



# HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

10 - 16 April, 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**  
10 April 2023

### **In Lebanon, families need LBP 40 million per month for a decent living**

The Head of the General Confederation of Lebanese Workers, Bechara Asmar, said in a statement to Al-Anba that the living conditions of Lebanese people are getting worse due to the country's ongoing economic crisis. Asmar confirmed that the increases in salaries no longer have value and are not in line with the requirements of a decent life, stating that "if we perform a simple calculation, we see that the cost of living, including food, medicine, electricity, water, transportation, and telecommunications, means that a single family of four people needs at least LBP 40 million per month for a decent and acceptable life." He additionally stressed the widening social and economic gap and the high poverty rate, which, according to international organizations, has reached more than 70 percent, accompanied by low job opportunities and wages. Asmar also announced that more than 800,000 workers in the public and private sectors are awaiting a session of the Council of Ministers to approve decrees to increase the minimum wage in the private sector, the transportation allowance, and the productive presence grant in the public sector as well as various military sectors.

**Tuesday**  
11 April 2023

### **Lebanon's real estate sector sees major slowdown as financial crisis deepens**

The development of Lebanon's real estate sector is slowing down, with demand for properties falling by around 80 percent in 2022 and 2023 compared to the years prior. Nassib Ghobril, head of the economic research department at Byblos Bank, told Xinhua news agency that demand for properties has dropped by at least 80 percent in the four years after the crisis, due to the lack of market liquidity. In 2020 and 2021, buyers could still pay for their properties through cheques, which were needed by the real estate developers to settle their bank loans, said Ghobril. However, after paying off most of their bank debts, the developers only accepted cash, making it very difficult for Lebanese buyers to afford properties as the bankrupt banks froze tens of billions of dollars saved in their accounts, he noted. Adnan Rammal, a real estate developer and representative of the trade sector in the Economic and Social Council, attributed the decline in demand to Lebanese buyers' reduced purchasing power following the devaluation of their currency due to the severe financial crisis.

**Wednesday**  
12 April 2023

### **Lebanon municipal services face paralysis amid election doubts**

Lebanon's municipal elections set for May could be postponed for a second time following a series of parliamentary delays, leaving local administrations and services paralyzed. The elections were initially postponed for 12 months because they coincided with the 2022 parliamentary elections. But with deputies refusing to hold a parliamentary session to settle the matter, municipal polls now face a second postponement. Rival Cabinet and parliamentary blocs blamed each other for the possible delay of the elections. Meanwhile, the joint parliamentary committee failed to approve a draft law to secure an advance for the Ministry of Interior to fund the May elections. International observers have repeatedly warned Lebanon's political class of the need to meet constitutional deadlines. Political leaders have also been urged to meet their responsibilities in holding presidential elections, as well as the municipal and mayoral elections, which are the responsibility of local authorities.

### **CLDH releases a joint press release denouncing the postponement of municipal elections**

CLDH released a joint press release calling on the government to secure the necessary funds for the municipal elections and for the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities to meet the deadlines it has announced for the holding of elections in May. The press release highlighted the importance of municipal councils due to their impact on citizens' standards of living. CLDH further condemned the current situation regarding the extension of the municipal councils' current term as it undermines democratic principles and the electoral process while violating Lebanese people's fundamental right to elect new councils to represent them.

**Thursday**  
13 April 2023

### **13 lawyers confront their syndicate in court following the restriction of the freedom of lawyers in communicating with the media**

The Beirut Court of Appeals will decide on the appeal filed against the Beirut Bar Association's decision to restrict the freedom of lawyers in communicating with the media on May 4, 2023. The date was set today, after the court convened in a public session chaired by Judge Ayman Oueidat in the presence of two BBA representatives and the lawyers who filed the appeal. The syndicate is facing two appeals to its decision, the first filed by 12 lawyers: Jad Tohme, Najib Farhat, Wassef Al Harakeh, Hassan Adel Bazzi, Ali Abbas, Mariam Boutary, Mazen Safieh, Ourouba Harakeh, Malak Hamieh, Diala Chehade, Mohammad Hassan Lamaa and Hussam Jawad. The second was filed by Nizar Saghie, Legal Agenda's executive director. In the meantime, the syndicate has continued its campaign against the lawyers; Saghie was notified yesterday that he is summoned to appear before the Beirut Bar council next Thursday. His lawyer Aya Farhat, who received the summons on his behalf, had reservations about it as no reason was mentioned and due to the rivalry between Saghie and the syndicate since he filed the appeal.

**Friday**  
14 April 2023

**UNFPA Lebanon marks “World Health Day” by holding ‘One-Day Policy-Level Meeting’ on addressing gender-based violence form women’s better health**

On April 13, 2023, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Lebanon held a one-day policy-level meeting in celebration of World Health Day under the patronage of the minister of public health Dr. Firass Abiad and in attendance of MP Judge George Okais. The aim of this event was to spur evidence-based policy dialogue on a wide range of gender-based violence (GBV) and women’s reproductive health related topics, strengthen policies, systems, services, and coordination to advance GBV prevention and response, and promote women’s empowerment and wellbeing. The event consisted of four sessions addressing intimate partner violence, obstetric violence, GBV and disability, and period poverty. This provided an opportunity for participants to commit to key priorities and actions that address recommendations emanating from research and assessment.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
15 and 16 April 2023

**Saudi aid agency distributes food baskets in Lebanon**

King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center has distributed 253.5 tons of food baskets to the neediest Syrian refugees in several Lebanese areas, as part of a project to support food security in Lebanon during Ramadan.