



► 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
5 April 2021

Lebanon – [Sacrificed by the Lebanese financial system, the middle class is falling into poverty](#)
A new reportage by “L’Orient le Jour” states that the middle class who used to be paid in Lebanese currency has been strongly affected by the ongoing crisis and the life of these families is totally upset. Furthermore, over 60% of the population is currently living below the poverty line.

Lebanon – [Vaccine rollout neglects refugees, migrants: HRW](#)
HRW warned that the vaccination program risks leaving behind marginalized communities, including refugees and migrant workers, although they make up a third of the crisis-hit country's population. So far, less than 3% of the vaccinated are non-Lebanese.

Tuesday
6 April 2021

Beirut – [Under the Jisr el-Wati, homeless and beggars dream of a better world](#)
A reportage by “L’Orient le Jour” describes the conditions of homeless people in Beirut, begging for money in several corners of the city, such as under the bridge named Jisr el-Wati. They start very early in the morning and stay there all day long. Among them, there are families with children and disabled.

Wednesday
7 April 2021

Beirut – [Big mobilization for the strike of public transportation](#)
Lorry, taxi, van and bus drivers gathered in Dora, Beirut, to protest against their conditions of life and the high price of fuel. The strike was organized by federations and syndicates of public transports and lasted several hours in the morning.

Lebanon – [In Roumieh, prisoners do not escape from crisis](#)

A new reportage by “L’Orient le Jour” denounces the bad conditions of prisoners in Roumieh, conditions which are worsening because of the ongoing economical crisis. The situations, though, is not critic yet.

Thursday
8 April 2021

Lebanon – [Three Human Rights Council rapporteurs to investigate the killing of Lokman Slim](#)

three special rapporteurs appointed by the UN Human Rights Council have been tasked with pressuring local investigators to arrest the killers and their sponsors and to gather information and evidence to build a case to be submitted to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

Friday
9 April 2021

Beirut – [Aid to the relatives of the civilian victims of August 4: so little, so late...](#)

Only 14 families have started receiving a small monthly compensation. 62 others are still waiting for their files to be validated in order to receive these payments.

Lebanon – [Lebanon civil war survivors say today's crisis even worse - Infographic: How much do basic necessities cost in Lebanon?](#)

46 years after clashes erupted in Beirut between Lebanese Christians and Palestinians, the survivors of the civil war now fear a "slow death" from Lebanon's worst economic crisis in decades.

**Saturday and
Sunday**
10 and 11 April
2021

Beirut – [Remains Of Ethiopian Woman Found In A Suitcase In Beirut](#)

Partial human remains were found stuffed into a suitcase left on the side of the road in the Malla neighborhood of Beirut. According to preliminary information, they are the remains of an Ethiopian national, bringing to 14 the number of migrant domestic workers murdered since April 2020, said the NGO Anti-Racism Movement.

Lebanon – [‘No one cares’: Lebanon’s financial crisis and domestic workers](#)

As Lebanon’s economy and currency collapse, foreign domestic workers, regulated by the kafala system widely described as exploitative, struggle to make ends meet, prompting many to consider returning home. According to Human Rights Watch, an estimated 250,000 migrant domestic workers, mainly from African and Southeast Asian countries, work in Lebanon.

Beirut – [Sit-in in Beirut to demand the departure of the political class](#)

A hundred demonstrators gathered on Saturday in Riad el-Solh Square to demand the departure of the irreformable and counter-productive political class in power and to call for the formation of a transitional government with exceptional legislative powers.

Lebanon – [Arrest of a man accused of human trafficking](#)

Trafficking of all kinds is increasing in Lebanon in the context of a multidimensional crisis. Smuggling of goods, fuel and people is particularly active at the Syrian border.



REGIONAL Middle East

Monday
5 April 2021

Bahrain – [Bahrain abolishes jailing journalists in major amendments to press law](#)

The government amended its Press, Printing and Publishing Law, including the abolition of jailing journalists, granting a major freedom of expression in exercising the profession of reporters. A major section regulating digital media was also added.

Occupied Palestine – [Palestinian killed by Israeli fire in West Bank](#)

The Palestinian health ministry declared that a 42-year-old motorist was killed and his wife wounded by Israeli fire in Bir Nabala, in the occupied West Bank.

Sudan – [At least 40 killed in tribal clashes in Sudan's West Darfur: UN](#)

The UN officially declared that 40 people were killed and 60 others wounded in tribal clashes in the city of El Geneina, the capital of West Darfur province. The violence was between the Arab Rizeigat and the Masalit tribes.

Tuesday
6 April 2021

M.E.N.A. region – [‘Tightening their stranglehold’: COVID-19 crackdown in MENA](#)

A new report released by Amnesty International denounced that the COVID 19 pandemic worsened the already existing inequalities and discriminations, especially against prisoners, refugees, migrants and minorities. As examples, the report mentioned the discrimination concerning the access to vaccine in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as well as the difficult situation of migrant workers subjected to the “kafala” system in several countries.

Morocco – [Journalist targeted by authorities faces trial](#)

Amnesty International expressed its concerns for the journalist Omar Radi who shall face trial after nine months in unlawful pre-trial detention. Radi is known for his criticism of the country’s human rights record and his exposure of corruption.

Turkey / European Union – [EU chiefs raise ‘deep worries’ over rights in Turkey with Erdogan](#)

After Erdogan’s withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention on violence against women, the EU’s top officials expressed “deep worries” about the respect of human rights in the country. Also, European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said human rights issues are a “crucial” element for better Turkey-EU relations.

Wednesday
7 April 2021

Afghanistan – [UN Should Ensure Women’s Full Role in Talks](#)

HRW stated that women should have full participation in Afghanistan peace talks between government officials, opposition leaders, and the Taliban under United Nations auspice. The conference shall take place on April 16 in Istanbul.

Syria – [Government Stealing Opponents’ Land](#)

HRW denounced that the national authorities are illegally confiscating the homes and lands of Syrians who fled Syrian-Russian military attacks in Idlib and Hama regions. In many cases, these lands were the primary source of income for the families.

Syria – [Israeli strikes near capital Damascus wound 4 troops](#)

National medias denounced that Israel carried out a missile attack near the capital Damascus and its southern suburbs. Four soldiers have been wounded.

Turkey – [Two Presidents Visited Turkey. Only the Man Was Offered a Chair](#)

The European Commission president, Ms. Ursula von der Leyen, and her colleague, Mr. Charles Michel, the president of the council, were received by President Erdogan. Only the man was offered a chair. This protocol mishap was considered by critics as symbolic of the treatment of women in the country.

Yemen – [Houthi actions towards minority groups threaten religious freedoms in Yemen: Minister](#)

The information minister, Mr. Muammar Al-Eryani, declared that the Houthis’ persecutions against the Jewish and Baha’i communities are threatening religious freedoms in the country. He also called on the international community to pressure the Houthi militia in order to end these criminal practices against minority groups.

Thursday
8 April 2021

United Arab Emirates – [UAE sends Syria aid to help it fight spread of coronavirus](#)

The United Arab Emirates sent food items and medical aid to help Syria in its fight against the spread of the coronavirus, as it registered nearly 20,000 cases of coronavirus and more than 1,300 deaths.

Occupied Palestine – [Israel refuses to work with ICC on war crimes probe, says 'no authority'](#)

Israel authorities announced they have formally decided not to cooperate with an International Criminal Court war crimes investigation into the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Afghanistan – [Egypt sentences Muslim Brotherhood leader to life in prison](#)

A senior supreme guide of Egypt's outlawed Muslim Brotherhood group, Mahmoud Ezzat, has been convicted on "terror" charges and sentenced to life in prison.

Syria – [Report: Syrian government attack kills 7 in rebel-held area](#)

According to opposition activists, the Syrian government forces fired a missile at a civilian vehicle near the rebel-held village of Najia in Idlib province, killing seven people, including three children.

Friday
9 April 2021

Occupied Palestine – [Video shows police beating Israeli politician in Jerusalem](#)

Israeli policemen detain Israeli MP Ofer Cassif a Jewish member of the mostly Arab Joint List party and allegedly beat him during a protest against Jewish settlements in Sheikh Jarrah, a Palestinian neighborhood of occupied East Jerusalem.

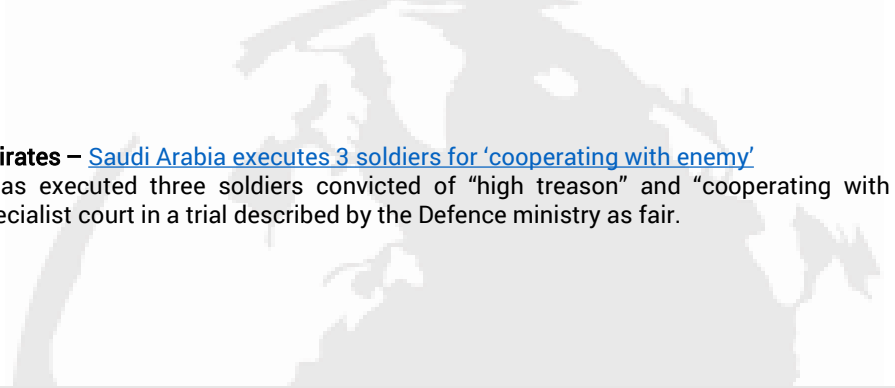
Jordan – [UN rights office voices concern over arrests in Jordan](#)

UN human rights office says it is unclear whether estranged Prince Hamzah remains under de facto house arrest and raised concern at a so-called lack of transparency surrounding at least 16 detentions.

United Arab Emirates – [Saudi Arabia executes 3 soldiers for 'cooperating with enemy'](#)

Saudi Arabia has executed three soldiers convicted of "high treason" and "cooperating with the enemy" by a specialist court in a trial described by the Defence ministry as fair.

**Saturday and
Sunday**
10 and 11 April
2021





INTERNATIONAL

Monday
5 April 2021

Burkina Faso – [Eight killed in attack in eastern Burkina Faso](#)

Three police agents and five members of a civilian anti-extremist force were killed in the western area of the country during a deadly attack perpetrated by several men on motorbikes.

Cambodia – [‘Stop Covid-19’ System Raises Privacy Concerns](#)

HRW expressed its concerns for the government’s “Stop Covid-19” QR Code system which raises serious privacy and other human rights issues. According to Mr. Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director, government critics and activists may be at risk.

Cameroon – [Boko Haram Attacks Escalate in Far North](#)

HRW denounced that the Islamist armed group of Boko Haram killed at least 80 civilians since December 2020, in the Far North region which is becoming the epicenter of the group’s violence.

Kenya – [‘No other home’: Refugees in Kenya camps devastated over closure](#)

The government has given an ultimatum to the UNHCR to present a solution plan over the closure of the Dadaab and Kakuma camps which are now hosting over 400,000 refugees. In response, UNHCR expressed its concerns about the impact of such a shut down, especially considering the context of the ongoing pandemic.

United Kingdom – [UK should recognise Islamophobia as a crime: Victim’s daughter](#)

Mrs. Maz Saleem asked the government to recognize Islamophobia as a dangerous phenomenon and act upon it. In 2013, her father was killed on his way home after prayers by an Ukrainian student who later planted bombs outside mosques.

United States – [Arkansas governor vetoes transgender youth treatment ban](#)

Arkansas Republican Governor vetoed the legislation that would have made his state the first to prohibit gender-confirming hormone treatments, puberty blockers or surgery for transgender youth.

Tuesday
6 April 2021

Democratic Republic of Congo – [Conflict and COVID driving record hunger in DR Congo, warns UN](#)

The UN warned that over 27 million of people are suffering from hunger, and this is “the highest number of people in urgent need of food security assistance in the world”. The situation of the country is also worsening because of the conflict and the economical effects of the COVID 19 pandemic.

France – [French Senate votes to ban hijab for under 18s](#)

The Senate voted to ban the wearing of the hijab in public for girls under 18, to ban burkinis in public pools, and to forbade the wearing of the hijab for those accompanying children on school trips.

Mozambique – [Hunger spreading as Mozambique crisis reaches tipping point](#)

After the attack in Palma, thousands of people shelter in displacement camps with limited food supplies across Cabo Delgado province. The UN agency is trying to provide emergency support to those displaced. Most of them are women and children.

Russia – [Russia may be ‘slowly’ killing Alexey Navalny: Amnesty](#)

Amnesty International expressed its concerns for the conditions of Alexey Navalny, the main opponent of President Vladimir Putin. Navalny is imprisoned, subjected to sleep deprivation and does not have access to a trusted doctor, situation that may slowly be killing him.

United Nations / World Health Organization – [Covid-19 vaccine distribution highlights inequality](#)

Both the UN and the WHO denounced the impacts of social inequality during the current pandemic, since illness and death from COVID 19 have been higher in the countries that “contend with poverty, unfavorable living and working conditions, discrimination and social exclusion”. They call for a fairer approach to delivering vaccines.

United States of America – [Human rights ‘deteriorated’ in 2020: Amnesty International](#)

A new report released by Amnesty International stated that the situation of human rights in the country deteriorated further in 2020 since the pandemic and the presidency of D. Trump exacerbated pre-existing rights concerns, and the “Black Lives Matter” movement exposed widespread racism.

Wednesday
7 April 2021

Belarus – [New Laws Further Stifle Freedom of Speech in Belarus](#)

HRW expressed its concerns for a new raft of amendments to the country's Mass Media Law and Mass Gatherings Law. If approved by the Parliament, these amendments will further restrict freedom of speech and the work of independent journalists in the country.

Chad – [Human rights defender gets 3 year jail term: Baradine Berdei Targuio](#)

Amnesty International is concerned for the conditions of the human rights defender Baradine Berdei Targuio, who was charged of "breach of the constitutional order" and sentenced to three years of jail. Before his arrest, Targuio had strongly criticized the situation of human rights in the country on social media.

Chad – [Pre-Election Crackdown on Opponents](#)

HRW denounced that the security forces cracked down on protesters and the political opposition in next presidential elections which shall take place on April 11. Protesters were demonstrating for a political change, and for an end to social and economic injustices.

China / United States – [Here's How to Handle the 'Genocide Olympics' in Beijing](#)

The "New York Times" published a political reflection over the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing, since 180 human rights organization have suggested a boycott and athletes from several countries are discussing whether to attend. The situation of human rights in the country is worrying, especially concerning Hong Kong freedom and the Muslim minorities in Xinjiang region.

Worldwide – [Amnesty's report exposes exploitation of the most vulnerable groups during COVID-19](#)

Amnesty International released its annual report on 'The State of the World's Human Rights', declaring that the COVID 19 pandemic has highlighted inherent social inequalities and exposed a legacy of divisive and destructive policies perpetuating discrimination and oppression. The main concerns are for women, ethnic minorities, older persons, health care workers, migrant workers, and refugees.

Croatia – [Croatian police accused of sexually abusing female asylum seeker](#)

A woman from Afghanistan alleged she was sexually abused after crossing the border, forced to strip naked and held at knifepoint by Croatian officers.

Thursday
8 April 2021

India – [Concerns as Kashmir police ban live media coverage of gunbattles](#)

A new directive issued by the police prohibiting reporters from approaching gun-battle sites and covering 'law and order' situations as it puts 'national security in jeopardy'.

United States – [One killed, five hospitalised in Texas mass shooting - 'Enough prayers': Biden says time for action on US gun control](#)

One person was killed and four others were hospitalized after a shooting at a cabinet business in Texas, as the White House has called for congressional action on gun violence.

France – ['Law against Islam': French vote in favour of hijab ban condemned](#)

As part of the 'anti-separatism' bill, the French Senate has voted for outlawing girls under 18 from wearing the hijab in public, drawing condemnation with the hashtag #HandsOffMyHijab circulating widely on social media.

Democratic Republic of the Congo – [Dozens detained in Beni during anti-UN protests - Stray bullet kills DRC protester in anti-UN rally, police say](#)

Some 60 people have been arrested and a demonstrator has been killed during clashes between police and protesters that rallied in Butembo demanding the departure of the United Nations peacekeeping mission accused of failing to prevent rebel attacks.

Kenya – [Kenyan court 'temporarily blocks' closure of refugee camps](#)

According to media reports and activists, Kenya's high court has temporarily blocked the government plans to close two refugee camps hosting more than 400,000 people.

Benin – [One protester killed in Benin days before polls: Health official](#)

One person has been killed and six others have been wounded by gunfire in central Benin during protests days before presidential elections.

Kyrgyzstan – [Murder of woman in Kyrgyzstan triggers bride kidnapping protests](#)

Hundreds of people rallied to call for interior minister's resignation after the kidnapping and killing of 27-year-old Aizada Kanatbekova.

Sudan – [Death toll in Sudan's West Darfur clashes rises to 132](#)

The governor of Sudan's West Darfur state has said days of clashes killed at least 132 people and has declared state of emergency in the region.

Friday
9 April 2021

India – [‘Supreme Court has signed our death warrant’: Rohingya in India](#)

India’s Supreme Court refuses to stop deportation to Myanmar of about 170 Rohingya detained in the Indian-administered Kashmir region’s Jammu area.

Greece – [Greek journalist shot dead outside his Athens home](#)

Two individuals on a motorbike shot a prominent Greek crime reporter Giorgos Karaivaz near his home in the capital.

United Kingdom / Hong Kong – [UK grants Nathan Law asylum, reveals \\$59m fund for Hong Kongers](#)

Hong Kong pro-democracy activist, former legislator and student activist, Nathan Law fled to the UK in July 2020 in the weeks after China imposed the National Security Law.

Mozambique – [Mozambique sending medical team to identify Palma attack victims](#)

Mozambique is sending a medical team to identify the bodies of at least 12 victims beheaded by ISIL-linked fighters in last month’s attack.

Sudan – [Sudanese women march demanding equal rights](#)

Two years since the mass protests that led to the fall of the dictator Omar al-Bashir, hundreds of women rallied in Khartoum demanding reforms to ensure equality.

Saturday and Sunday
10 and 11 April
2021

Somalia – [Several dead as suicide bombing targets Somali regional governor](#)

On Saturday, a regional governor in Somalia has escaped a suicide bombing that killed at least three people, including two of his bodyguards, and wounded five more.

India – [Five killed in election violence in West Bengal state](#)

At least five people have been killed by gunfire in election-related clashes in India’s West Bengal state as rival parties blame each other for inciting the violence in battleground.

Ireland – [Irish PM warns against ‘spiral’ in Northern Ireland violence - Belfast protesters set fire to hijacked bus as violence continues](#)

The Irish prime minister warned against a “spiral back” into sectarian conflict in Northern Ireland after 14 police officers were injured in another night of clashes partly fueled by anger about post-Brexit trade barriers.

Spain – [Several migrants found dead on boat off Spain’s Canary Islands](#)

Four people were found dead on a migrant boat off the Canary Island of El Hierro and 16 others of the 23 people on the boat are in a ‘serious condition’, the Spanish Red Cross said. According to the UN, in 2020, 23,000 people arrived by boat to the archipelago while some 850 people died or went missing during the journey.