



► 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
24 May 2021

Southern Lebanon – [Tensions during a new demonstration on the border with Israel](#)

A pro-Palestinian demonstration ran into tension Sunday afternoon, when a group of demonstrators tried to cross the border before being pushed back by Lebanese soldiers near the occupied Shebaa farms.

Lebanon – [Demonstration for the "sovereignty, neutrality and stability" of Lebanon](#)

Dozens of people from different groups claiming to be part of the October 17, 2019 uprising demonstrated Saturday afternoon in Beirut under the slogan "neutrality, sovereignty, stability".

Lebanon – [Wazni Signs Urgent Draft Law for Funding Ration Cards](#)

While more than half the population now lives in poverty, the caretaker Finance Minister Ghazi Wazni signed an urgent draft law aimed at "approving ration cards and opening an additional and extraordinary line of credit for funding them".

Tuesday
25 May 2021

Lebanon – [Adviser to Prime Minister: Say Goodbye to Social Security](#)

The prime minister's Public Health Adviser, Ms. Petra Houry, announced that "all social security institutions will cease" since these institutions have been stuck in a vicious cycle due to the ongoing economic deficit.

Wednesday
26 May 2021

Lebanon – [Migrant Workers Hit by Lebanon Crises, U.N. Warns](#)

The economic collapse, the pandemic and the aftermath of the deadly and devastating explosion at the port of Beirut in August 2020, have "exacerbated the vulnerability" of migrant workers in Lebanon, IOM says in a new report.

Lebanon – [Lebanese public sector workers go on strike amid worsening economic conditions](#)
Public sector employees went on strike in public administrations and schools to demand an increase in salaries and their purchasing power, which has disappeared due to inflation, rising prices and the collapse of the Lebanese pound against the dollar.

Beirut – [CLDH statement on Charbel Rezzouk's arrest](#)
Charbel Razzouk was arrested after he displayed a banner that questioned the results of the Beirut blast investigation. The Lebanese Center for Human Rights condemns this violation of the law and freedom of expression.

Thursday
27 May 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon's central bank won't pay for subsidized medicines](#)
Lebanon has been subsidizing fuel, wheat, medicine and other basic goods since last year but the central bank has said it will not eat into its mandatory foreign exchange reserves to cover the cost of subsidized medical goods.

Lebanon – [Samir Sfeir Returns to Lebanon, Says Questioned over Hizbullah, Aoun](#)
Prominent Lebanese music composer Samir Sfeir arrived in Lebanon Thursday after he was detained for more than a month in Saudi Arabia. Sfeir maintains he was detained over his political views and not over any drugs-related charges.

Friday
28 May 2021

Beirut – [New attack on the family of an anti-Hezbollah journalist in the southern suburbs](#)
The two alleged attackers of an anti-Hezbollah journalist, Mariam Seifeddine, are his uncle, member of the Shiite party and his son. They were arrested following the attack, which is a violent attack on freedom of expression, but they were quickly released.

Lebanon – [Law criminalizing sexual harassment put to the test](#)
Several women who were sexually harassed by the writer Jaafar al-Attar gave their testimony at the Hbeish Police Station's Moral Protection Bureau. Parliament had passed a law to criminalize sexual harassment last December, but many human rights organizations still consider it insufficient as "it keeps the burden of proof on the victim and not the perpetrator".

Lebanon / Saudi Arabia – [Sfeir Says Holding No Grudge against Saudi Arabia](#)
The Lebanese composer and singer Samir Sfeir, who was detained for 50 days in Saudi Arabia and then released and deported back to Lebanon, is now banned from returning to the kingdom. No official comment was made from Saudi Arabia about the reasons and conditions of his detention and release.

Beirut – [Beirut Lawyers will be Striking for Two Days](#)
Lawyers are striking in Beirut today and next Monday as a protest against the detention of Mr. Rami Alleik, director of organization *Mouttahidoun*, who was accused of defamation of the Superior Council of the Judiciary. CLDH denounces all kinds of police practices against lawyers and recalls the importance of respecting their immunity and call for immediate investigation and holding perpetrating entities and officers accountable.

Beirut – [CLDH Reports on Lebanese Forces and Syrian Nationalist Social Parties](#)
CLDH submitted two reports to the Public Prosecutor's Office on 26 March 2021 against the head of the Lebanese Forces party, Samir Geagea and the Syrian Nationalist Social Party on the basis of incitement to racial slurs, incitement to fighting and sedition. Indeed, Syrian voters were attacked by beating, cutting off roads and preventing them from exercising their democratic right.

Saturday and Sunday
29 and 30 May 2021

Beirut – [Pharmacies are still Waiting for the Promised Supplies](#)
Despite the recent declarations of the Ministry of Health, several pharmacies in Beirut are still facing lack of medicament supplies in their stocks.

Lebanon – [What's good Lebanon? One of a Kind Initiative: Menstrual Health Equity for Women in Lebanon](#)
The organization "Days for Girls Lebanon" launched a new initiative called "Menstrual Health Equity for Women in Lebanon" aiming to provide women in the country with locally made, washable menstrual kits as well health education. The idea came from the concerns especially about refugees who have been displaced for a long time and are facing several challenges of handling menstruation in a private, dignified, and healthy manner.



Monday
24 May 2021

Occupied Palestine (East Jerusalem) – [Two Israelis stabbed, assailant killed in occupied East Jerusalem](#)

A Palestinian man was shot dead by Israeli police after he allegedly stabbed and wounded two Israelis in occupied East Jerusalem near a neighborhood that has been a focus of Palestinian protests.

Occupied Palestine – [‘A war declaration’: Palestinians in Israel decry mass arrests](#)

Israeli police announced they will arrest hundreds of Palestinian citizens of Israel who rallied in support of Sheikh Jarrah, Al-Aqsa and Gaza over the coming days as part of its “operation law and order”.

Sultanate of Oman – [Rare protests in Oman over jobs draw massive police response](#)

Scattered protests in Oman over layoffs and poor economic conditions have drawn a massive police presence in Sohar, where the protesters threw stones and the police retaliated with tear gas.

Tuesday
25 May 2021

Egypt / Italy – [Judge orders four Egyptians to stand trial for Regeni murder](#)

An Italian judge has ordered four high-ranking members of Egypt's National Security Agency to stand trial for their alleged role in the abduction, torture and murder of Mr. Giulio Regeni, the Italian student who was found dead in Cairo five years ago.

Iraq – [‘Country has no future’: Iraqi protester killed at Baghdad rally](#)

One demonstrator was shot dead and dozens injured during clashes at a rally in Baghdad where thousands gathered to demand accountability for the murder of prominent activists and protesters.

Occupied Palestine (East Jerusalem) – [Scrap plans to forcibly evict Palestinian families in Silwan](#)

Amnesty International denounced the new “illustration of Israel's criminal policy of forced displacement of Palestinians”, ahead of an appeal hearing at the Jerusalem District Court on May 26 over the forced eviction of two Palestinian families in the Batn al-Hawa area of Silwan (East Jerusalem).

Saudi Arabia – [Google must halt plans to establish Cloud Region](#)

Amnesty International and 38 other organizations called on Google to halt plans to establish a Cloud Region in the country until the company can publicly demonstrate how it will mitigate risks of adverse human rights impacts.

Wednesday
26 May 2021

Syria / Northern Europe – [Nordic countries must repatriate nationals in Syria: Rights group](#)

Human Rights Watch has called on Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden to repatriate more than 160 Nordic nationals, most of whom are children, from northeast Syria.

Occupied Palestine – [Israel court postpones hearing in Palestinian eviction case](#)

An Israeli court postponed its decision on an appeal lodged by Palestinian families threatened to be expelled from their homes in occupied east Jerusalem's Silwan district so Jewish settlers can move in.

Occupied Palestine – [Advocates demand Facebook end ‘blatant’ Palestinian censorship](#)

Rights groups demand answers from Facebook amid widespread reports on censored Palestinian content on its platforms, especially during the recent Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip and occupied East Jerusalem.

Syria – [European Union: Syrian elections did not meet criteria of ‘a genuinely democratic vote’](#)

President Al-Assad is certain to win a fourth seven-year term against two rivals in elections described by the opposition and Western nations as not meeting the criteria of “a genuinely democratic vote”. According to an UE high representative, elections could only be credible, if all Syrians, including internally displaced people, refugees and members of the diaspora, are able to participate in a safe, and neutral environment without threat of intimidation and in a free and fair political competition.

Thursday
27 May 2021

Palestine (Gaza Strip) – [Israel's Gaza strikes may constitute 'war crimes': UN's Bachelet - UN rights council to investigate crimes during Gaza conflict](#)

UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet says Israeli attacks resulted in extensive civilian deaths and major destruction in besieged enclave and may constitute "war crimes" if they are shown to be disproportionate. Meanwhile, UN Human Rights Council has agreed to launch an open-ended international investigation on 'systematic' abuses in the occupied Palestinian territories and Israel.

Irak – [US condemns violent security crackdown on Iraqi protesters](#)

One demonstrator was shot dead and dozens injured during violence at a rally in Baghdad when thousands gathered to demand accountability from Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi for the murders of prominent Iraqi activists and protesters.

Friday
28 May 2021

Occupied Palestine – ['Terrorising a generation': Israel arresting Palestinian children](#)

Palestinians, legal experts and activists are worried about the number of children being arrested as Israeli police announced 'Operation Law and Order'.

Occupied Palestine – [Israeli forces kill Palestinian in occupied West Bank: Ministry](#)

Israeli soldiers shot and killed Zakaria Hamayel, a 28-year-old Palestinian, during a protest against illegal Israeli settlement expansion that took place near Nablous, in the occupied West Bank.

United Arab Emirates – [UK football fan sues UAE for alleged torture; false imprisonment](#)

Ali Issa Ahmed filed a lawsuit against six officials in the UAE, claiming he was tortured and falsely imprisoned for wearing a Qatar football jersey at a match during a trip to the country in 2019.

Egypt – [Arbitrarily detained researcher beaten and accused of terrorism](#)

Amnesty International and other human rights organizations expressed their concerns for the new criminal investigations against researcher Ahmed Samir Santawy and his ongoing arbitrary detention, which stems from his academic work on women's sexual and reproductive rights.

Morocco – [Critically ill hunger-striking journalist must be granted adequate medical care](#)

Amnesty International called on the authorities to urgently end the solitary confinement of Mr. Sulieman Raissouni, the detained journalist whose health is at risk after 51 days on hunger strike, and ensure he is granted specialized medical care.

Qatar – [Kenyan labour rights activist in solitary confinement](#)

Amnesty International and five other human rights and labour rights organizations called on the authorities to immediately reveal the whereabouts of Kenyan labour rights activist, Mr. Malcolm Bidali, who was forcibly disappeared by state security services more than three weeks ago.

Saturday and Sunday
29 and 30 May 2021

Iraq – [No water, no jobs: ISIL survivors struggle in northern Iraq](#)

Two months after Pope Francis' visit in the country, Christians in the Nineveh Plains are currently suffering from a confluence of environmental and economic hardships. The financial condition of the farmers has been very deteriorated.

Occupied Palestine (West Bank) – [Killing with impunity: Israel's undercover units in Palestine](#)

A reportage by "Al Jazeera" shows the grief and anger of Palestinian women who are mourning their young sons, often killed by Israel's undercover units without any form of accountability.

Palestine (Gaza Strip) – ['Wake up screaming': Gaza's children traumatised by Israeli war](#)

As Gaza tries to recover from the deadly 11-day Israeli attack, mothers and mental health workers are raising concerns that the psychological effects of the violence will affect the children.

Sudan – ['We're not safe': Darfur violence sparks new displacement crisis](#)

In Darfur region, unsafety and violence are spreading, as well as the risk of a humanitarian crisis due to numerous forced displacements of the people. According to the UN, in the first four months of 2021, around 237,000 people have been newly displaced.



INTERNATIONAL

Monday
24 May 2021

Mali – [Mali's military detains president, prime minister](#)

Soldiers have detained the president and prime minister of the interim government, a move condemned by United Nations and African Union which call for their 'immediate and unconditional release'.

Sudan – [ICC hears first war crimes case from Sudan's Darfur conflict](#)

Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman a militia leader behind a campaign of deadly raids in Sudan's Darfur conflict between 2003 and 2004, faces 31 charges, including persecution, murder, torture and rape.

India – [Indian migrant workers at risk of being left out of vaccine drive](#)

According to experts, many of India's 140 million migrant workers are at risk of being excluded from the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination campaign due to lack of awareness, targeted strategy, or a severe shortage of doses. Activists say workers whose livelihoods have been hit by lockdowns should be prioritized for vaccination.

United Kingdom – [Black Lives Matter activist critical in hospital after shooting](#)

Sasha Johnson, an activist who has played a leading role in anti-racism demonstrations in Britain, is in critical condition in a London hospital after being shot. The police say she did not appear to have been targeted, but she had received death threats in the past.

Tuesday
25 May 2021

Belarus – [Free journalist detained following forced emergency landing in Minsk](#)

Amnesty International launched an urgent action to call for the release of Mr. Raman Pratasevich, the co-founder and former editor of the NEXTA Telegram-channel, who was detained in Minsk airport with his partner Ms. Sofia Sapega, after the authorities forced their flight from Athens to Vilnius to land.

Cambodia – [Stop Silencing Critical Commentary on Covid-19](#)

HRW, Amnesty International and several other human rights groups addressed a joint statement to the national authorities, calling for an immediate stop of the violations of the freedom of expression in the country, especially concerning the commentary on the COVID 19 pandemic.

France – [Convictions against protesters who marched against xenophobic group must be quashed](#)

Amnesty International denounced "the misuse of anti-smuggling laws to convict courageous activists who marched against the illegal activities of the racist and xenophobic group *Generation Identitaire*" at the French-Italian border last March, ahead of tomorrow's appeal hearing of seven of them.

Myanmar – [Thai State-Owned Company Funds Junta](#)

HRW denounced that majority state-owned oil and gas company, PTT, is partnering with military-linked companies to expand its engagement in the country.

United Kingdom – [Europe's top court rules UK mass surveillance regime violated human rights](#)

The Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights ruled that the government's bulk interception of communications powers "did not contain sufficient 'end-to-end' safeguards to provide adequate and effective guarantees against arbitrariness and the risk of abuse", thus violating the rights to privacy and freedom of expression.

United States of America / Haiti – [Pressure Grows to End US Border Expulsions](#)

The administration of US President Joe Biden has announced it will reconsider Haiti for Temporary Protected Status, meaning Haitians already present in the United States will be allowed to stay. The Department of Homeland Security added that "Haiti is currently experiencing serious security concerns, social unrest, an increase in human rights abuses".

Pakistan – [Pakistani journalist assaulted in latest press freedom attack](#)

Asad Ali Toor was beaten after three armed men broke into his apartment and questioned him on his sources of 'funding'. This is the latest attack in recent months to target a journalist considered critical of the country's military and current government.

Wednesday
26 May 2021

Ethiopia – [Ethiopia's Tigray at 'serious risk' of famine, warns UN official](#)

In a Security Council briefing, the United Nations' top humanitarian official has warned that urgent measures are needed to avoid famine in Ethiopia's war-torn Tigray.

Colombia – [The mothers on the front line of Colombia's mass protests](#)

As nationwide strikes have paralyzed the country since April 28, Madres de Primera Linea put their own bodies between police and protesters to prevent escalations of violence in Bogota.

Croatia – [Amid stigma in Croatia, volunteers support women having abortions](#)

While terminating a pregnancy is legal in Croatia until the 10th week of pregnancy, access to abortion is becoming increasingly challenging.

Mexico – [Another candidate assassinated in Mexico ahead of June 6 vote](#)

Alma Barragan a mayoral candidate was shot dead in Mexico during a campaign event, becoming the 34th murdered candidate this election season.

Worldwide – [The world's most neglected crises](#)

The Norwegian Refugee Council unveiled its annual index of the 10 most neglected displacement crises in the world with the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the top of the list.

Thursday
27 May 2021

United States – [Rights groups: Charge police who 'murdered' Ronald Greene](#)

The National Urban League and other civil rights groups demand the arrest and dismissal of the Louisiana State Police troopers involved in the violent arrest of a Black motorist who died in police custody in 2019.

India – [Indian Muslim jailed for trying to visit Dalit rape victim family](#)

Masud Ahmed a student and activist is accused of 'conspiracy to cause caste-based violence' but his family and lawyer claim he has been made a 'scapegoat'.

Burundi – [Continued repression of civil society and the media](#)

In Burundi, the surveillance and monitoring of media and nongovernmental organizations and the conviction of 12 exiled journalists and activists after grossly flawed proceedings are having a lasting chilling effect on their work, Human Rights Watch said.

Yemen – [Detainees are tortured and held in arbitrary detention for years, then forced into exile upon their release](#)

The new report of Amnesty International, 'Released and Exiled: Torture, unfair trials and forcible exile of Yemenis under Huthi rule', is the result of a thorough investigation into the experiences of a minority of non-combatants, including journalists, political opponents and members of the Baha'i religious minority, who were released under political agreements in 2020 after being illegally detained and tortured for up to seven years.

Friday
28 May 2021

Ethiopia – [Ethiopia: Tigray Schools Occupied, Looted | Human Rights Watch \(hrw.org\)](#)

HRW expressed once again its concerns for the situation in Tigray region, denouncing that all warring parties in Tigray have been implicated in the attacking, pillaging, and occupying of schools since the conflict started.

Haiti – [Human rights defender in danger](#)

Mr. Milostène Castin, the coordinator of the group "*Action pour la Reforestation et la Défense de l'Environnement*", suffered several attacks and threats during the last year because of his activism. His family and children were also attacked by a group of armed men. The authorities must do their best to protect him.

Indonesia – [Papuan political activist faces life imprisonment](#)

Amnesty International called for the immediate release of Mr. Victor Yeimo, a pro-independence political activist from Papua and a spokesman for the West Papua National Committee, who was arbitrary arrested and charged with treason for peacefully protesting against racial discrimination.

Nigeria – [Authorities not doing enough to protect lives](#)

Amnesty International denounced the "alarming escalation of attacks, abductions for ransom and frequent killings" across the country. The situation of human rights is very bad, since the authorities fail to protect the people, the right to freedom of expression is not respected, and those responsible for such crimes are not held accountable.

Saturday and Sunday
29 and 30 May 2021

Russia – [Nikolay Platoshkin's conviction must be quashed](#)

Amnesty International expressed its deep concerns for the criminal prosecution and conviction of Mr. Nikolay Platoshkin, an academic, popular videoblogger and a leader of "For the New Socialism" political movement. Platoshkin is being prosecuted on politically motivated charges to punish him only for exercising his rights to freedom of expression.

Tajikistan – [Failure to respect and protect fundamental human rights](#)

Amnesty International published a new report denouncing several failures regarding the respect of human rights in the country with reference to the previous recommendations. In details, the measures against torture and those to improve access to justice for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence were pointed out as insufficient.

Chad – [Ex-Chad Dictator's Victims Denied Reparations](#)

A coalition of nongovernmental organizations called on Chad, the African Union, and the international community not to abandon the victims of the former dictator Hissène Habré's brutal regime, and to ensure that they receive the justice and reparations to which they are entitled and need.

Democratic Republic of Congo – ['We are starving': Little food for families fleeing DRC volcano](#)

Food and water supplies are running low as hundreds of thousands of people flee Goma fearing a new eruption of Mount Nyiragongo volcano, one of the world's most active.

India – ['I smell it, taste it, feel its heaviness': Life in Delhi's dust | Environment](#)

A reportage by "Al Jazeera" denounces the terrible environmental conditions of Delhi and Northern India, where people are daily smelling dust and vehicle fumes with dangerous effects on their health.

Namibia / Germany – [Germany recognizes colonial genocide in Namibia](#)

Germany agreed to officially recognize its colonial-era killing of tens of thousands of Herero and Nama people in Namibia during the early 20th Century as genocide. A financial aid of more than \$1.3 billion was also announced.