

HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

22 - 28 JANUARY, 2024



Human Rights are inherent to all human beings, regardless of the nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language or any other status without discrimination. These rights are all universal, inalienable, interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.

The articles shared in this brief are the liability of their respective news outlets and do not reflect the views of CLDH.



LEBANON

Monday
22 Jan 2024

Phosphorus shells on the town of Kafr Kila

According to the National News Agency, Israeli artillery targeted the town of Kafr Kila with phosphorus shells, amid a sweeping operation with machine guns from Al-Metula towards the town on January 22, 2024.

Al-Taybeh High School was damaged as a result of the Israeli raid on the town

The Israeli raid on the town of Taybeh on January 22, 2024 caused major damage to the town's high school, with no casualties reported.

Israeli raid on Shihin destroyed a two-storey house

The representative of the National News Agency in Tyre reported on January 22, 2024 that the raid launched by Israeli aircraft on the town of Shihin targeted a two-storey house and completely destroyed it.

Tuesday
23 Jan 2024

Criminal Investigation Department listened to Journalist Riad Tawk and Judge Suleiman's lawyer explains reasons for lawsuit

On 23 January, 2024 National News Agency reported that the Central Criminal Investigation Department heard the testimony of journalist Riad Tawk, in the lawsuit filed against him by Judge Sabouh Suleiman, for the crime of libel and slander. Tawk had made a statement stating that Suleiman transferred a sum of money to banks in Switzerland, and that was paid to "suspend the arrest warrant issued by the forensic investigator in the Beirut port bombing crime, Judge Tariq Al-Bitar, against former Minister Youssef Fenianos."

After the investigation with Tawk, Judge Ghassan Al-Khoury, decided to refer the case to the Public Prosecution in Beirut to take appropriate action.

Judge Suleiman's lawyer, indicated that "after conducting the investigation today into the allegation submitted against Tawk and "Beirut Time" website, which published a video on social media, with Tawk threatening to show a document confirming his allegations. It turns out that the document confirms the existence of a legal dispute between the bank in question and account holder, the son of Judge Suleiman, who was disputing the bank in question internationally, by sending warnings through a Swiss law firm. And as a result the bank in question yielded to the demands of Dr. Ahmed Sabouh Al-Hajj Suleiman in order to avoid any international legal dispute." She also stressed that "all these incidents occurred at the beginning of the year 2020, and not after the Beirut Port explosion, and at a time when Judge Suleiman was not assuming duties of the Judicial Public Prosecutor in the Beirut Port file."

Wednesday
24 Jan 2024

Two hostile raids on Hamili and Al-Jumajmeh resulted in the destruction of two houses and civilian injuries

On 23 January 2024, Israeli aggression carried out by warplanes which targeted the "Hamili" forest area, located between the towns of Rumin, Houmin al-Fawqa, and Sarba in the Iqlim al-Tuffah region, led to the complete destruction of a house.

The raid on the town of Al-Jumaimja led to the destruction of an uninhabited house, in addition to damaging many homes near it, and it was reported that a number of injuries occurred among residents as a result of glass shattering and flying.

Rights Groups Urge Meta to protect LGBT People from digital targeting

On 23 January, 2024, Human Rights Watch, Social Media Exchange (SMEX), INSM Foundation for Digital Rights, Helem, and Damj Association said that Meta should do more to protect the safety of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people and all its users, in particular on Facebook and Instagram. The organization also announced the #SecureOurSocials campaign. Human Rights Watch examined the use of digital targeting by security forces and its far-reaching offline consequences—including arbitrary detention and torture—in five countries: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Tunisia. The findings showed that security forces use social media platforms, including Facebook and Instagram, to entrap and harass LGBT people, as well as to gather and create evidence to prosecute them.

Human Rights Watch interviewed dozens of LGBT people who indicated that they had reported being harassed, doxxed, outed, and abused on Facebook and Instagram, but in all these cases, Meta either did not respond to their complaints or found that the content they reported did not violate its policies, and the content remained online.

#SecureOurSocials provides a variety of solutions for Meta to keep LGBT people safe on its platform and asks Meta to disclose its annual investment in user safety and security, including reasoned justifications explaining how trust and safety investments are proportionate to the risk of harm, for each region, language, and dialect in the Middle East and North Africa. Human Rights Watch also published a question and answer document that details the campaign's objectives, its recommendations to the company, and explains its focus on Meta.

Gathering of "Public Administration Employees":complete closure next week, starting from Monday January 29th to ensure that unjust solutions are not implemented

According to National News Agency, The Public Administration Employees Association issued a statement on January 24, 2024 which stated:

"Since the Prime Minister has repeatedly spoken about justice and equity among segments of the public sector, and since the government has deprived public administration employees of the raises..."

The Public Administration Employees Association also called on all employees to abide by the strike next week, starting on Monday, 01/29/2024, in order to ensure that unfair solutions are not invented for the administration employees and to support everyone who negotiates on behalf of the public administration employees. The association also demanded a minimum wage in the public sector that is not less than \$600.

Thursday
25 Jan 2024

Phosphorus shelling on Al-Alam al-Shaab and the outskirts of Dahra

The National News Agency reported on Jan 25, 2024 that the outskirts of the town of Al-Alam al-Shaab and the surroundings of the Dahra cemetery were targeted with phosphorus shells.

Statement by Agricultural Unions in the South

According to the National News Agency, the Union of Agricultural Unions in the South of Lebanon issued an open letter to the parliamentarians on 25 January, 2024 in which it addressed the injustice done to the agricultural sector in the 2024 budget. The letter said: "To the parliamentarians of the nation, to those who carried the voices of the Lebanese people as a trust to revive Lebanon and lift the injustice done to its people, in terms of health, economics, education, and other issues that have not been addressed for forty years. At the top of the sectors that have been marginalized in successive budgets is the agricultural sector, and the injustice against it continued in the budget of the year 2024. Farmers, as well as all Lebanese people who were hoping that the 2024 budget would take into account the current situation in the country, and that a new vision would be proposed to revive the agricultural sector, as well as the rest of the sectors in the exhausted country, were surprised to find that the budget has maintained the same sterile policies, whether in terms of not rationalizing expenses or increasing taxes on citizens and the public and private sectors in an arbitrary manner. A budget that does not take into account income and the general situation of the people. There is currently no coordination between the income of employees and the value of fees required to purchase public services such as electricity, water, telecommunications, and other necessities of a decent life, such as food, housing, and medical care for the Lebanese citizen. The union demanded that "the citizens should not be burdened with all the crises and wrong policies of the governments."

In the statement, the union also acknowledged that increase in taxes is a necessary requirement for reforms within a clear plan that the citizens trust, especially since there are many state revenues that are wasted due to the state's absence from them."

Friday
26 Jan 2024

Artillery bombardment on the outskirts of Wadi Hamul - Naqoura

The National News agency reported on 26 January, 2024 that the outskirts of Wadi Hamul within the city of Tyre - Naqoura were being shelled with artillery.

Two killed and two wounded in the hostile raid on a house in Beit Lif

A representative of the National News Agency reported that two people were killed and two wounded in the hostile raid that targeted a house in Beit Lif.

ICJ: Gaza: Israel must implement Provisional Measures ordered by the International Court Of Justice

In a press release on January 26, 2024, The ICJ welcomed the near-unanimous Order of the International Court of Justice (the Court) in the case of South Africa v. Israel, indicating provisional measures under the 1948 Genocide Convention (the Convention). The International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued provisional measures ordering Israel to stop acts prohibited by the Genocide Convention in Gaza, protect any evidence related to potential genocide, enable humanitarian assistance and essential services in Gaza, and inform the court within a month about actions taken. This comes after the ICJ found it has jurisdiction in the case filed by South Africa, alleging Israel's potential violation of the Genocide Convention. However, the court has not yet ruled on whether genocide actually occurred. Human rights advocates urge Israel to comply with the measures and the international community to enforce them, citing the rising death toll in Gaza and the importance of upholding international law.

Public Employees Association calls for a general strike

According to the National News Agency, the Administrative Public Employees Association in Lebanon called for a general strike and escalating protests from January 30 to February 9, 2024. The strike is in protest of the government's failure to address the concerns of public sector employees, including low wages, poor benefits, and a lack of job security. The association's statement, which was released on January 27, 2024 criticized the government's budget for the year 2024, which it said was unfair to public sector employees. The statement also denounced the government's campaign of arbitrary hiring and its waste of public money.

The association said that it is determined to restore the rights of all public sector employees, and that it will not compromise or accept less than the real value of salaries and all entitlements.

Citizen Wounded in the raid on Al-Dhayra

The National News Agency reported that a woman was injured in the raid carried out by the Israeli army on the town of Al-Dhayra on January 28, 2024, which also led to the destruction of several homes.

Israeli shelling targets the towns of Houla and Markaba, with phosphorus shells falling between houses

A representative of the National News Agency reported on January 28, 2024 that Israeli artillery targeted the townsquare of Houla and the town of Markaba with phosphorus shells falling between houses.

REPORTING A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO CLDH

If you wish to report an incident that may potentially constitute a violation of human rights, kindly send an email to the following address: [**violations@cldh-lebanon.org**](mailto:violations@cldh-lebanon.org)

You can also report an incident anonymously through our [**website**](#).

When making a report, please ensure to include the following information:

- **WHERE:** City/village, governorate, additional details (e.g. what prison)
- **WHAT:** Nature of the violation
- **HOW:** A narrative description of what happened
- **WHEN:** Date of the episode (at least the year, if day and month are unknown)
- **TO WHOM:** Information regarding the victim (name, nationality, gender, date of birth, city of origin, phone number). Only share this information with the consent of the person.
- **WHO** is the person reporting (name, phone number) and how were they identified (e.g., victim him/herself, family member, eyewitness, journalist, humanitarian worker...)

The information referred will remain completely private. It will be fact-checked and registered into CLDH's internal system. No action will be undertaken without the explicit and written consent of the reporter.



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