



## ► 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

13 December 2021

**Lebanon** – [Lebanon's currency continues to tank amid monetary chaos](#) Lebanon's national currency further collapsed Monday, trading on the black market at nearly 20 times its value two years ago, worsening inflation and people's despair.

**Lebanon** – [Overwhelmed by the crisis, more and more Lebanese no longer maintain their cars](#) An increasing number of motorists are finding it hard to maintain their vehicles due to prohibitively expensive spare parts, putting themselves and other road users at risk.

### Tuesday

14 December 2021

**Lebanon** – [Lebanese comedian had his passport confiscated at the airport for "insulting the president"](#)

Comedian and influencer Toufiluk, whose real name is Toufic Braid, was arrested at Beirut International Airport on Monday night upon his arrival from London where he has resided for more than five years. He was interrogated by the General Security who confiscated his passport.

**Lebanon** – [They can neither enter the EU nor return to Lebanon: the plight of Syrian refugees stranded in Belarus](#)

With the closure, of illegal border crossings between Belarus and the European Union, thousands of asylum seekers who have flocked to this Eastern European country in recent months have begun to return home.

## Wednesday

15 December 2021

### Beirut – [Lebanon to deport non-Lebanese members of Bahrain opposition](#)

Lebanon's interior minister on Wednesday ordered the deportation of non-Lebanese members of Bahrain's dissolved opposition al-Wefaq group after some of them criticized the Gulf Arab kingdom at a news conference in Beirut.

### Lebanon – ['No looking back': As economy crumbles, Lebanese turn to Cyprus](#)

About 12,000 Lebanese have moved to small island over the past year to secure livelihoods and find better economic opportunities.

## Thursday

16 December 2021

### Lebanon – [Open Letter to the UN Secretary-General ahead of his visit to Lebanon](#)

Human Rights Watch released an open letter to the UN Secretary-General António Guterres ahead of his visit to Lebanon.

## Friday

17 December 2021

### Lebanon – [Lebanon cancer patients living in fear after drug subsidies lift](#)

Cancer drugs are the last-standing subsidized medications in Lebanon, but the economic crisis offers no guarantees for the future.

### Lebanon – [Lebanon: economic crisis threatens survival of Catholic hospital](#)

Saint Joseph Hospital is a Catholic non-profit facility in Beirut that the economic crisis has brought to the verge of collapse. Since its establishment over sixty years ago it has been taking care of the most abandoned people but is now at risk of closure for lack of secure funding.

### Lebanon – [UN fears for Lebanon's children amid poverty and violence](#)

A UNICEF report warned that "children in Lebanon are in danger, as 15 percent of families stopped their children's education, and 30 percent of children do not receive the needed primary healthcare."

## Saturday and Sunday

18 and 10 December  
2021

### Lebanon – ['We do the police's job': Protecting Lebanon's most lawless towns](#)

With the Lebanese state in crisis, some unlikely characters are imposing law and order in one of the country's most neglected regions.

### Lebanon – [UN secretary-general in Beirut to 'stand by and support Lebanon'](#)

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres began a four-day official visit to Lebanon on Sunday. His visit was the result of an urgent invitation from Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati when they met at the COP26 in Glasgow last month. Guterres will chair a meeting with Mikati at the Grand Serail on Monday, with the heads and representatives of different UN organizations and bodies in Lebanon expected to attend.

### Lebanon – [Lebanon may reach initial pact with IMF between Jan-Feb - deputy PM](#)

Dec 19 (Reuters) - Lebanon could reach a preliminary agreement for financial support with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) between January and February, the local Al Jadeed TV said in a tweet on Sunday, citing the deputy prime minister.



**Monday**  
13 December 2021

**Turkey** – [In Turkey, bread lines grow longer as inflation soars](#)

Growing bread lines in Istanbul bear testament to the financial pain Turkish households are wrestling with.

**Occupied Palestine** – [Israel releases Palestinian political leader Raed Salah](#)

Palestinian political leader Sheikh Raed Salah has been released from a prison in Israel after serving 17 months on charges of "incitement". Salah, a Palestinian citizen of Israel and former head of the northern Islamic Movement, was released from Megiddo prison on Monday morning just north of his hometown of Umm al-Fahm, southwest of Nazareth city.

**Tuesday**  
14 December 2021

**Tunisia** – [President Saied's opponents slam parliament freeze extension](#)

Opponents of Tunisian President Kais Saied have slammed the decision to extend a months-long suspension of parliament, accusing him of dealing another blow to the country's nascent democracy.

**Iraq** – [Iraq hangs three on 'terrorism' charges: security sources](#)

Iraq on Tuesday hanged three men convicted of "terrorism" offenses in a prison in the city of Nasiriyah in the mainly Shiite Muslim south, two security sources told AFP. One of those executed was found guilty of involvement in a summer 2013 car bombing in Nasiriyah, one of the sources said. A second was convicted for his part in a similar attack in Karbala province further north, the source added.

**Iraq/Syria/US** – [Secret US military unit accused of killing civilians in Iraq, Syria](#)

US officers have alleged that a top-secret military force repeatedly killed civilians and committed war crimes in Iraq and Syria. The military unit, known internally as Talon Anvil, was deployed in Iraq and Syria from 2014 to 2019, where they allegedly killed many civilians in a brutal campaign.

**Afghanistan** – [UN says Taliban behind at least 72 extrajudicial killings in Afghanistan](#)

The UN said Tuesday it had received credible allegations of over 100 extrajudicial killings in Afghanistan since the Taliban took power in August, with most carried out by the Taliban. United Nations deputy rights chief Nada Al-Nashif said she was deeply alarmed by continuing reports of such killings, despite a general amnesty announced by the new Taliban rulers after August 15.

**Gaza** – [Syrian refugees stranded in Gaza 'prison' for a decade](#)

Palestinian Territories: Nearly 10 years after Imad Al-Hisso fled the civil war in Syria, he remains trapped in Gaza, a place he calls "a prison," with no clear path to return home.

**Wednesday**  
15 December 2021

**US/occupied Palestine** – [US legislators call for sanctions against Israel's NSO: Report](#)

A group of United States legislators has called on the Treasury Department and the State Department to sanction four companies – including the Israeli spyware firm NSO Group and the United Arab Emirates cybersecurity company DarkMatter – that they say helped authoritarian governments commit human rights abuses.

**Thursday**  
16 December 2021

**Arab World** – [One-third of Arab world's population suffers from hunger: UN](#)

A third of people in the 420-million-strong Arab world do not have enough food to eat, according to the United Nations. In a report published on Thursday, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) also said that between 2019 and 2020, the number of malnourished in the Arab world rose by 4.8 million people to 69 million, nearly 16 percent of the population.

**Friday**  
17 December 2021

**Tunisia** – [Tunisia navy rescues 78 migrants, one dead](#)

Tunisia's navy rescued 78 migrants and retrieved the body of another after their boat sank off the country's coast during a bid to reach Europe, the Defense Ministry said.

**Libya** – [Libyans in the dark over election with seven days to go](#)

Seven days before Libyans were meant to cast presidential votes, there is utter confusion over the fate of an election that has not yet been formally delayed but that even an electoral official now says will be impossible to hold on time.

**Occupied Palestine** – [Settlers attack Palestinian villages after West Bank killing](#)

Jewish settlers have burst into several villages in the occupied West Bank, smashing homes and cars and beating up at least two people, Palestinian officials have said. Friday's attacks came a day after Palestinian gunmen killed an Israeli man in a shooting ambush in the territory.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
18 and 19 December  
2021

**Jordan**– [Jordan: Palestinian refugees struggle amid UNRWA funding cuts](#)

Descendants of Palestinian refugees from Gaza live in Jordan without citizenship or rights, relying on UN refugee agency.

**Qatar** - [FIFA and Qatar Need to Do More for Migrant Workers](#)

In less than a year, Qatar will host the FIFA 2022 World Cup. The tournament's final match will be held in the glittering new Lusail Stadium on December 18, 2022, which in a twist of fate also happens to be International Migrants Day. Since December 2010, when Qatar won its bid to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup, the country has embarked on a massive building spree – restoring or building eight stadiums, as well as hotels, railroads, the international airport, and other major infrastructure. To hit this ambitious construction goal, the state relied almost entirely on the labor of migrant workers, who constitute over 95 percent of Qatar's workforce. These workers will be equally indispensable in the run-up to the World Cup as Qatar prepares to host over 1.2 million visitors.



## INTERNATIONAL

### Monday

13 December 2021

#### **EU / Russia** – [EU slaps sanctions on Russian mercenary group Wagner](#)

The European Union has imposed sanctions on Russian private military contractor Wagner Group, as well as on eight individuals and three other energy companies in Syria accused of helping finance the mercenaries in Ukraine, Libya and Syria. The EU accused the Wagner Group, whose members are mostly former service personnel, of human rights abuses and said they carried out clandestine operations on the Kremlin's behalf.

#### **Colombia** – [‘A police massacre’: Colombian officers killed 11 during protests against police violence](#)

Colombian police were responsible for the deaths of 11 protesters during anti-police protests that swept the capital in September 2020, according to a report published on Monday after an independent investigation backed by the mayor of Bogotá's office and the United Nations.

#### **United Kingdom** – [UK coastguard 'telling refugees in British waters to contact the French'](#)

Refugees crossing the Channel to the UK in small boats are calling on the UK coastguard to review its procedures after claiming officials regularly redirect them to French emergency services after they make 999 calls in what they believe to be the UK part of the Channel.

### Tuesday

14 December 2021

#### **Belarus** – [Belarus jails opposition leader's husband for 18 years](#)

Belarus has sentenced the husband of the opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya to 18 years in prison for challenging the authoritarian ruler, Alexander Lukashenko, and helping to spark the biggest demonstrations in the country's modern history.

#### **Worldwide**– [Urgent action needed to halt trafficking of children in world's orphanages](#)

Immediate action must be taken to prevent trafficking and exploitation of children in orphanages, according to a report published on Monday. International children's charity Lumos says that an estimated 5.4 million children worldwide live in institutions that cannot meet their needs and neglect their rights and where they are exposed to multiple forms of exploitation and harm.

### Wednesday

15 December 2021

#### **Cameroon** – [Cameroon: Armed Separatists' Attack on Education](#)

Systematic and widespread attacks by armed separatist groups on students, teachers, and schools in Cameroon's Anglophone regions since 2017 have had a devastating impact on children's right to education, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today.

#### **Mali** – [Mali: Security Suspects Allegedly Tortured](#)

Mali government security agents allegedly tortured six men who were held incommunicado in unauthorized detention facilities in September and October 2021, Human Rights Watch said today. Malian authorities should promptly and impartially investigate the torture allegations and respect due process in the cases against the men, who on November 3 were charged with plotting a coup against Mali's transitional government.

#### **United States** – [US Congress Misses Key Opportunity to Promote Rights](#)

Today, the US Congress passed the annual defense spending bill. The legislation leaves out several significant human rights priorities, despite efforts from some lawmakers.

### Thursday

16 December 2021

#### **United States / China** – [US sanctions China's biotech sector over Uighur rights abuses](#)

The Biden administration has slapped trade sanctions on several Chinese companies and institutions, citing national security and China's oppression of its largely Muslim Uighur minority population. The US Commerce Department said on Thursday that it was blacklisting a number of Chinese technology companies, accusing the government in Beijing of advancing high-tech surveillance on the Uighurs.

#### **Ethiopia** – [Ethiopia: New Wave of Atrocities in Western Tigray](#)

Amhara security forces are responsible for a surge of mass detentions, killings, and forced expulsions of ethnic Tigrayans in the Western Tigray territory of northern Ethiopia, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch said today.

#### **El Salvador** – [El Salvador: Critics Blocked on Social Media](#)

The El Salvador authorities, including President Nayib Bukele, are blocking people on social media who criticize the government, Human Rights Watch said today. This violates their rights to free speech and access to information, and to participate in the conduct of public affairs.

**Thailand** – [Thailand: Transgender People Denied Equal Rights](#)

Transgender people in Thailand have no route to legal recognition of their gender identity, making them vulnerable to various forms of discrimination, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today with the Thai Transgender Alliance.

**Friday**  
17 December 2021

**Myanmar** – [Aung San Suu Kyi appears in Myanmar court in prison uniform](#)

Myanmar's ousted leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, has appeared in court wearing prison uniform, a source with knowledge of the court proceedings said. The Nobel laureate, 76, was sentenced by a court this month to four years in jail for incitement and breaching coronavirus regulations. Her sentence was later reduced to a two-year term of detention in her current, undisclosed location.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
18 and 19 November  
2021

**India** – [2 Lynchings Reported at Sikh Temples in India](#)

Enraged mobs attacked men they linked to acts of sacrilege, one at the Golden Temple, the holiest shrine for Sikhs.