



## ► 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**  
28 June 2021

**Lebanon – [‘Catastrophe’ warning as Lebanese officials lift fuel subsidies](#)** Prime Minister Hasan Diab approved a plan to decrease fuel subsidies which could lead to a socio-economical catastrophe.

**Lebanon – [Army deployed as protests become riots in Lebanese cities](#)** After a night of protests in Tripoli, the Lebanese army was deployed in the streets as nine soldiers and nine civilians were injured.

**Tuesday**  
29 June 2021

**Lebanon – [Hezbollah detained foreign journalists for several hours](#)** Matthew Kynaston, a British journalist, was arrested by Hezbollah in the southern neighborhood of Beirut. He was detained for hours before being released.

**Lebanon – [Shortage, electricity cuts... the collapse continues, the anger as well](#)** After multiple protests and rising violence, the Superior Council of Defense discussed national security matters.

**Lebanon (Beirut) – [‘Huge explosion’ targets top lawyer’s office in Beirut](#)** An explosion went off in the building that houses the office of lawyer Sakher El-Hachem in the Nakhle Center in Furn El-Chebbak. El-Hachem’s most high-profile case is Carlos Ghosn who is being investigated in corruption cases.

**Tripoli- [Army Intelligence- Torture. Repression. Enforced Disappearances](#)** 12 young men were tortured and violently beaten as they were being moved from an army intelligence center. They were arrested protesting worsening living conditions in Tripoli. Journalist Elsy Moufarrej shared photos of the young men on Tuesday which showed their bruised bodies.

**Wednesday**  
30 June 2021

**Lebanon (Beirut) – [In Beirut southern neighborhood, journalism is "discouraged"](#)** Shia Lebanese party Hezbollah cites security reasons to justify the arrest and questioning of two foreign journalists in Beirut's southern neighborhood.

**Lebanon (Beirut) – [In Beirut, rage and despair on every street corner](#)** Many demonstrations have been blocking roads in the capital lately, revealing the tense socio-economical situation in Lebanon.

**Lebanon – [Private teachers' hemorrhage, a new reality](#)** Since the Lebanese pound's depreciation, teachers' wages have dropped. Tens of them protested to denounce their working conditions.

**Thursday**  
1 July 2021

**Lebanon – [Non-Lebanese Victims Of August 4 Excluded From Compensation Plan](#)** MP Georges Atallah has submitted a proposal for a law that would exclude non-Lebanese victims of the August 4 explosion from the government's compensation plan.

**Lebanon – [The Pope initiates reflection day with Christian leaders](#)** Lebanon "cannot be left at the mercy of those who pursue their personal interests without remorse", said the Pope. He might visit Lebanon between the end of the year and the start of 2022, preferably when a stable government is put in place.

**Lebanon – [Diapers and rags: Lebanon crisis plunges women into period poverty](#)** Because of price increases, many Lebanese women are forced to make their own baby diapers and are not able to afford menstrual pads.

**Tripoli – [Tensions in Tripoli where tens of armed men briefly deployed](#)** Economical and religious authorities called for peaceful demonstrations after non-identified armed men fired shots in several neighborhoods.

**CLDH - [Statement Against Legislative Proposal Based on Gross Human Rights Violations](#)** CLDH released a statement opposing a law proposal by MP Georges Atallah that would prevent non-Lebanese victims of the August 4 explosion from receiving government aid. CLDH called for the immediate withdrawal of the proposal as it violates basic human rights principles.

**Friday**  
2 July 2021

**Lebanon – [In Lebanon, 30% of children go to sleep on empty stomachs](#)** Parents are often forced to skip meals, sending their children to work and marrying their daughters in order to survive and feed their families, UNICEF rapport says.

**Lebanon – [Lebanon's 'suffocating' darkness](#)** Electricity cuts in the country are sometimes up to 22 hours a day, leaving people in drastic health conditions, BBC news showed.

**Beirut - [New developments in the port investigation case... Judge Bitar has requested lifting immunity from MPs, ministers, and security officials to file charges against them](#)** In a new development in the Beirut Port explosion investigation, Judge Tarek Bitar asked the parliament to lift immunity from three MPs (Nohad Machnouk, Ghazi Zeaitar, and Ali Hassan Khalil) to question them. According to Annahar, the judge will soon request permission from the Ministry of Defence to file charges against former Army Commander General Jean Kahwaji and the former head of military intelligence.

**Lebanon - [Resignation of four members from the National Commission for the Missing and Forcibly Disappeared](#)** Judge Joseph Maamari, lawyers Walid Abu Diya and Dolly Farah, as well as Dr. Hassan Fayyad have all presented their resignation from the National Commission for the Missing and Forcibly Disappeared. They have denounced the unlawful and unethical practices of some of their peers which they believe have tainted the humanitarian principles of the commission. They claim these practices have hindered the achievement of the commission's original purpose.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
3 and 4 July 2021

**Lebanon – [Over 30 new cases of Delta variant in 24h](#)** Dr Firas Abiad, director of the Rafic Hariri hospital, declared that more than 30 cases of the Delta variant have been detected in the last 24 hours, amid growing concerns of increased electricity cuts.

**Lebanon – [Lebanon medicine importers warn foreign drugs running out](#)** Lebanon's medicine importers are running out of hundreds of essential drugs as the country goes through its worse economic crisis.



## REGIONAL Middle East

**Monday**  
28 June 2021

**Iraq – [Iraq launches operation against Daesh after policeman killed in Kirkuk](#)** An Iraqi policeman died and two others were injured in an attack perpetrated by Daesh in Kirkuk. In retaliation, Iraqi security forces launched an operation against the terrorist organization.

**Turkey – [Egyptian activists in Turkey say they face torture, detention in squalid conditions and even the death sentence if they are forced to return](#)** Almost 33,000 Egyptians live in exile in Turkey. They live in constant fear of deportation as dissidents are systematically tortured and given prison or death sentences if they return to Egypt.

**Occupied Palestine – [Palestinian children feel 'abandoned by the world' after Israel demolished their homes](#)** According to Save the Children, at least 6,000 Palestinian children have been affected by Israel's home demolitions in the past 12 years.

**Occupied Palestine – [Palestinian media rally for protection after assaults by police](#)** In the West bank city of Ramallah, human rights groups announced the formation of a legal team to follow up on attacks on journalists.

**Tuesday**  
29 June 2021

**Syria – [Senior Hezbollah-linked leader assassinated in Southern Syria](#)** The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported the death of Aref Al-Jahmani's death, a commander linked to the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group in Lebanon.

**Syria – [Syria's humanitarian crisis raises a moral dilemma: To shun or engage with Assad regime](#)** About 11 million Syrians need humanitarian assistance and 12 millions have become refugees. This poses a moral dilemma for international powers as to whether to let the Assad regime back into the international fold, and by doing so helping the Syrian population, or to impose sanctions and keep Assad's regime isolated but prolong the population's misery.

**Egypt – [Egypt toughens law on sex harassment](#)** Following many cases of sexual harassment, The Legislative Committee of the House of Representatives of Egypt has approved a bill to increase the penalty for this crime.

**Israel – [Israeli apartheid on campus](#)** Israeli universities discriminate against Palestinian students and communities, in addition to enforcing apartheid policies.

**Wednesday**  
30 June 2021

**Syria – [Ill or disabled, thousands of Syrians depending on UNO's help are now threatened](#)** Russia wants to stop UNO 's humanitarian assistance mechanism in effect since 2014, as it comes to an end on July 10.

**Occupied Palestine – [Thousands of Palestinians swept up in Israeli arrest campaign](#)** Since the May 2021, Israel has arrested a number of Palestinians, including children, in order to crush the Palestinian resistance to the illegal occupation.

**Iraq – [Iraqi military: Bomb explodes in Baghdad suburb, wounding 15](#)** A bomb exploded in the Maridi market area of Sadr City, Bagdad's eastern suburb. It wounded 15 people. Daesh is presumed to have conducted the attack.

**Thursday**  
1 July 2021

**Turkey** – [Women protest as Turkey quits violence-on-women treaty](#) Thousands demonstrated across Turkey to protest the country's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, an international treaty to combat violence against women. This move was strongly criticized by Western allies.

**Sudan** – [Sudanese protesters demand government's resignation](#) Sudanese people took the streets to protest against the International Monetary Fund-backed economic reforms. They also demanded the government's resignation following harsh economic policies.

**Libya** – [Caught on camera: Libyan coastguard shoots at migrant boat](#) Libyan maritime authorities chased a boat full of migrants, shooting at them in order to prevent them from crossing the Mediterranean Sea.

**Friday**  
2 July 2021

**Israel / Occupied Palestine** – [Israeli air raids target Gaza for third time since May ceasefire](#) Israel targeted a weapons manufacturing site in the Gaza Strip, no casualties have been reported.

**Iraq** – [Iraqis protest over power, water cuts amid heat wave](#) As temperatures exceeded 50 degrees Celsius in Bagdad, protesters took the street to denounce water cuts across the country.

**UAE** – [U.N. experts urge UAE to halt repatriation of ex-Guantanamo inmate](#) A Russian, who spent 15 years in Guantanamo and was released to the UAE for resettlement, is now facing forced repatriation to his homeland and probably torture, U.N. human rights experts said.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
3 and 4 July 2021

**Occupied Palestine** – [Israeli army fatally shoots Palestinian man in occupied West Bank](#) After Israeli soldiers opened fire in a village in the south of Nablus, a Palestinian was shot dead while he was standing on the roof of his home.

**West bank** – [Hundreds of Palestinians in West Bank protest against PA's Abbas](#) Hundreds of Palestinians demonstrated in Ramallah against President Mahmoud Abbas, following the death of Nizar Banat, an outspoken critic of the Palestinian Authority.

**Syria** – [Human chain in northern Syria to keep border crossing open](#) Humanitarian workers formed a human chain at the border with Turkey to protest Russia's attempt to close the only remaining border crossing that allows aids.

**Tunisia** – [At least 43 migrants drown in shipwreck off Tunisia, Red Crescent says](#) 43 migrants died in a shipwreck as they were trying to cross the Mediterranean sea, while 84 were rescued, the Tunisia Red Crescent said.



## INTERNATIONAL

**Monday**  
28 June 2021

**Myanmar** – [Myanmar military targets lawyers defending political prisoners](#) At least 5 lawyers have been arrested by Myanmar's military for defending politicians and activists.

**Somalia** – [At least 30 killed in Al-Shabab attack in Somalia – security official](#) Somalia's Islamic Al-Shabab group launched an attack in the town of Galmudug and killed 30 people.

**United States / Iraq** – [US strike near Syria-Iraq border kills 5 militia fighters: monitor](#) US-airplanes' attack on eastern Syria near the Iraqi border killed at least 5 Iran-backed Iraqi militia fighters.

**United States** – [Shooter who killed 2 Black people in Massachusetts was white supremacist, police say](#) Police said that the man who killed two Black people by shooting them in Massachusetts was a white supremacist.

**United States** – [US Supreme Court rejects contractor's Abu Ghraib torture appeal](#) Three former Iraqi detainees at Abu Ghraib prison accused US defense contractor of encouraging torture at the prison.

**World** – [U.N. rights chief calls for "systemic racism" to be dismantled](#) The U.N. human rights chief called for states to dismantle discrimination as racism against people of African descent remains systemic in many parts of the world.

**Tuesday**  
29 June 2021

**Thailand** – [In Thailand, Google takes down two maps identifying royal critics](#) Royalists created two maps that had listed names and addresses of hundreds of Thai activists accused of dissent against the monarchy.

**Ethiopia** – [Tigray's former rulers back in Mekelle, Ethiopian government declares ceasefire](#) The former rulers of Ethiopia's Tigray region are back in control of the regional capital Mekelle after nearly eight months of fighting ; the government declared a unilateral ceasefire with immediate effect.

**France** – [French lesbians and single women to get IVF rights](#) Following a new French law, single women and lesbian couples are allowed to receive fertility treatment, currently reserved for heterosexual couples.

**Wednesday**  
30 June 2021

**Hong Kong** – [Hong Kong security law has 'decimated' freedoms: Amnesty](#) China imposed national security law in Hong Kong, "decimating" territory's freedom and leading to human rights' emergency.

**Kashmir** – ['My family tried to burn me': LGBTQ Kashmiris suffer during COVID](#) Continuous lockdowns lead to LGBT community's social meetings to stop, leaving them in insecure homes with intolerant families.

**Myanmar** – [Myanmar to release 2,000 prisoners, drops charges against actors](#) About 2,000 prisoners are to be released from Myanmar's jails, military authorities said

**China / Australia** – [China is threatening academic freedom in Australia, says HRW](#) Chinese students in Australian universities who support democracy are facing harassment and intimidation, as universities are failing to protect them, Human Rights Watch said.

**Ethiopia** – [Ethiopia rebels vow to continue fight until federal forces routed](#) The Ethiopian army could re-enter Mekelle, a city in Tigray's area, after Tigrayan rebels took full control of the city.

**Canada** – ['Never seen anything like this': 100s dead amid Canada heat wave](#) Nearly 500 people have died in Canada since temperatures reached record highs. This raises concerns for vulnerable groups such as the elderly.

**Thursday**  
1 July 2021

**Japan (Tokyo)** – ['Sad, lonely feeling': Tokyo man evicted twice, 50 years apart, for Olympic construction](#) Kohei Jinno was forced to leave his family home twice because of Olympic Games' constructions, in 1964 and 2020. Almost 200 families, mostly elderly, were evicted from their homes for Olympic construction.

**Ethiopia (Tigray)** – [Aid groups warn time running out in conflict-hit Tigray](#) Humanitarian groups are struggling to reach people in need in Tigray's conflict area after the Ethiopian government declared a unilateral ceasefire.

**United Kingdom / China** – [Hundreds rally outside Chinese embassy in UK over plight of Uighurs](#) Hundreds of protesters demonstrated in front of the Chinese embassy in the UK to denounce Uighur Muslims' mass arrests and mosques' demolition in Xinjiang.

**Indonesia** – [Indonesia Supreme Court Supports Mandatory Jilbab Rule](#) Indonesia Supreme Court ruled that children under 18 had no right to choose their clothes, cancelling a previous government's decision on freedom to wear the hijab or not.

**Friday**  
2 July 2021

**Myanmar** – [UN calls on Myanmar's military to release Aung San Suu Kyi](#) Antonio Guterres, UN-Secretary-General has urged Myanmar's military to release President Win Myint and Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, following thousands of prisoners' releases.

**United States** – [US attorney general freezes all federal executions](#) Justice Department continues its review of the death penalty as US General Attorney Merrick Garland has ordered a moratorium on federal executions.

**India** – [India COVID death toll crosses 400,000 – half died in second wave](#) India is the second-most affected country by COVID-19 behind the US with 30,5 million cases and 400,000 deaths.

**Thailand** – [Young protesters injured by chemical products](#) Amnesty International report showed that young protesters in Thailand are often victims of police brutality and are particularly injured by chemical products thrown at them.



**Saturday and  
Sunday**  
3 and 4 July 2021

**Philippines** – [Military plane transporting troops crashes in the Philippines](#) A military planes crashed on Jolo Island, killing 17 people and injuring 40 others who were transported to the hospital.

**United States** – [Indigenous asylum seekers struggle for interpreters in US](#) Many Indigenous seekers have to wait months or years in Mexico for a translator before applying for asylum.

**Brazil** – [Brazilians demonstrate against Bolsonaro, slow vaccine rollout](#) Protesters took the street to demand President Jair Bolsonaro's impeachment as well as more vaccines to fight COVID-19.

**Ethiopia** – [Over 400,000 in Tigray suffering famine now with 1.8 m on brink](#) The conflict-hit Ethiopian region has an extremely restricted access to humanitarian aids, leaving 400,000 people suffering famine and over 1.8 million others on the brink.