



► 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

28 February 2022

Lebanon – [Lebanon to Send Planes to Poland to Help Nationals Trapped in Ukraine](#)

Lebanon will cover the expenses of the evacuation of Lebanese nationals trapped in Ukraine, a Lebanese official said. Interior Minister Bassam Mawlawi had assigned a specialized team from the ministry to evacuate the Lebanese, in coordination with the Red Cross in Lebanon and Ukraine and with the support of a Lebanese expatriate businessman. Meanwhile, Lebanese Ambassador to Ukraine Ali Daher said in a press interview that 300 Lebanese have already left Ukraine for nearby countries.

Tuesday

1 March 2022

Lebanon – [Lebanese stuck in Ukraine left to their own devices](#)

Many Lebanese trying to leave Ukraine in the midst of the Russian attack have had little help from the Lebanese government. Nearly 400 Lebanese have crossed the border and are awaiting repatriation flights, yet the Lebanese citizens stuck in Ukraine are left to their own devices. General Mohammad Kheir, the secretary of the committee entrusted with evacuating Lebanese citizens, said it would be beyond his power to help the Lebanese remaining in Ukraine. "We asked them to gather in groups in each city, and we would communicate with one of them," he said, adding that the Lebanese people "are accustomed to wars, and they know how to dodge security dangers."

Wednesday
2 March 2022

Akkar – [The Akkar civilians who serve as nighttime vigilantes](#)

The economic crisis is leaving a security vacuum across the country, contributing to a rise in petty crimes and theft. In Lebanon's northern Akkar region, locals have formed vigilante groups to patrol their neighborhoods. Security forces have been unable to address the rising crime. The number of desertions in the police ranks has been on the rise since salaries deteriorated dramatically due to the devaluation of the national currency and ensuing rapid inflation.

Beirut – [40 Lebanese Fleeing Ukraine's War Land in Beirut](#)

A plane carrying 40 Lebanese students, who had been trapped in Ukraine, arrived Wednesday morning at Beirut's airport. It said that a series of contacts had been made by the committee's Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohamed Kheir, in cooperation with the Foreign Ministry, a Lebanese expatriate businessman and the Lebanese Embassy in Romania. Businessman Mohamad Murad hosted the 40 Lebanese students in Romania and bought their tickets, the National News Agency said.

Lebanon – [Lebanese Long for IS-Linked Relatives Stuck in Syria Camps](#)

Dozens of Lebanese families are demanding that Beirut repatriates their IS-linked relatives stuck in overcrowded camps like Al-Hol in northeast Syria. Tripoli, one of the poorest places in Lebanon, has seen hundreds of young men join jihadist and opposition groups in Syria since 2011. Al-Hol shelters 56,000 refugees, most of whom fled or surrendered during the dying days of IS's self-proclaimed "caliphate" in March 2019. Many of the residents are foreigners, yet their home countries have been slow and hesitant to repatriate former jihadists.

Thursday
3 March 2022

Lebanon – [Sajita Lama reunited with her mother after a decade of slavery](#)

Nepalese worker Sajita Lama was reunited with her mother in Nepal after ten years of imprisonment in the home of her employers in Lebanon. This is Lebanon called on the Lebanese judiciary to prosecute the Khourys, especially since they still owe her \$22,000 in monthly dues. The page also revealed three similar cases of domestic workers imprisoned inside homes for a decade.

Friday
4 March 2022

Lebanon – [Paying a lot more for much less: The woes of an insurance industry and its clients in a crisis-ridden land](#)

The insurance industry has struggled since the onset of the economic crisis. For patients and other insurance customers, the industry's financial woes have translated into more out-of-pocket expenses, higher costs for insurance and, in some cases, to individuals being denied policies altogether.

Lebanon – [State losing stature, crime rising as economic gloom envelops Lebanon](#)

Theft of state property is on the rise in Lebanon, as citizens are living in poverty and have few ties left with the government that put them there. Thieves are stealing away manhole covers, handrails from bridges, and even the metal poles demarking minefields.

Saturday and Sunday
5 and 6 March 2022

Lebanon – [Amid market uncertainty and anticipated fuel price increases, gas lines return to Lebanon](#)
Saturday saw the return of lengthy gas station lines in various parts of Lebanon, amid warnings of potential impending fuel shortages and price fluctuations as part of the fallout of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Lebanon – [Lebanon faces exodus of its most educated citizens](#)

Lebanon has always had a huge diaspora after waves of emigration over the past two centuries, and once again, as the country sinks deeper into economic meltdown, it faces a new exodus of its brightest and best-educated citizens. Experts warn of the long-term impact of the mass emigration of the skilled. Saroj Kumar Jha, World Bank Mashreq regional director, said that the quality of education in Lebanon had been declining even before the crisis and the departure of highly skilled doctors and teachers meant there was not the flow of "human capital" to replace them.



REGIONAL Middle East

Monday
28 February 2022

Yemen – [UN Security Council extends Yemen arms embargo to all Houthis](#)

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has extended an arms embargo to all Houthi rebels, as the Yemeni group faces increased international pressure after a string of recent attacks on Gulf countries. The Houthis have ramped up their attacks against Saudi Arabia and started directly targeting the UAE in recent weeks. Monday's UNSC resolution described the Houthis as a "terrorist group". Norway said it chose to abstain from the UNSC vote because it was "worried that using such terminology, absent a clear definition, may have [a] negative impact on UN efforts to facilitate a political solution in Yemen".

Tuesday
1 March 2022

Occupied Palestine – [Israeli top court suspends Palestinian evictions in Sheikh Jarrah](#)

Israel's Supreme Court has ruled that a group of Palestinian families slated for eviction from the occupied East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah can remain in their homes for the time being. The court ruled on Tuesday that the four families could stay in their homes until Israel carried out a land arrangement, a process that could take years or may not be carried out at all.

Occupied Palestine – [Several Palestinians killed by Israeli forces: Ministry](#)

Three Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces in two different incidents in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian health ministry said. Ammar Shafiq Abu Afifa was killed by "Israeli occupation forces shooting at him near the town of Beit Fajar", the ministry said on Tuesday. Separately, Israeli forces killed two Palestinians before dawn on Tuesday after coming under fire during an arrest raid in the northern West Bank, Israeli border police and Palestinian health authorities said.

Wednesday
2 March 2022

Ukraine – [Arab refugees see double standards in Europe's embrace of Ukrainians](#)

In the Arab world, where 12 million Syrians have been uprooted by war, critics contrast the Western reaction to the refugee crisis triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine with the way Europe sought to hold back Syrian and other refugees in 2015. EU states have welcomed over 400,000 refugees from Ukraine in the past two weeks and expect millions more. The EU is preparing measures which would offer temporary residence permits as well as access to employment and social welfare. By early 2021, 10 years after Syria's conflict erupted, EU states had taken in one million Syrian refugees and asylum seekers, of which Germany alone took more than half. Most of them arrived before a 2016 deal in which the EU paid billions of euros for Turkey to keep 3.7 million Syrians from breaching EU borders.

Yemen / Ukraine – ['Horrifying': Yemeni students flee war in Ukraine](#)

Hundreds of Yemeni students are caught up in the Russian war in Ukraine, according to Yemeni and international volunteers trying to evacuate them. So far, 65 Yemeni students have safely fled Ukraine, almost entirely through the Polish border with the help of a group of Yemeni and international volunteers called #YemenisInUkraine. The dozens of Yemenis who so far have safely reached Poland are trying to figure out what to do next. They are concerned that returning to Ukraine will not be possible anytime soon, and fear they would be sent back to Yemen.

Morocco / Spain – [Some 2,500 migrants, refugees try to cross Spain's Melilla border](#)

About 2,500 migrants and refugees from countries in sub-Saharan Africa have tried to cross the border fence separating the Spanish enclave of Melilla from Morocco, with about 500 managing to do so, in one of the largest influxes in recent years. Spain's border with Morocco is the EU's only land border with Africa, and is the favored entry point for African refugees seeking a better life in Europe.

Thursday
3 March 2022

United States – [US Supreme Court blocks testimony over Guantanamo detainee](#)

The United States Supreme Court has ruled that two former CIA contractors cannot be questioned in a criminal investigation in Poland over their role in interrogating Abu Zubaydah, a suspected high-ranking al-Qaeda figure who was repeatedly subjected to waterboarding. Poland is believed to be the location of a "black site" where the CIA used harsh interrogation techniques against Zubaydah. Zubaydah, now 50, has spent more than 15 years at the US jail at Guantanamo Bay. He lost an eye and underwent waterboarding 83 times in a single month while held by the CIA, US government documents showed.

Friday
4 March 2022

Sudan – [Sudan's latest coup is crippling its frail health sector](#)

At Ibrahim Malek hospital in Sudan's capital Khartoum, anesthetics are in such short supply that patients sometimes wake up while still on the operating table. Staff say they have stopped receiving medical supplies from the Ministry of Health since Sudan's October 25 military coup. The sector is on the verge of collapse as protests persist nationwide against the coup. Hospital directors and health officials have been replaced with Bashir-era cronies – many of whom have been accused or implicated in corruption scandals – after international aid to the tune of billions of dollars was paused because of the coup. This has led to shortages of drugs and equipment as well as a spike in medical costs across the public sector, say doctors and former health workers.

Syria – [Syrians recount horror under Russian air attacks](#)

Often seen as one of the most brutal battles in the Syrian civil war, pro-government forces retook the city of Aleppo from the rebels in 2016. That bloody offensive was made possible by Russia's heavy aerial bombardment, including targeting civilian facilities such as hospitals and schools. Now, as Russian forces continue their invasion deeper into the heartland of Ukraine and launch more intense air strikes on urban areas, Syrians are recalling the horror from attacks orchestrated by the same military.

Saudi Arabia – [Saudi Arabia: Alleged Child Offender Again Sentenced to Death](#)

A Saudi man who was 14 at the time of his alleged crime and whose previous death penalty conviction was overturned by the Saudi Supreme Court was sentenced to death again on March 2, 2022, by a lower criminal court, Human Rights Watch said today. The ruling flouts the international ban on the child death penalty and Saudi authorities' own promises that no child offenders will be executed.

Pakistan – [ISIS Claims Bombing of Pakistani Mosque, Killing Dozens](#)

A bomb tore through a Shiite mosque in Peshawar, in northwestern Pakistan, on Friday, killing at least 57 people and wounding more than 100 in one of the worst terrorist attacks in Pakistan in several years. The Islamic State's regional affiliate, Islamic State Khorasan, or ISIS-K, claimed responsibility.

Saturday and Sunday
5 and 6 March 2022

Ukraine – ['There's Poland, now walk': Arab students' ordeal out of Ukraine](#)

The Ukrainian Army stopped a bus of foreign passengers, including a group of ten Arab students, forced them to leave the bus and pointed them towards Poland, and told them to walk. Then they packed the bus with Ukrainians and allowed the bus to continue to the border. The foreigners had to continue on foot in sub-zero temperatures and were turned away from the homes and stores that had opened their doors and offered their hospitality to Ukrainians.



INTERNATIONAL

Tuesday

1 March 2022

Guatemala – [In Guatemala, A Fresh Crackdown on Prosecutors](#)

Following the most recent corruption allegations against Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei, Attorney General Consuelo Porras issued a new round of arrest warrants for anti-corruption prosecutors from her own office, which had been investigating the president and other high-level officials. Some are now behind bars. Many others have resigned or fled the country. For years, Guatemala's leaders have undermined the rule of law and democracy in an apparent effort to avoid accountability for widespread high-level corruption.

Wednesday

2 March 2022

Worldwide – [Global Plastics Treaty: A Historic Opportunity to Protect Human Rights](#)

Today, parties to the United Nations Environment Assembly agreed to establish a committee to draft a treaty addressing the global plastics crisis. This is a historic commitment by countries to work together to finally tackle the environmental and human costs of plastics. While often framed as a strictly environmental pollution issue, plastics have significant impacts on human rights throughout their lifecycle. The fossil fuels used to create plastics contribute to climate change, and microplastics leach into the environment when plastic breaks down and pollute agricultural soils, threatening communities' food security, drinking water and health.

Brazil – [Brazil's Supreme Court Orders Plan to Reform Rio de Janeiro Police](#)

Police abuse is a chronic human rights problem that Human Rights Watch has worked on for decades in Brazil. In the last five years, Brazilian police killed 22,000 people, most of them Black. On February 3, 2022, Brazil's Supreme Court ordered Rio de Janeiro, a state where the problem of police abuse is particularly dire, to draft a plan to curb police killings that includes concrete measures, a timeline, and budget

Afghanistan – [Afghan Women Watching the Walls Close In](#)

Since taking power, the Taliban have rolled back women's rights in virtually every area, including crushing women's freedom of movement. Women are unable to return to school, women can't leave the country without a male chaperone, and many women can't access healthcare without a male chaperone.

Ukraine / Russia – [Ukraine: Countries Request ICC War Crimes Inquiry](#)

Thirty-eight governments have taken a significant step toward ensuring documentation of potential war crimes by asking the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor to open an investigation in Ukraine, Human Rights Watch said today. On February 28, 2022, the ICC prosecutor, Karim Khan, signaled his intention to seek to open a formal inquiry. Human Rights Watch and others have documented serious violations of the laws of war by Russian forces in Ukraine, including the use of cluster munitions that hit a hospital and a preschool. According to the United Nations, civilian casualties from the first days of the conflict are at 536, including 136 deaths.

Thursday

3 March 2022

Greece / Ukraine / Russia – [Greece Should Know that Refugees Can Come from Anywhere](#)

Ukrainians are the "real refugees," Greece's migration minister, Notis Mitarachi, declared on March 1 before the Hellenic Parliament. What he was trying to say was that the people fleeing devastating conflict and persecution in Afghanistan, Syria, and other countries who are coming to Greece are not. He claims migrants who come to Greece through Turkey are illegitimate as they did not apply for asylum in Turkey, despite the fact that Turkey does not meet the EU regulations for a safe third country to which an asylum seeker can be returned.

Ukraine / Russia – [First Thing: Russia captures Kherson as Ukrainian refugees climb to 1m](#)

Russia has captured the city of Kherson. The Black Sea port has become the first major Ukrainian target to fall under the de facto control of Russia forces. As the international criminal court said it had begun collecting evidence of possible war crimes in Ukraine, Kherson's mayor, Igor Kolykhaiev, said in a Facebook post today Russian troops were in control of the city hall and that residents should obey a curfew imposed by "armed visitors".

Friday
4 March 2022

Ukraine / Russia – [Russia Instructs Teachers to Spread Disinformation About Ukraine](#)

This week, Russia's Education Ministry provided schoolteachers with "information for a social studies session." The approved line for Russian teachers to tell their students is that Russia invaded Ukraine because "our policy is freedom, freedom of choice for everyone to independently determine their own future and the future of their children." If children ask whether Russia is at war, teachers should answer no: it is conducting a "special peacekeeping operation" to stop a "nightmare of genocide" against "millions" of ethnic Russians and Russian speakers in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The Russian leadership "does not like to wage wars, create conflicts and succumb to provocations," has "done everything possible to resolve the situation by peaceful, political means," and is "not going to impose anything on anyone by force."

Ukraine / Russia – [Russia: With War, Censorship Reaches New Heights](#)

Between February 28 and March 3, 2022, the Russian authorities blocked access to at least eight Russian media sites. On March 3, the leading independent news radio station Echo of Moscow closed its doors after three decades of uninterrupted broadcasting. The same day, Dozhd TV announced that it would temporarily suspend its broadcasting because the new draft law will force it to lie. Earlier, at least one Russian radio station announced that it would no longer continue broadcasting in its usual format because staff "don't want to lie" and could not continue their journalistic work.

Ukraine / Russia – [Ukraine: Unequal Treatment for Foreigners Attempting to Flee](#)

Foreigners living in Ukraine have faced unequal treatment and delays as they attempt to flee the war alongside hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians, Human Rights Watch said today. Interviews with three dozen foreign nationals, many of them international students, revealed a pattern of blocking or delaying foreigners from boarding buses and trains, apparently to prioritize evacuating Ukrainian women and children.

Ukraine / Russia – [Ukraine: Cluster Munitions Launched Into Kharkiv Neighborhoods](#)

Russian forces fired cluster munitions into at least three residential areas in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city, on February 28, 2022, Human Rights Watch said today. These attacks killed at least three civilians. Cluster munitions open in the air and disperse dozens, or even hundreds, of small submunitions over a large area. They often fail to explode on initial impact, leaving unexploded submunition duds that act like landmines if they are touched. An international treaty bans cluster munitions because of their widespread indiscriminate effect and long-lasting danger to civilians. Russia and Ukraine are not state parties to this treaty.

Madagascar – ['Infants here don't know how to eat': millions facing famine in Madagascar](#)

After four vicious storms in as many weeks and the worst drought in 40 years, there are fears that the hunger crisis facing 2 million people in southern Madagascar could become a famine. With record low rainfalls in the Grand Sud region, USAid's Famine Early Warning Network is warning that large-scale humanitarian support will be needed until next year.

Saturday and Sunday
5 and 6 March 2022

Ukraine – [As 1.3 million people flee, Ukraine's refugee crisis is only just beginning](#)

Just over a week after Russian rockets first began to slam into Ukraine, more than 1.3 million people have fled over the borders of neighboring European countries into a frightening and uncertain future. What we are witnessing, the United Nations has warned, is the largest refugee crisis in a century. Most Ukrainians leaving their country are heading west into Poland, Moldova, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary, which have opened their borders to anyone trying to flee, although reports of pushbacks and racial discrimination against people of color have emerged as the week has progressed. UNHCR, the UN's refugee agency, is warning that the humanitarian crisis engulfing Ukrainians is just beginning. It estimates more than 4 million people will become refugees, while inside Ukraine millions more will be displaced by Russian bombs and rockets.

Ukraine / Russia – [Police Arrest More Than 3,000 People As Protests Grow Across Russia](#)

Despite the threat of yearslong prison terms, thousands of Russians joined anti war rallies across the country on Sunday in a striking show of the pent-up anger in Russian society about President Vladimir V. Putin's invasion of Ukraine. The police reported more than 3,000 arrests across the country. The thousands of Russians who protested on Sunday represented only a slice of those furious over the invasion. Thousands more fled the country in the last 10 days, as their savings evaporated amid the collapse of the ruble and the West's crushing sanctions.

Ukraine / Russia – [Ukrainian Family's Dash for Safety Ends in Death](#)

Russian forces bombed the only a bridge along a civilian evacuation route, killing three members of one family. Civilians who cross the bridge into Kyiv form small groups and together run about 100 yards while potentially exposed to Russian fire. Ukrainian soldiers run alongside the civilians to help them and then return to take cover behind a cinder block wall. But early Sunday morning, the regional governor announced that the routes out of Irpin were so unsafe as to be effectively blocked. "Unfortunately, unless there is a cease-fire," he said, no one could get out.