activist over online criticism The Palestinian Authorities arrested Issa Amro, a prominent activist, after he criticized PA's policies in a series of online posts.

**Occupied Palestine** – Palestinians, settlers clash in Jerusalem’s Sheikh Jarrah Palestinians and Jewish threw stones at each other in Jerusalem because settlers are trying to evict Palestinian families from the neighborhood.

**Afghanistan** – Taliban captures Afghanistan’s main Tajikistan border crossing Taliban seized Shir Khan Bandar crossing, making security forces abandoning their posts.

Wednesday 23 June 2021

**Iran / United States** – U.S. blocks websites linked to Iranian disinformation The US Justice Department seized 36 Iranian-linked websites because they were associated with violent organizations or disinformation activities.

**Libya / Egypt** – 90 detained Egyptians in Libya released 90 Egyptians were detained in the illegal immigration center of Tripoli, Libya. The Egyptian embassy in Tripoli succeeded in releasing them after dialogues with Libyan authorities.

**Egypt** – Egypt arrests TikTok star after ‘human trafficking’ conviction Egyptian police arrested TikTok influencer Haneen Hassam and sentenced her to 10 years in prison for human trafficking.
Jordan – Child labor rises in Jordan as pandemic adds to economic woes Poverty rate has climbed to 26 percent in 2020 in Jordan leading to a number of working children aged between 5 and 17 to reach 100,00, a recent report on the World Day Against Child Labor says.

Israel / Occupied Palestine – Palestinian mother of 3 to be homeless after Israeli court clears demolition Israel’s Supreme Court upheld the decision to destroy a Palestinian’s family home after the husband was accused of a deadly shooting.

Palestine - Activist dies after arrest by Palestinian forces: governor Nizar Banat (43), Human Rights activist, died after being arrested by Palestinian authorities. His family claims that he was beaten to death.

Yemen - Fighting between separatist brigades kills two in Yemen's Aden: sources Clashes between two brigades of the Separatist movement killed two people and injured 15, including civilians, in the city of Aden.

West Bank – Israeli settlers refuse to vacate illegal West Bank settlement Israeli continue their expropriation of Palestinian land and protests intensify in Beita in the northern West Bank.

Palestine – Nizar Banat killing: The world must stop enabling PA crimes Even if international actors invested billions in the Palestinian security sector, the assassination of Nizar Banat, a Palestinian activist, raised the issue of Palestinians’ lack of security.

Israel – Thousands of participants to the “Pride Walk” in Tel-Aviv As the first huge gathering took place in Tel-Aviv since the start of the pandemic, thousands of people participated to the “Pride Walk”, defending gay rights.

Yemen – The dangerous Yemeni journey of thousands African migrants Since the start of the Yemeni conflict, more and more migrants are trying to join Saudi Arabia threw the Aden Gulf, despite crossing’s growing risks.

Saudi Arabia – Saudi Arabia releases two prominent women’s rights activists Samar Badawi and Nassima al-Sadah, two prominent women’s rights activists, were arrested in August 2018 and have just been released after three years of detention.

West Bank – Rival Palestinian groups clash at protest over activist’s death Rival groups of Palestinians clashed in the occupied West bank city of Ramallah during protests over the death of Nizar Banat, a critic of the Palestinian Authority.
Monday
21 June 2021

Burundi / EU – **EU should respect its commitments in favor of human rights in Burundi** Different NGOs published an open letter to the EU to raise attention on human rights issues in Burundi.

Hong Kong – **Apple Daily could shut 'in days' after Hong Kong asset freeze** Following the arrest of the executive director and members of the staff, pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily will be forced to shut.

Sri Lanka – **Sri Lanka investigates troops over 'humiliation' of Muslims** After social media showed soldiers humiliating Muslim civilians to kneel on the streets, Sri Lanka's military has launched an investigation.

Mali - **6 French soldiers wounded in Mali suicide car bomb blast** Suicide bomb wounded six French soldiers on the Barkhane mission and four civilians, including a child, in Bamako.

Tuesday
22 June 2021

United States – **NFL: Carl Nassib becomes first active player to come out as gay** Carl Nassib, a NFL player, is the first player of the team to come out as gay. He also gave £100,000 to the Trevor Project, a suicide prevention service for LGBTQ youth in the US.


Burkina Faso – **Burkina Faso says 11 police officers killed in ambush, 4 missing** An ambush on a police unit in the northern town of Yirgou killed at least 11 officers and 4 others are still missing.

Myanmar – **HRW says Myanmar teenager tortured, subjected to mock burial** According to Human Rights Watch, security forces tortured a 17-year-old boy accused of being a leader of a protest.

Guatemala – **Guatemala : three LGBT people murdered in a week** Non-identified aggressors killed two trans-women and one gay man in Guatemala in less than a week, HRW said.

Brazil - **First Conviction for Dictatorship Crimes in Brazil** Brazilian court has issued its first conviction for human rights abuses during the dictatorship of 1964 to 1985.
Hong Kong – First trial under Hong Kong’s national security law under way Tong Ying-kit was the first person charged of “secession” and “terrorism” under Hong Kong’s National Security Law for riding his motorbike into a group of police officers, he pleaded not guilty.

Ethiopia – Witnesses say airstrike in Ethiopia’s Tigray kills dozens Soldiers in Nairobi blocked medical teams from travelling to the northern Tigray village of Togoga after an airstrike, leaving dozens of people dead.

European Union – EU: Frontex fails to protect migrants at borders Border-guard agency Frontex failed to use monitoring mechanisms to prevent human rights abuses against migrants, Human Rights Watch says.

Ivory Coast - Ivory Coast sentences ex-PM Guillaume Soro to life imprisonment Former rebel chief, currently exiled in Europe, was sentenced to life in prison for plotting a coup.

United States – 23-year prison sentence for an American woman who leaked classified information to someone connected to Hezbollah Mariam Thompson revealed the identities of at least 8 US-informants in Iraq to an individual connected to the Lebanese Shia organization Hezbollah. She was condemned to 23 years in prison.

Thailand – Thai protesters return to streets demanding constitutional changes Hundreds of Thai pro-democracy demonstrators took the streets to call the resignation of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha and to demand constitutional changes.

Canada – Canada: Hundreds of unmarked graves found at indigenous school Between 1863 and 1998, more than 150,000 indigenous children were taken from their families and placed in residential schools; an indigenous group just found hundreds of unmarked graves in one of these schools.

Indonesia - Indonesia: Rizieq Shihab jailed for concealing COVID test result Muslim leader, Riziea Shihab, was sentenced to another four years in prison after revealing false information about his COVID-19 test.

United States – Miami building collapse: Rescuers listen for signs of life in rubble A 12-story residential building collapsed in Miami on Thursday morning, killing at least one person and 99 others are missing.

Ethiopia – More than 64 casualties in army airstrike in Tigray At least 64 people were killed and 180 others injured in Togoga, in Tigray’s conflict area, after Ethiopian army aimed rebel groups.

Czech Republic – Czech Republic: Deadly tornado sweeps through villages A tornado killed 4 people and injured 100 others in the Czech Republic. More than 1,000 homes were destroyed, leaving many people without a roof.

France – French woman who killed abusive husband to hear verdict Valerie Bacot killed her husband, Daniel Polette, in 2016, after he raped her when she was 12 and forced her into prostitution. She now risks life in prison for murder.
Saturday and Sunday
26 and 27 June 2021

**Columbia** – [Colombia: Nine dead in separate attacks amid escalating violence](#) 9 people including 4 police officers have died in 3 consecutive attacks across Columbia.

**United States** – [More bodies pulled from rubble of collapsed Florida building](#) A 12-storey building collapsed near Miami, leading to at least nine deaths and more than 150 missing.

**Czech Republic** – [Czech President Zeman calls transgender people ‘disgusting’](#) Czech President Milos Zeman, commenting on a Hungarian law that bans LGBT material from schools, told a television interview on Sunday that he finds transgender people "disgusting".