



## ► 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**  
7 February 2022

**Lebanon – [Mikati holds meeting to save Lebanese education sector](#)**

As the teacher strike in Lebanon continues, the Ministry of Education held a meeting of politicians, ambassadors, academics and representatives of international organizations to save the Lebanese education sector. The Contract Teachers Association calls for raising the hourly wage from 20,000 Lebanese pounds (roughly 1 dollar with the black market rate) to 70,000 Lebanese pounds and paying teachers a daily transportation allowance of 64,000 Lebanese pounds. At the meeting, Prime Minister Najib Mikati asked teachers to cooperate with us to overcome this difficult stage with minimal damage and not to throw demands at the government, students and families, as the state of the public treasury cannot handle any spending outside the most urgent issues."

**Thursday**  
10 February 2022

**Lebanon – [Emigration from Lebanon jumps by 446 percent in one year](#)**

The number of Lebanese immigrants jumped from 17,721 in 2020 to 79,134 in 2021, according to a report by Information International. The emigration jump has particularly affected the medical sector, as roughly 20% of doctors have or are planning to emigrate.

**Lebanon – [ISG Urges 'Free, Fair and Transparent' Elections in Lebanon](#)**

The International Support Group for Lebanon (ISG) calls for "free, fair, transparent and inclusive elections, as scheduled on 15 May 2022." ISG reiterated that the elections are first and foremost "a right and expectation of the people of Lebanon and a sovereign responsibility which is incumbent on the authorities to deliver on."

**Friday**  
11 February 2022

**Lebanon – [First criminal case alleging slavery and slave trade of migrant domestic worker adjourned in Lebanon](#)**

The second hearing of the first criminal case alleging slavery and slave trading brought by an MDW against an employer and recruiting agency took place on Thursday. Other cases have alleged forced labor and delayed pay and mistreatment, this is the first case in Lebanon and the wider region where the case argues that the conditions that the complainant lived and worked in constitutes slavery. The domestic worker alleges she was enslaved for seven years in Beirut, forced to work 15 hours a day seven days per week, and was only paid for one year of service. She alleges she was “locked in an apartment all day and night, and was beaten, insulted and threatened.”

**Beirut – [Lebanon blocks events by Bahraini opposition group in Beirut](#)**

Lebanese Interior Minister, Bassam Mawlawi, blocked a Bahraini opposition group from holding two political events in Beirut. In a statement, the Ministry said the events would “undermine official Bahraini authorities and Gulf states, thus blocking efforts by Lebanon to boost ties with these countries”.

**Beirut – [Kenyan women protest outside of Kuwaiti Embassy](#)**

Kenyan domestic workers protested in front of the Kuwaiti embassy after the Kenyan Ambassador to Kuwait failed to attend a meeting with them. The workers wish to return to Kenya after their employers denied their salary for months before throwing them in the street.

**Lebanon – [Shura Council overturns decision to grant exceptions to Palestinians](#)**

In November, the Ministry of Labor granted Palestinians the right to work in trades previously reserved for Lebanese. The decision caused controversy in the Free Patriotic Movement and other Maronite groups, and yesterday the Shura Council reversed the Labor Minister’s decision.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
12 and 23 February  
2022

**Lebanon – [Activists call new draft contract for domestic workers 'an absolute scandal'](#)**

Activists and NGOs claim a new standard labor contract for migrant domestic workers drafted by the Ministry of Labor will make the lives of workers, already precarious under the Kafala system, even worse. Activists criticize “the lack of terms guaranteeing freedom of movement, the right to breaks and free time, and the ability to end the contract with a one month’s notice without the obligation to compensate the employer for the cost of recruitment.”



**Monday**  
7 February 2022

**Tunisia – [Tunisia police lock doors of legal body, stop staff from entering](#)**

A day after President Kais Saeid dissolved the Supreme Judicial Council, police locked the doors and stopped staff from entering the building. The President dissolved the legal body after months of accusing the judiciary of corruption and infiltration by his political enemies. The council was one of the few remaining state bodies still able to act independently of him.

**Turkey – [Turkey's Doctors Are Leaving, the Latest Casualty of Spiraling Inflation](#)**

Turkey's economic crisis has brought doctor's salaries down to essentially minimum wage, driving them to emigrate to find better opportunities. Under Erdogan, doctors have suffered from lack of respect for their profession, growing physical violence from their patients, and a grinding workload.

**Tuesday**  
8 February 2022

**Occupied Palestine – [Teen's death fuels Palestinian Authority corruption claims](#)**

The Palestinian Authority (PA) is accused of corruption and mismanagement after a 16 year-old cancer patient, Saleem, was denied treatment in a West Bank hospital. No hospital agreed to receive Saleem, saying the PA had not paid its debts, yet three other patients were seen before him. Saleem died in a hospital waiting room. His family believes if they had connections to the PA, Saleem would have been admitted.

**Tunisia – [UN's rights chief: Scrapping of Tunisia's Judicial Council 'a big step in the wrong direction'](#)**

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on Tuesday urged the president of Tunisia to reverse his decision to disband the country's Supreme Judicial Council. Michelle Bachelet warned that the dissolution of the council would seriously "undermine the rule of law, the separation of powers and independence of the judiciary in the country."

**Sudan – [Sudan security forces fire tear gas at anti-coup protesters](#)**

Sudanese security forces fired tear gas on Monday at thousands of demonstrators calling for civilian rule and justice for protesters killed since last year's coup. The tear gas was fired as demonstrators were heading toward the presidential palace in the capital Khartoum, in the latest rally against the October coup led by army chief Gen. Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan.

**Wednesday**  
9 February 2022

**Sudan – [Two prominent Sudanese leaders critical of military detained](#)**

Two Sudanese leaders who held prominent positions in the civilian lead government before the military takeover were arrested on Wednesday. The two officials detained, Khalid Omer Yousif and Wagdi Salih, had previously been involved in a task force that seized property and fired bureaucrats linked to the regime of Omar al-Bashir, who fell to a popular uprising in 2019.

**Tunisia – [Tunisian judges on strike as fears grow over authoritarian rule](#)**

In response to Tunisian President Kais Saied's move to dissolve the Supreme Judicial Council, the Tunisian Judges Association called for a two-day strike of all courts in the country.

**Tunisia – [Tunisia: Secret Detentions Under Cover of State of Emergency](#)**

The Tunisian authorities are concealing secret detentions on the pretext of a state of emergency. They are using 'assigned residences' to conceal the location of detainees. Two detainees have been detained for over a month and no arrest warrants have been issued nor have any charges been filed against them.

**Thursday**  
10 February 2022

**Yemen – [Yemen civilian deaths double since UN monitors removed: NGO](#)**

Civilian deaths and injuries in Yemen's war have almost doubled since UN human rights monitors were controversially removed in October. The ejection of monitors had opened the door to "unchecked, horrific violations", the Norwegian Refugee Council said on Thursday, urging their reinstatement. It said 823 civilians were killed or injured in the four months before the end of monitoring, and 1,535 in the four months after their departure.

**Tunisia – [Tunisia judicial body will be reformed, not dissolved: Gov't](#)**

After President Saied's decision to dissolve the Supreme Judicial Council drew international criticism, the Justice Minister announced the judicial system will be reformed instead of abolished. The Justice Minister announced the law regulating the judiciary will be amended and a temporary judicial authority set up in the meantime.

Friday  
11 February 2022

**Jordan – [Three convicted for sexual assault given longest prison terms in Jordanian history](#)**

Jordan's criminal court issued its longest ever prison sentence, ranging from 40 to 45 years, to three men convicted of abducting and sexually assaulting women in 2020.

**Sudan - [Arbitrary arrests ongoing in Sudan.. Amina Awad in military prisons](#)**

Amina Awad is the latest victim of arbitrary detention in Sudan. Sudanese women participated in the demonstration called by the "Coordination Committees of the Resistance" which was launched in Khartoum and the states to demand the overthrow of the military coup and its replacement with full civilian rule. They are still leading demonstrations and protests against patriarchal and repressive regimes that have not succeeded in breaking them or diverting their course from their permanent revolution to demand their rights. Amina was arrested by members of the security apparatus, from the Bahri al-Madrasah area. She has been transferred to the women's prison in the Omdurman region, without any clear charges being brought against her.

**South Of Sudan - [A 4-year-old girl raped and killed by a man under the influence of alcohol](#)**

The city of Kosti in the White Nile State witnessed a horrific crime that killed a 4-year-old girl. Shahed Ahmad El Mehdi is the new victim of rape in the South of Sudan. The police arrested the main suspect in the crime and someone who helped him carry the body after raping and killing the girl. A security source told Al-Arabiya.net that the accused confessed to committing the crime as soon as the investigation began with him. He stated that he was under the influence of alcohol and revealed the identity of his partner in the crime who was also arrested.

**Sudan – [Sudan's military rulers step up crackdown, arrest activists](#)**

Amira Osman, a Sudanese women's rights activist, was arrested by plainclothes police, joining hundreds of activists and protest leaders targeted since a military coup last October removed a transitional government from power.

**Iran – [Gruesome Femicide in Iran](#)**

A 17-year-old girl was beheaded in Iran on Saturday. Police arrested the victim's husband and brother-in-law, citing a "family dispute" as the motivation. According to a source close to the victim, Heydari had attempted to escape domestic abuse by fleeing to Turkey, but close relatives brought her back to Iran. In Khuzestan province, where the victim lived, murders labeled in investigations as "honor killings" constituted around 39 percent of all murders between 2013 and 2017.

**Afghanistan – [Taliban release British journalist Andrew North from detention in Kabul](#)**

The Taliban released a group of reporters detained while on assignment for the UN refugee agency reporting on Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis. This was the first time the Taliban held foreign journalists for more than a few hours, representing an escalation of threats against the media.

**Tunisia - [8-year-old girl raped; the perpetrator tried to falsify a mental illness certificate to avoid punishment.](#)**

A man in his thirties raped an 8-year-old girl on February 8 in Tunisia, then tried to obtain a forged medical certificate stating that he suffers from a mental illness to justify his crime. Security forces in the state of Ben Arous, south of the capital, arrested the criminal, who himself went to a mental hospital, in an attempt to tamper with the law.

Saturday and Sunday  
12 and 13 February  
2022

**Syria – [Hundreds rally in rare southern Syria protest](#)**

Hundreds of Syrians rallied in Sweida on Saturday for the fifth consecutive day in protest of the living conditions and lack of democracy. Protests are exceedingly rare in regime-held territory.

**Afghanistan – [Taliban have detained 29 women and their families in Kabul, says US envoy](#)**

According to a US diplomat, 29 women activists have been detained in Kabul. In a statement, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres expressed concern that several women were detained and haven't been heard from in weeks.



## INTERNATIONAL

**Monday**  
7 February 2022

**Tajikistan – [Tajikistan: Restore Internet in Autonomous Region](#)**

Tajikistan authorities cut internet to the autonomous Gorno-Badakhshan region on November 25th following protests over the killing of a man in the capital city. "Closing down communication in the GBAO region not only violates the right to freedom of expression but is making life difficult and even dangerous for the whole population," said Syinat Sultanalieva, Central Asia researcher at Human Rights Watch.

**Tuesday**  
8 February 2022

**India – [As Officials Look Away, Hate Speech in India Nears Dangerous Levels](#)**

Militant messaging is becoming increasingly mainstream in India as extremist elements push to reshape India into a Hindu state. Law enforcement and politicians are tacitly endorsing this message by remaining silent, activists say. Some firebrand Hindu monks called for violence against Muslims, and a genocide similar to that against the Rohingya in Myanmar.

**Bahrain – [Bahrain: Boys Arbitrarily Detained in Orphanage](#)**

Bahraini authorities are detaining six boys aged 14 to 15, and have refused to provide the families with written justification and have barred the parents from interrogations. The Office of Public Prosecution alleges the boys threw a molotov cocktail damaging a police car in December 2020 or January 2021.

**Wednesday**  
9 February 2022

**India – [Hijab Ban in India Sparks Outrage, Protests](#)**

Several government run educational institutions have banned female students from wearing the hijab, with support from the state government. International human rights law guarantees the rights to freely manifest one's religious beliefs, to freedom of expression, and to education without discrimination. The hijab ban is just the latest example of the marginalization of Muslims.

**Ukraine – [Life Under the Specter of War: Images From Ukraine](#)**

Residents of Ukrainian border towns are trying to carry on with normal life as Russian troops wait at the ready nearby. Even as life goes on, the threat of a catastrophic invasion gets harder to ignore.

**Russia – [Russian Government Seeks Closure of LGBT Rights Group](#)**

This week, Russia's Justice Ministry filed a lawsuit seeking to "liquidate" Sphere Foundation, the legal entity under which the Russian LGBT Network operates, arguing the group's activities run contrary to "traditional values." The network works to promote and protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in Russia.

**Thursday**  
10 February 2022

**Cameroon / US – [US: Deported Cameroonian Asylum Seekers Suffer Serious Harm](#)**

Cameroonians deported from the US in the last few years faced "arbitrary arrest and detention; enforced disappearances; torture, rape, and other violence; extortion; unfair prosecutions; confiscation of their national IDs; harassment; and abuses against their relatives. Many also reported experiencing excessive force, medical neglect, and other mistreatment in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody in the US." According to Human Rights Watch, the US violated the principle of non refoulement by "returning Cameroonians to face persecution, torture, and other serious harm".

**Friday**  
11 February 2022

**Russia – [Parliament to Consider New Anti-Torture Legislation](#)**

Russia's parliament will consider new legislation to punish state officials who commit torture after videos leaked showing abuse of inmates in prisons across the country. The penalty could include up to 12 years in prison.

**India - [Hijab protests spread in India as girls refuse to be told what not to wear](#)**

Indian colleges deny access to student with Hijabs. A request by a group of high school girls to wear the hijab in class has snowballed into dueling protests between Hindu and Muslim students in India, deepening religious polarization as regional elections approach. Debate over the hijab in schools took off last month after students at a pre-university college in Karnataka state's Udupi district began protesting a rule barring them from wearing the Muslim head covering in classrooms.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
12 and 13 February  
2022

**Ukraine – [Thousands of Ukrainians rally in Kyiv amid fear of Russian invasion](#)**

Several thousand Ukrainians rallied in Kyiv on Saturday to show unity amid fears of a Russian invasion, as Ukraine's leader told people not to panic and pushed back against what he said was a glut of bleak war predictions being reported in the media.

