



## ► 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**  
31 January 2022

**Lebanon – [Lebanon busts suspected Israeli 'spy networks'](#)**

Lebanon said Monday it had busted at least 17 suspected Israeli spy networks, in one of the largest nationwide crackdowns in recent years. Interior minister Bassam Mawlawi informed cabinet that security forces had “clamped down on 17 spy networks working for Israel,” acting information minister Abbas Halabi said after the meeting.

**Tuesday**  
1 February 2022

**Lebanon – [US to help cash-strapped Lebanese military as desertions mount](#)**

The US wants to stem a tide of desertions from the ranks of the Lebanese military by diverting part of its security assistance to basic “livelihood support” that will help one of the country’s few stable state institutions as Beirut grapples with a financial crisis.

**Wednesday**  
2 February 2022

**Lebanon – [UNIFIL Receives EIF Grant to Enable Inclusive Environment for Women Peacekeepers](#)**

The Elsie Initiative Fund for Women in Peace Operations (EIF) has announced that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is the first U.N. field mission to receive funding to create an enabling and inclusive environment for women peacekeepers. The grant will allow UNIFIL to build gender-sensitive accommodation and working conditions for women peacekeepers from the Ghanaian battalion. “It will also enable the peacekeeping mission to attain gender parity and equality,” the U.N. said.

**Thursday**  
3 February 2022

**Lebanon – [Flawed Investigations of Politically-Sensitive Murders](#)**

Lebanon's security forces demonstrated multiple failures, gross negligence, and procedural violations in the investigations of four politically sensitive murder investigations. The police failed to investigate scenarios connected to the victims' politically sensitive work, and failed to identify suspects, even when the murders were committed in densely populated areas in broad daylight or even caught on camera. Among the victims were former military, a Hezbollah critic, and the head of Byblos Bank's ethics and anti-fraud department and former head of its compliance unit.

**Lebanon – [The assassination of activist Lokman Slim, one year on](#)**

Hezbollah critic, Lokman Slim, was found dead in his car, riddled with six bullets. A year later, Lebanese security forces have held no one accountable for his death. Slim was also one of the most outspoken Shia critics against Iran-backed Hezbollah. In one of his last media appearances, he said Hezbollah and the Syrian government were linked to the explosive material that caused the Beirut Port explosion in August 2020. Hezbollah had threatened Slim several times before the assassination.

**Lebanon – [Dozens escape security crackdown, poverty in Lebanon to join ISIL](#)**

Dozens of young men have disappeared from Tripoli during the past few months and are suspected of joining ISIL in Iraq. Since the beginning of the economic crisis, Tripoli has become the most impoverished city on the Mediterranean coast.

**Beirut – [ABC Mall bans veiled saleswoman](#)**

ABC Mall's management requested that one of its employees be replaced due to her choice to wear a headscarf. Full House Home Appliances, a tenant in the mall, announced it would close its store after the mall's decision.

**Friday**  
4 February 2022

**Lebanon – [Lebanese soldier arrested on suspicion of killing dentist over 'unsatisfactory' treatment](#)**

A Lebanese army soldier was arrested on Tuesday over the fatal knifing of a dentist for reportedly failing to stop his fiancée's tooth pain following treatment at his clinic.

**Lebanon – [Justice for Lokman Slim](#)**

One year since the assassination of journalist Lokman Slim and justice has not been served yet. CLDH calls once again for an extensive and transparent investigation to identify and hold perpetrators of this horrific crime accountable. CLDH expresses its worry about the increasing threats to journalists and social media users. CLDH emphasizes the need to protect individuals and their freedom of expression without compromising on justice as the lack of accountability leads to a lack of rule of law.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
5 and 6 February  
2022

**Lebanon – ["Our government is killing us": cancer patients vent their anger](#)**

The Barbara Nassar association organized a sit-in in Beirut on Friday on the occasion of World Cancer Day, to denounce the difficulty of access to treatment due to shortages.

**Lebanon – ["Beirut resists": a collective opposed to Hezbollah launches its campaign for the legislative elections](#)**

An activist collective is campaigning to oppose Hezbollah and aims to put forward a unified list of civil society candidates in the legislative elections. "We want to resist all militias, all illegal weapons, as well as the current banking system," claims the group's founder.



**Monday**  
31 January 2022

**Bahrain – [Rights groups slam Royal Jet over Bahrain extradition flight](#)**

Emirati airline RoyalJet may have violated a European Court of Human Rights injunction and UN conventions on human rights by carrying out the “wrongful” extradition of a Bahraini dissident from Serbia. ECHR ruled Ahmed Jaffar Mohammed Ali could not be extradited until further investigation, and rights groups are claiming the private airline played an active role in violating ECHR’s measures and the UN Convention against Torture.

**Jordan – [Jordan: Critics denounce reforms 'enlarging king's authority'](#)**

Legislators recently passed a slew of amendments that critics say further broaden King Abdullah II's wide range of powers. Notable among the amendments is the creation of a National Security Council, which will include the prime minister, foreign and interior ministers, the heads of the kingdom's security apparatuses, and others appointed by the king. Critics say this will add to the king's already long list of powers, and take agency away from appointed political leaders.

**Syria – [Teenage Inmates Found Among the 500 Dead in Syria Prison Attack](#)**

Two bodies of teenage boys were found in the prison ISIL attacked last week. 700 children of ISIL fighters were held in the prison. About 500 people were killed, 374 of them linked to ISIS, the S.D.F. said. The death toll also included about 40 S.D.F. fighters, 77 prison staff and guards, and four civilians.

**Egypt – [Egypt: Man 'Disappeared' After Unscheduled Plane Landing](#)**

Egyptian security forces forcibly disappeared a man after the unscheduled landing of his flight in Luxor. Menoufy moved to Sudan from Egypt in 2016 out of fear of government persecution. A friend told Human Rights Watch that he had been a supporter of the Muslim Brotherhood, which the government designated a terrorist organization in 2013. Egyptian security forces in recent years have disappeared hundreds of people, who have reappeared after weeks, months, or sometimes years before they are charged or released.

**Tuesday**  
1 February 2022

**Occupied Palestinian Territory – [Israel punishes officers in death of elderly Palestinian man](#)**

The Israeli army has said it is to strip two officers of their commands and reprimand a third following the death of an elderly Palestinian man during his arrest and assault by Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank. In a rare statement acknowledging error, the Israeli army said Asaad's death during a late-night operation in the village of Jiljilya on the outskirts of Ramallah on January 12 was a result of “moral failure and poor decision-making”.

**Syria – [Two babies freeze to death in IDP camps in Syria's Idlib](#)**

Two children died overnight, including a seven-day-old baby, in tented displacement camps in Syria's Idlib province due to severe cold weather, drawing attention to the dire humanitarian condition in the region. Freezing cold weather over the past two weeks has swept northwest Syria, where more than 4 million displaced Syrians live.

**Occupied Palestinian Territory – [Israel imposing 'apartheid' on Palestinians: Amnesty](#)**

Israel is carrying out “the crime of apartheid against Palestinians” and must be held accountable for treating them as “an inferior racial group”, Amnesty International says in a new report. The investigation lists a range of Israeli abuses, including extensive seizures of Palestinian land and property, unlawful killings, forcible transfer, drastic movement restrictions, administrative detention and the denial of nationality and citizenship to Palestinians. It describes these as components of a system that amounts to apartheid under international law.

**Wednesday**  
2 February 2022

**United Arab Emirates – [New report highlights labour rights abuses at Dubai's Expo 2020](#)**

The legions of workers who built Dubai's extravagant Expo 2020 site and keep it running face exploitation, grim conditions and a wide range of labor abuses, according to a new report by a London-based labor rights group. In over two dozen interviews, Expo workers speak of their grievances, including their payment of illegal recruitment fees, employers' confiscation of passports and inadequate food.

**Thursday**  
3 February 2022

**Occupied Palestine – [Palestinians demand answers for PA shooting at student protest](#)**

A Palestinian Authority officer dressed in plain clothes open fired with live ammunition at a peaceful protest in front of the education directorate headquarters in the northern occupied West Bank city of Tubas. Two students were wounded by bullet shrapnel. The security officer was suspended and officials announced the launch of an internal investigation with him.

**Syria – ['Barrage of attacks': Civilians killed in US raid in Syria](#)**

At least 13 people, including six children, have been killed during a United States special operations forces raid in Syria's rebel-held Idlib province. The overnight raid targeted a building in Atmeh, a densely populated town in northwest Syria near the Turkish border, where tens of thousands of people displaced by the country's decade-long war live. The target of the raid was ISIL leader Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi.

**Turkey – [Twelve refugees found frozen to death near Turkey-Greece border](#)**

The bodies of twelve refugees who had been pushed back from the Greek border were found, apparently frozen to death.

**Friday**  
4 February 2022

**Sudan – [Leading Sudan pro-democracy group rejects UN mediation efforts](#)**

Sudan's leading pro-democracy group has lashed out at the United Nations, accusing it of failing to safeguard the country's transition to democracy and being soft on the generals who led the October 25 military coup. The Sudanese Professionals' Association (SPA) accused the UN Mission in Sudan of failing to adequately condemn the coup.

**Turkey / Greece – [Lawlessness at the border mars Greece's reputation over migration](#)**

The lawsuit of an expelled Iranian woman, filed in international court this week, could prove that Greece has systematically pushed asylum seekers away for the past two years. The claimant, Parvin, said she was pushed back from the Greek border six times. "A Greek officer arrested me and put me in a dirty cell, in cargo containers, packing us in with no air. Nothing to eat. No toilet. They beat me, kids, and also [a] pregnant woman. They took our cellphone, also our food and clothes. I was handcuffed, beaten, shot at, teargassed, tortured and nearly killed," she said.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
5 and 6 February  
2022

**Syria – [Children in Syrian ISIL prison living in dire conditions: UN](#)**

Hundreds of children held in a prison in Syria who witnessed a bloody 10-day battle between US-backed Kurdish fighters and ISIL (ISIS) are living in "incredibly precarious" conditions and they should not have been there in the first place, the UN says. The children's agency UNICEF added it is ready to support a new safe place in Syria's northeast to take care of the most vulnerable children, some of whom are as young as 12.

**Tunisia – [Tunisia's president dissolves top judicial watchdog](#)**

Tunisian President Kais Saied has dissolved a judicial council that deals with the independence of judges. Saied – who had dismissed the government and suspended parliament last July – said on Sunday that the Supreme Judicial Council was a "thing of the past".

**Afghanistan – [Afghanistan's Health Care System Is Collapsing Under Stress](#)**

Hospitals and clinics are struggling to hold up amid a cash shortage and a vast surge of malnutrition and disease. By one estimate, 90 percent may close in the next few months.



## INTERNATIONAL

### Monday

31 January 2022

#### **China – [Video of Mentally Ill Woman Chained in Shack Stirs Anger in China](#)**

A video of a mentally ill woman chained up in a shack in the middle of winter drew attention to the long-standing stigma surrounding mental health in China. Chinese society traditionally regarded mental disorders as deeply shameful, and people with such conditions were hidden at home or confined in institutions. Today, though that view is changing, resources remain limited mostly to cities. In rural areas, like the place where the video was made, old attitudes remain widespread.

### Tuesday

1 February 2022

#### **Kazakhstan – [Kazakhstan: Protesters Arbitrarily Arrested, Beaten](#)**

Kazakhstan security forces have arbitrarily arrested peaceful protesters and others, ill-treated and tortured some detainees, and interfered with detainees' access to lawyers following nationwide protests in early January 2022.

#### **Russia – [A culture of torture and fear is rife in Russia's prisons](#)**

Dozens of victims and their lawyers accuse the Russian authorities of trying to cover up countless cases of torture and of refusing to press charges against prison staff. The accusations come after authorities in Russia's Irkutsk oblast region announced earlier this year that proceedings in four torture cases had been dropped. The list of those allegedly affected is much longer.

### Wednesday

2 February 2022

#### **Congo – [At Least 60 Dead in Attack on Camp for Displaced People in Congo](#)**

A militia attacked a makeshift camp for displaced people, shooting and hacking to death 60 people, many of whom were women and children. The assault was one of the biggest in almost a year to hit the country's eastern region, which is beset by poor governance, weak security and rampant corruption. More than 120 armed groups operate in Eastern Congo.

#### **Mexico – [Vote at GM Plant in Mexico Spurs a Labor Challenge](#)**

Mexico has transformed into an industrial powerhouse over the last two decades, attracting investment from some of the world's largest companies. Although the country has become one of the richest in Latin America, its workers still earn among the lowest salaries of almost any nation in the region. The country's traditional unions have historically been closely allied with politicians and employers. A group of workers in one of General Motors' largest plants formed an independent union that will compete for the chance to represent thousands of employees in an election set to take place this week.

### Thursday

3 February 2022

#### **China – [At Beijing Olympics, Question of Free Speech Looms Over Athletes](#)**

Athletes at the Beijing Olympics have found themselves caught between activists urging them to use their celebrity to speak out about China's human rights abuses and the rules of the International Olympic Committee that restrict what they can say and where. China's Communist Party has also warned that athletes are subject not only to Olympic rules, but also to Chinese law. The warnings have been part of a crackdown in the weeks before Friday's opening ceremony that, critics say, has had a chilling effect on dissent inside and outside the Olympic bubble.

#### **Cameroon – [Cameroon: Soldiers on Rampage in North-West Region](#)**

Cameroonian soldiers killed at least eight people and burned down dozens of homes and shops during three separate military operations in the North-West English-speaking region in December 2021, Human Rights Watch said today. The dead included three children, two women, and an older man.

### Friday

4 February 2022

#### **United States / Mexico – [US: Border Program's Huge Toll on Children](#)**

The United States sent at least 21,300 asylum-seeking children together with their families to dangerous Mexican border cities under Remain in Mexico during the administration of former US President Donald Trump. Children made up about 30 percent of asylum seekers placed in the program.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
5 and 6 February  
2022

**India – [Editor arrested in Kashmir as press crackdown escalates](#)**

A prominent journalist has been arrested under terrorism and sedition laws, as a crackdown on the press in Indian-administered Kashmir continues to escalate. Shah, 33, who has reported about Kashmir for several international publications including the Guardian, covers alleged human rights abuses carried out by the military in the region.

**United States / Cuba – [Ten Cuban migrants in sinking vessel rescued off Florida Coast](#)**

Ten Cuban migrants in a sinking vessel were rescued off the Florida coast, according to the US Coast Guard. Six migrants were repatriated to Cuba, and four others were evacuated to Florida for medical treatment. The migrants had no life jackets or safety equipment.

**Haiti – [Haiti Opposition Group Calls on US to End Support for Current Government](#)**

A powerful Haitian opposition group is demanding the United States withdraw its support for the government of Prime Minister Ariel Henry in Haiti, saying the administration's legitimacy is tarnished by delayed elections and Mr. Henry's potential connection to the assassination of the country's president.