



## ► 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

11 October 2021

##### Lebanon – [Planning Lapses Endanger School Year](#)

Weeks after schools were supposed to open for the new school year, the Education Ministry's plan to supply needed funds remains unclear, reports Human Rights Watch. Last year, the Covid-19 pandemic, anti-government protests, and the Beirut port explosion disrupted the education of 1.3 million students, while attendance among Syrian refugees dropped by 25%, and 700,000 children received no education at all. Human rights treaties require the Lebanese government to provide "free and compulsory" education even in the midst of crises. Yet as the Education Ministry stalls the planning and funding for public education, it is unlikely the government will uphold this responsibility in the coming months.

#### Tuesday

12 October 2021

##### Lebanon – [Beirut blast probe suspended again as judge issues arrest warrant](#)

The investigation into the Beirut Port blast was suspended on Tuesday. The former Lebanese finance minister and former public works minister filed to dismiss Judge Tarek Bitar from the investigation after Judge Bitar issued an arrest warrant for ex-finance minister Ali Hasan Khalil. This was the third request from the former ministers to remove Bitar as the lead investigator.

#### Wednesday

13 October 2021

##### Lebanon – [Judges "Must Not Be Threatened" by Hezbollah, Affirms Washington](#)

Washington denounced the accusations from Hezbollah Secretary General against Judge Tarek Bitar of political targeting in the investigation into the Beirut port explosion. The spokesman for the U.S. State Department affirmed support for a swift and transparent investigation into the blast.

**Thursday**  
14 October 2021

**Lebanon – [Rights organizations call on authorities to cease the intimidation of lawyer Mohammad Sablough](#)**

For 15 years, Mohammad Sablough has documented instances of torture and ill-treatment in Lebanese detention facilities and advocating against the forcible deportation of Syrian refugees. Now the Lebanese authorities are initiating retaliatory measures against Mr. Sablough, pressuring his client, a detainee in the Fakhr El-Din facility, to testify that Mr. Sablough's allegations of torture were fabricated. The Military Prosecution is now attempting to prosecute Mr Sablough for making false accusations. CLDH calls on Lebanon to respect the work of lawyers and others advocating on behalf of victims of torture and to adhere to its legal obligations to prevent and punish the use of torture.

**Lebanon – [Deadly Clashes in Beirut Escalate Fears Over Lebanon's Dysfunction](#)**

Armed clashes between sectarian militias transformed Beirut neighborhoods into a deadly war zone on Thursday, raising fears that violence could fill the void left by the near-collapse of the Lebanese state. At least six people were killed and 30 wounded. Residents cowered in their homes, and teachers herded children into the hallways and basements of schools to protect them from the shooting.

**Lebanon – ["Total Panic" in Schools in the Surrounding Areas](#)**

Schoolchildren in the Badaro and Furn-el-chebbak school districts took cover under desks in their classrooms as armed groups fought in the streets of Beirut on Thursday.

**Lebanon – [Lebanese army arrests nine people after Beirut violence | News](#)**

The Lebanese Army arrested nine gunmen associated with the clashes in Beirut. Their identities remain unknown.

**Friday**  
15 October 2021

**Lebanon – [Fraught calm follows Beirut's worst day of sectarian violence in decade](#)**

After calm returned to the streets of Beirut, anxiety remained high over the prospect of further unrest. Hezbollah and ally Amal accuse the lead judge on the investigation into the Beirut port explosion of disproportionately targeting Shia politicians. Residents of Beirut fear the clash that emerged from a protest against Judge Bitar's handling of the investigation is the beginning of more widespread conflict.

**Lebanon – [Lebanon's Tragic Cycle of Violence Has a Cause](#)**

Human Rights Watch blames a culture of impunity in Lebanon for the violence in Beirut on Thursday. Violence and corruption have gone unpunished for decades. Human Rights Watch calls for an investigation into the clashes and an international and impartial investigation into the Beirut port explosion.

**Lebanon – [Judicial Independence, Free Elections, and Reforms...In Return for American Support](#)**

American Under Secretary of State, Victoria Nuland, announced on Friday an additional 67 million dollars in financial assistance to the Lebanese Army. This brings the total amount of US assistance to the Lebanese Army in 2021 to 300 millions dollars. Under Secretary Nuland underscored the necessity of full transparency of government spending, free and fair elections, and an independent judiciary.

**Lebanon – [For an immediate and transparent investigation that holds perpetrators accountable](#)**

CLDH calls for an urgent, transparent, and public investigation that holds every instigator and mastermind and perpetrator behind Thursday's clashes accountable.

"Any stalling or impunity from such crime puts civil rest at risk and imposes a culture of lack of justice through force of arms, while the investigation in the Beirut blast case is also being stalled."

**Saturday**  
16 October 2021

**Lebanon** – [Head of Beirut port blast victims group calls for removal of Judge Bitar](#): Confusing many Lebanese, Ibrahim Hoteit, the leader of the Beirut port explosion victim's association, called for the current investigator into the blast to step down in a video released late Friday night. The video led to speculation on social media that Hoteit was being forced to read a statement, though there was no evidence to suggest this at the time. Other members of the victims' families group said that the video was made under duress. "We urge you all to consider [the video] as being done under pressure to divide our communities," Paul Naggear, a vocal member of the association said in a message to reporters on 16 October.

**Lebanon** – [On a Visit to Lebanon, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Calls on the International Community to Intensify Support](#)

On a visit to a Syrian refugee settlement in the Bekaa Valley, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees called for increased international support for the refugee crisis in Lebanon. Three UN agencies recently expressed concern for the rapidly deteriorating situation for Syrian refugees in Lebanon as the national crisis continues to worsen.

**Sunday**  
17 October 2021

**Lebanon** – [Two Years since the October 17 Uprising](#)

Two years after the October 17 uprising, CLDH highlights the main rights violations that targeted protesters, according to CLDH's Uprising report which was published last year.



## REGIONAL

### Middle East

**Monday**  
11 October 2021

**Iraq** – [Muqtada al-Sadr set to win Iraq vote, former PM al-Maliki second | Elections News](#)  
Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's party is poised to gain 21 seats in Iraq's parliament. The parliamentary elections were held several months early, in response to the 2019 protests against the corruption of political leaders. Iraqi analyst Ali Anbori suggests Maqtada's party is rife with corruption and is unlikely to address protesters' grievances.

**Tuesday**  
12 October 2021

**Yemen** – [Decaying oil tanker could disrupt clean water supply for 9 million people](#)  
The possibility of an oil spill from a rotting tanker in the Red Sea carrying 1.1 million barrels of oil could disrupt the water supply of more than nine million people. The tanker has been deserted since 2015. Yemen's Houthi rebels have blocked UN access to the vessel.

**Wednesday**  
13 October 2021

**UK/Syria** – [UK 'colluding in torture' by leaving women and children in Syria camps](#)  
The UK refuses to repatriate women and children held in Syrian prison camps and turns a blind eye to the camp's squalid conditions. Syrian Kurdish leaders have called on the UK and others to repatriate their citizens remaining in detention.

**Friday**  
15 October 2021

**Afghanistan** – [Deadly explosion hits Shia mosque in Afghanistan's Kandahar](#)  
The Islamic State of Khorasan Province claimed responsibility for an attack on a Shia mosque in Kandahar that killed 47 and wounded 70 others.

**Tunisia** – [Tunisia's Saied withdraws diplomatic passport of predecessor | News](#)  
Tunisian President Saied announced he will withdraw the diplomatic passport of one of his predecessors, Moncef Marzouki after Marzouki urged the French government to withdraw its support of Saied.

**Saturday**  
16 October 2021

**Syria** – [Syrian government shelling of rebel-held Idlib kills 4 | Bashar al-Assad News](#)  
The Syrian government killed 4 people and wounded 17 in a round of shelling on Saturday. The attack is the latest violation of a truce reached in March between the Syrian government and rebels in the northeast.

**Afghanistan** – [US offers to pay families of Afghans killed in drone attack](#)  
The Pentagon has offered condolence payments to families of the 10 civilians killed in the botched US drone strike carried out in the days before the final US withdrawal from Afghanistan. 7 of the victims were children.

**Iran** – [Iranian court upholds new jail term for Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe](#)  
A 43-year-old Iranian British woman was sentenced to a 1-year jail sentence after completing a 5-year sentence beginning in 2016. Ms. Zaghari-Ratcliffe was charged with spreading propaganda after she protested in front of the Iranian embassy in London.



## INTERNATIONAL

**Monday**  
11 October 2021

**Brazil** – [Bolsonaro blocks free tampons and pads for disadvantaged women in Brazil](#)

President Jair Bolsonaro vetoed a part of a bill that would have given free sanitary pads and tampons to groups including homeless people, prisoners, and teenage girls at state schools. Period poverty is estimated to keep 1 in 4 girls out of school in Brazil.

**Wednesday**  
13 October 2021

**United States** – [Two More Guantánamo Detainees Are Approved for Release](#)

The period Review Board endorsed the transfer of Yemen born Sanad Yislam al-Kazimi and Afghan born Assadullah Haroon Gul. The two men have been held in Guantanamo with no charges. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III stated President Biden's goal is to empty the offshore detention center.

**Haiti** – ['Who wouldn't want out?': migrants deported to Haiti face challenge of survival](#)

Thousands of Haitians who had been living in South America crossed the U.S. border in Texas last month. Weeks later, the U.S. deported them back to Haiti. The migrants are returning to a country riddled with gang violence, poverty, and an absence of basic public services.

**Colombia** – [Killing of two boys for alleged shoplifting shocks Colombia](#)

Two boys trying to rob a clothing store in a small town near the Venezuelan border were apprehended by bystanders. Two men showed up and murdered the boys, leaving their bodies on a road outside of town. The peace deal signed 5 years ago by Colombia's government and the Farc was supposed to enable local governments but has instead worsened violence in some areas as dissident Farc groups use violence to control civilians in its territory.

**Thursday**  
14 October 2021

**United States** – [U.S. Regains Seat at U.N. Human Rights Council, 3 Years After Quitting](#)

The U.S. regains a seat at the UN Human Rights Council, after President Trump renounced the body in 2018. The Biden administration shares the former President's criticism that the council counts human rights abusers as members and disproportionately criticizes Israel. Secretary of State Antony Blinken hopes to make change in the council from within.

**Ethiopia** – [Biden to Meet With Kenya's President Amid Escalating Crisis in Neighboring Ethiopia](#)

President Biden and President Kenyatta were expected to discuss the conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region, where some fighters have been accused of atrocities against civilians, including sexual violence, massacres and ethnic cleansing. It remains unclear to what extent the United States and Kenya will work to prevent the widespread sexual violence in the civil war or assist the hundreds of thousands of Tigrayans living in famine-like conditions.

**Armenia / Azerbaijan / The Netherlands** – [Armenia tells World Court Azerbaijan promotes ethnic hatred](#)

Armenia accused Azerbaijan at the World Court of promoting a culture of ethnic hatred of Armenians. Armenia asserts Azerbaijan is in violation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Lawyers for Azerbaijan denied the claim and accused Armenia of involvement in decades long ethnic cleansing.

**Friday**  
15 October 2021

**United States / Mexico – [Biden to reinstate Trump-era 'Remain in Mexico' migrant policy](#)**

The Biden administration said on Friday it plans to reinstate the Trump-era border policy known as Remain in Mexico, which forced at least 70,000 asylum seekers to stay in Mexico, many for extended periods and in deprived and dangerous conditions, while they waited for their cases to be considered in US courts.

**Poland – [Poland passes legislation allowing migrant pushbacks at border](#)**

Poland's parliament passed legislation allowing push backs against migrants at the border. Under international law it is illegal to deny migrants the right to seek asylum, and it is illegal to send asylum-seekers back to where their lives may be in danger.

**Saturday**  
16 October 2021

**France – [Macron decries 'inexcusable' Algerian protest massacre in Paris](#)**

On October 17, 1961, police attacked a demonstration attended by 25,000 Algerians. The number of Algerian Octobers killed is unknown but estimated at several hundred. President Macron condemned the attack as an "inexcusable" and "unforgivable crime".

**Sunday**  
17 October 2021

**Sudan – [Thousands rally in Sudan's capital to demand military rule](#)**

Thousands of pro-military protesters gathered in Khartoum to demand the government dissolve. The 2 decade-long dictatorship under Omar al-Bashir was ousted in April 2019 after weeks of mass protest. The protests threaten the transition to civilian rule, particularly as the country suffers from skyrocketing inflation.

