



HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

05 - 11 JUNE, 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
05 June 2023

Teachers give Education Minister one week to pay wages

Part-time public school teachers gave the education minister 1 week to pay the second-semester wages, otherwise, they would not participate in correcting and administering the upcoming official exams. The minister cited a "lack of funds," although he paid teachers in the South and Nabatieh.

Wednesday
07 June 2023

Sharp increase in deaths in custody must be a wake-up call for authorities

Lebanese authorities must urgently prioritize the health of prisoners as deaths in Ministry of Interior-run prisons nearly doubled in 2022 compared to 2018, the year before the ongoing acute economic crisis began, said Amnesty International. Ministry of Interior figures paint a stark picture of rising mortality rates as deaths increased from 14 in 2015 to 18 in 2018 and 34 in 2022. The Ministry of Interior provided no explanation of the causes of these deaths in custody. Amnesty International's investigation raises concerns that the marked increase in deaths in custody is linked to the economic crisis crippling the country, as well as shortcomings in prison and health authorities in the provision of adequate and timely medical care to people in custody, including in cases where emergency treatment was required. Judicial authorities must conduct prompt, impartial, and effective investigations into all deaths in custody to determine to what extent prison officials' misconduct or negligence may have contributed to these deaths and hold anyone found responsible to account.

William Noun and Peter Bou Saab questioned by the police

After being questioned for two hours on Wednesday morning at Beirut's Verdun police station, William Noun and Peter Bou Saab, who each lost a brother in the deadly Beirut port explosion of Aug. 4, 2020, "pledged not to commit any further acts of vandalism," their lawyer Ralph Tannous said. The two men were summoned on the orders of the public prosecutor at the Beirut Court of Appeal, Ziad Abi Haidar, after burning tires in anger during a demonstration outside the Beirut courthouse on June 1. Noun asserted that he and Bou Saab "are with the judiciary, which must however assume its role." Earlier in the day, he said that the reasons for which they were summoned "are ridiculous." "They want us to get bored and stop mobilizing," he continued. Relatives of the victims of the explosion regularly demonstrate to denounce the obstruction of the investigation led by Bitar due to interference by politicians and even some judges. Noun's sister, Nancy, pointed to the impunity of those responsible for the case. "Those responsible for the explosion are carefree; whereas we, the victims' relatives, are summoned every time we burn a tire as part of our mobilizations."

Thursday
08 June 2023

State Security Officer kills his wife before turning the gun on himself

R. Francis shot his wife S. Dagher and her mother in their house in Jezzine, then shot himself. Security forces launched investigations into the double domestic crime, and identified the killer as a member of state security from the town of Azour, living in Jezzine. The Jezzine crime is the third time a current or former member of the security forces commits a violent crime against women, after Rajia al-Akoum was killed in Bsaba last May and Mona al-Homsy was killed in Tripoli in February.

Lebanese farmer defies Israeli bulldozer

A Lebanese farmer from the town of Kafr Shuba defied an armored Israeli bulldozer yesterday in an effort to stop it in its tracks, Anadolu has reported. The driver pushed soil on top of Ismail Nasser, covering his legs, before he stopped at the behest of UNIFIL forces. Israeli bulldozers were on Lebanese territory to carry out "excavations". In response, local Lebanese citizens protested behind the barbed wire fence ("the Blue Line") on the hills above the town and demanded that the UNIFIL forces should protect their right to the land despite the Israeli operations.

Friday
09 June 2023

Urgent action needed to prevent child food poverty from casting a shadow over the future of children in Lebanon

More than four years of acute economic crisis have left most families in Lebanon struggling to survive, with disastrous impacts on children's nutrition and diets – and consequently on their overall well-being, development, and survival. In Lebanon thousands of children, including Syrian and Palestinian refugees' children – especially the youngest, girls, the poorest or the most marginalized – do not have sufficiently nutritious diets. In response to this urgent health problem, the Ministry of Public Health in partnership with UNICEF and the Nutrition sector partners has developed a clear strategy on how to address the many burdens of malnutrition in Lebanon, and is working at the same time to implement that strategy based on five axes:

- Strengthening multi-sectoral nutrition governance
- Using health systems that provide universal coverage of basic nutrition services
- Developing resilient and sustainable food systems that stimulate the production, distribution and retailing of nutritious foods for children
- Raising awareness on the importance of creating a safe and supportive environment for healthy nutrition for children of all age
- Making social protection systems more sensitive to nutritional vulnerabilities

Yet, a strong commitment from all stakeholders from different sectors is needed for the success of this strategy.

Saturday and Sunday
11 and 12 June 2023

Israeli troops fire tear gas at Lebanese demonstrators

The towns of Kafr Shuba and Al-Arqoub, on the southern border of Lebanon, witnessed clashes between demonstrators and the Israeli army. The Israeli forces threw smoke bombs at Lebanese protesters who condemned the occupation's bulldozing of their land in front of the Kafr Shuba border crossing in southern Lebanon, according to an Anadolu reporter. The demonstrators carried out protests in solidarity with Ismail Nasser, a shepherd who on Wednesday tried to stop an Israeli bulldozer from destroying his land. The Lebanese army and the United Nations forces, UNIFIL, intervened to quell the tensions. The protesters pelted stones at the Israeli army troops station on the northern border. Lebanon frequently complains of Israeli violations of its airspace and territorial water and has filed several complaints with the United Nations.



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