



HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

28 November - 04 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.

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LEBANON

Monday
28 Nov 2022

Lebanon – Lebanon's courthouses suffer from judicial paralysis

Lebanon's courthouses are paralyzed after the country's judges' strike entered its fifth month. This prolonged inactivity has severely impacted the daily lives of Lebanese people, with hundreds of pending files and detainees awaiting prosecution. More than 450 of the 560 judges in Lebanon have stopped working, with the rest continuing in military courts or for humanitarian reasons. The strike centers around demands for salary revisions after the collapse of the Lebanese pound, as well as improvements in working conditions. In addition to the collapse of the pound, political interference has caused significant displeasure among many in the judiciary, contributing to the desire to strike. "There are humanitarian cases where people have to be released. Some (of those who) were arrested due to misdemeanors ... can be released in days at the stroke of a pen. However, they have been held for months in inappropriate conditions and no one is taking action," said Imad Al-Masri, a lawyer specializing in criminal proceedings. He stated that lawyers in Lebanon are unable to file complaints to release detainees, noting that preventive detention is limited to two months.

Tuesday
29 Nov 2022

Lebanon – Lebanon's coastal areas flooded after torrential rain

Parts of Lebanon have been battered by heavy rain and flooding, with images online showing cars submerged as muddy water gushes through streets. The Keserwan-Jbeil governorate was particularly hard hit, amid the arrival of the country's winter rains. Lebanon's Civil Defence was mobilized to rescue people trapped in their cars and to tow vehicles. Amid flooding, there were also extensive traffic jams on the coastal Jounieh motorway, a busy main road that leads to and from Beirut. Contractors worked overnight to clear debris and dirt left by the floods, said Ali Hamie, Minister of Public Works and Transport. Lebanon was already struggling with its weak infrastructure before the economic crisis, that first struck in 2019, worsened the situation. Car accidents are common and roads are often uneven or poorly paved. With winter only just beginning, further flooding is expected in the coming months.

Wednesday
30 Nov 2022

Lebanon – Depositor storms Credit Libanais in Chhîm to treat wife with cancer

A depositor stormed a bank in the town of Chhîm to retrieve his savings in order to fund his wife's cancer treatment. Depositor Walid Hajjar walked into the Credit Libanais Bank with his family, poured gasoline, and threatened to set the bank on fire if he did not get his money out. Lebanon's cash-strapped banks have imposed strict limits on withdrawals of foreign currency since 2019, tying up the savings of millions of people, leaving no other choice for Lebanese bank depositors but to take matters into their own hands. Several groups advocating and protesting for Lebanese depositors have emerged since 2019, and in the past months, many depositors with or without a weapon have stormed banks demanding funds from their locked savings accounts.

Thursday
01 Dec 2022

Lebanon – [Two containers go up in flames at Beirut port](#)

Two containers went up in flames on Wednesday at the blast-hit Port of Beirut. State-run National News Agency said the containers had car parts and furniture in them. The fire was eventually extinguished by the port's Civil Defense platoon and the Beirut Fire Brigade. "The blaze has been brought under control and cooling operations continue to prevent any re-eruption of the flames," NNA added.

Lebanon – [Lebanon called for international cooperation for refugees](#)

Prime Minister Najib Miqati renewed his appeal to the international community to put an end to the refugee crisis in the nation. Receiving the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Filippo Grandi, Miqati insisted that concerned organizations must coordinate with the Lebanese state to solve the dilemma of displaced persons, particularly the Syrian issue. Miqati pointed out that such an issue puts pressure on the national reality, at a time when Lebanon lacks the financial, service, and political capacities to withstand the repercussions of this dossier. During the meeting, the Prime Minister stressed that the priority at this stage is to return Syrians to their country of origin after stability in the neighboring nation. Through a statement, the High Commissioner restated the increased humanitarian support for the Lebanese people and all those living in this territory. He also assured the commitment to continue mobilizing international resources for the safe return of Syrian citizens to their country.

Lebanon – [8 people on a boat rescued off Amchit coast](#)

Members of the Lebanese Marine Corps and the Civil Defense Sea Rescue Unit led by Samir Yazbek saved 8 people who were stranded on board a boat dedicated to the maintenance of marine vessels off the Amchit coast. They were later transported to the Notre Dame Maritime hospital in Jbeil where they received the needed medical help.

Friday
02 Dec 2022

Lebanon – [UN Agency for Palestine refugees in Lebanon joins call to end violence against women and girls](#)

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is joining the annual 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign under the UN Secretary-General's 2022 call to UNiTE to End Violence against Women and Girls and is conducting activities in all its fields of operations. UNRWA in Lebanon is joining efforts with local organizations, women's groups, women and girls' protection networks to protect women and uphold freedom from violence.

Lebanon – [Lebanese facing tax rises and more expensive imports](#)

Lebanon has officially adopted a new exchange rate on imports ten times the previous level, in a move that will deepen economic misery in a country already suffering hardship. The new customs exchange rate of 15,000 Lebanese pounds a dollar replaces the previous rate of 1,500, which was in use for nearly three years. The customs dollar is the price for calculating the customs value of imports and is paid in Lebanese pounds. Public concern has already risen about the ability to control instability in the markets, as merchants began adding goods to be included on the new rate. Imported goods included cars, phones and electrical and electronic equipment. Amin Salam, the caretaker economy minister, said on Friday that he would not authorize any additional fees that would pile further pressure on consumers buying essential items such as food. He added that 70 percent of food commodities were exempt, and their prices would not be affected by the new rate.

Saturday and Sunday
03 and 04 Dec 2022

Lebanon – [UNHCR's Grandi: We must increase lifesaving support to vulnerable Lebanese and refugees and find solutions for Syrian refugees](#)

At the conclusion of a three-day visit to Lebanon, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, appealed to the international community to sustain its crucial support to vulnerable Lebanese and refugees in Lebanon, as the country faces its worst economic crisis in modern history. Grandi also pledged to continue working towards long-term solutions for Syrian refugees in Lebanon and the region. "Lebanon is going through one of its hardest moments, while continuing to host one of the largest refugee populations per capita in the world," Grandi said. "Both Lebanese and refugees are suffering immensely due to multiple crises. More people are being pushed deeper into poverty every day."