



► 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
12 July 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon to probe sick baby's death amid healthcare crisis](#) The Ministry of Health promised an investigation following the death of a 10-month-year-old girl whose family said she was not able to access proper medical care due to medicine shortages.

Lebanon (Tripoli) – ["Tripoli's popular neighborhoods could soon be out of control"](#) A social explosion could soon hit the city of Tripoli, as the population grows more exhausted and frustrated due to the ongoing economic crisis.

Tuesday
13 July 2021

Lebanon – [Fuel crisis : will the lull last ?](#) The situation at gas stations has been slightly improving. However, generators owners want a doubling of prices, which could aggravate tensions again.

Lebanon – [Relatives of Beirut blast victims scuffle with police](#) Lebanese police fired tear gas during scuffles with demonstrators outside the home of caretaker interior minister Mohammad Fahmi, accused of stalling a probe into the Beirut blast.

Wednesday
14 July 2021

Lebanon – [In Lebanon, three women out of four live in menstrual insecurity](#) Women in Lebanon struggle each month to afford feminine hygiene products, including sanitary pads.

Thursday
15 July 2021

Lebanon – [Amnesty urges end to immunity in Beirut blast probe](#) Human Rights group Amnesty International urged Lebanon to lift the immunity of officials summoned in the Beirut blast probe, warning not doing so would be an "obstruction of justice".

Lebanon – ['May God help Lebanon': Hariri steps down as PM-designat](#) Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri decided to step down after President Michel Aoun rejected his new Cabinet lineup to rescue the crisis. He considered that there is no hope for the formation of a new government at this stage.

Lebanon – [Hariri resigns, the pound collapses, the streets are in turmoil](#) After Saad Hariri's resignation, the dollar reached the record rate of LBP 21,000; popular demonstrations followed.

Friday
16 July 2021

Lebanon – [Demonstrations in several regions, dozens injured in Jabal Mohsen](#) The army fired rubber bullets into the air in the predominantly Alawite neighborhood of Jabal Mohsen and reported ten soldiers injured.

Lebanon – [Lebanon's army chief says situation worsening, urges need for chaos prevention](#) Lebanon's army chief General Joseph Aoun said the situation in the country was worsening and would further escalate as a financial crisis stokes political and social tensions.

CLDH – [Torture Report Conference](#) CLDH hosted a conference about their most recent report entitled "Torture, an illegal and failing tool during interrogations in Lebanon".

Saturday and Sunday
17 and 18 July 2021

Lebanon – ["We can't do miracles": EDZ announces four hours of daily outage](#) Electricity of Zahle announced four-hour daily outages in the Bekaa area. EDZ warned that power cuts could reach up to 6 hours per day.

Lebanon – [In Tarik Jdideh, Saad Hariri's recusal is not accepted](#) Supporters of the Future movement, took the streets to express their anger the day after the Sunni leader's resignation.



REGIONAL Middle East

Monday
12 July 2021

Jordan – [Jordan court sentences ex-royal court chief to 15 years in alleged plot to destabilise monarchy](#) A Jordanian court sentenced a former royal confidant, Bassem Awadallah, alongside a minor royal to 15 years in jail on charges of attempting to destabilize the monarchy.

Egypt – [Egyptian academic detained upon arrival at Cairo airport](#) Alia Mossalam, an Egyptian historian, was arrested at Cairo airport and detained by security services for 17 hours, before being finally released.

Egypt – [Egypt upholds life sentences for 10 Muslim Brotherhood figures](#) Egypt's highest appeals court has upheld the life sentences of 10 leaders of Egypt's outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, including the group's head, Mohamed Badie.

Bahrain – [Bahrain upholds sentence against 'torture victim' despite pleas from UK ministers](#) Fawaz Abdulnabi was convicted in a trial, after being sexual assaulted, tortured and forced to confess, despite pleas for his release from UK parliamentarians.

Tuesday
13 July 2021

Iraq – [Iraq: At least 92 killed in second Covid-19 hospital fire in months](#) At least 92 people were killed and more than 100 injured in a fire at a Covid-19 hospital in the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah, caused by an oxygen tank explosion.

Bahrain – [Death sentences in Bahrain 'dramatically escalated' since 2011](#) The use of death penalty in Bahrain has dramatically escalated by more than 600 percent since the 2011 Arab Spring uprising, a new report has found.

Egypt – [Several Egyptians announce hunger strikes in solidarity with political prisoners](#) Several public figures in Egypt announced plans to launch hunger strikes in solidarity with political prisoners protesting against their continued detention.

Wednesday
14 July 2021

Afghanistan – [Taliban claims to control key Afghan border crossing with Pakistan](#) Taliban fighters said they have gained control over an important trade route linking Pakistan with southern Afghanistan.

Qatar – [Qatar's hotels accused of hospitality workers abuses](#) According to the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, a London-based NGO, luxury hotel brands in Qatar have failed to protect migrant workers.

Thursday
15 July 2021

Occupied Palestine – [Water war: Palestinians demand more water access from Israel](#) Israeli authorities refuse to grant licenses to Palestinian water authorities to operate freely in areas under Israeli security control.

Yemen – [Amid conflict and poverty, Yemen's hospitals are struggling](#) Because of active conflict, poverty, and a barely functional healthcare system, few Yemen inhabitants have access to the healthcare that they need.

Libya – [Amnesty slams Libya and Europe over 'horrific' abuse of migrants](#) Amnesty International has condemned the "horrific violations" being committed against migrants returned to Libya with the cooperation of European states after trying to cross the Mediterranean.

Friday
16 July 2021

Egypt – [Abuse and torture in Egyptian prisons fuels ISIL recruitment](#) Almost 60,000 political prisoners are being held in Egyptian jails where ISIL recruits lots of its members, suffering torture and abuse.

Iraq – [Iraq PM announces arrests for murder of prominent analyst Hashemi](#) Suspects in the murder of Iraq's prominent academic and government adviser Hisham al-Hashemi in 2020 have been arrested, Iraq PM announced.

UAE – [UAE political prisoner has been in solitary confinement for years: Report](#) Emirati political prisoner Ahmed Mansoor has been in solitary confinement since his arrest in 2017, cut off from the outside world as well as fellow prisoners, letters penned by the detainee have revealed.

Saturday and Sunday
17 and 18 July 2021

Syria – [Syria: Belgium repatriates group of women and children from al-Roj camp](#) Belgium has repatriated 16 mothers and 10 children under the age of 12 from camps for families of suspected members of the Islamic State group in northeastern Syria

Iran – [Youth killed in Iran water crisis protests](#) A young man was shot dead during a second night of protests over water shortages in southwest Iran, blaming armed protesters for the shooting.

Turkey – [Turkey condemns EU court ruling on hijab ban as violation of freedoms](#) Turkey slammed a ruling by a top European Union court allowing the banning of hijabs under certain conditions as a "clear violation of religious freedoms", exacerbating Islamophobia in Europe.

Egypt – [Egypt activist Esraa Abdel Fattah freed after nearly two years without trial](#) Egyptian activist and journalist Esraa Abdel Fattah, one of the symbols of the 2011 revolution, has been freed after nearly 22 months in pre-trial detention.



INTERNATIONAL

Monday
12 July 2021

Japan – [Japan: Olympics Should Benefit Human Rights](#) As Japan will host the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Japanese government needs to address human rights issues such as LGBTQ+ discrimination and gender gaps.

Sri Lanka – [Sri Lanka: Protect Garment Workers' Rights During Pandemic](#) Human Rights Watch warns Sri Lankan authorities to protect garment workers as COVID-19 pandemic is still doing a lot of damages.

Indonesia – ['Dying in their homes': COVID-hit Indonesians scramble for oxygen](#) As the country is facing a surge in COVID-19 cases, oxygen is starting to lack, leading to many people's deaths.

South Africa – [South Africa violence spreads after Jacob Zuma jailed](#) Following the imprisonment of former President Jacob Zuma, violent rioting has erupted in two South African provinces, with supporters blocking roads and looting shops.

Tuesday
13 July 2021

Venezuela – [Venezuela arrests Freddy Guevara for 'terrorism, treason'](#) Opposition politician Freddy Guevara has been arrested for "terrorism" and "treason" for alleged conspiracy against the Venezuelan government.

China – [LGBTQ+ in China lament 'dark day' after social media crackdown](#) After social media WeChat suspended dozens accounts of LGBTQ+ groups, the community fears worse to come.

Myanmar – [Aung San Suu Kyi faces more charges as UN urges reconciliation](#) Deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi faces four additional crimes, mostly related to corruption, as the UN calls for reconciliation in the South-east Asian area.

South Africa – [South Africa deploys army in two provinces to quell protests](#) Following President Jacob Zuma's jailing, the South African military deployed soldiers to help police cope with looting and attacks on businesses.

United States / Afghanistan – [US Should Help Afghan Civil Society Partners at Risk](#) As the US withdrew its troops from Afghanistan, Taliban have taken back more than 150 cities, leaving thousands of Afghans previously working for US organizations in fear.

Wednesday
14 July 2021

South Africa – [South Africa braces for more violence after days of unrest](#) As authorities fail to stop spiraling violence and lootings, more than 70 people were killed and 1,000 arrested by the police.

United States / Iran – [U.S. charges four with plot to kidnap New York journalist critical of Iran](#) U.S. prosecutors have charged four Iranians, alleged to be intelligence operatives for Tehran, with plotting to kidnap a New York journalist and human rights activist who was critical of Iran.

United States (Miami) – [Demonstrators block traffic in Miami area to support Cuban protesters](#) Demonstrators waving Cuban flags and calling for change on the Communist-run island blocked a major highway and staged other protests in the Miami area in support of the wave of demonstrations that rocked Cuba.

Myanmar – [Myanmar anti-coup activists protest as U.S. seeks regional action](#) About 100 opponents of military rule in Myanmar marched through the center of Yangon, as the US called on Southeast Asian nations to take action to restore democracy and end violence in their neighbor.

Equator – [Ecuador: Criminalizing Abortion Affects Rights, Health](#) Ecuador laws criminalizing abortion violate the rights and risk the lives and health of women and girls, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today.

Thursday
15 July 2021

Belarus – [Belarus: Unprecedented Raids on Human Rights Defenders](#) Belarusian authorities carried out a day of massive unprecedented raids and detentions against the Belarus human rights community, seizing documents, computers, and other devices.

United States – [Calls grow to stop US deportations to Haiti amid political crisis](#) Rights groups urge Joe Biden to freeze deportations of Haitian migrants after assassination of President Jovenel Moise.

Japan – [Japan: Stop Real Estate Project in Myanmar](#) Japanese business entities should stop their participation in a commercial real estate project involving Myanmar's abusive military, Human Rights Watch and other human rights NGO's said.

European Union – [Europe court rules employers can ban hijab in the workplace](#) Employers can in principle ban staff from wearing hijabs in the workplace, a European Union court ruled in two cases brought by Muslim women working in Germany.

Friday
16 July 2021

Germany – [Germany, Belgium floods: At least 92 dead and hundreds missing](#) At least 92 people have died and dozens are missing in severe flooding in western Germany and Belgium.

Poland – [Poland Undermines Justice at Home and across Europe](#) The Polish Constitutional Tribunal, politically compromised, ruled that an April 2020 decision of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) was contrary to Poland's Constitution, giving the right to Polish courts to ignore future CJEU rulings.

European Union – [Frontex Reform Needed to Protect Migrant Rights in Europe](#) The European Border and Coast Guard Agency, known as Frontex, has failed to protect the rights of people at European Union borders, a European Parliament investigation has found.

United States (New York) – [New York City Hospitals Prohibit Unnecessary Intersex Surgeries](#) NYC Health & Hospitals, the largest public healthcare in the US, implemented a policy to defer all medically unnecessary surgeries on intersex children, a major improvement for the rights of intersex people.

Saturday and Sunday

10 and 11 July 2021

Afghanistan – [High-stakes talks between Afghan gov't, Taliban as fighting rages](#) Representatives of the Afghan government and Taliban met in Doha as violence in the country escalates amid US troop withdrawal.

Myanmar – [75 children killed, 1,000 detained since Myanmar coup: UN experts](#) Dozens of children have been killed and hundreds arbitrarily detained in Myanmar since a coup more than five months ago, UN Child Rights Committee said.

Japan – [Japan: Prime Minister Should Back LGBT Equality Act](#) The Japanese government's failure to pass a national nondiscrimination law to protect LGBTQ+ people before the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics was a lost opportunity to advance the rights of everyone in Japan, Human Rights Watch said.