



## ► 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 March 2021

**Lebanon** – [Lebanon facing a « nouvelle vague imminente »](#)

Lebanon recorded 42 COVID-19 deaths and 1,505 further cases. A new vague is to be expected soon.

**Lebanon** – [Lebanon to reduce subsidies as cash runs out: Wazni](#)

The caretaker Finance Minister stated that Lebanon shall scale back food subsidies and gradually raise gasoline prices to save dollar reserves. The exchange rate on the black market shed more than 25 % in the last two weeks.

**Tuesday**  
16 March 2021

**Lebanon** – [Lebanon registered 52 deaths and 3.480 new positive cases](#)

Lebanon recorded 52 COVID-19 deaths and 3,480 further cases, according to the official source of the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health. Hospitals are « au bord de la faillite ».

**Lebanon** – [Lebanon's protesters back on streets as currency hits new low](#)

Protesters are continuing to block roads in Beirut and in other regions as the Lebanese pound was trading at around 15,000 to the dollar on the black market.

**Lebanon** – [Crisis: grocery stores start to close their doors](#)

Some grocery stores are closing because of the freefall of the Lebanese currency. The president of the syndicate of supermarkets' owners expressed his concerns and warned that food supplies may be at risk.

**Wednesday**  
17 March 2021

**Lebanon** – [Lebanon records 62 more coronavirus deaths, 3,544 new cases](#)

Lebanon recorded 62 COVID-19 deaths and 3,544 further cases. Over 21,000 tests were carried out, the positivity rate is now standing at 17.6 percent.

**Lebanon** – [A double pain for COVID 19 patients in Lebanon](#)

The hospital fees have exploded, and COVID-19 patients often must pay additional costs which their insurances do not cover. In Beirut, people can be charged up to 20 million LBP according to the number of days of hospitalization. The situation is « intenable ».

**Lebanon** – [World Bank's \\$246 million loan for needy families to be paid in fresh dollars](#)

The government and the Central Bank shall disburse the World Bank's \$246 million cash assistance to vulnerable families in fresh US dollars instead of Lebanese currency.

**Beirut** – [A man of Amal party was wounded during the clashes in Aisha Bakkar](#)

A shooting happened in the Sunni area of Aisha Bakkar, in Beirut. Several people were injured, including a man of Amal party and some residents of the neighbourhood.

**Thursday**  
18 March 2021

**Lebanon** – [Lebanon records 73 coronavirus deaths, 3,757 cases](#)

COVID-19: Lebanon recorded 73 new coronavirus deaths and 3,757 further cases.

**Lebanon** – [Pharmacies shut, fuel rationed as Lebanon's collapse intensifies](#)

Pharmacies went on strike and petrol stations rationed fuel across the country as public anger over an accelerating economic collapse intensified with little sign of any improvement.

**Lebanon** – [La crise sanitaire précipite le déclin de l'enseignement scolaire au Liban](#)

The Covid-19 epidemic combined with the deterioration of the socio-economic situation is heavily affecting Lebanese schools.

**Friday**  
19 March 2021

**Lebanon** – [Lebanon registers 55 coronavirus deaths, 3,588 new cases](#)

Lebanon recorded 55 new coronavirus-related deaths and 3,588 further cases, as the country prepares for an easing of lockdown restrictions.

**Lebanon** – [Encore une journée de sit-in et de blocages de routes, émaillée d'incidents](#)

From the north to the south through the Bekaa and the capital Beirut, sit-ins, marches and angry movements against the ruling class accused of corruption and incompetence continue.

**Lebanon** – [La Suisse réhabilite 19 écoles et deux hôpitaux à Beyrouth](#)

Since the explosion in the port of Beirut on August 4, 2020, Switzerland has contributed nearly six million Swiss francs (\$6.5 million) in emergency aid to Lebanon, including support for the rehabilitation of 19 public schools and two hospitals.

**Lebanon** – [CLDH report on Lebanon Torture Situation after Legislating law 651](#)

CLDH reminds of a report that covers and discusses the adoption and implementation of Law 65 and with the help of testimonies collected by CLDH's team, it questions the systematic use of torture by security officials, more particularly during the preliminary investigations.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
20 and 21 March  
2021

**Lebanon** – [Lebanon records more virus cases, gets more jobs](#)

Lebanon recorded 51 COVID-19 deaths and 2,253 further cases on Saturday as the caretaker health minister has promised to speed up the country's slow-moving inoculation campaign.

**Beirut** – [Lebanese women mourn on Mother's Day amid currency crisis and political stalemate - Women mark Mothers' Day in Beirut with march to damaged port](#)

Dozens of women, including mothers who lost their children in the Beirut explosion last year, cried, shouted slogans and carried signs as they take part in a march to protest against the political and economic situation across Lebanon on Saturday and Sunday to mark Mothers' Day.

**Lebanon** – [Une fondation Lokman Slim pour lutter contre l'impunité](#)

Monika Borgmann, Lokman Slim's wife, announced a new project aiming to shed light on "political crimes", one of the scourges affecting the country.

**Lebanon** – [Lebanon registers 42 more COVID-19 deaths, 2,968 new cases](#)

Lebanon recorded 42 new coronavirus-related deaths and 2,968 further cases.



**Monday**  
15 March 2021

**Iran** – [French tourist Benjamin Briere facing spying and propaganda charges in Iran](#)  
A French tourist was charged of “espionage and propaganda against the Islamic Republic”, because he took pictures of forbidden areas. He has been detained against the law since his arrest, 10 months ago.

**Yemen** – [Houthi fire caused Yemen blaze that killed migrants in Sanaa: HRW](#)  
HRW officially stated that at least 60 African migrants died in the last fire caused by “unidentified projectiles” in an immigration detention centre in Sanaa.

**Tuesday**  
16 March 2021

**Egypt** – [Massive Sinai Demolitions Likely War Crimes](#)  
In North Sinai region, the army is continuing the destruction of thousands of houses and farmlands.

**Jordan** – [Jordan court sentences to death six suspects in brutal assault of teenage boy](#)  
Jordanian court sentenced to death 6 defendants involved in a brutal attack of a 16-year-old boy. The crime had happened in the Zarqa province last October.

**Palestine** – [First batch of COVAX-supplied vaccines arrives for Palestinians](#)  
The Palestinian Authority received the first batch of COVID-19 vaccines for the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip which lag far behind Israel’s campaign.

**Yemen** – [Houthi militia confirms camp fire killed 44 migrants](#)  
The Iran-backed Houthi militants declared that the last fire at the detention camp in Sanaa caused 44 victims and 193 wounded among the migrants who were held there. An investigation on the incident is ongoing.

**Wednesday**  
17 March 2021

**Egypt** – [Egyptian activist sentenced to 18 months for ‘fake news’](#)  
An Egyptian court has sentenced Sanaa Seif, a local human rights activist and film editor, to 18 months in prison. She has been accused of spreading fake news about the country’s health crisis and the spread of COVID-19 in prisons. Her brother Alaa Abdel Fattah, a prominent activist in the Arab Spring uprising is already in prison.

**Iran** – [Swedish scientist near death after months in solitary confinement in Iran, say UN experts](#)  
Ahmadreza Djalali, the Swedish-Iranian scientist sentenced to death on espionage charges, is in a « truly horrific » situation and near death after months of solitary confinement.

**Yemen** – [Offensive by Yemen’s Houthis threatens IDP camps in Marib](#)  
Iran-linked Houthi rebels are pushing to capture Marib province from Yemen’s official government to control all the northern half of the country. Over 385,000 are being threatened of internally displacement.

**Thursday**  
18 March 2021

**Yemen** – [Suspected jihadists kill 12 in Yemen attack: official](#)  
Suspected Al-Qaeda gunmen killed four civilians and eight pro-government soldiers in the southern province of Abyan, launching grenades and firing machine guns on a southern checkpoint.

**Occupied Palestine** – [Israeli settler attacks surge against Palestinians](#)  
According to Israeli human rights group B’Tselem, 94 violent attacks took place against Palestinian civilians between December 2020 and March 2021 – figures that are raising fears the situation may escalate out of control.

**Afghanistan** – [Three killed, 11 wounded as Afghan gov’t bus bombed in Kabul](#)  
Three people have been killed and 11 others wounded when a roadside bomb hit a bus carrying Afghan government employees in Kabul, on day Afghan government, Taliban and key countries gather in Moscow to push for reduction in violence.

**Morocco** – [Moroccan border farmers protest over Algeria evictions](#)  
Hundreds of Moroccans protested after Algeria expelled farmers from a disputed border area where they had long been allowed to cultivate dates.

**Friday**  
19 March 2021

**Syria / Canada** – [Canada repatriates 4-year-old girl from Kurdish detention camp in North-Eastern Syria](#)

A 4-year-old Canadian girl has been repatriated from a detention camp for relatives of suspected Islamic State fighters in North-Eastern Syria, through the efforts of her aunt and Peter Galbraith, a former US diplomat. However, her Canadian mother has been blocked from accompanying her.

**Occupied Palestine** – [Palestinian killed by Israel army in West Bank: ministry](#)

Atef Yussef Hanaysheh, a 42 years-old Palestinian, was shot dead by Israeli soldiers when clashes erupted during a demonstration against Israeli settlement activity in the occupied West Bank.

**Occupied Palestine** – [Palestinians protest Israeli police inaction amid crime wave](#)

For the 10th consecutive week, thousands of Palestinians protested in front of the Israeli municipality building in Umm al-Fahm, blaming Israeli police for high level of intra-communal violence within their community.

**Turkey** – [Top Turkish prosecutor demands the closure of pro-Kurdish HDP opposition party](#)

Turkish police have detained several officials of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), the third-largest party in Turkey, as a top Turkish prosecutor demands its dissolution.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
20 and 21 March  
2021

**Turkey** – [Erdogan quits European treaty on violence against women](#)

President Erdogan pulled Turkey out of a Council of Europe accord, called the Istanbul Convention, pledged to prevent, prosecute and eliminate domestic violence and promote equality. A move prompting criticism, as femicide has surged in the country in recent years.

**Occupied Palestine** – [Thousands protest against Netanyahu days before Israeli polls](#)

Large crowds take to the streets in Jerusalem to protest against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, three days before the country's fourth general election in less than two years.

**Egypt** – [Egypt receives 2nd shipment of vaccine as gift from China](#)

Egypt on Saturday received a second shipment of coronavirus vaccine donated by China, as the Arab country tries to speed up its inoculation campaign.

**Qatar** – [Qatar extends minimum wage to all as World Cup looms](#)

As Qatar revises its labour laws amid international scrutiny ahead of the 2022 World Cup, a minimum wage of \$275 a month came into force for all workers on Saturday.

**Yemen** – [Saudi coalition launches air raids on Yemen's Houthi-held capital](#)

The Saudi-led coalition carries out fresh air strikes against Houthis rebels in Sanaa on Sunday, escalating fighting in Yemen's Marib.

**Syria** – [Several killed in gov't attack on hospital in Syria's Idlib](#)

Five civilians, including a child, were killed after government forces fired on a hospital in Atareb, in Syria's northwestern region.

**Syria** – [Russian jets hit civilian areas near Turkish border, witnesses and rebels say](#)

Russian jets hit a rebel training camps in northwestern Syria near the Turkish border on Sunday, after regime forces killed seven civilians and injured 14 medics in an attack on a hospital in the area.



## INTERNATIONAL

**Monday**  
15 March 2021

**Bangladesh** – [Bangladesh court orders probe into torture claims by cartoonist](#)

Further investigations will be pursued on Ahmed Kabir Kishore's torture claims. The cartoonist was arrested in May 2020 and accused of anti-state activities.

**Democratic Republic of the Congo** – [At least a dozen killed in eastern DR Congo attack](#)

An overnight attack with knives and other weapons took place in Bulongo village. Around twelve people were killed.

**El Salvador** – [The abortion cases that could force El Salvador to loosen its ban](#)

Lawyers are fighting for the release of Sara, the Salvadoran woman who became the symbol of the "green wave" of abortion decriminalisation in Latino America.

**Ethiopia** – [MSF condemns widespread attacks on Tigray clinics](#)

According to Medecins Sans Frontières, Tigray region is facing a deliberate and generalised programme of attacking the local clinics. The health system is collapsing.

**Myanmar** – [On the front lines of the Myanmar military's crackdown](#)

Protesters are currently being arrested and shot. Journalists' and reporters' situation is becoming more and more unsafe.

**Nigeria** – [Gunmen raid school in Nigeria's Kaduna, seize three teachers](#)

The latest of a series of attacks targeting schools took place in the northern state of Kaduna. Three teachers were kidnapped.

**Pakistan** – [Seven killed in southwest Pakistan coal mining disaster](#)

Five miners and two rescuers died in a coal mining disaster in Balochistan region. Another similar disaster took place in the same region less than one week ago.

**Uganda** – [Uganda's opposition leader Bobi Wine arrested during protest](#)

The opposition leader, Bobi Wine, was arrested as he was taking part in a protest in Kampala. He was released shortly after.

**Vatican** – [Catholic Church 'cannot bless same-sex unions'](#)

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith officially stated that the Catholic Church does not have the power to bless same-sex unions, despite Pope Francis' recent declarations in support of same-sex "civil unions".

**Tuesday**  
16 March 2021

**Myanmar** – [Myanmar military extends martial law after bloodiest day since coup](#)

Myanmar's military junta has declared military law in several districts of Yangon and Mandalay regions. Peaceful protesters and journalists will now be tried under martial law, denying many a fair trial.

**Niger** – [More than 50 killed in attacks near Malian border](#)

Close to the border with Mali, in the Tillaberi region, a group of gunmen opened fire and killed at least 58 people according to governmental sources.

**North Korea** – [Fears mount over North Korean 'great leap backwards'](#)

Kim Jong Un's ideology of self-reliance is going to cause a humanitarian and food crisis. The country is still cut off from the outside world in response to the high number of Coronavirus cases in China.

**Sri Lanka** – ['Religious Disharmony' Order Threatens Minorities](#)

A new law allows two years of detention without trial for causing "religious disharmony", making it easier for the government to target religious and racial minorities.

**United Kingdom** – [Uber reclassifies its 70,000 UK drivers as workers, grants rights](#)

Uber will reclassify its 70,000 drivers as workers, granting them the minimum wage, vacation pay and other benefits after a recent landmark ruling from the Supreme Court.

Wednesday  
17 March 2021

**United States – [US Republicans hit Biden on immigration amid new border surge](#)**

The increasing number children crossing the US-Mexico border poses challenge to Biden administration. More than 3,600 children are currently being held at border detention facilities.

**El Salvador – [Bukele's Legislative Victory Threatens Press Freedom in El Salvador](#)**

President Nayib Bukele, ruling the country since 2019, could be allowed by his majority in the Legislative Assembly to change the laws limiting press freedom. He had already lashed out at independent journalists, calling them "mercenaries".

**Gambia – [Alleged 'Death Squad' Member Arrested in Germany](#)**

A former Gambian "death squad" member suspected of crimes against humanity was arrested in Berlin. HRW declares it as an important step for Gambian victims and international justice. Violence and abuses were committed under Yahya Jammeh's rule.

**Indonesia – [Dress Codes Discriminate Against Women, Girls](#)**

HRW released a report on discriminations against girls and women who must wear the *jilbab*, the Muslim apparel that covers the head, neck, and chest. Refusing to follow this dress code means being expelled from school, losing the job, or being forced to escape.

**Peru – [Disability Rights at Risk with New Bill](#)**

HRW is concerned about a recent draft bill to be approved by the Congress in the coming weeks. Disability rights, which were granted by the previous legislation, may be at risk.

**European Union / Turkey – ['Innovative ways' of evading responsibilities for refugees](#)**

Five years after the EU-Turkey deal on migrants and refugees, many of them continue to live in poverty and the children often do not have access to basic education.

**United States – [8 Dead in Atlanta Spa Shootings, With Fears of Anti-Asian Bias](#)**

Several vigils against anti-Asian hate took place in New York, after the shooting at the spas in the Atlanta area. President Biden renews his concerns over a recent surge in violence against Asian-Americans.

Thursday  
18 March 2021

**Worldwide – [Is the world at a 'tipping point' to abolish the death penalty?](#)**

Twenty-one business leaders from different sectors and spanning multiple continents signed a declaration urging governments to commute death sentences, the latest example of business leaders increasingly speaking out about social justice issues.

**Indonesia – [Indonesian schoolgirls 'bullied' into religious clothing](#)**

Human Rights Watch finds female students often face harassment, bullying and threats of expulsion from teachers because of adhering religious dress code.

**China / Canada – [Two Canadians held in China to have court hearings this month](#)**

Canadian foreign minister decries the detention of Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig as 'arbitrary'. The two Canadians have been held for more than two years on spying allegations and will have court hearings later this week.

Friday  
19 March 2021

**Mexico – [Gunmen kill 13 in ambush on police convoy in central Mexico](#)**

Gunmen allegedly from a drug gang ambushed a police convoy in central Mexico, killing 13 law enforcement officers.

**India – [COVID pushed 32 million Indians out of middle class: Pew](#)**

Number of Indians in the middle class, or those earning between \$10 and \$20 a day, shrank by about 32 million.

**Greece – [Refugee father charged with son's death on journey to Greece](#)**

An Afghan father has found himself charged with child endangerment for taking his son on the perilous journey from Turkey to the Greek island of Samos seeking for a better future. If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in prison.

Saturday and  
Sunday  
20 and 21 March  
2021

**Germany – [Police clash with Covid protesters in German city](#)**

Police used pepper spray to disperse the several thousand people protesting against coronavirus curbs in the German city of Kassel on Saturday.

**Ethiopia – [Worsening violence in western Ethiopia forcing civilians to flee](#)**

A recent spate of deadly attacks targeting civilians of ethnic Amhara origin is prompting them to plan for relocation.

**United States – [‘Stop Asian hate’: Hundreds demand justice for Atlanta victims](#)**

Hundreds of people have demonstrated outside the Georgia state capitol building, days after shootings at local spas left eight dead, including six women of Asian descent.

**Europe – [Anti-lockdown protests break out in Europe amid new COVID wave](#)**

As European countries brace for another wave of infections, protests against government measures were reported in several countries across Europe, including Germany, Austria, the UK, Finland, Romania and Switzerland.

**United States – [Biden admin defends response to increase in migrant arrivals](#)**

The Biden administration is under pressure to respond to large number of unaccompanied migrant children seeking asylum saying it is trying to rebuild an asylum system that was dismantled by former President Donald Trump.