



► 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
31 May 2021

Lebanon – [Beirut airport wishes you a safe flight: Lebanese mother's toddler fined](#)

The Lebanese Women's Right to Nationality and Full Citizenship campaign denounced the State's sexist procedures which "intend to separate children from their mothers, on the basis that the Lebanese mother is deprived of the right to grant citizenship". Leaving the country, children of Lebanese mothers and non-Lebanese fathers, even if they were born in Lebanon, have to pay 50,000 LBP for staying over 3 months without a residency permit.

Lebanon – [Families of victims urge UN to secure funding for Special Tribunal for Lebanon](#)

The families of the victims of a wave of targeted killings called on the United Nations to find funding to keep the Special Tribunal for Lebanon alive, as the court faces an existential financial crisis that could see an imminent trial fall through.

Beirut – [In Rafic Hariri Hospital, a Community Center for Mental Health](#)

The staff of the Community Mental Health Center in Rafic Hariri Hospital takes care of more than 150 patients every month for free. Recently, the number of patients has increased due to the challenges the population is facing.

Tuesday
1 June 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon crisis among world's worst since 1850s: World Bank](#) The World Bank announces that the ongoing financial and economic crisis in Lebanon is considered one of the most severe since the mid-nineteenth century. The Lebanese pound has already lost eighty five percent of its value and the report anticipates a ten percent decline in the economy for 2021.

Wednesday
2 June 2021

Beirut – [Hariri bombing tribunal 'may close without urgent funding'](#) Lebanon's Special Tribunal for the 2005 Beirut bombings says it will need significant funding in order to continue its activities beyond this July. The tribunal was set up to provide trial to the suspects of the bombings, responsible for over 20 deaths.

Lebanon – ['Test case' for Lebanon's new sexual harassment law](#) The Lebanese journalist and director Jaafar el-Attar, has been accused of sexual harassment by multiple female colleagues. This is the 'test case' for the new sexual harassment law, adopted in December.

Lebanon - [Lebanon's central bank to stop bank withdrawals from dollar accounts at low fixed rate-REPORT](#) The Central Bank of Lebanon announced that it will stop allowing people to withdraw money at an exchange rate of 3,900 Lebanese pounds per dollar. However, it is not entirely clear whether or not another solution to withdraw dollars will be provided.

Thursday
3 June 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon's central bank U-turns after dollar withdrawal backlash](#) After the announcement on Wednesday that withdrawals in dollars would no longer be possible, protests erupted in the country. The backlash encouraged decision-makers to reverse Wednesday's decision. The central bank reassured that money was safe and would be returned.

Lebanon - [Electricity supplies rationed further as EDL awaits payment](#) Due to default payments from the Lebanese central bank, electricity in Lebanon will need to be further rationed, resulting in longer periods without electricity.

Beirut - [STL cancels start of Ayyash trial over financial shortfall](#) The Special Tribunal of Lebanon cancels the start of the Ayyash tribunal due to lack of financial resources. Ayyash is awaiting trial for terrorist acts committed over 15 years ago.

Lebanon - [Pushback from Cyprus to Lebanon leads to chain refoulement to Syria](#) EuroMed Rights, Access Center For Human Rights, CLDH, KISA, and ALEF call on the Lebanese government to abide by its obligations under international treaties, including its obligation to not deport or forcibly return individuals at risk of torture.

Friday
4 June 2021

Lebanon – [Benevolent Pharmacy: an independent initiative providing free medicine](#) In response to the ongoing crisis in Lebanon, local initiatives to provide medicine to those in need have emerged. The Benevolent Pharmacy, for example, collects medicine from donors in Sidon to redistribute them for free.

Beirut – [Two months to establish cause of Beirut blast: Bitar](#) The lead investigator, Tarek Bitar, said that he needed two more months to establish the truth concerning the cause of the August explosion. After receiving French reports this week about the blast, investigations will pursue.

Beirut - [Diab asks UN Secretary-General for help funding STL](#) Prime Minister Hassan Diab asks the United Nations for funding for the Lebanese Special Tribunal.

Saturday and Sunday
5 and 6 June 2021

Lebanon – [Two dead in clash at Palestinian refugee camp in south Lebanon](#) Two Palestinians were killed and a few others were wounded in Sidon in a refugee camp after an armed confrontation between drug dealers and Fatah fighters.

Monday
31 May 2021

Occupied Palestine – [Operating from the Shadows: Inside NSO Group's Corporate Structure](#) Amnesty International and other human rights groups expressed their concerns about the digital surveillance by private companies, specifically the NSO Group, which pose a serious obstacle for victims of unlawful surveillance to seek accountability and the right to remedy.

Turkey – [Turkish protesters 'face growing threat of police violence'](#) A new report by Turkey's Human Rights Foundation revealed that thousands of protesters have been prosecuted in recent years amid a government crackdown on right of assembly.

Yemen – [Yemeni minister warns of continued Houthi attacks in Red Sea, escalation of African migrant recruits](#) Yemen's Information Minister, Mr. Mu'amar Al-Eryani, warned of escalating Houthi attacks in the Red Sea, attacks that are threatening the security of trade ships and the marine navigation in one of the world's most significant waterways.

Tuesday
1 June 2021

Yemen – [Yemen: Houthis Risk Civilians' Health in Covid-19 | Human Rights Watch \(hrw.org\)](#) Houthi authorities suppress information about Covid-19 and have refuted the vaccine in the areas that they control. It is said that Houthi officials have spread misinformation about the pandemic since last spring. Houthi efforts to conceal Covid cases and their refusal of the vaccine have put Yememi lives at risk.

Iraq – [Iraq records first fatality from Black mushroom infection](#) The black mushroom infection has already contaminated and killed over 200 individuals in India and has caused its first death in Iraq, in the province of Zikar, this Tuesday.

Occupied Palestine (East Jerusalem) – [Israel losing US perception battle as Palestinian sympathy grows](#) After Israel bombarded Hamas and the Gaza strip for 11 days last month, public opinion and the political stance in the United States is starting to shift. Congresswoman, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, stated that "This is not about both sides, this is about an imbalance of power".

Wednesday
2 June 2021

Iran – [UN report reveals horrors of daily life for many in Iran](#) The United Nations published a report exposing the daily struggles of people in Iran. Women and young girls, human rights activists, ethnic minorities, writers, and those with dual nationalities are the most vulnerable to repression from Teheran. These individuals are confronted with torture, forced confessions, detention, harassment, and even the death penalty.

Iran – [HRW slams Tehran for 'relentless repression of dissent'](#) The Human Rights Watch (HRW) published its annual report and pointed to the state's brutal oppression of civil society. The report calls on a poor management of the Covid-19 pandemic, unfair detentions and death penalties, and violent repression of social uprisings.

Occupied Palestine (East Jerusalem) – ['Shut down news': Palestinian journalists on the front line](#) Palestinian journalists were arrested by Israeli authorities for showing protests over the expulsion of Palestinians. Israeli forces have attempted to shut down the media in other ways, such as the bombing of at least 18 media offices and the censorship of opposition online media platforms.

Thursday
3 June 2021

Iraq – [Iraq: Inadequate Plans for Camp Closures](#) The closure of multiple refugee camps since the beginning of the year in Iraq have left thousands of displaced people without electricity, water, or health care and without plans for their return home.

Syria – [Millions in Syria face disaster if aid crossing is shut: UN](#) About three million people have found refuge at the Turkish border. If the United Nations' humanitarian aid cannot extend across the border next month, these people will face a humanitarian disaster.

Qatar – [Qatar releases Kenyan man charged with 'spreading disinformation'](#) A Kenyan man was released after being arrested and charged for the spread of disinformation. In fact, the man denounced labour conditions of migrant workers in video blogs.

Friday
4 June 2021

Iran – ['Unacceptable': Iran slams suspension of UN voting rights](#) Iran expresses its discontent with the UN's decision to suppress their voting rights at the General Assembly. According to Iran's foreign ministry, their inability to pay the UN is due to American sanctions and they argue that the decision is "fundamentally flawed, entirely unacceptable and completely unjustified".

Egypt – [Egypt: Fire at detention centre kills six teenagers](#) A fire broke in a detention center of Cairo and killed at least 6 teenagers and injured twenty. Initial investigations suggest that the fire broke out due to an electric short-circuit. Events like this are not uncommon in Egypt and have raised concerns about safety standards.

Occupied Palestine - [Palestinians see little difference in old and new Israeli leaders](#) Palestinians are pessimistic about the future of Israeli leadership, as they have always felt unrecognized by Israel. A government worker in Gaza said: "When it comes to us, they are all bad, and they all refuse to give the Palestinians their rights and their land".

Saturday and Sunday
5 and 6 June 2021

Turkey/ Iraq – [Turkish air strike kills at least three in refugee camp inside Iraq](#) A Turkish aerial attack killed three people and injured others in a refugee camp in Northern Iraq.

Occupied Palestine - [Israel releases Al Jazeera journalist after violent arrest](#) An Al-Jazeera journalist, Givara Budeiri was released after being violently arrested by Israeli authorities in East Jerusalem for documenting a protest.

Occupied Jerusalem - [Muna al-Kurd: Israel detains prominent Sheikh Jarrah activist](#) A Palestinian activist was arrested after being expelled from her home in Sheikh Jarrah.

Syria - [Dutch woman and three children repatriated from Syrian ISIL camp](#) A Dutch woman, her children, and another Dutch girl were repatriated from the ISIL camp (ISIS) to the Netherlands.



INTERNATIONAL

Monday
31 May 2021

Brazil – [Investigate Rio Police Command for Deadly Raid](#)

HRW called on the attorney general for the state of Rio de Janeiro to investigate the civil and criminal responsibility of civil police commanders for extensive human rights abuses during the most lethal police raid in the history of the state, that took place on May 6, 2021 and killed 28 people.

China – [‘Three-child policy’ still a violation of sexual and reproductive rights](#)

Amnesty International denounced the new decision of the authorities allowing married couples to have up to three children. Even though the new rule raises the limit from the current limit of two, it still does not respect people's life choices and imposes “invasive and punitive controls over people's family planning decisions”.

Colombia – [OAS member states must not remain silent in the face of the human rights crisis](#)

Amnesty International addressed an open letter to the member states of the Organization of American States, calling for a condemnation of the human rights violations and crimes under international law committed by members of the Colombian security forces since the beginning of demonstration, on April 28.

Japan – [Global Firms Back LGBT Non-Discrimination Act](#)

J-ALL, Athlete Ally, All Out, and HRW were joined in their efforts by the companies Coca-Cola, Deloitte, EY Japan, Intel, PwC, Salesforce, PepsiCo, and SegaSammy, endorsing the proposed Equality Act, which would protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people from discrimination. The legislative debate over the bill is scheduled to end in mid-June 2021.

Nigeria – [#TalkYourTruth - a campaign to secure the Right to Freedom of Expression](#)

Amnesty International Nigeria launched #TalkYourTruth, a campaign to protect freedom of expression in the country, as critics, journalists and individuals who express dissenting views face intimidation, threats and sometimes arrest by authorities and security forces.

Pakistan – [Pakistani journalist Mir ‘taken off air’ after military outburst](#)

The prominent Pakistani journalist, Mr. Hamid Mir, was “taken off the air” few days after he denounced the actions of the country's military at a protest against an attack on another journalist.

Tuesday
1 June 2021

Kazakhstan – [Activists Detained in Kazakhstan 'For Their Own Safety'](#) Two feminist activists, Zhanar Sekerbaeva and Gulzada Serzhan, were attacked and arrested by the police in Shymkent, where they were hosting a private event about gender equality. They were escorted to their home-town by the police, who claimed that it was “for their own safety”.

Japan – [Japan: Global Firms Back LGBT Non-Discrimination Act](#) Major companies, such as Intel, Coca-Cola, and Salesforce, have backed the *LGBT Corporate Support Letter* for #EqualityActJapan. The act aims to avoid discrimination and abuse towards LGBT community members.

Hong Kong – [Hong Kong tycoon gets 14-month jail term over 2019 protest](#) A political leader and pro-democracy activist was arrested in Hong Kong for a 14-month jail sentence for his involvement in the 2019 protests.

Myanmar – [School's out for Myanmar students defying junta threats](#) In accordance with the interest of the opposition party, students and teachers continue to boycott schools after they were said to open again today since the military seized power.

Pakistan – [Pakistani intelligence accused of torture in crackdown on dissent](#) Safiq Ahmed, lawyer, activist, and critic of the current government accuses Pakistani's intelligence service for his abduction, detention, and torture in December 2019. Since then, other incidents have taken place and other political and advocacy actors have been targeted.

Wednesday
2 June 2021

Mali – [Mali: Military must 'scrupulously' respect human rights and free civilian leaders](#) Alioune Tine, an independent UN human rights expert, calls the military in Mali to "respect human rights". After last week's military coup, political leaders, including the former president, were held captive and only released to house arrest.

Indonesia - [Indonesia: Expanding Palm Oil Operations Bring Harm](#) The development of the palm oil industry in Indonesia has undermined the protection of neighboring communities and the environment. A report published by the HRW focuses on the South Korean Deasang Corporation, which has failed to consult local communities about their losses of land or livelihoods. Moreover, the police violently repressed any contestation to the expansion.

China – [China: Account for Tiananmen Massacre](#) For the second year in a row, authorities have banned commemoration of the Tiananmen Massacre in June 1989. Individuals who tried to commemorate the event were fined and/or arrested by local authorities.

United States - [Groups Urge President Biden to Include Immigration in Pardon Process](#) Activist groups demand that Joe Biden include immigration in his pardon process. Groups ask for 1) the pardon of immigrants from deportable convictions, and 2) ensuring that immigrants who receive clemency will also receive discretion to avoid detention or deportation. These groups emphasise that immigration is a racial justice issue.

Qatar - [Al-Marri elected president of Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions](#) All-Marri was elected president of the Arab Network of National Human Rights. He said that the most important role of the Arab network was to support Palestine in it's occupation.

Thursday
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Denmark – [Denmark passes law to process asylum seekers outside Europe](#) Denmark overwhelmingly passed a law to deport asylum seekers outside of the European Union. This law was passed by 70 votes, facing only 24 opposing votes. This decision generated criticism from the EU and human rights activists.

Mexico – [Eager to represent: Gay and trans Mexican candidates running in key vote](#) 117 of the 6,000 candidates running for election in the midterm elections are part of the LGBTQ community. Candidates hope to challenge the traditionally conservative political scene and push for the representation of marginalized groups.

United States - [New York Governor Should Sign Bill to End Child Marriage](#) After the New York assembly unanimously passed a law prohibiting child marriage on June 2nd, the Governor is expected to do the same and come to a term with child marriage in New York.

Cuba - [Cuba criticised over rapper jailed for 'resistance'](#) After publishing a critical song of the communist government, the rapper Maykel Osorb, has been incarcerated for two weeks. He is accused of resistance and contempt.

Brazil - [Toddler and man die as building collapses in Rio de Janeiro](#) The collapse of a building in the western part of Rio de Janeiro caused two deaths and other hurt. The complex had no licence and the collapse is attributed to weak structures.

Friday
4 June 2021

Namibia/Germany: [Germany colonial-era genocide reparations offer not enough – Namibia vice president](#) Namibian vice-president, Nangolo Mbumba, considers that the German offer to provide over one billion dollars for reconstruction over 30 years as reparation for the genocide is not enough.

France - [France Moves Closer to Ratifying Workplace Harassment Treaty](#) France comes closer to incorporating harassment policies into national law as the parliament ratified the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention.

Cambodia - [Cambodia: Solve Thai Activist's 'Disappearance'](#) One year after the abduction of Wanchalearm Satsaksit, a pro-democracy activist, Cambodian authorities have failed to conduct sufficient investigations.

Congo - [DR Congo extends 'state of siege' in violence-hit eastern region](#) Congolese authorities prolong martial law in the eastern areas of the country, as tensions rise. Violence continues as the military is being increasingly deployed.

Indonesia – [Months at sea: Boat carrying Rohingya washes up in Indonesia](#) A boat holding 81 Rohingya refugees has just washed up on an uninhabited Indonesian island after drifting for three months. Authorities have not decided whether or not they will be allowed to relocate or not.

Burkina Faso – [Dozens killed in Burkina Faso attack](#) A group of armed men killed about 100 people in a Northern village of the country. While this is not yet confirmed, Islamist groups are being blamed as these attacks are not uncommon in the country.

Nicaragua - [Nicaragua police detain another opposition presidential hopeful](#) Police forces in Nicaragua have taken a second political candidate, Arturo Cruz, into detention this week.

Nigeria- [Nigerians breaking Twitter ban rules could be prosecuted](#) Abubakar Malami, the secretary general of Nigeria has announced that Nigerians who access Twitter will be prosecuted.