



► 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
19 April 2021

Lebanon – [‘No Sweets’: For Syrian refugees in Lebanon, a tough Ramadan](#)

A reportage by “The daily star” described the hard time that everyone is living because of the crisis, especially Syrian refugees whose struggle can be more pronounced during Ramadan, when fasting is typically followed by “festive feasting to fill empty stomachs”. Although, the *iftar* meals are very simple this year.

Lebanon – [“When a crisis hide another”: Lebanon loses five places in RWB ranking](#)

The 2020-2021 annual ranking of “Reporters Without Borders” on freedom of the press classified Lebanon at the 107th place over 180 countries, 5 places worse than last year. The NGO denounces it as “*une des baisses les plus significatives de l’année*”.

Lebanon – [The deputy speaker of the parliament called for the Lebanese army to assume the power](#)

In a recent interview, the deputy speaker of the parliament, Mr. Elie Ferzli, declared that the national army should assume the power and impose the martial law, suspending the constitution “for a year, or two, or three, four, and five” (“السنة واثنين وثلاثة وأربعة وخمسة”).

Tuesday
20 April 2021

Lebanon – [Milk shortage causes struggle for families and NGOs](#)

Families and NGOs are facing issues to find enough quantity of milk, since it is an expensive product and lately it has been imported in lesser quantity.

Lebanon – [Military Court interrogates civilians and those who oppose present draft laws to abolish it](#) The Military Court interrogated activists Rabih Labaki and Sarah Hammoud for taking part in a protest in Tripoli. This happened after a week of trials of activists from the October 17 uprising, who were charged for “purely political” reasons in order to “repress the opposition”.

Wednesday
21 April 2021

Lebanon – [Increase in cost of iftar in one week](#)

In the first week of the holy month of Ramadan, the Crisis Observatory at the American University of Beirut estimated that the average cost of an *iftar* for a family of five members increased by 23,4%.

Lebanon – [‘Killing us softly’: Lebanon sinks deeper into mental gloom](#)

The lack of medicines in Lebanon, including psychiatric and antidepressant drugs against anxiety, depression and insomnia, is affecting a larger number of citizens, already suffering from a collective depression because of the last 18 months of instability.

Lebanon – [In Lebanon, the youth can not enjoy any pleasure](#)

A new reportage by “L’Orient le Jour” describes the situation of the Lebanese young students, affected by the economic crisis and worried for their near future.

Thursday
22 April 2021

Lebanon – [Aoun criticizes the ISF and asks them to maintain order peacefully](#)

The CPL denounces the crackdown of the demonstrators in front of the Mecattaf office after clashes erupted between supporters of Judge Ghada Aoun and the police during a search of the Mecattaf company for transporting funds in Aoukar. Michel Aoun, to whom the magistrate is close, asked the police not to resort to violence against the protesters.

Lebanon – [«Justice for Mental Health» warns of medical shortage](#)

Justice for Mental Health issued a statement warning of the imminent catastrophe of a medication shortage for mental health and nervous disorders due to financial crisis and hold the Health Ministry responsible for providing these medications.

Saturday and Sunday
24 and 25 April 2021

Lebanon – [Sixty-nine Syrians and their smuggler arrested in North Lebanon before reaching Cyprus](#)

The army arrested sixty-nine Syrian nationals and their smuggler in Northern Lebanon as they tried to illegally reach Cyprus by sea considered as the gateway to the European Union, due to the current economic crisis in Lebanon.



REGIONAL Middle East

Monday
19 April 2021

Egypt – [ISIL-linked group in Egypt claims execution of Copt, 2 tribesmen](#)

According to a video posted on Telegram, an Islamic State-affiliated group claimed the execution of a Coptic Christian named Nabil Habashi Salama and two tribesmen in Sinai region.

Syria / Sweden – [Victims of Syrian gov't chemical attacks file case in Sweden](#)

Four NGOs filed a criminal complaint with Swedish police against several members of Bashar al-Assad government, denouncing the chemical attacks using sarin gas which happened in Khan Sheikhoun (Idlib province) in 2017 and in Ghouta near Damascus in 2013.

Turkey – [Food stampedes in Turkey fuel fears over rising poverty levels](#)

The government recently began distributing food to people in need in some of the poorest provinces. However, the opposition Republican People's Party expressed its concerns for the mass poverty, social injustice, and soaring food prices. Several pictures of desperate citizens scrambling to grab free handouts of potatoes were spread over social medias.

Yemen – [Iranian-backed Houthi militia revert to radicalization of the youth in Yemen](#)

A new report by Yemen's union of teachers denounced the Houthi militia for co-opting the country's schools and curriculum and accused Iran of indoctrinating Yemeni children with violent and anti-Semitic propaganda, as well as of using the education system for a "policy of cultural colonialism".

Tuesday
20 April 2021

M.E.N.A. Region – [Living in a country that hates you](#)

"Daraj Media" published a new interview with Mr. Ahmad Danny Ramadan, a Syrian author and activists now living in Canada and working for "Rainbow Railroad", an organization aimed to help LGBTQ+ refugees. He describes the situation of Middle Eastern and North African countries, where same sex relationships are prohibited and sometimes severely punished by the penal code.

Saudi Arabia – [Future Women Society seeks to empower Saudi women in the sciences](#)

The Future Women Society launched a research, innovation and development unit to further empower women in various scientific disciplines, since their role in sciences happens to be still low in the country.

Syria – [Suspend Syria's Rights Under Chemical Weapons Convention](#)

This week, states that are members of the Chemical Weapons Convention shall consider a reinforcement of the global ban on chemical weapons by suspending the rights and privileges of Syria, a party to the treaty which has violated it with impunity for years.

Tunisia – [Rescind ministerial order censoring health workers over Covid-19](#)

Amnesty International called the national authorities for the immediate withdraw of the ministerial order sanctioning doctors and health workers for making unauthorized declarations about the COVID 19 situation in the country.

Wednesday
21 April 2021

Iraq – [Kurdistan Region of Iraq: Flawed Trial of Journalists, Activists](#)

HRW expressed its concerns for three journalists and two activists who were sentenced to six years in prison in deeply flawed proceedings, containing violations of the fair trial standards as well as high-level political interference.

Yemen / United Nations – [Black Lives Matter leader to take Houthi violence against Ethiopians to UN](#)

The leader of the "Black Lives Matter" movement in New York, Mr. Hawk Newsome, declared that he shall take the tragic condition of Africans and especially Ethiopians migrants in Yemen to the United Nations.

M.E.N.A. Region – [Death penalty 2020: MENA countries dominate the list of world's top executioners](#)

In the annual global death penalty report, Amnesty International denounced that four out of five of the world's top executioners are MENA states (Iran, Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia). These four countries accounted for 88% of known global executions in 2020. There are, however, many governments that do not publish information on their use of the death penalty.

Thursday
22 April 2021

Algeria – [Algerian scholar gets three years in jail for 'offending Islam'](#)

Said Djabelkhir, an Algerian scholar on Islam was handed a three-year prison sentence for “offending Islam” in three Facebook posts, but pledged to appeal and keep fighting for “freedom” of thought.

Jordan – [Jordan releases 16, keeps two detained over 'sedition' plot](#)

Three weeks after an alleged plot to “destabilize the country” was foiled, state prosecutor has freed 16 detained people detained for “sedition” at the request of the king, while two key suspects remain in detention.

Kuwait – ['Kuwait is unsafe for women': Outrage over brutal murder of woman](#)

The murder of a woman in Kuwait has sparked outrage on social media with calls for stricter punishment for perpetrators as she had previously filed two cases for harassment against the murderer.

Occupied Palestine – [Violent clashes in Jerusalem after Israeli far-right march](#) - [Jerusalem's uprising: resisting settler barbarity](#)

Tensions began when Israeli police attempted to ban Palestinians from reviving their Ramadan customs around Al-Aqsa Mosque. At least 105 Palestinians have been wounded in clashes that ensued after far-right Israelis marched in the occupied East Jerusalem chanting “death to Arabs”.

Friday
23 April 2021

Libya – [130 Europe-bound migrants feared dead off Libyan coast](#)

More than 100 migrants and refugees are feared to have drowned after a rubber boat capsized off the coast of Libya, with European humanitarian group SOS Mediterraneesaying little hope of finding survivors.

Yemen – [Houthis abduct three civilians from Yemeni village](#)

Houthi rebels have abducted three civilians from the Yemeni village of “Beit Al-Jabr” in the governorate of Dhamar and took them to a detention center in Jabal Al-Sharq district.

Yemen – [Houthis throw abducted model Al-Hammadi into solitary confinement](#)

Lawyer says Houthi prosecutor questioned Entesar Al-Hammadi inside Yemen central prison after officials refused to transfer her for a court trial over the past few weeks. Al-Hammadi was abducted from Sanaa street in February for her protest against the initial incarceration and prison conditions.

Saturday and Sunday
24 and 25 April 2021

Turkey – [Global outrage grows over Turkish student's detention ahead of Monday trial](#)

Cihan Erdal was detained last September in Ankara over two social media posts seen by Turkish authorities as an “incitement of violence” and international condemnation of his detention is growing ahead of his trial. Erdal was a student at Carleton University in Canada and a rights activist known to be a “person of peace and non-violence”.

Occupied Palestine – [Israel launches attacks on besieged Gaza after rockets fired](#) - [Scuffles in Jerusalem in second night of violence](#)

The Israeli military attacks have targeted Hamas positions in the besieged Gaza Strip as Israeli police scuffled with Palestinians for a second night in occupied East Jerusalem.

Afghanistan – [At least 14 civilians killed across three provinces](#)

At least 14 people have been killed in attacks across three Afghan provinces as violent conflict continues despite peace efforts, with 573 Afghan civilians killed in the first quarter of the year.

Occupied Palestine – [More arrests in Jerusalem as rockets fired from Gaza](#)

Rocket fire from the besieged Gaza Strip towards Israel resumed after a daylong pause and confrontations between Israeli police and Palestinians continued in occupied East Jerusalem despite calls for calm from the United Nations.

Yemen – [Houthis slammed for recruiting primary school students for war](#)

As videos on social media showed pupils wearing military attire and inciting each other to take up arms to fight the Houthis' enemies, local human rights activists have accused the Houthis of brainwashing and training primary school students for war.



INTERNATIONAL

Monday
19 April 2021

China – [Crimes Against Humanity in Xinjiang](#)

HRW published a new report to denounce the crimes against humanity committed by the government against Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in the northwest region of Xinjiang, in particular systematic policies of mass detention, torture, and cultural persecution.

Mali – [Killings, 'Disappearances' in Military Operations](#)

According to a new report of HRW, the army has allegedly killed at least 34 villagers, forcibly disappeared at least 16 people, and mistreated detainees in Mopti region.

Pakistan / UAE – [FM raises visa restrictions issue with top UAE officials](#)

The foreign minister declared that he raised the issue of visa restrictions on Pakistani citizens imposed by the United Arab Emirates in meetings with top Emirati officials during a visit in the country. In the UAE there are currently around 1,6 millions of Pakistanis workers.

Republic of Congo – [On the back of the crisis. Violations of the right to health and repression of economic and social rights defenders](#)

A new report released by Amnesty International denounced the growing concerns for the economic crisis in the country caused by the fall in oil prices, on the one hand, and the COVID 19 pandemic, on the other. Furthermore, the human rights situation is very weak.

Russia – [Transfer of Aleksei Navalny is punishment in the guise of medical treatment](#)

Mr. Aleksei Navalny, the main Putin opposer currently jailed, was transferred to a medical ward at another prison, since his health has deteriorated rapidly during his time in detention. He is actually in hunger strike, and several NGOs are claiming for his immediate release.

Thailand – [Free Unjustly Detained Democracy Activists](#)

HRW called for the immediate release of the pro-democracy activists detained on charges of insulting the monarchy. These charges against them violate their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. Two of the detainees are also hunger striking.

Worldwide – [Global hygiene campaign reaches 1 billion vulnerable people](#)

The Hygiene & Behaviour Change Coalition, launched by the UK, became the world's largest hygiene campaign aimed at tackling the spread of COVID 19 and reached 1 billion people, supplying hygiene products, infrastructure and education to vulnerable groups all over the world.

Zimbabwe – [Democracy and open society in Zimbabwe 41 years after independence](#)

HRW's Southern Africa Director described the situation of the country, still needing to reform the highly partisan and extremely politicized security forces in order to achieve open society and democracy standards. Zimbabwe became independent from Britain 41 years ago.

Tuesday
20 April 2021

Chad – [Déby Leaves Legacy of Abuse](#)

HRW declared that, after President Idriss Déby Itno's death, the transitional military council must respect human rights and the rule of law, ensuring that civilians are protected and avoiding any escalation of abuses against them.

Europe – [Over 18,000 unaccompanied foreign minors missing in 3 years](#)

A new report published by the investigative journalism project "*Lost in Europe*" denounced that over 18,000 unaccompanied foreign minors disappeared from reception centers across Europe after their arrival as refugees. Italy has recorded the highest number of disappearances, around 8 minors per day.

Georgia – [App-Based Jobs Emerge as Battleground for Workplace Safety in Georgia](#)

Food delivery workers are pushing back against exploitation, including unrealistic bonus targets that put safety at risk. HRW documented that how some app-based employers fail to pay living wages, a trend that may now be emerging in the country.

Myanmar – [ASEAN: Withdraw Invite to Myanmar Junta Leader](#)

HRW warned that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations should immediately withdraw its invitation to the junta leader, Mr. Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, to attend its upcoming summit which is scheduled on April 24 in Jakarta. His inclusion would lend unwarranted legitimacy to the junta over the democratically elected government.

United Kingdom – [UN: UK race report attempts to rationalise white supremacy](#)

The independent UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent condemned the UK race report claiming that its findings attempt to normalize white supremacy, repackaging racist stereotypes into fact, twisting data and misapplying statistics. The controversial report had stated that, although there are still several acts of racism in the country, there would be no institutional racism.

United States of America – [Justice is Served for G. Floyd, but US Police Reform Remains Urgent](#)

In Minnesota, former officer Derek Chauvin was convicted of second-degree murder for the killing of George Floyd on May 26, 2020. Millions of people across the country watched the video of Chauvin kneeling on Floyd's neck until he lost consciousness and died. His death inspired the movement "Black Lives Matter".

United States of America – [Include Maternal Health in Climate Change Action](#)

A joint letter signed by more than 50 organizations called the Biden administration for taking concrete action in order to ensure that the maternal health crisis, dominated by racial inequities, is a central focus of US domestic climate policy.

Wednesday
21 April 2021

Europe – [Child-led court case will scrutinise Europe's climate response](#)

Children are among those most impacted by the climate crisis and, on Earth Day 2021 (April 22), are calling out European governments' "insufficient action" on climate change through protests and lawsuits.

Hungary – [LexNGO repealed but replacement very concerning](#)

Amnesty International expressed its concerns for the new bill which is supposed to replace the previous LexNGO but also threatens the independent work of non-governmental organizations in the country.

Nigeria – [Gunmen Attack Private University in Kaduna, Abduct Students](#)

According to the spokesman of the Kaduna State Police Command, a gunmen attacked Greenfield University, a private institution close to Kaduna city, and abducted some of the students.

Russia – [Human rights crisis deepens as Navalny supporters arrested en masse](#)

During the protests against the arbitrary imprisonment of Aleksei Navalny that took place in several cities, the national authorities responded with a crackdown, arresting around 1,700 peaceful protesters and often using tasers and excessive force. Amnesty International called for the immediate release of all those who have been detained.

Worldwide – [MSF urges rich countries to back COVID vaccine patent waiver](#)

The NGO "Medecins Sans Frontières" urged rich countries to stop blocking a patent waiver plan that could increase the global production of coronavirus vaccines.

Thursday
22 April 2021

Ethiopia – [Ethiopian county, home to 25,000 people, seized by fighters: EHRC](#)

Ethiopian Human Rights Commission says it received reports an armed group had taken control of Sedal Woreda that is home to about 25,000 people, with civilians killed and public servants abducted.

Ethiopia – [UNSC: 'Deep concern' about sexual violence allegations in Tigray](#)

the United Nations Security Council has issued its first joint statement on the continuing crisis, expressing "deep concern" about allegations of human rights violations including hundreds of women who have reported horrific accounts of rape and gang rape since the start of the conflict in Tigray. Nearly six months after the eruption of fighting.

United States – [Anti-Asian hate crimes bill passes US Senate](#)

The United States Senate passed a bill that would require the US Department of Justice to focus on prosecuting hate crimes amid surge in attacks.

Myanmar – ['Nearly 250,000 people displaced' in Myanmar military crackdown](#)

UN envoy warns of 'humanitarian catastrophe' as the Myanmar military's crackdown on anti-coup protests has displaced close to a quarter of a million people.

Friday
23 April 2021

Nigeria – [Three students abducted from Nigeria university found shot dead](#)

Remains of the students abducted from their university in northwestern Nigeria have been found, marking an escalation in the mass kidnappings across northern Nigeria carried out by criminal gangs known locally as bandits.

**Saturday and
Sunday**
24 and 25 April
2021

Ethiopia – [Death toll from clashes in Ethiopia's Amhara may be 200: Official](#)

The death toll in clashes during April in Amhara region between Ethiopia's two largest ethnic groups, the Oromo and Amhara, may be as high as 200.

Mexico / Haiti – ['I'm trapped here': Haitian asylum seekers languish in Mexico](#)

As thousands of asylum seekers have flocked to the U.S.-Mexico border in recent months, Haitians are unable to get US asylum, they face discrimination in Mexico and thus having nowhere to go they are losing hope.