



## ► 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**  
27 September 2021

**CLDH – [CLDH issues a statement regarding Judge Bitar's removal from the Beirut Blast investigation](#)** CLDH issued the following statement: "Judge Tarek Bitar's investigation into the Beirut blast was put on hold pending the decision of the Court of Appeal, following former Minister Nohad Machnouk's request to remove him. The law is there to ensure justice. Therefore, the removal of a judge is legitimate for any accused, but its use by politically active persons to evade justice violates the law. In the face of obstruction of justice and frequent stalling, the Lebanese Center for Human Rights may resort to an investigation outside Lebanese territory as the control of the political elite over the judiciary prevents any serious and fair investigation into this case from happening."

**Lebanon – [Aoun tells UN big challenges await government, help needed](#)** President Michel Aoun told the United Nations General Assembly on Friday that big challenges awaited Lebanon's new government and asked the international community for funding to revive its crisis-stricken economy.

**Lebanon – [New Cabinet faces test on seriousness over reform pledges](#)** Lebanon's new Cabinet is set to face its first test of credibility when it meets this week to prove its seriousness about pledges to enact essential reforms in order to persuade the international community to come forth with its promised aid to the crises and debt-ridden country.

**Lebanon – [Beirut blast probe faces derailment for second time](#)** A probe into the catastrophic Beirut port explosion faced the risk of being derailed for the second time this year on Monday when a senior politician wanted for questioning filed a complaint doubting the lead investigator's impartiality.

**Lebanon – [Lebanon delays school year over fuel shortages](#)** Lebanon's public schools that were supposed to open on Monday will now reopen on October 10 after the country's newly appointed education minister pushed back the academic year by two weeks over fuel shortages.

**Tuesday**  
28 September 2021

**Lebanon** – [Man injured in Beirut port explosion dies, 14 months later](#) A Lebanese man who was critically injured in the massive explosion at Beirut's port last year has died, nearly 14 months after the blast. Ibrahim Harb, a 35-year-old accountant, was at his downtown office near the port when the explosion occurred, wiping out the port and devastating nearby neighborhoods. He died at his parents' home on Monday night, his brother, Mazen Harb, told The Associated Press.

**Lebanon** - [Lebanon's education sector faces uncertain year as crisis worsens](#) The education sector in Lebanon is buckling under the double threat of the economic crisis and COVID-19 restrictions. A new report published by Save the Children ranks Lebanon within the 100 countries where education is most at risk, citing political and food insecurity, as well as the consequences of the Beirut Port explosion and the Syrian refugee crisis as reasons for this.

**Lebanon** - [Lebanon records 10 more COVID-19 deaths, 543 new cases](#) Lebanon registered 543 new coronavirus cases and 10 deaths in the past 24 hours, the Health Ministry reported Tuesday. The cases were found from 16,627 tests, resulting in a two-week average positivity rate of 5.2 percent.

**Wednesday**  
29 September 2021

**Lebanon** - [Lebanese minister sees 'harmony' in talks over financial losses](#) Lebanon's banking sector, central bank and other players in its financial system are working in "harmony" to agree on the size and distribution of losses sustained during the country's economic meltdown, the economy minister said on Wednesday.

**Lebanon** - [Families protest suspension of Beirut blast probe](#) Hundreds of outraged Lebanese, mostly relatives of people killed in last year's Beirut port explosion, protested Wednesday against the suspension of an investigation into the blast hampered by political interference.

**Thursday**  
30 September 2021

**Lebanon** - [Lebanese pound drops sharply for sixth day](#) The Lebanese pound fell for a sixth day on Thursday, trading at 17,450 to the dollar on the black market. The pound surged after the formation of a government earlier in September, rising to a high of LL13,500 against the dollar, but it has since dropped back down as the scale of the issues facing the country's finances have become clearer.

**Friday**  
1st October 2021

**Lebanon** - [Lebanese pound nudges higher to snap losing streak](#) The Lebanese pound rose on the black market Friday, trading at LL16,850 to the dollar, ending a six-day losing streak.

**Lebanon** - [Karpowership stops electricity supply to Lebanon](#) Turkey's Karpowership said it stopped supplying Lebanon with electricity from its two power ships Friday as its contract expired.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
2-3 October 2021

**Lebanon** - ['The clinic is Therese' - the Lebanese mountain village relying on one retired nurse](#) Therese Comair has worked at a government-owned primary healthcare center for close to 50 years. Today, the public health sector is collapsing.

**Tripoli**- [No bread, no work: Lebanon's Tripoli faces growing hunger crisis](#) Tripoli, the second biggest city in Lebanon, is collapsing under economic crisis, rising crime, and Covid-19. It's always been one of the poorest cities in the country – even before the current economic meltdown the poverty rate in the city was almost 60 percent. That figure is now likely to be far higher.

**Beirut** - [Lebanon's 'Cultural Bureau' Banned Play Criticizing President & Govt, So They Performed It On The Streets](#) The play "Tanfise" was banned yesterday by the Cultural Bureau for criticizing the presidency and government. However, this didn't stop the performers. The play, directed by Awad Awad, was supposed to be performed on Al Madina Theater yesterday, as part of the Mishkal festival.



## REGIONAL Middle East

**Monday**  
27 September 2021

**Sudan** – [South Sudan dismisses UN report on corruption](#) South Sudan's government has dismissed a UN report accusing the country's governing elite of looting tens of millions of dollars from public coffers, saying it is the victim of an "international campaign".

**Palestine-** [Palestinian security officers go on trial over death of Abbas critic Banat](#) A Palestinian military court on Monday began the trial of 14 security officers charged with beating to death a prominent critic of President Mahmoud Abbas, in a case that has drawn widespread protests and calls for his resignation.

**Saudi Arabia** – [Saudi-US military ties continue despite rights reset](#) During the US presidential election campaign, Joe Biden distanced himself from the course of then-President Donald Trump, who was close with the Saudi royal family and concluded arms deals worth billions without strengthening human rights intentions in the kingdom. After eight months in office, Biden appears inclined to maintain the longstanding partnership despite all the controversy.

**Bahrain** - [Bahrain authorities jailed hundreds of children: Report](#) At least 607 children were subjected to various forms of torture by Bahraini authorities while in detention over the past decade, a new Al Jazeera investigation reveals.

**Tuesday**  
28 September 2021

**Syria** - [Syria water crisis spurs spike in disease: MSF](#) Limited access to clean water in northern Syria is causing a rise in illnesses and undermining the battle against Covid-19, Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said Tuesday.

**Egypt** - [Egypt tries researcher held on return from Italy on false news charge](#) Egyptian researcher Patrick Zaki, held for 19 months since being arrested on a trip home from Italy, faced trial on Tuesday on charges of spreading false news over an article he wrote about the plight of Egypt's Christians.

**Occupied Territories** - [Refusing food, medicine or court hearings, Palestinians fight administrative detention](#) Palestinians imprisoned by Israel under its contested policy of administrative detention have continued to protest their ill-treatment and repressive Israeli policies through hunger strikes and boycotting military court hearings - even if it means putting their lives and health at risk.

**Sudan** - [Sudan: Five security forces killed in raid targeting ISIL cell](#) Sudan's intelligence services has said five counterterrorism officers have been killed during a raid in the capital targeting a cell linked to the ISIL (ISIS) armed group.

**Wednesday**  
29 September 2021

**Yemen** - [Yemeni NGO wins UN refugee award](#) The United Nations said Wednesday that a Yemeni humanitarian organization working to help people displaced by the country's conflict was this year's recipient of its prestigious Nansen Refugee Award.

**Jordan** - [Jordan fully reopens main crossing with Syria](#) Jordan fully reopened its main border crossing with Syria on Wednesday in a boost for their struggling economies following a push by Arab states to reintegrate a country they have shunned during its decade-long war.

**Tunisia** - [Tunisia's president names Romdhane as country's first female PM](#) Tunisian President Kais Saied has named Najla Bouden Romdhane, a little-known university engineer who worked with the World Bank, as the country's first female prime minister, nearly two months after he seized most powers in a move his foes call a coup.

**Thursday**  
30 September 2021

**UN/Syria/Iraq - [UN launches initiative to repatriate citizens from Iraq and Syria](#)** Iraq and the Netherlands joined the UN agencies responsible for children and counter-terrorism to launch a global framework to support UN member states willing to repatriate their citizens from Iraq and Syria on Wednesday.

**UN/Occupied Territories - [UN special envoy slams Israeli destruction, seizures in occupied territories](#)** Israel has continued to destroy structures in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Tor Wennesland, UN special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, told the Security Council on Wednesday.

**Friday**  
1<sup>st</sup> of October 2021

**Syria - [For residents of Syria camp, slow death or risky exit](#)** A slow death if they stay or possible detention if they leave: the last residents of a Syria desert camp face an unenviable choice ahead of a new "voluntary departure" program.

**Qatar - [Qatari women take careful steps at first polls](#)** Qatari women are standing in the country's first legislative election Saturday, but in far lower numbers than men, prompting warnings that their influence on issues that affect women could be limited.

**Syria - [Syria hospitals hit hard as Covid-19 cases spike](#)** Covid-19 cases have soared to critical levels across Syria in recent weeks, officials told AFP Friday, with health facilities reaching maximum capacity and unable to cope.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
2-3 October 2021

**Algeria - [Algeria recalls envoy to France after 'inadmissible interference'](#)** Algeria accused its former colonial ruler France of "genocide" and recalled its ambassador from Paris in anger over what it said were "inadmissible" comments attributed to French President Emmanuel Macron. The Algerian government also banned French military planes from its airspace on Sunday.

**Jordan - [Pandora Papers: King of Jordan amassed £70m secret property empire](#)** The King of Jordan secretly spent more than £70m (\$100m) on a property empire in the UK and US. Leaked financial documents identify a network of secretly-owned firms used by Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein to buy 15 homes since he assumed power in 1999. They included houses in Malibu, and in London and Ascot in the UK.



## INTERNATIONAL

**Monday**  
27 September 2021

**US** - [Women of colour in US still face greater barriers at work: Report](#) Women who work in the United States are more burned out than they were a year ago, while commitments to advance diversity, equity and inclusion are not translating into better experiences at work for women of color, a report published found.

**EU** - [Google and EU head to court to decide the fate of €4.3 billion fine](#) A new chapter in the legal fight between Google and the European Union began on Monday as the tech giant headed to Luxembourg to appeal the record-breaking €4.34 billion fine for anti-competitive behavior.

**UK** - [UK fuel crisis: Prices rise to eight-year high as army on standby](#) Britain's army has been put on standby to deliver fuel as panic buying worsened a supply crisis, sending prices to an eight-year high.

**Tuesday**  
28 September 2021

**UK** - [Britain puts military on standby as panic buying leaves pumps dry](#) British drivers expressed frustration on Tuesday as they hunted for hours or sat snarled in queues to fill their tanks after gas stations in major cities ran dry due to a trucker shortage that has prompted the government to put the army on standby.

**Germany** - ['The Big Delete:' Inside Facebook's crackdown in Germany](#) Days before Germany's federal elections, Facebook took what it called an unprecedented step: the removal of a series of accounts that worked together to spread COVID-19 misinformation and encourage violent responses to COVID restrictions.

**US/China** - [American siblings blocked from leaving China return to US](#) Cynthia and Victor Liu had been barred from leaving China because of an "exit ban" – despite facing no criminal allegations. China lifted the restriction over the weekend and the US said the siblings were back home on Sunday.

**WHO/ Democratic Republic of the Congo** - [WHO sex abuse allegations: Agency staff members carried out rapes during Democratic Republic of the Congo Ebola response, report says](#) Twenty-one World Health Organization (WHO) staff members were allegedly involved in sexual abuse during the agency's response to the Ebola crisis in central Africa, according to an official report.

**Wednesday**  
29 September  
2021

**YouTube** - [YouTube shuts German channels of Russian broadcaster RT](#) YouTube has terminated the German channels of Russian state broadcaster RT, a move centered on alleged misinformation related to the coronavirus pandemic.

**Canada** - [Canada grants asylum to four people who hid Edward Snowden in Hong Kong](#) Canada granted asylum to four people who hid former NSA contractor Edward Snowden in their tiny Hong Kong apartments when he was on the run after stealing a trove of classified documents.

**Kenya** - [Kenya bans LGBTQ+ documentary for 'promoting same-sex marriage'](#) Activists and film producers have criticized a decision by the Kenya Film Classification Board to ban a documentary that tells the story of a Kenyan man struggling with his sexuality.

**Greece** - [Greece: After fires, experts sound alarm over grim climate future](#) Climate experts say last month's wildfires that razed 100,000 hectares (247,000 acres) of Greek forest are only a small sampling of the environmental and economic devastation the country will face due to a warming planet this century.

**Thursday**  
30 September  
2021

**France - [France's Sarkozy convicted of illegal campaign financing](#)** A French court on Thursday convicted former president Nicolas Sarkozy of illegal campaign financing over massive overspending on his 2012 re-election campaign, six months after he was given a jail term for corruption in a separate trial.

**Ethiopia - [Ethiopia holds delayed elections in three regions](#)** Ethiopia is holding elections Thursday for dozens of federal parliamentary seats, the final round of voting before Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed forms a new government next week.

**Switzerland - [Swiss vote highlights Europe's east-west divide on gay marriage](#)** After Swiss voters overwhelmingly backed same-sex marriage in a referendum on Sunday, LGBT groups in the country hailed a "historic day" for Switzerland. But the Swiss vote also marks a turning point for LGBT rights in Europe: all of Western Europe, except Italy, is now allowing gay and lesbian couples to wed.

**Friday**  
1st of October  
2021

**US - [Far-right militia group membership surged after Capitol attack, hack shows](#)** Hacked materials from the website of the rightwing militia group the Oath Keepers show that hundreds of people either joined or renewed their membership after many of the group's members participated in the attack on the Capitol on 6 January.

**WHO - [WHO 'should pay reparations to victims of sexual abuse by staff'](#)** Survivors of sexual abuse by World Health Organization aid workers during the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Ebola outbreak in 2018 should receive "substantive" reparations, the co-chair of an independent inquiry into the scandal has said.

**Saturday and  
Sunday**  
2-3 October 2021

**World - [Pandora papers: biggest ever leak of offshore data exposes financial secrets of rich and powerful](#)** Millions of documents reveal offshore deals and assets of more than 100 billionaires, 30 world leaders and 300 public officials. The secret deals and hidden assets of some of the world's richest and most powerful people have been revealed in the biggest trove of leaked offshore data in history.

**World - [Pandora Papers: Secret wealth and dealings of world leaders exposed](#)** The secret wealth and dealings of world leaders, politicians and billionaires has been exposed in one of the biggest leaks of financial documents. Some 35 current and former leaders and more than 300 public officials are featured in the files from offshore companies, dubbed the Pandora Papers.