



► 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
29 March 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon orders probe into torture of detained Syrians](#)

The General Prosecutor, Mr. Ghassan Oueidat, ordered a probe into the alleged torture of more than 20 Syrians in custody after the report published last week by Amnesty International. That report accused Lebanese authorities of "cruel and abusive" treatment and torture perpetrated in prison or during interrogation.

Tripoli – [Tripoli Detainees Allege Torture, Forced Disappearance](#)

A new report by HRW denounced that the Military Intelligence forcibly disappeared and allegedly tortured several detainees who were protesting against the COVID 19 lockdown and bad economic conditions in the northern town of Tripoli.

Lebanon – [Opening of two investigations on Lebanese prisons](#)

The General Prosecutor, Mr. Ghassan Oueidat, started two investigations on the situation of Lebanese prisons, one on practice of torture and one on food safety.

Tuesday
30 March 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon's electricity cuts look set to worsen after a major power plant goes offline](#)

Citizens are going to experience even more hours of state electricity cuts in the next days, since a lack of gas oil forced one of the major power plants in southern Zahrani to stop its activity.

Lebanon – [Lebanon, « 123rd happiest country in the world »](#)

Considering the life quality, as well as positive and negative emotions and related effects, the UN classified the country at the 123rd place over 149 regarding the citizens' happiness.

Wednesday
31 March 2021

Lebanon – [In Lebanon, a person commits suicide every two days and a half](#)

The number of suicides in the country is alarmingly high and the first national study on the theme denounced that the average is one suicide every 60 hours. The work has been published by the Asian Journal of Psychiatry and refers to the period 2008-2018. Experts fear that the situation may now be worse, due to the ongoing crisis.

Lebanon – [Many of Lebanon's children 'may never get back to school'](#)

Save the Children expressed its concerns regarding the high number of children who have not been going to school since the beginning of the pandemic, in February 2020. Over 1,2 million of children are at risk of school dropout and lack of proper education, both Lebanese and Syrian refugees.

Thursday
1 April 2021

Lebanon – [Salameh to suspend subsidy program: Wazni](#)

According to Wazni, the Central Bank has around \$1.5 billion left for the subsidy program and it's not willing to continue this trend until the caretaker government arrives at a new plan to lift subsidies and issue prepaid cards for the at least 800,000 families in dire need.

Lebanon – [Traditional manousheh leaves tables in poverty-hit Lebanon](#)

Tens of thousands have lost their jobs or at least a huge part of the income in the financial crisis, which financial crisis that has deprived the Lebanese pound of 85% of its value

**Saturday and
Sunday**
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Lebanon / Syria – [Bodies of three Lebanese sisters wash up in Syria: security](#)

Syria returned to Lebanon the bodies of three Lebanese sisters that have washed up on its northern shores. Investigations are trying to determine if they had been kidnapped for ransom or tried to flee Lebanon on boats as refugees, as dozens of Lebanese have been doing for several months.



Monday
29 March 2021

Jordan – [Jordan: Yemeni Asylum Seekers Deported](#)

The authorities deported at least four asylum seekers from Yemen registered with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and issued deportation orders against others who made asylum claims. HRW said that Jordan's reputation for welcoming refugees is therefore "tarnished".

Syria / UN / European Union – [EU-UN Aid Conference Should Focus on Syrians' Rights](#)

EU and UN sponsored a two-day aid conference on "Supporting the future of Syria and the region", starting today. Considering the actual situation of Syria, HRW said that the focus should be on rights-respecting aid framework, in order to advance urgent protection, humanitarian, and accountability needs.

Qatar – [Male Guardianship Severely Curtails Women's Rights](#)

HRW released a report on Qatari women's condition and highlighted that they cannot be guardians of their own children at any time, because of the discriminatory male guardianship system. Men's position is therefore more powerful and they can easily exploit it, especially in divorce. Women's rights are restricted also regarding marriage, studies, work and traveling.

Tuesday
30 March 2021

Libya – [1,000 migrants intercepted and returned by the Libyan coast guard](#)

About 1,000 migrants have been intercepted in the sea and returned by the Libyan coast guard. In September 2020, Amnesty International published a report denouncing the "vicious cycle of cruelty" suffered by migrants trapped in the country. This year, the total number of people returned to Libya is around 5,000.

Turkey / European Union – [Time to Focus on Human Rights in EU's Turkey Agenda](#)

Although the Erdogan government is silencing and detaining journalists, opposers and anyone regarded as a critic by accusing them of terrorism, or applying new laws to stifle free speech and target civil society, the EU did not consider visible progress on human rights as a prerequisite for further relations with Turkey. After the Council meeting, human rights defenders have little hope.

Yemen – [UN experts blame Houthis for attack on Aden airport](#)

UN released a report blaming the Houthis for the deadly attack of Aden airport happened in December. The attack was carried out with missiles and killed at least 20 people, included the deputy Minister of Public Works. The Houthis commander said that the UN report "is unrealistic, biased, and lacks credibility".

Wednesday
31 March 2021

Iran / European Union – [EU to sanction Iran militia, police, three entities over 2019 protests](#)

EU shall target eight Iranian militia and police commanders and three state entities with sanctions because of a deadly crackdown that happened in November 2019. It is the first time that EU imposes sanctions on Iran for human rights abuses since 2013.

Saudi Arabia – [Saudi Arabia Condemns Abdullah Al-Huwaiti to Death after Covering Up his Torture, Despite Domestic Law Prohibiting the Minor's Execution](#)

Abdullah al-Huwaiti is a 18-year-old Saudi man on death row and could be executed although he was 14 at the time of the alleged crime. HRW denounced a grossly unfair trial against him and Al-Huwaiti himself wrote a letter to declare that interrogators subjected him to torture and ill-treatments. He shall be transferred to the Supreme Court in Riyadh for a final ruling.

Thursday
1 April 2021

Occupied Palestine – [No official Israeli response to ICC war crimes probe as deadline ends in 9 days](#)

The government has received official communication from the ICC three weeks ago, as some of the senior officials including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Benny Gantz could be held accountable for war crimes.

Friday
2 April 2021

Tunisia – [Suicide bomber kills herself and her baby in Tunisia](#)

Tunisian authorities said a female suicide bomber killed herself and her child and another small girl was wounded.

Syria – [How COVID-19 has overwhelmed ICUs in Syrian capital Damascus](#)

ICUs dedicated to coronavirus patients have reached full capacity across Damascus where many patients cannot be treated anymore.

Greece / Turkey – [Greece accuses Turkey of trying to provoke it with migrant boats](#)

Greece has accused Turkey of trying to provoke it by attempting to push boats carrying migrants into Greek waters, what Ankara denied, accusing Greece of pushing back 231 migrants in seven incidents.

**Saturday and
Sunday**
3 and 4 April 2021

United Arab Emirates – [Dubai police arrest group over 'lewd' video of naked women](#)

Police arrested a group of people on charges of public debauchery over a widely shared 'indecent' video that showed a dozen of naked women posing on a balcony in the city.

Turkey – [Pro-Kurdish legislator who lost seat is detained in Turkey](#)

The Turkish police arrested Omer Faruk Gergerlioglu, a human rights advocate and a prominent pro-Kurdish party politician, few weeks after he was deprived of his parliamentary seat due to his conviction following a social media post that the courts deemed "terrorist propaganda."

Syria – [Russian activists issue report on rights abuses in Syria](#)

Activists from the Memorial Human Rights Center released a report that chronicles alleged war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law during the conflict in Syria. They interviewed over 150 Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, several European nations and Russia.

Yemen – [Houthis abduct, deport hundreds of migrants from Sanaa](#)

More than 220 African refugees, including 55 women, have been kidnapped and forcibly deported from outside UN offices in Sanaa by Iran-backed Houthis.

Iran / United States – [US calls on Iran to release all American citizens wrongfully detained](#)

The US on Friday reiterated previous calls for Iran to release and safe return of all American citizens detained in the country.



INTERNATIONAL

Monday
29 March 2021

Hungary – [It is high time for Hungary to restore journalistic and media freedoms](#)

The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Dunja Mijatović, declared that media pluralism and freedom of expression in the country are at risk because of the government's strategy that is systematically undermining independent and professional journalism and curtailing the free exchange of diverse opinions.

Mozambique – [Hundreds Missing After Mozambique Attack](#)

Hundreds of people are still missing five days after the IS-linked armed group known as Al-Shabab attacked the town of Palma in the northern province of Cabo Delgado. The number of the civilian victims of the attack is still undefined according to the Defense Ministry.

Myanmar / Australia – [Myanmar coup: Australia urged to give Hawke government-style amnesty to students](#)

The Myanmar's military junta is continuing to kill civilians on the street, escalating its brutal crackdown on demonstrators demanding the reinstatement of the democratically elected civilian government. The last attack on the "Day of Armed forces" killed over 100 peaceful protesters. A 13-year-old boy was shot by Security Forces last Saturday. Several Australian politicians have demanded to grant protection for Myanmarese students currently in Australia.

Rwanda – [Rwanda: Arrests, Prosecutions over YouTube Posts](#)

HRW expressed its concerns for bloggers' situation in the country, since the authorities have threatened, arrested, or prosecuted at least eight of them who were reporting or commenting on current affairs on YouTube over the past year.

Tuesday
30 March 2021

Poland – [Escalating Threats to Women Activists](#)

Human Rights Watch, CIVICUS, and International Planned Parenthood Federation-European Network expressed their concerns for bombs and death threats which are targeting several groups of supporters of the women's rights and the right to abortion. In the country there is a "increasingly hostile and even violent environment for women's rights".

Poland / European Union – [European Commission refers Poland to the Court of Justice](#)

The European Commission decided to refer Poland to Court of Justice for failing to respect independence of judges, and asked for interim measures until a final judgement on the case is issued.

United States – [US State Department Re-Commits to Reporting on Reproductive Rights](#)

The State Department released its annual Country Reports on Human Rights. HRW and other human rights organizations criticized the absence of a mention of key reproductive rights, already cut under Trump administration, but Secretary of State Antony Blinken guarantees that addendums will be ensured in future analysis and works.

Uzbekistan – [Uzbekistan: Independent Blogger Attacked](#)

Miraziz Bazarov, an 29-year-old independent blogger who had publicly defended lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights, was brutally attacked by unidentified assailants in the capital, Tashkent. Homophobic episodes are also increasing in the country.

Wednesday
31 March 2021

France – [French #MeToo founder wins 'historic' defamation appeal](#)

The appeals court overturned the defamation conviction of Sandra Muller, the journalist who coined the hashtag #balancetonporc ("expose your pig") as a French version of the #MeToo movement. In September 2019, she had been condemned to pay 15,000 euros in damages to the man she accused of sexual harassment. Several activists are calling it "*un jour historique pour la cause des femmes*".

Germany – [New Policy to Champion LGBTI Rights Abroad](#)

HRW declared that the LGBTI Inclusion Strategy shall further the country's role in promoting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people abroad, adopting a multifaceted strategy for foreign policy and development cooperation.

Greece – [Lead Contamination Threat to Migrants Unresolved](#)

The government soil testing showed dangerous levels of toxic lead in the areas of Lesbos migrant camp. Nevertheless, the government is still accommodating dozens of families in the contaminated areas, with a high risk for their health.

Hong Kong – [Hong Kong's Jimmy Lai, Martin Lee Found Guilty Over 2019 Protest](#)

The authorities convicted several activists of the pro-democracy movement for organizing the protests in 2019. Among them, the former legislator Martin Lee (known as the Hong Kong's "father of democracy"), the labor leader Lee Cheuk-Yan and the Apple Daily publisher Jimmy Lai.

Hungary – [The Hidden Danger in Hospitals for Hungary's Covid-19 Patients](#)

HRW denounced that in the hospitals there is a high risk of serious illness and death resulting from hospital-acquired infections. The hygiene is poor, as well as the isolation of the infectious patients. Moreover, hand soap, hand sanitizer and toilet paper are generally not provided in public hospitals, and often patients have to bring their own.

United Kingdom – [UK Home Office under investigation for lack of transparency over use of citizenship deprivation](#)

The Information Commissioner's Office opened an investigation on the Home Office for alleged lack of transparency. The facts refer to the refusal to disclose the number of women deprived of their British citizenship after travelling to join the Islamic State.

Ethiopia – [Gunmen kill 30 people in western Ethiopia, witnesses say](#)

In the latest outbreak of ethnic violence, gunmen allegedly from the Oromo Liberation Front killed at least 30 civilians and wounded 15 others in the region of Oromia.

Mozambique – [Joy, agony as boat brings Mozambique attack survivors to safety](#)

Over 1,200 survivors of the deadly attack on the town of Palma in northern Mozambique last week safely arrived by boat in Capo Delgado.

Cameroun – [Violence in Cameroon's Anglophone crisis takes high civilian toll](#)

Experts warn that the country is on the verge of backsliding to 'fragile state' status, as the anglophone regions is taking an increasingly heavy toll on civilians, with renewed attacks against schools, incidents involving improvised explosive devices and extrajudicial killings.

Pakistan – [Pakistan lifts TikTok ban for a second time](#)

The country media regulatory agency has lifted a second ban imposed on TikTok after a court last month banned it for "immoral and unethical" content after the app again offered to moderate uploads.

United States / Mexico – [Smugglers drop children over US-Mexico border wall](#)

Two little Ecuadorian girls were dropped from the top of a wall on the US-Mexico border by smugglers before being picked up by US officers.

Philippines – [Record number of Filipino lawyers killed under Duterte's watch](#)

At least 61 lawyers, prosecutors and judges were killed in the last five years, asking the NU to help investigate.

Myanmar – [Myanmar facing 'bloodbath', UN envoy tells Security Council](#)

Christine Schraner Burgener warns closed-door briefing of civil war and implored the Security Council to take action to avert 'catastrophe'.

Mali – [Four peacekeepers killed in northern Mali attack: UN](#)

According to the United Nations mission in Mali, four peacekeepers were killed, and several others wounded in an attack on its base in the town of Aguelhok.

Democratic Republic of the Congo – [Oxfam suspends DR Congo staff over sexual misconduct claims](#)

British aid charity Oxfam says it has suspended two staff members as part of an investigation into alleged sexual misconduct and bullying.

Colombia – [Venezuelan offensive sends thousands of civilians into Colombia](#)

More than 5,000 civilians have now fled across the Arauca river into Colombia, where the military faces serious human rights abuse accusations such as extrajudicial killings, beatings and arbitrary detentions.

Thursday
1 April 2021

Friday
2 April 2021

**Saturday and
Sunday**
3 and 4 April 2021

United Kingdom – [‘Divisive and discriminatory’: UK MPs to oppose COVID passports](#)

If the so-called vaccine passport is supposed to help to reopen the country, legislators from across the political spectrum and rights groups condemn this ‘discriminatory’ certificate.

Germany – [Syrian refugee quits bid for German parliament seat over racism](#)

Calls grow to protect minority politicians as Tareq Alaows, an activist who had hoped to become Germany’s first Syrian refugee MP has stepped aside after receiving death threats.

India – [Anti-India protests erupt in Kashmir after troops kill 3 rebels](#)

At least four civilians were injured in the protest that erupted following the killing of three suspected rebels by Indian soldiers in Indian-administered Kashmir.

United States – [Seven Texas officers fired after probe into Black inmate’s death](#)

Seven officers involved in the custodial death of Marvin Scott III, a Black jail inmate, have been fired after having violated procedures of the sheriff’s office.

Myanmar – [Myanmar death toll edges up to 550 as online crackdown tightens](#)

Security forces opened fire on protesters on Saturday raising the death toll to 550 civilians since the February Military coup.

Somalia – [Suicide bomber kills five in Mogadishu tea shop attack](#)

Five civilians, including a child, have been killed and four others wounded when a suicide bomber detonated himself in a tea shop frequented by young people

Niger – [Niger body urges independent probe into ‘rapes’ by Chadian troops](#)

Human rights commission calls for an independent inquiry following allegations of rape by Chadian soldiers, including of an 11-year-old girl.

India – [Indian security personnel killed after ambush by Maoists](#)

At least 22 Indian security personnel were killed and 30 injured in an ambush by Maoist rebels when they raided a hideout in Chhattisgarh state.

United Kingdom – [‘Kill the bill’: More than 100 arrests at London protest](#)

107 people were arrested in London during Saturday’s demonstrations where thousands marched to protest against the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, which would increase police powers.