



► 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
3 May 2021

Lebanon – [World Press Freedom Day: the sad situation of Lebanon](#)

On the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day, several reportages denounce the conditions of journalists in the country, whose personal safety is often threatened and at risk, as well as the fact that the great majority of the media channels are not independent from political parties.

Lebanon – [To protect freedom of press in Lebanon](#)

CLDH expressed its tribute to journalists who lost their lives in the pursuit of freedom of expression. CLDH also recalls the importance of working on laws to protect the freedom of the press in Lebanon and to guarantee the freedom of digital media from violations and summonses through the new media law.

Lebanon – [As Lebanese Cry for Justice, Politics Paralyzes the System](#)

Political interference in the judiciary system has thwarted investigations into corruption, violence and assassinations. Though, Lebanese are now crying out for politicians to be held accountable for the disastrous crises in their country and also last August's massive explosion in Beirut's port.

Tuesday
4 May 2021

Beirut – [Sit-in in front of the Military Court to claim for activists' release](#)

Dozens of protesters gathered in front of the Military Court, claiming for the release of several activists from the Movement of the "17 October Uprising" who were recently detained.

Lebanon – [Abiad Says Patients' Inability to Afford Treatment is Growing](#)

The director of the Rafik Hariri Hospital, Mr. Firass Abiad, said that the worsening economic and financial crisis has aggravated the inability of patients to seek medical treatment.

Lebanon – [Diab: Subsidies lift will Reduce Fuel Smuggling](#)

Caretaker Prime Minister Hassan Diab announced that the ration cards - which will be given to 750,000 Lebanese families - are going to be provided soon. According to him, this measure "will compensate the lowest-income families for the difference in prices due to the lifting of subsidies off some goods".

Lebanon – [Higher Islamic Council bans Marriage of Minors Under Fifteen](#)

The Higher Islamic Council raised the minimum age for marriage to fifteen. Minors aged between 15 and 18 shall be allowed to get married only after a Sharia Judge declares them fit for it.

Lebanon – [Allow Syrian Refugee Students to Take Exams](#)

HRW and the Center for Lebanese Studies denounced that Education Ministry is blocking Syrian refugee students from taking school exams unless they provide official papers that few Syrian refugees are able to obtain

Municipality of Ferzol – [Ferzol Municipality to Syrians : \\$2 a day or expulsion](#)

The Municipality of Ferzol issued a new labor law which is racist and sexist. It sets a daily wage for Syrian workers that is lower than the official minimum wage, and the women's one is lower than the men's one. Furthermore, the law gives them the option to accept low wages or leave town.

Lebanon – [Concerns over Social Protection Mount as Subsidies Draw to a Close](#)

While Lebanon prepares to stop subsidies on the import of basic goods, concerns emerge about its repercussions on security considering the economic and financial crisis and the depreciation of the Lebanese pound.

Lebanon – [The case of Ella Tannous : « justice has triumphed today »](#)

The Court of Appeals issued its final ruling in Ella Tannous case and ordered Dr. Issam Maalouf, the Lebanese Maronite Order, Dr. Rana Sharara, and the American University of Beirut to jointly offer the child and her parents a big compensation for the medical error that led to Ella losing her four limbs.

Lebanon – [Lebanon's Diab pitches cash cards for poor. Cue the backlash](#)

The caretaker Prime Minister Diab announced his government wants to introduce a cash card program to offer struggling citizens a safety net for buying essential items to replace the 'wasteful' subsidies program. However, he fears that the Parliament and Lebanon's central bank will not support the proposal.

Beirut – [Sit-in in front of the military court to demand the release of activists](#)

Dozens of demonstrators gathered yesterday in front of the military court in Beirut to demand the release of the activists Mohammad Moufleh, Charif Saadeddine, Ahmad Badaoui, Moussa Haddad et Mohammad Bey, detained after court proceedings against them.

Lebanon – [Anti-Assad refugees in Lebanon fear pressure from regime supporters](#)

While Syrian organizations and pro-Damascus Lebanese parties seek to mobilize voters by all means, opponents denounce intimidation and rigging

Lebanon – [Prices soaring before removal of subsidies](#)

The World Food Programme denounced that the cost of a monthly food basket, containing basic food as a minimum for families per month, rose by 194% since October 2019 due to the depreciation of the Lebanese currency.

Akkar – [Mikati shoots live bullets to inaugurate mosque](#)

The MP Mr. Najib Mikati's convoy shot live bullets near a group of demonstrators who were taking part in a protest against the rise of fuel prices. Mikati, who was going to inaugurate a new mosque in the region, claimed self-defence to justify the fact.

Lebanon – [Lebanon stops 51 Syrians from crossing to Cyprus by sea](#)

The police declared Saturday they had thwarted an attempt to smuggle over 50 Syrians to neighbouring Cyprus. A similar operation was foiled by the army few weeks ago.

Lebanon – [Karpowership threatened to stop the production in its two main stations](#)

The Turkish company Karpowership threatened to stop the production of electricity in its two stations, Jiyé (North of Beirut) and Zouk Mosbeh (South of Beirut). The company claims an 18-month delay in payment from the Lebanese government.

Lebanon – [Comedian Shaden Called In For Interrogation By State Security](#)

Performer and comedian Shaden revealed that she had been summoned for interrogation by the cyber crimes unit of state security this coming. Shaden states that she was not given a reason as to why she was being questioned.

Wednesday
5 May 2021

Friday
7 May 2021

Saturday and Sunday
8 and 9 May 2021



REGIONAL Middle East

Monday
3 May 2021

Afghanistan – [Authorities must protect journalists and journalism amid spiralling violence](#)

On the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day, Amnesty International expressed its concerns for the conditions of journalists in the country, since they are facing threats, intimidation, harassment, and violent attacks. In 2020, at least 11 journalists were killed and four more were reportedly killed since the beginning of 2021.

Algeria – [Tebboune urges dialogue amid mounting social anger](#)

President Abdelmadjid Tebboune ordered “a dialogue with different social partners to improve the socio-professional situation” of workers, who are protesting for better working conditions since the county is facing deep economic and political crisis.

Occupied Palestine – [Israeli settlers attack Palestinian village after shooting](#)

Palestinian officials and an Israeli rights group B'Tselem declared that Israeli settlers attacked a Palestinian village in the occupied West Bank overnight. It appeared to be a revenge attack after a drive-by shooting on Sunday, where three Israelis were wounded.

Tuesday
4 May 2021

Algeria – [Journalist arrested for covering protest: Rabah Kareche](#)

Amnesty International expressed its concerns for the journalist Rabah Kareche, who was arrested shortly after he published an article in “Liberté” newspaper, covering a protest staged by the Tuareg population of the area of Tamanrasset.

Syria – [Syria says Israeli missile attack kills 1 person, wounds 6](#)

State media reported that Israel fired missiles toward northwest Syria, killing one person and wounding six. It was the first Israeli attack on Syria since a missile fired by Damascus struck deep inside Israel two weeks ago.

Turkey – [Small businesses fear for survival during harsh lockdown](#)

Small shop owners said they may be forced to break the country's strict lockdown restrictions, since they cannot afford to lose more than two weeks of business. The lockdown is disastrous for many independent businesses, which have yet to be given financial support by the government.

Yemen / United States – [US legislators call on Biden to help raise funds for Yemen](#)

A group of key US Senators called on Biden administration to push for more humanitarian help for Yemenis suffering amid what they described as “the world's worst humanitarian crisis”. More than 20 million Yemenis depend on humanitarian assistance to survive.

Wednesday
5 May 2021

Occupied Palestine – [Palestinians vow to save Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood](#) – [At least 7 Palestinian youths were detained including a girl and a paramedic](#) – [Israeli occupation forces spray skunk water at Palestinians](#)

For the second night Israeli forces have raided the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of occupied East Jerusalem, where Palestinians have been protesting against the forced displacement of people following an Israeli court order. Israeli forces arrested several Palestinians, sprayed skunk water, a chemically enhanced type of sewage water, and physically assaulted residents and solidarity protesters.

Thursday
6 May 2021

Occupied Palestine – [Palestinian teen killed during Israeli raid on West Bank village](#)

Palestine officials announced that 16-year-old Said Odeh died after being shot in the back twice by Israeli troops during a raid in the occupied West Bank. A Palestinian ambulance was prevented from accessing and treating Odeh for 15 minutes.

Turkey – [Syrian refugee faces deportation for tweets criticizing Turkish government](#)

Activists have called “unlawful” the Turkish government's decision to deport Syrian refugee Munip Ali who was accused of “provoking the public to hatred and animosity”, saying his tweets were in line with freedom of speech laws.

Friday
7 May 2021

Iran – [Jailed Iranian filmmaker could die if not released immediately, UN warns](#)

Organization's human rights experts say that denying Mohammed Nourizad, a 68-year-old jailed after co-signing a letter calling for constitutional change and resignation of Iran's supreme leader, proper medical care may amount to torture.

Afghanistan – [Nemat Rawan: Former Afghan TV host shot dead in Kandahar](#)

Nemat Rawan, who hosted a popular talk show on Tolo News before joining the government ministry, has been killed by unknown gunmen, becoming the fifth journalist to have been killed this year.

United Arab Emirates – [Rights groups slam UAE official's Interpol president candidacy](#)

According to HRW and the Gulf Centre for Human Rights, the candidacy of a UAE official, who has been accused of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners, for president of Interpol could jeopardize the credibility of the global police organization's commitment to human rights.

Occupied Palestine – [Possible Israel war crimes in East Jerusalem land right case: UN](#)

The United Nations warning that settlement expansion will damage prospects for a viable Palestinian state, urged Israel to call off any forced evictions in Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem that could amount to "war crimes".

Occupied Palestine – [Medics: 200 Palestinians hurt in Al-Aqsa clashes with police](#) - [Palestinians criticise social media censorship over Sheikh Jarrah](#)

A night of heavy clashes between Palestinians and Israeli police at the Al-Aqsa mosque and in other areas of Jerusalem left over 200 Palestinians wounded, especially among the large number of Muslim worshippers holding evening prayers at the sprawling hilltop esplanade. Meanwhile, social media users sharing content from Sheikh Jarrah Palestinians have slammed social media companies, complaining their accounts have been censored, limited or shut down.

Afghanistan – [Nearly 1,600 child casualties in the past five years](#)

A new report published by Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) said 1,598 were children killed or wounded in air strikes from 2016 to 2020.

Algeria – [Stop using unlawful force against peaceful protesters](#)

Amnesty International called on security forces to refrain from using unlawful force to disperse protesters demanding a political change, and to release more than 60 activists who were jailed for their role in the demonstrations.

Iraq – [Parliament Suspends Draconian Cybercrimes Bill](#)

In a win for online freedom in the country, the Parliament declared that it shall suspend a cybercrimes draft law until after it is amended so that it protects the right of free speech.

Yemen – [Actress arbitrarily detained at risk of forced 'virginity testing'](#)

Amnesty International called for the immediate release of Ms. Intisar al-Hammadi, the Yemeni actress who has been arbitrarily detained for more than two months on spurious grounds. She is also risking a forced "virginity test".

Occupied Palestine – [Israel plays for time on flashpoint Jerusalem evictions](#)

Israel's attorney-general secured a deferment on Sunday of a court hearing on planned evictions of Palestinians in Jerusalem, a session that had threatened to stoke more violence in the holy city and heighten international concern.

Algeria – [Algeria to ban unauthorised protests](#)

The government will ban unauthorised demonstrations in order to bring to an end a years-long protest movement seeking democratic reforms.

Iraq – [Activist's killing triggers protests in Iraq's Karbala](#)

Protesters have burned tyres and blocked roads in the city of Karbala after the famous civil activist, Mr. Ihab Jawad Al-Wazni, was killed by unknown gunmen.

Dubai – [Prominent female Saudi activist summoned for questioning](#)

Prominent Saudi women's rights activist Loujain al-Hathloul has been summoned for questioning for unknown reasons by Saudi security three months after her release from prison, a relative said on Sunday.

M.E.N.A. region – [End Violent Punishment of Children](#)

HRW called on Governments in the Middle East and North Africa to outlaw the violent discipline of children, introducing an index to categorize countries in the region based on their laws and policies.

Occupied Palestine – [Tension high in Jerusalem after bloody weekend](#)

The violence around Jerusalem's revered Al-Aqsa mosque compound and the Old City, mostly at night, is the worst since 2017, fuelled by a years-long bid by Jewish settlers to take over Palestinian homes in east Jerusalem.

Saturday and Sunday
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INTERNATIONAL

Monday
3 May 2021

Bangladesh – [UN: Stand with Bangladeshi Journalists on Press Freedom Day](#)

Eight non-governmental organizations denounced that the national authorities are cracking down on media freedom, with violent attacks, harassment and intimidation. Journalists are daily at risk of arrest and torture, just for doing their job.

East and Southern Africa – [Media freedoms curtailed as COVID-19 crises expose urgent need for access to information](#)

On the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day, Amnesty International expressed its concerns for the conditions of journalists and social media workers in the region, since many television stations have been suspended or shutdown, private press targeted and journalists intimidated “in a heavy blow to the right to freedom of expression and access to information”.

El Salvador – [Human rights in danger](#)

Amnesty International expressed its concerns for the situation of human rights in the country, since the magistrates of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice and the Attorney General of the Republic were dismissed. It must be reminded that “judicial independence is a fundamental element in any state”.

Ethiopia – [Tepid response to Tigray conflict fuels horrific violations over past six months](#)

Amnesty International called on African and other world leaders to urgently speak out and do more in order to stem the ferocious tide of human rights and international humanitarian law violations in the armed conflict in Tigray region.

Kyrgyzstan – [Proposed Legal Changes Threaten Political Dissent](#)

HRW denounced that the national authorities are considering amendments to the Criminal and Criminal Procedural Codes that would put the political opposition and human rights groups at high risk.

India / European Union – [EU: Prioritize Rights at India Summit](#)

HRW called on European leaders participating in the India Summit on May 8 to prioritize the deteriorating human rights situation in the country, especially after the last devastating COVID 19 wave.

Rwanda – [What Press Freedom Looks Like in Rwanda](#)

On the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day, HRW expressed its concerns for the conditions of Rwandan journalists, many of them went missing or ended up dead in mysterious circumstances. Also, the authorities got very efficient at online censorship.

Tuesday
4 May 2021

Colombia – [Amnesty Intl denounces militarized response and police repression of demonstrations](#)

Amnesty International denounced the excessive and unnecessary use of force by the security forces, calling on the authorities to end the repression of demonstrations, cease the militarization of cities and ensure the respect of human rights. The demonstration started on April 28, in response to the tax reform bill presented by President Iván Duque.

France – [Police Expelling Migrant Children](#)

HRW denounced that the police summarily expel dozens of unaccompanied children to Italy each month in violation of French and international law. Italian organizations that provide legal support for migrants at the border said they see such situations nearly every day.

Niger – [New Government Should Investigate Massacres](#)

HRW addressed a letter to the new justice and defense ministers, calling on him to prioritize accountability for alleged war crimes committed by all sides in Niger's armed conflict.

Sri Lanka – [Sri Lanka Face Covering Ban Latest Blow for Muslim Women](#)

HRW expressed its concerns for Muslim women in the country, since the cabinet recently approved plans to ban women's face coverings. If approved by parliament, the measure will forbid the niqab and the burqa, increasing women's social marginalization.

Vietnam – [Free Democracy Activist Mother, Sons](#)

HRW called for the immediate release of the democracy campaigner Can Thi Theu and her two sons and the drop of all charges against them. They have been detained since June 2020, because they engaged in numerous protests and campaigns over human rights, land rights, and environmental protection.

Wednesday
5 May 2021

Worldwide – [G7 Leaders must provide support to avert more COVID 19 oxygen shortages](#)

A joint statement signed by 28 organizations and groups called on the G7 leaders to ensure that low- and middle-income countries have the medical oxygen and other medicines they need to treat all patients during the pandemic.

Myanmar – [More than 200 NGOs call on UN to impose Myanmar arms embargo](#)

Amnesty International and more than 200 other non-governmental call for embargo in response to the military's violent crackdown on protests.

Nigeria – [Kidnappers free 29 students abducted in Nigeria's Kaduna state](#)

The gunmen who took 39 students from a forestry college in northwest Nigeria on March 11 have released the remaining 29 students they were holding captive, nearly two months after abducting them from a forestry college in Nigeria's Kaduna state.

Mali – [French journalist kidnapped in Mali pleads for help in video](#)

A French journalist, Olivier Dubois, kidnapped by rebels in Mali's northern city of Gao last month appeals to French authorities "to do everything" in their power to free him from rebel fighters.

Belarus – [Ten Belarusians file criminal case in Germany against Lukashenko](#)

Citing the universal jurisdiction laws that allow countries to prosecute crimes against humanity, regardless of where they were committed, ten Belarusians asked Germany's federal prosecutor to open a criminal investigation against President Alexander Lukashenko and Belarusian security officers for alleged crimes against humanity during a crackdown on anti-government protests.

Worldwide – [Millions staring at famine as food insecurity soars: Report](#)

A new UN report shows that food insecurity in the world's poorest countries reached record highs in 2020, with millions staring at famine, a situation exacerbated in part by the COVID 19 pandemic.

France – [police turn away migrant children](#)

Human Rights Watch highlighted that every month, French police summarily deport dozens of unaccompanied children to Italy, in violation of French and international law. To justify these expulsions, the police frequently write on official documents ages or dates of birth that differ from those declared by the children. Authorities have also summarily deported adults, including families with young children, without informing them that they have the right to seek asylum in France.

Thursday
6 May 2021

Hong Kong – [HK's Joshua Wong gets 10 more months in jail over June 4 assembly](#)

Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong, already in prison among 47 activists charged under the city's sweeping national security law, will face an additional 10 months in jail for participating in an unauthorized assembly on June 4 last year to commemorate the brutal 1989 crackdown in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Colombia – [Demands grow as Colombians hold eighth day of mass protests](#)

Anti-government protests took place across the country were met with police tear gas as rights group continue to raise concerns about excessive force

Malaysia – [Malaysian arts jostle with draconian laws, conservative attitudes](#)

The arrest of the prominent graphic artist and social activist Fahmi Reza over a satirical playlist has rekindled debate over freedom of expression in the country.

Brazil – ['Carnage': 25 killed in Rio de Janeiro's deadliest police raid](#)

At least 25 people have been killed when hundreds of heavily armed police stormed into one of Rio de Janeiro's largest slum areas, during a "justified" crackdown on drug trafficking. However residents said there were clear signs of 'execution-style killings' during operation.

Malawi – [Malawi orders thousands of refugees to return to overcrowded camp](#)

Despite years of integration, the Malawian government has ordered thousands of long-integrated refugees to return to its sole but badly overcrowded refugee camp, claiming refugees could pose a threat to national security by living with locals.

Friday
7 May 2021

Myanmar – [Myanmar anti-coup cage fighter arrested as protests continue](#)

Warrantless arrests continue across the country where 3,738 are currently detained or have been sentenced and the death toll from the military crackdown since the beginning of the coup in Myanmar has already reached 772.

India – [Kashmir doctors prohibited from speaking to media as COVID rages](#)

Authorities have banned doctors from talking to reporters and directed oxygen manufacturing units to stop supplies to NGOs and private users.

Burkina Faso – [Burkina Faso attacks displace thousands in 10 days: UN](#)

Armed groups have forcefully displaced some 17,500 people from their homes in the past 10 days, UNHCR says, by unidentified armed groups burning down houses and shooting at least 45 civilians dead.

Ecuador – [Ecuador abortion rights victory hailed as latest in 'tidal wave'](#)

Women's rights advocates have hailed a recent court ruling that decriminalizes abortion in rape cases as an important step, but activists said struggle continues.

Colombia – [Concerning reports of disappearances and sexual violence against protesters](#)

Amnesty International denounced that the police used force indiscriminately and disproportionately, and there are alarming reports of sexual violence and disappearances. Moreover, the militarized response and police repression of mostly peaceful demonstrations goes on in different cities across the country.

Democratic Republic of Congo – [Martial Law in Eastern Congo No Pretext for Abuse](#)

The martial law was imposed in the Eastern regions of North Kivu and Ituri for an initial period of 30 days, allowing military authorities to « search people's homes day and night, ban publications and meetings deemed against public order, restrict people's movements, and arrest anyone for disrupting public order ».

Japan – [Japan's Ruling Party LGBT Bill Falls Short](#)

HRW denounced that Japan currently does not have any national legislation protecting LGBT people from discrimination. A recent study puts the country next to last in a ranking of laws on LGBT inclusiveness for developed countries.

Poland – [ECHR ruling on "unlawful" Constitutional Court must spur action](#)

Amnesty International welcomed the decision of the European Court of Human Rights which found that irregularities in the election of judges to the Constitutional Court had precluded access to a "tribunal established by law", making therefore the Constitutional Court unlawful.

United States of America – [Alabama Removes Anti-LGBT Language from Sex Ed Law](#)

Alabama's Governor Ms. Kay Ivey signed a bill that updates the state's sexuality education law, removing inaccurate and stigmatizing language about LGBT people.

United States of America / Occupied Palestine – ['Not \\$1': US lawmaker urges end to complicity in Israeli abuses](#)

The US Democrat Congresswoman, Ms. Betty McCollum, tried to spur a debate about the billions of dollars that Washington sends to Israel each year, calling for an effort to ensure that Israel shall not use US aid to violate Palestinian rights.

Somalia – Colombia – [Urgent call for a cease to violence against Indigenous Peoples](#)

Amnesty International expressed its concerns for the situation in the country, since violent attacks against the Indigenous Minga collective in Cali were reported. Several members of the Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca were left injured.

European Union – [Redouble Efforts to End Violence Against Women](#)

HRW called on Council of Europe member states to redouble efforts to combat violence against women by swiftly ratifying and carrying out a landmark regional convention on women's rights.

Thailand – [Land Rights Activist Gunned Down](#)

HRW called for an immediate investigation on the murder of Mr. Somsak Onchuenjit, a lawyer and land rights activist, in Trang province in southern Thailand. It was one of the several attacks against human rights defenders who represent landless farmers.

Saturday and Sunday
8 and 9 May 2021