



► 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
8 February 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon registers 61 coronavirus deaths, 2,063 cases in 24 hours](#)
Lebanon registered 61 new coronavirus related deaths and 2,063 more cases of infection.

Lebanon – [Lebanon begins long road to gradually exit lockdown](#)
Lebanon began a six-week process divided in four-stages to exit the total lockdown despite high rates of COVID-19 infections and deaths, to release the pressure of the economic crisis.

Sidon – [Sidon business owners protest against being excluded from reopening](#)
Business owners protested against the government's lockdown reopening plan which excludes commercial sector in the first stages. They claim that they cannot remain close given the economic situation.

Beirut – [Violent clashes at Beirut military Court](#)
Clashes between riot police and activists gathered outside the Beirut Military Court to demand the release of 24 activists from North Lebanon and the Bekaa. Several people, including 3 women were left with minor injuries.

Tuesday
9 February 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon sees 60 virus deaths, 2,879 cases as it sets vaccination date](#)
Lebanon recorded 60 COVID-19 related deaths and 2,879 more cases, as the caretaker prime minister's office said the vaccination campaign would be launched on the 14th of February.

Lebanon – [No signs of torture on body of Lokman Slim](#)
An independent autopsy revealed no signs of torture on the body of the political activist Lokman Slim who was shot dead in his car last week.

Wednesday
10 February 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon registers 66 new virus deaths, 3,157 more cases](#)

Lebanon recorded 66 new COVID-19 related deaths and 3,157 new cases and experts are urging the population to register for vaccination, which they claim is the only way to defeat the pandemic.

Lebanon – [Top expert warns of 'Lebanese variant' to COVID-19](#)

Dr. Firass Abiad warned that Lebanon might see its own COVID-19 variant appear if the virus continued to spread widely.

Beirut – [Large Crowd Protests Outside Military Court In Beirut To Release Detained Activists](#)

More than 300 demonstrators continued to gather in front of Beirut's Military Court to demand the release of recently arrested protesters from Northern Lebanon and the Bekaa.

Thursday
11 February 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon registers 63 new coronavirus deaths, 3,136 further cases](#)

Lebanon recorded 63 new COVID-19 related deaths and 3,136 new cases. Authorities declared that the education sector will be among those to be prioritized in the vaccination process.

Lebanon – [Murders of women spark anger in Lebanon as domestic violence doubles](#)

The murder of three women, including Zeina Kanjo, outraged the country while authorities announce a doubling of domestic abuse reports during the pandemic.

Lebanon – [Lebanon working on COVID-19 vaccine plan for migrant workers](#)

Since the government's national coronavirus vaccination program does not cater for migrant worker communities, the Labor Ministry and UN agencies are developing a plan to inoculate about 250,000 migrant workers.

Beirut – [Protesters stage sit-in outside Military Court](#)

Demonstrators continued to gather outside the Military Court in Beirut to protest against the detention of a numerous people after the riots in Tripoli and the burning of the municipality's building.

Friday
12 February 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon registers 49 COVID-19 deaths, 2,934 cases](#)

Lebanon recorded 49 new coronavirus-related deaths and 2,934 further cases, as the country is about to finally launch the vaccination campaign.

Beirut – [Protesters and security forces clash outside Military Tribunal Court in Beirut](#)

Clashes took place outside Military Court where security forces reportedly resorted to the use of water cannons and tear gas to disperse the protest.

Beirut – [Two activists have been released, twenty-two others remain detained](#)

Following the protests at the Military Court, two activists have been released, and twenty-two others remain detained.

Saturday and Sunday
13 and 14 February 2021

Beirut – [Lebanon receives first ever shipment of COVID-19 vaccine](#)

Lebanon received its first ever shipment from Brussels containing around 28,500 jabs of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, as the country is about to launch the much-awaited vaccination campaign.

Lebanon – [Lebanon records 46 COVID-19 deaths, 2,906 cases](#)

Lebanon recorded 46 new coronavirus deaths and 2,906 further cases on Saturday.

Lebanon – [Lebanon launches COVID vaccine drive](#)

Lebanon has launched its COVID-19 inoculation campaign on Sunday, shortly after it received the Pfizer-BioNTech doses, starting with health workers.

Lebanon – [Lebanon sees 32 more COVID-19 deaths, 2,130 new cases](#)

Lebanon recorded Sunday 32 new coronavirus deaths and 2,130 more cases on Sunday.



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8 February 2021

Morocco – [At least 24 die in Morocco underground factory flood](#)

At least 24 people died in a flood caused by heavy rains at an illegal underground textile factory in a private property in Morocco's port of Tangiers.

Syria – [IS ambush kills 26 pro-regime fighters in east Syria](#)

The Islamic State group ambushed a regime convoy in the province of Deir Ezzor, killing at least 26 pro-regime fighters. The convoy was combing the area for jihadists, after a series of recent attacks.

Yemen / Saudi Arabia – [Saudi-led coalition intercepts armed Houthi drone](#)

The Saudi-led coalition said it intercepted an armed drone launched by the Houthi movement which they claim was targeting "civilians and civilian objects".

Yemen – [Yemen's Houthi rebels in new operation to seize Marib](#)

New clashes between pro-government forces and the Iran-backed Houthi rebels erupted as the latter have resumed an offensive to seize the government's last northern stronghold of Marib. There have been dozens of casualties from both sides.

Saudi Arabia – [Saudi Arabia commutes death sentences of 3 men jailed as minors](#)

Three men who were given death sentences for taking part in anti-government protests as minors, have had their sentences converted to 10 years in jail. This attempt is part of the kingdom's aim to improve its human rights record after receiving criticism by President Biden's administration.

Afghanistan – [Afghanistan gets first COVID-19 vaccine shipment from India](#)

Afghanistan has received its first 500,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines, to be administered to the country's health workers and elderly citizens.

Tuesday
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Saudi Arabia – [Jailed Saudi activist Loujain al-Hathloul expected to be released](#)

Prominent activist Loujain al-Hathloul, who was arrested along with at least a dozen other women's rights activists, is expected to be released from prison on Thursday after more than 1,000 days in detention. She was sentenced to almost six years in prison last December under a broad counterterrorism law for pushing to end a ban on women driving in Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait – [Women in Kuwait launch online campaign against harassment](#)

Women in Kuwait launched their own #MeToo movement through which they are defying conservative norms and a culture of "shame"; publicly opposing harassment for the first time.

Saudi Arabia / United Kingdom – [UK approved \\$1.9bn of arms sales to Saudi Arabia since ban lifted](#)

As the war continues in Yemen, the United Kingdom approved arms exports worth nearly 1.9 billion US-\$ to Saudi Arabia last year. A move described by many as immoral.

Afghanistan – [Gov't employees, police officers among 8 killed in Afghanistan](#)

A strings of attacks in Kabul and western Herat province resulted in the death of four government employees and four policemen.

Iraq – [Iraq hangs five men convicted of terrorism, sources say](#)

Five Iraqi nationals convicted of terrorism charges were executed at a prison in the southern Iraqi city of Nassiriya.

Wednesday
10 February 2021

Saudi Arabia – [Prominent Saudi women's rights activist released from prison](#)

Loujain al-Hathloul, a prominent political activist in Saudi Arabia was released from prison, her family tweeted.

Occupied Palestine – [B'Tselem's 'bombshell' apartheid report: Stating the obvious](#)

The fact that Israel is an apartheid state was finally acknowledged by an Israeli NGO called B'Tselem, as millions of Palestinians live under Israeli rule.

Turkey – [Detaining protestors and vaccine deals signals sell-out of Uyghurs in Turkey](#)

Turkish police arrested Uyghurs who gathered outside the Chinese embassy in the Turkish capital Ankara.

Occupied Palestine – [B'Tselem's 'bombshell' apartheid report: Stating the obvious](#)

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Afghanistan – [Two more killed as Afghan capital reels under near-daily violence](#)

Two people, including a local police chief, were killed and another wounded in their vehicle after multiple bomb blasts rock Kabul.

Turkey – [Detaining protestors and vaccine deals signals sell-out of Uyghurs in Turkey](#)

Turkish police arrested Uyghurs who gathered outside the Chinese embassy in the Turkish capital Ankara.

Turkey / United States – [US calls for release of jailed Turkish rights activist Kavala](#)

The United States has urged Turkey to immediately release businessman and human rights activist Osman Kavala who has been jailed for more than three years on 'specious' charges after the 2013 anti-government protests and 2016 failed coup.

Saudi Arabia – [The Saudi women's rights activists who remain behind bars](#)

Although Saudi Arabia released Loujain al-Hathloul after yielding to pressure from the Biden administration, many activists remain detained.

Afghanistan – [Five Afghan security force members killed in attack on UN convoy](#)

Gunmen attacked a UN convoy on the outskirts of Kabul, killing five members of the Afghan security forces who were escorting the international agency's vehicles.

Iraq – [Iraqi women struggle to escape abuse as domestic violence rises](#)

According to the Iraqi Police, domestic violence has increased by about 20 percent since the coronavirus pandemic pushed millions of Iraqis below the poverty line, highlighting the limited legal and financial support available for victims in this country.

Yemen – [Yemen rocked by heavy clashes amid stark UN starvation warning](#)

Dozens of people were killed and injured in clashes in the north of the country, as UN agencies warned that 2.3 million children are projected to suffer from severe malnutrition this year and about 400,000 under the age of five are in danger of dying of acute malnutrition.

Tunisia – [Fresh Tunisia protests break out in impoverished south](#)

Anger over unkept government promises to provide work and investment led dozens of demonstrators to blockade the streets in the Tataouine region.

Turkey – [Turkish sailors freed after kidnapping off Nigeria](#)

Two weeks after the pirates made contact for a ransom, the fifteen Turkish sailors kidnapped last month in the Gulf of Guinea have been freed in Nigeria and will head home.

Afghanistan – [Several killed, injured in blasts and clashes across Afghanistan](#)

At least four members of the Afghan security forces have been killed and seven were critically injured in a string of near-daily attacks in recent weeks.

Iran – [women's rights activists subjected to virginity tests in prison](#)

Female student activists, imprisoned for participating in peaceful protests in Iran have been subjected to "virginity tests".

United Arab Emirates – [UAE jails Jordanian for 10 years for criticising Jordan's gov't](#)

Human Rights Watch urged UAE authorities to release Ahmed Etoum, a Jordanian resident sentenced to 10 years in jail last October for criticising Jordan's government.

Turkey – [Thirteen Turkish civilians killed as anti-PKK operation ends](#)

Thirteen Turkish civilians and 48 PKK fighters were killed in clashes in northern Iraq as the Turkish anti-PKK operation ends.

Yemen – [100 dead as Yemeni army launches counterattack against Houthis in key province](#)

Over 100 fighters were killed in 48 hours of fierce clashes as government troops and allied tribesmen battled fighters of the Iran-backed Houthi militia for control of the key province of Marib.

Turkey – [Couple's suicide highlights rising Turkish poverty levels](#)

A young couple committed suicide after facing serious financial difficulties as a result of coronavirus restrictions; raising fears of increasing poverty levels in Turkey.

Syria – [12.4 m people food insecure in war-torn Syria: WFP](#)

A record 60% of the population of Syria, 12.4m people, are now struggling to find enough food to eat. Marking a sharp increase of 9.3m people who were food insecure in May last year.

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Nigeria – [Gunmen raid villages in northwest Nigeria, killing 19](#)

At least 19 people were killed in armed raids of two villages in Kaduna state. Gangs often raid villages in northwest Nigeria, looting shops, stealing cattle or kidnapping for ransom.

India – [Many die, hundreds missing as Himalayan glacier bursts in India](#)

According to Uttarakhand government officials, 26 bodies have been found while at least 171 people are still missing after glacier bursts in India.

Myanmar – [Myanmar general repeats pledge of new election as thousands join protests against coup](#)

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets for a third day of protest, despite Myanmar's military leader announcing that new elections will be held. The police turned water cannons on protesters and threatened them with live ammunition.

Central African Republic – [Aid convoy arrives in CAR capital after rebels blockade](#)

According to the UN, 14 trucks, 9 of them from the World Food Program reached Bangui after a 50-day blockade by rebels who cut off the city's lifeline.

United States – [Facebook cracks down on anti-vaccine accounts amid COVID surge](#)

Acting upon advice from the World Health Organization, Facebook will take stronger steps to eliminate false information and thus potentially remove major groups, accounts and Instagram pages that repeatedly spread misinformation about Covid-19 and vaccines.

United States – [US says to re-engage with top U.N. human rights forum](#)

The United States is willing to participate as an observer in the U.N. Human Rights Council, which it left in 2018 under the Trump administration, accusing the forum of having a "chronic anti-Israel bias".

Colombia – [Colombia to grant temporary protection to nearly 1m Venezuelans](#)

Venezuelans who arrived in Colombia before January 31 will be granted protected status for up to ten years under the new rules, which will allow nearly 1m people to work legally and access social services.

France – [French security bill: 'Illegal tactics' used against protesters](#)

According to Amnesty International, French authorities have used "illegal tactics" to "crush protests and silence critics" of the Global Security Bill, which would limit people's ability to share images identifying police officers in the media and online.

Netherlands – [Dutch freeze international adoptions after abuses uncovered](#)

The Netherlands is halting international adoptions after revelations that children had been stolen or bought from their birth parents between 1967 and 1998.

Australia / China – [Australia says China has formally arrested TV anchor for spying](#)

Cheng Lei, an Australian journalist who has been held for nearly six months, was formally accused of 'illegally supplying state secrets overseas'

Tuesday
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India – [Twitter seeks talks with India over order to remove accounts](#)

India has asked twitter to take down 1,178 accounts that are allegedly spreading misinformation about farmer protests.

India – [Kashmiri man demanding son's body charged under anti-terror law](#)

Police charged seven people, including father of teenager killed by government forces, under the stringent anti-terror law for holding a demonstration in the village to recover his son's body.

Myanmar – [Myanmar forces fire rubber bullets, warning shots at protesters](#)

After taking to the streets for the fourth consecutive day, protestors were dispersed by gunshots fired into the air. International observers urged the military to refrain from violence.

Thailand – [Thailand legalises early abortions: pro-choice groups want more](#)

Thailand's parliament has passed new amendments to the country's criminal code, granting women full abortion rights in the first trimester of their pregnancy. For pro-choice groups the changes don't go far enough.

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Thailand – [Thailand legalises early abortions; pro-choice groups want more](#)

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France – [French government seeks to set age for sexual consent at 15](#)

Facing pressure from activists and victims, the government is about to set the age of sexual consent at 15 and make it easier to punish child sexual abuse.

Ethiopia – [‘Tens of thousands’ could starve to death in Ethiopia’s Tigray](#)

Ethiopian Red Cross warned 80 percent of Ethiopia's conflict-hit Tigray region has been cut off from humanitarian assistance and tens of thousands could face starvation.

Pakistan – [Pakistan’s top court bans execution of people with mental illness](#)

Pakistan, one of the most prolific users of the death penalty worldwide, has ruled that imposing the death penalty on people suffering from a serious mental illness “will not meet the ends of justice”.

Bangladesh – [Bangladesh sentences eight to death for publisher’s murder](#)

Eight members of Ansar al-Islam were sentenced to death by a court in Dhaka for 2015 murder of the secular publisher Faysal Arefin Dipon.

India – [Twitter: Order to block accounts ‘not consistent with Indian law’](#)

By maintaining a lack of consistency with Indian law, Twitter's executives refused to fully comply with the Indian Prime Minister's order to take down some accounts.

India – [India’s spending on women’s safety ‘grossly inadequate’: Oxfam](#)

Oxfam India reported that the fund named after the 23-year-old woman raped and killed nearly 10 years ago is under-utilized to combat violence against women.

Hong Kong / United States – [Bill to help Hong Kong protesters stay in US as refugees revived](#)

Hong Kong Safe Harbor Act, reintroduced by a bipartisan group of legislators in Washington, aims to help residents of the Chinese-controlled city gain refugee status in the United States.

Haiti – [Haiti police clash with protesters as president targets judges](#)

Police fired tear gas on protesters marching against President Jovenel Moïse and attacked journalists in Port-au-Prince. Demonstrators accuse Moïse of illegally extending his term in office.

Greece – [Lesbos: Child mental health crisis brews in refugee communities](#)

Concerns increase in Greece where thousands of refugee children have witnessed violence, the devastating fire in former Moria camp, and other horrors.

Ethiopia – [Ethiopia shuts two Tigray camps housing Eritrean refugees](#)

After Human Rights Commission reported that Shimelba and Hitsats camps have been destroyed, authorities announced their closure and the relocation of their Eritrean residents.

United States – [‘I am a child!’ Pepper spray reflects policing of Black kids](#)

Police officers used pepper spray against a nine-year-old African-American girl handcuffed in a New York City police car.

Ethiopia – [HRW says Ethiopian shelling killed many civilians in Tigray](#)

Human Rights Watch reported that during the first week of the war, Ethiopian forces ‘struck homes, hospitals, schools and markets’, killing at least 83 civilians.

France – [‘French Muslims will suffer’ under separatism rules, critics say](#)

The key vote on controversial law that aims to tackle “radical” movements in France is alarming civil rights groups and experts.

Worldwide – [UN warns COVID hardship could swell ranks of child soldiers](#)

As global poverty increases due to the pandemic, the UN warns that the number of child soldiers might rise, explaining that the protection of children in conflict areas is often hampered.

Pakistan – [Ahmadi man killed in targeted attack in northwest Pakistan](#)

Abdul Qadir, the latest member of Pakistan's Ahmadiyya sect to be targeted in a series of attacks, has been shot dead at the entrance to his homoeopathic clinic in the city of Peshawar.

United States – [US to let in 25,000 asylum seekers kept out by ‘Remain in Mexico’](#)

Biden administration continues to eliminate Trump migration policy and announces that tens of thousands of asylum seekers waiting in Mexico will be allowed to enter the country while their cases proceed.

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United States – [Biden aides launch review with eye to shutting Guantanamo prison](#)

A formal review of the future of Guantanamo prison has been initiated by the Biden administration in order to revive efforts to close the controversial facility where harsh interrogation methods and torture have been used.

Democratic Republic of the Congo – [DRC confirms third Ebola case in North Kivu province](#)

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has confirmed that a third Ebola case has been found this week in Butembo, in North Kivu province.

Russia – [Alexey Navalny appears in court on defamation charges](#)

Kremlin critic Alexey Navalny who was sentenced to serve nearly 3 years of prison in jail, has appeared in a Moscow court facing charges of insulting a World War II veteran in a separate trial. Navalny maintains that the case is politically motivated.

Nigeria / United Kingdom – [UK top court allows Nigerian farmers to sue Shell over oil spills](#)

UK's Supreme Court rules that the 42,500 Nigerian farmers and fisherman can sue Royal Dutch Shell in English courts for the contamination of the Niger Delta.

Somalia – [Three killed in Mogadishu car bomb](#)

Three people were killed and eight wounded after a vehicle exploded near a checkpoint outside the presidential palace in the Somali capital Mogadishu.

Myanmar – [Myanmar protesters block arrests as UN demands Suu Kyi's release](#)

As the UN demand the release of the leader Suu Kyi, the protest against Myanmar's new military regime intensified and spontaneous neighborhood watch groups mobilized to thwart arrests of activists.

Nigeria – [SARS is no more, but Nigerians say police abuse still here](#)

Months ago, the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, a notorious unit of Nigeria's police force accused of unlawful arrests, torture and even extrajudicial killings has been disbanded, however allegations of abuse of power within the Police persist.

Cyprus – [Cyprus police use tear gas at rally against graft, COVID curbs](#)

Police in Cyprus arrested at least eight people, fired tear gas and used water cannons in protests against corruption and restrictions imposed over the coronavirus pandemic.

United States – [Trump found 'not guilty' at impeachment trial](#)

The Senate acquitted the former US President Donald Trump of 'incitement of insurrection'.

India – [India activist Disha Ravi arrested over 'toolkit'](#)

Disha Ravi a 22-year-old Indian climate activist has been accused of sedition and criminal conspiracy after sharing a document intended to help farmers protest against new agricultural laws.

CLDH's Emergency Response
Weekly Brief

Despite the total lockdown restrictions in Lebanon, CLDH's team managed to hold 51 social intakes via phone calls, which made the total number of intakes reach 673. Also, 124 services were provided last week, adding to the total number of provided services which reached 1003 since the launching of the Emergency Response program.