



# HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

04 – 10 July, 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.***



## LOCAL

**Monday**  
04 July 2022

### **Lebanon – [Lebanon plans Syrian refugee repatriation within months](#)**

On 04 July 2022, Lebanese Minister of the Displaced Issam Charafeddine announced the government's plan for the repatriation of Syrian refugees residing in Lebanon. According to his statement, 15,000 refugees will be returned to Syria every month. Moreover, a special tripartite committee with Syria and the UNHCR will be formed to oversee the process as well as a four-way committee with Iraq, Jordan, and Turkey. This is a threat to refugees' human rights as international reports by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have shown that innocent Syrian refugees still face abuses upon their return home, most notably those presumed to be affiliated with the opposition. Such abuses include arbitrary detention, torture, and ill-treatment including sexual violence and enforced disappearances.

**Tuesday**  
05 July 2022

### **Lebanon – [Caretaker finance minister announces LL125 billion for kidney dialysis](#)**

Caretaker Finance Minister Youssef Khalil announced that the treasury has paid LL125 billion to the National Social Security Fund (CNSS) to assist it in covering the full price of kidney dialysis, which was at risk of losing subsidization.

**Wednesday**  
06 June 2022

### **Lebanon – [Lebanon police arrest juice shop owner who drugged, raped children](#)**

A 54-year-old man in the Lebanese town of al-Qaa in the Baalbak governate was taken into custody after having drugged and raped around 20 children - both girls and boys - for more than 3 years. The man is allegedly a retired soldier who now owns a juice shop that is regularly visited by children. According to reports by the local media, the man repeatedly spiked the juice that he sold to kids and then took them to his house where he would reportedly "rape them and record them naked to threaten them." He would then coerce them into seeing him again. The man was arrested after one of his victims was able to escape and tell his parents about the incident. Although the man attempted to dismiss the accusations, he later admitted to his crime after the police confronted him with visual evidence from his phone.

**Thursday**  
07 July 2022

### **Lebanon – [Families of Beirut Port explosion case arrestees stage sit-in](#)**

Families of those detained in the Beirut port explosion case staged a sit-in in front of the Palace of Justice in Beirut in order to demand the acceleration of investigations to try the culpable and grant freedom to the innocent. The number of detainees has risen to 17 since the start of the investigations. Prior to the sit-in, the families met with Judge Souhail Abboud and were scheduled to meet with caretaker Minister of Justice Henri Khoury later that day.

**Friday**  
08 July 2022

### **Lebanon – [Lebanon looking to ban new Minions film amid speculation about LGBT and religious controversies](#)**

Lebanon is looking into banning the new Minions movie in its cinemas. There have been speculations that this is either due to the homosexuality in the movie or the evil nun-like character. Many animated movie fans were unhappy with the decision, describing the speculated reasons behind the ban as "ridiculous". Lebanon is the only country other than China to ban the highly anticipated film. Moreover, the ban comes a few weeks after the screening of the Pixar animated film Lightyear was prohibited in Lebanon due to a lesbian kiss between two characters, highlighting the widespread homophobia and restriction on gay rights in the country. Many citizens have criticized the decision and the frequent censorship of movies.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
09 and 10 July 2022

**Lebanon – [Ongoing civil strikes further cripple everyday life in Lebanon](#)**

Lebanon's compounding crises have resulted in open-ended strikes at the majority of government offices due to insufficient salaries that do not allow employees to go to work or support their families. The International Labor Organization's (ILO) Beirut office approximates that around 100 percent of civil employees are currently engaged in permanent or intermittent work stoppage. Consequently, air traffic controllers at Beirut's international airport declared that they would no longer work nights in August. In the judicial sector, criminal prosecutions have been affected, alongside delays in processing early releases. Moreover, ministries have run out of essential material such as ink and paper.



## REGIONAL

Middle East

**Monday**  
04 July 2022

**Libya – [Libya’s Tarhuna could have 100 mass graves](#)**

There might be as many as 100 mass graves that have yet to be investigated in Tarhuna where hundreds of corpses have already been found, according to a UN-appointed mission to Libya. Between 2016 and 2020, members of the Kaniyat militia killed and detained hundreds of people, often keeping them in small structures called “the boxes”. There exists evidence of kidnappings, killings, and torture, including disabled people, women, and children. Libyan authorities have already found 247 corpses in individual and mass graves, with many victims still handcuffed and blindfolded. The UN mission stated that there are “reasonable grounds” to believe that the Kaniyat militia committed crimes against humanity, making it one of the most appalling examples of human rights abuses since Muammar Gaddafi’s ousting in 2011.

**Tuesday**  
05 July 2022

**Egypt – [Three die in Egyptian detention in first days of July](#)**

Three detainees have died inside Egypt’s detention centers since the beginning of July. This has highlighted the deteriorating conditions prevailing inside these centers, according to the human rights organization Committee for Justice. The deaths included Yasser Farouk Al-Mahlawi, who had been detained for two and a half years after being accused of belonging to an outlawed political party and smuggling funds overseas. The second detainee, Mohamed Ibrahim Mohamed Ali Hamad, died due to liver disease, which was further exacerbated by the hard conditions of his imprisonment and the inadequate health treatment provided by prisons. The third prisoner, Ahmed Yassin, was accused of spreading rumors about the country’s economic and political situation. He died due to a heart attack. Ever since he became president, human rights groups have blamed President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi’s government of detaining thousands of peaceful critics under the guise of combatting terrorism.

**Wednesday**  
06 July 2022

**Egypt – [Arbitrary Travel Bans Throttle Civil Society](#)**

Egypt is utilizing arbitrary travel bans to target prominent civil society figures and hinder their work, including lawyers, journalists, women’s rights activists, and researchers, according to Human Rights Watch and FairSquare. Authorities do not formally declare the bans or notify the subjects, which often culminates in the latter finding out about their ban at the airport when they attempt to board a flight. Moreover, the bans do not have any clear legal basis, and it is unclear how they can be challenged in court, in turn separating families, damaging careers, and harming the subjects’ mental health.

**Occupied Palestine – [Palestinian killed during Israeli raid in West Bank](#)**

Israeli soldiers shot and killed a 20-year-old Palestinian man Rafiq Riyad Ghannem during a raid near the city of Jenin in the West Bank. The Israeli military refused to promptly acknowledge requests for comments on the situation. Around 50 Palestinians - including suspected militants and non-combatants - have been killed since late March due to near-daily Israeli raids, primarily in the West Bank.

**Libya – [22 Malians, including children, die in boat disaster off Libya](#)**

22 Malian nationals, three of which are children, were killed by a boat accident off the Libyan coast. The victims were part of a group of 83 people who were stuck on a distressed vessel since June 22. According to the Libyan ministry and the UN’s International Organization for Migration (IOM), 61 individuals were saved and safely taken to shore with the assistance of the Libyan coastguard after having spent nine days at sea. Some survivors had to be hospitalized due to poor health conditions. The other 22 were killed due to drowning and dehydration. Since 2011, Libya has served as a route for irregular migration to Europe, with many migrants and asylum seekers either drowning at sea or being sent to Libya where they face ill-treatment and inhumane conditions inside overcrowded detention centers.

**Iran – [Iran still looking for four Iranian diplomats missing in Lebanon since 1982](#)**

Iran affirmed that it is still searching for four Iranian nationals with diplomatic status who went missing during the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. On the 40th anniversary of their disappearance, the Iranian Foreign Ministry stressed that significant efforts are still being made to determine their fate.

Thursday  
07 July 2022

**Egypt – [Flawed Investigation Into Death in Custody](#)**

Egypt has yet to conduct an adequate, unbiased, and transparent investigation into the death of economist Ayman Hadhoud, who died mysteriously while in the custody of security forces in April 2022. According to Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, there was substantial proof that Hadhoud was forcibly disappeared, tortured, and ill-treated that was ignored by the prosecutors who investigated his death. Moreover, Hadhoud was not granted access to the health care that he required at the time. The victim's family have appealed to Cairo's criminal court and demanded to reinvestigate his death, albeit the calls were rejected. Hadhoud remains one of the many cases of enforced disappearances in Egypt, most notably journalists, activities, opposition groups, and business owners. Activists have continuously described Egypt as having an "abysmal human rights record".

Friday  
08 July 2022

**Iraq – [Parliament intends legislating a law to ban homosexuality in Iraq](#)**

A member of Iraq's Parliamentary Legal Committee has revealed that it had started drafting proposals to criminalize homosexuality, which was legalized in 2003 following the US-led invasion against Saddam Hussein. Despite its legalization, political and religious leaders have continuously targeted LGBTQ+ individuals, relying on laws that penalize "immodest acts" to target them. Human rights groups have expressed worry, stating that such proposals would authorize crimes against LGBTQ+ individuals and justify their murder.

**Syria – [Russia vetoes UN resolution extending cross-border aid to Syria](#)**

Russia vetoed a UN Security Council resolution that would have extended vital cross-border aid to Syria without Damascus's backing by one year. This assistance constitutes a lifeline for over 3 million individuals residing in the northwestern Idlib region of Syria, which is controlled by rebels. 13 out of 15 UNSC members voted for the extension, with China abstaining. The authorization for aid expires on Sunday, July 10, leaving the Security Council with little time to find common ground. According to the UN director at Human Rights Watch, it is unclear how Syrians would receive aid without the mandate's renewal, which might lead to a humanitarian disaster.

Saturday and Sunday  
09 and 10 July 2022

**Iran – [Iran sentences to death man who sparked #MeToo movement](#)**

Keyvan Emamverdi, who was convicted for serial rape, was preliminarily sentenced to death by an Iranian court. Emamverdi was arrested in August 2020 after more than 20 women - mostly anonymous - accused him of assault through the #rape hashtag on Twitter. Victims stated that Emamverdi had spiked their drinks before raping them, sparking a #MeToo movement in Iran. The court did not address the issue of compensating the victims, with lawyer Shima Ghousheh stating that the latter would "certainly object to this". Emamverdi's arrest is a rare occurrence in Iran since sexual violence is considered a taboo subject, and authorities seldom take action to counter it.

**Egypt – [Alaa Abd el-Fattah: Prominent Egyptian activist marks 100 days of hunger strike](#)**

Famous Egyptian activist Alaa Abd el-Fattah marked 100 days on a hunger strike on Sunday, and his supporters are urging Washington to assist in ensuring his release. Abd el-Fattah played a vital role in the 2011 revolution that toppled Hosni Mubatak. He was sentenced to five years in prison for "broadcasting fake news" and sharing a Facebook post regarding Egyptian prisons' conditions. For the past 100 days, Abd el-Fattah has only been consuming 100 calories per day - a spoon of honey and a drop of milk in tea. According to human rights groups, there are around 60,000 political prisoners in Egypt.



## INTERNATIONAL

**Monday**  
04 July 2022

**United States of America – [More than 220 shot and killed in U.S. gun violence over July 4 holiday weekend](#)**

The US witnessed a rise in gun violence incidents over the Fourth of July weekend. Shootings were reported in almost every US state, culminating in over 220 deaths and around 570 injuries. According to the Gun Violence Archive, at least 11 of these incidents were classified as mass shootings. Witnessing an increase in gun violence on Independence Day is not an unprecedented occurrence in the US. Last month, thousands of demonstrators took to the streets across several states to pressure lawmakers into passing legislation for gun control.

**Uzbekistan – [At least 18 killed in unrest, police preventing journalists from working](#)**

Uzbekistani authorities have revealed that 516 individuals were detained due to clashes between police and protestors following plans to strip Karakalpakstan of its authority. Journalists and correspondents were also taken to custody for more than an hour after attempting to interview victims. Moreover, 18 people were killed during last week's unrest in the area.

**Denmark – [Three dead, four critically wounded in Denmark mall shooting](#)**

Three people were killed following a shooting in a shopping center in Copenhagen. The victims included a 17-year-old male and female alongside a 47-year-old Russian citizen living in Denmark. Another four individuals, two of which were Swedish, were also in a critical but stable condition. According to the chief police inspector, the police did not have indication that the shooting was an "act or terror", seeing as the suspect acted independently and there were not any other individuals involved in the crime.

**Australia – [Tens of thousands of Sydney residents told to evacuate as rains flood suburbs](#)**

Tens of thousands of Sydney residents were ordered to evacuate their homes following persistent rains that triggered floods in low-lying suburbs for the third time in 2022. 30,000 residents in New South Wales were asked to evacuate or warned that they might receive evacuation orders. The pervasive weather could potentially lead to flash floods and landslides, putting people's lives in danger.

**Tuesday**  
05 July 2022

**Europe – [Police arrest 130 suspected of human trafficking in Europol crackdown](#)**

Around 130 individuals have been arrested across Europe after being allegedly involved in human trafficking in a joint operation held across 22 countries. According to Europol, more than 100 potential victims of human trafficking were identified following checks on around 1 million people and 200,000 vehicles on land, sea, and air during an operation organized by Frontex, the EU border agency. The operation involved 15 EU countries alongside non-EU countries such as Ukraine, Britain, Serbia, and Liechtenstein and around 22,500 law enforcement officers.

**France – [Two teachers killed in shooting in French village](#)**

Two teachers, a man (55) and woman (32), were killed in the village of Pouyastruc in France. The woman was found dead on the road while the man was later discovered dead in his home a few meters away. The suspected gunman has fled and is yet to be arrested, with a double murder investigation being opened and 60 security forces members being mobilized to look for him. According to sources, the suspect was previously romantically involved with the female teacher, insinuating that the crime could potentially be triggered by jealousy and rivalry.

**Wednesday**  
06 July 2022

**India – [Three PFI activists arrested, booked under UAPA in Telangana](#)**

Three Popular Front of India (PFI) activists were arrested on Wednesday in the Nizamabad district of Telangana on charges of plotting to instill religious hostility among groups, according to the police. This came after last week's arrest of a notable Indian human rights activist Teesta Setalvad after she was accused of "criminal conspiracy and fabrication of evidence against Prime Minister Narendra Modi", which provoked outrage among human rights communities worldwide.

Thursday  
07 July 2022

**Global – [‘Depressing figures for humanity’: UN report reveals worsening state of global hunger](#)**

A new UN report has revealed that around 828 million individuals were affected by hunger universally in 2021, representing an increase of 46 million from 2020 and 150 million from 2019. The report, under the title of “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)” proves that nations are moving backwards in the fight against hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity. The report outlined the most recent estimates of the cost of a healthy diet, updates on food security around the world, and strategies that states can utilize to assist their agricultural industries and lower the cost of healthy food.

**Afghanistan – [Taliban Execute, ‘Disappear’ Alleged Militants](#)**

Taliban forces have murdered and forcibly disappeared members and defenders of the Islamic State in Eastern Afghanistan, including members of the Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP) armed group. In the past year, at least 100 corpses were found dumped in canals and other places in the provinces of Nangahar and Kunar east of Kabul. Many individuals accused of supporting the ISKP have faced cruel search operations such as night raids. During these operations, Taliban security forces resort to beating their subjects and detaining them without later providing any information regarding their whereabouts. It is unclear how many victims have been forcibly disappeared or executed through shooting, hanging, or beheading.

**Russia/Ukraine – [Russia occupies 22 percent of Ukraine farmland](#)**

Russia has now occupied around 22 percent of Ukraine’s farmland since its invasion in February, affecting one of the main suppliers to the universal grain and edible oils market. According to scientists and the US space agency, Russia currently has control over the land that produces 28 and 18 percent of Ukraine’s winter and summer crops respectively. The disruption of harvesting and planting caused by the war could deeply affect worldwide food supplies, generating the threat of a food crisis that could affect every country.

Friday  
08 July 2022

**Japan – [Japan’s ex-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shot during campaign event](#)**

Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe died after being shot in the chest and neck while delivering an election campaign speech in the city of Nara - a few days prior to the country’s election for the parliament’s upper house. The motive for the attack is unknown, and a 41-year-old suspect has been taken to custody. Moreover, leaders from Japan and abroad have expressed their shock, condemnation, and condolences.

**Sri Lanka – [Sri Lanka deploys heavily armed troops ahead of anti-government rally](#)**

Sri Lanka’s capital witnessed the deployment of thousands of heavily armed troops in preparation of an organized rally demanding the dismissal of President Gotabaya Rajapaska. The country has been facing an unprecedented economic crisis with rising inflation, long blackouts, and fuel shortages. Several essential goods and services have also become scarce. Consequently, protesters have been camping outside the President’s office for months, demanding his resignation due to the country’s deteriorating situation. Around 20,000 police officers were sent to control the protests, and the UN urged authorities and protestors to keep the demonstrations peaceful and avoid the breakout of violence.

**United States – [Biden signs executive order to defend abortion access in US](#)**

US President Joe Biden signed an executive order that would ensure access to abortion and reproductive health services following the Supreme Court’s agreement to overturn the 1973 Roe v Wade decision. The order comes in the face of mounting pressure to defend abortion rights and women’s safety, including calls from Biden’s Democratic Party. Biden’s executive action calls upon the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to safeguard and increase access to abortion services, including out-of-state travel and federally authorized medicine. The HHS must also make sure that females have access to “emergency medical care, family planning services, and contraception, including intrauterine devices (IUDs)”.

**Somalia – [Facing severe drought, Somalia calls for Turkish support](#)**

Somalia’s president has called for aid from Turkey in the face of the drastic drought threatening the Horn of Africa. The drought could have severe humanitarian consequences, as some regions in the Horn of Africa could face famine within weeks. The situation has been aggravated by Russia’s war in Ukraine, which culminated in food shortages and millions of dollars being drawn away from Somalia and other crises.

Saturday and Sunday  
09 and 10 July 2022

**South Africa – [Fifteen shot dead in Soweto township bar](#)**

At least 15 people have been killed in a bar in the South African town of Soweto after gunmen randomly started firing at people before fleeing in a white minibus. The police have stated that there was no motive for the attack. The gunmen were armed with rifles and 9mm pistols, and their identities remain unknown. Several people are in critical condition in the hospital, with victims estimated to be between 19 and 35 years old.

**Russia/Ukraine – [Russian rockets kill 15 in Chasiv Yar housing block, Ukraine says](#)**

More than 15 people were killed after Russian rockets struck an apartment block in Chasiv Yar in eastern Ukraine. Moreover, around 20 more individuals are feared to be buried under the rubble. Five victims have been brought out alive.

**United States – [Roe v Wade: Thousands march to White House for abortion rights](#)**

An estimated 10,000 people from across the US took to the streets to protest the Supreme Court's reversal of Roe v Wade, which had previously guaranteed access to abortion nationwide for almost 50 years. Protestors chanted "we won't go back" and marched through pouring rain. Some tied themselves to the gates, risking their arrest. Around 40 million women of reproductive age are expected to lose access to abortion in the upcoming weeks.