



## ► 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**  
12 April 2021

**Lebanon** – [A month of iftar meals now costs 2.5 times the minimum wage, an AUB study finds](#)  
A study conducted by AUB reveals that many Muslim families are going to change their usual habits and eat cheaper food during the *iftar*, the daily meal that breaks the fast at night during the holy month of Ramadan. The price of grocery has recently increased a lot due to the crisis, pushing everyone to save money as much as possible.

**Tripoli** – [One killed and two wounded in a brawl during the distribution of food parcels in Tripoli](#)  
During the distribution of food parcels on the first day of the holy month of Ramadan, one person was shot and two others were wounded in the Khanak area. Tripoli is the poorest city of the country and the population is hugely suffering from the effect of the crisis.

**Tuesday**  
13 April 2021

**Lebanon** – [Two protesters summoned by the police](#)  
Two other protesters from the 17 October movement were summoned by the police. A new reportage by “L’Orient le Jour” expressed the concerns of several activists regarding the freedom of expression in the country.

**Lebanon** – [Suzanne al Hajj convicted of “fabricating spy case” and acquitted for fabricating false evidence](#)

The Military Court of Cassation convicted Suzanne al-Hajj for concealing information in the Ziad Itani case, sentencing her to 2 months in prison and a fine of 200,000 Lebanese pounds. The court also condemned the latter for an offense of fabricating a case of espionage against the actor, while at the same time condemning the hacker Elie Ghabash to one and a half years in prison within the framework of the same case.

**Wednesday**  
14 April 2021

**Kesrouan** – [Subsidized products, food parcels: tension is increasing](#)  
After what happened yesterday in Tripoli during the distribution of food parcels, in the Kesrouan region a man was wounded in the head fighting in a brawl for some subsidized olive oil. The tension is clearly increasing among the poorest categories of the society.

**Lebanon – [Mr. Abou Charaf calls for reopening schools because of « students' psychological crisis »](#)**  
Mr. Charaf Abou Charaf, president of the Council of the Order of Doctors, called for allowing schools to reopen soon respecting the necessary measures, in order to avoid huge psychological consequences for the students. Meanwhile, the Minister of Education declared that final exams are going to be done as usual, in July.

**Thursday**  
15 April 2021

**Lebanon – [Why the private vaccination is not « panacea » for Lebanon](#)**

A new analysis by "Le commerce du Levant" denounced the issues related to the slow vaccination campaign in the country, as well as the too expensive cost demanded by the private centers which are offering doses of Sputnik V.

**Lebanon – [Crisis : lack of fuel in several regions of the country](#)**

Several service stations are facing lack of fuel, especially in Metn and Kesrouan regions. This issue is affecting a lot of car and taxi drivers.

**Lebanon – [Judge Bitar releases six people held for Beirut blast](#)**

Lead investigator Judge Tarek Bitar ordered Thursday the release of six people detained in connection to the devastating Aug. 4 Beirut Port blast.

**Friday**  
16 April 2021

**Lebanon – [Lebanon schools to reopen in cooperation with the Red Cross](#)**

After closing for more than three months, the Lebanese Education Ministry has decided to reopen all schools for blended learning as of April 21.

**Lebanon – [Five deaths and several wounded in episodes of vengeance and other violence](#)**

Five people were killed in several episodes of vengeance and so-called crimes of honor. The possession of weapons is not under control in the country, so that the citizens' security may be at risk.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
17 and 18 April 2021

**Lebanon – ['No food in the fridge': A gruelling Ramadan in Lebanon](#)**

For the past decade, Sawa For Development and Aid has been delivering evening iftar meals for about 4,000 families the Bekaa Valley. Today they are struggling to feed thousands of vulnerable families amid highest food inflation in the world.



## REGIONAL Middle East

**Monday**  
12 April 2021

**Sudan** – [Prioritize Justice, Accountability](#)

HRW and other organizations declared that the new transitional government should prioritize accountability for past rights abuses, including the attacks on protesters since the ouster of former president, Mr. Omar al-Bashir, in April 2019.

**Syria** – [Bring Ukrainian Women, Children Home from Syria](#)

HRW explained by regional authorities in the northeast region. Somehow linked to the extremist armed group Islamic State, they are held in inhuman, “horrific and appalling” conditions in camps.

**Yemen** – [One year on, four Yemeni journalists still face death at the hands of Houthi rebels](#)

One year after their arrest by the Iranian backed Houthi rebels, four local journalists are still facing death merely fessedor legitimately carrying out their jobs as reporters. Journalists are still particularly targeted in the country, with several reports highlighting people being assaulted on the streets for carrying cameras and other equipment.

**Tuesday**  
13 April 2021

**Egypt** – [Journalist Khaled Dawoud freed from jail](#)

The prominent dissident journalist and politician Khaled Dawoud was released after more than 18 months in detention. He had been arrested during a wave of protests calling for the removal of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

**Sudan** – [Refugees fleeing Darfur violence face ‘disastrous’ conditions: UN](#)

Mr. Babar Baloch, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said that the recent clashes between tribes in West Darfur region sent over 1,800 people fleeing into Chad. Most of them are women, children and senior citizens and their conditions are “disastrous”.

**Wednesday**  
14 April 2021

**Afghanistan / U.S. of America** – [‘Terrible days ahead’: Afghan women fear the return of the Taliban](#)

The Biden administration decided to withdraw all US troops from the country by September 11, ending the US’s longest war. Germany and other NATO allies will follow Washington’s lead and exit the country. Afghans fear the return of the Taliban, as well as the surging of violence against civilians, especially women and children.

**Egypt** – [74 NGOs urge Egyptian authorities to release researcher Ahmed Samir Santawy](#)

74 NGOs called upon the national authorities to release Mr. Ahmed Samir Santawy, 29-year-old student and researcher, who has been arbitrarily detained since February on bogus terrorism-related charges.

**Occupied Palestine** – [UN highlights rise in Israeli settler attacks on Palestinians](#)

The UN human rights experts warned that violence, assaults and property destruction, perpetrated by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians in the occupied West Bank, has increased in recent months.

From January to March 2021, over 210 violent incidents were recorded, sometimes deadly.

**Turkey** – [Ahmet Altan finally free](#)

Mr. Ahmet Altan, 71-year-old writer and journalist, was released from prison after Europe’s Human Rights court declared that his detention for over four years violated his rights. He had been arrested in September 2016 on charges related to an attempted coup in July 2016.

**Thursday**  
15 April 2021

**Saudi Arabia** – [Dozens of Sri Lankan women have been wrongly detained for months because of the abusive kafala system](#)

At least 41 Sri Lankan women, mostly migrant domestic workers, have been arbitrarily detained for months in a deportation center in Saudi Arabia, pending their repatriation, Amnesty International said.

**Friday**  
16 April 2021

**Tunisia** – [At least 41 people die after boat sinks off Tunisia](#)

At least 41 people from sub-Saharan Africa, people including at least one child have died after their boat sank off Tunisia's coast as they tried to cross the Mediterranean to Lampedusa.

**Syria / Denmark** – [Denmark has told Syrian refugees to go home](#)

Against the advice of all notable organizations and authorities in the field, Denmark has determined that the Syrian capital Damascus is safe enough for refugees to return and has begun the process of revoking residence permits.

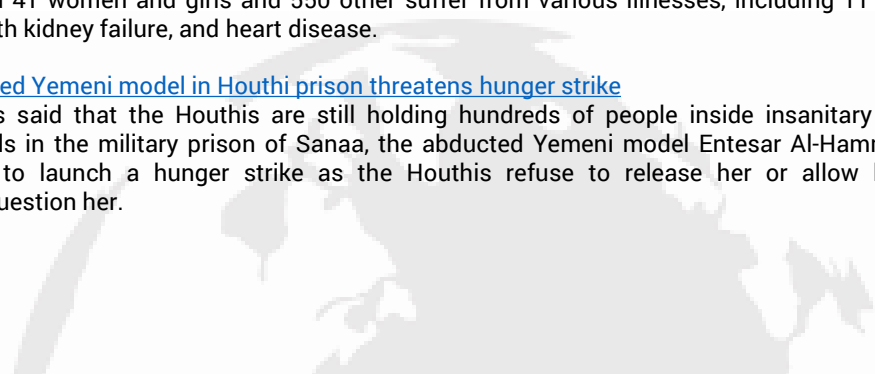
**Saturday and Sunday**  
17 and 18 April 2021

**Occupied Palestine** – [NGO says 4,500 Palestinians in Israeli prisons](#)

Of the thousands behind bars, 430 are administrative detainees held without charge or trial, including 180 children and 41 women and girls and 550 other suffer from various illnesses, including 11 with cancer, seven with kidney failure, and heart disease.

**Yemen** – [Abducted Yemeni model in Houthi prison threatens hunger strike](#)

As organizations said that the Houthis are still holding hundreds of people inside insanitary and overcrowded cells in the military prison of Sanaa, the abducted Yemeni model Entesar Al-Hammadi has threatened to launch a hunger strike as the Houthis refuse to release her or allow local prosecutors to question her.





## INTERNATIONAL

**Monday**  
12 April 2021

**Brazil** – [Remove Miners from Indigenous Amazon Territory](#)

HRW declared that federal authorities should immediately remove miners who have illegally entered the Mundurucu Indigenous territory in the Amazon rainforest. While Bolsonaro administration is not acting upon it, indigenous people are facing land invasions, environmental destruction, and serious threats by criminal groups involved in deforestation.

**Kenya** – [Closing Camps Won't Solve Kenya's Refugee Problem](#)

Instead of allowing refugees to integrate, the government has issued an ultimatum to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide a plan and a timeline in order to close the Dadaab and Kakuma camps. In these camps, over 400,000 people are currently living, most of whom have never known life outside.

**Myanmar** – [Suu Kyi asks court to let her meet lawyers, activists urge New Year defiance](#)

The detained government leader, Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi, asked a court to meet her lawyers in person when she appeared via video link to face the charges brought by the military junta. After winning the Nobel Prize in 1991, she fought against the military rule for decades and she has been arrested during the recent coup. She called her supporters to show their opposition during the celebrations of the Buddhist new year holiday, which are supposed to start tomorrow.

**North Korea** – [North Korea's Leader Warns of Famine](#)

HRW expressed its concerns for leader Kim Jong Un's recent declarations, warning about the country's dire economic situation which is about to cause a "more difficult 'Arduous March'" according to his words. This speech may be yet an attempt to take advantage of the COVID 19 pandemic in order to further tighten his grip on power.

**Pakistan** – [Further information: Health of death row prisoner in sharp decline: Shafqat and Shagufta](#)

Amnesty International expressed its concerns for the condition of Shafqat Emmanuel and his wife, Shagufta Kausar, the Christian couple arrested in 2013 and sentenced to death for sending 'blasphemous' texts to an imam. Shafqat's lower body is paralyzed and according to his lawyer he is suffering high pain, but he is not being taken to the hospital.

**Russia** – [Prison guards threaten to force-feed Alexei Navalny](#)

Prison officials are threatening to force-feed the opposer Alexei Navalny. On day 13 of a hunger strike in protest of being denied access to a doctor, Navalny has lost a lot of weight since he was sentenced and jailed last February.

**Worldwide** – [Shocking imbalance in global Covid vaccine distribution](#)

A new report released by the World Health Organization denounced a "shocking imbalance" between the vaccine distribution in wealthy countries compared to lower-income ones. Some nations happen to have millions of spare doses, while others struggle to even vaccinate the staff of their medical centers.

**Tuesday**  
13 April 2021

**Australia** – [Act on Indigenous Deaths in Custody](#)

HRW called for an investigation over the deaths of indigenous people in jail, after the fifth death of indigenous men held in custody. Avoiding this investigation would tarnish the country's human rights record and global standing.

**Cambodia** – [Prey Lang: how not to protect a vital forest](#)

Recent data published by the University of Maryland and Global Forest Watch showed that over 9,000 hectares of Prey Lang forest was lost during 2020, due to deforestation. The Prey Lang Community Network, that is acting to promote conservation, is experiencing unrelenting pressure and several members were arbitrarily arrested by Ministry of Environment officers. Amnesty International calls for "credible, and independent investigations" into the commercial companies operating in the forest.

**Cameroon** – [Wave of Arrests, Abuse Against LGBT People](#)

HRW expressed its concerns for dozens of LGBT people who were arbitrarily arrested and detained by security forces because of their sexual orientation. Many of them, including a 17-year-old boy, were beaten, abused and threatened.

### **Ethiopia – [Tigray Region Humanitarian Update](#)**

A new report released by UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs highlighted that the ongoing conflict in the Tigray region is creating a serious humanitarian crisis that could lead to disease outbreaks, including COVID 19, and episodes of sexual violence.

### **France / Russia – [Chechen Asylum Seeker Deported to Russia Arbitrarily Detained](#)**

Mr. Magomed Gadaev, a 37-year-old Chechen asylum seeker was deported to Russia despite the prohibition to return any person to a country where they are at risk, and in violation of international law. He is a key witness in a high-profile torture case against Chechnya's leadership. He is now at risk of torture, since he is held incommunicado by the Chechnya's authorities.

### **Mexico – [Online Free Speech at Risk](#)**

HRW warned that the new bill aiming to regulate social media networks could severely restrict free speech in the country, enabling the government to censor speech it disagrees with. The bill was proposed by the Senate Majority Leader, Mr. Ricardo Monreal.

### **Nigeria – [Seven years since Chibok, the government fails to protect children](#)**

Amnesty International expressed its concerns for tens of thousands of children who are missing out on their education because of the government's ongoing failure to protect schools, especially in the northern region, from attacks by insurgents and other armed groups.

### **Somalia – [President signs law extending his mandate for two years](#)**

The state news agency reported that President Mohamed Abdullahi signed a controversial law extending his mandate for further two years, despite the donors' strong opposition to the move.

**Wednesday**  
14 April 2021

### **Brazil – [Senate to investigate Bolsonaro's handling of the pandemic](#)**

The Senate created a Parliamentary Investigation Commission to evaluate President Jair Bolsonaro's disastrous and deadly handling of the coronavirus pandemic, especially the situation in Amazonas with the recent lack of oxygen for hospitalized patients.

### **Denmark / Syria – [Denmark Strips Some Syrians of Residency Status](#)**

The government has declared certain areas of Syria safe, further diminishing hopes for asylum seekers from the war-torn country. Since Denmark has no formal diplomatic relations with Syria, refugees could wait in deportation centers indefinitely.

### **Russia – [Police searches at student magazine are a new low for press freedom](#)**

Amnesty International expressed its concerns for a wave of raids and searches led by the police in the office of Russian student magazine *DOXA*. Journalists and other media workers are feeling under attack, and the future of press freedom in the country is clearly threatened.

### **United Nations – [Nearly half of women, girls 'do not own their bodies', UN says](#)**

A new study released by the UN's Population Fund shows the "alarming" situation for women that are denied control over their own bodies and lives. 50% of women living in developing countries are not allowed to decide whether or not to have sex with their partners, use contraception, or seek healthcare.

### **United States of America / Yemen – [Hunger-striking US activists demand end to Yemen blockade](#)**

Several activists are hunger-striking to demand the Biden administration to end all support for the Saudi-led blockade of Yemen. As denounced by many international aid organizations, this blockade has worsened the humanitarian crisis over the course of the war and, according to the UN, 16 million Yemenis will go hungry this year.

**Thursday**  
15 April 2021

### **France – [France's parliament passes security bill increasing police powers](#)**

The French National Assembly passed a security bill that aim to extend police powers despite criticism from activists who say it threatens efforts to denounce police abuse.

### **Ethiopia – [Top Ethiopia health official alleges 'sexual slavery' in Tigray](#)**

As eleven women tell Reuters they had been raped by soldiers and a top Ethiopian official has made a sexual slavery accusation, hundreds of women have reported that they were subjected to horrific sexual violence by Ethiopian and allied Eritrean soldiers after fighting broke out in November

### **Kenya – [Integrate, don't close, Africa's largest refugee camps](#)**

Kenya's government has informed UNHCR that it will move more than half a million refugees currently living in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps to the Somali border if the commissioner does not announce a plan to close the camps within the required timetable.

Friday  
16 April 2021

**United States** – [Chicago releases video of officer shooting 13-year-old Latino boy](#)

Chicago's police accountability office has released a video footage showing a police officer shooting and killing Adam Toledo, a 13-year-old, as the boy appeared to be raising his hands to give himself up.

**Canada** – [Canada-US asylum seeker agreement upheld by court](#)

A Canadian Appeals court sides with a Canada-US agreement to turn back asylum seekers. The question was whether the Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA), a pact signed in 2002 and under which asylum seekers attempting to cross the Canada-US border are turned around and sent back, violated an asylum seeker's fundamental rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

**Hong Kong** – [Jimmy Lai among five Hong Kong democracy activists jailed](#)

Hong Kong media mogul Jimmy Lai was sentenced for 12 months in prison along with four other veteran democracy activists for helping to lead one of the city's biggest-ever protests.

**Pakistan** – [Pakistan police file 'blasphemy' case against feminist marchers](#)

Pakistani police have registered a blasphemy case against organisers of the annual Aurat Azadi march on International Women's Day, which condemn the allegations as 'baseless and false'.

**Pakistan** – [Pakistan temporarily blocks social media over potential protests](#)

Government has temporarily blocked Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp and some other social media services across the country as part of a security crackdown after days of violent protests.

**Nigeria** – [Tens of thousands flee attacks on northeast Nigerian town: UN](#)

According to UNHCR, 65,000 people have fled the northeastern Nigerian town of Damasak following a series of attacks of the so-called Islamic State West Africa Province.

**India / Bangladesh** – [Rohingya refugee camps are being set on fire](#)

Several small fires have destroyed dozens of make-shift homes in Rohingya refugee camps in India and Bangladesh, few weeks after a large fire broke out in Bangladesh at Cox's Bazar, ravaging through 10,000 make-shift homes, killing at least 15 people and displacing 45,000.

**Bangladesh** – [Protesters shot dead by police at Bangladesh power plant](#)

At least five people have been shot dead and dozens injured when police opened fire at workers protesting over unpaid wages, working hours and alleged discrimination at a Chinese-backed coal-fired power plant.

**Guatemala / United States** – [Desperate Guatemalans 'risking their lives' in journey to US](#)

Facing hunger and economic crisis at home, such as storms and flooding, migrants say they have little hope, and no choice but to leave for US.

**Myanmar** – [Outcry in Myanmar as military airs images of 'tortured' detainees](#)

A human rights group in Myanmar has appealed for international action, expressing concern after military TV broadcasts images of six young detainees whose faces appear bloodied and bruised.

**Myanmar** – [Myanmar frees thousands of prisoners but many dissidents excluded | Military News | Al Jazeera](#)

More than 23,000 prisoners from jails across the country should be released across the country under a New Year amnesty, though few democracy activists arrested since a February 1 coup are expected to be among them.

**Niger** – [At least 19 people killed in west Niger attack](#)

The governor of Tillaberi region said at least 19 civilians were killed when armed men raided a village in west Niger close to the border with Mali

Saturday and  
Sunday  
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