



HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

11 – 17 April, 2022



Human Rights are inherent to all human beings, regardless of the nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language or any other status without discrimination. These rights are all universal, inalienable, interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.

The articles shared in this brief are the liability of their respective news outlets and do not reflect the views of CLDH.



LOCAL

Monday
11 April 2022

Lebanon – [Lebanon's opposition faces internal and external obstacles to electoral success](#)

The scene is common in the weeks before elections in Lebanon. Campaigners with a megaphone and fliers are spreading the word about their candidates' electoral programme on a busy Beirut street. A man on a scooter pulls up to discuss politics. But a few minutes later, a group of men drive the young activists away as they start to set up a tent. The activists who were chased away are members of left-wing secular groups running a grassroots campaign called Beirut Tuqawem, or "Beirut resists" in English. They are unsurprised by the display of aggression. They have faced hostility before in other areas of the capital, including those that support other sectarian leaders.

Tuesday
12 April 2022

Lebanon – [Lebanon disburses funds to temporarily avert bread crisis](#)

Lebanon's government has agreed to disburse \$15 million to temporarily resolve growing bread shortages in the country, Economy Minister Amin Salam told Reuters, while saying that the funds would only last a few weeks. Long lines had begun forming outside bakeries across the country since Monday after industry insiders warned that the government had not extended a long-promised credit line for the subsidized good. The government was not currently considering lifting bread subsidies and would instead seek a \$150 million agreement with the World Bank to improve food security because in the long term "we won't be able to subsidize anything, much less bread." The Lebanese pound has lost more than 90 percent of its value while food prices have gone up more than elevenfold, according to the World Food Programme.

Lebanon – [Lebanon Released Palestinian-Syrian Journalist After Being Detained Upon Arrival](#)

On Monday, the Palestinian/Syrian-American journalist, Nada Homs, was allowed to enter Lebanon after being held at Beirut International Airport with threats of deportation. The Lebanese authorities arrested the journalist amid claims of an entry ban against her. In a statement, the Alternative Press Syndicate in Lebanon called on the Lebanese General Security "to reverse the illegal deportation decision immediately, to allow her to enter Lebanese territory, and to respect her right to reside in Lebanon, as she is married to a Palestinian with a Lebanese mother." Human Rights Watch (HRW), which has also condemned Lebanon's actions against Nada Homs, said that this is not the first time the journalist gets arrested in Lebanon.

Wednesday
13 April 2022

Lebanon – [Lebanon: Questions for Candidates About Rights](#)

Candidates for Lebanon's May 15, 2022, parliamentary elections should make commitments to support key reforms that would improve the human rights situation in the country, Human Rights Watch said today in letters to major political parties and candidates citing 10 key areas for reform. The priority areas Human Rights Watch has identified are justice and accountability, the economic crisis, the electricity crisis, freedom of expression, military courts, women's rights, migrant domestic workers, sexual orientation and gender identity, refugees, and rights of persons with disabilities. Human Rights Watch will issue the results before the election.

Lebanon – [Saudi Arabia expresses support for humanitarian aid mechanism for Lebanon](#)

Saudi Arabia has expressed its support for the people of Lebanon and its desire to bolster ties between the two nations following the return of its envoy to Beirut. Walid Bukhari, the Saudi ambassador to Lebanon, told Lebanese President Michel Aoun on Wednesday that "the Kingdom is keen on helping the Lebanese people during difficult circumstances and strengthening relations between the two countries." According to the president's media office, the two men discussed bilateral relations and Bukhari told Aoun about "the mechanism of the Saudi-French joint fund aimed at providing humanitarian support and achieving stability and development in Lebanon."

Thursday
14 April 2022

Lebanon – [Banking restrictions: hold-up stories, the Lebanese way](#)

Although two years and seven months have passed since the beginning of the crisis, the banks' robbery of depositors' money continues in Lebanon with (almost) complete impunity.

Lebanon – [Lebanon risks missing IMF preconditions for EFF owing to weak governance: S&P](#)

The agreement between Lebanon and the International Monetary Fund on preconditions for a four-year Extended Fund Facility could fuel reform momentum yet will not have an immediate impact on Lebanon's sovereign creditworthiness, S&P Global Ratings said on April 14. This comes as the US rating agency believes that the persisting political dysfunction and weak governance in Lebanon will be challenging to fulfill preconditions in order to gain the approval of the IMF's board. "We see a risk that progress on reforms by the end of 2022 will be insufficient for Lebanon to achieve the IMF board's approval," S&P said in a statement. Lebanon has to implement a set of reforms to rebuild its economy and improve governance, to get the IMF approval of the EFF, which comes with around \$3 billion in funding, under the staff-level agreement reached with the IMF on April 7.

Lebanon – [Half of Lebanese children now need support due to food, healthcare shortages – new data](#)

Half of Lebanese children – or about 700,000 – are now in need of humanitarian aid, with thousands at risk of malnutrition as the war in Ukraine threatens to further exacerbate a national food crisis, Save the Children warned after the release of new data. New UN figures released today showed that more than 2 million Lebanese people – about 57% of the population – are now living in vulnerable situations with three in every four households – or 77% – not having enough money to buy food.

Friday
15 April 2022

Lebanon – [New Data Warns That 2 Million Lebanese People Now Live In Severe Poverty](#)

The organization Save The Children warned in a report on Thursday that half of the Lebanese children, or about 700,000, are now in need of humanitarian aid. The risk of malnutrition has increased among the children in Lebanon as the war in Ukraine continues. The NGO pointed to new data by the UN showing that more than 2 million Lebanese people (about 57% of the population) are now living in severe poverty, with 3 in every 4 households not having enough money to buy food. The report shows that the conflict in Ukraine has worsened the food crisis in Lebanon and that the cost of food has increased by 396% in one year.

Lebanon – [Private hospital syndicate says non-urgent surgeries being postponed due to anesthetics shortage](#)

The head of Lebanon's private hospitals syndicate, Sleiman Haroun, on Friday warned that medical centers have started postponing certain non-urgent surgical procedures due to shortages of anesthetics, adding that the central bank has not facilitate their import. « Our stock of anesthetics will not last more than 15 days, » Haroun warned.

Lebanon – [Security Forces & Families Of Beirut Blast Victims Clashed During Protest](#)

Opposing the demolition of the wheat silos, the families of the victims of the Beirut port explosion protested in front of the Church of the University of Holy Spirit in Kaslik where a Good Friday service was to be held. A clash erupted between them and the security forces when some of the protesting families tried to block the road to impede the Lebanese President and the officials to attend the traditional service. Frustrations have been increasing among the families at their plea for justice being disregarded. With the parliament's approval on Thursday to demolish the silos of the Beirut Port, the families are feeling further disregarded, deeming the demolition to be an eradication of the crime scene.

Saturday and Sunday
16 and 17 April 2022

Lebanon – [Electoral violations see no end](#)

it is prohibited to use public facilities, government departments, public institutions, universities, colleges, institutes, public and private schools, and places of worship for the purpose of holding festivals, holding electoral meetings and gatherings, or conducting electoral campaigns, according to Article 77 of the Elections Law 44/2017. This did not stop some candidates and their electoral machines from breaking the law and violating its prohibitions during their electoral campaigns. Violations were recorded in various electoral districts, according to a report issued by the Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections (LADE).



Monday
11 April 2022

Egypt – [Alaa Abd El-Fattah: Egyptian political prisoner gets British passport](#)

Egyptian activist Alaa Abd El-Fattah is now a British citizen, his family said on Monday. Having another nationality means the prominent activist, who has been in prison for more than three years, could be released. Abd El-Fattah has been on hunger strike for 10 days in protest against his prolonged detention. Several Egyptian political prisoners who hold foreign passports have been released in recent years, following a decree issued on 13 November 2014 by President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi allowing the repatriation of jailed foreigners to their home countries.

Saudi Arabia – [US activists demand Saudi Arabia halt deportation of Uyghurs to China](#)

US activists have called on Saudi Arabia not to extradite four members of the Uyghur Muslim minority to China, saying they risk serious violations of their human rights if they are deported. Protests took place in New York and three other cities across the US and Canada on Sunday, over reports that Buheligiemu Abula, her ex-husband Nuermaimaiti Ruze, their teenage daughter and religious scholar Aimidoula Waili were expected to be deported during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Amnesty International reported on Sunday that Abula and her daughter had been transferred to a deportation centre in the south of the capital Riyadh, ahead of their planned deportation. "Their transfer to Riyadh indicates that they are at high risk of deportation to China, where they could likely be subjected to arbitrary detention, torture, and persecution. Under international law, the kingdom has an obligation not to forcibly return Uyghurs to China", Amnesty International said.

Egypt – [Egypt: How an economist was found dead two months after arbitrary detention](#)

Since the end of February, almost 11 days after Hadhoud was unlawfully detained by National Security Apparatus agents, the family had descended on the hospital hoping to visit their relative who reportedly needed psychiatric evaluation, Hadhoud's family told Middle East Eye. But on Saturday, Hadhoud's relatives were asked to collect his body from the hospital, over two months after he disappeared. Hadhoud joins a growing list of prisoners who have lost their lives in detention as a result of ill-treatment, torture, or lack of medical care.

Occupied Palestine – [Israeli forces kill four Palestinians in 24 hours as West Bank violence surges](#)

Four Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli forces in separate incidents across the occupied West Bank within 24 hours on Sunday and Monday. At least 35 Palestinians have been killed so far this year by Israeli forces in the West Bank. The recent deaths come after Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett granted the security forces "full freedom of action" on Friday, following a deadly shooting in Tel Aviv last week in which a Palestinian from Jenin killed three Israelis.

Tuesday
12 April 2022

Iran – [Ailing prisoners left to die amid crisis of impunity for fatal denial of medical care](#)

Iranian prison officials are committing shocking violations of the right to life by deliberately denying ailing prisoners lifesaving healthcare and refusing to investigate and ensure accountability for unlawful deaths in custody, Amnesty International said. In a new briefing, [In death's waiting room: Deaths in custody following deliberate denial of medical care in Iran's prisons](#), the organization documents how prison authorities routinely cause or contribute to deaths in custody, including by blocking or delaying prisoners' access to emergency hospitalization. The Iranian authorities' chilling disregard for human life has effectively turned Iran's prisons into a waiting room of death for ill prisoners, where treatable conditions tragically become fatal," said Diana Eltahawy, Deputy Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa at Amnesty International. Amnesty International documented the fatal consequences resulting from prison officials' common practice of denying or delaying hospital transfers for critically ill prisoners.

Irak – [How worsening water crisis threatens lives and development in Iraq](#)

Across Iraq, water sources that have been taken for granted and relied upon throughout centuries of hardship, chaos and drought are under threat. So too, as a result, are the livelihoods of many people in the country who find themselves facing unprecedented challenges in accessing one of life's essential resources. A combination of conflicts, corruption, mismanagement and regional political disputes has left the people of Iraq facing chronic water shortages that are having severe effects on the country's agriculture, economy and the health of its citizens, so much so that the viability of many communities is now in question.

Wednesday
13 April 2022

Jordan – [Jordan jobs safeguards fail to stop companies laying off staff, World Bank claims](#)

Industrial companies in Jordan have laid off staff to help cope with accumulated losses as a result of the global pandemic, despite government measures put in place to safeguard jobs, a World Bank report claims. The World Bank recently said that a survey it carried out on a number of industrial firms in Jordan revealed that half had to lay off all their employees in order to cope with the “massive cash shock” experienced during the pandemic. The government has allocated 20 million Jordanian dinars (\$28.2 million) for the Social Security Corporation’s Estidama program, which targets sectors hit hardest by the pandemic. The relief program, which was launched last year under a defense order, helps affected institutions pay the full wages of workers

Tunisia – [Tunisian President Kais Saied promises ‘free and fair’ elections in talks with EU delegation](#)

Tunisian President Kais Saied has told a European Parliament delegation in Tunis that he is determined to hold a referendum and “free and fair” elections in a bid to end political instability in the country. He also pledged “to preserve the unity, continuity and sovereignty of the state, according to the will of the Tunisian people. Tunisia has been in a state of political upheaval since Saied declared a state of emergency on July 25, 2021, dismissing Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi and suspending Parliament, which last month was finally dissolved.

Turkey – [Prominent anti-femicide campaign group threatened with closure](#)

A legal case has been opened by a court to close down one of Turkey’s leading feminist organisations, which has campaigned for years against the murder of women in the country. Since its founding in 2010, the organisation has campaigned against what it sees as an epidemic of violence against women in Turkey. The group has, in recent years, been heavily involved in bringing a number of murders, suspicious killings and disappearances of women to both national and international attention. There has been widespread anger in Turkey since July 2021, when - in the middle of a highly publicised wave of violent female deaths - the government withdrew Turkey from the 2011 Istanbul Convention on the prevention of violence against women.

Middle East – [Human rights and democracy eroding among US allies in Middle East, report says](#)

The US State Department has said respect for human rights and democratic norms have continued to worsen across the Middle East, with authoritarian states, including Washington’s allies in the region, detaining opponents and activists seen as posing a threat to their rule. Secretary of State Antony Blinken described what he called a continued “recession” in basic rights and the rule of law over the past year, as he unveiled the US government’s annual assessment of the global human rights situation on Tuesday. According to the State Department’s report, Egyptian authorities were responsible in 2021 for unlawful or arbitrary killings; torture and inhuman treatment; harsh and life-threatening prison conditions; politically motivated reprisals against individuals located in another country; and serious restrictions on the internet and press freedom. The human rights reports section highlighted significant human rights issues including credible reports of unlawful or arbitrary killings, extraterritorial detention of Palestinians from the occupied territories in Israel, harassment of nongovernmental organisations and restrictions on Palestinians residing in Jerusalem, including arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy, family, and home.

Thursday
14 April 2022

Occupied Palestine – [Palestinians share pain of constantly losing their homes](#)

Sixteen apartments that housed about 120 people were destroyed in the airstrikes — the occupants are now living in rented apartments as refugees, with the rent being paid by the UN Relief and Works Agency. Al-Diri said: “It is our fate to be displaced over the years, our grandpas were displaced from Sarafand at the time of Nakba of 1948, and after 70 years we also tasted the bitterness of displacement.” Official figures from Hamas’s Ministry of Public Works and Housing show that only 5 percent of what has been destroyed has been reconstructed in Gaza. War has caused the complete or severe destruction of 1,335 housing units, while about 12,886 units were moderately and partially damaged, according to data from the Government Information Office in Gaza.

Saudi Arabia – [Saudi Arabia calls for more efficient and effective humanitarian responses to crises](#)

Saudi humanitarian chiefs stressed the importance of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of responses to crises and enhancing the mechanisms through which aid is delivered to the people who most need it. Aqeel Al-Ghamdi, the head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs’ Saudi Donor Support Group, called on the OCHA to strengthen and boost the mechanisms and tools of humanitarian coordination, given the positive effects they can have on strategic outcomes. Al-Ghamdi, who is also the assistant general supervisor for planning and development at the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief), stressed the importance of adopting a flexible mechanism for prioritizing humanitarian needs and responding to them more efficiently, and enhancing the mechanism to ensure that aid reaches beneficiaries.

Yemen – [Economic stability, alleviating citizens' suffering key priorities: Yemen's presidential council](#)

Yemen's Presidential Council said alleviating the suffering of the people and shoring up the economy were among the priorities for the newly formed body. Rashad Al-Alimi, the president of the council, characterized the upcoming period as exceptional and said "each of us should assume his responsibility," adding that he welcomes a just and comprehensive peace. The US State Department urged the council "to work closely with the Prime Minister and his government to strengthen basic services and economic stability as soon as possible, so that Yemenis can receive the tangible benefits of recent reforms."

Yemen – [Qatar FM meets UN, US officials to discuss Yemen humanitarian situation, Safer tanker](#)

Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman reiterated on Thursday that the only way to resolve the Yemeni crisis is through negotiations between Yemeni parties. His comments came during a meeting with David Gressly, the UN resident and humanitarian coordinator in Yemen, and US envoy to Yemen Tim Lenderking, state-run Qatar News Agency reported. During the meeting, they reviewed the latest developments in Yemen, especially the humanitarian situation, and discussed the latest developments regarding the dilapidating floating Safer oil tanker that is moored in the Red Sea north of the port city of Hodeidah.

Occupied Palestine – [Israeli forces beat and detain Palestinians in al-Aqsa prayer hall](#)

Israeli forces beat and bound Palestinian worshippers in a rare storming of the main prayer hall inside Jerusalem's al-Aqsa Mosque, forcing them to lie face down in a row in one of Islam's holiest sites. Some footage circulated online showed Israeli forces beating the detainees. For four hours, Israeli forces used baton rounds and tear gas to clear the mosque's courtyards. Police were seen beating journalists and women. The Palestinian Red Crescent said 152 people were evacuated from the mosque and transferred to nearby hospitals, including many with upper-body wounds. East Jerusalem's al-Makassed hospital said it had received 40 wounded people from al-Aqsa, two with critical injuries.

Occupied Palestine – [West Bank: Israeli forces violently disperse al-Aqsa solidarity protests](#)

The Israeli army violently cracked down on Palestinians in the occupied West Bank on Friday following earlier raids by Israeli forces on worshippers in al-Aqsa Mosque. The Red Crescent said in a brief statement that their medics dealt with 224 injuries following Israeli forces' attacks in several cities. It added that Israeli army targeted its crews and hindered their work in providing first aid to the wounded on site. The army fired live bullets at an ambulance and damaged its external structure in Beita near Nablus. The army used a barrage of gas bombs and live bullets to suppress the demonstrators, journalist Wahaj Bani Mufleh said. Media crews of al-Hurra and al-Ghad TV said that they were attacked by a settler while covering the confrontations in Beita, adding that he damaged their equipment. Journalist Khaled Badir said that one of the settlers tried to attack the press crews as they attempted to take shelter in a safe place, and threw a number of cameras on the ground, damaging them. Since the beginning of April, the West Bank has witnessed an escalation of Israeli violence in several areas of the West Bank.

Tunisia – [Tunisian journalist detained after criticising interior ministry](#)

The National Syndicate of Tunisian Journalists (SNJT) on Thursday night denounced the detention of Chahrazed Akacha who had criticised the interior ministry, calling it a "backwards step" for freedom of expression. Akacha, editor-in-chief of a news website, was detained on suspicion of "harming other people's peace through public telecommunication networks," the journalists' union said. The proceedings were launched after Akacha, a critic of President Kais Saied's power grab last year, hit out at the ministry on her Facebook page. Akacha's detention was a new sign of "a real backwards step in press freedom and freedom of expression in Tunisia," the SNJT said. The judiciary "continues to consider journalists who express their ideas... as dangerous elements for society," the union said, calling for Akacha's immediate release. Since Saied's decision on 25 July last year to oust the government, freeze parliament and subsequently expand his executive powers, there have been increasing restrictions on press freedoms and violence against journalists.

Occupied Palestine – [Israeli forces storm al-Aqsa Mosque for second time in 48 hours](#)

Israeli forces stormed al-Aqsa Mosque early on Sunday, assaulting and blockading Muslim worshippers inside prayer halls while clearing the way for Israeli settlers to enter the occupied East Jerusalem holy site. At around 7am local time, hundreds of special forces entered the mosque's courtyard and began striking Palestinians observing Ramadan with batons in a bid to force them out. There were also reports of stun grenades being deployed. The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) said its medics were also prevented from entering the mosque to provide first aid. Israel's control of occupied East Jerusalem, including the Old City, violates several principles under international law, which stipulates that an occupying power has no sovereignty in the territory it occupies and cannot make any permanent changes there. "The violations and injustice has reached new levels. What is happening is a catastrophe, it's unacceptable," el-Kurd, who is also known as Hajja Fawzia, told MEE. "This is a clear violation of religious rights and sanctities."

Libya – [Six dead, 29 presumed dead after migrant boat capsizes off Libya](#)

Libya, after a decade of conflict and lawlessness, has become a key departure point for African and Asian migrants making desperate attempts to reach Europe. Six people were found dead and 29 are missing and presumed dead after their boat capsized off the coast of Libya, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said Saturday. « At least 53 migrants have been reported dead or missing off Libya this week alone ». Migrants often endure horrific conditions in Libya before boarding overcrowded, often unseaworthy vessels that frequently sink or run into trouble. The United Nations' refugee agency, UNHCR, has said that around 1,300 migrants drowned or went missing in the central Mediterranean in 2021, making it the world's deadliest migration route.



Monday
11 April 2022

Poland – [Middle Eastern refugees report violent treatment by Polish authorities](#)

Middle Eastern refugees who were arbitrarily detained by Polish authorities after crossing from Belarus in 2021 have detailed violent treatment against them. Many of them were being held in Wedrzyn detention center, which holds up to 600 people, and where overcrowding was rife. Guards greeted new detainees by saying “welcome to Guantanamo.” Violent forcible returns have been another feature of Polish mistreatment, with border guards reportedly coercing refugees into signing documents that included incriminating information. Almost all the people Amnesty interviewed said they were traumatized after fleeing conflict and being trapped for months on the border. They were suffering from complex psychological injuries including anxiety, insomnia, depression and frequent suicidal thoughts.

Peru – [Peru: Revoke Emergency Decrees](#)

On April 7, 2022, President Castillo issued a state of emergency decree for 30 days that applies to the national road network, more than 27,000 kilometers – about 17,000 miles – of main roads. The decree, which states in its preamble that it responds to “problems” created by a transportation workers strike, allows the government to deploy the Armed Forces on those roads, suspends constitutional rights to freedom of movement and peaceful assembly, and permits arbitrary arrests on the road network. Suspending people’s basic rights and sending in troops to deal with a strike and with crime is dangerous and far out of proportion to the situation,” said Tamara Taraciuk Broner, acting Americas director at Human Rights Watch. “President Castillo should revoke the emergency decrees.”

Brazil – [Rights expert concerned about erosion of democracy in Brazil](#)

Decrying the erosion of democracy in Brazil, a UN expert has called for authorities to create and maintain a safe environment conducive to the exercise of the rights to peaceful assembly and association. Mr. Voule, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of association, also addressed the frequent excessive use of force by law enforcement, as well as human rights violations during protests. I deplore policies restricting social and political participation, limiting spaces for consultation concerning public policies and decision making,” he said, condemning the closure of 650 councils in Brazil.

Ukraine – [Ukraine war: Trauma ‘risks destroying a generation’, Security Council hears](#)

Increasing reports of sexual violence and human trafficking in Ukraine - allegedly committed against women and children in the context of massive displacement and the ongoing Russian invasion - are raising “all the red flags” about a potential protection crisis, the head of the UN’s gender agency warned the Security Council on Monday.

Tuesday
12 April 2022

Central African Republic – [Central African Republic: War Crimes Court’s First Trial](#)

The opening of the first trial at the Central African Republic’s Special Criminal Court (SCC) on April 19, 2022 represents significant progress in the difficult effort to see justice for grave crimes committed in the country, Human Rights Watch said today. The case involves war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in May 2019 in Koundjili and Lemouna allegedly by the suspects, Issa Sallet Adoum, Ousman Yaouba, and Tahir Mahamat, members of the “3R” rebel group. “The Special Criminal Court’s first trial is a landmark moment for victims in the Central African Republic who have repeatedly called for justice for heinous crimes committed during successive conflicts in the country,” said Esti Tambay, senior International Justice counsel at Human Rights Watch. This novel court – which combines international and domestic experience to hold those responsible for grave crimes to account – could be an important justice model for other countries to consider.”

Wednesday
13 April 2022

Indonesia – [Epidemic of Sexual Harassment on Indonesian Campuses Continues due to Culture of Impunity](#)

On October 27, 2021, a female student entered the office of Syafri Harto, the dean of the political science school at Indonesia's Universitas Riau in Pekanbaru, and her thesis supervisor. She said she was stunned when Syafri started flirting with her, gesturing and saying "I love you," before eventually putting his hands on her shoulder. He then allegedly kissed her cheeks and asked her to kiss his lips. She said she pushed him away and left the room. She asked the school's head and secretary to assign her to a different thesis supervisor but said the two men dismissed her story, saying that it was "a small matter" and asked her to just meet with Syafri. They also advised her to remain silent about her accusation because it might "break up Syafri's marriage." This case is sadly one of many on university campuses across Indonesia. Most such cases have ended up with negotiated "peace settlements" that fall far short of providing justice to victims, who feel powerless against senior staff and university officials.

Angola – [Police Arrest, Charge 22 Peaceful Protesters](#)

Angola authorities should immediately drop criminal charges against 22 protesters arrested during peaceful protests in Luanda on April 9, 2022, Human Rights Watch said today. The activists had gathered to march against the detention of political prisoners and to call for free and fair elections. "Angolan police are showing their longstanding disregard for basic rights by arresting and detaining peaceful protesters, including a mother with a 6-month-old baby," said Zenaida Machado, senior Africa researcher at Human Rights Watch. Article 47 of Angola's Constitution allows citizens to protest without authorization, provided that they inform authorities in advance. But the Angolan government has repeatedly blocked and dispersed peaceful anti-government protests using unnecessary or excessive force and arbitrary arrests.

Thailand – [Prominent Rights Defender Harassed](#)

The authorities in Thailand should urgently investigate an incident intended to intimidate a prominent human rights defender, Human Rights Watch said today. Security camera footage showed what appeared to be a woman wearing a face mask and a dark t-shirt with the Thai numeral 9 standing in front of the house, throwing the scissors, and then running away. Angkhana, 66, is a former commissioner of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand and a newly appointed member of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. "Violent acts intended to intimidate a well-known figure like Angkhana not only pose a threat to her and her family, but send a spine-chilling message to the entire Thai human rights community," said Elaine Pearson, acting Asia director at Human Rights Watch. Article 47 of Angola's Constitution allows citizens to protest without authorization, provided that they inform authorities in advance. But the Angolan government has repeatedly blocked and dispersed peaceful anti-government protests using unnecessary or excessive force and arbitrary arrests.

US/ Bangladesh – [US stands firm on sanctions on rights abusers in Bangladesh](#)

On April 4, the United States marked 50 years of diplomatic relations with Bangladesh. But the real fanfare around the anniversary was about the future of diplomatic relations between the countries in the wake of the US government's decision last December to impose sanctions against Bangladesh's special security force unit, the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), which has been credibly implicated in extrajudicial killings, torture, and enforced disappearances. Established in 2003 with the support of the US and UK as a counterterrorism force, over the years the RAB morphed into a political death squad. The RAB has been linked to hundreds more cases of disappearances and killings, typically of political opposition figures, dissidents, or others critical of the Bangladeshi government. The US government has made clear that while diplomatic relations remain strong, the US has serious concerns about human rights and the future of democracy in Bangladesh.

Thursday
14 April 2022

Maldives – [Maldives: Reforms Fall Short in Curbing Threats to Free Speech](#)

Despite progress in media freedom under President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, the government has neglected other essential reforms, leaving the justice system vulnerable to pressure from powerful interest groups, and groups that advocate violence against journalists and critics of the government. The government has reduced its repression of free speech and the media, so reporters say they no longer fear state censorship or worry about facing criminal cases or fines for doing their jobs. Yet, the government has often relented to pressure from politicians and powerful religious groups, instead of upholding free speech and association. The government has failed to address the grave risks posed by extremist groups that have political protection, Human Rights Watch found.

Friday
15 April 2022

UK – [UK Local Elections: A Chance to Improve Children’s Lives](#)

On May 5, voters across London will go to the polls to elect their new local government representatives. These elections will decide who runs London’s local authorities, which are responsible for services such as education, social care, and housing. – issues that greatly affect the lives of the capital’s children. London has the highest rates of child poverty anywhere in the country, with 37 percent of children living in relative poverty after taking housing costs into account. Human Rights Watch has found these families often live in substandard or uninhabitable conditions, violating children’s basic rights. Countless children are growing up without any space to play, unable to fully participate in school, and trying to sleep while cold air seeps into their bedroom and toxic mold grows on their walls. Local authorities can take concrete steps to improve the situation.

US – [US Will Protect Cameroonians from Dangerous Deportations](#)

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced today that it has designated Cameroon for Temporary Protected Status (TPS). This news was long awaited and will provide temporary relief from deportation, as well as work permits, to thousands of Cameroonians in the United States. DHS cited ongoing armed conflict and other “extraordinary and temporary conditions” in Cameroon that prevent safe return. People deported to Cameroon also face risks because of their real or perceived opposition to the government. I spoke to dozens of Cameroonians deported by the US between 2019 and 2021 and documented how many faced serious human rights violations upon return, including arbitrary arrests and detention, enforced disappearances, rape, torture, extortion, and unfair prosecutions.

Saturday and Sunday
16 and 17 April 2022

US- [Workplace inclusion drives have almost trebled since BLM protests, survey shows](#)

The number of employers implementing new diversity and inclusion drives has almost trebled since the end of the Black Lives Matter protests, new research shows. A total of 27% of minority-ethnic workers said their employers had introduced new initiatives during the last 12 months in response to the global movement, according to an Opinium survey of 2,000 adults. This was an increase from 10% in 2020, the year in which protests began after George Floyd was murdered by a police officer in the US state of Minnesota.