



► What are human rights?

Human rights represent a fundamental area of international law which developed following the atrocities committed during World War I and II. Amongst the first instruments is the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) - championed by Eleanor Roosevelt – marking the first time that a statement existed that human rights do not simply belong to the national level but exist on the international plane as well. Subsequently, human rights were defined internationally as we know them today – rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of the nationality, place of residence, sex, national/ethnic origin, colour, religion, language or any other status without discrimination. These rights are all universal, inalienable, interrelated, interdependent and indivisible. They are subject to national implementation and international protection. Therefore, it remains the responsibility of states to act in certain ways or to refrain from certain acts, in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups.



LOCAL

Monday
22 February 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon registers 47 new coronavirus deaths, 1,541 more cases](#)

Lebanon recorded 47 new coronavirus-related deaths and 1,541 further cases.

Lebanon – [Lebanon charges 35 Tripoli protesters with terrorism: lawyer](#)

The Lebanese Military Court has brought terrorism charges against 35 protesters from Tripoli, a first since the beginning of the revolution in October 2019. These charges carry a maximum penalty of death. HRW Lebanon reported violations of the right to a fair trial, including interrogation without a lawyer, confessions extracted under ill-treatment and torture, seemingly arbitrary sentences and limited right to appeal.

Lebanon – [Bitar to resume blast probe from where Sawwan left off](#)

Judge Tarek Bitar who is planning to go forth with the investigation in two weeks, is set to resume the Beirut blast probe from where Judge Fadi Sawwan left off instead of starting from scratch. However, it is yet unclear whether Bitar will retract the negligence charges made by the former judge against the Prime Minister Hassan Diab and Ali Hassan Khalil, Ghazi Zeaiter and Youssef Fenianos, 3 former ministers.

Lebanon – [Slow start to Lebanon vaccination raises concerns](#)

As the country enters its second week of the vaccination program, concern over the lack of doses available and logistical issues in the Ministry's vaccination registration platform have been raised.

Tuesday
23 February 2021

Lebanon – [World Bank threatens to halt funding for Lebanon's COVID jobs](#)

The World Bank has threatened to suspend financing the inoculation campaign after members of the Parliament were vaccinated inside the Parliament in violation of the agreement for independent campaign. The anger grows in the population against this favoritism.

Lebanon – [Lebanon registers 59 more coronavirus deaths, 2,723 new cases](#)
Lebanon recorded 59 more coronavirus-related deaths, and 2,723 further cases.

Beirut – [Parents of students abroad block the road in Hamra](#)
Parents of Lebanese students abroad demonstrated in Beirut's Hamra neighborhood, blocking Rome's street with tires they set on fire, to demand to be able to transfer money to their children at the official dollar rate.

Lebanon – [CLDH participated to open Letter to the Human Rights Committee of the Lebanese Parliament](#)
This petition questions the non-application of Article 47 of Law No.191/2020, the ongoing failure to allow lawyers to attend preliminary investigations, and the lack of enforcement of Law 65/2017 aiming to criminalize torture.

Wednesday
24 February 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon records 62 more COVID-19 deaths, 3,513 new cases](#)
Lebanon recorded 62 more coronavirus-related deaths, and 3,513 further cases.

Lebanon – [Facebook launches a \\$600,000 assistance program to Lebanon's SMBs](#)
Facebook has launched a \$600,000 initiative to support Lebanese small and medium enterprises to help them face the COVID-19 pandemic and the Beirut port explosion.

Thursday
25 February 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon registers 52 new coronavirus deaths, 3,469 cases](#)
Lebanon recorded 52 more coronavirus-related deaths, and 3,469 further cases.

Lebanon – [Health minister fuels Lebanese anger over vaccine line-jumping](#)
The caretaker health minister Hamad Hassan told state TV that the move was his "sovereign decision" to thank MPs for passing the law that helped ink a deal for the Pfizer-BioNtech shots".

Friday
26 February 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon registers 50 new coronavirus deaths, 3,373 cases](#)
Lebanon recorded 50 more coronavirus-related deaths, and 3,373 further cases, as the vaccine rollout process was criticized.

Beirut – [Court rules in favor of AUB students in first lawsuit](#)
The judge ruled in the favor of the students for one of the lawsuits they filed against AUB, that threatened to refuse the payments and deregister from all courses the students who failed to pay the tuition fees at the LL3,900 to dollar rate, as compared to the LL1,515 rate they had previously been paying.

Lebanon – [UN court to try Hezbollah member for Lebanon attacks](#)
Salim Ayyash, a fugitive Hezbollah suspect, will be tried in absentia by the Special Tribunal for Lebanon for three attacks on Lebanese politicians in the mid-2000s. This Court already sentenced him to life in prison for the 2005 murder of Lebanese prime minister Rafic Hariri.

Tripoli – [Sit-in in Tripoli calling for the resignation of the governor of North Lebanon](#)
A few dozen demonstrators gathered in front of the Seraglio of Tripoli to demand the resignation of the northern mohafez, Ramzi Nohra.

Lebanon – [A municipal policeman murdered in the southern suburbs](#)
Aala' Ibrahim, was killed, presumably by members of the Zeaïter clan, in the southern suburbs of Beirut, in an act of vendetta after the murder of one of their own last year.

Saturday and Sunday
27 and 28 February
2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon registers 42 new coronavirus deaths, 3,100 cases](#)
Lebanon recorded on Saturday 42 more coronavirus-related deaths, and 3,100 further cases, as Dr. Firass Abiad warned of the possibility of a fourth wave.

Tripoli – [Sit-in in Tripoli calling for the resignation of the governor of North Lebanon](#)
A few dozen demonstrators gathered in front of the Seraglio of Tripoli to demand the resignation of the northern mohafez, Ramzi Nohra.

Lebanon – [Lebanon registers 40 coronavirus deaths, 2,258 cases in 24 hours](#)
Lebanon recorded on Saturday 40 more coronavirus-related deaths, and 2,258 further cases, as the country received its third shipment of the coronavirus vaccine.

Lebanon – [Lebanese man held after crossing into Israeli-occupied territory](#)
A 25-year-old man from the south Lebanon village of Habbariyeh was detained by Israeli forces overnight Sunday after he crossed into the occupied territory at Kfar Shouba Hills near Shebaa Farms.



REGIONAL Middle East

Monday
22 February 2021

Palestine – [Gaza launches coronavirus vaccination drive](#) – [Palestinian vaccine drive faces funding shortfall: World Bank](#)

The Gaza strip which counts more than 2 million people and recorded 543 corona-related deaths received only 22,000 doses of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine. The World Bank said Israel, which has made the most progress globally on vaccination, should consider donating surplus doses.

Iraq – [Iraqi dies of wounds sustained in Arbil rocket attack](#)

The Iraqi civilian wounded in a rocket attack targeting the military complex inside Arbil airport last week has died. During this attack, many rockets hit the city's northwest, including residential neighborhoods, injuring five civilians.

Libya – [Over 150 migrants freed in raid on traffickers](#)

Libyan authorities raided a secret prison used by human traffickers and freed at least 156 migrants from Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan, including 15 women and 5 children. One of them reported that acts of torture have been perpetrated during captivity.

Algeria – [Thousands of Algerians hit streets on protest anniversary](#)

Thousands marched in Algiers and other cities – the largest rally since weekly demonstrations were suspended in March 2020 because of the pandemic, for the second anniversary of the "Hirak" protest movement that toppled former president Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

Saudi Arabia – [Saudi women can join military in latest widening of rights](#)

Women in Saudi Arabia can now take up arms and enter the military, the latest profession in the kingdom to open up to female recruits, as women activists have been targeted in a crackdown on dissent.

Tuesday
23 February 2021

Syria – [Syria's rebel-held northwest to get Covid vaccines by end March: WHO](#)

Syria's rebel-held northwest will receive its first shipment of AstraZeneca's coronavirus vaccine by the end of March through the UN body's Covax program, which aims to supply equitable worldwide access to vaccination.

Algeria – [Algerian students hold anti-government protests](#)

A day after the major rally for the second anniversary of the "Hirak" protest movement, dozens of Algerian students defied police to demonstrate in the capital Algiers.

Egypt – [Lawyer: Egypt releases activist after 30 months of detention](#)

Egyptian authorities released Hazem Hosny, a political science professor at Cairo University and activist, after he spent more than a year in pre-trial detention. He was arrested in September 2019 following anti-government protests.

Wednesday
24 February 2021

Libya – [UN says 41 Europe-bound migrants drown in Mediterranean](#)

At least 41 migrants among the 120 who left Libya on February 18 on a dinghy drowned in the Central Mediterranean, the latest shipwreck involving migrants seeking better life in Europe and fleeing conflict-stricken Lybia.

Syria / Germany – [Germany convicts Syrian in landmark torture trial](#)

Eyad al-Gharib was found guilty over his role in helping to arrest protesters and deliver them to a detention centre in Damascus in 2011 in the first trial worldwide over the state-sponsored torture by Bashar al-Assad's government..

Occupied Palestine – [Killing of Palestinian man by Israel an 'extrajudicial execution'](#)

A London-based group specialized in the investigation of violations of human rights qualified the killing of a Palestinian man by Israeli soldiers last year as a "extrajudicial execution". Ahmed Erekat was shot at a checkpoint between Jerusalem and Bethlehem and left to bleed to death for more than an hour after Israeli soldiers stopped a Palestinian Red Crescent ambulance from treating him.

Thursday
25 February 2021

Libya – [Watchdog says Libya fails to hold war criminals accountable](#)

Human Rights Watch accused Libyan authorities of failing to bring to justice war criminals responsible for serious crimes against humanity committed during the uprising that led to the fall of longtime dictator Moammar Kadhafi in 2011.

Friday
26 February 2021

Saudi Arabia – [Saudi crown prince approved operation to capture or kill Khashoggi: US intelligence](#)

a declassified U.S. intelligence assessment implicates the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in the dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi's death. He was killed and dismembered in 2018 by a team of operatives linked to the crown prince in the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul.

Iraq – [3 protesters killed in clashes with Iraq security forces, medics](#)

Three protesters were shot dead in clashes with Iraqi security forces during long-running anti-government movement in Nasiriyah.

Algeria – [Algerian protesters march for a second time this week](#)

The demonstrations continue in central Algiers where thousands gathered for a second time this week, confirming the resumption of street protests that had been suspended for nearly a year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Occupied Palestine – [Israel charges Arab citizen with spying for Hamas](#)

Israel's Shin Bet security agency has arrested Mohamad Abu Adra, an Israeli Arab with family ties to Gaza for allegedly passing missile defence information to the Hamas. He was charged with offences including membership of a terror organization and passing information to the enemy.

Syria – [Syria condemns 'cowardly' U.S. air strikes on Iran-backed militias](#)

According to local sources and a medical source in eastern Syria, at least 17 people had been killed in strikes targeting positions of the Kataib Hezbollah paramilitary group along the border.

Occupied Palestine – [ICC must investigate Israeli war crimes, human rights groups say](#)

As US seeks election to seat on Human Rights Council in 2022, human rights groups urged US President Joe Biden to remove sanctions imposed against the International Criminal Court officials by former President Trump, maintaining that Israel's war crimes against Palestinians must be investigated.

Saturday and Sunday
27 and 28 February 2021

Occupied Palestine – [Israel to vaccinate Palestinian labourers against COVID-19](#)

Israel will vaccinate Palestinians who work in occupied Palestine or in Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank

Yemen – [Houthis take 500 families hostage in Marib battle](#)

Iran-backed terror militia recently stormed several camps in Serwah, west of Marib, where they trapped families, blocking them to escape to safer areas and using them 'as human shield' against government forces.

Tunisia – [Tunisia main party rallies supporters, escalating government dispute](#)

A rally of tens of thousands of supporters of Tunisia's biggest political party in Tunisia's capital raises the specter of competing protest movements and escalated a dispute within the government.

Libya – [UN says 15 Europe-bound migrants die at sea off Libya](#)

At least 15 Africans drowned when their rubber boat, carrying at least 110 migrants, capsized Sunday off Libya: the second shipwreck involving Europe-bound migrants in just over a week.

Yemen – [Five civilians killed in Yemen port bombardment](#)

5 civilians, including a child, were killed Sunday in a mortar bomb strike on their house near Yemen's strategic Red Sea port of Hodeida. If the government blamed the Huthi rebels, these accused the Saudi-led coalition.

Occupied Palestine – [UN, European states call on Israel to halt demolitions](#)

The UN and European members of the Security Council said that at least 70 people, including 41 children face displacement in Humsa Al-Baqaia district and called on Israel to stop demolitions of Bedouin settlements, and for humanitarian access to the community.



INTERNATIONAL

Monday
22 February 2021

Niger – [Seven election officials killed in landmine blast as Niger votes](#)

on Sunday, 7 members of Niger's electoral commission have been killed during the country's presidential election runoff, when their vehicle hit a landmine in the western region of Tillaberi.

Congo – [Italian ambassador killed in Congo while in UN convoy](#)

An attack on the World Food Program convoy killed Ambassador Luca Attanasio and an Italian police officer in an area where many armed groups are active.

Nigeria – [Kidnappers free 53 people seized on bus](#)

A criminal gang released 53 people, including 20 women and 9 children, kidnapped on a bus in Niger State, while dozens of students and staff taken from a school in another attack are still missing.

Pakistan – [Pakistani female aid workers shot dead by assailants](#)

At least 4 female development workers have been killed after unidentified assailants fired at their vehicle in the district of North Waziristan, the latest attack in an escalation of violence in the region that was formerly the headquarters of the Pakistani Taliban.

Ecuador – [At least 75 dead in Ecuador prison riots, dozens injured](#)

At least 75 people have been killed and dozens more injured in three separate prison gun and knife battles.

Tuesday
23 February 2021

Sudan – [7,000 seek Sudan asylum after fleeing western Ethiopia violence](#)

At least 7,000 people who fled ethnic violence in Benishangul-Gumuz region in Ethiopia have sought asylum in Sudan, amid heightened tensions between the two neighboring countries.

Guinea – [Guinea launches Ebola vaccination drive in country's south](#)

Guinea has launched an inoculation campaign to halt the spread of the deadly disease which hit the south of the country since February 14 and has already caused several deaths.

Canada / China – [Canada's parliament says China's treatment of Uighurs is genocide](#)

Canada's parliament has passed a non-binding motion saying that the way China is treating its Muslim Uighur minority constitutes a genocide. The pressure increased on Prime Minister Trudeau to take harder line against China.

Georgia – [Thousands rally after Georgia arrests main opposition leader](#)

Thousands of demonstrators gathered outside the State Chancellery and blocked the main avenue in Tbilisi, protesting the arrest of the leader of the country's main opposition party, Nika Melia. Hundreds of riot police used tear gas against Melia's supporters during his arrest.

Malaysia / Myanmar – [Malaysia departs 1,086 Myanmar nationals despite court order](#)

Despite a court order to temporarily halt the repatriation to military-ruled Myanmar, Malaysia has deported 1,086 Myanmar nationals. The director-general of Malaysia's immigration department said the group does not include Rohingya or asylum seekers.

Wednesday
24 February 2021

Ghana – [Ghana security forces shut down LGBTQ office: Rights group](#)

LGBTQ rights group in Accra has its offices raided and shut by security forces after politicians and religious leaders called for its closure. The LGBTQ community in Ghana face widespread discrimination; gay sex is also criminalized, with offenders potentially facing up to 25 years in prison.

Slovenia – [Slovenia police find 13 Iraqi migrants lacking air hidden in truck](#)

The Slovenian police discovered during a routine check at the border, 13 Iraqi migrants, including 2 children, hiding in a cargo truck, suffering from dehydration and a lack of oxygen.

Germany – [German court sentences 'IS leader' to 10 years, six months](#)

Ahmad Abdulaziz Abdullah Abdullah said to be the Islamic State jihadist group's de facto leader in Germany, was found guilty of membership of a foreign terrorist organization, aiding the preparation of subversive violent acts and financing terrorism.

Thursday
25 February 2021

Argentina – [Rage boils over amid Argentina's unrelenting femicide crisis](#)

The femicide of Ursula Bahillo, 18-year-old, pushed thousands to gather outside the Supreme Court of Argentina in Buenos Aires this month to demand action.

Democratic Republic of the Congo – [More than a dozen killed in suspected ADF attacks](#)

Over a dozen killed in attack in North-Kivu, according to local official sources. The notorious Allied Democratic Forces have been blamed for the attack which has brought the number of civilians killed by armed groups in the Beni area to at least 1,013 since November 2019.

India – [India finds boat adrift with Rohingya refugees; 8 dead](#)

3 days after UN refugee agency called for the immediate rescue of Rohingya refugees aboard a vessel in distress, India's coast guard has found the boat adrift in the Andaman Sea. The refugees left Bangladesh on February 11 with 90 people, including 23 children but 8 people died during the drift.

Armenia – [Thousands rally in Armenia after PM warns of coup attempt](#)

Armenian Prime Minister Pashinyan warned of an attempted military coup against him after the army demanded he resigns, and thousands demonstrated in the capital to support him.

Africa / Latin America – [Medical oxygen scarce in Africa, Latin America amid virus](#)

In African and Latin American nations, the crisis in the supply of medical oxygen for coronavirus patients has led to unnecessary deaths, doctors say.

Myanmar – [Clashes in Yangon as Facebook bans all Myanmar military accounts](#)

Clashes erupted between opponents and supporters of Myanmar's coup, as Facebook took down all accounts linked to the country's military.

Niger – [Two dead, hundreds arrested in post-election violence](#)

At least two people have been killed and hundreds arrested in clashes that erupted after electoral commission declared former interior minister Mohamed Bazoum's victory.

South Africa – [Semenya takes testosterone limit case to human rights court](#)

Caster Semenya has filed a lawsuit in the European Court of Human Rights that questions restrictions of testosterone in female athletes.

Central African Republic – [At least 14 killed at religious site in CAR: Amnesty](#)

A human rights group called for investigations into clashes between Central African Republic security forces and armed groups that killed at least 14 people.

Nigeria – [Gunmen kill 36 in attacks in northern Nigeria](#)

Armed bandits killed 36 people in two attacks in northern Nigeria and burned down houses in villages of Kaduna and Katsina states.

United States – [First asylum seekers from Mexico's Matamoros border camp enter US](#)

Asylum seekers from Mexico's Matamoros border camp, a symbol of controversial Trump-era immigration restrictions, enter the United States. Some residents had lived there for over a year, waiting for US court hearings.

Friday
26 February 2021

Nigeria – [Gunmen kidnap over 300 girls in Nigeria school raid: Police](#)

Armed bandits raided a school dormitory in the Government Girls Secondary School Jangebe, in northwestern Nigeria, kidnapping 317 schoolgirls, the second mass kidnapping in a week.

Myanmar – [Myanmar riot police fire to break up protests](#)

Myanmar police fired guns and what appeared to be stun grenades, witnesses said, to disperse protesters in the main city of Yangon.

Haiti – [Police: Haitian gang leader, 24 others dead after prison breakout](#)

One of Haiti's most powerful gang leaders, Arnel Joseph, is among at least 25 dead after an exchange of gunfire near capital Port-au-Prince, as 400 prisoners escape.

Mali – [Several soldiers killed in central Mali attack](#)

9 soldiers have been killed and 9 others wounded, amid a long exchange of fire with armed groups, near the central Malian town of Bandiagara.

Bangladesh – [Anger in Bangladesh over dissident writer's death in prison](#)

Death of dissident writer Mushtaq Ahmed, 53, in Bangladesh's high-security Kashimpur jail triggers protests and widespread anger. Ahmed was arrested last year for his social media comments criticising the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic. The cause of death is not yet clear, an investigation into the incident has been ordered.

**Saturday and
Sunday**
27 and 28 February
2021

Armenia – [Armenia crisis grows as president blocks bid to fire army chief](#)

The protests continue and several thousand opposition demonstrators took to the streets of Yerevan for the third day running to call for the resignation of Prime Minister Pashinyan, as the national political crisis is deepening.

Bangladesh – [Bangladesh under "no obligation" to accept stranded Rohingya refugees-minister](#)

Foreign minister A.K. Abdul Momen said Bangladesh is under "no obligation" to shelter the 81 Rohingya Muslim refugees found by the India's coast guard adrift on the Andaman Sea.

Nigeria – [Victims of mid-February Nigeria school abduction freed](#)

A day after more than 300 schoolgirls were snatched by gunmen in a school in the northwest, 42 people, including 27 children, kidnapped from a school in central Nigeria, have been released on Saturday.

Myanmar – [At least 18 dead on bloodiest day of Myanmar protests against coup](#)

If Saturday saw violent crackdown on protesters, Sunday was the bloodiest day in weeks of demonstrations against the military coup. Myanmar police fired on the crowd, UN human rights office said at least 18 people were killed.

Kazakhstan – [Dozens detained at Kazakhstan political prisoner protest](#)

Roughly 50 protesters were detained on Sunday in Almaty, Kazakhstan's largest city, after publicly calling for the release of political prisoners. The protest was in line with a resolutions passed by the European parliament which said "systemic shortcomings in relation to respect for freedom of association, assembly and expression" persisted.

Chad – [Chad opposition leader says several relatives killed in home raid](#)

Yaya Dillo, a former rebel leader and candidate in Chad's upcoming presidential election, tells reporters that 5 of his family members, including his son, have been killed by security forces.