



► 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
1 November 2021

Beirut – [Analysis: Lebanon is dragged back into eye of Iranian-Saudi storm](#)

Lebanon is facing further crisis after information minister George Kordahi criticized Saudi involvement in Yemen last week. Riyadh halted Lebanese imports, putting Lebanon in the middle of Saudi Arabia and Iran's competition for influence in the region.

Beirut – [UN special envoy on poverty visits Beirut blast survivors](#)

United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights Olivier De Schutter visited Beirut for a two-week assessment of the Lebanese government's response to the financial crisis and the role of international organizations in alleviating its effects. De Schutter visited Mar Mikhael and Geitaoui, the two neighborhoods most affected by the port explosion.

Lebanon – [Lebanon says it wants dialogue with Riyadh, not demands about Hezbollah](#)

The Lebanese foreign minister said it is not possible to reduce Hezbollah's influence to appease Saudi Arabia and resolve the rift between the two countries. Riyadh claims the conflict is not only due to the information minister's statements on Yemen, but also Hezbollah's growing influence in Yemen.

Lebanon – [Daily Star: Lebanon's crisis forces oldest English newspaper to close](#)

After struggling financially for years, the Daily Star announced it will close its doors. The paper was founded in 1952 and was one of the first English-language newspapers in the Arab world. According to one of the Daily Star's former reporters, the staff are owed months of pay.

Lebanon – [Bahrain urges citizens in Lebanon to leave, Yemeni gov't recalls envoy](#)

Bahrain's foreign ministry encouraged its citizens to leave Lebanon after expelling the Lebanese envoy.

Tuesday
2 November 2021

Wednesday

3 November 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanese carry 'worthless' stacks of cash after currency crash](#)

Reuters reports the story of Lebanese business owners and employees who make a fraction of what they once earned. Lebanese carry around stacks of money that would have paid the bills for months, but after the economic collapse the money now pays just a few bills.

Thursday

4 November 2021

Beirut – [Fadi Sawan continues to interrogate 18 detainees today](#)

Judge Fadi Sawan continued interrogations of the individuals charged following the clashes in Beirut on October 14th.

Lebanon – [Lebanese PM urges minister to 'take right decision' over GCC rift](#)

Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati hinted that information minister George Kordahi should resign over his remarks defending Houthi rebels and criticizing the Saudi coalition's involvement in the Yemen civil war. Mikati urged Kordahi to prioritize national interests after Kordahi's statement caused a diplomatic rift between Lebanon and several Gulf states.

Lebanon – [Saudi import ban spells more trouble for Lebanon's economy](#)

Saudi Arabia banned Lebanese imports in retaliation for information minister George Kordahi's critical remarks. If the ban holds, Lebanon stands to lose over \$1 billion a year. The loss would be a critical blow after the Lebanese pound has already lost 90 percent of its value over the last two years.

Beirut – [Beirut port blast investigator forced to suspend probe for third time](#)

A lawsuit by former public works minister Youssef Fenianos halted the investigation into the Beirut port explosion for the third time. Fenianos is allied with Hezbollah and his lawsuit comes as the Shiite group is leading a campaign to remove Judge Tarek Bitar from the investigation over allegations of bias.

Saturday and Sunday

6 and 7 November
2021

Lebanon – [Hezbollah number 2 calls on Riyadh to apologize and reverse its decisions](#)

Hezbollah number two, Naïm Kassem, on Sunday called on Saudi Arabia to 'apologize' for the retaliatory measures imposed for more than a week in Lebanon, and to reconsider its decisions on the recall of his ambassador to Beirut and the suspension of all Lebanese imports. Saudi Arabia expelled the Lebanese ambassador and banned Lebanese imports after information minister George Kordahi criticized Saudi actions in Yemen, yet Riyadh also cited Hezbollah's growing strength in Lebanon as a reason for the diplomatic rift.

Beirut – [Independents lead at USJ, FL popularity on the rise](#) The Secular Club at Saint Joseph University largely won the ballot for student representation in various faculties. Lebanese are closely watching university elections in the lead up to national polls as universities are calling for a radical change in the political class.

Lebanon / Gulf – [A salary at a discount: in the Gulf, the Lebanese caught up in the crisis](#)

Lebanese looking for work in the Gulf are now being offered lower salaries due to the crisis in Lebanon. Employers know Lebanese workers are ready to work for any compensation and take the opportunity to treat Lebanese as unskilled labor, according to Lebanese workers.



Monday

1 November 2021

Egypt – [Egypt Poised to Expand Security Powers of President and Military](#)

Just days after the Egyptian government lifted a longstanding state of emergency, the House of Representatives granted expanded national security powers strengthening the authoritarian government's grip on power. The new laws allow the president to take 'measures necessary to preserve security and public order'.

Tuesday

2 November 2021

Occupied Palestine / Gaza – [Long Walk From Freedom: Indebted Gazan Trudges to Jail 17th Time. Or 18th.](#)

Men in Gaza unable to repay their wedding debts are often imprisoned. Even with a fifty percent unemployment rate, lavish weddings remain a rite of passage many are unwilling to forego. Gaza police issued 448 arrest warrants for indebted men in the first nine months of 2021, more than the cumulative total for 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Occupied Palestine / Jerusalem – [Palestinian Families Reject Deal in Area That Set Off Gaza Conflict](#)

Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah rejected a deal that would have allowed them to stay in their homes for decades longer if they paid rent to a Jewish settler group which courts ruled are the buildings' legitimate owners. An Israeli court threatened the families with eviction in May, setting off an 11-day war with Hamas that killed 250 people in Gaza and 13 in Israel.

Gulf – ["I'm not sure whether the money we get is very pure": Sebastian Vettel questions Formula 1's income flow following decision to race in certain venues](#)

Formula 1 added races in Qatar and Saudi Arabia, sparking criticism from champion racer Sebastian Vettel. The German driver objected to taking money from countries with an extensive record of human rights abuses.

Turkey – [Why Syrians face deportation from Turkey over banana jokes](#)

Anti-migrant sentiment is rising in Turkey as the economic situation continues to deteriorate. A video of Turks accusing Syrian and Afghan migrants of taking their jobs went viral, with one of the men saying he sees Syrians buying 'kilograms' of bananas in the bazaar while he cannot afford them. A viral Tik Tok trend began in response, where Syrians posted videos of themselves eating bananas. As of last Thursday, 11 Syrians had been arrested and immigration authorities claimed they will be deported.

Wednesday

3 November 2021

Afghanistan – ['Honest mistake': US strike that killed 10 Afghan civilians was legal, says Pentagon](#)

A Pentagon investigation found a US drone strike in Kabul that killed 10 Afghan civilians was an "honest mistake" and recommended no legal or disciplinary action. Drone operators were tracking a suspected ISIS operative, but mistakenly targeted aid worker Zemari Ahmadi in a strike that killed 10 civilians including a two-year-old child.

Israel – [US sanctions Israeli firm NSO Group over spyware](#) The Biden administration sanctioned an Israeli tech company whose Pegasus spyware was found to be used by authoritarian governments. The US Department of Commerce claimed the spyware 'enabled foreign governments to conduct transnational repression, which is the practice of authoritarian governments targeting dissidents, journalists and activists outside of their sovereign borders to silence dissent'.

Thursday
4 November 2021

Iraq – [Iraq's civil society protest movement seeks to find a voice in parliament](#)

For the first time in Iraq, a new breed of representatives is entering parliament, born from a civil society movement fed up with the corruption that has long tarnished politics. But as large parties retained dominance in parliament, opposition parties will have to band together to influence Iraqi politics.

Turkey / Syria – [Uncertainty for Syrians in Turkey as opposition warms to Assad](#) Tensions between refugees and Turks has been on the rise, leaving Syrians to question their fate should the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) lose power. Opposition parties oppose the government hosting refugees and are considering how to pave the way to send refugees back to Syria.

Friday
5 November 2021

Iraq – [Protests against Iraq election results turn violent | News](#)

Supporters of pro-Iranian parties, which suffered losses in the recent parliamentary election, gathered in Baghdad to denounce electoral 'fraud'. The demonstrator threw stones at security forces who fired tear gas to break up the crowd. The political arm of pro-Iranian paramilitary force Hashd al-Shaabi won only 15 seats in parliament, down from 48 in the last parliament.

Occupied Palestine – [Israeli forces kill Palestinian boy in occupied West Bank](#)

Israeli troops have shot and killed a 13-year-old Palestinian boy during weekly protests against the expansion of illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank, according to Palestinian officials.

Iraq – ['All the trees have died': Iraqis face intensifying water crisis | Climate Crisis News](#)

Seven million people are at risk because of a lack of water in Iraq, according to a recent report by aid groups in the region. Rising temperatures, low levels of rainfall, and lack of access to river water are increasing the danger and severity of droughts.

Sudan – [Sudan coup leader agrees with US to speed up new gov't formation](#)

General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan spoke with US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken and agreed on the need to speed up the formation of a new government. Meanwhile, in an emergency UN Security Council meeting in Geneva, High Commissioner of Human Rights Michelle Bachelet called for the military to step back, calling the takeover 'deeply disturbing'.

Saudi Arabia - [Biden administration approves \\$650m weapon sale to Saudi Arabia](#)

The Biden administration announced its first weapons sale to Saudi Arabia on Thursday, approving a \$650 million sale of air-to-air missiles to help 'improve the security of a friendly country'. Just months ago, President Biden promised to end support for Saudi involvement in Yemen including 'relevant arms sales'.

Saturday and Sunday
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Libya – [Libya's ruling council suspends foreign minister Najla Mangoush | News](#)

Libya's ruling presidential council has suspended Foreign Minister Najla Mangoush for 'administrative violations' and barred her from travelling. Libya's transitional Government of National Unity rejected the council's decision in a statement early on Sunday, saying the presidential council has no legal right to appoint or cancel the appointment of members of the executive authority, suspend them or investigate them. The transitional government was appointed by the UN after months of negotiations, and this disagreement is likely to increase tensions between rival factions.

Sudan – [Sudan security forces fire tear gas at anti-coup protesters | Protests News](#)

Sudanese security forces have detained dozens of protesters and fired tear gas at several anti-coup rallies, as demonstrators in several cities joined a call for two days of civil disobedience and a strike campaign against last month's military takeover.

Sudan – [Burhan says he will not be part of Sudan gov't after transition](#)

Sudan's army chief General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan has said he will not participate in any government that comes after a transitional period and denied that the army was responsible for the deaths of protesters rallying against the military takeover.



INTERNATIONAL

Monday
1 November 2021

Ethiopia – [Ethiopia gov't accuses Tigray rebels of killing 100 in Kombolcha | Abiy Ahmed News](#)
The Ethiopian government accused the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF) of executing one hundred youth in the town of Kombolcha in the Amhara region. If true, the rebel group will have advanced the furthest south yet of their stronghold in Tigray. The government's claims could not be independently verified due to their communication blackout and restriction of journalist access.

Tajikistan – [Time to Call Out Tajikistan's Human Rights Crackdown](#)
Since banning its sole remaining opposition party, the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT), in 2015, the Tajik government has jailed hundreds of political activists, journalists, and lawyers. The authorities have relentlessly harassed critics and dissidents, as well as their families, both inside and outside the country, muzzled freedom of expression, and silenced independent media. Torture and ill-treatment are routinely reported in places of detention. Domestic violence remains a serious problem, as women and girls lack adequate protection and are denied justice.

Tuesday
2 November 2021

Ethiopia – [Ethiopia PM Abiy Ahmed talks tough as Tigray forces claim gains](#)
After the TPLF in Ethiopia's Tigray region made gains this week, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed issued a televised address calling on citizens to take up weapons to fight against the rebel group.

Eswatini – [Eswatini: No Justice for June Protester Killings](#)
No members of the security forces in Eswatini have been held accountable for the brutal crackdown on protests in June. Forces used live ammunition, leaving 46 dead, 245 with gunshot wounds, and 118 more injured. Protests have continued, along with reports of excessive use of force.

Wednesday
3 November 2021

Worldwide – [Ahmaud Arbery: judge seats nearly all-white jury in Georgia murder trial](#)
A Georgia judge allowed defense counsel to seat a nearly all-white jury in the trial of Ahmaud Arbery's murder. Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man, was killed while out jogging in the coastal town of Satilla Shores, Georgia. None of the men involved were charged until eyewitness footage was made public months later. The accused also face federal hate crime and attempted kidnapping charges.

France – [France Should End Abusive Policies Toward Migrants](#)
French authorities routinely subject migrant adults and children in Calais and nearby Grande-Synthe to degrading treatment, including evictions and near-daily police harassment, as well as restrictions on food, water, and other essentials. The head of the French immigration and integration office acknowledged this week that authorities' policy toward migrants has been "incoherent" and problematic.

Thursday
4 November 2021

Ethiopia – [Facebook removes post by Ethiopian PM for 'inciting violence'](#)
Facebook has removed a post by Ethiopia's prime minister for "inciting and supporting violence" as diplomats stepped up attempts to instigate a ceasefire in the country's year-long civil war. Prime Minister Ahmed vowed to "bury" his government's enemies in a Facebook post on Sunday as forces from the TPLF moved closer to Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia / Turkey – [Ethiopia-Turkey pact fuels speculation about drone use in Tigray war](#)
Ethiopia's government has forged an alliance with Turkey amid reports that it wants to deploy armed Turkish drones in its bitter war against forces from the Tigray region. Abiy Ahmed, Ethiopia's prime minister, signed a military cooperation agreement on a visit to Ankara in August with Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Tigray's capital, Mekelle, has been targeted with a series of government airstrikes in recent days, with civilians often the victims. Six people, three of them children, were killed in a strike last week.

Friday
5 November 2021

Singapore – [Singapore: Halt Execution of Man with Intellectual Disability](#)

Nagaenthran Dharmalingam, a 33-year-old Malaysian national who was sentenced to death in 2010 for bringing 42.72 grams (approximately three tablespoons) of diamorphine into the country, is scheduled to be executed on November 10, 2021. Dharmalingam has an intellectual disability, and executing someone with an intellectual or psychosocial disability is inconsistent with international law and practice.

Taiwan / China – [Supporters of Taiwan independence will be liable for life, says China](#)

China will hold supporters of Taiwanese independence criminally liable, barring them from entering the mainland and from conducting business with Chinese entities. China regards the self-ruled island as its own province and has not ruled out using force to bring Taiwan under its control, despite the island's claim that it is an independent country that will defend its freedom and democracy.

Saturday and Sunday
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Nicaragua – [In Nicaragua Election, Ortega Crushes Dissent](#)

After methodically choking off competition and dissent, Mr. Ortega has all but ensured his victory in presidential elections on Sunday, representing a turn toward an openly dictatorial model that could set an example for other leaders across Latin America. He detained the credible challengers who planned to run against him, shut down opposition parties, banned large campaign events and closed voting stations en masse.

Belarus – [On the frozen frontiers of Europe with the migrants caught in a lethal game](#)

The Belarusian government is luring migrants from the Middle East and Africa to Belarus promising passage to the EU. Upon arrival, government officials transport the migrants to the Polish or Lithuanian border where border guards then shove them past the fence. The guards push them forward towards the Polish border and the Polish border guards push them back.