



HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

21 – 27 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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LEBANON

Monday

21 Nov 2022

Lebanon – Lebanon ditches Independence Day military parade for national security reasons

Lebanon will ditch its traditional military parade for 79th Independence Day celebrations on Tuesday due to the continued presidential vacuum in the country. Army chiefs said the decision had been made with the “national interest” in mind and to maintain “security and stability.” Addressing troops on Monday, army commander, General Joseph Aoun, said, “Our country is going through exceptional circumstances that require everyone, officials, and citizens, to be aware, wise, responsible, and cooperate for the sake of the supreme national interest while waiting for the political situation to be rectified and order to be restored.” In February, Aoun warned that soldiers were suffering from the same economic hardships as Lebanese civilians, and he directly criticized the political leadership for its inability to address the situation. Arab and other countries have since donated food and medical aid for Lebanon’s military personnel.

Tuesday

22 Nov 2022

Lebanon – World Food Program donates \$5 billion to Lebanon

The United Nations World Food Program has agreed to disburse \$5 billion to aid Lebanon over the next 3 years, Caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati said Monday. He added that an agreement has been reached with the WFP to increase the number of Lebanese benefiting from the organization's food assistance. Currently 70% of those who benefit from the WFP aid are Syrians and 30% are Lebanese, Mikati said after a meeting with WFP Lebanon Country Director Abdallah Alwardat at the Grand Serail. The WFP previously allocated \$700 million in food assistance to Lebanon every year, and scaled that up to \$1.3 billion in 2022. Now, it has earmarked \$5.4 billion for the next three years, increasing its annual food assistance budget by \$500 million. The new budget will allow the WFP to feed about 2 million people, split evenly between Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese.

Wednesday

23 Nov 2022

Lebanon – Child harassment cases increase in Lebanon

Sexual violence against children in Lebanon has increased from 8% in 2021 to 11% in 2022. With 1858 new cases this year, 51% of harassers are people close to the victim. Moreover, there is higher percentage of male victims compared to females, primarily aged between 12 and 18 years old. Bassima Roumani, legal affairs coordinator at Himaya, explains that the penalties against harassers should be more severe, as the goal is not only to punish the perpetrators but also protect other children.

Thursday
24 Nov 2022

Lebanon – [Qatar gives \\$2.6m aid to Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon](#)

Qatar is to provide \$2.6 million to aid almost 100,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon with food, medicine, and shelter. The Qatar Fund for Development agreed to the disbursement through the UN Refugee Agency, the UNHCR, in the early winter months to more than 13,500 Syrians in Jordan and nearly 82,400 in Lebanon. "QFFD spares no effort in responding to the ever-growing humanitarian needs around the world," said Director General Khalifa Al-Kuwari. "The onset of winter makes our efforts more crucial to support those in urgent need of assistance." Since 2010, the Qatari government and organizations have provided \$373 million in aid to people affected by conflicts, particularly those displaced from their countries.

Lebanon – [Situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon is extremely alarming – UNRWA official](#)

UNRWA Commissioner General Philippe Lazzarini said Thursday that the humanitarian situation of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon is extremely alarming, and is marred by poverty, despair and lack of prospect. Following a visit to the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, he said, "People are dying a slow death as many are unable to afford medicines or co-share the cost of treatment especially for chronic diseases and cancer. Levels of poverty and unemployment are unprecedented due to one of the worst economic crises in recent history." The UN official added that Germany has generously contributed \$6 million for the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. He said this support will enable the UNRWA "to do a round of cash assistance distribution to the most vulnerable as they prepare for winter." This cash assistance also includes Palestine refugees from Syria who depend on monthly assistance from UNRWA to survive.

Lebanon – [Bank raids return as Lebanese confront economic crisis](#)

Two attempted bank holdups and a sit-in protest on Wednesday highlighted the growing desperation of Lebanese people grappling with the country's worsening economic crisis. Bank raids by depositors demanding their money have been relatively infrequent during the past two months, but a string of incidents in recent days has again raised fears of growing unrest. In the third action against a bank in a single day, Amina Mohammad broke into a branch of the Intercontinental Bank of Lebanon in Tripoli demanding access to her savings to pay for an operation for her elderly mother. Earlier, a former soldier, Rida Rida, stormed into a branch of Bank Audi in Tyre, southern Lebanon, demanding his \$15,000 deposit to pay for cancer treatment for his mother. In the first incident of the day, Anis Tannous staged a sit-in outside the Societe Generale de Banque au Liban branch in Amioun, northern Lebanon, stopping people from entering or leaving the bank. Tannous demanded the bank transfer his son's university tuition fee to the US.

Friday
25 Nov 2022

Lebanon – [UNIC: Launch of 16-day campaign against GBV celebrating women's rights movement in Lebanon](#)

On the occasion of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the United Nations System in Lebanon, the Gender Working Group (GWG), the Gender-Based Violence Working Group (GBV WG) and the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW) are joining forces to raise awareness and increase momentum to prevent and eliminate Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and catalyze change. This year, the United Nations system in Lebanon and its partners are implementing a campaign that aims to serve as a call to action to mobilize partners, stakeholders, individuals, and the public at large to engage in activism to prevent violence against women and girls. "Lebanon's recovery and building a better future for the country and its citizens depends to a large extent on empowering women and giving them the space to enjoy their full rights as active partners in society. The United Nations stands ready to support Lebanon in this process," said Ms. Joanna Wronecka, the UN special coordinator for Lebanon.

Lebanon – [Activists protest Lebanon's sexual assault laws](#)

Lebanese activists gathered in front of the parliament in Beirut to demand the amendment of laws related to sexual assault and rape against women as well as harsher sentences for perpetrators and abusers. The protest came as part of the universal 16-day campaign to end violence against women and girls. The demonstration, under the slogan “Not an honor, not a shame”, advocated for amending the law on crimes of sexual abuse and strengthening punishments for perpetrators. Women in Lebanon are often reluctant to speak up when they or their daughters fall victim to sexual abuse, as society usually blames women for their behavior and clothing, explains social activist Salma Atawi.