



Tripoli, Lebanon



Tunisia



Central African Republic

## ► 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**  
25 January 2021

**Lebanon** – [Lebanon records 54 virus deaths, 2,652 cases from fewer](#)

Lebanon recorded 54 virus deaths and 2'652 new contamination cases. According to the head of the Rafik Hariri University Hospital Dr. Firass Abiad, ICU bed occupancy in the country was currently at 94.4 percent. Since half the country's population is under the poverty line and many rely on day-to-day work for income, in addition to business owners, the lockdown has been harsh. Groups of protesters over the weekend voiced their opposition to the extension of the lockdown.

**Tuesday**  
26 January 2021

**Lebanon** – [Lebanon registers record 73 virus deaths, 3,505 new cases](#)

Lebanon registered record 73 coronavirus deaths in 24 hours and 3,505 positive cases. Lebanon has ordered 6 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines, enough for 3 million individuals and the first shipment of 50,000 Pfizer-BioNTech jabs is scheduled to arrive on February 8.

**Tripoli** – [Clashes in Lebanon's Tripoli as anger grows over virus lockdown](#)

Second night of clashes between protestors and security forces during manifestation of anger against the nationwide total lockdown. More than 60 people injured, including 26 police officers. Demonstrators burned tires and threw rocks, while security forces responded with teargas and rubber bullets.

**Adloun** – [Lebanese Hospitalized After Being Attacked By Berri Supporters Over A Facebook Post](#)

Supporters of the Amal movement physically assaulted a young resident of Adloun on Sunday for comments he had written on social networks.

**Wednesday**  
27 January 2021

**Lebanon** – [Lebanon hits new record for daily virus deaths, unveils vaccination plan](#)

Lebanon registered Wednesday registered record 76 coronavirus deaths in 24 hours in addition to 3,906 cases. As hospitals still struggled to face the virus, authorities extended a total lockdown until February 8.

**Thursday**  
28 January 2021

**Lebanon** – [Authorities unveil monthslong vaccination plan as COVID-19 patients flood hospitals](#)  
Lebanon has unveiled its eagerly awaited COVID-19 vaccination program which aims to cover 70% of its population by the end of the year.

**Tripoli** – [Lebanon riots: Security forces wound protesters with live fire](#)  
Several protesters in Tripoli have been injured after security forces fired live ammunition during the third consecutive day of protests against the total lockdown and the economic hardship.

**Tripoli** – [Dozens injured in lockdown protests in Lebanon's Tripoli](#)  
Clashes in Tripoli injured at least 76 more people according to the Lebanese Red Cross and the Lebanese Army.

**Lebanon** – [Lebanon registers 68 new COVID-19 deaths, 3,497 cases](#)  
Lebanon registered 68 coronavirus-related deaths in 24 hours and 3,497 new positive cases, as the online platform to register for vaccination went live.

**Beirut** – [Macron plans to send envoy to Beirut to revive French initiative](#)  
Macron will be sending his special envoy, Patrick Durel, to Beirut in a bid to revive the French initiative designed to rescue the crises-ridden country and speed up the formation of a new government.

**Tripoli** – [Funeral held for demonstrator killed in Tripoli protests](#)  
Two protesters dead and more than 220 people were injured Wednesday night in Tripoli. Omar Tayba was shot in the lower back and died of his wounds on Thursday morning. Later on, a second protester died from wounds sustained during the crackdown by security forces, according to the city's mayor Riad Yamak.

**Friday**  
29 January 2021

**Lebanon** – [Lebanon central bank boss faces charges](#)  
A Lebanon judge on Thursday referred central bank chief Riad Salameh to judicial investigation over his mishandling of a foreign currency scheme meant to stem skyrocketing food prices, according to a judicial source.

**Beirut** – [Beirutis take to streets in solidarity with Tripoli](#)  
Nearly 100 citizens gathered outside the home of caretaker Interior Minister Mohamed Fehmal in Koraytem.

**Lebanon** – [Lebanon inks \\$246 million loan agreement with the World Bank for social safety net](#)  
Lebanon and the World Bank signed a \$246 million loan agreement to boost the country's poverty and social safety net support program.

**Tripoli** – [Tripoli municipality set on fire on fourth night of protests](#)  
A group of protesters hurled molotov cocktails and fireworks inside the Tripoli municipality building during the fourth night of protests. The fire was contained by Civil Defense units.

**Tripoli** – [Mikati: I will protect myself if Army can't contain situation](#)  
Former Prime Minister Najib Mikati warned he might take up arms to protect himself and his establishments in Tripoli.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
30 and 31  
January 2021

**Lebanon** – [Lebanon registers 61 coronavirus deaths in 24 hours, 2,631 new cases](#)  
Lebanon's coronavirus-related tally topped 3,000 Saturday, as the country registered 61 coronavirus-related deaths in 24 hours, in addition to 2,631 new cases.

**Lebanon** – [Lebanon surpasses 300,000 COVID-19 cases](#)  
Sunday, Lebanon's COVID-19 cases surpassed 300,000 with the Health Ministry recording 2,139 cases in 24 hours in addition to 51 more deaths.

**Beirut** – [Lebanese fashion model killed in suspected femicide](#)  
Zeina Kanjo was allegedly strangled to death by her husband. Local media report that she was in the process of divorcing and had previously submitted domestic violence complaints to a Beirut court.



**Monday**  
25 January 2021

**Iraq** – [Iraq hangs three convicted of 'terrorism': security source](#)

Three Iraqis convicted under Article 4 of the 2005 anti-terror law were hanged at the Nasiriyah central prison, few days after the deadly twin suicide attack in a Baghdad marketplace.

**Egypt** – [Egyptian police arrest cartoonist on 10th anniversary of uprising](#)

Ashraf Hamdi was taken from his home after posting video tribute to the country's 2011 uprising.

**Egypt** – ['Utterly deplorable': Egypt's 'abusive' prisons denounced](#)

Amnesty International reported Egyptian prison inhumane conditions where thousands continue to be held for months or years since 2011.

**Syria** – [New round of talks on Syria's constitution begins in Geneva](#)

Delegations from Syria's government, opposition and civil society began the fifth round of meetings aiming to revisit the Syrian constitution within the Constitutional Committee.

**Tuesday**  
26 January 2021

**Occupied Palestine** – [Israeli forces shoot dead suspected Palestinian attacker in West Bank](#)

An Israeli military commander shot dead a Palestinian man who attacked soldiers with a knife in the occupied West Bank.

**Tunisia** – [Injured Tunisian protester dies, fuelling new clashes](#)

Haykel Rachdi who was injured during clashes with police has died in hospital, leading to more violent confrontations between demonstrators and security services in the town of Sbeitla.

**Tunisia** – [Police fire water cannon as Tunisians march on parliament](#)

Tunisian riot police used water cannon against the protesters marching towards barricaded parliament.

**Iran** – [No Signal? Iran blocks popular messaging service](#)

The government decided to block Signal after Iranians flocked to the messaging platform following concerns about the privacy of WhatsApp.

**Saudi Arabia** – [Blast shakes Riyadh three days after projectile intercepted](#)

A loud explosion shook Riyadh three days after a projectile has been intercepted by the kingdom, which faces repeated attacks from Houthi rebels since 2015.

**Iran** – [Iranian-American citizen arrested trying to flee Iran: Judiciary](#)

Iran's judiciary confirmed that Emad Edward Sharghi charged with spying was arrested earlier this month while trying to flee the territory.

**Occupied Palestine** – [US assures two-state solution for Israel-Palestine at UN](#)

Biden administration took some steps to reopen diplomatic missions closed by Trump administration and intends to restore Palestinian aid, while continuing to urge other countries to normalize ties with Israel.

**Iran** – [Iran approves Russia's Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine](#)

Iran, the Middle East's worst-hit country plans to import and produce the Russia's Sputnik V.

**Wednesday**  
27 January 2021

**Eastern Mediterranean region** – [COVAX to supply 355 mln vaccine doses for Eastern Med this year](#)

The first of 355 million doses provided for the region through COVAX will arrive in February, according to a WHO official.

**Yemen** – [Yemen's war being fueled by economic profiteering: UN panel](#)

A new UN report estimate that Houthi rebels diverted at least \$1.8 billion in 2019 that was intended for the government.

**Iran** – ['Psychological war': Iran dismisses Israel military action threat](#)

In reaction to Iran recently boosting its nuclear program, Israel announced preparing "a number of operational plans, in addition to those already in place".

**Thursday**  
28 January 2021

**Iraq** – [Senior Islamic State figure killed in Iraq, PM says](#)

Few days after the twin suicide bombing in Baghdad, Iraqi security forces have killed the Islamic State commander Abu Yaser al-Issawi.

**Pakistan** – [Pakistan court frees man convicted of killing US journalist Pearl](#)

Ahmed Omar Sheikh, convicted of masterminding the assassination of a Wall Street Journal reporter, was acquitted by the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

**Yemen** – [UN concerned clashes in Yemen's Hodeida putting civilians at risk](#)

Thousands of Yemeni civilians were at risk in the western province of Hodeida after an increase in military clashes this month between the government forces and the rebels.

**Friday**  
29 January 2021

**Syria** – [Thousands left homeless by storms, floods in Syria's Idlib](#)

Less than two weeks after floods killed a child and destroyed around 100 tents, another rainstorm in the north-west of the country is further worsening conditions for displaced people.

**Saudi Arabia / United Arab Emirates / Italy** – [Italy permanently halts arms sales to Saudi Arabia, UAE](#)

Due to their involvement in the Yemen conflict Italy has halted the sale of thousands of missiles to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates which were in 2019 respectively the 10th and 11th biggest markets for Italian arms exports.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
30 and 31  
January 2021

**Syria** – [UN urges countries to repatriate 27,000 children from Syria](#)

The UN counterterrorism chief is urging countries to repatriate the 27,000 children stuck in Al Hol camp in north-eastern Syria, many of whom are Islamic State extremists' children.

**Iraq** – [Iraqi anger grows after election postponement](#)

Iraq's leaders maneuvered to postpone parliamentary elections to buy time, triggering the population to demonstrate.

**Afghanistan** – [Eight Afghan security personnel killed in Taliban attack](#)

A suicide bomber hit a base of Afghan defense forces with a vehicle loaded with explosives in the country's east, killing at least eight security personnel. The attack is claimed by the Taliban.

**Syria** – [Several killed as bomb blast hits Afrin in northern Syria](#)

According to the Turkish defense ministry, five people were killed and more than 20 wounded in a car bomb attack at an industrial site at the center of town.

**Occupied Palestine** – [Israeli police use water cannon to disperse anti-PM crowd](#)

The demonstrators call for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's resignation. They accuse him of corruption and mismanaging the COVID-19 crisis. It is reported that one officer was lightly hurt and protesters were arrested.

**Occupied Palestine** – [Israel to give few coronavirus vaccines to Palestinians](#)

After being criticized by the UN and many human rights groups, Israel Defense Minister's office announced Israel has agreed to transfer 5,000 doses of vaccine to the Palestinians to immunize front-line medical workers.

**Tunisia** – [Hundreds of Tunisians protest about police abuses](#)

Hundreds of riot police confronted the demonstrators protesting against police abuses they say are endangering freedoms won in the 2011 revolution that swept away authoritarian rule.



## INTERNATIONAL

**Monday**  
25 January 2021

**Central African Republic** – [Central African Republic: First Seleka Suspect in ICC Custody](#)  
a former commander of ex-Seleka handed over to the International Criminal Court custody, accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity. This is an important step toward justice for serious crimes against civilians committed by the two main warring factions in the country's civil conflict.

**International** – [Job losses from virus 4 times as bad as '09 financial crisis](#)  
The International Labor Organization estimated that the restrictions on businesses and public life destroyed 8.8% of all work hours around the world last year, which means that job losses from virus are 4 times as bad as 2009 financial crisis. That is equivalent to 255 million full-time jobs with women and young people taking the biggest hits.

**China** – [Nine trapped Chinese miners confirmed dead, one still missing](#)  
Nine more Chinese miners on a group of 22 trapped underground for over two weeks have been confirmed dead. Accidents are common in China's dangerous and poorly regulated mining sector.

**International** – [Moderna says COVID-19 vaccine appears to be effective against new variants](#)  
Moderna Inc announced its COVID-19 vaccine produced virus-neutralizing antibodies in laboratory tests against new coronavirus variants found in the UK and South Africa.

**United Kingdom** – [Thousands of EU care workers risk losing immigration status, warns Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants](#)  
The post-Brexit framework requires all UE workers to renew their legal right to live and work in the UK by the deadline of 30 June 2021 or face deportation by the Home Office.

**Central African Republic** – [Central African Republic gov't says forces killed 44 rebels](#)  
The army and allied forces killed 44 rebel fighters allegedly participating in a push to encircle the capital Bangui and overthrow newly re-elected president Faustin Archange Touadera.

**Tuesday**  
26 January 2021

**Thailand** – [Senate backs amendment allowing early-stage abortions](#)  
Senators have voted in favour of allowing abortion up to 12 weeks of pregnancy while retaining penalties for later terminations, a move that pro-choice activists said fell short of protecting the rights of the mother.

**Chad / Senegal** – [African Union: No Reparations for Ex-Chad President's Victims](#)  
A coalition of international human rights organizations reminds the African Union her duty to set up a Trust Fund to compensate victims of the former Chadian president Hissène Habré, four years after his historic conviction in Senegal.

**United Kingdom** – ['I'm deeply sorry': UK surpasses 100,000 COVID deaths](#)  
With 100,162 deaths registered the United Kingdom has the fifth-highest toll globally and the government is facing strong criticism of its management of the pandemic.

**France** – [France threatens to shut down far-right Generation Identity group](#)  
Interior minister Gerald Darmanin had asked his staff to gather evidence about the group, that seeks to expel Muslims and migrants from Europe.

**Netherlands** – [In Pictures: Rioters battle Dutch police over COVID-19 lockdown](#)  
Rioters clashed with the police force in several Dutch towns and cities across the Netherlands over COVID-19 restrictions defying the country's curfew. Police said hundreds have been detained since the weekend.

**France** – [#MeTooIncest: Victims of incest in France are speaking up online](#)  
After the fall of two high-profile individuals, thousands share their experiences of sexual violence through social media.

**United States** – [Amnesty International denounce NYPD's use of "invasive" facial recognition technology](#)  
Amnesty International's campaign "Ban the Scan" calls for a reduction in NYPD's use of mass surveillance and aims to subject the use of facial recognition to greater scrutiny.

Wednesday  
27 January  
2021

**United Kingdom** – [Private contractors threaten UK asylum seekers with deportation for “misbehaving”](#)  
Private contractors’ employees are threatening asylum seekers held in temporary facilities. They were told that their asylum claims will be harmed if they “misbehave”, that includes going on hunger strike or speaking out about the conditions of the temporary camps.

**India** – [Chaos as Indian farmers enter Delhi’s Red Fort, clash with police](#)  
Tens of thousands of Indian farmers hold ‘tractor rally’ on India’s Republic Day to demand repeal of new farm laws. The protests turned violent and resulted in at least one death.

**Mozambique** – [Cyclone Eloise affected 250,000 people in Mozambique, says UN](#)  
A tropical cyclone brought winds of up to 150km/h and torrential rain over port city of Beira and adjacent Buzi district.

**Honduras** – [The ‘spiralling crisis’ pushing Hondurans to flee north](#)  
Thousands in US-bound migrant caravan were returned to Honduras where the crisis is worsened by hurricanes Eta and Lota, the coronavirus pandemic and a fragile political situation.

**Australia** – [Thousands march in Australia for Indigenous recognition](#)  
Thousands of people in Australia defied public health concerns and demonstrated in major cities demand the national day be changed in honour of the country’s Indigenous people.

**Italy** – [Italy could have saved 200 drowning migrants: UN committee](#)  
According to experts working with the UN, Italy failed to protect ‘right to life’ of more than 200 migrants and refugees who died when the boat they were on capsized in the Mediterranean Sea in 2013.

**France** – [France: Rights groups launch legal action over police racism](#)  
Six NGOs launched a class-action lawsuit against the French government, alleging systemic discrimination by police against French people from Black, Arab and ethnic minority communities during identity checks.

**United States** – [US warns of more ‘domestic extremist’ violence in months ahead](#)  
As far right seethes over Trump’s loss, the United States could face a heightened threat of domestic extremist violence inspired by the Capitol riot.

**Mali** – [Ethnic groups in central Mali sign ‘three peace agreements’](#)  
Three agreements have been signed by representatives from herder and farmer communities bringing together Fulani and Dogon communities who have historic tensions over access to land and water.

**Singapore** – [Singapore teenager arrested for plotting attack on Muslims](#)  
A Protestant teenager, arrested last month for planning to attack two mosques on the anniversary of Christchurch massacre, has been detained under the ISA law which allows detention without trial.

Thursday  
28 January 2021

**Canada** – [Canada’s lawmakers grant citizenship to Saudi blogger Badawi](#)  
Members of Canada’s House of Commons voted to grant citizenship to the human rights defender Badawi who is in jail in Saudi Arabia for blogging about free speech and ‘insulting Islam’.

**Greece** – [‘We’re afraid’: Greek plan to police universities panics students](#)  
University students in Greece are preparing to fight for their freedom of expression. The conservative New Democracy government aims to create a new police force for universities empowered to arrest and charge those considered “troublemakers”.

**Russia** – [Navalny: Police detain brother, search home ahead of new protests](#)  
Russian authorities stepped up pressure on jailed Kremlin critic Alexey Navalny after mass protests at the weekend for his release.

**France / Lebanon** – [Amnesty raps France over weapons used against Lebanon protesters](#)  
Amnesty International urged French government to stop selling weapons to Lebanon, claiming French-manufactured rubber bullets, tear gas grenades and launchers had been used to quell peaceful demonstrations.

**Nigeria** – [Amnesty accuses Nigeria of covering up killing of protesters](#)  
Amnesty International is challenging the Nigerian government to suspend accused officials, pending investigations, and to ensure victims access to justice.

**India** – [Amid death penalty fears, calls grow to free Briton held in India](#)  
Several British NGOs urged India to free Jagtar Singh Johal a Scottish man who has been held without trial for more than three years.

Friday  
29 January  
2021

**Indonesia** – [Hundreds of Rohingya disappear from Indonesia's Lhokseumawe camp](#)

According to official sources, the hundred Rohingya missing from a refugee camp in Indonesia have been trafficked to neighboring Malaysia.

**Poland** – [Protests hit Poland as near-total abortion ban takes effect](#)

A controversial court verdict imposes a near-total ban on abortion except in cases of rape and incest, or when the mother's life or health are considered to be at risk.

**South Africa** – [South Africa's army allows hijab for Muslim women | Religion News](#)

The army has amended its dress policy to allow Muslim women to wear headscarves as part of their uniform.

**Bangladesh** – [Bangladesh sends third group of Rohingya refugees to island](#)

Nearly 1,800 refugees have been sent to Bhasan Char island despite calls by several NGOs to halt the process.

**United States** – [Biden extends Syrians' protected status in the United States](#)

Thousands of Syrians will see their temporary protected status retained through September 2022. An early move that aligns with the Biden administration broader pro-immigrant platform.

**European Union** – [UNHCR calls for "urgent inquiries" into alleged rights violations and mistreatment at European borders](#)

UNHCR has found that some European states and their border agencies resort to abusive practices, such as "restricting access to asylum, returning people after they have reached territory or territorial waters, and using violence against them at borders."

Saturday and  
Sunday  
30 and 31  
January 2021

**Central African Republic** – [More than 200,000 flee 'apocalyptic' conflict in Central African Republic](#)

More than 200,000 people have fled fighting in the country since violence between the army backed by Russian and Rwanda troops and a coalition of militias erupted over a December election result.

**United Kingdom / Hong Kong** – [UK opens visa scheme for Hong Kong residents to become citizens](#)

As the United Kingdom opens its borders to those wanting to escape the China's crackdown in the semi-autonomous city. The new visa offers them an opportunity to become British citizens.

**CLDH's Emergency Response**  
*Weekly Brief*

CLDH's team held 150 social intakes which made the total number of intakes reach 534. Plus, 209 services were provided, making the total number of given services reach 730. CLDH is continuously monitoring the Human Rights violations post Beirut blast.