

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 5 July 2021

Lebanon – <u>When biggest Lebanese hospitals can no longer treat patients</u> Renowned private hospitals such as 'Hotel-Dieu de France' worry they will no longer be able to treat patients because of drug shortages and electricity cuts.

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Lebanon – Lebanon days away from 'social explosion', PM Diab warns As more than half of the population plunges deeper into poverty, PM Hassan Diab has warned of a "social explosion", calling on the international community to save the country.

Lebanon – <u>Fuel crisis: the sector in a stationary state</u> Despite a significant price increase, fuel is still being smuggled to Syria, as long queues in front of gas stations are becoming an every day occurrence.

Lebanon – <u>Popular uprising groups call for "daily and continuous" mobilization starting today</u> Different groups from the uprising movement called for daily demonstrations, throughout Lebanon, to demand the departure of the ruling class.

Wednesday 7 July 2021	Lebanon – <u>Long Lebanese nights</u> The economic crisis is deeply affecting the population's mental health, causing anxiety and depression.
	Lebanon – <u>Pharmacies threaten to strike</u> If the Ministry of Health doesn't provide a detailed list of subsidized medicines, a group of pharmacies' owners warned that they will go on strike to protest.
	Lebanon (Jiyeh) – <u>Oil leak in Jiyeh, an investigation opened</u> Jiyeh residents woke up to an oil leak stretching over more than one kilometer of the sandy beach ; the municipality opened an investigation to track down the source.
	Lebanon/ Qatar - <u>Qatar has announced that it will be providing food donations to Lebanon</u> Qatar announced that it will donate seventy tons of food to the Lebanese army, which has been struggling during the crisis.
Thursday 8 July 2021	Lebanon – <u>When the gas black market becomes "professional"</u> Although drivers are suffering from fuel shortage, some people are finding ways to make money through bribery and illegal selling in the black market.
	Lebanon – <u>A man injured by stray bullet near gas station</u> A man was injured by a stray bullet in the area of Fneideq, Akkar, after a fight broke at a gas station.
Friday 9 July 2021	Lebanon – At Beirut airport, members of the diaspora arrive with their luggage full, but with an anxious mind Two realities co-exist at Rafic Hariri Airport in Beirut: exhausted and infuriated locals, versus expatriates who are not ready to see Lebanon's new reality.
	Lebanon – <u>The Lebanese pound exceeds 19,000 LL against the dollar on black market</u> The Lebanese pound just exceeded the historical level of 19,000 LL for one dollar on black market.
	CLDH - CLDH reinforces that everyone must assume their legal responsibilities with regards to law <u>65/2017</u> CLDH published a statement regarding the case of Hassan Al-Dika, who allegedly died under torture in May 2019. Two years in and still no justice for Hassan as perpetrators remain unpunished. CLDH called for greater responsibility and accountability by the judiciary, security agencies, as well as the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission, and the National Human Rights Commission.
Saturday and Sunday 10 and 11 July 2021	• Lebanon – Expat pill couriers: Lifeline in medicine-starved Lebanon Many Lebanese expats carry medicines to Lebanon from France in their suitcases to help relatives and friends who are facing drug shortages across the country.



Monday 5 July 2021 **Egypt – Egypt executes student who was 'tortured to confess' to attempted assassination of senior** officer Moataz Mustafa Hassan, a 27-year-old engineering student, was sentenced to death after his conviction in the case of the assassination of a high-ranking police officer in Alexandria in 2018.

Algeria – <u>Algeria</u> : <u>leniency for young prisoners linked to Hirak</u> President Abdemajid Tebboune decided to release 18 young prisoners detained for being part of the protest movement Hirak.

Occupied Palestine – <u>Mahmoud Abbas' disgrace</u> After the assassination of Nizar Banat, an activist critical of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas's image has been tarnished.

Occupied Palestine – <u>Why did Israel raid and wreck a children's centre in Jenin?</u> Israel systematically implements policies that deny Palestinian and children alike semblance of normality.

Yemen – <u>UN raises alarm over Yemeni children's education amid conflict</u> Due to the war and extreme poverty in Yemen, more than two million children are out of schools, warned UNICEF.

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Iran / Turkey – <u>Refugees make risky journeys from Iran across Turkey</u> Thousands of people are fleeing conflicts in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran, despite the risky journey across the Iran-Turkey border.

Afghanistan – <u>Afghan forces deploy to counter Taliban assault</u> Afghan authorities deployed troops and pro-government militias to counter Taliban's offensive in the north.

Israel / Occupied Palestine – <u>Israel-Palestine: PA violence is part of Israel's colonial regime</u> Following Nizar Banat's kidnapping and killing, massive protests erupted in West Bank cities calling out the PA's violence.

Syria – <u>Hundreds in northeast Syria protest 'honour killings'</u> Hundreds of women took the street to protest so-called "honour killings" following the murder of a 16-year-old girl by her father after being raped by a relative.

Wednesday 7 July 2021 Qatar / Lebanon – Qatar to provide food aid for Lebanese soldiers amid economic crisis As Lebanon has asked for help amid a critical economic crisis, Qatar will send the Lebanese armed forces 70 tones of food a month.

Iran – Nuclear talks in jeopardy as Iran starts enriching uranium metal The UN's atomic watchdog has warned that Iran has begun the process of producing enriched uranium metal, which could help develop a nuclear weapon.

Occupied Palestine – <u>Palestinian community in West Bank demolished for seventh time</u> Israeli forces destroyed Palestinian Bedouin community of Humsa al-Baqai'a in the occupied Jordan Valley, including farming equipment.

Thursday 8 July 2021	 Iraq - <u>Basra protests erupt as power cuts hit scorching Iraq</u> As hospitals, businesses and homes are all impacted by electricity cuts, hundreds of Iraqis took the street to protest against widespread power outages in the country. Iraq - <u>Rockets fired at US embassy in Iraq after series of attacks</u> American diplomats and troops were targeted in Iraq and Syria by rocket and drone attacks. Analysts believe the attacks were conducted by Iranian-backed armed groups. Afghanistan - <u>Afghan gov't delegation meets Taliban in Iran</u> Following the recent US forces withdrawal, Teheran hosted the first significant peace talks with Taliban in months. Egypt - <u>Hundreds of medics urge US to step up pressure on Egypt over dire prison conditions</u> After 100 prisoners died in custody last year, more than 200 medical professionals have signed a petition to ask the US Secretary of State to pressure Egypt into improving prison conditions.
Friday 9 July 2021	 Afghanistan - Kabul sends in commandos as Taliban surround Afghan city Despite the upcoming US troop withdrawal, Afghan President assured that they had the force to defeat Taliban as they fight for control of Herat, a provincial capital. Occupied Palestine - Israeli forces open fire on Palestinians; hundreds wounded 379 people were wounded by Israeli forces during protests in the West Bank, including 31 people who were hit by live ammunition. Syria - UN Security Council extends Syria cross-border aid The UN security council agreed on a lastminute extension of cross-border aid to Syria for another 12 months.
Saturday and Sunday 10 and 11 July 2021	 Saudi Arabia - Saudi Arabia: New Details of Alleged Torture Leaked Saudi Arabia is accused of torturing high-profile political detainees and women's rights activists in prisons, Human Rights Watch said. Syria - Syrian government announces steep rise in bread, diesel prices Bread prices double and diesel prices tripled as the Syrian government tries to tackle a financial crunch. Occupied Palestine - Palestinian minister withdraws threat to quit over activist death Palestinian minister Nasri Abu Jaish's resignation over the death of activist Nizar Banat was refused twice according to Abu Jaish. He will remain in office. Iraq - Iraq PM visits pro-democracy activist after abduction, assault Ali al-Mikdam, an activist who is critical of pro-Iran armed factions, was found in a hospital in Bagdad after he disappeared for two days.



Monday 5 July 2021 **Myanmar** – <u>Myanmar military kills at least 25 people in raid on central town</u> Myanmar's military killed at least 25 people during confrontations with opponents at a town in the center of Myanmar, as people increasingly take up arms against the generals who seized power in a coup five months ago.

Thailand – <u>Blast at Thai factory kills one, mass evacuation underway</u> A massive explosion hit a factory in Bangkok, killing at least one person and wounding 29 others.

Japan – <u>'This is hell': 1,500 rescuers search mud for Japan missing</u> Following torrential rain in the city of Atami near Tokyo, 1,500 rescuers are still searching for 80 missing people.

United Kingdom / Gulf – <u>UK MPs call for suspension of 'secretive' Gulf funding initiatives: Report</u> British MPs are calling for the suspension of "secretive" UK-funded programs to Gulf countries that they allege could place the UK at risk of being complicit in human rights abuses.

Ukraine – <u>Ukraine: Torture, Ill-Treatment by Armed Groups in East</u> In eastern Ukraine, Russian backed-armed groups are torturing and ill-treating people in custody, especially women, Human Rights Watch said.

Senegal – <u>Senegal: New Counterterror Laws Threaten Rights</u> A new counterterrorism law could punish political speech and peaceful demonstrations as "terrorist acts", and dangerously expand police surveillance powers.

Tuesday 6 July 2021 **Russia – Passenger plane goes missing in Russia's far east** A Russian AN-26 airplane with at least 28 people on board went missing in Kamchatka Peninsula, regional authorities said.

Venezuela – <u>Systematic Abuses in Venezuela under UN Scrutiny</u> Venezuelan authorities have failed to comply with UN recommendations as they used systematic torture, arbitrary detentions and killings, Human Rights Watch said in a report.

Spain – <u>Protests in Spain against suspected LGBT hate crime</u> Following the death of a man in a suspected homophobic attack, Spanish protesters took the streets to express their anger at the violence and hate targeting the LGBTQIA+ community.

Europe – <u>Rescue boat with hundreds of migrants on board asks EU to find it a port</u> A charity group asked the European Union to find a port where it can dock to disembark hundreds of migrants it had rescued in the central Mediterranean sea recently.

Belarus – <u>Belarus: Former presidential contender sentenced to 14 years must be released</u> Viktar Babaryka has been sentenced to 14 years of prison after declaring his intention to run presidency in 2020 against the current President Alyaksandr Lukashenka.

Wednesday 7 July 2021 **Hong Kong** – <u>China's Wechat deletes university LGBT accounts</u> Chinese social media WeChat has deleted dozens of LGBT accounts created by students to avoid the spread of gay content online.

Mexico – <u>Mexico watchdog says migrants overcrowded, no masks or medicine</u> Mexico's human rights commission (CNDH) has accused migration authorities of mistreating 90 people in overcrowded facilities, without giving them medicines and for epilepsy and diabetes, nor masks against COVID-19.

China – <u>Chinese Cyber Legend Vanishes, Raising Concerns</u> Program-Think, a pseudonym for a blogger who criticizes the Chinese government, has disappeared from the web for two months now, worrying netizens.

Kazakhstan – <u>Kazakhstan: Crackdown on Government Critics</u> Authorities in Kazakhstan have started prosecutions against people participating in alleged "extremist" political opposition groups, Human Rights Watch said.

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Vietnam – <u>Vietnam: Free Prominent Novelist</u> The writer and novelist Pham Chi Thanh has been charged under article 117 of the Vietnamese penal code for "opposing the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam"; Human Rights Watch asked for his immediate release.

Kyrgyzstan – <u>Kyrgyzstan: Azimjon Askarov's Family Awaits Justice</u> After the death in custody of the human rights defender Azimjon Askarov on July 25, 2020, Human Rights Watch said that the government should resume an independent investigation.

Russia – <u>Supermarket Chain in Russia Acts LGBT-Inclusive, Then Regrets It</u> Since discrimination against LGBTQ+ people is enshrined in the law, a food market chain named VkusVill had to apologize after releasing an inclusive commercial campaign for LGBTQ+ people.

Haiti – <u>Haiti police kill four suspects in Moise assassination</u> Following the President Jovenel Moise's assassination which has plunged the country into chaos, security forces have shot dead four suspected killers of the President.

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Kashmir – <u>Two Indian soldiers among several killed in Kashmir gunbattles</u> In a series of counterinsurgency operations in Indian-administered Kashmir, 8 suspected rebels and 2 Indian soldiers have been killed as they crossed from the Pakistani side of the territory.

Bangladesh – Deadly fire at Bangladesh food processing factory A huge fire in a Bangladeshi factory has killed at least 3 people and injured 30 others, as the lack of safety rules is common in Bangladesh.

Ethiopia – <u>UN Rights Body Needs to Act on Ethiopia</u> Grave rights abuses continue to come out from the Tigray region of Ethiopia, UN Hugh Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said.

Cambodia – <u>Cambodia: No Justice At 5-Year Anniversary of Kem Ley's Death</u> After the unlawful killing of prominent human rights defender Kem Ley, some organizations are asking for an impartial investigation into his death.

Saturday and Sunday 10 and 11 July 2021

Cuba – <u>Thousands join rare anti-government protests in Cuba</u> As the coronavirus pandemic and the economic crisis are spurring frustration in the country, thousands of demonstrators protested the Cuban dictatorship.

United States (Florida) – <u>Florida condominium collapse death toll rises to 90, with 31 missing</u> The Surfside Champlain Towers South condominium collapse's death toll rises to 90 with 31 still missing, as crews continue their search for human remains in the Miami building's wreckage.

United States (Virginia) – <u>Charlottesville removes Confederate statue at center of deadly 2017</u> protest A statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee was taken down in Charlottesville, Virginia, nearly four years after white supremacist protests over plans to remove it led to clashes in which a woman was run down by a car and killed.