



► 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
15 February 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon virus deaths top 4,000, 1,739 new infections](#)

Lebanon's total coronavirus fatalities topped 4,000 Monday, with 44 new deaths and 1,739 further cases in 24 hours.

Beirut – [AUBMC staff get first dose of COVID-19 vaccine](#)

AUBMC, Rafic Hariri University Hospital and St. George Hospital will begin administering the vaccine and the Health Ministry has established a total of 42 vaccination centers in public and private hospitals across the country.

Tuesday
16 February 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon registers 55 new coronavirus deaths, 2,723 more cases](#)

Lebanon registered 55 new deaths and 2,723 further cases, as the broad spread of the virus shows signs of slowing down.

Beirut – [Hezbollah chief denies accusations linking group to activist killing](#)

Hassan Nasrallah dismissed accusations of any links between Hezbollah and the killing of Lokman Slim, an activist known for criticism of the Iran-backed Hezbollah group.

Lebanon – [Palestinian refugees in Lebanon three times more likely to die with COVID-19](#)

The UN figures highlighted that the 207,000 Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon are three times more likely to die with COVID-19 than the population as a whole.

Wednesday
17 February 2021

Lebanon – [CLDH shares recommendations to the head of the National Committee for the Management of the COVID-19 Vaccine Plan, Dr Abdul Rahman Al-Bizr](#)

CLDH shared a list of recommendations to develop an implementation plan to ensure that all recipients of the vaccine in Lebanon receive it fairly, including migrants and refugees with no legal or social status.

Thursday
18 February 2021

Lebanon – [Ministry's demand for aid recipients' personal details halts some humanitarian assistance programs during lockdown](#)

Some humanitarian aid initiatives were halted since the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities required them to submit a list of beneficiaries to obtain the permission to provide aid during the lockdown.

Lebanon – [Lebanon registers 54 coronavirus deaths, 2,730 cases](#)

Lebanon recorded 54 new coronavirus-related deaths and 2,730 further cases, as the vaccine registration process grew messy.

Lebanon – [The Beirut port blast investigation is on hold after a court decision to remove the judge in charge of the probe](#)

The Lebanese Court of Cassation issued a decision to remove Judge Fadi Sawwan from the Beirut blast probe for alleged impartiality because he was affected by the blast himself. For many, this move appears likely to further delay accountability for the Beirut port explosion.

Friday
19 February 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon registers 51 new coronavirus deaths, 2,255 cases](#)

Lebanon Friday recorded 51 new coronavirus-related deaths and 2,255 further cases of infection.

Beirut – [CLDH raises awareness around Freedom of Expression in Lebanon](#)

CLDH raises awareness on the means of oppressing freedom of expression in Lebanon and its legal background.

Lebanon – [Tony Saliba VS Ziad Itani: the conflict continues](#)

Major General Saliba filed a new lawsuit against the theater actor Ziad Itani on the charge of "undermining the prestige of the state". Itani, who tweeted his refusal to appear before the judiciary, has been continuously harassed for revealing methods of torture.

Beirut – [Families of Beirut blast victims protest judge's removal from investigation](#)

Families of the victims gathered outside Beirut's Palais de Justice following the Court of Cassation dropping Judge Fadi Sawan from the case.

Beirut – [Republican lawmakers urge Biden to respond to assassination of Lebanese activist Slim](#)

Two republican lawmakers urged President Biden to use the Magnitsky Act to punish anyone responsible for the murder of the activist Slim. This Act allows the US to order sanctions, including financial sanctions, against anyone who violates human rights.

Lebanon – [Domestic workers who leave their jobs can no longer be accused of a crime](#)

New victory against the kafala system: the Lebanese General Security decided to no longer allow employers to file criminal complaints against migrant domestic workers for "running away".

Saturday and Sunday
20 and 21 February 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon registers 40 new COVID-19 deaths, 2,323 cases](#)

Lebanon Saturday recorded 40 new coronavirus-related deaths and 2,323 further cases.

Beirut – [Arrested at the airport, the Activist Michel Chamoun will appear on monday before the army's intelligence services](#)

The activist has been arrested following an information note filed against him by an informant who accuses him of preparing "an operation" against the regular forces.

Lebanon – [Lebanon receives second Pfizer vaccine shipment](#)

Lebanon received Saturday its second shipment of the coronavirus vaccine, containing around 31,500 Pfizer-BioNTech doses.

Lebanon – [Lebanon registers 43 more coronavirus deaths, 1,685 new cases](#)

Lebanon Sunday recorded 43 new coronavirus-related deaths and 1,685 further cases.

Beirut – ["Cette fois-ci, les choses seront différentes", claim the families of the victims during a new sit-in](#)

Dozens of relatives of victims of the double explosion of 4 August gathered on Sunday in front of the Beirut port two days after the appointment of the new judge as Joumblatt fears that replacing Sawan is a strategy to "bury" the case.

Beirut – [CLDH calls for social justice on World Day of Social Justice](#)



Monday
15 February 2021

Syria – [Israeli strike near Syrian capital kills 6 fighters](#)

Israel fired several missiles from Syria's Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, targeting areas near Damascus, Syria's state news agency reported. According to an opposition war-monitoring group, six Iran-backed fighters have been killed.

Azerbaijan – [Azerbaijan rejects appeal of journalist jailed for treason](#)

Polad Aslanov who was sentenced to 16 years in prison on charges of spying for Iran, had seen his appeal rejected by an Azerbaijan Court. A move qualified by him and human rights group as politically motivated.

Yemen – [Heavy clashes rage in central Yemen; dozens killed](#)

Despite UN efforts to restart negotiations to end the civil war, fighting continues between forces of Yemen's internationally recognized government and Houthi rebels in the Marib province.

Jordan – [Jordan starts 'world first' Covid vaccinations in refugee camp](#)

Jordan launched a Covid-19 inoculation drive for around 2,000 of the 80,000 residents of Zaatari camp on northern Jordan's border with Syria who had signed up with the government to receive the dose.

Algeria – [Thousands rally on protest movement anniversary](#)

Thousands of people took to the streets of Kherrata to commemorate the beginning of demonstrations against the former longtime President Abdelaziz Bouteflika and to protest against the government of President Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

Tuesday
16 February 2021

Palestine – [Israel blocks shipment of Russian Sputnik V vaccine to Gaza](#)

Palestinian Authority accuses Israel of stopping 1,000 doses of Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine intended for medical workers in the Gaza Strip.

Saudi Arabia – [Saudi woman convicted of murdering Bangladeshi maid in rare verdict](#)

Ayesha Al Jizani, a Saudi woman handed death sentence for murdering Abiron Begum her Bangladeshi maid, by a criminal court in Saudi Arabia, a rare example of an employer being found guilty of abusing a migrant worker.

Yemen / United States – [Biden admin ends Trump-era Houthi 'terrorist' designation](#)

Biden administration has formally delisted Yemen's Houthi movement as a "foreign terrorist organization", a designation UN and aid groups said threatened to stifle aid and the economy in war-torn Yemen.

Occupied Palestine – [Suspected Israeli settlers vandalize Palestinian cars](#)

Suspected Israeli settlers vandalized several Palestinian workers vehicle. This incident is the latest in a series of Israeli nationalists' attack on Palestinian property in response to their militant attacks perceived by Israeli to limit settlement activity.

Dubai – [Missing Dubai princess re-emerges in videos at 'jail villa', says fears for life as held hostage](#)

In a video broadcast by the BBC, the daughter of Dubai's ruler says she is being held hostage and fears for her life. Princess Latifa had already tried to escape from the Emirates in 2018.

Iraq – [Iraq rocket attack kills foreigner, wounds several US contractors](#)

Rockets targeting a western military base in Iraq's Kurdistan region killed a foreign civilian contractor and wounded five others and a US soldier.

Iran – [Iranian authorities tighten their grip over online activity with new censorship legislation](#)

Iran's Supreme Council of Cyberspace issued a new law allowing judicial and government agencies to monitor the operations of websites and social media accounts of more than 5,000 users.

Pakistan – [Pakistan fired tear gas on protesters to 'test' it](#)

Pakistan recently "tested" tear gas on its citizens in Islamabad because it had remained unused for a long time.

Wednesday
17 February 2021

Egypt / United States – [US sells \\$200m in weapons to Egypt despite human rights abuses](#)

The sale that was requested by the Egyptian navy to improve coastal defenses was approved by Biden's administration even if they vowed to press human rights issues.

Syria – [Syria hardliners release American held in Idlib](#)

Hayat Tahrir al-Sham alliance, that is running Syria's last major opposition bastion, released Bilal Abdul Kareem an American national self-described journalist accused of having ties to jihadists. He was detained since last August.

Palestine – [Gaza to receive its first COVID-19 vaccine shipment, officials say](#)

The Hamas-run territory will receive its first shipment of Russian COVID-19 vaccines after Israel authorities approved the transfer through its border.

Pakistan – [Taliban tweet threatens Malala; Twitter removes account](#)

The Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai has been threatened on Tweeter for the second time by a Pakistani Taliban militant who had allegedly wounded her nine years ago. Twitter permanently suspended his account.

Thursday
18 February 2021

Afghanistan – [Bomb blast kills university professor in Afghan capital –police](#)

Mubasher Muslimyar, an Islamic law professor was killed along with another person when a bomb hit his car in Kabul. It is the first attack in days after a series of such incidents in recent weeks targeting members of security forces, judges, government officials, civil society activists and journalists.

Syria – [Killings surge in Syria camp housing Islamic State families](#)

A total of 20 men and women were killed last month in al-Hol camp in northeastern Syria that houses families from the Islamic State Group.

Algeria – [Algerian man sentenced to death for murder of Hervé Gourdel](#)

Abdelmalek Hamzaoui who allegedly participated to the 2014 kidnapping and beheading of the French tourist Hervé Gourdel claimed at that time by an armed faction affiliated to the Islamic State group, has been sentenced to death by an Algerian court.

Friday
19 February 2021

Iran – [Watchdog slams Iran's suppression of journalists](#)

The Committee to Protect Journalists has condemned the regime use of "baseless charges" to suppress journalists after the arrest and sentencing of a theater and cinema photographer.

Syria / Russia – [Russian air assault kills 21 Daesh militants in Syria](#)

130 air strikes by the Russian forces allied to the government killed at least 21 Daesh militants in the Syrian desert.

Tunisia – [Daesh claims killing of 4 Tunisia soldiers, beheading: SITE](#)

The Daesh group has claimed responsibility for the killing of four soldiers in three blasts of February 3 near Mount Mghila.

Syria / Occupied Palestine – [Israel and Syria conclude Russia-mediated prisoners swap](#)

A young Israeli woman has been released by Syrian authorities after Israel returned two Syrian shepherds in an exchange mediated by Russia.

Saturday and Sunday
20 and 21 February 2021

Iraq – [Clashes between Iraqi forces and Daesh leave at least 7 dead](#)

Iraqi security forces raided on a Daesh hideout in the north of Baghdad on Saturday, leaving at least five militants and two security personnel dead.

Afghanistan – [Three separate Kabul explosions kill 5, wound 2: Afghan police](#)

Three sticky bombs attached to vehicles killed on Saturday at least five people and wounded two others in the Afghan capital Kabul.

Algeria – [Algeria frees imprisoned journalist, pro-democracy activists](#)

An imprisoned journalist and more than 30 other pro-democracy activists have been released, in a conciliatory gesture after dozens of people gathered at the prison to protest.

Iraq – [Condemnation after Iraqi-Kurd journalists given 6 years in jail](#)

Iraqi Kurdish journalists Sherwan Sherwani and Guhdar Zebari were sentenced to six years in jail, as the press freedom is in precipitous decline in the region.

Palestine – [Thousands of COVID vaccines from UAE arrive in Gaza](#)

The 20,000 doses of Russia's Sputnik V doses arrived from United Arab Emirates to Gaza through its border with Egypt.



INTERNATIONAL

Monday
15 February 2021

Zimbabwe – [Zimbabwe receives first batch of Sinopharm vaccines](#)

Zimbabwe has received 200,000 jabs from state-owned Chinese manufacturer, and 600,000 more doses are expected to arrive next month.

Worldwide – [Canada, US and allies denounce 'immoral' arbitrary detentions](#)

Canada, the United States and a coalition of 56 other countries released the Declaration Against Arbitrary Detention in State-to-State Relations, a non-binding declaration denouncing the state-sponsored arbitrary detention of foreign nationals for political purposes.

Puerto Rico – [A wave of killings against transgender people in Puerto Rico](#)

The governor of the Island declared a state of emergency in response to gender-based violence. Forty-four transgender or gender non-conforming people were killed in the United States in 2020, 6 of them in Puerto Rico.

Nigeria – [Nigeria's Okonjo-Iweala becomes first woman, African to lead WTO](#)

The World Trade Organization has appointed its first female and African head, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

Nigeria – [Mexico to raise concerns at UN over unequal vaccine access](#)

Mexico will raise concerns at the UN Security Council about unequal access to COVID-19 vaccines between countries that produce the vaccine and others.

Tuesday
16 February 2021

Bangladesh – [Bangladesh court sentences five to death for killing US blogger](#)

A court in Bangladesh has sentenced to death five members of an armed group accused of killing Avijit Roy, a US blogger of Bangladeshi origin, in February 2015. The blogger was known for criticism of religious extremism.

Chad – [Chad deploys 1,200 troops to quell Sahel violence](#)

Chad plans to deploy 1,200 troops to combat armed groups in the border zone between Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso as France is considering a reduction of its military presence in the region.

Myanmar – [Second charge against Aung San Suu Kyi condemned](#)

Aung San Suu Kyi has been charged by Myanmar's military with a second offence, this time under the country's natural disaster management law.

United States – [Republicans who voted to convict Trump face censure at home](#)

North Carolina Senator Richard Burr has been censured by local Republicans for his vote during last week's impeachment trial, making him the latest to be rebuked for opposing the former US president.

France – [French MPs approve controversial 'anti-separatism' bill](#)

National Assembly legislators sign off on a controversial bill which critics say will unfairly target France's Muslim population.

Sahel Region / France – [France's Macron rules out immediate troop drawdown from Sahel](#)

French president said he is pushing back the decision on a troop reduction in the volatile region in West Africa, as Chad deploys reinforcements.

Hong Kong – [Nine Hong Kong activists go on trial over huge democracy rally](#)

Two of the nine activists, who are former Hong Kong legislators, have pleaded guilty. The charges raised against them are organizing or participating in one of the biggest pro-democracy protests in the Chinese-controlled city in 2019.

Philippines – [Philippines police raid targets displaced Indigenous students](#)

Rights groups have condemned Philippine authorities following a raid targeting at least 21 Lumad students and taking them from a Catholic university shelter. The students had previously been forced to flee their home because of clashes between the military and communist rebels.

Central African Republic – [CAR 'militia leaders' plead not guilty to war crimes at ICC trial](#)

Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona and Alfred Yekatom rejected all charges against them at the start of their trial at the International Criminal Court. The two men are accused of leading militias in widespread attacks on Muslims.

Wednesday
17 February 2021

Democratic Republic of the Congo – [Suspected members of ADF kill 10 people in Congo](#)
Suspected members of the Allied Democratic Forces militia killed at least 10 people in North Kivu province.

Japan – [Japan's ruling party wants women – not their views – at meetings](#)
Japan's ruling party has said it wants allow female legislators to join key party meetings as observers, amid growing complaints over sexism.

Myanmar – [Protesters create gridlock in Yangon amid fears of violence](#)
Protests continue as thousands of people took to the streets of Yangon. The UN special rapporteur fears an escalation in violence.

Colombia – [Five coffee pickers killed in Colombian massacre](#)
Armed men killed five coffee pickers and injured another in an attack on a farm in an area controlled by a paramilitary drug-trafficking gang in Antioquia department.

Europe / Russia – [European Court of Human Rights says Russia should free Navalny, Russia says no 'legal grounds' to do so](#)
The European Court of Human Rights has ruled that Russia should immediately release Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny. Russia rejected the call of the international jurisdiction established by the Council of Europe, of which it is a member.

Chad – [35 dead in Chad herder-farmer clashes](#)
Thirty-five people have been killed in clashes between semi-nomadic herders and farmers in the province of Salamat.

Nigeria – [One killed, 42 kidnapped from Nigeria school, rescue team dispatched](#)
Unidentified gunmen killed one person and kidnapped 42 others, including 27 students in a school of the northern state of Niger. President Muhammadu Buhari has launched rescue operation.

Rwanda – [Hotel Rwanda hero Paul Rusesabagina goes on trial in Kigali](#)
The longtime critic of Rwandan President Paul Kagame, Paul Rusesabagina is accused of several crimes, including terrorism, and could face 25 years in prison if convicted.

United States – [US gender pay gap persists even in top roles, study finds](#)
Even women in leadership roles face a persistent pay gap compared with men. Indeed, the highest-paid women earned 84.6 cents for every dollar earned by men in 2019.

Thursday
18 February 2021

Guinea – [WHO to send over 11,000 Ebola vaccines to Guinea amid outbreak](#)
More than 11,000 Ebola vaccines are expected to arrive on Sunday and the inoculation campaign could start on Monday.

Spain – [Woman hit by police rubber bullet 'loses eye'](#)
A woman has lost an eye amid clashes between police and demonstrators, who are protesting the imprisonment of the rapper Pablo Hasel.

Burkina Faso – [Eight killed in attack in northern Burkina Faso](#)
Armed men stopped a bus near Burkina Faso's northern border with Niger, an area notorious for jihadist attacks, and killed at least eight people and wounded eight more.

Spain – [More than 50 arrested, dozens injured in fresh riots over rapper's jailing](#)
Dozens were injured and more than 50 people arrested, during a second night of protests that turned violent in several Spanish cities.

Belarus – [Belarus jails journalists for two years over protest coverage](#)
Two young television journalists were sentenced to two years in prison for covering an anti-government protest last year.

Malaysia – [Malaysia to deport Myanmar asylum-seekers next week, refugee groups say](#)
1,200 Myanmar nationals, including 100 asylum seekers will be sent home next week. Although Malaysia is not a signatory to the UN Refugee Convention it has vowed not to deport Rohingya Muslims, and refugees identified by the UNHCR.

Myanmar – [Protesters out again in Myanmar, police use water cannon in capital](#)
Protesters were out again across Myanmar and police used water cannon in the capital and catapults in a northern town. Nearly 500 protestors, civilian political leaders and activists are detained.

United States / China – [US reintroduces bill to ban forced-labour products from Xinjiang](#)
The bill will ban imports from Xinjiang unless they are certified not produced with forced labour and allows the US to take action against the forced labour and sanction traffickers of Uighurs.

Friday
19 February 2021

Colombia – [Colombian army committed 6,400 extrajudicial killings: Court](#)

The Special Jurisdiction for Peace said that Colombia's military carried out at least 6,400 extrajudicial killings between 2002 and 2008 and presented them as combat deaths.

United Kingdom – [In the UK, lower vaccine uptake among minorities causes concern](#)

Experts and doctors fear that the COVID-19 could continue to disproportionately affect some communities and say that more must be done to reach marginalized communities.

India – [Six people killed in clashes, gun battles across Kashmir](#)

Fighters in Kashmir have killed two police officers while in the disputed Himalayan region three suspected rebels and a policeman were killed in gun battles.

France – [Sudanese refugee kills French immigration official](#)

A Sudanese refugee stabbed and killed an employee of an asylum seekers center after he was told that his political asylum request has been rejected.

Myanmar – [Myanmar protester dies after 10 days on life support; pressure on army grows](#)

A woman protester died marking the first death after two weeks of demonstrations against the military coup. She was shot in the head by the police dispersing a crowd last week, reported her brother.

Somalia – [Somali government forces, opposition clash in Mogadishu over election protest](#)

Government troops and opposition supporters exchanged gunfire in Mogadishu during a protest march over delayed elections. Demonstrators said they the government forces attacked them first.

Gabon – [Two killed during protests against COVID restrictions](#)

Two men have been shot dead in a poor neighborhood in Libreville during curfew violations and demonstrations against coronavirus restrictions.

United States – [First batch of asylum seekers waiting in Mexico allowed into US](#)

Twenty-five thousand people who were stuck in Mexico while their asylum claims were being processed were allowed into the country, in a reversal of a Trump-era policy.

Saturday and Sunday
20 and 21 February
2021

Italy – [Italy's coastguard searches for survivors after migrant shipwreck](#)

The Italian coastguard has rescued so far 45 people while five to ten others are believed to be missing off Lampedusa's southern coast.

Myanmar – [Two killed in Myanmar's Mandalay city in bloodiest day of protests](#)

Two people were killed and more than twenty were wounded in Mandalay city on Saturday when police fired to disperse the demonstrators.

Russia – [Russia reports first case of human infection with H5N8 bird flu](#)

Russia has reported to the WHO the first case of a strain of bird flu virus named AH5N8 being passed to humans from bird.

United States – [Biden approves disaster declaration for Texas amid deep freeze](#)

Joe Biden has approved a disaster declaration unlocking federal funding and aid for Texas, where the winter storm has left millions without power and water.

United States – [Three dead in New Orleans gun store shooting](#)

A man opened fire in a gun shop, killing two people, before he was shot dead as customers and staff fired in response.