



► 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

Tuesday
25 January 2022

Lebanon – [World Bank: Lebanon's meltdown threatens social peace](#)

A World Bank report shows Lebanese GDP plummeted from close to \$52 billion in 2019 to a projected \$21.8 billion in 2021. The World Bank faults the Lebanese government for its inaction and claimed the 'Lebanese government urgently needs to move forward with the adoption of a credible, comprehensive and equitable macro-financial stabilization and recovery plan and accelerate its implementation if it is to avoid a complete destruction of its social and economic networks and immediately stop irreversible loss of human capital.'

Lebanon – [Mental health in Lebanon: What to expect in the near future](#)

The trauma of Lebanon's economic crisis and the lingering effects of decades of conflict are taking a toll on mental health. Although NGOs have improved access to mental health, the lack of government welfare or private insurance coverage means few Lebanese can afford mental health services such as therapy.

Wednesday
26 January 2022

Beirut – [Interview: Phone of HRW Director Attacked Using Pegasus Spyware](#)

NSO Group surveillance technology used by multiple governments has been used to target journalists, activists, politicians, and diplomats. The software, called Pegasus, was recently used to hack the iPhone of the director of Human Rights Watch's Crisis and Conflict Division. The identity and motivation of the hacker remains unknown.

Lebanon – [Aoun condemns fresh attack on UN forces in Lebanon, announces probe](#)

UNIFIL peacekeepers were attacked in Ramyeh on Tuesday during a routine patrol. A UNIFIL spokesperson said 'the attackers sabotaged two vehicles and stole a number of items.' The area where these attacks took place is considered critical to Hezbollah as it is adjacent to the border, where several important Israeli military positions are found on the other side.

Thursday
27 January 2022

Lebanon – [Lebanese mothers and fathers push for expanded parental leave](#)

Current Lebanese law requires 10 weeks of maternity leave, but does not mandate paternity leave. The Arab Institute for Women and the Lebanese American University worked with NGOs and other stakeholders to develop a draft law that would require companies to give mothers 15 weeks off from work after giving birth and 10 days off for fathers.

Beirut – [After weeks on the streets, Kenyan domestic workers begin to be repatriated](#)

Three Kenyan domestic workers, who were part of a group of around 30 women who had been installed outside Kenya's honorary consulate in Badaro since the beginning of the month, were finally able to return home last week. These women were forced to live in the streets, some without papers – their employers having seized them on their arrival – either because they had fled from their homes after being mistreated, or because they had simply been abandoned by them, on the grounds that they no longer had the means to pay them because of the economic crisis.

Friday
28 January 2022

Lebanon – [Lebanon crisis robbing young people of their futures: UNICEF](#)

UNICEF published a report on Friday showing how the crisis is forcing young people to drop out of school and engage in ill-paid, irregular work just to survive and help feed their families.

Lebanon – [Lebanon's economic crisis is reshaping career planning for university students](#)

The economic crisis is forcing young people to abandon their professional dreams to pursue more practical goals. One student, Abdo El Hayek, changed his major from medicine to pharmacy at Lebanese American University (LAU), as the cost of tuition in the school of pharmacy is lower. Enrollment in LAU's cheapest majors has dramatically increased since the beginning of the crisis.

Saturday and Sunday
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2022

Lebanon – [Gender inequality, an endemic evil, not collateral damage](#)

Women's rights in Lebanon are left behind as politicians claim Lebanon's economic crisis takes precedence. Yet, women are greatly underrepresented in politics and violence against women remains prevalent. Despite civil society advocacy, a lack of gender equality is viewed as collateral damage from Lebanon's other crises.



Monday
January 2022

Syria – [Syria prison attack shows ISIL 'absolutely' growing stronger](#)

A brazen ISIL attack on a prison in northeast Syria was the group's largest attack in Syria since the fall of its so-called caliphate in 2019. More than 100 people have been killed and tens of thousands of civilians have reportedly fled the fighting. Hundreds of the group's detainees escaped al-Sina'a prison, the largest in the world for ISIL members. According to Counter Extremism Project analyst Gregory Waters, ISIL in Syria is "absolutely" growing stronger.

Sudan – [Sudanese women's rights activist Amira Osman arrested in raid](#)

Armed men have arrested prominent Sudanese women's rights campaigner Amira Osman in a night-time raid on her home in Sudan's capital Khartoum, her sister said. Osman's arrest comes amid, what activists say, a campaign of arrests of civil society and pro-democracy figures since a military takeover in October. Oman's family does not know which agency arrested her, or where she is being held.

Tuesday
25 January 2022

Bahrain – [Bahraini political dissident extradited from Serbia](#)

A Bahraini political dissident has been extradited from Serbia following an Interpol Red Notice, the interior ministry said, despite a ruling by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) prohibiting the extradition. Ali had been convicted of "terrorism-related offenses" – a charge often handed down to many who are perceived by the state as dissidents. Bahrain has prosecuted hundreds of protesters and banned main opposition groups after a failed uprising in 2011 that was led by members of the Shia Muslim majority in the country and crushed with the help of neighbor Saudi Arabia.

Egypt – [EU-Egypt counterterrorism forum bid 'affront' to human rights: HRW](#)

Human Rights Watch has urged the European Union not to launch a proposed joint bid with Egypt to lead a global counterterrorism body, deploring the country's nation's treatment of critics. The EU in concert with Egypt intends 'to diminish terrorist recruitment and increase countries' civilian capabilities for dealing with terrorist threats', yet activists criticize Egypt for targeting opposition by labeling them as terrorist threats.

Occupied Palestinian Territory – [Why is the Palestinian Authority cracking down on opposition?](#)

The Palestinian Authority (PA) has intensified its crackdown on political opponents in the Israeli-occupied West Bank over the past months. The PA run by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party has since November obstructed welcome events held upon the release of Palestinian prisoners affiliated with other political parties, and have disrupted funeral processions for Palestinians killed by Israel in an effort to suppress public displays of support for rival parties.

Wednesday
26 January 2022

Sudan – [Sudanese protest against UN talks to resolve post-coup crisis](#)

Sudanese pro-military demonstrators have taken to the streets of the capital, Khartoum, to protest against a UN attempting to resolve a political crisis that has been marred by a wave of bloody protests since a military coup in October.

Syria – [The ISIS Hostages: 'These Children Should Not Have Been There'](#)

700 boys were detained in the prison ISIS captured this week. The boys were children of former ISIS fighters, held by Kurdish forces for three years with no schooling or access to visitors. The Kurdish-led militia that operates the prison, known as the Syrian Democratic Forces, or S.D.F., says that the children's ties to the Islamic State make them dangerous, while rights groups say the imprisonment could fuel the very radicalization that the authorities who locked them up say they want to prevent.

Thursday
27 January 2022

Oman – [Oman women demand 'equal partnership' as divorce rates rise](#)

With better education opportunities and good office jobs, Omani women are now challenging tradition and questioning marriage more than ever before by demanding equal life partnerships. Official statistics show more than 3,800 divorces were filed in 2021, a rise of 12 percent compared with a year earlier. More women in Oman are now seeking divorce compared with 10 years ago, government data indicate.

Yemen – [Yemen civilians bear the brunt of escalating Houthi-UAE conflict](#)

The escalation of tensions between Yemen's Houthi rebels and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) prompted humanitarian organizations on the ground to sound the alarm, as the United Nations forecasts January will "almost certainly" be a record-shattering month for civilian casualties in the country.

Jordan – [Jordanian military kills 27 in shoot-out with Syrian smugglers](#)

The Jordanian troops have killed 27 suspected smugglers attempting to enter the country from neighboring Syria, they said, adding that some others also carrying drugs fled back into Syria. The Jordanian Army said it was 'continuing to apply the newly established rules of engagement and will strike with an iron fist and deal with force and firmness with any infiltration or smuggling attempts to protect the borders'.

Friday
28 January 2022

Egypt – [Freed activist Ramy Shaath says Egypt is 'a big cell'](#)

Egyptian-Palestinian activist Ramy Shaath denounced Egypt as "a big cell" weeks after his release from jail and departure for France, saying he was determined to keep fighting for the Palestinian cause despite threats against his family. He said of the hundreds of people with whom he shared cramped, crowded prison cells during his incarceration, 'all of them had the same exact accusation with absolutely no proof, no substance, no incidence, nothing. Just a few words they tell you and that is enough to keep you in detention.'

Saturday and Sunday
29 and 30 January 2022

Occupied Palestine – [Destruction of Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem goes to ICC](#)

Hundreds of Palestinians are facing forced expulsion from homes in East Jerusalem, which Palestinians want to be their future capital. But one family, the Salhiyehs, is taking the Israeli authorities to the International Criminal Court (ICC) after they were evicted from their home in Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem last week, and the subsequent destruction of their home by the Jerusalem Municipality.

Yemen – [Rights groups warn Biden against re-blacklisting Yemen's Houthis](#)

A year after revoking Yemen's Houthi rebels 'terrorist' designation, the Biden administration is reconsidering. The United Arab Emirates openly requested that the US re-blacklist the Houthis after the rebels carried out missile and drone attacks against Abu Dhabi on January 17, killing three people. The US' terrorist designation would have potentially "devastating" effects on Yemeni civilians' access to life-saving humanitarian aid.

Egypt – [US cancels \\$130m military aid for Egypt over rights concerns](#)

The Biden administration has announced that it is canceling \$130m in military aid to Egypt over human rights concerns, just days after the United States approved a massive \$2.5 billion arms sale to the country.



INTERNATIONAL

Monday
24 January 2022

Guatemala – [Guatemala: Anti-Trans Bill Threatens Rights](#)

A group of lawmakers in Guatemala has advanced a bill that would stigmatize transgender people and curtail children's and adolescents' rights to education, information, and health. Bill 5940 uses the rhetoric of protecting children and adolescents from "gender identity disorders" to justify a patently discriminatory measure that would ban the dissemination of any information about transgender identity in school sex education curricula. The bill would also require media outlets to label programs with transgender content, which the bill likens to pornography, as "not recommended" for children under 18.

Venezuela – [UN Reviews Venezuela's Poor Human Rights Record](#)

On January 25, United Nations Human Rights Council members will review Venezuela's abysmal human rights record during its Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The Nicolás Maduro regime continues to harass and prosecute independent journalists and civil society organizations working to address the country's ongoing human rights and humanitarian emergency, which has left millions of Venezuelans unable to access basic health care and adequate nutrition. More than 6 million Venezuelans have fled the country, generating the largest migration crisis in Latin America.

Tuesday
25 January 2022

Guatemala – [Guatemala Sentences Former Fighters to 30 Years in Prison for Rape](#)

A top Guatemalan court has sentenced five former paramilitary members to 30 years in prison for crimes against humanity. The charges were based on the rape of five women at the hands of a pro-government militia fighting leftist rebels.

United States – [Dozens Are Reported Missing After Boat Capsizes Off Florida Coast](#)

The U.S. Coast Guard said late Tuesday that it would search through the night for 39 people who went missing days earlier after a boat carrying them from the Bahamas capsized off the Atlantic coast of Florida. The Coast Guard suspects the boat was part of a human smuggling venture.

Kazakhstan – [Kazakhstan's Longtime Leader Is Gone, but Still Seemingly Everywhere](#)

Nursultan Nazarbayev ruled Kazakhstan for decades with an iron fist, but disappeared into thin air following violent protests that spread throughout the country. His hand-picked successor now rules the country, and has promised overhauls to address the country's ballooning inequality. Yet, with Nazarbayev's pervasive legacy, many wonder if change will ever come.

Wednesday
26 January 2022

Mexico – [Killing Spree Spurs Outrage Among Journalists in Mexico](#)

In a country where the brutal killings of journalists are almost routine, a recent spree of violent deaths has provoked a rare outpouring of public outrage among reporters and everyday citizens alike in Mexico. The string of killings has underscored the dangerous environment that media workers in the country face: According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, nine journalists were killed in Mexico last year, making it one of the deadliest countries in the world for reporters, alongside India and Afghanistan.

Thursday
27 January 2022

Burkina Faso – [Burkina Faso: Coup Puts Rights at Risk](#)

On January 24, mid-level army officers, protesting the government's handling of an Islamist insurgency and insufficient support for soldiers, staged a coup against President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré. Human Rights Watch said in a statement, 'the authorities should give priority to the humane treatment of people in custody, respect freedoms of the media and rights defenders, and ensure that counterterrorism operations respect basic rights.'

China – [Beijing Olympics Begin Amid Atrocity Crimes](#)

The 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics will open amid atrocity crimes and other grave human rights violations by the Chinese government, 243 nongovernmental organizations from around the world said today. Under President Xi Jinping, Chinese authorities have been committing mass abuses against independent faith groups, eliminated independent civil society, eviscerated a once-vibrant civil society in Hong Kong, expanded tech-enabled surveillance, and allowed the use of forced labor, in violation of international law.

Friday
28 January 2022

Myanmar – [A year after Myanmar's coup, families of detainees search for answers](#)

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), a non-profit that has been documenting arrests and killings, estimates more than 8,000 people are detained in prisons and interrogation centers, including former civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi and most of her cabinet, while about 1,500 have been killed.

Russia / Ukraine – ['Horrific' destruction, casualties if Russia invades Ukraine](#)

If Russia unleashes the forces it has amassed near Ukraine's border to invade its neighbor, the outcome would be "horrific" and result in significant casualties, the top U.S. military officer said on Friday, comparing this moment to the Cold War.

Guatemala – [Working with US, Guatemala detains 10 people in raids on migrant smugglers](#)

Guatemalan authorities working with the U.S. Homeland Security agency on Friday arrested 10 people in raids against a migrant smuggling group linked to the massacre of 19 people in Mexico last year. Sixteen of the 19 people killed in the gruesome massacre in the northeastern Mexican state of Tamaulipas state in January 2021 were Guatemalans. Their bodies, some badly charred and with gunshot wounds, were found along a migrant smuggling route in a remote area of Tamaulipas.

Saturday and Sunday
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2022

Spain – [More than 300 migrants rescued off Spain's Canary islands](#)

Spain's sea rescue service on Wednesday picked up more than 300 migrants trying to reach the Canary Islands in rickety boats, with nine of them clinging to a semi-sunken dinghy. The rescue service said it was unaware of any drownings as reported by a rights group.

Russia – [Putin orders apparent new system for banning internet content](#)

Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered his administration to consider an apparent new system to ban "toxic" internet content. Putin has hinted at plans for a more sweeping crackdown on online content, blaming the internet for corrupting youth and for fueling street protests by political opponents branded extremists by the authorities.

Ireland – [Ireland calls for justice on 50th anniversary of 'Bloody Sunday'](#)

Ireland on Sunday called on Britain to ensure justice for the families of 13 peaceful protesters shot dead by its soldiers on "Bloody Sunday" in 1972 as thousands marked the 50th anniversary of one of the defining days of the Northern Ireland conflict. None of those responsible for the shootings has been convicted and last July British prosecutors said the only British soldier charged with murder will not face trial - a decision that is being challenged by relatives.