



► 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

26 April 2021

Lebanon – [Syrian refugees face Ramadan penury amid Lebanon's economic ruin](#)

A new reportage by "The daily star" shows the conditions of Syrian refugees in the country who are facing severe poverty because of the economic crisis and the repeated lockdowns. This year, the holy month of Ramadan cannot include feasts and abundance, and parents are mostly worried for their children's future.

Lebanon – [Despite consistently disgraceful stances, Al-Kaaki was reelected president of LP Order](#)

The renewal of Mr. Aouni Al-Kaaki's mandate as head of the Lebanese Press Order aroused criticism among activists and journalists, considering his "sexist stances and adulation of the ruling class" during the last years.

Tuesday

27 April 2021

Lebanon / Saudi Arabia – [Lebanon in uproar since Saudi Arabia banned the import of vegetables](#)

Farmers are going to suffer from heavy losses because of Saudi Arabia last Friday's decision that bans the import of vegetables and fruits from Lebanon. The value of exports of agricultural products from Lebanon to Saudi Arabia is estimated around \$32 million.

Mount Lebanon – [Saeed Abdullah shot: supporters of the ruling class go after critics](#)

Mr. Saeed Abdullah, known for his criticism of the ruling class in general, and the Progressive Socialist Party in particular, was attacked and shot in the head with a hunting rifle in his village of Aitat.

Lebanon / Saudi Arabia – [Prominent Lebanese Composer Samir Sfeir 'Arrested' in KSA](#)

The prominent Lebanese music composer Samir Sfeir, vocal supporter of President Michel Aoun and his Free Patriotic Movement, was arrested days ago in Saudi Arabia after his arrival in the kingdom at the invitation of a Saudi information ministry official.

Wednesday
28 April 2021

Lebanon – [Al-Kaaki offers more of his views on women](#)

Mr. Al-Kaaki, reelected Head of the Lebanese Press Order, defended himself against the accusation of sexism, but continued his “disgraceful stances” on women and their stereotyped role in patriarchal society saying that “the woman is the mother, the sister, the wife and the daughter”.

Lebanon – [U.N. Clarifies Recruitment Channels after Scam in Lebanon](#)

The UN clarified its recruitment procedures, after media denounced that some individuals in the country have acted as UN staff members in order to scam citizens.

Lebanon – [Lebanon bans entry to travelers from India and Brazil](#)

In order to prevent the spread of COVID 19 variants, the authorities decided to ban entry to travelers from India and Brazil.

Thursday
29 April 2021

Lebanon – [No stop to subsidies without a plan for vulnerable people \(Diab\)](#)

According to media sources, the outgoing prime minister, Mr. Hassan Diab, refused to stop the program of subsidies for basic products, unless a plan is adopted in order to aid vulnerable categories.

Friday
30 April 2021

Lebanon – [Capital control draft law could worsen depositors' situation](#)

The new draft law on capital control contains ambiguity regarding cap withdrawals, the value of the “lollar” and legislation for the current situation. Furthermore, it does not offer any guarantees to depositors with foreign currency accounts

Lebanon – [The Federal Republic of Sects](#)

A new article published on “Daraj Media” offers some reflections on “Lebanese Federalism” and its connection with equality, religious freedom and human rights. It is also said that this system “is becoming a source of obstruction and instability”.

Beirut – [Parents of Lebanese students abroad protested in front of the Palace of Justice](#)

A group of parents of Lebanese expat students organized a sit-in in front of the Palace of Justice, calling for the application of the so-called “student dollar” law that would allow them to transfer money to their sons and daughters.

Saturday and Sunday
1 and 2 May 2021

Lebanon – [May 1st, Aoun declares he will do his best for workers' rights](#)

On the occasion of the Labor Day (May 1st), President Michel Aoun declared that he shall continue working on reforms in order to ensure equal and fair rights to Lebanese workers, despite the ongoing social and economic crisis.

Lebanon – [May 1st: numbers crushing the workers](#)

Lebanon celebrates Labor Day, but the indicators of workers' conditions in the country generate a lot of concern. The International Labor Organization estimates that 700,000 people may lose their job by the end of the year as an effect of the crisis.

Lebanon – [Kafala, the state's golden goose](#)

The *kafala* system, to which more than 57,000 migrant workers are subject (excluding domestic workers), is a source of profits for the state, the middlemen and the employers “at the expense of the workers”.

Lebanon – [Lebanon Easter biscuit woes symbolise crumbling economy](#)

Maamoul, the typical biscuit that plays a key role on the occasion of Orthodox Easter, is becoming too expensive for many families: it is a symbol of the citizens' conditions facing the inflation and the ongoing economic crisis.



REGIONAL Middle East

Monday
26 April 2021

Egypt – [Nine people put to death in chilling Ramadan executions](#)

Mr. Philip Luther, Amnesty International's M.E.N.A. Research and Advocacy Director, strongly condemned the execution of nine people, including an 82-year-old man, after a grossly unfair trial. The national authorities are displaying a determination to persist with their escalating use of the death penalty.

Libya – [Military courts sentence hundreds of civilians in sham, torture-tainted trials](#)

Amnesty International denounced that military courts convicted in secret hundreds of civilians in the eastern region of the country. The trials against these people were grossly unfair, aimed at punishing real or perceived opponents of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, as well as affiliated armed groups.

Occupied Palestine – [Abusive Israeli Policies Constitute Crimes of Apartheid, Persecution](#)

HRW published a new report on Israel's rule of Palestinians, denouncing that Israeli authorities are committing the crimes against humanity of apartheid and persecution. The study is based on years of documentation, case studies, and a review of government planning documents, statements by officials, and other sources.

Tuesday
27 April 2021

Egypt – [Tortured monk at imminent risk of execution: Wael Tawadros](#)

Amnesty International expressed its concerns for death row prisoner monk Wael Tawadros, known as Father Isaiah, who is at risk of execution. He was subjected to several human rights violations including enforced disappearance, torture and unfair trial.

Iran – [No justice for Nazanin as UK Parliament debates outrage at Iran's "hostage diplomacy"](#)

Ms. Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, charged with propaganda against the regime and arrested in 2016, still cannot return home to her family in the UK, since she has been dashed with a new one year sentence and an additional one year travel ban. Her court case is considered "wholly arbitrary" by the UK Parliament.

Libya / Europe – [130 migrants drowned off the coast of Libya on route to Europe](#)

130 migrants drowned in the Mediterranean sea, off the Libyan shore, after their ship overturned due to bad weather conditions. They were headed for Italy before their boat requested aid. By the time a rescue ship managed to reach the site a day later, the boat had capsized and no survivors were found.

Wednesday
28 April 2021

Algeria – [Algeria detains leading opposition figure Karim Tabbou](#)

Mr. Karim Tabbou, a key figure in anti-government demonstrations that forced the former President Abdelaziz Bouteflika to resign in 2019, has been detained, while the pro-democracy protest movement known as the Hirak is regaining consensus.

Iraq – ['There's no rain': Climate change threatens Iraq's Bedouins](#)

In the deserts of Muthanna province, nomadic herders describe the increasingly uninhabitable environment they live in. Due to the climate changes, there is no more rain, the grass has turned into desert, life has become much harder than some years ago.

Tunisia – [Tunisia Jails Repatriated Women With Suspected ISIS Ties](#)

HRW expressed its concerns for the condition of the women and children with ties to suspected members of the Islamic State group (ISIS) who were recently repatriated to Tunisia. All of the women are in detention, some have faced abuse, have contracted Covid-19, and have been denied their rights.

Thursday
29 April 2021

Iran – [Stop destruction of mass grave site and allow dignified burials of persecuted Baha'is](#)

Amnesty International denounced that the authorities are banning members of the persecuted Baha'i minority from burying their loved ones in empty plots at a cemetery near Tehran that they have used for decades, instead pressuring to bury them in the nearby Khavaran mass grave site.

Friday
30 April 2021

Turkey – [Can independent journalism fight back in Turkey?](#)

Amnesty International expressed again its concerns for the condition of journalists in the country, since Turkey is among the world's biggest jailers of journalists for the fifth year in a row, according to the newly published World Press Freedom Index. Also, COVID 19 brought additional fears for journalists behind bars.

Yemen – [Yemen model's lawyer intimidated as Houthis dismiss 'soft' investigator](#)

The Iran-backed Houthis dismissed a prosecutor considered too "soft" because he ordered the release of the abducted Yemeni model, Ms. Entesar Al-Hammadi. Also, since no clear reasons were given for abducting the model, her lawyer suspects that Entesar may face charges of violating Islamic dress codes or showing her hair in public.

Bahrain – [UN 'disturbed' by Bahrain forces' violent breakup of jail sit-in](#)

The United Nations Human Rights Office denounced the "unnecessary and disproportionate" force used by police to dismantle a peaceful sit-in at Jau prison, located south of the capital Manama, on April 17.

Occupied Palestine – [What is happening in occupied East Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah?](#)

Dozens of Palestinians are facing imminent dispossession from their homes in the occupied neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah, in East Jerusalem area. This may be a move to force them out and replace it entirely with a Jewish settlement.

Palestine – [UN urges Palestinian leaders to avoid uncertainty and quickly set new date for elections](#)

After President Mahmoud Abbas postponed polls indefinitely, the UN called on Palestinian leaders to maintain their commitment to democracy and set a new date for elections, since a "prolonged period of uncertainty risks exacerbating the fragile situation".

Iran / United Kingdom – [UK says Iran's treatment of Zaghari-Ratcliffe is 'torture'](#)

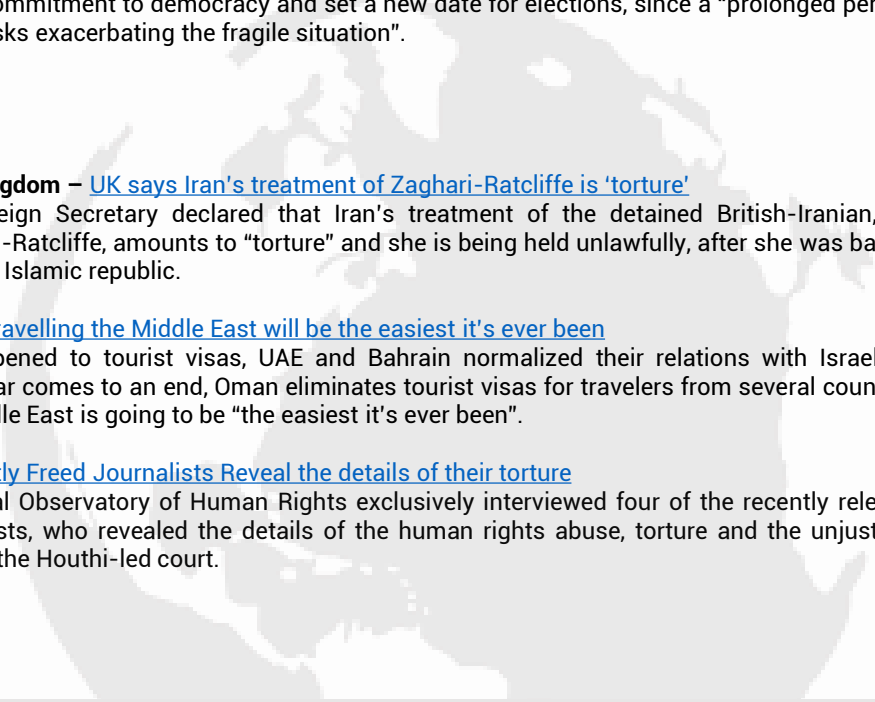
The British Foreign Secretary declared that Iran's treatment of the detained British-Iranian, Ms. Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, amounts to "torture" and she is being held unlawfully, after she was banned from leaving the Islamic republic.

Middle East – [Travelling the Middle East will be the easiest it's ever been](#)

Saudi Arabia opened to tourist visas, UAE and Bahrain normalized their relations with Israel, the blockade of Qatar comes to an end, Oman eliminates tourist visas for travelers from several countries: visiting the Middle East is going to be "the easiest it's ever been".

Yemen – [Recently Freed Journalists Reveal the details of their torture](#)

The International Observatory of Human Rights exclusively interviewed four of the recently released Yemeni journalists, who revealed the details of the human rights abuse, torture and the unjust trial they endured in the Houthi-led court.



Saturday and Sunday
1 and 2 May 2021



INTERNATIONAL

Monday
26 April 2021

Bangladesh – [Rohingya Refugees Allegedly Tortured](#)

HRW called Bangladesh authorities for an immediate investigation of the allegations that security forces tortured and arbitrarily detained Rohingya refugees who tried to leave Bhasan Char island.

Cambodia – [Revise Flawed Disability Bill](#)

HRW called on the government to revise a draft disability law in order to ensure equal rights for people with disabilities in accordance with international human rights law. Although it has not been published yet, this draft law uses "language that reinforces stigma against people with disabilities".

Japan / Myanmar – [Japan: Suspend Aid Benefitting Myanmar Junta](#)

HRW called on Japanese government to review its aid portfolio for Myanmar and suspend non-humanitarian projects that benefit the junta or military.

India – [Twitter and Facebook block criticism of COVID response](#)

Ms. Rasha Abdul Rahim, Director of Amnesty Tech, called on Twitter and Facebook to stop taking down posts critical of the government's mishandling of the COVID 19 pandemic.

India – [India Falters Amid Growing Covid-19 Crisis](#)

The government's response to the spread of the pandemic appears to have collapsed in the country, that is now facing the world's fastest-growing number of COVID 19 cases. There are healthcare shortages everywhere, of testing capacity, medicines, ambulance services, hospital beds, oxygen support, even cremation or burial facilities.

Philippines – [Country faces health and human rights crisis one year into the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Amnesty International expressed its concerns for the situation of human rights in the country after one year into the COVID 19 pandemic. Hospitals remain at risk of being overwhelmed, following a sharp surge in hospitalizations and new cases since March. The critical lack of access to healthcare has grown especially acute in recent weeks.

United States of America – [An Opportunity to Lower Drug Costs in the US](#)

Last week, members of the House of Representatives reintroduced a bill to lower prescription drug costs. If this bill passed, it could provide relief for millions of people in the country struggling to afford vital medicines.

Tuesday
27 April 2021

Brazil – [High-level Commitment in Brazil to Protect People with Disabilities](#)

The National Council for Prosecutors approved a new resolution that could mean significant human rights improvements for the more than 10,000 adults with disabilities living in care homes in the country.

China – [Lawyer faces charges for reporting torture: Chang Weiping](#)

Amnesty International expressed its concerns for the human rights lawyer Chang Weiping who was officially charged with "subversion of state power", six months after police officers took him away for publicly detailing incidents of torture that he experienced during an earlier detention. Weiping is currently being held incommunicado at Feng County Detention Centre.

China – [And the Oscar for Censorship Goes to Xi Jinping](#)

National social media platforms removed the news about Beijing-born Chloe Zhao, the girl who became the first woman of color to win an Oscar for best director for her film *Nomadland*.

India – [Protect Rights, Dignity Amid Covid-19 Crisis](#)

HRW called on the government to address urgently healthcare shortages, in order to give the vulnerable communities equitable access to medical treatment. Instead of doing so, the authorities are responding to the recent wave of COVID 19 by cracking down on free speech. The country has surpassed the grim milestone of more than 200,000 deaths.

Somalia – [Somalia President Drops 2-year Term Extension, Accepts Dialogue with Political Rivals](#)

President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed said that he shall no longer pursue a two-year extension of his presidential term, accepting the dialogue with his political rivals and promising to appear before the Lower House of Parliament next Saturday.

United Nations – [UN Elections Shouldn't Disparage Human Rights](#)

UN Economic and Social Council's member states elected Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, China and Myanmar to UN bodies linked to women's rights, despite their deplorable rights records. HRW declared that UN elections should always have competitive slates so governments can vote against unfit candidates with poor rights records.

Wednesday
28 April 2021

Russia – [Authorities move to outlaw Aleksei Navalny's organizations as "extremist"](#)

Amnesty International denounced the government's decision of moving outlaw Aleksei Navalny's supporters and their activities as "extremist". According to human rights groups "the audacity and scale of this cynical attack are unprecedented".

Belarus – [Authorities target independent trade unions to root out dissent](#)

Amnesty International expressed its concerns for the situation of human rights in the country, since the authorities are ruthlessly targeting independent trade unions and trampling on labor rights as part of their brutal crackdown on the protest movement that started in August 2020.

Chad – [Deaths following violent crackdown on protests must be investigated](#)

Amnesty International called for an impartial and independent investigation on the recent protests that have led to the death of at least five people, and many more were injured and arrested. These protests are taking place against the power of the Transitional Military Council.

Democratic Republic of Congo – [Prioritize Justice for Serious Crimes](#)

A coalition of over 50 Congolese and international nongovernmental groups called on the newly appointed government to adopt a clear strategy, in order to hold those suspected of criminal responsibility for grave human rights violations accountable.

Denmark / Syria – [Danish authorities rule that 39 Syrian refugees are eligible for return to Damascus](#)

The Immigration Service has found that other 39 Syrian refugees are eligible for deportation after authorities considered Damascus and surrounding areas safe for their return. So far, Denmark has revoked temporary protection and residency permits to 380 Syrians.

European Union – [CoE report confirms European press freedom regression](#)

The annual report on European press freedom released by the Council of Europe (jointly written by 14 international organizations) denounced several regressions and presented a bleak picture of the condition of press freedom and independent media across the region in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

Myanmar – [The Myanmar Junta's Assault on the Truth](#)

HRW denounced the situation of journalists in the country, since the military junta is targeting them for arrest, raiding the offices of newspapers and online media, and banning outspoken media outlets. 48 media operators remain in detention and some others appear in broadcasts as "wanted" by the authorities.

United States of America – [Pass PRO Act to Empower Workers, Protect Rights](#)

Five human rights and labor groups, including HRW and Amnesty International USA, called on Senate to approve the "PRO Act" (*Protecting the Right to Organize Act*), in order to empower workers and build "a more just and human rights-based economy". This Act would allow workers to bargain collectively for reducing power imbalances between workers and employers and several other causes.

Thursday
29 April 2021

Cambodia – [Authorities must avert COVID-19 humanitarian crisis](#)

Amnesty International called on the authorities to take urgent steps to prevent an emerging humanitarian and human rights crisis under the country's COVID 19 lockdown. According to the government's measures, people in the zones at risk are prohibited from leaving their homes even to buy food and other basic necessities.

Colombia / Venezuela – [Atrocities at the Colombia-Venezuela border](#)

HRW denounced that armed groups operating in the eastern Colombian state of Arauca and the close Venezuelan state of Apure control people's everyday lives through threats, kidnappings, forced labor, child recruitment, murder, and extortion.

Cuba – ['The Eternal Flame', a memorial in support of San Isidro Movement and freedom of expression](#)

Amnesty International called on artists and human rights defenders and activists across the world to join the campaign "The Eternal Flame", in solidarity with the independent artists in the country and in response to a recent wave of detentions and harassment of members of San Isidro Movement.

Malawi – [Death penalty defeated as Supreme Court of Appeal rules it unconstitutional](#)

The Supreme Court of Appeal declared the death penalty unconstitutional in the country. Amnesty International called on other the governments of the sub-Saharan Africa to take action in order to ensure the region gets rid of the death penalty once and for all.

Sri Lanka – [Reject 'Political Victimization' Findings](#)

HRW declared that the parliament should reject a resolution which would absolve President Rajapaksa's relatives and allies implicated in human rights abuses and would prosecute police and prosecutors investigating them further.

Friday
30 April 2021

Ethiopia – [World Press Freedom Day: A booster shot for media freedom in Ethiopia](#)

The International Observatory of Human Rights recognized the great change of the country regarding the situation of press freedom. Ethiopia went from one of the world's worst jailers of journalists to freeing them all and enacting reforms to establish transparent institutions and to encourage an independent media and free press.

Kyrgyzstan / Tajikistan – [Civilians Harmed in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan Border Clashes](#)

Over 40 people, including civilians and children, allegedly hit by mortar fire, were killed and hundreds wounded in border clashes between Tajik and Kyrgyz forces in the last few days. These clash also affected a dozen villages located close to the border.

Myanmar – [End Threats Against Rights Group](#)

HRW called on the military junta's leaders to immediately stop threatening the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, a leading human rights monitoring group who is operating in the country.

Russia – [Crossing Another Rubicon in Russia](#)

Federal Security Service agents in Moscow apprehended prominent human rights lawyer, Mr. Ivan Pavlov. They also searched his summer cottage and broke down the door at the home of another member of his group of human rights lawyers.

Worldwide – [Apartheid and Persecution: The Forgotten Crimes Against Humanity](#)

Despite the recent recognition of the crimes of "apartheid" in Myanmar and in Israel, "it has become clear that in terms of justice, they are 'forgotten' crimes against humanity, and are rarely prosecuted". HRW declared that it is crucial for the victims that apartheid and persecutions are more clearly understood from a legal perspective and those responsible are held accountable.

Saturday and Sunday
1 and 2 May 2021

India – [Coronavirus: New record deaths as virus engulfs India](#)

Hospitals are struggling to treat patients amid a chronic shortage of beds and medical oxygen. The situation is definitely out of control; distressing images of people begging for hospital beds and life-saving supplies have been emerging for more than 10 days, morgues and crematoriums are overwhelmed.

Italy – [Italian rapper Fedez accuses state TV of censorship attempt](#)

Italian rapper Fedez accused the national broadcaster of trying to censor his condemnation of homophobia during a televised concert on the occasion of Labor Day. However, the rapper went ahead and publicly criticized several homophobic statements pronounced by members of Italy's right-wing League party.

Worldwide – [May Day protesters demand workers' rights amid pandemic](#)

Despite the risk of the spread of COVID 19, workers and union leaders all over the world protested with bullhorns and flags in order to demand more labor protections and the full respect of their workers' rights "amid a pandemic that has turned economies and workplaces upside down".