



# HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

31 October – 06 November, 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**

31 Oct 2022

**Lebanon – [Vaccines will play essential role in limiting cholera's spread: Lebanese Minister](#)**

Lebanon received its first vaccines to combat a worsening cholera outbreak – together with sharply worded criticism of the crisis-hit country's crumbling public health infrastructure from donor nation France. By Sunday, cases of cholera stood at 1,447, with 17 deaths, since the first were recorded in the country a month ago, the Health Ministry said. The outbreak has reached Beirut, but authorities say most cases remain concentrated where it started in the northern town of Bebnine, where health authorities have set up an emergency field hospital. The vaccines would play “an essential role” in limiting the disease’s spread, Health Minister Firass Abiad said in the capital as he announced the first batch. He did not specify how many more were on the way. “The origins of this epidemic, in which public health is at stake, must also be treated,” said French ambassador Anne Grillo. The outbreak was “a new and worrying illustration of the critical decline in public provision of access to water and sanitary services in Lebanon.”

**Tuesday**

01 Nov 2022

**Lebanon – [Lebanon raises cost of electricity for first time since 1990s](#)**

Lebanon’s state power company Electricite du Liban (EDL) raised the price it charges for electricity for the first time since the 1990s, an EDL spokesperson said, in a move officials say will pave the way for an eventual increase in power supply. Lebanon has not had round-the-clock power since the 1990s and cash transfers to EDL to cover chronic losses have contributed tens of billions of dollars to the country’s huge public debt. Government officials have said that increasing the price of power would allow the state to afford to purchase more fuel to fire power plants, thereby increasing supply from an hour or two per day to up to 10 hours per day. Analysts say weak governance, corruption, and mismanagement are at the root of the sector’s problems and remain largely unaddressed. Power will now be priced at 10 U.S. dollar cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for the first 100 kWh consumed, and 27 cents per kWh for consumption above that, the EDL spokesperson said.

**Wednesday**

02 Nov 2022

**Lebanon – [Armed man storms Lebanon bank to retrieve his savings](#)**

An armed man stormed a branch of Credit Libanais bank in the Lebanese capital's suburb of Hazmieh, demanding that his savings be returned to him. Local media quoted eyewitnesses as saying that the depositor was a “former soldier in one of the state security agencies.” They noted that the bank handed over a total of \$30,000 to the armed man. “The depositor had informed the security forces present in the place, that he would surrender himself and his gun as soon as he obtains his full deposit,” the eyewitnesses pointed out, adding that he was preventing security personnel from entering the bank branch until he got his money.

**Friday**

04 Nov 2022

**Lebanon – [Scores of Syrian refugees head home from crisis-hit Lebanon](#)**

Scores of Syrian refugees headed home from eastern Lebanon in the second convoy in less than two weeks as Beirut attempts to organize a mass refugee return to the war-torn country. Lebanon’s state-run National News Agency said the “voluntary return” included 330 Syrians who left from the eastern Bekaa Valley to Syria’s western Qalamoun region. On Oct. 26, around 500 refugees returned to Syria, becoming the first group to return home in more than two years. After living in Lebanon for years, many Syrian refugees have decided to go back home after being affected by the country’s historic three-year economic meltdown that pushed three-quarters of Lebanese into poverty. Since the economic crisis began in late 2019, some Lebanese politicians have blamed the refugees for the crisis.

Saturday and Sunday  
05 and 06 Nov 2022

**Lebanon – 'No choice' but cholera water for Lebanon's poor**

Marwa Khaled's teenage son was hospitalized with cholera after drinking polluted water in Lebanon's impoverished north – yet she still buys the same contaminated water, the only kind she can afford. The World Health Organization warns the waterborne disease is spreading “rapidly” as Lebanon struggles with crumbling infrastructure, poor sanitation, and limited access to clean water. Over a quarter of the country's more than 400 recorded cases are from Khaled's hometown of Bebnine, where people resort to unsafe water sources as the state fails to provide clean water. The actual number of cases could be much higher, with the health ministry recording more than 2,400 suspected and confirmed infections. Like much of Lebanon's marginalized north, Bebnine suffers from dilapidated infrastructure and government neglect.



## REGIONAL

Middle East

**Monday**  
31 Oct 2022

**Syria – [Syrian regime forces ‘burned corpses to hide victims’ identities’: Rights group](#)**

A rights group accused Syrian regime forces of burning bodies inside pits in an effort to make the corpses unidentifiable – the latest in a slew of accusations of crimes by Damascus. “This may reflect a broader practice of the Syrian regime to destroy evidence of their crimes and deny the families of their victims their right to know the fates of their loved ones or receive their remains,” the Washington-based Syrian Center for Justice and Accountability said in a report. Since the start of Syria’s civil war, Syrian authorities have been accused of torturing detainees to death, of rape, sexual assaults and extrajudicial executions. The NGO analyzed videos dating back to 2012 and 2013 that showed bodies burnt and transferred into mass graves in the southern province of Daraa, and cross checked them with satellite imagery monitoring the trucks transporting the bodies. Four videos show armed men transporting at least 15 bodies. They documented their identities, dumped them in a pit, then poured gasoline and set them on fire.

**Bahrain – [Political Isolation Laws Ban Opposition](#)**

The Bahraini government is using its political isolation laws and a series of other tactics to keep activists and former opposition party members out of public office and other aspects of public life, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today. The 38-page report, “You Can’t Call Bahrain A Democracy: Bahrain’s Political Isolation Laws,” documents the use of Bahrain’s 2018 political isolation laws to keep political opponents from running for parliament seats or even serving on the boards of governors of civic organizations. Human Rights Watch found that the government’s targeted marginalization of opposition figures from social, political, civil, and economic life in Bahrain resulted in a spectrum of other human rights abuses.

**Tuesday**  
01 Nov 2022

**Occupied Palestine – [Palestinians in West Bank on course for deadliest year on record, UN says](#)**

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank will likely suffer their deadliest year since the UN began tracking violence, the organization’s Security Council has been told. Middle East Peace Process Coordinator Tor Wennesland told the council’s quarterly open debate that increased Israeli military operations were a major factor in the escalation, although attacks by settlers had also increased. The UN’s latest figures show that at least 101 Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem have been killed by Israeli security forces this year, which is the highest monthly average since records began in 2005. “So far, 2022 is on course to be the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank since (the UN) began systematically tracking Palestinian fatalities in 2005,” Wennesland said. Council members and non-members condemned the escalation by Israel.

**Syria – [Civilian Homes Demolished in Security Operation](#)**

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in northeast Syria destroyed or damaged at least 140 private buildings housing 147 families in January and February 2022 while trying to capture fleeing detainees and Islamic State (ISIS) fighters who attacked a nearby prison, Human Rights Watch said today. Witnesses said the SDF used bulldozers to demolish houses in al-Hasakah city’s East Ghweran and al-Zuhour neighborhoods. “The Syrian Democratic Forces have yet to fully and publicly explain why they needed to destroy dozens of homes to capture the prison attackers and secure the area,” said Gerry Simpson, associate crisis and conflict director at Human Rights Watch. “In the meantime, they should help affected families rebuild their lives.”

**Wednesday**  
02 Nov 2022

**Egypt – [COP27: Nobel Prize winners demand Egypt free political prisoners](#)**

More than a dozen Nobel Literature laureates have called on world leaders to pressure the COP27 International Climate Conference host, Egypt, to free the “thousands” of political prisoners languishing in the country’s prisons, including prominent jailed Egyptian-British activist Alaa Abd el-Fattah. In the letter, sent to the United Nations, the European Council, and heads of state in France, the United Kingdom, the United States, and France among others, the 15 Nobel laureates urged the leaders “to use every opportunity” during the conference “to bring the voices of the unjustly imprisoned into the room”. COP27, which is organized by the UN, will be held in the Egyptian Red Sea city of Sharm el-Sheikh from November 6 to 18, with the aim of bringing governments together to accelerate efforts to curb the world’s climate crisis.

**Thursday**  
03 Nov 2022

**Occupied Palestine – [Palestinian killed in occupied West Bank after ‘wounding soldier’](#)**

Israeli forces have killed a Palestinian man in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian health ministry has said. The man, named Habis Abdel Hafeez Rayan, aged 54, was accused by the Israeli army of carrying out a vehicle ramming and stabbing attack on an Israeli soldier at a military checkpoint near a Jewish settlement. According to witnesses, Israeli soldiers opened fire on Rayan. Israeli army radio said the soldier was seriously injured and taken to Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem. Rayan, who is from the village of Beit Duqqu northwest of Jerusalem, has a son, Asem, imprisoned in an Israeli jail.

**Tunisia – [Tunisia Tramples Gender Parity Ahead of Parliamentary Elections](#)**

A new electoral law introduced by Tunisian President Kais Saied on September 15 eliminated the principle of gender parity in elected assemblies, and could, in turn, result in Tunisia’s parliament being led almost exclusively by men. The country’s next parliamentary elections are set to take place on December 17. The new law strips gender parity provisions from a previous electoral law that strove to ensure equal representation between men and women in Tunisia’s elected assemblies. Under the new electoral law, potential candidates need to submit 400 signatures of registered voters from their constituencies to run for office. Candidates also cannot finance their campaigns through public funding and must rely instead on their own means or private funding. These requirements disempower women who are less likely to have the same financial means and powerful local networks to sponsor their candidacy as men.

**Occupied Palestine – [Israel kills 4 Palestinians in occupied West Bank, East Jerusalem](#)**

Israeli forces have killed four Palestinians in separate incidents in the occupied West Bank and the occupied East Jerusalem. The violence on Thursday flared as Israel tallies the final votes in national elections held this week, with former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expected to lead a comfortable majority backed by far-right allies. The Palestinian Ministry of Health said a Palestinian man was killed by Israeli fire in the West Bank. In a separate incident on Thursday, a Palestinian allegedly stabbed a police officer in Jerusalem’s Old City, police said, and officers opened fire, killing the man. Meanwhile, two Palestinians were killed during Israeli army raids in Jenin, including an Islamic Jihad fighter.

**Friday**  
04 Nov 2022

**Occupied Palestine – [Israeli fighter jets hit Gaza after reports of rocket fire](#)**

Israeli fighter jets have launched several air attacks in the blockaded Gaza Strip, leading to a power outage in some areas, according to local sources. Among the main targets of Friday’s strikes were sites used by Palestinian armed resistance factions in the Maghazi refugee camp, in central Gaza, said Hamas, the group that runs the territory. An Israeli army spokesman said that warplanes had attacked a Hamas site in the central Gaza Strip, indicating that the attack came in response to the launching of rockets from Gaza towards Israel – the first rockets launched since Israel’s three-day military offensive in the territory. Earlier in the night, four rockets were fired from Gaza, three of which did not reach Israeli territory, while one rocket was intercepted by air defense systems, the Israeli military said. No Palestinian faction claimed the rocket attacks.



## INTERNATIONAL

**Monday**  
31 Oct 2022

**Russia – [Russia launches barrage of missiles on Ukrainian cities](#)**

Russia fired a barrage of missiles across Ukraine, hitting infrastructure and triggering more electricity blackouts in several cities, officials have said. In Kyiv, the attacks caused partial power and water shortages, Al Jazeera's Harry Fawcett reported from the capital, saying it was "the third Monday in October that there have been a series of such strikes here." Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said the missile hits had left 80 percent of consumers without water supply. "Engineers are also working to restore power to 350,000 homes in Kyiv that were left without electricity." In Ukraine's second-largest city Kharkiv, officials said the attacks caused disruption in the metro system while in Zaporizhzhia, further south, power shortages were also reported.

**India – [Death toll from bridge collapse in India's Gujarat rises to 132](#)**

The death toll from the collapse of a colonial-era suspension bridge in India's western Gujarat state has risen to 132, according to officials, as rescue workers worked through the night, combing the Machhu River for survivors. Harsh Sanghavi, Gujarat's home minister, told reporters that the death toll rose from 68 on Sunday to 132 early on Monday as search operations continued. Gujarat's Information Department said about 177 people had now been rescued, while 19 were receiving medical care. The bridge in Morbi was built in the 19th century and had been closed for renovations for nearly six months before it was reopened to the public last week. Television footage showed dozens of people clinging onto the cables and twisted remains of the bridge as emergency teams struggled to rescue them.

**Sweden – [Sweden's New Government Abandons Feminist Foreign Policy](#)**

Sweden's new Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tobias Billström, announced this month that Sweden will abandon its groundbreaking feminist foreign policy. Unlike his predecessors, Billström seems concerned that labeling the country's foreign policy "feminist" competes with the primacy of Swedish values and interests rather than reflecting them. Partly because of its feminist foreign policy, Sweden has gained an international reputation on women's rights. The country was seen as a pioneer in recognizing that gender equality is crucial for broader foreign policy objectives, including security, prosperity, and sustainable development. Among its achievements are strengthened legislations on gender-based violence and increased focus on women, peace, and security in the UN Security Council.

**Tuesday**  
01 Nov 2022

**Greece – [Dozens missing after refugee boat sinks off Greek islands](#)**

Greek authorities have launched a search and rescue operation for dozens of refugees who are missing after a boat they were traveling on from Turkey overturned and sank in rough weather. The vessel capsized overnight on Monday between the islands of Evia and Andros. The coastguard said on Tuesday that nine people, all men, had been found on an uninhabited rocky islet in the Kafirea Straits between the two islands, which lie east of the Greek capital, Athens. The survivors, who were picked up by a coast guard patrol boat, told authorities there had been a total of about 68 people on board the sailing boat when it sank, and that they had initially set sail from Izmir on the Turkish coast. Authorities were initially alerted by a distress call in the early hours of Tuesday from passengers saying the boat they were on was in trouble, but they did not provide a location.

**Wednesday**  
02 Nov 2022

**Kenya – [Suspected al-Shabab attackers abduct four in Kenya: Police](#)**

Attackers suspected to be members of the al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabab rebel group in Somalia have abducted two paramedics, a driver, and a patient near Kenya's border with Somalia, police said. The attackers ambushed an ambulance belonging to the regional county government of Mandera, in the country's northeast, as it transported the patient to a hospital in the county. "[The] ambulance (was) en route to Elwak hospital for referral with a patient... in the company of hospital staff," Mandera's Lafey police station said in a report late on Tuesday. "They were carjacked by suspected AS (al-Shabab) militia and driven towards Somalia ... They are not in communication now due to network issues."

Thursday  
03 Nov 2022

**Kazakhstan – [Methane blast kills at least five workers at Kazakhstan coal mine](#)**

A methane explosion at a coal mine in central Kazakhstan has killed at least five workers and injured another four, according to officials. "A sudden release of gas during the drilling of a drainage well led to the deaths of five workers" in the Lenin coal mine, a spokesman for the country's emergency ministry, told the AFP news agency. Imankulov added that "four people were hospitalized and 106 were evacuated". An investigation into potential violations of safety rules has been opened by a government commission. In a statement, Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev offered his "condolences to the families and friends of the deceased workers", and wished a "speedy recovery to the injured".

**South Africa – [South African police find 21 bodies at Krugersdorp mine](#)**

South African police are investigating the discovery of at least 21 bodies of suspected illegal miners, found near an active mine in the town of Krugersdorp, west of Johannesburg. According to police, 19 bodies were recovered on Wednesday afternoon and two more were found on Thursday morning. Police said they suspect that the bodies were moved to the location where they were found, which is a privately-owned mine. The discovery is the latest in a series of incidents related to illegal mining in the Krugersdorp area. In July, eight female members of a film crew were raped and robbed at an abandoned mine in the area, where they were working on a music video shoot. The incident sparked violent protests against illegal miners in surrounding communities.

Friday  
04 Nov 2022

**Canada – [Thousands of education workers in Canada's Ontario launch strike](#)**

Approximately 55,000 education workers have walked off the job in Canada's most populous province, after the Ontario government passed legislation this week imposing contracts on them and banning strikes. Ontario Premier Doug Ford's right-wing government passed Bill 28, the Keeping Students in Class Act, while invoking a contentious clause of Canada's constitution to preempt court challenges. The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), which counts 55,000 custodians, maintenance and library workers, secretaries, and other education support staff who are affected by Bill 28, called the legislation an attack on all workers' bargaining rights and staged a strike. Their protest has forced hundreds of schools across Ontario to close, and the union also warned that the school support workers would not return to the job anytime soon.

Saturday and Sunday  
05 and 06 Nov 2022

**Italy and Malta – [Nearly 1,000 migrants stranded on board NGO ships as storm hits](#)**

Three charity-run vessels in the Mediterranean Sea are awaiting permission to disembark in Italy or Malta, as those on board need urgent assistance amid dwindling supplies and worsening weather conditions. The vessels operated by Doctors Without Borders, SOS Mediterranee, and SOS Humanity, have been at sea for more than a week, carrying nearly 1,000 people. Italy's new right-wing government has acknowledged the receipt of their requests to disembark but has stopped short of greenlighting their entrance into port. Similar requests forwarded to the Maltese government have gone unacknowledged. MSF media adviser Candida Lobes said water was being rationed and food supplies were also dwindling. Due to overcrowding, respiratory and skin infections were also spreading.

**Ukraine – [Russian shelling causes power blackouts across Ukraine](#)**

Ukraine's state electricity operator has announced blackouts in the capital, Kyiv, and seven other regions of the country in the aftermath of Russia's devastating strikes on energy infrastructure. The move comes as Russian forces continue to pound Ukrainian cities and villages with missiles and drones, inflicting damage on power plants and water supplies, in a grinding war that is nearing its nine-month mark. Ukrenergo, the sole operator of Ukraine's high-voltage transmission lines, initially said in an online statement on Saturday that scheduled blackouts will take place in the capital and the greater Kyiv region, as well as several regions around it. Later in the day, however, the company released an update saying that scheduled outages for a specific number of hours are not enough and instead there will be emergency outages, which could last indefinitely.

**Russia – [Russia bar blaze kills 13; suspect with flare gun detained](#)**

At least 13 people died in an overnight fire at a nightclub in the Russian city of Kostroma and police detained a man suspected to have ignited it by firing a flare gun. Video shared by investigators on Saturday showed firefighters spraying water on what appeared to be the smoldering, collapsed roof of the building. The fire took place at Polygon, a multipurpose recreation venue used as a cafe, nightclub, and bar. TASS news agency cited investigators as saying the fire may have started after a man fired a flare gun indoors. "He was spending time in the bar with a woman, ordered her flowers, with a flare gun in his hands," an unnamed witness told the Russian news agency. "Then he went to the dance floor and fired it."

**United States – ['Urgency to run': LGBTQ candidates make history in US midterms](#)**

At least 678 openly lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) candidates will appear on ballots across the United States during the upcoming midterm elections, a historic number that comes as advocates say a flood of state legislation has attacked gay and transgender rights. The candidates running in the November general election were among a total of 1,065 publicly LGBTQ people who launched elections in 2022, according to the LGBTQ Victory Fund. Victory Fund President Annise Parker said the number of LGBTQ candidates in the general election, which represents an increase of 18.1 percent from the 2020 election, creates the opportunity to "elect more LGBTQ people to office than ever before".

**United States – [At least two killed after tornadoes hit Texas and Oklahoma](#)**

At least two people have been killed and dozens injured after tornadoes ripped through parts of Texas and Oklahoma, leaving homes and buildings in ruins. Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt said on Saturday that all the homes had been searched a day after the twisters tore through the area and that a 90-year-old man had been killed. In Texas, Morris County Judge Dough Reeder said in a social media post that one person died as a result of a tornado in the far northeastern area of the state, offering no other details. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol also reported a 6-year-old girl drowned and a 43-year-old man was missing after their vehicle was swept by water off a bridge near Stilwell. The drowning has not been officially attributed to the storm and will be investigated by the medical examiner, officials said.

**Somalia – [Five killed in suicide bombing at Somalia military camp](#)**

A suicide bomber has detonated his explosives near a military training camp in Somalia, killing at least five people and wounding 11 others, according to the state-run SONNA news agency. The attack on Saturday at the camp in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, was claimed by the al-Shabab armed group and comes a week after twin explosions in the capital that left at least 116 dead. SONNA announced the death toll in a Twitter post, citing the Somali National Army Chief Odowaa Yusuf Rageh. SONNA said the attack happened at the camp's entrance and quoted Rageh as saying that Somali troops "thwarted the bomber" from reaching his target.