



HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

06 - 12 March, 2023



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

06 March 2023

Some Lebanese public school teachers resume morning classes

Many public school teachers in Lebanon returned to class on Monday after two months on strike, but they will not be teaching afternoon classes to the children of Syrian refugees and contract teachers said they would continue to stay away from work. Public school teachers will receive an increase in their transportation allowance, with tenured teachers securing a daily transportation allowance of five litres of petrol per day for four days a week, while contract teachers were offered up to five litres per day for three days a week. Additionally, all public school teachers will receive an additional incentive of US\$125 per month worked, paid via money transfer until the end of the school year. "Of course we are not happy with the results, but between bad and worse, we chose the less bad," said Teachers Union branch vice president Manal Hdaife. "We've partially received the demands we fought for so we will hang up the strike for now while we continue fighting for improved work conditions."

Tuesday

07 March 2023

38 countries condemn interference with Beirut Blast probe

Thirty-eight countries at the UN Human Rights Council condemned the pervasive obstruction and interference with Lebanon's domestic investigation into the August 4, 2020 explosion at Beirut's port, Human Rights Watch and Legal Agenda said today. Lebanese authorities should urgently act to carry out badly needed judicial reforms and remove other obstacles undermining the domestic investigation into the explosion. In a joint statement delivered by Australia before the UN Human Rights Council, the 38 states called on Lebanon to "to take all necessary measures to safeguard, in law and in practice, the full independence and impartiality of the Lebanese judiciary," and to ensure that a "swift, independent, impartial, credible, and transparent investigation into the explosion" be carried out. The investigation into the explosion has been suspended for over a year. For years, Lebanese and international rights groups have documented political interference with the judiciary and criticized its lack of independence, which has allowed a culture of impunity to flourish in Lebanon.

Lebanon's UN voting rights regained after settling dues

Lebanon has regained UN voting rights after paying dues for 2022 and 2023, the foreign ministry said on Tuesday, after the country, which is in deep financial crisis, lost its rights at the international organization for the second time in three years. On January 17, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres listed Lebanon, along with Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, South Sudan and Venezuela, as countries that had lost their UN General Assembly vote. Guterres said Lebanon needed to pay a minimum of some \$1.8 million to regain its vote. A foreign ministry statement did not say how much Lebanon had paid. "Lebanon has returned to play its natural role ... in the work and discussions of the United Nations and its specialized committees," it said.

Wednesday
08 March 2023

[UN Lebanon Celebrates Women Innovators Through "Stand Up for Women Campaign"](#)

On International Women's Day, the United Nations in Lebanon celebrated women innovating in tech, locally and worldwide, through the "Stand up for women" campaign. Whether in technology, sports, science, or the arts, the organization recognized innovation by women that is helping drive positive change and overcome the country's most persistent social, political, economic, and cultural challenges. The Lebanon campaign, launched by the United Nations Lebanon and coordinated by UN Women, supports the global International Women's Day campaign – "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality." The campaign celebrates women and girls championing the advancement of transformative technology and highlights the cost of women's exclusion from the digital world, which has taken US \$1 trillion from the gross domestic product of low-and middle-income countries in the last decade.

[No liquidity in Lebanese banks, says chief of country's banking association](#)

Lebanon's commercial banks do not have the liquidity to return money to depositors who retain their savings in the country's bank accounts, the head of the Lebanese banking association said on Wednesday. "These numbers show beyond any doubt that there is no liquidity with the banks", the Association of the Banks of Lebanon's Fadi Khalaf said in a monthly report. Lebanon's banks imposed informal, ad hoc capital controls at the beginning of Lebanon's economic crisis in 2019, when signs of the country's liquidity crisis first began to show, locking people out of their savings. Since then, banks have severely limited the amount of money depositors can withdraw from their accounts. For the most part, depositors can only withdraw dollars at an artificially imposed rate that is worth a fraction of the dollar's true value in the parallel exchange market in Lebanon. The measures have sparked anger. In recent months, depositors – sometimes armed – have taken to holding up banks and demanding the return of their own money.

[Gender Equality In The Euro-Mediterranean Region: Still A Long Way To Go](#)

On this International Women's Rights Day, EuroMed Rights and its members publish a series of factsheets highlighting the discriminations women face in 11 countries of the Euro-Mediterranean region. The main finding is the prominence of patriarchal structures and behaviours in our societies, even when appropriate laws are in place. These discriminations take many forms: they can be embedded in legislation, therefore setting up discrimination between men and women by law (de jure discrimination); they can also derive from a patriarchal interpretation of laws or the non-enforcement of existing laws in patriarchal societies (de facto discrimination).

[CLDH shares findings from its "Women and Juveniles' Rights Behind Bars" research report on International Women's Day](#)

On International Women's Day, CLDH shared findings from its latest research report about women and juveniles/minors in prisons and detention centers. The report aims to enable better protection of the rights of women by highlighting violations in prisons and detention centers.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CphylHTozl5/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CphyrfEo-oc/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Cphyuvjlzo6/>

Thursday
09 March 2023

[Electricity crisis exacerbates poverty, inequality](#)

Lebanese authorities have failed to uphold the right to electricity by mismanaging the sector for decades, according to a report released by Human Rights Watch. The 127-page report, "Cut Off from Life Itself: Lebanon's Failure on the Right to Electricity," argues that electricity is fundamental to nearly every aspect of living and participating in present-day societies, and as such, the internationally protected right to an adequate standard of living includes the right of everyone, without discrimination, to sufficient, reliable, safe, clean, accessible, and affordable electricity. At present, the government provides electricity for only one to three hours a day on average, while people who can afford it supplement that supply with private generators. The public sector and private generator industry rely on polluting climate-intensive fossil fuels. The electricity crisis has exacerbated inequality in the country, severely limited people's ability to realize their most basic rights, and pushed them further into poverty.

Friday
10 March 2023

Strike of Lebanese University doctors - Two shifts at \$150 per month and a "shameful raise"

Resident doctors at the Lebanese University had a sit-in at the Hadath campus today, as part of this week's warning strike, and announced that they intend to begin an open strike starting next week, with the exception of critical cases. Dr. Youssef Zeitoun told Megaphone that residents were paid \$150 and LBP 2 million per month for daily shifts and occasional night shifts—practically double shifts. After the dean met with hospital directors, they agreed to add \$100 per month and double the LBP amount. Doctors on strike had proposed a minimum wage of \$350, and called the \$100 addition "shameful," especially compared with their peers at AUBMC who receive over \$1,000 per month, or those at Balamand who receive nearly \$500. Zeitoun confirmed that this wage disparity is increasing the number of students and doctors leaving LU to private universities. Doctors on strike stressed that hospitals are pricing most of their services in dollars and are making profit at the expense of their workers' wages, especially residents and interns. Some hospital administrations have also threatened those on strike to back down.

Saturday and Sunday
11 and 12 March 2023

Lebanese communities struggle with power outages and lawlessness

Residents of the Beit Mery area, located just outside the Lebanese capital Beirut, face another challenge in securing essential utilities. The owner of the local generator has decided to limit power access to just eight hours per day. According to one resident, the generator owner has divided the community into those who pay in dollars and those who pay in Lebanese lira and has provided different motors and disconnectors to enforce the rationing based on their classification. This is just one example of the lawlessness and corruption that plagues Lebanon's power sector. The situation is particularly dire in the Barbour and Mar Mikhael areas of Beirut, where generator owners are dubbed "pharaohs," and residents are afraid to challenge their power or seek alternatives for fear of retribution. These are just a few examples of the ongoing struggle residents across Lebanon face in securing essential utilities. Despite efforts by the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Economy, many generator owners continue to operate outside the law, either protected by powerful forces or defiantly resisting any attempts at change.