



► 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
4 October 2021

Lebanon – [Pharaon calls for a rehabilitation of public hospitals](#)

The former Minister and MP Mr. Michel Pharaon called the government for a rapid intervention to rehabilitate public hospitals, denouncing on Twitter that 70% of Lebanese citizens no longer have a health insurance.

Lebanon – [Report: Awkar Meeting Discusses Raising Army Salaries](#)

Considering the danger of “truly collapse” of national security and military forces, a meeting was held around 10 days ago at the U.S. Embassy in Awkar, at the presence of representatives of several countries and of the security and military forces, in order to discuss an urgent aid program and a salaries increase for Lebanese Army. This was reported today by “Al-Akhbar” newspaper.

Lebanon – [Judge Tarek Bitar resumes role in investigating port blast](#)

The Court of Cassation ruled that the lead judge investigating the disastrous Beirut port blast, Tarek Bitar, would be kept on the case after it rejected two legal complaints filed against him by former Finance Minister Ali Hassan Khalil and former Public Works Minister Ghazi Zeaiter.

Lebanon – [Beirut blast judge summons four ex-officials for questioning](#)

Judicial sources revealed that Judge Tarek Bitar summoned former prime minister, Mr. Hassan Diab, and three ex-ministers for interrogation on suspicion of negligence and maladministration over last year’s catastrophic Beirut Port blast.

Tuesday
5 October 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon's telecom, internet sector could collapse within days](#)

The Parliamentary Media and Communications Committee warned that telecommunications and internet sector could collapse within days due to fuel shortages. Telecom services, including the internet, were intermittently suspended in several regions in recent months.

Lebanon – [Organizations call for an end to pushbacks of Syrian refugees](#)

EuroMed Rights, KISA, Access Centre for Human Rights, CLDH and 12 other partner organizations call on the Republic of Cyprus to immediately end the practice of pushbacks, to facilitate family reunification procedures, and to increase legal pathways and humanitarian corridors through the use of humanitarian visas.

Wednesday
6 October 2021

Lebanon – [Tourism in Lebanon: its crisis is worse than expected](#)

Crisis, pandemic and the Beirut Blast caused a “black year” for the Lebanese society and its economic system. According to Bank of Lebanon, one of the sectors that is facing major problems is tourism.

Lebanon – [As Lebanese got poorer, politicians stowed wealth abroad](#)

A trove of leaked documents confirmed that for years, Lebanon’s politicians and bankers stowed wealth in offshore tax havens and used it to buy expensive properties. This is a galling revelation for numerous newly impoverished citizens facing one of the world’s worst economic meltdowns in decades.

Thursday
7 October 2021

Lebanon – [Gas Station Queues Return amid Pricing Confusion](#)

Long queues returned to gas stations amid a delay in the issuance of the weekly prices schedule by the Ministry of Energy. This delay has been blamed on a rise in the price of oil globally and on a surge in the dollar exchange rate on the black market in the country.

Lebanon – [Mental health: children and young people are still suffering after the Beirut Blast](#)

In preparation for the World Day for Mental Health (October 10, 2021), UNICEF warns that numerous children in the country are still traumatized from the Beirut Blast. Several programs are in place to guarantee psychological assistance and therapy to those in need, especially children, teenagers and vulnerable categories.

Friday
8 October 2021

Lebanon – [New rise of the fuel prices on October 8](#)

The price of fuel increased once again due to the international rise of the price of oil and the surge in the dollar exchange rate on the black market. 20 liters of SP95 are sold now for 233,800 LBP.

Saturday and Sunday
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October 2021

Lebanon – [Economic meltdown triggers mass exodus of the best and brightest Lebanese](#)

The tragedy that is happening alongside the country’s meltdown is the exodus of its best and brightest. The job market has sharply contracted, leaving Lebanese students with little to look forward to. The shortfall of skilled labor is being felt acutely in the healthcare sector, with the “devastating” a mass exodus of medical professionals.

Lebanon – [Power outage will last for several days: Government official](#)

The country’s electricity network was completely disconnected after the Al-Zahrani and Deir Ammar power plants stopped because they ran out of fuel. Amid the economic crisis, rationing of state electricity had already reached 23 hours a day, with private generators also rationing power.



REGIONAL Middle East

Monday
4 October 2021

Bahrain – [French MPs condemn 'human rights violations' in Bahrain](#)

France's foreign minister, Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian, denounced the deteriorating human rights situation in Bahrain. According to a report by Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain, four French MPs had previously raised alleged abuses by Bahraini authorities, including detention of political opponents, repression of freedom of expression, and political prisoner violations.

Libya – [Libya's migrant detentions tops 5,000 as crackdown continues](#)

Amnesty International has called on Libyan authorities to release migrants and refugees including more than 200 children. According to the United Nations, the number of migrants and refugees detained in a major crackdown in the western area of the country has exceeded 5,000 people.

Occupied Palestine – [Time to Recognize Reality of Israeli Apartheid & Persecution](#)

HRW stated that "it is time for the international community to publicly recognize that apartheid, and parallel persecution, is the reality for millions of Palestinians". In April 2021, HRW had also released a report, "*A Threshold Crossed*", finding that Israeli authorities are committing the crimes against humanity over Palestinians.

Yemen – [Houthis under fire for killing displaced civilians in Marib](#)

Several government officials, local and international activists, as well as rights groups and western diplomats strongly condemned the Houthi bombardment of a residential area in the central city of Marib that killed and wounded more about forty civilians.

Tuesday
5 October 2021

Iraq – [Ensuring All Iraqis with Disabilities Are Able to Vote](#)

HRW warned that next week the country will hold parliamentary elections, but many people with disabilities are effectively denied their right to vote due to discriminatory legislation and inaccessible polling places. Since the war, Iraq has one of the world's largest populations of people with disabilities.

Occupied Palestine – [Rearrested Palestinian prisoner begins hunger strike](#)

Rearrested Palestinian prisoner Mr. Mohammad al-Ardah, one of six prisoners who broke out of an Israeli jail last month, began a hunger strike against what his lawyers described as "harsh isolation conditions" and violation of his human rights.

Wednesday
6 October 2021

Palestine (Gaza strip) – [Palestinian factions in Gaza call to end latest UNRWA-US deal](#)

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip called for the scrapping of an agreement between the US and the United Nation's agency for Palestinian refugees, denouncing the deal violates many of their rights.

Turkey – [Activists in more than 40 countries demand acquittal of students in jail for celebrating Pride](#)

"Activists around the world have joined Amnesty International in calling for the acquittal of 18 students and an academic at the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara. They are facing up to three years in prison simply for organizing and participating in an entirely peaceful Pride march on campus in May 2019 that the University management had unlawfully banned".

Turkey / European Union – [Amid migration fears, Greece supports visa-free travel of Turks to EU](#)

Ankara and Brussels are going to discuss another milestone for their long-standing relations as European Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ms. Ylva Johansson, prepares to visit in mid-October to launch high-level talks between the EU and Turkey on migration management, including visa liberalization for Turkish citizens.

Thursday
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Occupied Palestine (West Bank) – [Rights groups to PayPal: End discrimination against Palestinians](#)
Palestinian and international rights groups renewed a campaign demanding that digital payment giant PayPal stop excluding millions of Palestinians from accessing its services. PayPal is currently available for all Israelis, including those living in illegal settlements, in and around Palestinian villages and towns – but not to the five million Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza.

Syria / Germany / Denmark – [Germany and Denmark repatriate women, children from Syria camp](#)
The German foreign ministry declared that Germany and Denmark repatriated 11 women and 37 children from a camp in northeastern Syria where suspected members of the ISIS armed group are being held.

Yemen – [Thousands of Yemenis in Houthi-besieged district at risk of starvation, say officials](#)
Local officials denounced that thousands of Yemenis in Marib's Al-Abedia district are at risk of dying from starvation due to an ongoing siege by the Houthis.

Yemen – [Saudi Arabia forces an end to mandate of international mechanism to investigate HR abuses](#)

After today's vote at the Human Right Council, where not enough states voted to extend the mandate of the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen, following pressure by Saudi Arabia and other coalition partners, Amnesty International declared that this is "an abandonment of the people of Yemen who are today suffering under one of the world's worst humanitarian crises".

Friday
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Libya – [Libyan detention centre guards kill six migrants amid crackdown](#)

According to the UN agency for migration, the guards at Ghot Shaal detention centre in Tripoli shot dead six migrants amid an ongoing violent crackdown against refugees and asylum seekers. Videos posted on social media showed dozens of people pouring through a gap in a fence and larger numbers marching through Tripoli streets.

Morocco – [Moroccan King Appoints New Government, Including 7 Women](#)

The new cabinet of Prime Minister Mr. Aziz Akhanouch of the Rally of National Independents party is composed of 24 ministers, including seven women.

Occupied Palestine – [Rights group cites Facebook censorship of Palestinians](#)

Several rights groups denounced that Facebook and its Instagram platform wrongfully removed and suppressed content by Palestinians, including videos and post about abuses during Israeli-Palestinian violence this year.

Tunisia – [Ex-president calls for protests against Kais Saied](#)

Former Tunisian President Mr. Moncef Marzouki called on Tunisians to stage protests on Sunday against the power grab by the country's actual president, Mr. Kais Saied, in order to defend "the constitution, democracy, freedom and national sovereignty".

Occupied Palestine – [Israel, Palestinian Militants Use Bodies as Bargaining Chips](#)

Israel is holding the remains of Palestinians killed in conflict, mentioning the need to deter attacks and potentially exchange them for the remains of two Israeli soldiers held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The Palestinians and human rights groups consider the practice of holding bodies as a form of collective punishment that inflicts further suffering on grieving families.

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INTERNATIONAL

Monday
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Colombia – [Justice Needed for 2017 Police Massacre](#)

HRW and Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights stated that national authorities should ensure independent and impartial investigations against police officers allegedly responsible for the killing of seven protesters during a demonstration in October 2017.

Guatemala – [Anti-vaccine villagers attack and hold nurses with Covid jabs](#)

Anti-vaccine residents in a village in a rural area of the country attacked nurses who were trying to administer COVID-19 jabs, holding them for seven hours. Authorities declared that online disinformation is feeding resistance to the vaccines.

Russia – [Valentina Chupik released and no longer at risk](#)

The migrant rights defender, Ms. Valentina Chupik, was released from detention at the Sheremetevo airport in Moscow and was allowed to fly to Armenia. She had been held in the transit lounge of the airport since 25 September, stripped of her refugee status in Russia and threatened with imminent forcible return to Uzbekistan, where she would have been at risk of human rights violations.

Worldwide – [Facebook, Whatsapp and Instagram back after outage](#)

Social media services Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram are back up and running after an outage that lasted almost six hours due to technical issues. This outage affected more than 3.5 billion people worldwide. Many were cut off from family and friends, while small businesses which use social media to connect with customers were faced with the prospect of an unexpected financial hit.

Tuesday
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Afghanistan – [13 Hazara killed by Taliban fighters in Daykundi province](#)

Amnesty International denounced that Taliban forces unlawfully killed 13 ethnic Hazaras, including a 17-year-old girl, in Daykundi province after members of the security forces of the former government surrendered.

Afghanistan – [Anxious wait for Afghan girls as opening of high schools stalled](#)

Millions of teenage girls across the country are impatiently waiting to return to the classroom, as high schools continue to remain closed, raising fears about the future of female education under Taliban regime.

France – ['Massive' child sex abuse in French Catholic Church, inquiry finds](#)

The inquiry of an independent commission revealed that French Catholic clergy sexually abused around 216,000 minors since 1950, a "massive phenomenon" that was internally and externally covered up by a "veil of silence".

India – [Indian shop workers – most of them women – win the right to sit](#)

The State of Tamil Nadu becomes second state in the country to enshrine the 'right to sit' in law, citing health risks for retail workers, who are mostly women. Store owners are now obliged to provide seating and let employees take the weight off their feet whenever possible during the working day.

Singapore – [Foreign interference law is a tool for crushing dissent](#)

Amnesty International denounced that the new foreign interference law constitutes a brutal attack on the rights to freedom of expression and association, creating yet another tool that can be used arbitrarily by the authorities.

Worldwide – [Facebook down: Zuckerberg apologizes for six-hour outage](#)

Facebook's founder Mr. Mark Zuckerberg apologized for the "disruption" caused after its social media services went down for almost six hours due to technical issues, impacting more than 3.5 billion users worldwide.

Wednesday
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Bangladesh – [Rohingya Refugee Activists at Risk](#)

HRW called on national authorities and United Nations officials to take urgent measures in order to protect Rohingya refugees facing threats and violence in the Cox's Bazar camps.

Brazil – [Judicial Action Against Police Abuse in Brazil](#)

Police abuse is a chronic human rights problem that HRW has worked on for decades in the country. In the last five years, Brazilian police killed 22,000 people for excessive force, most of them Black.

Democratic Republic of Congo – [First Lady's Foundation Accuses Activists](#)

Today marks three months since Congolese authorities detained Mr. Parfait Muhani, a 31-year-old pro-democracy activist, in Goma, eastern region of the country, following a complaint brought by a foundation established by the wife of Congo's president, Ms. Felix Tshisekedi. Muhani is now facing the death penalty on charges of "criminal association".

Namibia – [Discrimination deprives Indigenous San people of the right to health](#)

Amnesty International denounced that a rampant discrimination against the Indigenous San people in Namibia is denying them access to healthcare and leaving them vulnerable to deadly diseases such as tuberculosis and its multi-drug resistant strain, which is ravaging their communities in the Omaheke and Otjozondjupa regions.

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Afghanistan – [Appointment of Special Rapporteur: a first step towards robust UN oversight of HR situation](#)

The UN Human Rights Council established with a resolution a Special Rapporteur to monitor and report on the human rights situation in the country. Amnesty International declared that this "resolution fell short of the robust response we had hoped to see from the Human Rights Council".

Belarus – [Belarus Authorities 'Purge' Human Rights Defenders](#)

HRW warned that one of Belarus's top human rights defenders, Mr. Ales Bialiatski, has been charged with tax evasion and faces up to seven years in prison. Bialiatski has been behind bars since July 14, but the exact charges against him had been unknown, due to a non-disclosure agreement his lawyers were forced to sign.

France – [Degrading Treatment of Migrants Around Calais](#)

HRW released the 79-page report "*Enforced Misery: The Degrading Treatment of Migrant Children and Adults in Northern France*", denouncing that French officials regularly subject adults and children living in migrant encampments around Calais to degrading treatment.

Pakistan – [Amendments to enforced disappearance bill a backward step on promised reform](#)

Amnesty International denounced that the proposed amendments to legislation to outlaw enforced disappearance in the country violate international human rights law and would allow state actors to behave with impunity.

Poland – [Constitutional opt out puts country on collision course with the EU](#)

The Constitutional Tribunal ruled that national law takes primacy over EU law, and breaches of EU law in Poland can no longer be referred to the EU Court of Justice. Amnesty International declared that "This is another dark day for justice in Poland, (this) challenges the EU's ability to protect human rights and the rule of law within member states".

Togo – [Prominent activist targeted with Indian-made spyware linked to notorious hacker group](#)

A new report of Amnesty International reveals that activists in Togo risk being targeted by shadowy cyber-mercenaries who use covert digital attacks to try and steal victims' private information to sell to private clients.

United States of America – [Biden Administration Falls Far Short of US Refugee Admissions Cap](#)

The US admitted 11,411 refugees in fiscal year 21, which ended on September 30, not even close to hitting Trump's meager ceiling. More than 51,000 places that could have been used to save lives and restore hope were lost forever.

Friday
8 October 2021

Greece – [Activists Face Intimidation, Threats, Attacks](#)

A hearing held between the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, Ms. Mary Lawlor, and human rights defenders in Greece revealed the scale of the hostile environment civil society groups face working on migration in the country.

India – [Gunmen Target Minorities in Jammu and Kashmir](#)

HRW called on national authorities to take urgent steps to protect minority communities that are being targeted by armed groups in Jammu and Kashmir.

Norway – [Nobel Laureates Ressa and Muratov are Champions of Democracy](#)

The Norwegian Nobel committee's decision to award its Peace Prize to the journalists Ms. Maria Ressa of the Philippines and Mr. Dmitry Muratov of Russia is a shot in the arm for the numerous journalists who have been attacked and savagely trolled in their line of work around the world.

Ukraine – [Security Agency Reform Bill Risks Undermining Human Rights](#)

HRW warned that the draft legislation to reform the security services would grant them broad powers in intelligence and law enforcement, without essential safeguards against abuse of these powers.

United Nations – [Recognition of the right to a healthy environment](#)

Amnesty International declared that the new resolution of the Human Rights Council recognizing the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment “brings hope in the context of widespread and increasing climate disasters, and is a milestone moment in the battle against environmental degradation”.

Worldwide – [World Day Against the Death Penalty: Women on death row face discrimination](#)

Ahead of the World Day Against the Death Penalty (October, 10), Amnesty International warned that women on death row are, in many cases, being denied justice for the prolonged physical and sexual violence and abuse they have suffered, which preceded and triggered the offences for which they were convicted for.

Afghanistan / Europe – [Afghan MPs, in exile, pledge to work for women's rights](#)

Female MPs forced to flee following the Taliban's takeover arrived in Greece and are planning to relocate to several European country, the US and Canada. They still consider themselves representatives of their constituencies, and aim to advocate for women's rights in the West.

United States of America – [US Should Keep Millions of Children Out of Poverty](#)

The US Congress is debating the content and price tag of the Build Back Better Act, President Joe Biden's proposal to invest \$3.5 trillion over 10 years in education, fighting climate change, and strengthening the US social safety net. HRW denounced that programs to reduce inequality and child poverty should not be “on the chopping block”.

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