



► 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 May 2021

Beirut – [Parliament's Security Forces assault a doctor in Hotel Dieu hospital](#)

The Parliament's Security Forces assaulted a doctor in Hotel Dieu de France hospital, after he asked a family to leave in order to treat a patient. This is the last of several episodes of excessive violence perpetrated by the Parliament's Security Forces, especially since October 2019.

Lebanon – [Private hospitals in Lebanon to stop taking patients to protest court ruling](#)

After the decision of the Court of Appeal on Ella Tannous' case, the major private hospitals are going to strike closing their doors and refusing to treat patients except for emergencies or chemotherapy patients.

Lebanon – [Political escalation adds to panic over subsidies removal](#)

Political escalation by rival parties during the weekend increased public panic over plans to remove subsidies on essential items, such as fuel, wheat and medicine.

Lebanon – [The disappearing girls mystery: ISF circulars about missing persons with unknown fates](#)

The Internal Security Forces announced two new cases of missing females in less than 24 hours. Despite the rise of missing person cases in the country, the ISF denied "the existence of organized crime," saying that most of these cases are due to personal and family reasons.

Tuesday
11 May 2021

Lebanon – [Muslims feel the pinch of Lebanon's economic woes for Eid](#)

After 18 months of economic crisis in the country, the festivities on the occasion of Eid el-Fitr, that will take place on Thursday and Friday this week, are going to be modest for many Muslim families.

Lebanon / United Nations – [Committing to Support Lebanon and Its People to Build Back Better](#)

The UN in Lebanon released its annual report for the year 2020, committing once again to scale up its efforts to help Lebanon and its citizens to recover from the ongoing crises and to face the "unprecedented challenges".

Lebanon – [Karadeniz ships blackmail Lebanon: reverse seizure or face darkness](#)

The Turkish company Karadeniz threatened to stop supplying the country with electricity if Lebanon does not reverse its decision to seize the company's power barges and allow them to leave.

Wednesday
12 May 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanese people panicking for the potential removal of subsidies](#)

Citizens are facing several issues concerning the fuel supply and long queues of cars were enregistered in several gas stations in many cities across Lebanon. Fearing the end of subsidies, people are also concerned for the quality of food and the loss of value of the Lebanese pound.

Lebanon – [Driven by despair, Lebanese pharmacist looks to life abroad](#)

Even those who never thought or wanted to leave the country are now forced to consider this option due to the ongoing economic and financial crisis. This reportage focuses on the despair of Lebanese pharmacists and their hard conditions of work.

Thursday
13 May 2021

Lebanon – [As Poverty Bites, Lebanese Give Up Their Pets](#)

Several animal activists denounced that, as an effect of the economic crisis, increasingly more pet owners are asking for help to feed or re-home their animals, selling them, or in the worst cases abandoning them.

Friday
14 May 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanese protester shot dead, another wounded by Israelis at border demonstration](#)

A Lebanese man was shot and killed by Israeli troops after he and others protesting in support of Palestinians. UNIFIL says it has launched an investigation into the incident, and increased its presence at the border alongside the Lebanese army.

Lebanon / Canada / France – [Canada is Urged Not to Extradite Lebanese-Canadian Academic](#)

Supporters of a Lebanese-Canadian academic, Hassan Diab, the only known suspect in a 1980 Paris bombing urged Prime Minister Justin Trudeau not to allow him to be extradited a second time, as France's top court weighs in on the case. Diab who has always denied involvement in the bombing, spent a total of nine years either in jail or under strict bail conditions in the two countries.

Saturday and Sunday
15 and 16 May 2021

Lebanon – [Warning against dragging Lebanon into 'total chaos' amid hopes for economic recovery - In Adaisseh, demonstrators come to "die as martyrs" for Palestine](#)

On the 73rd anniversary of the Nakba, hundreds of Lebanese and Palestinian demonstrators gathered in Adaisseh, on the border with Israel, to shout their support for Palestine. As Lebanese Army guard Israel border after the killing of a Lebanese by Israeli bullets, Lebanese political and economic figures have expressed their opposition to dragging Lebanon into a regional conflict amid the Palestine-Israel crisis and violent clashes.

Beirut – [Two hundred supply cards distributed by the NGO Be Beirut in Ashrafieh](#)

The association has opened two community centres, in Rmeil and Sassine, where it provides psychological and social support to the inhabitants of these areas.



REGIONAL Middle East

Monday
10 May 2021

Afghanistan – [Unspeakable killings of civilians must prompt end to impunity](#)

Amnesty International South Asia Campaigner declared that the recent bombings in West Kabul and in the Zabul Province “brutally highlight the failure of authorities to protect civilians, particularly girls and minority groups; people are being slaughtered and the bloodshed shows no sign of letting up”.

Egypt – [Release activist sentenced after unfair and politically motivated trials: Ahmed Douma](#)

Amnesty International called for the immediate release of Mr. Ahmed Douma, the prominent activist who was arbitrarily detained and sentenced to 15 years’ imprisonment because of his participation in anti-government protests through grossly unfair and politically motivated proceedings.

Palestine (Gaza Strip) – [Gaza militants, children among 24 dead as Israel hits Hamas](#) – [Jerusalem crisis: Pleas for calm as violence escalates](#)

Gaza health officials declared that since sundown, when the cross-border attacks began, 24 Palestinians – including nine children – were killed. At night, Israel unleashed new airstrikes. The escalation in the conflict has been caused by the recent events in East Jerusalem and in the neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah.

Turkey – [Women across the world demand reversal of decision to quit gender-based violence treaty](#)

Women around the world will take part in the Global Day of Action, objecting President Erdogan’s decision to quit the international treaty on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

Tuesday
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Iran – [Alireza Fazeli Monfared murdered by family members for being gay](#)

Alireza Fazeli Monfared, a 20-year-old Iranian youth, was killed by his brother and cousins due to his sexual orientation. He was homosexual and his murdered is considered an act of “honor killing” before Iranian law. LGBT persons are persecuted in the country, with religious sanction against same sex relationships.

Occupied Palestine – [Jerusalem to Gaza, Israeli Authorities Reassert Domination](#) – [Israel destroys tower block, kills Hamas commander as Gaza civilian death toll mounts](#) – [In Sheikh Jarrah, Palestinians confront a city’s future](#)

HRW condemned the Israeli forces’ abuses of the recent days, when they responded to Palestinians’ demonstrations in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood by firing teargas, stun grenades, and rubber-coated steel bullets, including inside al-Aqsa Mosque. Also, the escalation of tension in Gaza Strip highlights the reality of persecution for millions of Palestinians.

Occupied Palestine – [Israel declares curfew in Arab-Jewish town hit by violence](#)

Israeli police declared a night-time curfew for Wednesday night and deployed heavily armed reinforcements after violence erupted in mixed towns. Many Palestinian protesters have been arrested in Lod and in majority-Arab towns.

Sudan – [Two people killed in Sudan rally over 2019 protest killings](#)

Two years after the brutal crackdown of the security forces over anti-government demonstrations, where two people were killed and dozens wounded, hundreds of citizens gathered in that same site, outside the army headquarters in Khartoum, calling for removal of then-President Omar al-Bashir.

Wednesday
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Iran – [The Mahdi Scouts: A Chronicle of Child Recruitment into Iranian Militias](#)

A reportage of “Daraj Media” revealed that children were trained in weapon use in Iranian camps located in Syria and Lebanon under the banner of the Imam al-Mahdi Scouts, which serves as a bridge to militias affiliated with Iran’s Revolutionary Guard.

Iran – [Watchdog slams Iran’s treatment of Kurdish journalists](#)

The Committee to Protect Journalists spoke out against the government’s recourse to “vague, trumped-up” charges to crack down on Kurdish journalists, and urged authorities to release three who are still in detention.

Palestine / Worldwide – [Digital apartheid: Palestinians being silenced on social media](#)

Social media companies, including Zoom, Facebook and Twitter, are reinforcing Israel’s erasure of Palestinians, excluding Palestinian voices from mainstream media narratives in the West and attempting to whitewash Israel’s crimes against them.

Occupied Palestine – [I.C.C. Is Watching Israeli-Palestinian Violence for War Crimes – Israeli troops mass at Gaza border amid rocket fire, air strikes and clashes in Israel](#)

The International Criminal Court's main prosecutor, Ms. Fatou Bensouda, declared that she is closely watching Israel and Hamas, for potential war crimes in the current escalation of tensions. In the meanwhile, the violence is increasing: at least 87 people were killed in Gaza since the escalation on Monday, 7 people were killed in Israel. The violence has also spread to mixed cities in Israel.

Qatar – [Fears grow for forcibly disappeared migrants' rights activist](#)

Amnesty International called on the authorities to urgently reveal the whereabouts of Mr. Malcolm Bidali, a Kenyan national who has been forcibly disappeared since 4 May, when he was taken from his labor accommodation for questioning by the state security service. Malcolm is known as blogger and activist and spoke out about the plight of migrant workers on several online platforms.

Afghanistan – [Separate blasts kill 11 Afghan civilians on first day of truce](#)

According to local official sources, at least 11 civilians were killed and 13 others wounded in four separate bombings, hours after a three-day ceasefire began across the country on the occasion of the Muslim festival of Eid al-Fitr.

Gaza Strip / Occupied Palestine – [Israel intensifies attacks in Gaza as conflict enters fifth day – Holy city of Jerusalem marks sad end to Ramadan – Eid in Jerusalem – You speak Arabic: you are attacked](#)

Israeli Forces intensified their assaults on Gaza, as Palestinian militants continue to fire rockets after four days of hostilities. Around 120 people were killed in Gaza and eight died in Israel since fighting began on Monday. Palestinians are witnessing daily attacks carried out by Israeli settlers on private houses in several mixed cities, like Haifa.

Gaza Strip / Occupied Palestine – [Several children killed as Israel pounds Gaza refugee camp - Several Palestinians killed by Israeli fire in West Bank protests](#)

According to the UN, 10,000 Palestinians have been forced out of their homes in the Gaza Strip, where Israeli strikes killed 137, killing several children and women at a refugee camp and injured at least 500.

M.E.N.A Region – [HRW has launched an index categorizing countries in the Middle East and North Africa \(MENA\) region based on their laws around the violent discipline of children](#)

The region has some of the highest levels of corporal punishment in the world and surveys show that more than 90% of children suffer physical punishment at least once a month.

Gaza Strip – [Israeli hit on Gaza refugee camp kills 10, including 8 children](#)

In the fifth night of relentless bombardment of the besieged Gaza Strip, at least 10 member of a Palestinian family, two women and eight children, have been killed by an Israeli air raid on their home in the Shati refugee camp raising the death toll to 140 since Monday.

Gaza Strip – [Israeli air raid flattens Gaza building housing Al Jazeera](#)

Israel's bombardment of the Gaza Strip entered its sixth consecutive day, flattening a high-rise building housing the offices of media organizations, including Al Jazeera. The media network condemns this bombing as a 'clear act' to stop journalists from reporting events in Gaza Strip.

Occupied Palestine – [Palestinian shot dead after car rams Israeli police in Jerusalem](#)

Israeli forces shot dead a Palestinian driver who crashed his vehicle into a roadblock in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, injuring six officers.

Occupied Palestine – [Israeli forces kill two Palestinians at Nakba Day marches](#)

Israeli security forces shoot dead at least two Palestinians and wounded more than 450 as they marched across the West Bank to mark Nakba Day, when nearly 800,000 Palestinians were forcibly expelled from their homes to make way for the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948.

Gaza Strip – ['Victims of aggression': Gaza hospital overwhelmed with wounded - Netanyahu says Gaza bombing to continue 'in full-force'](#)

Medical workers are overwhelmed by the number of wounded in Gaza's largest hospital after Saturday night's raids killed and injured dozens of Palestinians and are not likely to stop, according to the Israeli prime minister.

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Armenia – [Important Progress for People with Disabilities](#)

HRW welcomed the new law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recently approved by the Parliament. This law shall protect people with disabilities from discrimination and create opportunities for a more inclusive society.

Europe – [Coalition of human rights NGOs release annual report on torture at EU borders](#)

The Border Violence Monitoring Network, a Balkan-based coalition of 13 human rights organizations, published its annual report documenting the “torture or inhuman and degrading treatment” experienced by countless migrants attempting to cross Greek and Croatian borders.

France – [Facing trial for protesting peacefully: Frédéric Vuillaume](#)

Mr. Frédéric Vuillaume is going to face trial for his peaceful participation in protests as part of the “Gilets jaunes” movement. He was charged with ‘attroupement’ (participation in an assembly that is likely to disrupt public order) and risks up to one year in prison and a fine.

Myanmar – [The world needs to stand with the people of Myanmar](#)

100 days after the military coup in the country, Amnesty International called on governments and businesses across the world to join together to deny the military the means to continue abusing the citizens and to held perpetrators accountable for human rights atrocities.

Nepal – [Act to Avert Looming Covid-19 Disaster](#)

HRW called on the government to urgently act to manage a rapidly escalating COVID 19 emergency in the country. The number of recorded cases is currently doubling every three days among a largely unvaccinated population.

Thailand – [Authorities must not deport Myanmar journalists at grave risk](#)

Amnesty International expressed its concerns for five individuals from Myanmar, including three journalists from the Democratic Voice of Burma news outlet, who were arrested last Sunday, calling on the Thai authorities not to forcibly return these individuals to their country where their safety would be at high risk.

Tuesday
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Azerbaijan – [Gender-based reprisals against women must stop](#)

Women human rights defenders, activists, journalists and lawyers are speaking out to held accountable those responsible for several human rights violations and to enhance women’s human rights, such as their rights to freedom of expression and association. However, their efforts are meeting with ever more intense and egregious reprisals and threats.

Cameroon – [Cameroonian transgender women convicted of ‘attempted homosexuality’](#)

A court sentenced two transgender women to five years of prison for “attempted homosexuality” and other offences after they were arrested for the clothes they were wearing in a restaurant. Human rights activists in the country denounce the growing criminalization of sexual minorities and transgender people.

China – [UN Governments Should Urge Xinjiang Inquiry](#)

HRW called on the United Nations members to press the government to end its crimes against humanity perpetrated against Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims at a high-level event on human rights abuses in the region of Xinjiang.

Indonesia – [Drop Charges, Release Peaceful Papuan Activist](#)

HRW called on the authorities to drop the politically motivated treason charges against Mr. Victor Yeimo, the activist who was detained for peacefully advocating for Papuan independence.

Uganda – [Museveni’s latest government must reverse decline on human rights](#)

Amnesty International called on Museveni’s government to use its latest term to reverse the ongoing deterioration in respect for human rights.

Uzbekistan – [Blogger Jailed for 6.5 Years on Dubious Charges](#)

A court’s decision jailed Mr. Otabek Sattoriy, an independent blogger who has investigated alleged corruption by local authorities. HRW denounced this miscarriage of justice, that endangers freedom of speech in the country.

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Benin – [Threat on transgender people and their defenders following the assault on three of them](#)

Amnesty International called on the authorities to immediately take all necessary measures to protect transgender people and the associations that defend them, after three transgender women were forced to undress, beaten and robbed by a group of men at a bar in Cotonou.

Ethiopia – [Ethiopia's Axum Findings Ignore Massacre of Civilians](#)

The attorney general's office released its findings into allegations of atrocities committed by Ethiopian and Eritrean forces in Tigray's historic city of Axum in late November 2020. This press release ignored the horrific massacre that happened from the afternoon of November 28 through November 29. An independent, international inquiry is needed.

Kenya – [Pregnant Girls and Young Mothers in Kenya Have the Right to Education](#)

Presenting the results of the 2020 secondary school leaving exam, the Minister of Education, Prof. George Magooha, shamed pregnant girls and their parents, instead of championing the important role the education sector can play in preventing unplanned adolescent pregnancies.

Mozambique – [Rescue attempts jeopardized by racial discrimination following Palma attack](#)

Amnesty International denounced that, after an attack by the armed group known locally as 'Al-Shabaab' in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado, white contractors were prioritized for evacuation ahead of Black locals, and considered this fact "a blatant racism".

Thailand – [Covid-19 Outbreaks in Prisons](#)

HRW expressed its concerns for the conditions of people held in the national overcrowded prisons and detention facilities, who are currently at grave risk from COVID 19 outbreaks. Adequate protective measures and health care must immediately be ensured by the authorities.

Worldwide – [Campaign To Stop Killer Robots](#)

The President of International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Peter Maurer, declared on the ICRC's conclusion that new legal rules are needed to tackle the ethical, humanitarian and legal challenges posed by autonomy in weapons systems or "killed robots" that target human beings. This significant development inspires hope that a new legal reality is possible.

Thursday
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Colombia – [Colombia enters third week of anti-government protests](#)

Anti-government protests have entered their third week in the country, as union members, students, pensioners and more took to the streets to protest against recent violence and to demand economic and medical assistance.

France – [France asks police to ban pro-Palestinian protest in Paris](#)

France's interior minister, Mr. Gerald Darmanin, asked police to ban a pro-Palestinian protest in Paris this weekend against the recent escalation of Israeli air raids in the Gaza Strip and crackdowns in the occupied East Jerusalem and West Bank. The declared reason of this decision was to avoid "serious disturbances to the public order".

Guatemala – [Anger grows in Guatemala over COVID vaccine rollout, corruption](#)

COVID 19 vaccinations got off to a late and rocky start, driving growing discontent over vaccine access, pandemic management and alleged corruption issues. Anger is increasing among the citizens and protesters are taking to the streets holding signs that read "Health Is A Constitutional Right".

India – [COVID-19 vaccination drive again exposes India's digital divide](#)

Online registration for the jab is an obstacle for half of the country's population, mainly in poor and rural areas, who do not have smartphones or internet access. What is happening is considered as a "critical question on vaccine equity".

Sri Lanka – [Poet detained for one year without charge: Ahnaf Jazeem](#)

Amnesty International called for the immediate release of Mr. Ahnaf Jazeem, a 26-year-old poet and teacher, has been detained "in squalid conditions" by the national authorities since 16 May 2020 under the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act, without charges or any credible evidence being presented to a court.

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Mozambique – [Rescue attempts jeopardized by racial discrimination following Palma attack](#)

In a report compiled from interviews with 11 Black survivors, Amnesty showed that foreign contractors were prioritized for evacuation ahead of locals during a rescue operation following an attack in March by an armed group known locally as al-Shabab.

Scotland – [Glasgow protesters praised for blocking UK immigration officers](#)

Hundreds surrounded a deportation van and ultimately secured the temporary release of two men detained by British immigration officers, earning widespread praise from activists, experts, the refugee community and some sections of the media.

**Saturday and
Sunday**
15 and 16 May 2021

Democratic Republic of the Congo – [Thirty sentenced to death over anti-police clashes in DR Congo](#)
Thirty people were sentenced to death, after a one-day trial, for their role in anti-police violence on Thursday marking the end of Ramadan in Kinshasa where a policeman was killed.

Myanmar – [Six rebels killed by Myanmar military, anti-coup force says](#)
A rebel group made up of civilians in Myanmar after February coup says that six members have been killed and 10 wounded this week amid intensified fighting, as the United Kingdom and the United States condemned the military's violence against civilians.

Ethiopia – [Ethiopia says 'destroyed' force coming from Sudan](#)
Tens of thousands of Tigray refugees have fled into Sudan, as allegedly members of the former ruling party of the Tigray region, had been "destroyed" attempting to enter Ethiopia from neighboring Sudan.