

## ► 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**  
8 November 2021

**Lebanon / Gulf** – [Arab League hails 'positive' talks with Lebanon over GCC row](#)  
An Arab League delegation arrived in Beirut on Monday to hear the Lebanese point of view in the diplomatic rift between Lebanon and Gulf countries. The Arab League assistant secretary hailed the talks as 'positive' and said he will travel to Saudi Arabia if necessary to find an appropriate solution to the crisis.

**Lebanon / Gulf** – [Breakthrough Hopes Low as Arab League Delegation Visits Beirut](#)  
Senior Lebanese officials had low expectations for the Arab League talks, citing Hezbollah's inflexible stance and information minister George Kordahi's unwillingness to resign over his remarks which sparked the crisis.

**Tuesday**  
9 November 2021

**Lebanon** – [Lebanese Priest Mansour Labaki Charged With Rape And Sexual Assault Of Children](#)  
A French commune tried Lebanese priest Mansour Labaki in absentia on charges of rape and sexual abuse of three children in an orphanage he ran from 1991 to 1998 in France. The Lebanese government refuses to extradite Labaki despite the claims against him.

**Wednesday**  
10 November 2021

**Tripoli** – [Portrait of poverty in Lebanon as UN visits poorest place on Med](#)  
Reuters reports deteriorating conditions in Tripoli, where poverty has soared since the economic crisis began in 2019. Residents of Lebanon's second largest city face rising food insecurity, unemployment, and inadequate housing as over half the city lives below the poverty line.

**Lebanon / Gulf** – [No longer a 'cash cow', Saudi squeezes Lebanon's ruined economy](#)  
Saudi Arabia's ban on Lebanese imports is a massive blow to Lebanon's economy as the country suffers from a historic economic crisis and nearly two-thirds of the population lives in poverty. The ban has affected roughly \$250 million of Lebanese exports. If other Gulf countries such as the UAE, Kuwait, and Bahrain follow suit, nearly half of all revenue from exports would be affected.

**Thursday**  
11 November 2021

**Lebanon – [Diplomats concerned Gulf spat could harm Lebanese in region](#)**

Kuwait halted issuing visas to Lebanese citizens this week, fueling concerns that tensions between Lebanon and Gulf countries could harm the interests of Lebanese living in the region. Hundreds of thousands of Lebanese have been living in Gulf nations for decades and transfer billions of dollars every year back to their home country. Any measures against them could have dramatic effects on Lebanon, which is already in the middle of the worst economic crisis in its modern history.

**Lebanon – [Judges Association Asks Politicians Not to Interfere in Judiciary](#)**

The Lebanese Judges Association warned Wednesday against judicial politicization, urging the politicians to stop interfering in the Judiciary and to "let the judicial path go on without abuse." They said in a statement that "Lebanese politicians ... disrupted the economy, looted the banking sector, deformed the public sector, frustrated the people, displaced the youth, polluted the air and failed the country until we started begging for crumbs from countries and institutions."

**Lebanon – [Why Lebanon needs renewable energy now](#)**

As temperatures begin to drop in Lebanon, the country's massive economic collapse means an increasing number of families will not be able to afford enough fuel to keep warm this winter. People need heat and power now, and the same old band-aids can't be avoided, argues the New Humanitarian. However, international aid agencies can and should also be leading the way towards the future by helping Lebanon transition to renewable energy. Otherwise, the same old problems will keep repeating themselves each winter, tensions will grow, and millions will continue to suffer.

**Lebanon – ['No magic wand' to resolve Lebanon's economic crisis](#)**

Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati said on Wednesday that there is no 'magic wand' to cure Lebanon's crisis. He called on the judiciary to adopt unified laws so that a conclusion can be reached in the Beirut port blast investigation and urged politicians to stop interfering in the case. In response to the fallout from the crisis between Lebanon and Gulf states, Mikati called on information minister George Kordahi to resign over his critical remarks of Saudi Arabia asking him to prioritize his country's best interest.

**Lebanon / Gulf – [Row with Gulf states could speed up Lebanon's economic free fall](#)**

For cash-strapped Lebanon, every dollar counts, but the row between Lebanon and Gulf states could indirectly affect its negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Lebanon seeks financial support from the IMF in order to cope with its economic and financial crisis.

**Lebanon / Gulf – [KSA to 'Only' Grant Humanitarian Visas for Lebanese](#)**

Saudi Arabia will limit the visas it issues for Lebanese nationals to only cover humanitarian cases, which is expected to escalate the diplomatic row between Beirut and Riyadh. Hundreds of thousands of Lebanese work in Gulf Arab states including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait and Bahrain.

**Lebanon – [Lebanon's first case of sexual harassment postponed](#)**

Lebanon's first sexual harassment trial, scheduled to begin on Thursday, was postponed due to the court employees' strike. Five women accused Lebanese film director and journalist Jaafar al-Attar of "serial harassment". Activists hope the case will set a precedent in the country where harassment has only recently been criminalized by law.

**Friday**  
12 November 2021

**Lebanon – [UN rep slams Lebanon central bank chief over economic crisis](#)**

United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights Olivier De Schutter on Friday blasted Lebanese Central Bank Governor Riad Salameh for not recognizing the bank's role in the country's crippling economic crisis. For years, the central bank bolstered its foreign currency reserves – and enabled the government to spend beyond its means- by paying out exorbitant interest rates to entice commercial banks to lend it US dollars. In order to stay flush with dollars, commercial banks would in turn offer their depositors ever-higher interest rates. De Schutter said the practice was unsustainable and the central bank should have known that.

**Bekaa – [Lebanon: Ras Baalbek municipality imposes new restrictions on Syrian refugees](#)**

A municipality in the northern Bekaa region imposed a set of restrictive measures on Syrian refugees, limiting their wage for an eight-hour day to less than two dollars per day, restricted wages of female domestic workers, and barred refugees from receiving people in their home after 7pm. Rights groups denounced the measures as racist and discriminatory. The municipality retracted the measures on Friday.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
13 & 14 November  
2021

**Lebanon – [Lebanon's crisis: Exodus of doctors and nurses amid medical meltdown](#)**

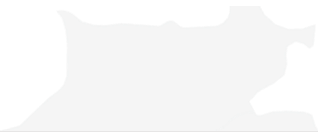
Over the past two years, life has become unbearable for many Lebanese, prompting doctors and nurses to leave the crisis-stricken country in droves. The World Health Organization estimated in September that nearly 40 percent of Lebanon's doctors and 30 percent of nurses had departed since October 2019. The majority of the nurses who left did so this year, according to Lebanon's Order of Nurses.

**Lebanon – [Cyprus to Probe How Migrant Boat from Lebanon Slipped Away](#)**

A migrant boat sailing from Tripoli to Italy was intercepted off the coast of Cyprus on Wednesday, but the next day the boat continued its journey without attracting the notice of the police.

**Lebanon – [Lebanese pound continues its collapse, hits an all time low of 23,000 LL against the dollar](#)**

The Lebanese Lira fell to a new low of 23,000 LL against the US dollar on Thursday. The drop means Lebanese workers have now lost 94% of their income since 2019.





## REGIONAL Middle East

**Monday**  
8 November 2021

**Middle East and North Africa – [Extreme hotspot: What 60C means for the Middle East](#)**

The Middle East and North Africa is already the hottest and driest region on the planet but climate change could make some areas uninhabitable in the coming decades with temperatures potentially reaching 60 degrees Celsius or higher. The repercussions throughout the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region would be devastating including chronic water shortages, the inability to grow food because of extreme weather and resulting drought, and a surge in heat-related deaths and health problems.

**Occupied Palestine – [Palestinian activists hacked by Israeli firm NSO spyware: Report](#)**

Spyware from the Israeli surveillance company NSO Group was detected on the mobile phones of six Palestinian human rights activists, in the first known instance of Palestinian activists being targeted by the military-grade Pegasus spyware. It is not clear who placed the NSO spyware, which surreptitiously gives intruders access to everything a person stores and does on their mobile phone, including real-time communications. Three of the hacked Palestinians work for civil society groups.

**Egypt – [US raises Egypt's rights record as 'strategic dialogue' begins](#)**

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his Egyptian counterpart Sameh Shoukry have started a round of "strategic dialogue" in Washington that they say will address human rights issues. The dialogue came as human rights groups urged the Biden administration, which pledged to put human rights at the center of US foreign policy, to take a firmer stance against Egypt over the country's human rights record. Rights groups have accused the government of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi of jailing tens of thousands of dissidents and outlawing virtually all forms of political opposition.

**Tuesday**  
9 November 2021

**Sudan – [Sudan court orders end to internet shutdown](#)**

A Sudanese court has ordered the country's main telecoms companies to restore internet access more than two weeks after it was cut following a coup by military leaders. Since then, online access has largely been blocked and phone lines have also been intermittently disrupted. While some Sudanese users have managed to find a connection, the blackout has made it difficult for most people to communicate, particularly with those outside the country.

**Occupied Palestine – [Jerusalem: Palestinians at risk of displacement due to demolition](#)**

Some 70 Palestinians, about half of whom are children, are at risk of forced displacement in the Jerusalem neighbourhood of al-Tur as they await an Israeli court decision over the fate of their five-story residential building. The residents told Al Jazeera they were offered another ultimatum on Sunday: to either pay a refundable 200,000 shekels (\$64,400) and have until the end of the month to self-demolish, or the state will do it for them – at a cost of two million shekels (\$644,000).

**Wednesday**  
10 November 2021

**Syria – [Tunisia trade union calls for strike over death of protester](#)**

Tunisia's powerful General Trade Union (UGTT) has called for a general strike on Wednesday in Agureb, in the central region of Sfax, a day after a demonstrator died from inhaling tear gas fired by police to disperse protests against the reopening of a landfill site. The incident is the first serious test facing the government of Prime Minister Najla Boden, appointed by President Kais Saied last month, in how to respond to protests over poor public services and fragile social and environmental conditions.

**Thursday**  
11 November 2021

**Sudan – [Sudan army chief names new governing Sovereign Council](#)**

Sudan's army chief General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, who led a coup last month that removed the country's transitional government, has appointed a new governing Sovereign Council, with representatives of the main bloc demanding a transfer to civilian rule excluded. Al-Burhan would remain the head of the council, while Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, the leader of the feared paramilitary Rapid Support Forces who is also known as Hemeti, would keep his post as deputy. Anti-coup protesters in the east of Sudan's capital, Khartoum, reacted to al-Burhan's move by blocking roads and burning tires.

**Yemen – [US calls on Yemen's Houthis to release local embassy staff](#)**

The United States has called on Yemen's Houthi rebels to release an unspecified number of detained Yemenis who work for the US embassy in the capital, Sanaa. The compound that previously served as the embassy – operations were moved to Saudi Arabia years ago because of Yemen's war – has been breached. Most of the detainees have been released but the rebels continue to hold Yemeni employees of the embassy.

**Libya – [Iran deporting thousands of Afghan refugees](#)**

Iran is sending tens of thousands of Afghan refugees back over the border, aid agencies and witnesses say, amid allegations of mistreatment by Iranian authorities. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) found that just over one million Afghans have been sent back this year, including more than 28,000 Afghans in the last week of October, despite the dire conditions awaiting them.

**Saudi Arabia – [Saudi Court Blocks Execution of Man Convicted of Crime Committed at 14](#)**

A Saudi court overturned the conviction of a Saudi man sentenced to death after being found guilty of robbing a jewelry store and killing a police officer when he was 14 years old.

**Afghanistan – [Afghanistan Facing Famine](#)**

Human Rights Watch urged the international community on Thursday to address Afghanistan's collapsed economy to prevent widespread famine. The rights group called on the UN, international financial institutions, and government to adjust sanctions and restrictions in light of the humanitarian crisis.

**Friday**  
12 November 2021

**Libya – [World powers press for Libya elections but disputes remain](#)**

World powers have urged Libya to stick to a plan for holding presidential elections on December 24, adding that foreign mercenaries should also leave and allow the country to turn a page in its history.

**Sudan – [Western countries slam new Sudan army-led council](#)**

Several Western countries have expressed grave concern over the decision by Sudan's army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan to appoint a new ruling body weeks after he led a military coup that derailed the country's fragile transition towards democracy. Al-Burhan named himself as the head of the council. "This unilateral action by the military undermines its commitment to uphold the agreed transitional framework," read a statement published by Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Union and Switzerland.

**Tunisia – [Tunisia MP jailed for sexual harassment in landmark case](#)**

A Tunisian member of parliament has been sentenced to a year in prison for sexually harassing a schoolgirl, in a case that sparked a nationwide #MeToo movement.

**Turkey – [Turkmenistan's dissidents fear crackdown in Turkish exile](#)**

Human rights groups released a statement urging Turkey to stop detentions and deportation attempts against Turkmenistan nationals in the country.

**Afghanistan – [Taliban continue crack down on Human Rights defenders](#)**

The Taliban is cracking down on journalists reporting on women's rights protests as women across the country have taken to the streets to demand equality and freedom.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
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**Syria / United States – [How the U.S. Hid an Airstrike That Killed Dozens of Civilians in Syria](#)**

A US airstrike killed roughly 70 women and children in Syria in 2019. Although the death toll was almost immediately apparent to military officials, the military concealed the strike by downplaying the death toll, sanitizing reports, and bulldozing the blast site.



## INTERNATIONAL

**Monday**  
8 November 2021

**The Americas – [Human rights are essential for a renewal of the Americas](#)**

“There is an urgent need to address the grave human rights crises facing the region, put an end to the repressive tendencies we have seen in several countries and address serious structural shortcomings in the region regarding economic, social and cultural rights” said Amnesty International in an open letter to the heads of state attending 51st General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS).

**Tuesday**  
9 November 2021

**Ethiopia – [Ethiopia Seizes 16 UN Workers Amid Efforts to Halt Tigray War](#)**

Ethiopian authorities have detained 16 UN workers and dozens more drivers on their route to deliver food to the Tigray region. Authorities have not given a reason they are holding the aid workers.

**Ethiopia – [Ethiopia: Blocking Tigray Aid Harms Rape Survivors](#)**

The Ethiopian government’s siege of Tigray is harming survivors of sexual assault by preventing post-rape care and mental health support from reaching the region after health care facilities have been destroyed.

**Wednesday**  
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**Myanmar – [American Journalist Held in Myanmar Faces 2 New Charges](#)**

American journalist Danny Fenster who was detained in Myanmar in May has been charged with terrorism and sedition. The new charges come as Myanmar’s military government has begun giving maximum prison sentences to politicians opposed to the military’s rule.

**Cyprus – [Cyprus seeks to suspend asylum applications from migrants entering illegally \(Updated\)](#)**

The government in Cyprus is seeking to suspend asylum applications from those who entered the country illegally. 9,270 migrants illegally crossed into Cyprus in the first ten months of 2021.

**Thursday**  
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**Belarus – [Migrants in Peril, and Raw Emotions, in a Volatile European Border Standoff](#)**

Roughly nine migrants trapped in the border region between Belarus and Poland and Lithuania have died of exposure. Aid workers, journalists, and independent doctors are barred from entering the border region where the Belarusian government forced migrants to approach the EU border and Polish and Lithuanian border authorities refused to let them enter.

**Greece – [Greece: Life-Saving on Trial](#)**

Two humanitarian activists will face trial in Greece for their involvement in search and rescue operations. The charges “perversely misrepresent the group’s search-and-rescue operations as a smuggling crime ring”, claims Human Rights Watch.

**Friday**  
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**Belarus – [Airlines Move to Curb Flow of Migrants to Belarus](#)**

After the European Union pressured airlines to end their involvement in transporting migrants to Belarus, several airlines announced they will no longer allow Syrian, Yemeni, or Iraqi citizens to board flights to Belarus.

**Ukraine – [Ukraine War Crimes Arrest a Step Toward Justice](#)**

Ukrainian authorities arrested Denis Kulikovsky, a senior member of a Russian backed armed group who oversaw a detention center in Donetsk where rights groups documented torture and prolonged incommunicado detention.

**Russia – [Russian Authorities Move to Shut Down a Human Rights Giant](#)**

Russian authorities have moved to shut down one of Russia’s largest human rights organizations, Memorial. Memorial works to commemorate victims of Soviet repression, and provides a platform for open debate.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
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**Bangladesh – [They Warned Their Names Were on a Hit List. They Were Killed.](#)**

In less than a month, assassins have killed at least eight people in the Rohingya refugee camps of Bangladesh, silencing those who have dared to speak out against the violent gangs. Residents of the camps are terrorized by militants, drug traffickers, and kidnappers. Protests against government inactivity are mounting across the country.