



HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

06 – 12 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
06 June 2022

Lebanon – [Lebanon's private sector economy slumps the least since 2016](#)

According to the Blom Lebanon purchasing bank, the private sector economy in Lebanon has a little picked up with a "relative increase in [...] activity for the first time over 6 years", according to Fadi Osseiran, managing director of Blominvest Bank. However, indications show the economy is still contracting, meaning an ongoing deteriorating private sector business. Between 2019 and 2021, Lebanon's economy contracted by about 58%, with its GDP falling from \$52 billion in 2019 to \$21,8 billion in 2021, one of the worst world economic collapses since 1850, according to the World Bank. Political uncertainty is preventing Lebanon from making sustainable economic reforms, leaving Lebanese in precarious conditions.

Tuesday
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Lebanon – [Lebanese army arrests 64 people trying to sail to Europe](#)

The Lebanese army command announced the arrest of 64 people who were trying to leave northern Lebanon to reach Europe by boat. The migrants (Lebanese, Syrians, and Palestinians) were arrested near the Sheikh Znad area, a few kilometers from the northern city of Tripoli, and were being questioned, except for one pregnant woman who was bleeding and was taken to hospital. Since the crisis began in 2019, more Lebanese and Syrians have been trying to migrate to Europe to escape poverty, shortages, and the unmanageable currency devaluation. According to the UN refugee agency, 1,570 people, including 186 Lebanese, attempted to leave Lebanon by boat in 2021.

Lebanon – [Lebanon's healthcare sector a 'bomb waiting to explode', minister says](#)

In an interview with The National, Health Minister Firass Abiad said that Lebanon's health sector was a "bomb waiting to explode" and that Lebanese health care workers are reaching "breaking point". Hospitals, which can no longer access their frozen funds in banks, cannot pay their employees, who now receive such low salaries that they no longer cover the cost of transportation to work. The effects of the economic crisis on the health sector have caused thousands of health workers to migrate abroad, with "the shortage in health human resources" being one of the major problems, according to Mr. Abiad. The health workers are overworked, pressured and stressed, and paid very little. Researchers such as Fahad al Sudaid said health care workers were underfunded, long before the crisis began in 2019.

Wednesday
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Lebanon – [Dekwaneh municipality – Raids and confiscations](#)

According to the Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH), the Lebanese authorities raided houses inhabited by Syrian families in the municipality of Dekwaneh and perpetrated flagrant human rights violations. The municipality forced Syrians to sign pledges declaring that they would return to Syria, and confiscated property such as cell phones or residence documents to pressure them into signing the pledges of return. CLDH considers that these pledges are illegal, engaging the personal judicial responsibility of those who deliver them. In Lebanon, refugees, and in particular Syrians, are under the protection of Law 65 on torture and Article 3 of the torture prevention treaty that Lebanon has ratified. Forcing them to return involuntarily would act as a violation of the treaties.

Thursday
09 June 2022

Lebanon – [Italian government funds rehabilitation of five more public schools in Lebanon](#)

In a statement issued Wednesday, UNICEF relayed an announcement from the Italian Embassy in Beirut. Through the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, Italy announced a funding commitment of up to 2 million euros, as part of UNICEF's school rehabilitation program. Since 2015, UNICEF has rehabilitated 38 public schools in Lebanon, creating a safer learning environment for 22,000 Lebanese students and teachers through improved and safer facilities. 7 schools are currently being rehabilitated with Italy's support, and the new funding will improve hygiene, health and safety standards in 5 new schools. For Edouard Beigbeder, UNICEF Representative in Lebanon, support for school rehabilitation programs must continue, as they have a "highly positive effect on the learning [...] environment of children".

Lebanon – [Will subsidies be lifted on dialysis drugs?](#)

On Thursday, the Syndicate of Private Hospitals in Lebanon's head, Sleiman Haroun, revealed that several subsidies to some drugs might be lifted, which poses a real problem for needy patients. In an interview with VDL radio, he explained that subsidies for dialysis drugs will be lifted in the future. He also recalled that hospitals are suffering from a shortage of medicines for patients with heart problems or cancer, considering it as a direct danger for patients.

Lebanon – [Former Minister and MP Nicolas Nahas to LBCI: The current priority is to negotiate with the IMF](#)

In an interview with LBCI's Nharkom Said TV, MP Nicolas Nahas explained that Lebanon's priority was to continue negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) while the country is in an unprecedented economic impasse. For this, he called on the political parties to collaborate in the name of the Lebanese general interest, leaving aside their political ones. On Thursday, an IMF spokesman, Gerry Rice, announced that the IMF has chosen a permanent representative for Lebanon to lead the discussions on the country's economic reforms.

Friday
10 June 2022

Lebanon – [Lebanese civilians 'suffer harm' from flights by Israeli spy planes and drones](#)

According to Airpressure.info, a database that seeks to make visible all Israeli air violations, there have been 22,111 Israeli violations of Lebanese airspace since 2007 (including 8,231 fighter jets and 13,102 drones). The database explains that Lebanese civilians suffer from these Israeli spy planes and drones: the systematic and prolonged exposure to the noise of military aircraft impacts the psychological and physical lives of the Lebanese, who must "withstand constant air pressure". Lawrence Abu Hamdan, 37-year-old Jordanian and creator of the database, seeks to warn of the dangers of normalizing airspace violations, which are indicative of an "atmosphere of violence". Mr. Abu Hamdan reminds that the total duration of violations amounts to 3,098 days, equivalent to "8 years and a half of continued occupation of Lebanon by jet planes and drones".

Lebanon – [Public administration employees resort to an open strike](#)

From Monday 13, June, Lebanese public administration employees are called to strike by the administrative committee of the association of public administration employees. The strike aims to alert the constitutional institutions of the sector's suffering. The association asks for a recalculation of pensions, a correction of salaries, an increase in health and social benefits, as well as a change in official working hours. To deal with the rise in fuel prices and the decline in purchasing power of wages, the association also asks for fuel vouchers for public employees. This open strike is the second one since the strike launched in November 2021.

Saturday and Sunday
11 and 12 June 2022

Lebanon – [Lebanese protest Israel vessel at disputed gas field](#)

Hundreds of people and several lawmakers protested Saturday in southern Lebanon against Israel moving a gas production vessel into an offshore field partly claimed by Beirut. The demonstration comes just days before the US envoy mediating maritime border talks between the two neighbors is expected in Lebanon, and after the ship operated by London-listed Energean Plc arrived in the Karish gas field last week. Several hundred people waved Lebanese and Palestinian flags at Lebanon's border town of Naqoura to protest Israel's claim on the area where the Karish field is located, an AFP correspondent said. During the demonstration, MP Firas Hamdane said he refused to "neglect Lebanon's maritime resources, which belong to all Lebanese". The Lebanese President Michel Aoun and the outgoing Prime Minister Najib Mikati, have condemned Israel and called on the United States for a mediation mission regarding the delimitation of the maritime borders between the two countries.



Monday
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Occupied Palestine – [Israel extends detention of French-Palestinian lawyer](#)

A French-Palestinian lawyer will spend at least three more months detained without charge under a controversial Israeli practice, court documents show. Israeli authorities overnight Sunday-Monday extended the detention of Salah Hamouri, 37, under what is known as administrative detention, according to the documents. The practice allows suspects to be detained for renewable periods of up to six months. An Israeli military court sentenced Hamouri to administrative detention in March. It accused him of being a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and said he “endangers security in the region.”

Turkey – [Iranian dissident journalist Moradi ‘abducted’ in Turkey](#)

Mohammed Bagher Moradi, a dissident Iranian journalist, disappeared in Turkey on May 30. Sentenced to 5 years in prison for his critical reports to the regime, the journalist had found refuge in Turkey for 9 years, but his disappearance makes fear that he is once again a victim of the Iranian intelligence services, according to his family who filed a complaint with the local Turkish prosecutor’s office. Indeed, he was spied by the Iranian authorities from Ankara. Many Iranian activists seek refuge in Turkey, an easy gateway to Europe. According to Oubai Shahbandar, a defense and security analyst, it is common for Iranian intelligence to carry out terrorist and kidnapping operations in Turkey.

Syria – [Assad and allies targeted 1,420 schools since 2011](#)

According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), the Syrian regime (helped by Iranian and Russian militias) is responsible for the largest number of violations and crimes committed against Syrian children since 2011 and the outbreak of the revolution. In a report published on Saturday, May 4, on the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression, the SNHR reminds that 29,791 children have been killed since 2011 and 5,704 arrested. The report mentions acts of sexual violence, torture, forced recruitment and attacks on schools or hospitals. The Syrian regime alone is responsible for 174 cases of torture of children.

Tuesday
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Occupied Palestine – [Israel wants ‘complete control’ of Palestinian land: UN report](#)

An independent commission of inquiry set up by the UN Human Rights Council after the 2021 Israeli assault on the besieged Gaza Strip said Israel must do more than end the occupation of land that Palestinian leaders want for a future state. “Ending the occupation alone will not be sufficient,” according to the report released on Tuesday, urging that additional action be taken to ensure the equal enjoyment of human rights for Palestinians. The report cites evidence that Israel has “no intention of ending the occupation”. Israel is pursuing “complete control” over what the report calls the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which was taken by Israel in a 1967 war and later annexed in a move never recognized by the international community. More than 700,000 Israeli settlers now live in settlements and outposts across the West Bank and East Jerusalem, which is home to more than three million Palestinians. The Israeli settlements are fortified, Jewish-only housing complexes that are considered illegal under international law.

Iran – [Iran carries out mass execution of 12 prisoners, including woman: NGO](#)

According to the Norwegian NGO Iran Human Rights (IHR), Iran executed 12 prisoners in a prison in the southeast of the country. 11 men and 1 woman, convicted of murder and drug cases, were hanged on Monday morning in Zahedan prison, Sistan-Baluchestan province. None of the executions were reported by the national media or confirmed by the Iranian authorities. All were from the Baluchi ethnic minority, which adheres primarily to the Sunni strain of Islam rather than the Shiism that is dominant in Iran. Activists are concerned that ethnic and religious minorities are more vulnerable to regime executions. According to the IHR, 21% of those executed in 2021 were Baluchi prisoners. 333 people were executed in 2021, 25% more than in 2020.

Sudan – [At least 27 killed, dozens wounded in Sudan ethnic clashes: Witnesses](#)

On Tuesday, Sudanese witnesses reported heavy fighting in the west and south of the country that left 27 people dead, and dozens injured. The separate incidents occurred in South Kordofan (11 dead after a dispute between two people escalated into armed clashes) and Darfur (16 dead in a land dispute). In Kolbus, West Darfur, attackers also set fire to villages, razing them. These clashes are the latest between settled Sudanese farmers and semi-nomadic Arab pastoralist groups. The rival groups clash mainly over access to land, becoming increasingly violent as the land dries up and becomes more deserted. In April, 200 people were killed in West Darfur in clashes between non-Arab and Arab groups. The violence has left 300,000 people dead and 2,5 million displaced since the 1990s and the start of the civil war, according to the UN. Volker Perthes, the UN special representative, said he was “deeply concerned about inter-communal clashes”.

Wednesday
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Algeria – [Algeria: Journalist Ihsane El-Kadi sentenced to six months in prison](#)

Algerian journalist Ihsane El-Kadi was sentenced by a court in Algiers to 6 months in prison without a detention order, and a fine of 50,000 dinars. Director of the independent media Radio M and Maghreb Emergent, he was under trial since the publication of an article on March 23, 2021, advocating the inclusion of the Islamic-conservative movement Rachad in the Hirak, the protest movement formed in 2019 in reaction to a 5th term of Bouteflika. The case against Mr. El-Kadi involves charges of "dissemination of false information to undermine national unity", among others. Mr. El-Kadi's lawyers argued the journalist is protected by Article 54 of the Algerian Constitution, which guarantees freedom of expression. At the verdict's mention, the journalists expressed concern about the regime's increasingly repressive approach to anything related to the Hirak. As of June 1, there were 272 political prisoners in Algeria, according to Algerian Detainees.

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

Israeli forces have shot dead a Palestinian man in confrontations following a military raid in the southern occupied West Bank. The man, identified as 27-year-old Mahmoud Fayez Abu Ayhour, was killed on Thursday in the town of Halhul, 5km (3 miles) north of Hebron city. Abu Ayhour arrived at Al-Mizan Hospital in Hebron in critical condition just before 1pm (10:00 GMT). He was announced dead 30 minutes later. The Palestinian Ministry of Health said Abu Ayhour was shot in the stomach.

Iraq – [Armed drone attack wounds three in Iraq's Irbil](#)

On Wednesday night, a drone bomb that detonated its charge on a road injured 3 people and damaged vehicles on the outskirts of Irbil in Iraqi Kurdistan, according to the Kurdistan Autonomous Region's Counterterrorism Agency. The attack was not claimed, but it took place near a building under construction that is to house the new United States consulate from 2023, and next to the Emirati one. Irbil, and the autonomous region of Kurdistan, have suffered several attacks in recent months: the biggest took place in March 2022, when the Iranian Revolutionary Guards fired 12 ballistic missiles to hit an Israeli "strategic center" in Irbil, while the authorities of Iraqi Kurdistan deny the presence of Israel on its territory.

Algeria – [Algeria: Sanctions after the death of two men in the hold of a plane](#)

The Algerian presidency announced that it had suspended senior police officers following the discovery of two young people's bodies in the landing gear of an Air Algérie plane. The two young people, in their twenties, were Algerian and were probably trying to reach Europe, as the plane was bound for Spain. According to the presidency, 9 agents of the Directorate General of National Security (DGSN) were arrested and placed in custody. The director of the border police (PAF) and the police commissioner in charge of air traffic control were suspended.

Friday
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Jordan – [Jordan lets humanitarian aid enter Syrian refugee camp](#)

Jordan has just allowed humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees in Rukban camp, near the northeast border with Syria. Humanitarian aid had not been allowed into the camp for 3 years, which Jordan justified by health security measures related to Covid-19. In fact, until recently, these areas were considered by Jordan as closed military zones, which had to be kept out for security reasons. Jordan also considered that aid to the camp was a matter of Syrian sovereignty, as Rukban borders Syria. According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, the delivery of humanitarian aid to the camp was confirmed by militants. The delivery of aid has been welcomed by civil organizations, while a large proportion of the refugees (including many women and children) live in extremely difficult situations, with irregular access to food, basic care and education. It is estimated that 50,000 Syrians are affected.

Syria – [Syria halts Damascus airport flights after Israeli strikes](#)

On Friday, missiles hit targets south of Damascus, according to the official Syrian news agency SANA. The fire, attributed to Israel, killed at least one civilian and injured an unknown number, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR). The Israeli missiles targeted depots belonging to Iranian forces near Damascus International Airport, as well as depots belonging to the Lebanese Hezbollah. SANA said that some of the missiles were shot down by Syrian air defense. These raids are the result of an offensive campaign on the part of Israel, which refuses to allow Iran or its forces to extend its influence on its borders. On June 6, Israel had already fired missiles south of Damascus, and on May 20, Israeli missiles killed at least 3 Syrian officers, according to the SOHR.

Iran – [8 Iran convicts face 'imminent' finger amputation](#)

On Friday, the Abdorrahman Boroumand Center for Human Rights in Iran, announced in a statement that 8 Iranians convicted of robbery and detained by Tehran are facing mutilation (cutting off fingers), which the NGO called as "inhuman" punishment. The men are being held in Greater Tehran Prison awaiting amputation. Their punishment is to be carried out once the regime installs a guillotine-like device in Tehran's Evin prison. Roya Boroumand, executive director of the center, expressed concerns from activists that an amputation has already taken place. She denounced a punishment that "violates the minimum standards of humanity and decency", calling on the international community to intervene. The Iranian penal code still allows finger amputations: 4 fingers of the right hand are cut off in case of robbery.

Saturday and Sunday
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Turkey – [Türkiye: “Another dark day” as police use excessive force and fire pepper balls on Pride marchers](#)

Police used excessive force during a Pride march in Turkey by firing pepper spray at Pride demonstrators, according to Amnesty International. During a Pride march in Ankara on the campus of the Middle East Technical University (METU) on Friday, police violently dispersed demonstrators, arresting some of them by dragging them to the ground, according to Nils Muiznieks, Amnesty International's Europe program director. For him, students were “simply marching peacefully for their rights to dignity and equality”. Mr. Muiznieks called for their immediate and unconditional release.

Tunisia – [Tunisian police arrest journalist Salah Atiyah for TV remarks](#)

Following an investigation's opening by Tunisian military prosecutors for “harming public order and the impartiality of the army”, journalist Salah Atiyah has been finally arrested, according to a witness who was with the journalist at the time of his arrest, to Reuters news agency. The arrest was not confirmed yet by the authorities. The journalist did remarks about Kais Saied planning to have the army close the headquarters of the UGTT union. In addition, Mr. Atiyah reportedly commented on Mr. Saied's desire to place their leaders under house arrest, but that this desire was refused by the army. Nouredine Taboubi, secretary general of the UGTT, denied Mr. Atiyah's allegations. The president is currently accused of wanting to undermine the country's democratic institutions, which have been threatened since his seizure of power in July 2021, which his opponents call a coup. In particular, he has just dismissed 57 judges for corruption.



INTERNATIONAL

Monday

06 June 2022

Nigeria – [Mass shooting at Nigeria church kills dozens, says local lawmaker](#)

In Nigeria, gunmen carried out a massacre in the Catholic church of St. Francis of Owo, Ondo State, during the Pentecost mass. The attack, which has not been claimed, left 40 people dead and 58 injured, according to the last statement from local authorities. According to witnesses to AFP, 5 gunmen attacked the church with firearms and explosives. The attack comes in a backdrop of ethnic tensions between Nigeria's predominantly Muslim north and its predominantly Christian south, and in a tense electoral context, with the launch of the 2023 presidential elections' primaries.

Brazil – [Brazil's Navy searching for British journalist missing in Amazon jungle](#)

Dom Phillips, a British journalist, and Bruno Araujo Pereira, a Brazilian specialist on indigenous peoples, disappeared in the Amazon while doing research for a book, The Guardian reported. According to the Union of Indigenous Organizations of the Javari Valley (Univaja), they had been threatened last week, without specifying the nature of the threats. However, Araujo Pereira, a long-time employee of the National Indian Foundation (Funai), an organization in charge of indigenous peoples, was regularly threatened by illegal loggers and miners. The Observatory for the Human Rights of Isolated Indigenous Peoples explained that the last news of the two men came on Sunday morning, when they took a new and equipped boat to reach Atalaia do Norte. They never arrived.

Ukraine – [Reports of sexual violence in Ukraine rising fast, Security Council hears](#)

Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict, told the UN Security Council on Monday that allegations of sexual violence committed in Ukraine by Russian troops are increasing. She warned about rape as a continuum of conventional weapons of war. She presented a recently signed Framework of Cooperation on the Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, which seeks to strengthen accountability and combat those abhorrent crimes. To date, the human rights monitoring team of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights reported 124 alleged acts of sexual violence during the Ukraine war. Ms. Patten also warned of the risk of human trafficking, as 6,8 million people have fled Ukraine.

Tuesday

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Poland/Belarus – [Violence and Pushbacks at Poland-Belarus Border](#)

In a report published on Tuesday, Human Rights Watch (HRW) denounced illegal and violent refoulements by Poland, towards migrants and asylum seekers from Belarus. At the borders, they also suffer serious violations such as beatings and rape by border guards. The humanitarian crisis between Poland and Belarus began in 2021, and involves hundreds of Iraqis, Syrians, Iranians, Yemenis, and Afghans who attempt to seek asylum in the EU and find themselves stranded at the border area between the two countries. Between March and May 2022, HRW conducted interviews with 9 migrants, a human rights expert, activists, and representatives of border guards and detention centers for foreigners in Poland. They all point to illegal refoulements, systematic violence, and inhumane or degrading treatment. Having their asylum claims ignored, migrants sometimes had no choice but to wander between borders, through forests or swamps in freezing temperatures, without food or water. A Polish human rights expert described a gang rape in the Bruzgi camp in Belarus. A Yemeni man claims to have been forced by Belarusian border guards to swim across a river to Lithuania, along with 3 other migrants, 2 of whom drowned. Lydia Gall, Europe and Central Asia researcher at HRW, denounces the contrast with Poland's open-door policy to people fleeing the war in Ukraine.

Worldwide – [World Food Safety Day highlights need to improve health, prevent foodborne risks](#)

On World Food Security Day, the United Nations highlighted the importance of safe and healthy food for human health safety. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), detecting and managing foodborne risks leads to better nutrition for all, better mental and social benefits, and reduces absenteeism in schools or at work. Foodborne diseases are responsible for the death of one in 10 people worldwide each year, ranging from diarrhea to cancer. Changing the way we produce food would avoid infectious and toxic risks, or the presence of microbial pathogens. The UN agency also reminded that systemic changes for better health will lead to safer food – a critical enabler of long-term development and a prerequisite to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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Worldwide – [INTERVIEW: 'Deliver the care our ocean needs – together', urge co-hosts of UN conference](#)

On World Oceans Day, June 8, United Nations representatives remind how fundamental the protection of the oceans is to the survival of the planet and to human well-being. Ambassador Ana Paula Zacarias, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the UN, and Ambassador Martin Kimani, Permanent Representative of Kenya, explain the issue of ensuring oceans' optimal conservation, and their sustainable use in the face of climate change, in order to achieve sustainable development goals for all. The oceans' protection responds to objectives of human health and food security: oceans provide food, especially for coastal population in rural areas in Kenya who engage in fishing and agriculture for their livelihoods; and Portugal with its long coast has also a strong and fruitful relationship with the ocean. At the end of June 2022, the 2nd UN Conference on the Oceans will take place in Lisbon, where leaders, entrepreneurs and representatives of civil society will meet to agree on a collective strategy for the oceans' protection.

Great Britain – [UK charities seek injunction to halt Rwandan migrant deportations](#)

As asylum seekers' deportation from Britain to Rwanda are scheduled for next week, rights groups have asked the High Court in London to prevent the forced departures. Detention Action, Care4Calais and the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), representing British Home Office officials, have called for a judicial review of the bill allowing the deportations and have reaffirmed their commitment to block the first deportation flight scheduled for June 14. For the humanitarian groups, Rwanda's poor human rights record does not ensure that migrants will be treated well once they land in the country. It would make Britain complicit in possible human rights violations. Since 2016, Britain has become increasingly concerned about immigration issues: in April, Johnson's government announced a deal with Rwanda to send thousands of asylum seekers to stem the flow of migrants from the English Channel.

United States of America – [Dozens of abuse survivors plan to sue FBI over Nassar investigation – New York Times](#)

According to the New York Times, about 90 women are planning to file a lawsuit against the FBI, as they accuse former agents of botching the investigation into sexual abuse by former USA Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar. Nassar had been sentenced in 2018 to a cumulative 175 years in prison for abusing young female gymnasts, when he was doctor for the gym organization. In July 2021, a report by Department of Justice Inspector General Michael Horowitz, revealed that the FBI had made serious errors in its investigation against Nassar, errors that would have allowed him to continue making at least 70 additional victims before he was arrested. By April 2022, 13 of Mr. Nassar's victims had already filed administrative complaints against the FBI for botching the investigation, seeking \$130 million in reparations. But 2 weeks ago, the US Department of Justice announced that it would not pursue criminal charges against the former FBI agents. This new complaint comes as a reaction to this decision. According to the victims' lawyer, this new complaint from 90 women, including Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles, amounts to more than \$1 billion in claims.

Ukraine – [Britons sentenced to death after 'show trial' in Russian-occupied Ukraine](#)

On Thursday, two Britons and a Moroccan, who were fighting in Ukraine, were sentenced to death for "being a mercenary" by the separatist authorities' judiciary in Donetsk, Russian news agencies announced. The lawyer Pavel Kossovan announced that the 3 defendants, Aiden Aslim, Shaun Pinner and Brahim Saadoun will appeal the charge of mercenarism, while acknowledging participation in armed combat. Two of the defendants have Ukrainian citizenship. The United Kingdom has expressed great concern about the situation, and a spokesman for British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that "prisoners of war shouldn't be exploited for political purposes", reminding the protection afforded to them by their status as prisoners of war under the Geneva Convention. Pro-Russian officials had hinted in recent weeks that captured Ukrainian soldiers could be tried by capital punishment. A moratorium on the death penalty has been in place in Russia since 1997, but this is not the case in the separatist territories of eastern Ukraine.

China – [European Union takes major step toward ban on imports of products made by forced labor](#)

On Thursday, the European Parliament adopted a resolution condemning the crimes against humanity on the Muslim Uighur minority in China, and advocates banning the import of goods manufactured in the labor camps where they are interned. 15 days after the publication of the Xinjiang Police Files, hacked Chinese police files entrusted to German anthropologist Adrian Zenz, which confirm the extent of Beijing's repression of the Uighurs, MEPs adopted a resolution seeking to ban the import of goods made in China by forced labor. MEPs recognized a "serious risk of genocide" in Xinjiang and the motion focuses on countering, through diplomatic means other than military, "the violence perpetrated by the [Chinese] authorities against the Uyghurs". China does not recognize these accusations of genocide and speaks about a situation of re-education of the Uyghur community. The World Uyghur Congress (WUC), an association of Uyghur exiles, welcomed this resolution recognizing "crimes against humanity [...] carried out against the Uyghur people".

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Afghanistan – [Afghanistan: Taliban Torture Civilians in Panjshir](#)

In a report released Friday, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said the Taliban are illegally detaining and torturing residents accused of association with an armed opposition group in Afghanistan's Panjshir province. Since May 2022, Panjshir has been rocked by increasingly violent fighting between the Taliban and the National Resistance Front (NRF), who attack Taliban units or checkpoints. In response, the Taliban have carried out summary executions, enforced disappearances, and torture, including of civilians wrongly targeted in the fighting, which constitute war crimes. "The Taliban's longstanding failure to punish those responsible for serious abuses in their ranks puts more civilians at risk", according to Patricia Grossman, associate director for Asia at HRW. Detainees have denounced forms of collective punishment by the Taliban, which arbitrarily locks them in illegal centers without access to family or lawyer. HRW denounces a violation of international humanitarian law and the laws of war, which stipulate that all parties to a conflict must be treated humanely.

India – [India: Increase in unlawful killings in Jammu & Kashmir highlights Government's failure to protect its minorities](#)

In a press release issued on Friday, Amnesty International India called on the Indian authorities to conduct independent and impartial investigations into the recent unlawful killings of civilians by armed groups in Kashmir. The increase in unlawful killings in Jammu and Kashmir shows the government's failure to protect its minorities. Violence against civilians has continued to rise since the Indian government unilaterally revoked Kashmir's special autonomy in August 2019. Aakar Patel, chairman of the board of Amnesty International India, says " People of Jammu and Kashmir have suffered from gross human rights violations and abuses committed by both state and non-state actors" and calls for the impunity's end of the Indian authorities over the violence. Mr. Patel denounces a general systemic repression by the Indian authorities, with heavy-handed crackdowns on civil and peaceful demonstrators, and the ongoing repression of journalists or human rights activists. Last week, 2 Hindu people were murdered. Between 2019 and 2021, according to the Indian government, 87 civilians were killed by armed groups. Since 2022, according to media reports, 19 civilians have been killed, including 7 Hindus.

Saturday and Sunday
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Worldwide – [Infographic: How many children are forced to work globally?](#)

In an interactive infographic, Al-Jazeera looks back at forced child labor on June 12 World Day Against Child Labor. The annual event aims to raise awareness of the economic and social consequences of child labor. Children are classified as "child laborers" if they are too young to work or are involved in activities that are too hazardous for their age, which may compromise their physical, social, educational or mental development, according to the UN. It is estimated that there are more than 160 million children over the age of 5 in child labor worldwide. Most child labor is in agriculture (70% of children aged 5 to 17 work in agriculture). 79 million children are estimated to be involved in work that poses a risk to their health or safety. The largest number of children engaged in dangerous work is in Africa (41,4 million). Boys outnumber girls (97 million boys for 63 million girls). The UN reminds that child labor does not only have direct consequences; it also has longer term consequences of limiting children's future opportunities and thus promoting the lasting impoverishment of the populations concerned. In the absence of a collective strategy to curb child labor, the International Labor Organization and UNICEF estimate that the number of child laborers could increase by 8,9 million by the end of 2022, due to increased poverty, famine and natural disasters.