



HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

17 March- 23 March 2025



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
17 March
2025

Health Ministry: Seven Killed and Fifty-Two Injured in Latest Developments on the Lebanese-Syrian Border

The Public Health Emergency Operations Center issued a statement on March 17, 2025 announcing that the latest developments over the past two days on the Lebanese-Syrian border have resulted in the death of seven citizens and the injury of fifty-two others.

The Ministry of Public Health called on all hospitals, especially those near the affected areas, to urgently receive all the wounded, emphasizing that their treatment will be covered by the Ministry.

Israeli airstrike on the town of Yahmor

The Ministry of Public Health's Public Health Emergency Operations Center issued a statement on X on March 17, 2025 announcing that an Israeli airstrike on the town of Yahmor resulted in one death and three other injuries, according to an updated toll.

Lebanese Doctor at Brown University deported to Lebanon despite US judge's order

A Rhode Island [doctor](#) who is an assistant professor at Brown University's medical school has been deported to Lebanon even though a judge had issued an order blocking the U.S. visa holder's immediate removal from the country, according to court papers cited by Reuters and released in a news report on March 17, 2025. Her expulsion came as a Republican U.S. President Donald Trump's administration has sought to sharply restrict border crossing and ramp up immigration arrests. Alawieh, a Lebanese citizen who lives in Providence, was detained on Thursday after arriving at Logan International Airport in Boston after traveling to Lebanon to see relatives, according to a [lawsuit](#) filed by her cousin, Yara Chehab.

Legal Agenda submits a request to ensure the resumption of the work of the labor arbitration councils

In a post on X, the Legal Agenda announced on March 17, 2025 that it had submitted a request to both the Minister of Justice and the Judicial Inspection Office on March 5, 2025 to take the necessary steps to ensure the resumption of the work of the labor arbitration councils. Labor courts have been inactive for two years, contributing to the disruption of labor law protections and undermining the principles of social justice.

Lebanon and Syria agree on ceasefire after deadly cross-border clashes

Lebanon's Defence Minister Michel Menassa and his Syrian counterpart Murhaf Abu Qasra agreed on a [ceasefire](#), the Lebanese and Syrian defence ministries said in [statements](#) on Monday, as cross-border clashes in the last two days left 10 dead. The Lebanese and Syrian defence ministers also agreed on continuing contacts between the army intelligence directorates to prevent more deterioration on the border.

Lebanese army responds to the shelling of Lebanese territory from the Syrian Side in the Hosh Sayed Ali-Hermel

The Lebanese Army Command – Directorate of Orientation issued the following statement on March 17, 2025:

Following the previous statement regarding the shelling of Lebanese border villages and towns from Syrian territory, the Hosh Sayed Ali-Hermel was subjected to concentrated shelling from the Syrian side. Military units responded to the sources of fire with appropriate weapons and are working to strengthen their defensive positions to halt the assaults on Lebanese territory. Communications continue between the Army Command and the Syrian authorities to restore calm and stabilize the situation in the border area.

Tuesday
18 March 2025

Nearly 13,000 Syrians fled to Lebanon since sectarian massacre

Nearly [13,000](#) Syrians [fled](#) across the borders to Lebanon since sectarian massacres on the Syrian coast earlier this month, Lebanese authorities said on Tuesday.

A report from Lebanon's Disaster Risk Management Unit obtained by AFP said [12,798](#) Syrians had arrived and settled in 23 different villages and towns in Lebanon's northern Akkar region, adding that most were living in family homes or makeshift accommodation centers.

Wednesday
19 March 2025

Contract public schools teachers announce warning strike

The Committee of Contract Teachers in Public Education announced their warning [strike](#) in public schools starting the morning of Wednesday, March 19 until the evening of Sunday, March 23, 2025. The [strike](#) was announced after the teachers stopped receiving their summer productivity allowance estimated at \$375 and as a demand to bring back the contract hourly wage to \$13. The Committee also signaled its willingness to negotiate with the Ministry of Education and the government to restore the rights of the contract teachers, hinting at a possible extension to the strike based on the results of communications with the ministry.

Journalist Lina Ismail Assaulted, Phone Confiscated in Border Area of Housh Al-Sayyid Ali

Journalist Lina Ismail, correspondent for *Al-Nahar* in Baalbek, was [assaulted](#) by a group of individuals while covering the Lebanese Army's entry into the border town of Housh Al-Sayyid Ali, according to a news report by Annahar released on March 19, 2025. A young man verbally abused Ismail with profanities and insisted on taking her phone. He was soon joined by a woman who physically assaulted her and forcibly took her phone.

Liberation of Two Kidnapped Individuals in Hermel

The Army Command - Directorate of Orientation issued the following statement on March 19, 2025:

On 19/03/2025, as a result of a series of surveillance and security operations, a patrol from the Intelligence Directorate in Hermel was able to free two Syrians, (H.B.) and his brother (S.B.), after they were kidnapped by a gang in Al Jamaleya - Baalbek. Efforts are ongoing to apprehend the members of the gang.

Thursday
20 March 2025

[UNIFIL observes 7 Israeli activities in south Lebanon violating Resolution 1701](#)

United Nations peacekeepers have observed [seven](#) Israeli activities in southern Lebanon violating U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701, according to a press briefing by the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General released on March 19, 2025.

U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said the activities took place north of the U.N.-drawn boundary between Israel and Lebanon.

The 2006 U.N. Security Council resolution requires Israeli forces to remain south of the boundary known as the Blue Line. The peacekeeping force, known as UNIFIL, reiterated its call for a complete Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon so the Lebanese Army can deploy throughout the area, Haq said. In another incident, Haq said, UNIFIL peacekeepers found rocket launchers, rocket-propelled grenades and other unauthorized weapons and ammunition caches in seven different locations in south Lebanon. The discoveries were all reported to the Lebanese Army for their action, he said.

[Gunfire and shells over Hermel fired from Syria](#)

The National News Agency reported that gunfire and a number of shells were fired from Rif Qasir in Syria on Hawsh al-Sayyed Ali village in Hermel during a funeral on March 20, 2025.

[Israeli airstrike over the Bekaa valley](#)

Israeli airstrikes targeted the eastern chain in the Sha'ra area and the western chain between the towns of Shamstar and Taraya of the Bekaa valley on March 20, 2025. Two other [airstrikes](#) targeted Mount Rayhan Heights and Iqlim al-Tuffah, with no injuries recorded.

[The Alternative Press Syndicate condemns the defamation campaign against Daraj and Megaphone News](#)

The Alternative Press Syndicate issued the following statement on March 20, 2025:

With the objective of instilling a culture of impunity and deceiving citizens as financial, administrative, and judicial appointments as well as municipal and parliamentary elections approach, some bankers and their powerful allies are leading a systematic campaign that seeks to invert narratives, falsify facts, and flood public opinion with misleading news and conspiracy theories. These parties fund media tools to defame and intimidate investigative journalists, independent media outlets, and reform organizations. These campaigns, some of which amount to moral assassination, are designed to protect the criminals involved in this age's financial crime: Lebanon's financial collapse.

[Lebanese Army: Closure of Illegal Crossings in Al-Qaa and Hermel](#)

Statement Issued by the Army Command – Directorate of Orientation on March 20, 2025:

As part of efforts to combat infiltration and smuggling along the northern and eastern borders, an army unit has closed three illegal crossings in the Al-Qaa area and the Al-Mashrafieh and Al-Doura areas in Hermel.

Friday
21 March 2025

[Human Rights Watch: Support Justice for Beirut Blast Victims, Families](#)

Lebanon's new government should take all necessary measures to strengthen judicial independence and ensure that the investigation into the August 2020 Beirut port explosion can proceed without undue interference or obstruction, survivors and families of Beirut port blast victims and 18 rights organizations, including Human Rights Watch, said on March 21, 2025. The groups and individuals [sent a joint letter](#) to Prime Minister Nawaf Salam and Justice Minister Adel Nassar.

Signatories to the [joint letter](#) stressed that the investigation into the blast should go beyond the circumstances around the warehousing of the ammonium nitrate in Lebanon and include a comprehensive examination of the involvement of all individuals and entities across the entire chain of events leading to the blast. They said that the investigation should identify any human rights violations arising from the Lebanese state's failure to protect the right to life, including with respect to any politically sensitive murders that appear to have been connected to the explosion.

[A child killed and two injured in Akkar](#)

A family dispute in Al-Qanbar village, Akkar, escalated into a shooting that killed a child and injured two others on March 21, 2025. The [dispute](#) was over a piece of land, and the shooters fled to an unknown destination.

[Israel opens fire on a car in the South](#)

Israeli forces shot the car of a Lebanese citizen and wounded him on the internal road between Kfarkela and Adaisseh on March 21, 2025, according to the National News Agency.

Saturday and Sunday
22 and 23 March
2025

[More than 15 Israeli airstrikes on South Lebanon](#)

Israeli forces launched more than 15 airstrikes targeting border towns of Kfarkila, Iqlim al-Tuffah, Nabatieh, and Ayta Al-Shaab, amongst others on Saturday, March 22, 2025. Two citizens were killed and 8 others were injured in Touline, and another citizen was injured in [Yahmar Al-Shaqif](#). In the early morning hours, shells were thrown over Khyam and Houla and other villages in the Nabatieh district.

[ISF arrests nine people on drug trafficking charges](#)

Statement issued by General Directorate of Internal Security Forces - Public Relations Division on March 22, 2025:

As part of the ongoing monitoring by Internal Security Forces units to combat various crimes, the Central Investigation Unit of the Security Unit for Embassies, Administrations, and Public Institutions received information about the presence of a group of suspicious individuals in the vicinity of the Martyr Rafik Hariri Hospital in the Jnah area. The individuals were either stealing some patients' pain medications or forcing them to sell them for the purpose of trafficking.

On March 20, 2025, after close monitoring and surveillance, a force from the aforementioned unit arrested nine suspects red-handed. All had criminal records, including five individuals wanted for theft and drug offenses.

A search of the suspects revealed the presence of hashish, marijuana, narcotic pills, knives, and sharp tools.

The detainees were placed in the relevant unit to take the necessary legal action against them, based on the instructions of the competent judiciary.

[Citizen killed and others injured by an Israeli airstrike in Ayta Al-Shaab](#)

Israeli drone strike on Aita al-Shaab hit a civilian car and resulted in the death of Hassan El Zein and injury of others on Sunday, 23 March, 2025. Airstrikes also targeted Labbouneh and a number of [prefabricated houses](#) in Naqoura and Sheheen villages. Israeli jets were also flying over [Baalbek](#), Hermel, and Tyre, reaching the banks of the Litani River.

MoPH: 7 killed, 40 wounded in Saturday's raids

The National News Agency reported that the Public Health Ministry's Emergency Operations Center issued a communique on March 23, 2023 announcing that a series of raids launched by the Israeli army on several Lebanese regions yesterday resulted in the deaths of seven people and the injury of forty others, according to the following detailed toll:

- Tulin: Five people killed, including a child, and eleven people wounded, including two children
- Tyre: One person killed and eleven people wounded, including a child
- Qleileh: One person killed and five people wounded, including two children
- Kfar Kila: Two people wounded
- Yohmor al-Shaqif: One person wounded
- Hosh al-Sayyid Ali: Six injured
- Sere'en: Four injured

REPORTING A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO CLDH

If you wish to report an incident that may potentially constitute a violation of human rights, kindly send an email to the following address: [**violations@cldh-lebanon.org**](mailto:violations@cldh-lebanon.org)

You can also report an incident anonymously through our [**website**](#).

When making a report, please ensure to include the following information:

- **WHERE:** City/village, governorate, additional details (e.g. what prison)
- **WHAT:** Nature of the violation
- **HOW:** A narrative description of what happened
- **WHEN:** Date of the episode (at least the year, if day and month are unknown)
- **TO WHOM:** Information regarding the victim (name, nationality, gender, date of birth, city of origin, phone number). Only share this information with the consent of the person.
- **WHO** is the person reporting (name, phone number) and how were they identified (e.g., victim him/herself, family member, eyewitness, journalist, humanitarian worker...)

The information referred will remain completely private. It will be fact-checked and registered into CLDH's internal system. No action will be undertaken without the explicit and written consent of the reporter.



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