



HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

12 - 18 December, 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.

The articles shared in this brief are the liability of their respective news outlets and do not reflect the views of CLDH.



LEBANON

Monday

12 Dec 2022

Lebanon – Rising Poverty, Hunger Amid Economic Crisis

The majority of people in Lebanon are unable to secure their social and economic rights amid a deepening economic crisis, with low-income households bearing the brunt, Human Rights Watch said. New research by Human Rights Watch has shed light on the alarming levels of poverty and food insecurity in Lebanon caused by a decline in economic activity, political instability, and rising costs of living. The authorities' response is failing to ensure everyone's right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to food. Universal social protection guaranteeing the right to social security for everyone in the country can help smooth economic shocks and ensure an adequate standard of living, including in times of crisis. But Lebanon's social protection system is highly fragmented, leaving most informal workers, older people, and children without any protection, and reinforcing social and economic inequalities. Existing social assistance programs, funded in part by the World Bank, have minimal coverage and very narrowly target households in extreme poverty, leaving large segments of the population who don't qualify vulnerable to hunger, unable to obtain medicines, and subject to other deprivations that undermine their rights such as the rights to food and health.

Tuesday

13 Dec 2022

Lebanon – EU allocates €229 mn for reforms, development in Lebanon

The European Union has allocated €229 million to reinforce reforms and economic development in Lebanon. In a statement, the delegation of the EU to Lebanon said that the EU "continues to support Lebanon and its people during challenging socio-economic conditions and allocates this year €229 million to reinforce much-needed reforms and economic development." It added that several priorities were identified for this new financial package, including the enhancement of good governance and the promotion of reforms in Lebanon. Moreover, the European Union will work with state and civil society actors to empower Lebanese women and contribute to gender equality. The organization will also support Lebanon's green agenda and transition to renewable energy by funding energy efficiency equipment in public sector buildings and contributing to a more efficient provision of public services. Finally, the statement said that the EU will continue to provide significant assistance to vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees and help them access much-needed essential services in social protection, education, health, and water provision.

Wednesday
14 Dec 2022

Lebanon – [Irish soldier killed in attack on UN convoy in Lebanon](#)

An Irish soldier on a United Nations peacekeeping mission in Lebanon has been shot and killed and a second is in critical condition after a “hostile” crowd surrounded their armored vehicle, Ireland’s defense minister has said. The soldiers, part of the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL), were on what Simon Coveney, who is Ireland’s foreign minister, said was a standard run from UNIFIL’s area of operations in south Lebanon to Beirut when the incident happened in the Sarafand area late on Wednesday. The convoy carrying eight personnel was traveling to Beirut as two of the members were returning to Ireland on compassionate leave following the death of family members, Irish Defence Forces Chief of Staff Seán Clancy told RTE. The second soldier remains in critical condition in a UN-managed hospital after undergoing surgery, Clancy said. The two other soldiers in the vehicle are being treated for minor injuries while the remaining four personnel from the other vehicle were not injured. UNIFIL said it was coordinating with the Lebanese armed forces and had launched an investigation.

Thursday
15 Dec 2022

Lebanon – [Ministry of Health facilitates access to IV treatment for cancer patients](#)

The Lebanese Ministry of Health has taken a new step that will facilitate access to IV treatment for cancer patients. Cancer patients no longer need to go to the drug distribution center for incurable diseases in Karantina to obtain intravenous injections and other drugs that are given exclusively as injections or what is known as IV injections. Instead, the subsidized cancer drugs will go directly from the agent to the hospital, with the Ministry of Health paying the price of the subsidized medicine directly to the hospital, provided that it is registered on the medi track network. The new circular has several benefits. First, patients will no longer need to go to the Karantina warehouse to get the required injections. Second, it would allow the Ministry to track the course of the subsidized cancer medicines and ensure that they are not being sold on the black market or through illegal methods. Finally, storing injections in hospitals will guarantee that they are kept at the required temperature and uphold their safety.

Friday
16 Dec 2022

Lebanon – [Lebanon upholds death sentence for killer of British woman](#)

A Lebanese court has upheld the death sentence for an Uber driver convicted of killing a British woman who worked for the U.K. Embassy in Beirut five years ago, the embassy said. According to a statement from the embassy, Lebanon’s Court of Cassation rejected an appeal by Tariq Houshieh in the case and affirmed his guilty conviction in the killing of Rebecca Dykes. Dykes, who worked for the Department for International Development, was found dead on Dec. 16, 2017, on the side of a road, strangled and showing signs of sexual assault. Houshieh was arrested days later. The murder shook the expat community in Beirut, where such crimes are rare and where foreigners generally feel safe. “We hope this verdict will bring some closure for Becky’s family, for the many around the world who loved Becky, and for all those whose lives she touched through her humanitarian work in Lebanon and elsewhere,” the embassy said.

Lebanon – [‘Gas’ explosion wounds eight in Beit Misk](#)

An explosion, reportedly caused by a gas leak, wounded eight people in the Northern Metn town of Beit Misk and badly damaged a residential building. The Civil Defense said its crews managed to rescue a woman and her son from beneath the rubble, rushing them to the hospital. First aid was also offered on the spot to six foreign workers who were present near the building. The Civil Defense noted that the blast ripped through a residential apartment on the ground floor of the five-story building. Al-Jadeed TV meanwhile reported that the building is supplied with gas through pipelines connected to a tank.

Saturday and Sunday
17 and 18 Dec 2022

Lebanon – 90% of Syrian refugees need humanitarian aid to survive

Ninety percent of Syrian refugees in Lebanon need humanitarian assistance to survive during the worst economic crisis the country has witnessed in decades, according to announcements made by international organizations. A joint statement was issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCR), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in which they called for the continuation of support and protection for the neediest families in Lebanon. The statement read, "The preliminary findings of the 2022 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) released today show a continuing sharp decline in living conditions for all Syrian refugees, with even the most basic needs being out of reach for most." VASyR revealed that Syrian refugees in Lebanon are cutting down on meals. The assessment also disclosed that most refugee families had accumulated debt as most borrow money to buy food, noting that about 87 percent of families rated food as their main priority, followed by housing and healthcare. It showed that only 60 percent of Syrian refugee children between the ages of 6 and 14 attended school regularly in 2022, with attendance dropping to less than 8 percent for older adolescents at the secondary level.