



## ► 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 March 2021

**Lebanon – [The Lebanese Pound accentuates its fall and roads close](#)**

Several roads were blocked again, as the Lebanese pound lost more of its value on the black market after the recent episodes of the ongoing political crisis.

**Tuesday**  
23 March 2021

**Lebanon – [‘I wished I would die’: Amnesty reports the torture of Syrian refugees in Lebanon](#)**

Amnesty International published a 52-page report on illegal detention and torture of dozens of Syrian refugees in Lebanon committed by the Lebanese Security Forces. Some of the victims, accused of terrorism, were 15 and 16 years old at the time.

**Lebanon – [When Lebanese women break the taboo of mental health](#)**

A new campaign on social media for women who want to talk about their problems in this period of general crisis. Mental health is as important as physical health, according to the promoter of the initiative.

**Lebanon – [Lebanon/Crisis: Increase in the price of the bread package](#)**

The price of a packet of bread increased again, for the third time since last year. What determined this situation is the new loss of value of the Lebanese pound on the black market, says the Ministry of Economy.

**Wednesday**  
24 March 2021

**Lebanon** – [Lebanon to receive oxygen supply from Syria](#)

75 tons of oxygen shall be sent by the Syrian Ministry of Health, in order to provide immediate relief to hospitals that are facing shortages. This amount of oxygen is considered enough to last for three days.

**Thursday**  
25 March 2021

**Lebanon** – [Lebanon on the list of countries threatened by “catastrophic levels of famine”](#)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme have issued a warning that famine will increase in twenty countries in the coming months, including Lebanon.

**Lebanon** – [Karaki accuses Mount Lebanon Hospital of having «sequestered» a patient, the institution demeans](#)

The director of the National Social Security Fund (CNSS), Mohammad Karaki claims that the Mount Lebanon Hospital (Hazmieh) has sequestered for a week a patient who could not pay the costs of his hospitalization, which the hospital denies.

**Lebanon** – [In Lebanon, the crisis puts adolescents through a series of trials](#)

A recent survey conducted by “Plan International” an international NGO found that Lebanese teenagers were experiencing difficult hardships due to the situation in the country, including the economic and political crisis, the pandemic and the double explosion in the port of Beirut. They might face school dropout, violence, exploitation, forced labor and early marriages.

**Friday**  
26 March 2021

**Mount Lebanon** – [Four Syrian refugees die of cold in Lebanon mountains](#)

Four Syrians, including a child aged seven and an eight-year-old, were found frozen to death in a mountainous area of eastern Lebanon.

**South Lebanon** – [Lebanon PM warns of ‘dangerous’ chemicals in southern oil facility](#)

Hassan Diab, Lebanon's outgoing Prime Minister warned that experts had found “dangerous chemicals” at a warehouse at the Zahrani oil installations.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
27 and 28 March  
2021

**Tripoli** – [Risk of shortage at Tripoli government](#)

Nasser Adra the director of the Tripoli government hospital denounced in a statement the risk of oxygen shortages in his facility, with delivery delays of up to 5 days.

**Beirut** – [“Aoun, Hariri, Berry, get out”: demonstrators march towards Baabda](#)

A few hundred demonstrators gathered Saturday in southeastern Beirut, before marching to the presidential palace in Baabda, to demand the formation of a transitional government, as well as the departure of the ruling class

**Lebanon** – [Lebanon jails facing ‘hungry revolution’](#)

Lebanon's impoverished prisons could be hit by rioting as essential food and medical supplies dwindle amid a deepening economic crisis.

**Beirut** – [Hundreds of communist activists march in Beirut](#)

Hundreds of Lebanese Communist Party activists marched on Sunday from the headquarters of the Bank of Lebanon in the Sanayeh neighborhood of Hamra to Riad el-Solh Square in downtown Beirut to demand a radical change in the political-economic class.



## REGIONAL Middle East

**Monday**  
22 March 2021

**Syria** – [Thousands of Foreigners Unlawfully Held in NE Syria](#)

Around 43,000 foreign men, women, and children linked to ISIS remain detained in inhuman conditions by local authorities in the northeast region, two years after they were arrested during the fall of the Islamic “caliphate”.

**Yemen** – [Houthi Attacking Displaced People’s Camps](#)

HRW denounces that Houthi armed groups are pursuing unlawful attacks and allowing unimpeded humanitarian access to civilians trapped by the fighting. The population of Marib governorate, held by Yemeni government forces, has been suffering from this humanitarian crisis since February 2021.

**Tuesday**  
23 March 2021

**Egypt** – [Scholar Unjustly Detained](#)

Ahmed Samir Santawy, an Egyptian student enrolled in university in Austria, was recently disappeared by force, interrogated and later given 15 days in arbitrary detention.

**Occupied Palestine** – [Israel military hits ‘ Hamas positions’ in Gaza](#)

The Israeli military carried out several raids against Hamas positions in the Gaza Strip during the night. This action was ordered in response to rocket fire from the Palestinian enclave.

**Yemen** – [Yemen coronavirus committee calls for ‘state of emergency’](#)

After six years of war, the weak health care system is in ruins. This week the country registered more than 100 cases in a day, and the numbers are increasing. The Coronavirus committee expressed its concerns.

**Turkey** – [Erdoğan’s Onslaught on Rights and Democracy](#)

HRW expressed its concerns about Erdogan’s policies which are dismantling human rights protections and democratic basic norms, targeting in particular dissident voices, women, Kurds, LGBT people and democratic safeguards.

**Wednesday**  
24 March 2021

**Occupied Palestine** – [Half of Israelis fully vaccinated as Palestinians lag](#)

50% of the Israelis received both the doses of the vaccine, whereas the campaign in occupied Palestinian areas is much slower.

**Libya** – [New Government Should Put Rights First](#)

HRW expressed its hope that the new Government of National Unity shall commit itself to significantly improve human rights conditions in the country, prioritizing the rule of law, justice and accountability. New elections are planned for December 2021.

**Yemen** – [Battle for Marib: Last city in north Yemen under gov’t control](#)

The battles are still fierce in Marib, the last major city under complete government control in the northern region. The eventual fall of Marib would mark the victory of the armed group that was seen as a ragtag pro-Iranian militia at the beginning of the war.

**Libya** – [Libyan commander wanted for war crimes by ICC shot dead](#)

Mahmoud al-Werfalli a top military figure loyal to renegade military commander Khalifa Haftar and wanted for alleged war crimes has been killed in the eastern city of Benghazi by unidentified attackers.

**Thursday**  
25 March 2021

**Turkey / China** – [Turkey raises Uighur issue with China as hundreds protest](#)

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu has raised the issue of Uighur Muslims during talks with China’s foreign minister Wang Yi in Ankara, as about 1,000 protesters gather in Istanbul to denounce China’s treatment of Uighurs.

**Saudi Arabia** – [UN confirms report on Saudi threat against Khashoggi investigator](#)

The published remarks by Agnes Callamard alleging that a senior Saudi official had made a threat against her during a meeting in Geneva have been confirmed by the UN human rights office but denied by Saudi official.

**Friday**  
26 March 2021

**Palestine / United States – [US gives Palestinians \\$15 mln for COVID-19 response](#)**

The Biden administration is about to give the Palestinians \$15 million to aid in their inoculation campaign in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

**Iraq – [Pro-Iran group stages armed Baghdad rally](#)**

Masked gunmen drove through Baghdad in a convoy of pick-ups staging a show of force against Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi who has proposed a new dialogue with Washington.

**Syria – [UN warns against massive reduction in UK aid to Syria](#)**

As an estimated 13.4 million people need humanitarian assistance in Syria, Britain looks to cut Syria funding from £137m in 2020 to just £45m this year.

**Iran – [Iran's online anti-government protests gain momentum](#)**

The online anti-government campaign "no to the Islamic Republic" is calling for the removal of the clerical regime and has gained popularity in the recent days, with more than 600 anti-regime Iranians including political activists, artists, athletes and academics.

**Saturday and  
Sunday**  
27 and 28 March  
2021

**Turkey – [Thousands protest Turkey's exit from domestic violence treaty](#)**

Protesters have taken to the streets of the capital for the second consecutive weekend to demand Turkey reverse decision to withdraw from 2011 Istanbul Convention.

**Yemen – [MSF says urgent aid needed for Yemen amid surging COVID cases](#)**

Doctors without borders says Yemen's COVID-19 emergency response needs support 'across the board' as a surging number of cases is increasing the pressure on war-torn country's healthcare system.

**Iraq – [The actress defying cultural norms to tell new stories in Iraq](#)**

Born decades and miles apart, the actress Zahraa Ghandour and the activist Hanaa Edwar have each broken with the tradition to voice the struggles of their respective generations.

**Syria – [Syrian Kurds arrest several in anti-ISIS operation at al-Hol camp](#)**

The campaign by nearly 5,000 of the Kurdish-led forces followed the heel of a spike in violence in al-Hol camp, housing families of fighters. The operation led to the arrest of nine people, including suspected members of ISIS.



**Monday**  
22 March 2021

**Bangladesh** – [15 dead, 400 missing in Rohingya camp blaze in Bangladesh: UN](#)

Fifteen people have been confirmed dead, over 500 are injured and 400 are still missing after the huge fire at the Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar. Around 10,000 shelters have been destroyed.

**Ethiopia** – [U.N. calls for stop to 'horrific' sexual violence in Ethiopia's Tigray](#)

Several UN officials called for a stop to indiscriminate attacks against civilians in the northern region of Tigray, particularly denouncing the perpetration of rapes and "other horrific forms of sexual violence". Since the start of the fights between the government troops and the local party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front, thousands of people were killed and hundreds of thousands were forced to leave their homes.

**European Union** – [Reinforcing Rights Can Help Avert Failure on Covid-19 Vaccines](#)

Several members of the European Parliament, as well as members of national Parliaments of EU countries, are urging the EU to stop blocking the wider production of the vaccines, expecting an atmosphere of union and collaboration instead of nationalism and competition.

**Mali** – [When Will There be Justice for Mali Massacre?](#)

The worst atrocity in Mali's recent history happened two years ago, when over 150 civilians were summarily killed in Ogossagou village. HRW claims the need for justice regarding that massacre and the other crimes committed by heavily armed ethnic Dogon men.

**Myanmar** – [In Burma, 'they have come for the poets'](#)

The military junta is continuing the repression of every dissident voice. Since the coup of February 1, at least nine poets were detained, and two of them were killed.

**United States** – [Child migrants: First photos emerge of Biden-era detention centres](#)

Since the beginning of Biden era, the first pictures of migrants' conditions in detention centers came out. Young migrants are kept in crowded areas separated by plastic sheeting, with high risk of spreading COVID-19 infection.

**Uzbekistan** – [Uzbekistan: Gay Men Face Abuse, Prison](#)

A new report of HRW reveals that men engaging in consensual same-sex sexual conduct can be arbitrarily detained, prosecuted and imprisoned. As LGBT activists point out, gay men who face human rights abuses have also few legal remedies.

**Tuesday**  
23 March 2021

**China** – [Magnitsky sanctions imposed on top Chinese officials over Uyghur abuses](#)

The UK and its international partners announced the imposition of sanctions against senior Chinese officials over human rights violations in the northwestern province of Xinjiang.

**Ethiopia** – [Ethiopia PM Ahmed Abiy admits Eritrea forces in Tigray](#)

The Prime Minister has admitted for the first time that Eritrean troops are present in the Tigray region. For months, both countries have denied that troops crossed the border. Several atrocities have been committed since the beginning of the conflict, including killing unarmed civilians, raping women and the widespread looting of public and private properties.

**United Nations / Africa** – [UN security council needs A3's leadership on African crises](#)

Kenya, Niger and Tunisia are the recently elected "A3" for the UN Security Council. These three countries have already supported a draft expressing concerns about the humanitarian situation in Tigray (Ethiopia) at a closed-door council session. They may be able to use their power to promote a "human rights-centred African agenda".

**United States** – ['Crip Camp' Brings the Inclusion Revolution to the Oscars](#)

*"Crip Camp: a Disability Revolution"* is a new movie on the inclusion of persons with disabilities and it was nominated for an Oscar for Best Documentary Feature.

**Wednesday**  
24 March 2021

**Japan** – [Pass Equality Act Before Olympics](#)

More than 100,000 signatures were collected to support a new law against discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation. LGBT groups hope that an Equality Act shall pass before the Tokyo Olympic Games, that are starting next June.



Thursday  
25 March 2021

**Myanmar** – [Myanmar: Elected Lawmaker Group Declared Illegal](#)

The military junta designated the group representing the elected government as an “unlawful association”, increasing the risks of arrest for supporters, activists and journalists reporting on the group. In the meanwhile, the hashtag #WhatsHappeningInMyanmar is spreading over social medias.

**Sri Lanka** – [Landmark UNHRC resolution seeks to end impunity in Sri Lanka](#)

The UN Human Rights council Resolution 46/1, recently adopted, marks a victory for Sri Lankans victims of abuses and international crimes, helping them to obtain information, accountability, and justice.

**Turkey / European Union** – [Joint Letter to HRVP Borrell on EU-Turkey Relations](#)

A joint letter signed by Amnesty International and HRW was addressed to the EU High Representative, Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles, asking the EU leaders to put fundamental human rights and freedoms at the center of EU-Turkey relations.

**United Kingdom** – [UK plans visa ban for countries refusing to repatriate failed asylum seekers](#)

The government could block visas from countries that refuse to repatriate failed asylum seekers and criminals, as a part of its strategy against illegal immigration. This ban may concern in particular Iran, Iraq and Sudan. Several campaigners and right groups blamed this plan as inhumane.

**United States** – [US: Concerns of Neglect in Nursing Homes](#)

HRW expressed its concerns about residents of nursing homes who may have suffered from neglect and prolonged isolation during the last months of pandemic. Several independent monitors denounced cases of extreme weight loss, dehydration, untreated bedsores, inadequate hygiene, mental and physical decline.

**Ethiopia** – [Ethiopia's Tigray: Men forced to rape family members, UN reports](#)

At least 516 rape cases were reported to five clinics in Ethiopia's Tigray region. The UN said the actual figures are likely to be much higher because of stigma and a lack of health services.

**United Kingdom / Benin** – [UK university to return looted Benin Bronze to Nigeria](#)

The University of Aberdeen will return a Benin Bronze to Nigeria, one of the first public institutions to do so more than a century after Britain's soldiers seized thousands of metal castings and sculptures from the Kingdom of Benin.

**Somalia** – [Somali capital hit by deadly mortar attack](#)

A barrage of mortars targeted the headquarters of the UN and African Union peacekeeping mission forces located in Mogadishu, killing three and injuring five.

**United States** – [Pentagon approves request to house migrant minors in Texas](#)

US officials approved a request to house unaccompanied migrant children at two US military facilities in the southern state of Texas, as the number of unaccompanied minors crossing the southern border is increasing.

**United States** – [Rachel Levine is first US Senate-confirmed transgender official](#)

The United States Senate has confirmed Dr Rachel Levine as assistant secretary of health, a move hailed by LGBTQ rights group as a historic victory. Levine is the first openly transgender federal official to win the body's confirmation.

**Kosovo** – [From Texas to Kosovo: Rape survivor returns as part of new gov't](#)

Vasfije Krasniqi-Goodman, who was abused by Serb policemen as a teenager, is now demanding justice from her parliament seat. The two men were indicted for the crime but then acquitted by Kosovo's Supreme Court in 2014.

**Russia** – [Jailed Kremlin critic Navalny alleges 'torture' in prison](#)

Jailed Russian opposition leader Alexey Navalny says the deterioration of his health was a 'direct consequence of the actions and inaction' of prison employees.

**France** – ['Islamist-leftism': France enters its McCarthyist era](#)

In recent weeks, another wave of political polarisation hit France, as the French government's 'Islamist-leftism' accusations against academia is threatening academic freedom.

**United Kingdom / United States / Myanmar** – [UK, US sanction Myanmar junta entities as five killed by security forces](#)

As five more protesters were reported to have been killed by security forces, United States and Britain imposed sanctions on military-controlled conglomerates in Myanmar.

**Friday**  
26 March 2021

**Mexico / United States – [‘Stuck in limbo’: Metered asylum seekers stranded in Mexico](#)**

Thousands of migrants on informal waitlists have been “in limbo” in Mexico for months because of the pandemic with no clarity on their fates.

**United States – [NYC council passes bill to limit ‘qualified immunity’ for police](#)**

New York City’s council has passed legislation that would suppress qualified immunity for police officers in cases of excessive force and unreasonable searches, making it easier to sue a police officer.

**United States – [‘Warrior women together’: Mothers of the Black trans family](#)**

LaSaia Wade an activist living in Chicago is combating systemic inequality in the LGBTQ community by following in her role model Valerie Spencer’s footsteps.

**Colombia – [Colombia accuses FARC dissidents of car bomb that injured dozens](#)**

Colombian defence minister said the bombing in Corinto injured 43 people, including several public officials, and accused dissidents of the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

**Myanmar – [Death toll in Myanmar’s post-coup crackdown surpasses 300](#)**

Some 34 further deaths in Myanmar take the civilian death toll in the security forces’ crackdown on anti-coup protests to 320, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

**Saturday and  
Sunday**  
27 and 28 March  
2021

**Belarus – [Belarus police arrest more than 100, prevent opposition rally](#)**

Police in Belarus have arrested more than 100 people, including five journalists, as they gathered for fresh protests against President Alexander Lukashenko.

**Venezuela / Colombia – [‘Humanitarian time bomb’: 4,700 Venezuelans flee to Colombia](#)**

According to Colombian government, about 4,700 Venezuelans have been displaced to its territory, after the Venezuelan military launched an operation against armed groups near the border.

**Mozambique – [Over 180 people trapped in Mozambique hotel after attack - Dozens of ‘defenceless’ civilians killed in Mozambique attack](#)**

More than 180 people including foreign workers were trapped inside a hotel in the city of Palma under siege for three days by gunmen linked to the ISIL group. Mozambique’s government said on Sunday that dozens of civilians were killed within the area this week, including seven people whose convoy was ambushed as they attempted to flee.

**Bangladesh – [Violent protests spread in Bangladesh after Modi visit - Two die in fresh Bangladesh protest violence over Modi’s visit](#)**

More than a dozen people have been injured and 13 killed in clashes with the police as violence spread across the country on the third consecutive day of protests against the visit of India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**Myanmar – [Army fires at funeral as Myanmar mourns day of ‘mass murder’ - Thousands flee for Thailand as Myanmar military bombs border area](#)**

Defence chiefs of 12 countries condemn Myanmar army after it has opened fire on people gathering for the funeral of one of the 114 people killed on Saturday, in the bloodiest day since the February 1 coup. More than 3,000 people fled from Myanmar’s Karen state to Thailand after the military bombed an area held by an ethnic armed group.

**Indonesia – [Suicide attack rocks Indonesia church, several wounded](#)**

At least 20 wounded after Two suicide bombers detonated explosives outside a Catholic church in the Indonesian city of Makassar on Sunday.