



## ► 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

**Tuesday**  
23 November 2021

**Lebanon – [‘I had never seen malnourished children in Lebanon. This time I saw them’](#)**

Yukie Mokuo, a UNICEF representative in Lebanon, expressed concern for children in Lebanon as the situation continues to deteriorate. Mokuo says she worries ‘for their nutrition, their health, their education, their protection, to such an extent that their future is now at stake.’

**Wednesday**  
24 November  
2021

**Lebanon – [LGBTQ in Lebanon: Less freedom, less security](#)**

The devastating explosion in Beirut has caused LGBTQ locals to lose their homes, jobs and safe spaces in progressive neighborhoods. The effects of the explosion and the economic crisis is forcing members of the LGBTQ community to move to cheaper and more conservative cities and neighborhoods.

**Thursday**  
25 November 2021

**Lebanon – [Pope assures Mikati of working in "common effort" to help Lebanon](#)**

Pope Francis, who received Lebanese Prime Minister Nagib Mikati at the Vatican on Thursday, assured the latter that he was working in "a common effort" to help Lebanon emerge from the worst socio-economic crisis in its modern history.

**Lebanon – [In Lebanon, air pollution increases tenfold: when the electricity crisis becomes lethal](#)**

As power outages last sometimes twenty hours a day, private generators are running more than ever before, causing the rate of carcinogenic pollutants to rise nearly three hundred percent. Experts from AUB and Saint-Joseph University warn of a major public health crisis stemming from mini-power plants in towns, villages, and cities across the country.

**Lebanon – [Gas fumes in the Naamé landfill, Yassine is reassuring](#)**

Al-Jadeed news raised concerns over methane fumes emanating from the Naamé landfill, warning of a 'risk of an explosion at any time.' The president of the municipality described the potential crisis as 'a natural, health and social disaster that threatens public security in the region and the neighboring villages.'

**Lebanon – [Lebanon judges resign over political interference in judiciary](#)**

Three senior Lebanese judges resigned over political interference in the country's judiciary. The investigation has been delayed several times as former ministers filed complaints against the lead judge in the investigation, judge Tarek Bitar.

**Lebanon – [Activists break into the headquarters of the Ministry of Social Affairs](#)**

A group of a dozen activists broke into the Ministry of Social Affairs to protest the deterioration of their living conditions and their purchasing power and the inaction of those responsible during the social crisis. The same group had forcibly entered the headquarters of the Ministry of Health last Friday to protest against the partial removal of subsidies on chronic disease drugs, which have skyrocketed their prices in pharmacies.

**Lebanon – [Families of Beirut Blast Victims Rally for Probe to Resume](#)**

Families of the victims of last year's explosion in Beirut's port rallied Thursday outside the Justice Palace against what they say are intentional obstructions to the probe of the devastating blast. They said their message to authorities was: "We are sick of waiting."

**Lebanon – [The patients of the Santa Maria center will be welcomed by the Hospital of the Cross](#)**

The Lebanese health ministry closed the Santa Maria health center after patients were found to be inflicting inhumane treatment on its patients. Patients were found malnourished and living in 'deplorable hygienic conditions.'

**Friday**

26 November 2021

**Saturday and Sunday**

27 and 28 November  
2021



## Monday

22 November 2021

### **Iraq** – [Egypt used French military support to 'kill civilians': Report](#)

The French military supplied Egypt with intelligence used to 'target and kill civilians suspected of smuggling.' According to a report by the investigative website Disclose, French military staff regularly notified superiors that Egyptians were abusing information intended to help stymie security threats on Egypt's border with Libya.

### **Iraq** – [The devastating ways women suffer at the Poland-Belarus border](#)

Thousands of women and children have attempted to cross into Poland from Belarus after the Belarusian government lured Middle Eastern migrants to Belarus and trapped them on the border between Belarus and the EU. NGOs have documented miscarriages and women with babies with severe health issues.

## Tuesday

23 November 2021

### **Sudan** – [Blinken says Hamdok's reinstatement as Sudan's PM is 'first step'](#)

Military leader General Al-Burhan reinstated Prime Minister Hamdok this week and agreed to restore the transition back to civilian rule. The US State Department spokesperson heralded the move as a promising first step, but called on the military to release all political detainees and lift the state of emergency.

### **Iraq** – [Destitute and hopeless: Iraqi Kurds return from Belarus](#)

Roughly 430 Iraqis returned to Iraq from Belarus on repatriation flights. Those returning to the Iraqi Kurdish region face the same conditions they tried to leave - unemployment and poverty as they struggle to rebuild from the damage done by ISIL.

### **Turkey** – [Turkish court seeks Saudi records for Khashoggi murder suspects](#)

A Turkish court requested that authorities contact their counterparts in Saudi Arabia to check if defendants on trial in Turkey are also being tried in absentia in Saudi courts. The judge who made the request hopes to avoid retrying the defendants for the same offence in Turkey.

### **Central Africa** – [World's highest child soldier numbers in West, Central Africa](#)

West and Central Africa is the region with the highest number of child soldiers in the world, as well as the most underage victims of sexual violence, according to a new report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

## Wednesday

24 November 2021

### **Occupied Palestine** – [Palestinian families face new Israeli demolition threat in Silwan](#)

About 84 Palestinian homes in the Wadi Yasoul neighbourhood of Silwan in occupied East Jerusalem are facing demolition to make way for enlarging an Israeli national park in the area.

## Thursday

25 November  
2021

### **UAE** – [Emirati general accused of torture elected Interpol president](#)

Emirati general, Ahmed Nasser al-Raisi, accused of torture has been elected president of Interpol despite expressions of concern from human rights organisations and members of the European Parliament. Human Rights Watch describes al-Raisi as 'part of a security apparatus that continues to systematically target peaceful critics'.

**Friday**  
26 November 2021

**Turkey** – [Turkish police fire tear gas at female protesters in Istanbul](#)

Turkish police fired tear gas and rubber bullets on Thursday to push back thousands of people, many of them women, who took to the streets of Istanbul to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The protests came amid calls for Turkey to rejoin the Istanbul Convention, a landmark agreement to protect women that includes 45 countries and was signed in Turkey's largest city in 2011.

**Jordan** – [Hundreds protest in Jordan against water-energy deal with Israel](#)

Hundreds of people gathered in the Jordanian capital to protest a water-for-energy agreement between Jordan and Israel. Opponents say the deal would normalize relations with Israel while it continues to occupy Palestinian territory, and would increase Jordan's reliance on its neighbor.

**Libya** – ['Point of no return': Refugees in Libya long for safety](#)

Despite an evacuation flight on Thursday, thousands more refugees remain in dire conditions in Libya. Roughly 2,000 refugees remain camped out outside of the UNHCR building to demand a solution to the situation in Libya.

**Turkey** – [Turkish court rules to keep Osman Kavala in jail](#)

A court in Istanbul has ordered the continued detention of philanthropist Osman Kavala. Rights groups have criticised the detention and trial of Kavala, 64, as absurd and politically motivated. The Turkish government has rejected the criticism and said Turkey's judiciary is independent.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
27 and 28 November  
2021

**Iran** – [Iranian riot police deployed after 67 arrested in Isfahan](#)

Riot police were deployed in force Saturday in the Iranian city of Isfahan, a day after dozens were arrested in violent protests over the drying up of a lifeblood river. Security forces fired tear gas during the clashes with stone-throwers in the protest in the dry bed of the Zayadne Rood river that crosses the city.

**Iraq** – [Court hearing resumes on marriage of 12-year-old girl](#)

A court has resumed hearing a case in which a judge was asked to formalize a religious wedding between a 12-year-old girl and a 25-year-old man, raising concerns across Iraq. The girl's mother said her daughter was raped and coerced into marriage with her stepfather's brother, yet the Iraqi court said it was assured the girl was not coerced after meeting with the girl, her father, and her husband. Despite a law banning marriages under 18, except for girls 15 and over with parental consent, child marriage remains rampant in Iraq.

**Afghanistan** – ['We will start again': Afghan female MPs fight on from parliament in exile](#)

28 Afghan female MPs now seeking asylum in Greece have formed a female parliament in exile. They want to combat an illegitimate regime that has stripped women of basic rights and plunged their country deeper into poverty and hunger amid an economic meltdown caused by the American withdrawal and sanctions.



## INTERNATIONAL

**Monday**

22 November 2021

**Canada** – [2 Canadian Journalists Arrested at Indigenous Protest Are Freed on Bail](#)

Two Canadian journalists were arrested covering an Indigenous protest of the construction of a natural gas pipeline. The arrests follow a recent court decision granting journalists the right to cover protests unimpeded, particularly Indigenous protests.

**Guadeloupe** – [Unrest over vaccine mandates and economic inequality rocks Guadeloupe](#)

Guadeloupe, a French territory, has been rocked by protests over vaccine mandates in addition to inequality with mainland France. The French vaccination campaign has been met with distrust and resistance, causing the pandemic to continue to hit the country hard. The protests grew violent as demonstrators burned cars, looted, and clashed with riot officers, who responded with tear gas.

**UK** – [‘Performative cruelty’: UK treatment of refugees worst ever, says charity](#)

Record numbers of migrants are reaching the UK's shores. The head of a refugee aid group says that the situation for refugees is the worst it has ever been under the leadership of the current home secretary, Priti Patel.

**Lithuania** – [Lithuania Welcomes Belarusians as It Rebuffs Middle Easterners](#)

Belarusians fleeing President Lukashenko's repressive regime are quickly processed, allowed to move freely, and are assured of staying in Lithuania. However, Middle Eastern migrants who are channeled into Lithuania by the Belarusian government spend months detained in cramped containers, awaiting near-certain rejection of their asylum claims.

**El Salvador** – [Raids on Independent Groups in El Salvador Raise Fears of Repression](#)

Rights advocates have criticized the raid on seven social service and advocacy groups as part of an embezzlement investigation. They argue the investigation is nothing more than a politically motivated crackdown on independent voices. Critics accuse President Nayib Bukele of assaulting democratic institutions, chipping away at judicial independence, and oppressing the opposition.

**Worldwide** – [UN Surveys Suggest Violence Against Women Has Intensified in Pandemic](#)

According to a report by UN Women, the Covid-19 pandemic 'has made women feel more vulnerable to abuse, sexual harassment and violence, which is in turn harming their mental health and emotional well-being.'

**UK** – [27 Migrants Drown Trying to Go From France to UK by Boat](#)

A migrant boat crossing the English channel capsized, leaving at least 27 dead, including five women and one child. It was one of the highest death tolls in recent years for migrants attempting the crossing.

**Yemen** – [Yemen: Houthi Forces Attack, Displace Villagers](#)

Houthi rebels indiscriminately attacked densely populated areas of Marib, causing civilian casualties. Intensifying fighting between the rebels and government forces in the region is causing a new wave of civilian displacement.

**Central Africa** – [Central African Republic: Minister Faces Atrocity Charges](#)

The Special Criminal Court in the Central African Republic charged and arrested a government minister for war crimes and crimes against humanity. While the court did not provide details on the charges, minister Hassan Boubou Ali was a leader of rebel group Union for Peace in the Central African Republic (UPC). Human Rights Watch documented at least 246 civilians killed, dozens of cases of rape and sexual slavery, and 2,046 homes burned by the UPC in the Ouaka province.

**South Africa** – [South Africa: Broken Promises to Aid Gender-Based Violence Survivors](#)

The South African government has taken important steps but did not provide adequate funding for shelters and other services for gender-based violence survivors during the Covid-19 pandemic. Many survivors have been made more vulnerable in the context of Covid-19.

**US** – [Ahmaud Arbery verdict: three white men found guilty of murdering Black man as he jogged](#)

The three white men who chased and killed Ahmaud Arbery have been found guilty of murder following his 2020 shooting death in south Georgia, which led to a wave of racial justice protest and a resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement in the US. After the video of Arbery's murder was leaked, Georgia's governor gutted the state's citizens arrest law which was enacted during the era of slavery, and enacted a new hate crimes law.

**Tuesday**

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24 November  
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**Thursday**

25 November  
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25 November  
2021

**Russian** – [Russian Mine Blast Kills Dozens, Among Them Rescuers](#)

A gas buildup and explosion in a Siberian coal mine on Thursday killed at least 52 people – including six rescuers – in the country's worst mining disaster in over a decade. Although the coal mine had been inspected dozens of times by several government agencies and had been fined and ordered to stop work over violations, the mine remained open. Government officials said they had arrested the heads of the mine after the incident.

**Friday**  
26 November  
2021

**Iran** – [Iran Forcefully Clamps Down on Protests Against Growing Water Shortages](#)

After protests over water shortages in Isfahan spilled over into another city, the Iranian government violently clamped down. Security forces set tents on fire, shot in the air, fired tear gas, and beat protesters. The protesters gathered to demand the government restore water flows to farmlands laid to waste from years of mismanaging water resources.

**Tanzania** – [Tanzania to lift ban on teenage mothers returning to school](#)

The Tanzanian government lifted the ban on girls returning to school after childbirth. They will now allow them to return within two years of giving birth. Girls will still be banned from the classroom while pregnant.

**Saturday and  
Sunday**  
20 and 21  
November 2021

**Russia** – [Serbian anti-mining activists block bridges, roads](#)

Hundreds of environmental protesters blocked several major roads in Serbia on Saturday to protest against two new laws that they say will give free rein to foreign mining companies in the country. The government has offered mineral resources to companies including China's Zijin copper miner and Rio Tinto, but activists say the projects would pollute land and water.

**UK** – [‘Shocking’ that UK is moving child refugees into hotels](#)

Nearly 50 unaccompanied minors who arrived in the UK in small boats are being held in hotels with minimal supervision and support, sometimes for over a month. According to an adviser at the Children's Society 'the Home Office practice of accommodating unaccompanied asylum seeker children in hotels is removing them from the protections and safeguarding afforded to them under the 1989 Children Act. Some of them will be victims of trafficking and/or torture and therefore particularly vulnerable and at risk.'