



► 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

25 October 2021

Beirut – [Military court charges 68 over deadly Beirut clashes](#)

A Lebanese judge charged 68 with “murder, attempted murder, inciting sectarian strife, having unlicensed weapons and sabotage” for their role in the deadly clashes that killed 7 and injured dozens in Beirut on October 14th. The defendants include “the Lebanese Forces official in charge of Maarab security, Simon Musallem, two members of the Amal movement, two Syrians, a Lebanese soldier, and the rest are supporters of the Lebanese Forces.” a judicial source told Arab News.

Beirut – [Lebanese Forces supporters protest party leader's summoning | News](#)

Supporters of the Lebanese Forces protested the summoning of Samir Geagea, the president of the Lebanese Forces, for questioning for his role in the October 14th clashes. The protestors blocked roads and highways near Geagea’s home Wednesday. Geagea was scheduled for questioning on Wednesday, but did not show up to give his testimony.

Tuesday

26 October 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanese urge end to ‘campaign’ against Beirut blast judge](#)

Lebanese civil society called for top politicians to end their obstruction of the investigation into the Beirut port explosion. Current and former Lebanese officials have accused the lead judge in the investigation of bias, filing legal complaints against him and using their influence over the media to ‘vilify’ the judge.

Lebanon – [Israel opens its borders to Lebanese agricultural workers](#)

Israel allowed Lebanese farmers to cross into Israeli territory to harvest olives on Monday. Although Lebanon and Israel remain in a state of war, Israel will allow the workers to cross the blue line in light of the current economic crisis in Lebanon.

Wednesday
27 October 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon top politicians agree solution to political tensions, cleric says](#)

Lebanon's top 3 politicians agreed to a solution to the paralysis in the investigation into the role of top officials in the 2020 Beirut port explosion, according to Lebanon's top Christian cleric. The proposed solution calls for prosecuting former ministers in a 'special court made up of MPs and judges while allowing blast investigator Tarek Bitar to continue with the cases of lower-level officials.' The special court the cleric mentioned has so far not held any official accountable.

Lebanon / Gulf– [Saudi Arabia, UAE summon Lebanon envoys over Yemen war criticism](#)

Lebanon's information minister, George Kordahi, criticized Saudi Arabia's involvement in the war in Yemen, defending the Houthi rebels' actions as acts of self defense and accusing the Saudi-led coalition of bombing 'homes, villages, funerals and weddings.' Saudi Arabia and the UAE responded by summoning Lebanese envoys for questioning.

Lebanon – [Lebanon PM says minister's criticism of Saudi is not government position](#)

Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati distanced himself from Minister Kordahi's statements on the war in Yemen, claiming Lebanon 'is committed to its ties with Arab countries. Lebanon has officially condemned the Houthi coup in Yemen, and the Foreign Affairs Ministry released a statement affirming their support for their allies in the Gulf and condemning the Houthi terrorist attacks on Saudi Arabia.

Lebanon – [Former Lebanon PM Diab sues state over Beirut blast probe](#)

Former Prime Minister Hassan Diab filed a lawsuit against the state, pausing Judge Tarek Bitar's investigation the day before Judge Bitar was scheduled to question him for his role in the Beirut port blast. Diab was charged with negligence over the explosion and has missed two interrogations so far.

Thursday
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Lebanon / Gulf– [Beirut blast probe interrupted again amid series of lawsuits](#)

The day after former Prime Minister Hassan Diab filed a lawsuit halting Judge Tarek Bitar's investigation of Diab's role in the 2020 blast, former interior minister Nohad Machouk and former public works minister Ghazi Zeitar filed suits in protest of the judge's handling of the investigation. Officials have frequently used this tactic to evade interrogation of their roles in the port explosion. No senior officials have been held accountable in the years and months since the catastrophic blast that killed 215.

Lebanon – [US sanctions two Lebanese businessmen, a lawmaker for corruption](#)

The U.S. treasury department imposed sanctions on two Lebanese businessmen and one lawmaker for 'allegedly benefitting from corruption and adding to the breakdown of the rule of law in their country.' The treasury accused Jihad al-Arab of abusing his political connections to win hundreds of millions dollars in government contracts. The second businessman, Dany Khoury, is accused of 'dumping toxic waste and refuse into the Mediterranean Sea, poisoning fisheries, and polluting Lebanon's beaches, all while failing to remedy the garbage crisis.' The U.S accused lawmaker Jamil Sayyed of curtailing banking regulations to store \$120 million in offshore accounts.

Lebanon – [Critics walk out as Lebanon parliament reaffirms March 2022 poll](#)

After President Aoun objected to moving parliamentary elections from May to March 2022, the Lebanese parliament voted to uphold the early elections. The parliament separately voted to add 6 additional seats to represent the diaspora. Members of the Free Patriotic Movement party, who voted against early polling, walked out of the vote in protest.

Lebanon – [Lebanese information minister facing legal action over controversial Houthi comments](#)

Three Lebanese lawyers accused information minister George Kordahi of 'committing crimes that jeopardized national unity and damaged Lebanon's relations with Arab countries.' Minister Kordahi criticized the Saudi-led coalition's involvement in the civil war in Yemen in an interview that aired on Monday. His statements were quickly condemned by the Lebanese government.

Lebanon – [Lebanon, Syria and Jordan reach final deal to transfer electricity, ministers say](#)

Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan reached a deal on Thursday to transfer electricity to Lebanon to stem the country's energy crisis. The World Bank will finance the deal.

Friday
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Lebanon / Gulf– [Saudi Arabia to expel Lebanon's ambassador, stop its imports following minister's comments](#)

Saudi Arabia expelled the Lebanese ambassador and is halting all Lebanese imports after Lebanese information minister George Kordahi expressed sympathy for Yemen's Houthi rebels. The UAE and Kuwait followed suit and expelled their respective ambassadors.

Lebanon – [In Lebanon, petrol is now priced out of reach](#)

The cost of filling a standard vehicle's engine in Lebanon has surpassed the monthly minimum wage. According to the spokesperson for the Gas Station Owners' Syndicate, the price of gasoline could rise higher if the cost of crude oil increases. Public transportation drivers have blocked roads in protest over the past few weeks, calling for higher wages and subsidies for gasoline and car parts.

Saturday and Sunday
30 and 31 October
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Lebanon – [Lebanese minister: 'No question' of resigning over Saudi crisis](#)

Lebanese information minister George Kordahi said resigning over his critical remarks of Saudi involvement in Yemen is 'out of the question.' Kordahi said in an interview aired on Monday that the Houthi rebels are 'defending themselves from foreign aggression.' Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait, who are all part of the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen, expelled the Lebanese ambassadors to their countries over Kordahi's statement.

Lebanon – [The Navy intercepts 53 migrants off Tripoli](#)

Lebanese Navy patrols arrested 54 migrants as they prepared to smuggle out of Lebanon. A separate patrol intercepted a boat sinking on its way to Cyprus, rescuing 9 Syrians on board. Illegal immigration out of Lebanon has increased over recent years as the economic situation in Lebanon has made migrants less hesitant to risk the dangerous sea crossing.



Monday
25 October 2021

Sudan – [Sudan's military dissolves cabinet, announces state of emergency](#)

The Sudanese military declared a state of emergency on Monday, detaining the president in a then unknown location, dissolving the cabinet, closing the capital airport, and shutting down the internet. The military's leader, Abdel-Fattah al-Burhan, dissolved the joint civilian and military body which has ruled Sudan since the removal of the dictator Omar al-Bashir, and claimed the military will continue the transition to civilian democratic rule.

Sudan – [Thousands protest against arrests of civilian leaders in Sudan | Gallery News](#)

Thousands of pro-democracy protesters flooded the streets of Khartoum and its sister city following the military takeover of Sudan's transitional government.

Sudan – ['Utterly unacceptable': World reacts to Sudan 'coup' | Protests News](#)

The military coup in Sudan drew strong criticism from around the world. The United States, European Union, African Union, and United Nations condemned the military takeover and called on military leaders to reinstate the transitional government and resume respect for human rights.

Yemen – [Houthis abduct dozens of civilians in wake of deadly Marib siege](#)

Houthi rebels raided homes in the Areib region looking for Yemeni soldiers and those who resisted their occupation of the region, abducting 47 relatives of the fighters, some of them children. The rebels laid siege on Areib in the previous weeks, starving civilians, blocking humanitarian aid, and conducted missile and ground attacks on the region before breaking through and capturing the district.

Egypt – [Egypt's Leader Ends State of Emergency, Says It's No Longer Needed](#)

Egyptian president Abdel Fattah el-Sisi ended a four-year state of emergency on Monday. The state of emergency gave the government sweeping powers to crack down on protests, detain dissidents, and control everyday life in the country. Critics say the move will not significantly change the government's systematic repression which prevailed in the country decades before the president declared the state of emergency.

Tuesday
26 October 2021

Iran – [Massive cyberattack disrupts petrol stations in Iran](#) Thousands of petrol stations went offline after a massive cyberattack on Tuesday. The stations resumed business later that, offering gas 'at the open rate that is twice the subsidized rate offered through rationed 'smart fuel cards.'" The Iranian government blamed the attack on a foreign government, but has yet to accuse any one state.

Occupied Palestine – ['Not a life': Israel keeps many Palestinians without legal status](#)

Israel approved thousands of family reunification requests, but ignored the requests of many more. Israel stopped approving family reunification requests 12 years ago, leaving undocumented Palestinians without a path to legal status. Undocumented residents are 'unable to travel or access healthcare, jobs, an education, or the legal system – including for divorces.'

Occupied Palestine / U.S. – [US says it 'strongly' opposes Israel's settlement expansion plans](#)

The Biden administration announced its deep concern over Israel's plan to construct over 1,300 homes for settlers in the Occupied West Bank in a rare criticism of Israeli policy. The spokesman for the U.S. Department of State was unclear what repercussions Israel would face, instead stating, 'our Israeli partners know where we stand, and we'll continue to engage with them in our diplomacy on this.'

Wednesday
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Saudi Arabia – [Biden's \\$500m Saudi deal contradicts policy on 'offensive' weapons, critics say](#)

Despite the Biden administration's decision to end the sale of offensive weapons to Saudi Arabia, a new \$500 million military contract will allow the kingdom to keep its fleet of offensive helicopters, despite their use in operations in Yemen. The contract is a recent example of the Biden administration's warming relationship with Saudi Arabia as several high level U.S. officials have met with their Saudi counterparts.

Afghanistan – [Taliban Allow Girls to Return to Some High Schools, but With Big Caveats](#)

The Syrian regime executed 24 individuals charged with starting fires that burned thousands of acres and killed three. Although the death penalty is common in Syria, the number executed was larger than usual. The executed were charged with terrorism, a charge which often strips the accused of due process in Syria.

Occupied Palestine – [Settler attacks leave Palestinian farmers with financial losses](#)

The West Bank's Salfit region's olive oil industry makes \$1.5 billion annually, but estimates suggest 150 farmers have lost at least a quarter of their annual yield due to 'settler attacks, movement restrictions, and poor rainfall.' Farmers whose land lies inside of Israeli settlement walls are unable to reach their lands during designated access times, leaving their farms vulnerable to settlers stealing olives, setting fire to trees, and stealing farm equipment.

Sudan / African Union – [African Union suspends Sudan over coup | African Union News](#)

The African Union suspended Sudan until the transitional government is restored. The move is typical of the African Union in the days following a coup. The suspension comes as the World Bank and the United States suspended aid to Sudan after the military takeover.

Thursday
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Sudan – [Death toll rises as Sudan's capital rocked by more clashes](#)

A protester was killed in clashes between pro-democracy demonstrators and government forces on Thursday, bringing the death toll among protestors to eight.

Friday
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Western Sahara / Morocco – [UN renews peacekeeping mission in Western Sahara, calls for talks](#)

The United Nations Security Council renewed the peacekeeping mission in Western Sahara for another year over concerns of the breakdown of the ceasefire between Morocco and the Polisario front. The resolution called for a goal of self determination for the people of Western Sahara.

Sudan – [Sudan coup leader pledges to appoint new premier within week](#)

The Sudanese general who led the military takeover of the civilian-led transitional government announced he will appoint a prime minister who will form a cabinet that will share leadership of the country with the military.

Syria – [Tunisia's #MeToo: Landmark sexual harassment case kicks off](#)

A case against MP Zhouhair Makhlouf for sexual harassment and public indecency reached court this week. Makhlouf was the first high profile figure to be prosecuted for sexual wrongdoing, and his case helped galvanize the growing #MeToo movement in Tunisia.

Saturday and Sunday
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Occupied Palestine – [Palestinians vow to defend graves in Jerusalem cemetery](#)

Israeli occupation authorities in Jerusalem are planning to build a Jewish national park over a centuries-old Muslim cemetery just outside of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. Israeli authorities violently cracked down on Palestinian demonstrators as they gathered to protest the excavation of their families' remains. At least three Palestinians were wounded and seven were detained.

Sudan – [Three shot dead during nationwide protests against Sudan coup](#)

The Sudanese military shot dead three protestors on Saturday as thousands of protestors demanded the restoration of the civilian-led transition government. The police denied the killings, saying only one man sustained a gunshot wound.



INTERNATIONAL

Monday
25 October 2021

United States / Haiti – [UN rights experts condemn US expulsion of Haitian migrants and refugees](#)

A group of UN human rights experts condemned the US systematic mass expulsion of Haitian migrants and refugees, accusing the US of returning Haitians to countries 'where they face an atmosphere of racial discrimination, gender violence and xenophobic violence.' The US is denying the individual evaluation of each asylum seeker that international law requires, and instead is continuing a 'racialized exclusion of Black Haitian migrants and refugees at US ports of entry'.

Germany – [German Woman Convicted of a Crime Against Humanity in Death of Yazidi Child](#)

A German woman was sentenced to 10 years in prison for supporting the Islamic State in Iraq and leaving the 5-year-old Yazidi girl she enslaved to die of thirst. The German woman, Jennifer W., held captive the girl and her mother in Fallujah, Iraq. The girl's mother told the German court that Jennifer W.'s husband would beat them while being forced to work under dire conditions. The mother said her daughter died while being punished for wetting the bed. This was the fifth time a German court found a former Islamic State member guilty of crimes against humanity for treatment of Yazidi victims.

Hong Kong – [Amnesty International to close its Hong Kong offices](#)

Amnesty International will close its two offices in Hong Kong due to the restrictive National Security law imposed by the Chinese government in June 2020. Beijing uses the new law to crack down on dissenting voices, repress freedom of expression, and chip away at civil society. Amnesty International claims the law creates an unstable environment in which they never know which activities will lead to criminal sanctions.

Tuesday
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Belarus – [Women under fire in Belarus, activists tortured and exiled – UN expert](#)

UN human rights experts claim female activists in Belarus are subjected to 'enforced disappearances, torture, ill-treatment and exile.' The experts describe a pattern of the Belarusian government curtailing women's rights to free assembly and expression.

Greece – [Police Killing of Young Roma Man Sparks Riots in Athens](#)

Seven Greek police officers were charged with homicide for shooting and killing a 20-year-old Roma man after attempting to pull him over for stealing a car. The shooting sparked riots in Athens, where police used teargas and flash grenades to break up the demonstrators. The Greek police have often been accused of brutality against the Roma community, and the Romani people have long been denied human rights in Europe.

India / Pakistan – [Kashmir students who cheered for Pakistan booked under terror law](#)

Police in Indian-administered Kashmir have 'filed criminal cases under a stringent anti-terror law against the students of two medical colleges in the region for celebrating Pakistan's victory against India in the T20 World Cup.' Anti-India sentiment is common in Kashmir, and residents often publicly declare support for Pakistan's cricket team to make a political statement. Kashmir is a territory in the Himalayas claimed by both India and Pakistan, and the two states rule over separate areas of the territory.

Brazil – [Brazil senators recommend Bolsonaro face charges over COVID](#)

A Brazilian senate committee approved a report holding President Jair Bolsonaro responsible for the country's 600,000 Covid-19 deaths, accusing him of crimes against humanity, inciting crime, and misuse of public funds. Over the course of the pandemic, Bolsonaro sabotaged local leaders' Covid-19 measures, assembled unmasked crowds, and spread disinformation on the vaccine.

Wednesday
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Worldwide – [Victims of human trafficking being 'punished and stigmatized'](#)

UN human rights experts said states are failing to identify and protect victims of human trafficking due to 'alleged association with terrorist groups, and related stigma, discrimination, and racism.'

United States – [The U.S. issues the first passport with a nonbinary gender 'X' option](#)

The US Department of State will allow citizens to select 'X' as their gender, in a move to be more inclusive for those who identify as non-binary, intersex, or gender non-conforming. The announcement came after a Colorado resident filed a lawsuit arguing they could not get an accurate passport with 'male' and 'female' as the only option.

Thursday
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Myanmar – [New Reports of Torture in Myanmar](#)

The Associated Press reported consisted accounts of torture from 28 detainees in recent months. The victims recounted mock executions and beatings in military facilities. Human Rights Watch concluded in June that the Myanmar government's use of torture and its widespread systematic killing and other atrocities amount to crimes against humanity.

Central America – [The rule of law is disintegrating in Central America](#)

Human Rights Watch documented the rise of authoritarianism in Central America, as leaders have weakened democratic institutions in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico. HRW urges the US, EU, and UK to apply pressure on Central American leaders to uphold judicial independence and respect the rule of law.

Friday
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United States – [Minneapolis Could Become One of the First US Cities to Replace Its Police](#)

Minneapolis, the city in which police murdered George Floyd last year, could become the first city to swap its police force for a department focused on helping rather than punishing its residents. Supporters hope the change will decrease violent encounters between police and civilians and improve law enforcement's relationship with minority communities.

Belarus – [Belarus Boots U.S. Diplomatic Staff, Mimicking Putin](#)

Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko forced the closure of the US embassy, all but ending the diplomatic relationship between Washington and Minsk. The relationship soured after Lukashenko rigged elections to hold on to power and brutally cracked down on the protests that followed.

United Nations – [Security Council adopts 'first of its kind' resolution on protecting classrooms from conflict](#)

The UN Security Council adopted a resolution calling states to provide, protect and facilitate the continuation of education in armed conflict. Attacks on schools have escalated around the globe, and over the past five years, 22,000 students, teachers, and academics were killed or injured in attacks on education.

Saturday and Sunday
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United Kingdom – [U.K. Police Struggle to Curb Abuse of Women by Their Own Officers](#)

Over the last 4 years, 2,000 police staff were accused of sexual misconduct, including rape, in Britain. According to a Channel 4 News investigation, in nearly 60% of the cases, 'no action was taken against the accused.' Even when misconduct was established, most cases never resulted in criminal charges.

United States / Taiwan / China – [Blinken clashes with China over US support for Taiwan](#)

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken affirmed that the US will continue to provide weapons to Taiwan even as China warned the US to end its interference. China has increased its incursions in Taiwan recently, attempting to demonstrate its claim to the island. Taiwanese people see themselves 'as being on the frontline of the war between democracy and authoritarianism,' according to the Taiwanese foreign minister.