



# HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

27 NOVEMBER - 03 DECEMBER, 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.***

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## LEBANON

**Monday**  
27 November 2023

### **Lebanese civil society actors express worries over newly proposed media law**

According to a report by Daraj Media, in the latest session of the administration and justice committee, more than 30 articles of the old version of the proposed media law were approved without any discussion or consideration of amendments suggested by UNESCO or any relevant human rights organizations. The draft law did not take account of online journalism or electronic media. The proposed legislation aims to restrict publications, limit trade union freedoms, restrict the establishment of independent media outlets, and reintroduce imprisonment as a penalty for journalists. The Coalition to Defend Freedom of Expression stated that "The latest draft of the law, reviewed by members of the Coalition, includes many alarming provisions that will stifle freedom of expression and press freedoms."

**Tuesday**  
28 November 2023

### **Lebanese farmers' crops ruined by white phosphorus and unexploded bombs**

Farmers returning to their lands in Lebanon's south this weekend, amid an unofficial truce, have found their crops ravaged and their work hindered by unexploded munitions. Israel has heavily shelled territory across the Lebanese border with occupied Palestine, including with white phosphorus, a chemical munition that produces fires and smoke that is toxic to plants and animals. This is not the first time Israel has used incendiary weapons, particularly white phosphorus, in its attacks on Lebanon. The American University of Beirut's Nature Conservation Center has identified four other instances in which Israel has used this weapon since 1982. However, this year is different, in that it marks the first time agricultural areas in Lebanon have been this openly and extensively targeted.

**Wednesday**  
29 November 2023

### **Judge Hala Naja sets date for issuing the ruling in the objection to block the website "shinmimlam.com"**

Shinmimlam.com, a website that publishes commercial registry data in Lebanon and is intended to "help access public records about business networks in Lebanon" was banned based on a judicial decision issued on June 16, 2020, at the request of the Beirut Bar Association. Three organizations concerned with digital rights and combating corruption, namely the Legal Agenda, SMEX, and Gharbal, moved to request the reversal of the decision. "What raises concern the most is that the appeal to block the website came from the Beirut Bar Association, which is supposed to be the first defense line for public freedoms and a main supporter for enhancing transparency and accountability," said Tariq Hajjar, Euro-Med Monitor's legal advisor.

**Thursday**  
30 November 2023

### **Lebanese Civil Defence ill-equipped to face surge in fires due to Israeli shelling**

The Lebanese Civil Defence said it lacked adequate equipment to fight fires on the border caused by Israeli shelling, as the use of white phosphorus endangers the lives of rescue teams. Lebanese firefighters have been combating blazes caused by white phosphorus while wearing N95 masks, which in some cases has led to pulmonary injuries. Since the start of the conflict, civil defense has engaged in at least 25 missions per day, including firefighting, ambulance services, and rescue operations. According to the head of civil defense for the southern Nabatieh region, there are 21 civil defense centers across south Lebanon, which have 275 employees and 180 volunteers, and are ill-equipped to face the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah.

**Friday**  
01 December 2023

### **Three killed in south Lebanon as unrest resumes on the Lebanese border**

Israeli shelling has killed three people in southern Lebanon, after the end of a truce between Israel and the Palestinian armed group Hamas prompted a resumption of hostilities at the Occupied Palestine-Lebanon border. Lebanese security officials identified the victims, a woman and her son who died when Israeli shells hit their home in the southern village of Houla. The Israeli army said its artillery struck sources of fire from Lebanon and its air defenses had intercepted two launches. The Israeli army also said it allegedly struck a "terrorist cell" during its shelling of southern Lebanon.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
02 and 03 December  
2023

### **Israeli military attacks southern Lebanon for second day running**

A new round of clashes erupted Saturday morning between the Israeli army and Hezbollah in the Lebanese-Occupied Palestine border region. Israeli airstrikes hit multiple border towns as the Israeli army said that it had "retaliated against attacks originating from southern Lebanon." The Israeli army added that it had monitored several rocket launches in the Shebaa Farms area, explaining that its artillery bombed the sources of the firing. Israeli shelling meanwhile targeted the outskirts of the southern Lebanese border towns of Tayr Harfa, Naqoura, Maroun al-Ras, Yaroun, Blida, Alma al-Shaab, and al-Qawzah.



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