



► 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

29 November 2021

Lebanon – [Cash-strapped Lebanon wakes up to countrywide roadblocks](#)

Roadblocks were set up by demonstrators across Lebanon after the currency plummeted to 25,000 LBP to the U.S. dollar - a historic low. Protesters across Beirut, Tripoli, Saida, and other cities closed highways and intersections on Monday morning with their vehicles, and set tires and dumpsters on fire.

Wednesday

1 December 2021

Lebanon – [Lebanon launches cash card aid, despite funding shortfall](#)

After months of delays, Lebanon opened registration for two cash assistance programs to help 700,000 vulnerable families cope with the withdrawal of crucial subsidies. One program providing funds for secondary school costs is funded by the World Bank. The other program, designed to provide ration cards for eligible families, has yet to secure funding and it remains unclear whether payments will be made in U.S. dollars or Lebanese pounds.

Lebanon – [Lebanese businesses pay steep price for standoff with Saudis](#)

The diplomatic crisis is causing anxiety among Lebanese, particularly those who work in Gulf countries, at a time when Lebanon is already enduring an unprecedented economic meltdown. Remittances from more than 350,000 Lebanese working and living in the Gulf have been essential, particularly as the meltdown drives up inflation and unemployment in the once middle-income country.

Lebanon – [Stuck in Belarus: Blocked from entering the EU or returning to Lebanon, refugees fear deportation to Syria](#)

After the route across the Belarusian border into the EU was blocked, Syrian refugees who made the journey to Belarus from Lebanon are left with no clear path to asylum as their Belarus tourist visas expire and they are banned from returning to Lebanon. They now face the possibility of returning to Syria.

Thursday
2 December 2021

Lebanon – [Leaving Lebanon: Crisis Has Most People Looking for Exit](#)

63% of Lebanese, or 1 in 6, said they would leave Lebanon if they could. Lebanon's economic meltdown has hammered the country's middle class, as well as many of its best educated, which helps explain why so many are ready to head for the exits.

Lebanon – [Waste Collection Stops in Beirut, Mt. Lebanon Threatening New Crisis](#)

The CityBlu and Ramco companies have stopped waste sweeping and collection operations in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, which might lead to a new garbage crisis in the country. Al-Jadeed TV said the suspension comes in protest of "the failure to settle the contracts" with the state-run Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR).

Friday
3 December 2021

Lebanon – [Syrian Refugee Children Blocked from School](#)

Thousands of Syrian refugee children have been out of school, blocked by policies that require certified educational records, legal residency in Lebanon, and other official documents that many Syrians cannot obtain. Lebanon hosts 660,000 school-age Syrian refugee children, but 30 percent – 200,000 – have never been to school, a 2021 UN assessment found, and almost 60 percent were not enrolled in school in recent years.

Lebanon – [In Lebanon, crime has increased dramatically since the start of the crisis](#)

Theft and murder rates in Lebanon have risen in the past two months. Since early 2021, car thefts have increased by 212%, burglaries by 266% and murders by 101% in comparison with the first ten months of 2019, before the worst of the economic crisis.

Lebanon / European Union – [Agreement for future dollar assistance to people with disabilities](#)

The economic depression facing Lebanon has exacerbated all kinds of social inequalities, especially that affecting people with disabilities. UNICEF, the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the European Union signed an agreement to establish a national social protection system which will take the form of a new national disability allowance that will provide direct support to those in need.

Saturday and Sunday
4 and 5 December
2021

Lebanon – [Macron announces Saudi-French initiative to solve crisis with Lebanon](#)

France and Saudi Arabia agreed on Saturday to do more to help the Lebanese population, work to solve a diplomatic row between Beirut and the Gulf states and jointly push to get the government there running. French President Emmanuel Macron told reporters Riyadh had committed to re-engage financially in the short-term.



REGIONAL Middle East

Monday
29 November 2021

Occupied Palestine – [Palestine: Femicide highlights need for domestic violence law](#)
On November 22nd, Sabreen Yasser Khweira, a 30-year-old mother of four, was allegedly stabbed to death by her husband in a small Palestinian village on the outskirts of Ramallah. Khweira is the 26th Palestinian woman to be killed in a case of femicide so far in 2021 in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. At least 15 other Palestinian women have been killed inside Israel. A draft of a domestic violence law has been stalled since at least 2016, though it was written more than a decade ago.

Tuesday
30 November 2021

Iraq – [ISIS Fighter Convicted in Death of Enslaved 5-Year-Old Girl](#)
A German court on Tuesday convicted an Islamic State fighter for crimes against humanity and war crimes for tying up a 5-year-old Yazidi girl he had bought as a slave in Iraq, and leaving her in scorching heat to die of thirst. It was the first genocide conviction of a fighter for the Islamic State, which systematically persecuted the Yazidi ethnic group in Iraq.

Turkey – [‘Our Money Has No Value’: Frustration Rises in Turkey at Lira Crisis](#)
Sporadic protests have broken out around Turkey and the opposition parties have called for a series of rallies to demand a change of government after the lira crashed sharply last week. The currency has lost more than 45 percent of its value this year, and nearly 20 percent in the last week. Scores of people have been detained for joining street protests. The police detained 70 people in several districts of Istanbul last Wednesday who were protesting the government’s management of the economy.

Wednesday
1 December 2021

Occupied Palestine – [Hebron: Israeli president visit overlooks violent settler control](#)
Busloads of left-wing Israeli activists went to protest Israeli President Isaac Herzog’s lighting of a Hanukkah candle at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, a move that sparked criticism as being provocative. The activists were stopped from reaching Hebron, but condemned the president for ‘lighting a candle in a place that has become a stronghold of oppression and violence.’

Thursday
2 December 2021

Syria – [Displaced Syrians face brutal winter exacerbated by economic collapse, charity warns](#)
The majority of displaced Syrians face a bitter winter with inadequate shelter and not enough food. Only 29 percent of internally displaced people (IDP) in Northern Syria believe that their current accommodation adequately protects them from winter conditions.

Friday
3 December 2021

Iraq – [ISIL committed war crimes at Mosul prison, UN investigation finds](#)
The head of a United Nations team investigating ISIL’s (ISIS) atrocities in Iraq has said the armed group’s fighters committed crimes against humanity and war crimes at a prison in the northern city of Mosul, where at least 1,000 mostly Shia Muslim prisoners were systematically killed seven years ago.

Afghanistan – [In Afghanistan, ‘Who Has the Guns Gets the Land’](#)
Thousands of Afghans are facing traumatic dislocations as the new Taliban government uses property to compensate its fighters for years of military service, amid a crumbling economy and a lack of cash.

Saturday and Sunday
4 and 5 December
2021

Sudan – [Sudan’s al-Burhan says army will exit politics after 2023 vote](#)
Sudan’s military chief says the army will leave politics after elections that are scheduled for 2023. The general had led a military takeover in late October, upending Sudan’s transition to civilian-led democracy, but a deal struck on November 21 has reinstated Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok to lead a technocratic Cabinet until elections in July 2023.

Afghanistan – [Facing Economic Collapse, Afghanistan Is Gripped by Starvation](#)
An estimated 22.8 million people – more than half the country’s population – are expected to face potentially life-threatening food insecurity this winter. After the U.S. withdrew and the Taliban took Kabul, billions of dollars in foreign aid that propped up the previous Western-backed government vanished and U.S. sanctions on the Taliban isolated the country from the global financial system, paralyzing Afghan banks and impeding relief work by humanitarian organizations.

Saturday and Sunday
4 and 5 December
2021

Kurdistan / The Netherlands – [Kurdish protesters storm the chemical weapons body in The Hague](#)
Dutch police arrested 50 people on Friday after Kurdish demonstrators alleging that Turkey is using chemical weapons in northern Iraq broke into the headquarters of the global toxic arms watchdog.



INTERNATIONAL

Wednesday
1 December

U.N. / Afghanistan / Myanmar – [U.N. Seats Denied, for Now, to Afghanistan's Taliban and Myanmar's Junta](#)

A bid by the new Taliban government in Afghanistan and the junta ruling Myanmar to gain international recognition suffered a blow on Wednesday when the United Nations put off a decision on the rightful representatives of both countries.

E.U. – [New E.U. Measures Set to Restrict Asylum Rights at the Belarus Border](#)

The European Union on Wednesday proposed new measures that would allow Poland and other member states bordering Belarus to suspend some protections for asylum seekers, raising concerns that they may undermine the ability of migrants to seek refuge in the bloc.

Greece – [E.U. Interpreter Says Greece Expelled Him to Turkey in Migrant Roundup](#)

A European Union interpreter says that in September, Greek border guards mistook him for an asylum seeker, assaulted him and then forced him across the border into Turkey alongside dozens of migrants.

Thursday
2 December 2021

Worldwide – [Extreme Poverty Has Been Sharply Cut. What Has Changed?](#)

The U.N. pledged to cut by half the proportion of people living in the worst conditions around the world. By 2015, the share of the world's population living in extreme poverty fell to 12 percent from 36 percent in 1990, a steep decline in just two and a half decades. During a single generation, more than a billion people around the world climbed out of extreme poverty, surpassing the goal.

Worldwide – [Millions More People Got Access to Water. Can They Drink It?](#)

Deaths from diarrheal disease linked to contaminated water have fallen significantly, to about half a million a year – down from more than two million in 2000, even as the global population has grown.

Friday
3 December 2021

Europe / Turkey – [Council of Europe Sanctions Turkey](#)

The Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers notified Turkey it will start infringement proceedings over its failure to comply with the European Court of Human Rights' (ECtHR) order to free the jailed human rights defender Osman Kavala.

Azerbaijan – [Azerbaijan: Opposition Leader Beaten in Custody](#)

Opposition leader Tofiq Yagublu was detained during a peaceful protest on Wednesday. Yagublu, 60, said police severely beat him while videoing him and demanding that he say on camera that he would stop criticizing Azerbaijan's leadership.

Mexico – [People with Disabilities in Mexico Underrepresented in Politics](#)

There are roughly 1,175,000 people with intellectual disabilities living in Mexico. Unlike other countries, Mexico has no restrictions against people with intellectual disabilities voting or standing for election. However, political parties and representative bodies, such as the Senate, Congress, and municipal councils, have done little to engage them and ensure their equal participation in running for political office.

Saturday and Sunday
4 and 5 December
2021

UK – [Police treated us like criminals, say families of girls trafficked to Islamic State in Syria](#)

A series of testimonies details how police attempted to criminalize British families whose children were trafficked to Islamic State (IS) in Syria, showing how grieving relatives were initially treated as suspects and then abandoned by the authorities.

Pakistan – [Man tortured and killed in Pakistan over alleged blasphemy](#)

A mob in Pakistan tortured, killed and then set on fire a Sri Lankan man who was accused of blasphemy over some posters he had allegedly taken down. In horrific videos shared across social media, Diyawadana can be seen being thrown on to the floor, where hundreds began tearing his clothes, violently beating him. He was tortured to death and then his body was burned. Dozens in the crowd can also be seen taking selfies with his dead body.

Greece – [Refugees forced to claim asylum in 'jail-like' camps as Greece tightens system](#)

Last week, in keeping with its mantra of "tough but fair" migration policies, Athens' center-right government announced that asylum procedures for first-time applicants would only be permitted in state-run reception centers. Use of the communications app Skype, it said, would be limited strictly to those whose applications have been rejected and want to appeal. Aid agencies fear the plans are an attempt to control and contain rather than help asylum seekers.