



## ► 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**  
6 December 2021

**Lebanon** – [Children's education: dramatic increase in calls to the emergency line of the NGO Save the Children](#)

Save the Children reported the number of calls made to its emergency crisis line by families asking for help to send their children to school increased by 150% in November compared to December. As the economic situation continues its downward spiral, more and more families are forced to prioritize necessities such as food and fuel over their childrens' education.

**Beirut** – [Refugees in Lebanon's Shatila camp on the brink amid aid crisis](#)

As Lebanon plunged deeper into one of the world's worst economic meltdowns, the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) last week sounded the alarm about a major funding gap that could further cut access to basic services for about 200,000 Palestinian refugees. The Lebanese government is not involved in the camps' affairs but relies on the UN and humanitarian organizations to deliver basic services. Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut 'suffer from a chronically decaying infrastructure as a result of competing sources of basic service delivery' according to UN special rapporteur Olivier de Schutter.

**Wednesday**  
8 December 2021

**Tripoli** – [Lebanese teacher sacked, investigated over alleged sexual harassment of schoolgirls](#)

A high school teacher in Tripoli was fired and arrested after allegations he sexually harassed several female students. The high school's principal initially did not respond to complaints from students, but both male and female students protested outside the school and attempted to storm the principal's office until the teacher was fired.

Thursday

9 December 2021

**Beirut – [Lebanon: Release Detained Journalist](#)**

On November 16th, Lebanese General Security raided the apartment of an American journalist, Nada Homsy, without a judicial warrant, found a small amount of cannabis, arrested her, and denied her access to an attorney. Although a public prosecutor ordered her release by November 25th, General Security issued a deportation order and continued to arbitrarily detain her.

**Beirut – [Citizen files report against activist for "disrespecting the presidency of the republic"](#)**

Lebanese citizen Jean-Paul Samaha filed a complaint against Amani Danhash, a.k.a Amounz, for "disrespecting the presidency of the republic". Amounz first rose to fame during the October 2019 uprising and is known for her satirical videos criticizing the president. Samaha claims her criticisms "affect his dignity."

**Lebanon – ["I am dead here": Lebanese join Mideast migrants to Europe](#)**

Lebanon has transformed from a host for refugees to a departure point. This year hundreds of Lebanese have tried to cross the Mediterranean to Europe, desperately attempting to flee the economic crisis that has pushed two-thirds of the population into poverty. One Lebanese couple who was rescued by the Lebanese Navy after they nearly drowned on their way to Europe said they will try again, explaining "I am dead here and might die on the way. But if I reach the destination, I can live a decent life".

**Lebanon – [Seventy-five thousand precarious families will soon receive \\$25 per month](#)**

The Ministry of Social Affairs is set to double the number of households receiving monthly financial assistance under the National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP). Launched in 2011, this program currently helps 36,000 Lebanese families and will soon add 39,000 households which have recently fallen into poverty.

Friday

10 December 2021

**Lebanon – [SG says it arrested journalist Nada Homsy for staying in Israel](#)**

Two days after the release of the American journalist based in Beirut, Nada Homsy, Lebanese General Security said on Friday that she was arrested for having stayed in Israel, a country with which Lebanon is technically at war. After she was released, Homsy said she still did not know why she was arrested, although she suspected the arrest was related to her public commitment to Palestine.

**Beirut – [Anger in Lebanon as Palestinian refugees granted work rights](#)**

Members of the Christian right criticized the labor minister's decision to allow Palestinian refugees to work in unionized professions, warning it is the beginning of the push for naturalization.

**Lebanon – [Lebanon: Blast rocks Palestinian camp, causes casualties](#)**

A large explosion rocked a Palestinian camp in the southern Lebanese port city of Tyre, causing a number of casualties. The explosion took place late on Friday at a suspected Hamas weapons depot in the Burj All-Shemali camp. Hamas said in a statement on Saturday the blast was caused by an electrical fault in a warehouse containing oxygen and gas cylinders for coronavirus patients, as well as detergents and disinfectants. Hamas, the group that runs the besieged Gaza Strip, maintains a presence in a number of Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

**CLDH/Lebanon – [CLDH issued a statement regarding Labor Minister Mustafa Bayram's decision to lift some of the labor restrictions on Palestinians born in Lebanon, foreigners born to a Lebanese mother or married to a Lebanese woman, and the unregistered](#)**

CLDH reinforced that the right to work is a human right that should not be taken away, after a decision by the labor minister to lift some of the labor restrictions on Palestinians born in Lebanon, foreigners born to a Lebanese mother or married to a Lebanese woman, and the unregistered, was reported.

Saturday and Sunday

11 and 12 December  
2021

**Lebanon – [Twelve Syrians arrested in Akkar after illegally entering Lebanon](#)**

The Internal Security Forces said on Saturday that they had intercepted twelve Syrians who had entered the country illegally in the village of Bzal, in Akkar (North Lebanon). Police said the Syrian nationals, nine adults and three minors, crossed the border illegally in a van.

**Lebanon – [Palestinians killed during funeral at Lebanon refugee camp](#)**

Three members of Hamas were killed on Sunday when a shooting erupted at the funeral procession for a member of the movement killed in a blast at a south Lebanon Palestinian refugee camp, the group said. One camp resident told the AFP news agency that there was a dispute "when the funeral procession arrived at the camp cemetery and suddenly there was shooting towards the crowd", adding that in the chaos it was unclear who was shooting at whom. Hamas and Fatah have been at odds since 2007 when the former defeated party of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in parliamentary elections in besieged Gaza Strip.



## REGIONAL Middle East

**Monday**  
6 December 2021

**Occupied Palestine / East Jerusalem** – [Israel delays major settlement plan for occupied East Jerusalem](#)

Israel has delayed granting further approval for a settlement plan that would build up to 9,000 homes for settlers in occupied East Jerusalem, citing the need for an environmental study. Critics have contended that the proposed construction between East Jerusalem and the Palestinian city of Ramallah in the West Bank would further dim any Palestinian hopes for a future state.

**Syria** – [On Syria's Ruins, a Drug Empire Flourishes](#)

An illegal drug industry run by powerful associates and relatives of President Bashar al-Assad has grown into a multibillion-dollar operation, eclipsing Syria's legal exports and turning the country into the world's newest narcostate.

**Sudan** – [Can artistic freedom survive in Sudan? The writing's on the wall...](#)

After the revolution that toppled dictator Omar al-Bashir, the arts flourished as artists enjoyed a newfound freedom to express themselves. Now artists fear they will be targeted if the military holds on to its grip on power.

**Tuesday**  
7 December 2021

**Egypt** – [Egyptian researcher's mother 'jumping for joy' after court orders release](#)

An Egyptian court has ordered the release of researcher Patrick Zaki after he was detained and tortured over an article recounting the discrimination Coptic Christians in the country face. Zaki still faces charges of "spreading false news", "harming national security" and "incitement to overthrow the state", among others. His trial has been postponed to February.

**Wednesday**  
8 December 2021

**Iraq** – [Iraq repatriates 100 ISIL fighters from Syria's Kurdish forces](#)

Iraqi authorities have repatriated 100 Iraqi fighters from the ISIL (ISIS) group who were being held in northeast Syria by Kurdish forces. The repatriated fighters will be questioned by intelligence services for their involvement with the terrorist group. Iraq has already prosecuted thousands of its nationals for membership in ISIL, a crime punishable by death under an anti-terrorism law.

**Syria / Russia** – [12 Civilians Dead in Idlib Artillery Attacks](#)

The Syrian-Russian military alliance fired at least 14 large-caliber artillery shells into the town of Ariha in Idlib governorate on October 20, 2021, killing 12 civilians and injuring 24, Human Rights Watch said today. The apparent lack of military targets in the areas that were hit, amid homes, stores, schools, and markets, highly suggests an indiscriminate attack.

**Thursday**  
9 December 2021

**Iran** – [Coalition of rights groups urges Iran to free arbitrarily detained healthcare activists](#)

More than 20 human rights organizations have signed a letter urging the Iranian government to release three activists who sounded the alarm at Tehran's mismanagement of the country's COVID-19 crisis. They were arrested, the rights groups said, "as they prepared to file a complaint against the country's National Task Force against Coronavirus, including the Minister of Health and other officials responsible for the mismanagement of the COVID-19 crisis."

**Saudi Arabia** – [Progress for Saudi Women Is Uneven, Despite Cultural Changes and More Jobs](#)

Women in Saudi Arabia are more prevalent in the workforce than ever before, they have more freedom over their fashion choices, and they are more free to move about public spaces. However, guardianship laws and the conservative culture keep women from exercising full autonomy over their lives and careers.

**Friday**  
10 December 2021

**Tunisia** – [Western states ask Tunisia to return to 'democratic institutions'](#)

The envoys of seven Western countries plus the European Union urged Tunisia on Friday to respect “fundamental freedoms” and set a timeline for a return to democratic institutions. Tunisia’s President Kais Saied on July 25 sacked the government, suspended parliament and seized wide-ranging powers, following months of economic and political turmoil worsened by the coronavirus pandemic.

**Occupied Palestine** – [Israeli troops kill Palestinian man during West Bank protest: PA](#)

Israeli forces have shot and killed a Palestinian and injured others during a protest against Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian health ministry and medics said. The man sustained a gunshot wound to the head by Israeli forces in the northern village of Beita and succumbed to his injuries at a hospital in Nablus.

**Saudi Arabia** – [Saudi rights activist Loujain al-Hathloul sues ex-US contractors](#)

Prominent Saudi women’s rights activist Loujain al-Hathloul has sued three former United States intelligence contractors, accusing them of helping hack her cell phone prior to her 2018 arrest and imprisonment. The lawsuit alleges that the surveillance operation run by the three ex-contractors and DarkMatter led to al-Hathloul’s arrest by the Emirati security services. From there she was extradited by private plane to Saudi Arabia, “where she was detained, imprisoned and tortured”, it states.

**Sudan** – [Dozens killed, thousands displaced in wave of Darfur violence](#)

At least 138 people have been killed and dozens wounded in three separate areas of Sudan’s West Darfur state in recent weeks, medics have said, in the latest bout of inter-communal violence. The West Darfur Doctors Committee said in statements on Wednesday and Thursday that attacks in the Kreinik area killed 88 and wounded 84, while renewed violence in the rugged Jebel Moon mountains killed 25 and wounded four. Meanwhile, violence in the Sarba locality killed eight and wounded six.

**Saturday and  
Sunday**  
11 and 12 December  
2021

**Turkey**– [Turkey’s Erdogan says social media a ‘threat to democracy’](#)

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan described social media on Saturday as one of the main threats to democracy. Erdogan’s government plans to pursue legislation to criminalize spreading fake news and disinformation online, but critics say the proposed changes would tighten restrictions on free speech.



## INTERNATIONAL

**Monday**  
6 December 2021

**United States / Mexico** – [The U.S. shouldn't ignore Mexico's ongoing human rights catastrophe](#)  
López Obrador inherited a human rights catastrophe. When he came to office in 2018, 12 years of a military-led drug war had led to horrific abuses. Homicides hit staggering numbers. Thousands of people disappeared every year. But he has not addressed these problems. Soldiers continue to kill civilians. Homicides remain at historically high rates. And according to the government's figures, more than 25,000 people have gone missing on his watch. The United States has been noticeably silent regarding the Mexican president's accelerating attacks on democracy. President Biden has instead chosen to focus on enlisting López Obrador to prevent migrants from reaching the U.S. border.

**Worldwide** – [Omicron Latest Reminder That Global Vaccine Equity Is Critical](#)  
Wealthy countries have been blocking an intellectual property waiver at the World Trade Organization and concentrating vaccine production in the U.S. and Europe. This has prolonged devastating cycles of COVID-19 surges, deaths, travel restrictions and lockdowns, allowing the virus to mutate and spread.

**Tuesday**  
7 December 2021

**UK** – [Draconian UK Law Puts Vulnerable Asylum Seekers at Risk](#)  
The Nationality and Borders bill is moving through the UK parliament and, if passed, would allow border officials to push back migrants arriving by sea or place them in off-shore detention centers. If migrants make it to shore, they would face criminal penalties.

**Chile** – [Chile Overwhelmingly Passes Marriage Equality](#)  
Chile became the 31st country to legalize same-sex marriage on Tuesday after years of sustained activism. The country's new law undoes existing legal discrimination against same-sex couples in parentage, joint adoption, and assisted reproductive technology, among others. It also scraps the requirement that married transgender people divorce if they want to have their gender legally recognized.

**Mozambique** – [Hundreds of Women, Girls Abducted](#)  
An armed group linked to the Islamic State (ISIS) has since 2018 kidnapped and enslaved more than 600 women and girls in Mozambique's northern Cabo Delgado province, Human Rights Watch said today. Mozambican and regional forces have rescued some of them, but many remain missing.

**Wednesday**  
8 December 2021

**India** – [India: Army Kills 14 Civilians in Nagaland](#)  
On December 4, 2021, soldiers from the 21 Para Special Forces army unit shot and killed six coal miners in Nagaland's Mon district, saying the soldiers mistook the miners for militants. The deaths led to violent clashes between local villagers and troops, killing seven more civilians and a soldier. A day later, the Assam Rifles army unit killed another person after protesters attacked their camp. The killings renewed calls to abolish the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA). The AFSPA gives the armed forces wide powers to shoot to kill, make arrests on flimsy pretexts, conduct warrantless searches, and demolish structures in the name of "aiding civil power," Human Rights Watch said.

**Thursday**  
9 December 2021

**Worldwide** – [Jailed Journalists Reach Record High for Sixth Year in 2021](#)  
Increased government intolerance of independent reporting pushed the number of imprisoned journalists worldwide to a record high of 293 this year, more than a quarter of them in China alone, a monitoring group said in an annual survey released on Thursday.

**Worldwide** – [Women in prison falling through gaps in feminist funding, report finds](#)  
Feminist groups supporting incarcerated women face uncertain futures due to lack funding. "Maybe there's a woman who has been subjected to domestic violence and one day she just snaps and she kills her husband in self-defense or as a reaction. That's much more complicated, right? It's more complicated to sell to your donors, to your board."

**United States / Mexico** – [Restarting 'Remain in Mexico' a Travesty](#)  
The decision to revive the "Remain in Mexico" program at the US border will once again put asylum seekers at risk of kidnapping, extortion, rape, and other abuses, Human Rights Watch said Thursday. The US and Mexican governments announced they will begin enrolling non-Spanish speaking migrants in the program. Many non-Spanish-speaking asylum seekers sent to Mexico by the Biden administration have faced discrimination and have had trouble working and accessing services.

**Friday**  
10 December 2021

**United States / Mexico – [Migrant Truck Crash in Mexico Kills More Than 50](#)**

At least 55 people died in the deadliest single-day disaster in many years to befall Central American migrants who attempt the perilous route through Mexico to the United States. Mexican officials attributed the disaster to excessive speed and said the driver, who may have passed undetected through immigration checkpoints.

**Ethiopia – [Tigray Rebels Executed Dozens of Civilians, Report Says](#)**

The Tigrayan rebels fighting Ethiopia's government 'summarily executed' 49 civilians in two towns they controlled in August and September, Human Rights Watch said in a report on Friday, adding to the list of alleged violations committed by the forces since the civil war in Ethiopia began 14 months ago.

**United States – [US Supreme Court Delivers Blow to Women's Rights](#)**

In disastrous news for women's rights, the US Supreme Court decided today to allow an extreme anti-abortion law in the state of Texas to stand for now. This is the second time in four months the Supreme Court has refused to block the law, which bans abortion at essentially six weeks of pregnancy, before many women even know they are pregnant. The law also permits anyone to sue and seek monetary damages from anyone they believe helps, provides, or "aids and abets" an abortion.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
6 and 7 November  
2021

**Canada – [Should Police Investigate Residential Schools Cases in Canada?](#)**

The Six Nations in Ontario have set up a special group to oversee the investigation of student deaths, in a rare collaboration between an Indigenous group and the police. Searches for the remains of Indigenous children who died while at Canada's notorious residential schools have been taking place throughout the country since May. That was when radar scans of the Kamloops Indian Residential School grounds in British Columbia found evidence of 215 human remains buried in unmarked graves, many of them children.

**United States – [Kentucky tornadoes: fears death toll from record twisters could exceed 100](#)**

The death toll from record tornadoes that roared across hundreds of miles this weekend was feared to exceed 100 in Kentucky alone, with dozens still unaccounted for and conflicting reports on the number of survivors as crews scramble to search wreckage.