



► 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

17 January 2022

Lebanon – [UN: Lebanon Humanitarian Fund Allocates \\$6M to Support Vulnerable Populations](#)

Fourteen NGOs funded by the Lebanese Humanitarian Fund will begin providing Child Protection (CP), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and Education assistance for the most vulnerable groups among Lebanese, Syrian refugees, Palestine refugees, and migrants.

Wednesday

19 January 2022

Lebanon – [Family seeks to sue Lebanon over dead father's captivity](#)

The Lebanese security agency allegedly kidnapped and tortured a Lebanese American man, Amer Fakhoury, who died of cancer months after his release. His family named the security in a wrongful death lawsuit. The lawsuit targets Iran as a sponsor of Hezbollah, but the family has requested permission to sue Lebanon.

Lebanon – [UNRWA in 'race against time' for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon](#)

UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, appealed for emergency funding to be able to continue providing vital services for some 210,000 vulnerable people in crisis-hit Lebanon. The UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Lebanon warned of increased child labour, child marriage and psychological distress among Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, a country hit by one of the worst economic crises in more than a century, according to the World Bank.

Lebanon – [Winter storms in Middle East: Three children killed, with hundreds of thousands at risk as temperatures plummet in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan](#)

The humanitarian organization CARE announced that three Syrian children have died, with hundreds of thousands of people "at great risk" following heavy winter storms in Syria and neighboring countries. "People don't have jobs or incomes, no access to jobs. They are already suffering consequences of an unprecedented economic crisis in Lebanon and have no means to protect themselves against the expected snowstorms," says Bujar Hoxha, CARE Lebanon country director.

Beirut – [Lebanon's poorest scavenge through trash to survive](#)

As Lebanon's economic crisis pushes the population deeper into poverty, some Lebanese are now scavenging garbage for scraps they can sell.

Beirut – [Lebanon's Healthcare on Brink of Collapse Amid Crisis, Says Minister](#)

As fewer Lebanese can afford private medical care, more people are turning to the state doctors and facilities. The ministry covered medical bills for about 50% of the population before the crisis but now about 70% of Lebanese were demanding help, straining the ministry's shrinking budget.

Lebanon – [Lebanon to Sign Electricity Deal with Jordan Next Week](#)

Crisis-hit Lebanon will sign a deal with Jordan next week to bring in electricity via Syria to help ease grueling power cuts. The agreement, which comes as the country grapples with round-the-clock power cuts, is part of a wider government effort to eventually provide state power for eight to 10 hours a day, up from just two now in most parts of the country.

Lebanon – [The Jaafari religious court denies Liliane Cheaito urgent treatment/ CLDH takes on the case](#) Liliane Cheaito a survivor of the Beirut blast, who suffered serious injuries and was previously denied custody of her child, is now being deprived of her basic right to health. Her passport is being withheld by the Jaafari religious court which prevents her from traveling abroad to seek urgent treatment. CLDH is now handling the legal case.

Lebanon – ['I wanted to die': Abused migrant women in Lebanon face detention](#) Embassy 'sit-ins' by stranded migrant workers have become increasingly frequent during Lebanon's devastating economic crisis. After her father's death, Sarah ran away from her sponsor's house and went to the police, who took her to a shelter in Beirut run by the Catholic non-profit organisation Caritas. The shelter protects victims of human trafficking and race-based victims, according to Caritas. However, many activists and migrant workers know the shelter as a "detention center". A member of a migrants' rights group, speaking on condition of anonymity, said she has heard complaints against the shelter from several different women with various nationalities. Several rights groups such as the Lebanese Center for Human Rights and the Anti-Racism Movement have also denounced these practices at the Caritas shelter. Sources told Al Jazeera that Caritas signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Lebanese General Security bureau to use the shelter as an unofficial detention center.

Lebanon – [Factbox: How bad is Lebanon's economic meltdown?](#)

Reuters outlines the depths of Lebanon's economic crisis, from hyperinflation and skyrocketing poverty rates to the energy crisis and the exodus of medical personnel.

Lebanon – [Lebanon teachers strike over conditions as education crisis grows](#)

On January 10, the country's public school teachers launched an open-ended strike. Most of Lebanon's public schools have closed and refuse to open, as teachers demand higher wages and stipends to earn a living wage. Lebanon's public sector workers' wages have not been adjusted to reflect the pound's nose-diving devaluation of more than 90 percent and the country's soaring inflation rate.

Lebanon – [Penny pinching and power cuts; Lebanon's middle class squeezed by crisis](#)

In the two years since the economic crisis began, life for the Lebanese middle class is becoming more and more desperate as they are forced to choose between cutting back on food, canceling trips, or applying to emigrate for good.

Thursday
20 January 2022

Friday
21 January 2022

Saturday and Sunday
22 and 23 January
2022



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Sudan – [Several protesters killed in Sudan anti-coup rallies](#)

At least seven protesters were killed when security forces opened fire to break up several marches in the capital, including in the area around the presidential palace. The seven killings on Monday bring to 71 the death toll of protesters killed since the October coup led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

Occupied Palestine – [Palestinian family protests East Jerusalem home displacement](#)

A Palestinian man whose family is facing forced displacement by Israeli police from their home in East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah threatened to blow up gas canisters rather than allow his family to be evicted. Israeli military surrounded the house and arrested two protesters there to show solidarity with the family.

Tuesday
18 January 2022

Iraq – [Iraq faces growing violence as political rift deepens](#)

In the latest in a number of attacks to hit the Iraqi capital in just a matter of days, twin explosions late on Sunday targeted two banks associated with Kurdish politicians in central Baghdad's Karrada district, leaving two people wounded. The string of attacks is thought to test the Shia leader Muqtada al-Sadr, the leader of parliament's biggest bloc, in his stated efforts to form a majority government following October's contested election.

Afghanistan – [Taliban Deprive Women of Livelihoods, Identity](#)

Since taking control of the city of Ghazni in August, the Taliban have imposed rights-violating policies that have created huge barriers to women's and girls' health and education, curtailed freedom of movement, expression, and association, and deprived many of earned income.

Wednesday
19 January 2022

Syria / Germany – [Germany begins trial of Syrian doctor for crimes against humanity](#)

German prosecutors accused a Syrian doctor Wednesday of torturing detainees and killing one of them while working in military hospitals in his war-torn homeland. The trial adds to other European efforts to hold loyalists of President Bashar al-Assad's government to account for alleged war-era atrocities. Alaa M faces 18 counts of torturing detainees at military hospitals in Homs and Damascus in 2011-12, including setting fire to a teenage boy's genitals.

Occupied Palestine – [Israeli forces demolish Palestinian home in Sheikh Jarrah](#)

Days after a family in Sheikh Jarrah threatened to blow up their home if evicted, Israeli police and special forces arrested and assaulted members of the family and demolished the house. 18 protesters present were also arrested.

Iraq – [Investigating a Massacre, Iraq Should Address Root Causes](#)

According to Human Rights Watch, on December 31, Iraqi security forces killed 20 people from a single family in a raid on a home in Jableh district in Babil governorate, south of Baghdad. Security forces carried out the raid after reportedly receiving false information about a suspect purportedly living there. While the Iraqi government swiftly opened an investigation, HRW claims authorities should examine how security forces often appear to rely on unsubstantiated, questionable, and/or false information to target suspects, especially alleged ISIS members.

Thursday
20 January 2022

Syria – [Snowstorm brings more misery for Syrians at IDP camps](#)

Over 160 families in the Sheikh Bilal camp for internally displaced persons in Afrin, Syria have been trapped by a recent snowstorm and are struggling to keep their homes intact. The millions of internally displaced people and refugees living in tented settlements in Syria have long struggled to cope in the winter, but the United Nations has said this year is far worse, amid rising poverty and dwindling aid.

Tunisia – [Tunisian dies after protesting President Saied's moves](#)

As hundreds of Tunisians gathered on the 11th anniversary of the Tunisian revolution to protest President Kais Saied's coup, security forces cracked down on protestors and killed Tunisian man, Rhida Bouziane.

Syria – [The US Bombed a Dam in Syria That Was on a 'No-Strike' List](#)

After a United States Lieutenant General denied striking the Tabqa dam, then under ISIS control, a New York Times report revealed a US special operations unit struck the dam despite the fact that the dam was on a military 'no-strike' list. According to the New York Times, the unit routinely circumvented the rigorous airstrike approval process and hit Islamic State targets in Syria in a way that repeatedly put civilians at risk.

Occupied Palestine – [Palestinian American Died Handcuffed in Israeli Custody, Witnesses Say](#)

An hour after Omar Abdelmajed Assad was detained by Israeli forces in a 'routine check', the Palestinian American was found dead of an apparent heart attack. The United States has asked Israel for "clarification" of what happened to Mr. Assad, who was a U.S. citizen.

Syria – [Shelling on Syria's Afrin kills six civilians; dozens wounded](#)

A rocket attack on a northern Syrian town controlled by Turkey-backed opposition fighters killed six civilians and wounded more than a dozen people. It was not immediately clear who fired the artillery shells on Thursday, but the attack came from a region where Kurdish fighters and Syrian government forces are present, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Syria – [Syria prison attack kills more than 100, clashes ongoing](#)

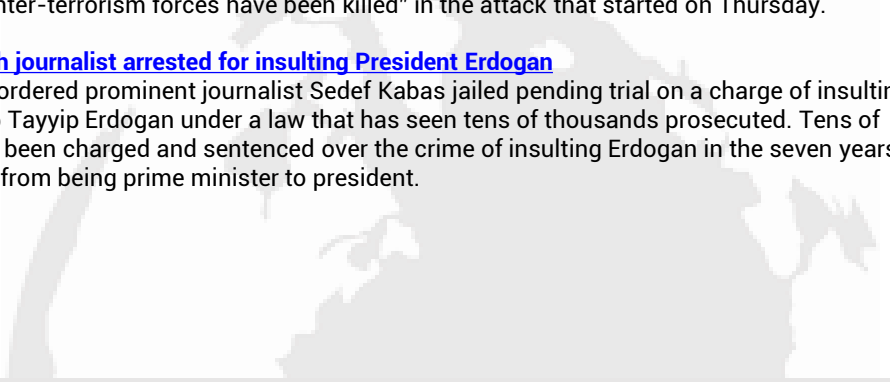
At least 120 people have been killed in ongoing battles between US-backed, Kurdish-led forces and ISIL (ISIS) fighters after an attack on a Syrian prison. The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said "at least 77 IS members and 39 Kurdish fighters, including internal security forces, prison guards and counter-terrorism forces have been killed" in the attack that started on Thursday.

Turkey – [Turkish journalist arrested for insulting President Erdogan](#)

A Turkish court ordered prominent journalist Sedef Kabas jailed pending trial on a charge of insulting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan under a law that has seen tens of thousands prosecuted. Tens of thousands have been charged and sentenced over the crime of insulting Erdogan in the seven years since he moved from being prime minister to president.

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**Saturday and
Sunday**
22 and 23 January
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INTERNATIONAL

Monday
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Philippines – [Philippines: End Deadly 'Red-Tagging' of Activists](#)

The Philippine government has used a tactic called 'red-tagging' for decades to accuse activists of activists, journalists, politicians, and others and their organizations of being directly involved in the fighting or supporting the communist New People's Army (NPA). The accusations often result in the death or harassment of the accused.

Nigeria– [Child Marriage Remains Prevalent in Nigeria](#)

Child marriage remains prevalent in Nigeria because the federal and state governments have not adequately enforced laws to prevent it, according to Human Rights Watch. Nigeria's rates of child marriage are some of the highest on the African continent. Although the federal Child Rights Act (CRA, 2003) prohibits marriage below age 18, states with Islamic legal systems have also failed to adopt both the federal law and 18 as the age of majority for marriage.

Tuesday
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Colombia – [Shock in Colombia over murder of 14-year-old indigenous activist](#)

A 14-year old indigenous activist has been murdered in Colombia, prompting horror and shock at the latest in a spate of killings of environmentalists and social leaders in the South American country.

China – [China forced 2,500 'fugitives' back from overseas during pandemic, report finds](#)

Chinese authorities captured more than 2,500 "fugitives" from overseas and brought them back to China during the pandemic, under a program using methods ranging from family intimidation to "state-sanctioned kidnapping", according to a new report.

Greece – [Greece: New Biometrics Policing Program Undermines Rights](#)

Greece is planning a new police program to scan people's faces and fingerprints that is inconsistent with international human rights standards on privacy and likely to amplify ongoing discrimination, Human Rights Watch and Homo Digitalis said today. Under the EU-funded program, the police would use hand-held devices to gather biometric information from people on a vast scale and cross check it against police, immigration, and private sector databases primarily for immigration purposes.

Thursday
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North America – [4 Dead in Brutal Cold at US Border Are Believed to Be Human Smuggling Victims](#)

A family of 4, believed to be victims of a human smuggling operation, were found dead 30 to 40 feet from the U.S. border in Manitoba, Canada. The family appeared to have frozen to death.

Liberia – [Dozens Die in Church Stampede in Liberia](#)

A stampede at a church service killed at least 29 people, including 11 children, in the West African nation of Liberia, after word that armed gang members were robbing worshipers caused panic, according to witnesses. And the United Nations Development Program's representative in Liberia said that it highlighted "the plight of unemployed youth in Liberia and the drug abuse menace in the country."

Friday
21 January 2022

China – [China Holds the Line on 'Zero Covid,' but Some Wonder for How Long](#)

Even as Chinese officials go to extreme lengths to stop the transmission of Covid, the Omicron variant continues to spread. The strict lockdowns are preventing pregnant mothers from accessing healthcare and regular people from obtaining food for their families.

**Saturday and
Sunday**
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Poland – [Death threats and phone calls: the women answering cries for help one year on from Poland's abortion ban](#)

A year after a law effectively banning abortion in Poland, pregnant women facing complications have lost needed healthcare and support. Doctors, unsure of how to navigate the new law, have fewer options to offer mothers and are under severe scrutiny for providing abortions, even when necessary.

United States – ['It was a nightmare': life in the US before legal abortion](#)

As the US Supreme Court is likely to overturn Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court decision that protected a woman's right to abortion, the Guardian tells the story of women seeking abortion before Roe.

India – [In Kashmir, India batters press freedom – and journalists](#)

Since India revoked the Kashmir region's semi-autonomy, the government has implemented strict laws censoring the independent media. Dozens have been arrested, interrogated and investigated under harsh anti-terror laws.