



HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

30 May – 05 June, 2022



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.

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LOCAL

Monday
30 May 2022

Lebanon – [Journalist accused of harassment suspended](#)

In Lebanon, the membership of the journalist H. M. in the Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections (LADE) and the Alternative Press Syndicate (APS) has been suspended by both institutions, after they learned of sexual assaults by the journalist on a female colleague, Zainab al-Dirani, in 2015. His suspension shows the two institutions' commitment to ensuring a safe and harassment-free space for women who work there, preventing Mr. M. repeat offenses. They will implement anti-harassment policies and launch an investigation on these complaints.

Lebanon – [Association accused of war crimes in Baabda palace](#)

A week ago, Lebanese President Michel Aoun received a delegation from SOS Chrétiens d'Orient at Baabda Palace. While French justice accuses the organization of complicity in war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria, President Aoun thanked the organization for its efforts in Lebanon. SOS Chrétiens d'Orient is a French organization founded by far-right supporters to help Christians in the Middle East. However, the organization has been heavily criticized in recent years because of its close ties to the Damascus regime, and some pro-regime militia leaders, who are accused of abuses against civilians in Syria. The organization has also provided logistical and financial support to the Asma al-Assad association, under the aegis of the regime.

Tuesday
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Lebanon – [People for Peace: Dreaming of a mine-free Lebanon](#)

On International Peacekeepers' Day on May 29, the United Nations published a report on the demining efforts in Lebanon by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), deployed as part of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). UNMAS is helping to remove all landmines still present in southern Lebanon from the 1975 civil war, which still threaten Lebanese people, and to improve the conditions of those living in mined areas. Since 2006, UNMAS demining teams have cleared 4,885,900 square meters of land in southern Lebanon, removing 47,221 pieces of explosive devices (mines, bombs, ammunition), some of which remain unexploded, from nearby local farms and villages.

Lebanon – [Lebanon needs credible reforms to avoid destruction of economy, World Bank says](#)

On Tuesday, the World Bank issued a statement calling on Lebanon to implement credible reforms to avoid economic collapse, as inflation in the country reached 206% in May 2022. Lebanon will have to adopt a "credible, comprehensive and equitable" macro-financial stabilization program to avoid the collapse of the country and its economic networks, while the government's inaction has a huge cost "on daily lives of citizens but also on the future of the Lebanese people". Between 2019 and 2021, Lebanon's economy contracted by 58%. According to the World Bank, this is the worst global economic crisis since 1850.

Wednesday
01 June 2022

Lebanon – ["Our nation's Nabih": LU takeover continues](#)

Amal movement's supporters reinforced their control among the student movements in some Lebanese University's faculties. On Wednesday, in reaction to the election of Nabih Berri as president of the Parliament, Amal supporters put giant pictures and banners with Berri's image on university buildings. The Amal movement largely dominates the student political scene. Since 2008 and the last democratic student elections, the traditional parties control most student affairs.

Thursday
02 June 2022

Lebanon – [Clashes between LF and FPM, army arrests students](#)

At the Lebanese University of Jal El Dib, in the Faculty of Law and Political Science, violent altercations took place between militant students of the Lebanese Forces (LF) and others from the Free Patriotic Movement (FPM). Clashes are related to the hanging of opposing posters at the entrance of the university. The army intervened by beating the demonstrators and arrested three pro-LF students. The university administration had to intervene to stop the army from arresting more students.

Lebanon – [Man attempts to set himself on fire in a bank in Sidon](#)

On Thursday, a retiree entered a bank in Sidon and tried to set himself on fire by pouring gasoline on his body, in order to protest the decrease in the purchasing value of the money he receives for his pension. A bank employee managed to stop him before the army intervened and secured the bank.

Lebanon – [British Ambassador Collard visits UNIFIL and tours the Blue Line](#)

UNIFIL received the British Ambassador to Lebanon, Dr. Ian Collard, and the British Embassy's Defense Attaché, Lt Col Lee Saunders, at its headquarters in Naqoura. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the mission of UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) in maintaining stability in South Lebanon, and peaceful relations between the populations living there. Mr. Collard thanked UNIFIL for its "critical role in maintaining the cessation of hostilities, de-escalating tension [...] and preserving stability".

Friday
03 June 2022

Lebanon – [Armed clashes in Baalbeck reportedly kill one soldier and leave five wounded](#)

In Baalbeck, clashes took place between lawbreakers and the Lebanese army, killing at least one soldier and injuring five others, according to the Lebanese police force. Gunfire exchanges caused panic and heavily hit residential buildings in the Charawné neighborhood. Lebanon's economic collapse has also been accompanied by a deteriorating security situation. The Bekaa region has almost become a lawless zone: weapons circulate massively, and bloody clashes occur between rival clans or between the police and gangs. The State is struggling to impose its authority. Kidnappings and abductions have multiplied in some areas of the Bekaa.

Lebanon – [Today's order for new MPs: protect the port investigation](#)

In a press conference held today in the Medawar area of Beirut, the families of the port explosion victims detailed the obstruction, delays, pressure and suffering they have gone through since the moment of the explosion on August 4, 2020. Their path to justice was compiled in a booklet that they distributed to the attendance. For the first time, the conference was attended by change MPs and MPs from the Lebanese Forces, the Kataeb, the Independence Movement, independents as well as MP Nicolas Sehnaoui. The families called on MPs to help lift the immunity of those wanted by justice, and to approve the laws on the independence of the judiciary and on preventing the obstruction of judicial work through the abuse of law. The families also urged the security forces to implement the arrest warrants issued against wanted persons.

Saturday and Sunday
04 and 05 June 2022

Lebanon – [Lebanon-based hackers linked to Iran's government targeted Israeli groups: Microsoft](#)

In a statement released Thursday, Microsoft announced that it has detected and disabled cyberattacks carried out over the past three months by a group of hackers operating in Lebanon. The group, named POLONIUM, would be linked to the Iranian government, including the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence and Security. It was conducting cyberattacks against organizations in Israel and against an intergovernmental organization in Lebanon. According to Microsoft, Tehran was using the group "to carry out cyber operations on their behalf", including against Israel's defense industry. The international authorities are waging a real war against these new attack techniques, as destructive as physical attacks since they can paralyze an entire state system. The director of the FBI, Christopher Wray, revealed earlier this week that the US had thwarted an attack by the Iranian government on a children's hospital in Boston.



Monday
30 May 2022

Occupied Palestine – [Palestine PM says Israeli flag march ‘crossed all red lines’](#)

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh condemned attacks by far-right Israelis on Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem during Sunday's flag march, as "aggression crossed all red lines". Tens of thousands of Israelis invaded Jerusalem's Muslim neighborhood waving flags and stormed the al-Aqsa Mosque. The flag march celebrates the annexation and occupation of East Jerusalem since 1967. Racist slogans such as "death to Arabs" were proclaimed. Palestinians and their property were assaulted. In response, Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz proposed that certain right-wing extremist Israeli groups accused of violence against Palestinians be classified as terrorists. On Saturday, Palestinians demonstrated to protest the march. 165 were injured by the Israeli forces.

Jordan – [Jordan: Sufi community led by US scholar faces child abuse complaints](#)

A religious order founded by an American Sufi scholar linked to a senior Jordanian prince has been accused of abusive treatment and physical punishment of children. Middle East Eye has spoken to dozens of former adherents of Nuh Ha Mim Keller's Sufi order who said they had left the community, based in the Jordanian capital Amman, because of their concerns about how children were being treated and their frustration at the way in which their complaints were handled. They said children as young as two were subjected to a harsh system of corporal punishment administered by senior members of the community, including Keller's wife, Besa Krasniqi, in the Zawiya, the seminary at the heart of the community, and teachers in charge of a school for members of the group's children. Keller denounced the testimonies as a "defamatory campaign," saying the sorority's environment was "loving and caring". After an investigation revealing that the abuse claims were credible, Keller closed the school but continued to defend its disciplinary practices.

Saudi Arabia – [UN experts urge Saudi Arabia to reverse death sentence for man convicted as minor](#)

On Monday, UN experts urged Saudi Arabia to overturn the death sentence of Abdullah al-Huwaiti, who was a minor when he was sentenced. Arrested at age 14 for murder and armed robbery in 2017, al-Huwaiti has been denied access to a lawyer and interrogated under torture, rights groups said. Rejected by the Saudi Arabian Supreme Court, his death sentence has been nevertheless accepted by the Tabuk Criminal Court, which delivers retributive justice by offering the victim's family the opportunity to seek a death sentence. The UN letter called it a "serious violation of international human rights law" because it is "inherently cruel to execute children". In April 2022, King Salman issued a royal decree ending death sentences for crimes committed by minors, but the decree is not retroactive.

Iran – [Protests over deadly building collapse in Iran's southwest intensify](#)

On Sunday, thousands of protesters in the Iranian city of Abadan expressed their anger at the regime after a residential and commercial building collapsed, killing 33 people, according to official figures. The protesters attribute it to the corruption of the regime, which does not allow Iranians to have quality infrastructure. The protests were severely repressed by security forces, who used batons, tear gas and firearms to disperse them.

Tuesday
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Libya – [Libya: Russia's Wagner Group Set Landmines Near Tripoli](#)

According to demining groups and Libyan agencies, the Wagner Group, a private Russian company, used landmines and antipersonnel mines, as well as explosive traps in Libya between 2019 and 2020, according to Human Rights Watch (HRW), as the militia supports Khalifa Haftar's Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LAAF). For Lama Fakhri, director of the Middle East and North Africa division at HRW, these mines have "made it dangerous for people to return to their homes". Antipersonnel mines are prohibited under international humanitarian law, due to their inability to distinguish between civilians and combatants, as they are made to explode when someone's approaching. The International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor investigating war crimes in Libya will examine the use of antipersonnel mines in 35 locations in Libya, according to an April 2022 announcement. Between 2020 and 2022, the explosive devices killed 130 people and injured 196 in Libya.

Egypt – [Egyptian court sentences Al Jazeera presenter in absentia to 15 years in prison](#)

An Egyptian journalist and presenter for Al-Jazeera, Ahmed Taha, has just been sentenced in absentia to 15 years in prison by an Egyptian court, for receiving and interviewing former presidential candidate Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh in 2018. During the interview, they discussed the Egyptian political scene and its future. He is accused of disseminating false information by the Egyptian state, with the aim of weakening it and encouraging acts of violence by slandering on its internal affairs. Al-Jazeera condemned the Egyptian court decision. The journalist does not live in Egypt, but the condemnation prevents him from returning to his country under imprisonment penalty.

Occupied Palestine – [Israel is once again using Palestinians as human shields](#)

According to a report by Defense for Children International Palestine (DCIP), a 16-year-old Palestinian girl was used by Israeli soldiers as a human shield during an Israeli raid in Jenin in May. According to B'Tselem, an Israeli human rights organization, human shields have been routinely used by the Israeli army since the annexation of the Palestinian territories in 1967. Until 2005, the practice was legally authorized by Israeli law, and it was only after the impetus of human rights groups that it was finally banned in 2008 by the Israeli High Court, on the grounds that it violated the Geneva Conventions. Former Israeli soldiers have testified to the Israeli group Breaking the Silence about the routine use of human shields, on the grounds it provides essential protection to soldiers.

Turkey – [Europe court condemns Turkey over Amnesty activist's 'unlawful' detention](#)

The European Court of Human Rights on Tuesday condemned Turkey over the arrest in 2017 of the head of the Turkish branch of rights group Amnesty International, ruling his detention was unlawful. The court said there was no indication an offence had been committed. Taner Kilic was detained in June 2017 on charges of links to US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen, who Turkey accuses of staging a failed coup in 2016 against the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Kilic was released in August 2018. But in July 2020, he was convicted of belonging to a terror group and sentenced to six years and three months in prison. Kilic, who is currently not in detention, has appealed against the verdict. In its latest damning ruling against Turkey, the ECHR said his pre-trial detention had been "unlawful and arbitrary" and there had been "no reasonable suspicion that Mr Kilic had committed an offence."

Wednesday
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Occupied Palestine – [Israeli forces kill Palestinian woman in occupied West Bank](#)

Ghufran Hamed Warasneh, a 31-year-old Palestinian, was shot in the chest by Israeli forces in the Arroub refugee camp (southern West Bank). While she was on her way to her work, a radio station, she was shot shortly before 8am at the entrance of the camp, where Israeli soldiers are permanently stationed, according to witnesses to Al Jazeera. The witnesses said she was not a threat, while the Israeli army said she had tried to attack a soldier with a knife. The Palestinian Red Crescent transferred her to a hospital in Hebron where she died. Local and international rights groups have condemned Israel's systematic and excessive use of force.

Thursday
02 June 2022

Tunisia – [Tunisian president sacks dozens of judges as he consolidates rule](#)

Tunisia's president sacked 57 judges on Wednesday, accusing them of corruption and protecting "terrorists", as he seeks to remodel the country's political system after consolidating one-man rule. In a televised address President Kais Saied said he had "given opportunity after opportunity and warning after warning to the judiciary to purify itself". Hours later, the official gazette published a decree announcing the dismissals. Among those sacked was Youssef Bouzaker, the former head of the Supreme Judicial Council, which Saied dissolved in February. The council had acted as the main guarantor of judicial independence since Tunisia's 2011 revolution and the move fueled accusations that Saied was interfering in the judicial process. Another prominent casualty of the purge was Bachir Akremi. Some political activists say the judge is too close to the Ennahda party and accuse him of stopping cases against it. Ennahda and Akremi both deny the allegations.

Iraq – [Iraqi activists suffering in 'environment of fear': UN](#)

On Thursday, the United Nations warned about the "environment of fear and intimidation" for Iraqi activists and protesters. They are regularly targeted with threats, bombings or assassinations, that put a real stop to freedom of expression in Iraq. Since May 2021, there have been 26 incidents seeking to "suppress dissent and criticism", according to the Office High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). For the UN, most of these incidents are perpetrated by armed groups "operating outside state control". However, the report praises the Iraqi government's progress in retributing victims' families of the anti-government protests that took place from the end of 2019, which had left more than 600 dead and thousands injured : more than 500 families received up to 7,000 dollars each.

Iran – [Iran must release journalist: Press rights group](#)

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) is calling on the Iranian authorities to release freelance journalist Arach Ghaleh-Golab, who has been held by Iranian security forces since May 26, when he was participating in a protest seeking to establish the truth about the collapsed building in Abadan that killed 31 people. According to CPJ, he is being held without charge at an unknown location, with no way to contact his family. Justin Chilad, CPJ's Middle East and North Africa researcher, called for his unconditional release and asked Iran ends "the practice of arbitrarily locking up members of the press". Mr. Ghaleh-Golab was previously arrested in 2016 for critical positions on Iranian state policies.

Occupied Palestine – [Phone app allows Gaza women to report domestic abuse anonymously](#)

Palestinian computer engineer Alaa Huthut has developed the phone application "Masahatuna" or "Our Spaces" for women in the Gaza Strip who wish to anonymously report domestic violence. While society and family pressures force them to remain silent about domestic violence and discourage them from going to help centers, the app allows them to seek help anonymously, avoiding shame or retaliation from families. For Ms. Huthut, "fear is usually the main cause women don't contact or visit centers" to seek help against domestic violence.

Friday
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Sudan – [One shot dead in Sudan as protesters mark 3 years since bloody crackdown](#)

A protester was shot and killed according to medics, as pro-democracy protesters demonstrated in Khartoum to demand justice, for those killed in the bloody crackdowns three years ago. In 2019, the Sudanese army violently dispersed a months-long sit-in in front of the army headquarters, killing 128 people. The protester's death comes as UN human rights expert Adama Dieng is visiting Sudan and has called on the authorities to "refrain from use of excessive force". Since Abdel Fattah al-Burhan's coup, protesters have been calling for the return of a transitional political government, and for power-sharing with civilians won in 2019 following the protests. Promises of government investigations into the crackdown have not been fulfilled. According to pro-democracy doctors, 100 people have died as a result of repression since the October 2021 coup.

Kuwait – [Pride month: Kuwait criticizes US embassy over pro-LGBT tweets](#)

Kuwait's foreign ministry said the top US diplomat, James Holtsnider, has been summoned by Kuwaiti authorities because of tweets in support of LGBT rights posted by the US embassy in Kuwait. The embassy had tweeted a message of solidarity to President Joe Biden for Pride Month, as well as a rainbow flag symbolizing LGBTQI+ rights. The tweet stated that all people "should be able to live without fear no matter who they are or whom they love". Kuwaiti officials accused them of "supporting homosexuality" as the rights of LGBTQI+ people are severely repressed in Kuwait. During the convocation, Kuwait asked the American embassy to respect its laws and "not to publish such tweets", while diplomats are subject to the "laws and regulations of the receiving state" according to international conventions. The decision was welcomed by many conservative Muslim figures, while a spokesman for the US State Department said he was proud of the US effort to advance LGBTQI+ rights, on BBC. In Kuwait, a gay person risks a sentence of up to 7 years in prison, and until recently, a law made it a criminal offense to be transgender.

Saturday and Sunday
04 and 05 June 2022

Tunisia – [Tunisia police block protests against Saied referendum](#)

On Saturday, clashes occurred between protesters and police in Tunisia, as about 100 people demonstrated against President Kais Saied referendum's proposition scheduled for July, a year after he blocked institutions in what activists call a coup. As protesters tried to reach the electoral council headquarters, police blocked them. Saied's referendum aims to reform the 2014 constitution to end the mixed parliamentary-presidential system that he blames for political gridlock. Activists see that new constitution as an attempt to expand again his control over the country's democratic institutions. In response to the president's dismissal of 57 judges this week, some decided to suspend work in the courts and stage a sit-in, according to a statement from a judge Saturday.



INTERNATIONAL

Monday

30 May 2022

Italy – [Italy opens Sicilian port to nearly 300 rescued migrants](#)

The humanitarian ship Ocean-Viking, which was carrying 294 survivors, was authorized by the Italian authorities to dock in the Sicilian port of Pozzallo, the NGO SOS Méditerranée announced on Sunday. The European deep-sea rescue association said: "The wait of over a week for a port to disembark these people was senseless". Among the survivors are 49 minors, including a 3-month-old baby and 6 pregnant women. The NGO said that some showed signs of violence suffered while in Libya, and that their docking was necessary for them to receive proper care. Since 2016, SOS Méditerranée has rescued 35,630 migrants at sea.

Worldwide – [UN: Amnesty welcomes new proposals for cracking down on the torture trade](#)

Amnesty International has welcomed the decision by the United Nations to end the trade in instruments of torture, following the publication of an expert report to seek a legally binding treaty. In 2021, the UN General Assembly mandated a Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) to regulate this trade, yet there are currently no global human rights controls on the trade in goods used to torture, abuse or execute people, as "torture and other ill-treatment were prohibited under international law decades ago", said Agnès Callamard, Secretary General of Amnesty International. Human rights NGOs are calling for a ban on the trade in electric shock belts, spiked batons, and weighted leg chains. For the GGE, a binding treaty would be "a proactive measure to prevent human rights violations".

Tuesday

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Worldwide – [Make tobacco industry accountable for environmental damage: UN health agency](#)

On World No Tobacco Day 2022, May 31, the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) reminded the total cost of the tobacco industry to human health and the environment in a report entitled "Tobacco: Poisoning our planet". Each year, tobacco is responsible for 8 million deaths, one of the world's leading causes of death that could be avoided, according to the WHO. In addition to the human cost, tobacco production requires 600 million trees, 22 billion tons of water and 84 million tons of CO2 are released. The main costs of tobacco production, including environmental costs, fall on low- and middle-income countries, where water and land are used for tobacco production rather than for food production, which is lacking. Dr. Ruediger Krech, Director of Health Promotion at WHO, reminds that tobacco production is the second cause of plastic pollution worldwide. He calls for a general regulation of the tobacco sector.

Ethiopia – [In Ethiopia, mass detention signals shrinking press freedom](#)

According to Al-Jazeera, in Ethiopia, 2022, 22 journalists were arrested. In May, police made 19 arrests of 25 media outlets. The arrests were reportedly related to media coverage of the conflicts between the Ethiopian army and ethnic Amhara militias. According to Angela Quintal, head of the Africa program of the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), there has been a "drastic decline in press freedom in Ethiopia" over the past three years. Daniel Bekele, director of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, called for the release of detained journalists.

Ukraine – [Ukrainian court finds two Russian soldiers guilty of war crimes](#)

On Tuesday, Russian soldiers Aleksandr Bobikin and Aleksandr Ivanov were sentenced by a Ukrainian court to more than 11 years in prison each for bombing a civilian area in eastern Ukraine, as part of the Russian invasion, before being captured. The two soldiers pleaded guilty to "violating the laws and customs of war". They were responsible for a bombing in Derhachi that destroyed a school but caused no casualties. Their conviction is part of a series of war crimes trials that Ukraine has launched, numbering 14,000 according to the Prosecutor General of Ukraine. According to the UN, 4,000 civilians have died in Ukraine since Putin's offensive.

Wednesday

01 June 2022

Worldwide – [NRC: World's 10 'most neglected' refugee crises all in Africa](#)

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has published a report presenting the 10 most neglected refugee crises in the world, all of them in Africa. The Democratic Republic of Congo still comes in 1st position, with one third of the population suffering from hunger last year. The crises ranking is based on insufficient international political response, media coverage and the amount of aid promised. Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Sudan, Chad, Mali, Nigeria, Burundi and Ethiopia come next. For the NRC, the world does not pay enough attention to refugee crises in Africa, increasing the number of deaths and the duration of violent conflicts. According to Jan Egeland, head of the NRC, with the war in Ukraine, the attention paid to African countries is likely to be even lower. In these countries, refugee crises are mainly due to food crises, droughts and armed conflicts.

Thursday
02 June 2022

Worldwide – [Attacks on Education Increased Worldwide During Pandemic](#)

The Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA), a partner organization of Human Rights Watch (HRW), issued a statement claiming that attacks on education have increased since the advent of Covid-19, with a significant increase in the year 2020-2021. The report, titled "Education under Attack 2022", states that 9,000 students, teachers and academics have been attacked, injured or killed in attacks on education in armed conflict. 5,000 attacks have been carried out. Even though most schools closed during the pandemic, attacks increased by a third between 2019 and 2020, especially in Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ethiopia, Mali, Burma and Nigeria. For Diya Nijhowne, executive director of GCPEA, schools must stop being used "for military purposes" because the impact on learning, and on the economic and social in general, is too big. Attacks on education usually involve dissident groups, as part of an armed conflict, for political or religious reasons.

Central African Republic – [UN rights chief hails CAR decision to end death penalty](#)

Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, welcomed CAR's decision to end the death penalty. On Friday, May 27, lawmakers approved a new law making death sentences illegal, even though the country had not formally applied the death penalty since 1981. "The death penalty is incompatible with fundamental tenets of human rights and dignity", according to Ms. Bachelet. The CAR will become the 24th country in Africa to abolish the death penalty, out of 170 countries that have banned it in practice or in law, "thus contributing to the enhancement and development of human rights", according to the UN.

Canada – [Canada pays \\$1.3 billion in land compensation to Aboriginal people](#)

Canada has decided to pay \$1,3 billion in land compensation to an indigenous people. At a ceremony held in Alberta on the land of the Siksika Indian tribe, Justin Trudeau said he wanted to repair an injustice of the past (Le Monde). This payment is in reparation for the theft of part of their land in the early 20th century by the Canadian government, for the land rich in minerals and agriculture. Mark Miller, Minister of Aboriginal Relations, says the compensation will never erase the suffering of the past, but will contribute to a better future for next generations. The agreement ends a request made by the Siksika Tribe in 1960. All the land claims of the 600 American Indian tribes in Canada have not yet been settled.

El Salvador – [El Salvador: President Bukele engulfs the country in a human rights crisis after three years in government](#)

Amnesty International warns about the ongoing human rights crisis in El Salvador. Since the state of emergency in March 2022 and its extension in April, the Salvadoran authorities have committed massive human rights violations, including arbitrary detentions, violations of legal rights and torture, according to Amnesty International's internal research. 18 people are reported to have died in police custody. Erika Guevara-Rosas, director of Amnesty International's Americas program, said that President Nayib Bukele had "pledged to respect human rights" but had failed, and that civilians were the primary victims. "On the pretext of punishing gangs, the Salvadoran authorities are committing widespread and flagrant violations of human rights". Amnesty International calls for the international community to intervene, through the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the UN protection mechanisms, which should be able to verify judicial hearings and observe detention centers.

Cyprus – [One dead off Cyprus as more than 40 Syrian migrants arrive](#)

A group of 44 Syrians, including 2 women and 4 children, were found wandering in the Peyia area, north of Paphos. The migrants said they had managed to reach the shore but a man on the boat they were traveling in had fallen overboard and disappeared. A body was found by Cypriot police on the west coast of Cyprus, but not identified. Cypriot police believes the Syrians were brought in by smugglers from Turkey.

Friday
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United States of America – [Sikh in America: a community's long history of discrimination and determination](#)

According to a 2020 FBI report, hate crimes against the Sikh community have raised, with a 37% increase between 2019 and 2020. Sikhs, from Punjab and other parts of India, are a monotheistic religious community. An expatriate one has a large presence in the United States. In August 2012, seven Sikhs were killed in a shooting at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, by a white supremacist. Sikhs fear a resurgence of racist crimes against them, especially after the recent racist shooting in Buffalo. According to Gaganpal Dhaliwal, a Sikh, the wearing of turbans and beards, two highly visible elements of their faith, make them easy targets for racist attacks. Since the 2001 attacks, Sikhs have been subjected to widespread and arbitrary attacks for being wrongly equated with Muslims. According to advocacy groups, Sikhs are also discriminated by US authorities, with racial profiling and increased police surveillance.

Saturday and Sunday
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Myanmar – [Myanmar military says activist, lawmaker to face death sentence](#)

Two pro-democracy activists have had their appeals against their death sentences overturned by Myanmar's military regime, opening the way for the country's first capital executions in decades. Kyaw Min Yu, a pro-democracy activist, and Phyo Zeya Thaw, a member of parliament for the National League for Democracy, were sentenced to death by a military court in January 2022 on charges of terrorism and treason, according to the military. No details on the timing or conditions of the execution were given. Phil Robertson, Asia director at Human Rights Watch, said the upcoming execution of the two activists definitively establishes the ruling military junta as "among the worst of the worst human rights abusers in Asia".

Mali – [Two Red Cross workers killed in attack in western Mali](#)

On Wednesday, two Red Cross workers were killed in the Kayes region. The attack was committed by armed men on a motorcycle who opened fire on a humanitarian organization vehicle, according to the Malian branch of the Red Cross. 4 people were inside the vehicle : the driver of the vehicle and a Red Cross delegate were killed. The attack is possibly related to an act of robbery, rather than an act of jihadism, as the perpetrators left with the vehicle and equipment, according to Nouhoum Maiga, secretary general of the Malian Red Cross. Marieke van Schaik, head of the Dutch Red Cross, condemned the attacks, saying that humanitarian workers should never be the target of violence as they are helping people (Le Monde).

Worldwide – [World Environment Day: UN urges governments to prioritize climate action](#)

On World Environment Day (June 5), which aims to raise public and political awareness on environmental issues since 1973, the UN reminded that 3 billion people are affected by the degradation of ecosystems in the world. For Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General, the current use of natural resources does not allow for sustainable lifestyles, harming both the Earth and people. World Environment Day aims to raise awareness, through global action, for changes in consumption patterns and the implementation of sustainable development goals. "Close to half of humanity is already in the climate danger zone". The increase in natural disasters contributes to the even greater precariousness of low and middle-income populations (the increase in droughts in Africa, for example, or tsunamis in Southeast Asia).

Ethiopia – [From the Field: Ethiopia's worst drought threatens 'deadly consequences' for women](#)

Consecutive droughts in Ethiopia's Somali region over the past 40 years have had "deadly consequences" for women and girls, according to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The droughts have resulted in significant crop losses and cattle deaths, leading 286,000 people to leave their homes. 1,100 schools have closed due to the harsh living conditions imposed by the droughts, making young girls more vulnerable to child labor, early marriage, or physical and sexual abuse. UNFPA is requesting nearly \$24 million in humanitarian assistance for Ethiopia to rebuild health systems or aid centers that are not accessible or have been affected by the crises. Just over half of the appeal has been funded.