



HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

7 – 13 March, 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.



LOCAL

Monday
7 March 2022

Lebanon – [Return of the fuel lines gives Lebanese drivers flashbacks of last summer's crisis](#)

Global oil prices have escalated exponentially since Russia invaded Ukraine last month, wreaking havoc in the global market. In Lebanon – where 20 liters of fuel today costs around LL400,000 per 20 liters for gasoline and LL375,000 for diesel – many have blamed the new fuel shortages on station owners and fuel distributors hoarding product as they wait for the official prices to increase in line with the global market.

Tuesday
8 March 2022

Beirut – [Relief and anxiety at Beirut airport, as the Lebanese return from Ukraine](#)

Parents of children evacuated from Ukraine waited anxiously at the Beirut airport for evacuation flights to land. Several parents interviewed by L'Orient Le Jour explained they sent their children to study abroad so they could avoid Lebanon's ongoing crisis, and are worried about their children returning to Lebanon where they don't have a future.

Lebanon – [Lebanese fearful as fuel and wheat shortage deepens](#)

Up to 90 percent of Lebanon's wheat and cooking oil imports come from Ukraine and Russia, as well as a large proportion of grain imports. The fighting in Ukraine has engulfed the country's southern ports, putting a stop to shipments, and imports from Russia have been hampered as a result of financial sanctions imposed on Moscow. The impact means that Lebanon now has only one month's wheat reserves left, deepening an already-existing food security crisis in the country. Additionally, due to the sharp increase in global oil prices, official prices of fuel in Lebanon have increased by a staggering 33 percent since Russia's invasion of Ukraine less than two weeks ago.

Wednesday
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Bekaa – [Rising water and falling snow: A tented settlement's annual battle against the elements](#)

To prevent the Syrian camps from becoming a permanent fixture, the Lebanese government forbids building with concrete or other durable materials. As a result, every winter rain, snow, and wind flood the camps and destroy homes. Along with the government's approach, an aid worker faulted the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) for failing to coordinate with camp residents and local NGOs to make a plan before the storms hit and for being slow to react afterward.

Thursday
10 March 2022

Lebanon – [Lebanese women in Parliament: So many barriers and very little progress](#)

While the deadline for the Lebanese interested in applying for candidacy in the 2022 parliamentary elections, which is March 15, 2022, arrives in a few days, only 47 women number among the 419 candidates who have so far officially submitted their applications.

Lebanon – [Lebanon's cabinet has rejected creating megacenters for the upcoming parliamentary elections. What does this mean for voters?](#)

At today's session the cabinet discussed a report from the Interior Minister on the feasibility of setting up megacenters ahead of the May 15 election date. Under a megacenter or vote center model voters are free to choose from multiple locations, depending on preference and convenience, in theory making voting more accessible. In Lebanon the convenience and accessibility advantages of this model are especially significant because, unlike other countries, Lebanon all-but requires voters to remain registered in the places where their male ancestors, or a husband's male ancestors for married women, hail from as opposed to where they actually live, forcing millions to perform an expensive and time-consuming election-day pilgrimage from towns and cities across the country to their sometimes distant places of registration.

Lebanon – [Mikati Urges U.N. to Discuss Lebanese Crisis in Security Council Talks](#)

Prime Minister Najib Miqati called Thursday on the United Nations to intensify the international efforts to support Lebanon. He asked U.N. Special Coordinator for Lebanon Joanna Wronecka to urge the U.N. Security Council to address the Lebanese crisis, in its upcoming session next week.

Lebanon – [Lebanon Tribunal convicts another two men for 2005 Hariri bombing](#)

Appeals judges at the Lebanon Tribunal on Thursday convicted another two men of several counts of terrorism and murder for playing a role in the 2005 assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafic Al-Hariri, reversing an earlier acquittal. In 2020 a lower trial chamber already convicted a former member of the Shi'ite movement Hezbollah, Salim Jamil Ayyash, for the bombing that killed veteran Sunni Muslim politician Hariri and 21 others. All three men have been tried in absentia and remain at large.

Friday
11 March 2022

Lebanon – [Civil Society organizations reject the unjustified renewal of the mandate of the National Human Rights Commission](#)

Civil Society organizations reject the unjustified renewal of the mandate of the National Human Rights Commission, which includes the Committee for the Prevention of Torture. Among the reasons, given the terms of reference and functions entrusted to the Commission and its Committee, we believe that it has neglected a number of its functions.

Lebanon – [Lebanon Asks US for Wheat and Cooking Oil Donations](#)

The government has asked Economy Minister Amin Salam to intensify his foreign contacts to secure essential food stocks in order to enable the country to face the food security crisis resulting from the war in Ukraine. Ministerial sources meanwhile expected "food security and social chaos and turbulence in the country" should Lebanon's importation capacity drop as a result of the failure to secure donations amid the scarcity of foreign currency reserves.

Saturday and Sunday
12 and 13 March
2022

Lebanon – [Supermarkets: Lebanon risks a "major food crisis" within two months](#)

Lebanon is likely to go through a "great food crisis" within two months due to the consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine launched on Feb. 24. Meanwhile, on Saturday morning, supermarkets formalized a measure that will further complicate the daily lives of consumers: payments by credit card at the checkout will only be accepted for up to 50 percent of the bill, while the rest must be paid in cash.

Lebanon – [Lebanese youths abandon education as crisis bites](#)

UN research published in January showed that 30 percent of those aged 15-24 in Lebanon had dropped out of education. More young people are skipping meals and cutting back on health care, the survey showed. UN and government data also shows a drop in spending on education and in school enrolment for children under 15, as well as a rise in child labor. Some families have shifted from private to state schools, but those struggled to provide distance learning when the pandemic broke out and were hit by stoppages and strikes over teachers' low wages after reopening. Many school and university teaching staff have left their jobs or the country, joining an accelerating brain drain.



Monday
7 March 2022

Libya – [Libya: After Prison Escape, Derna Residents Rounded Up](#)

An armed group associated with the Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LAAF) arbitrarily arrested at least 50 residents of the city of Derna following a January 16, 2022, prison escape, Human Rights Watch said today. The LAAF in February 2019 took control of Derna, a city it had besieged for three years purportedly to drive out local fighters who were controlling the city. LAAF-linked groups arbitrary detained and ill-treated residents and deliberately damaged homes with impunity. Hundreds of Derna residents remained displaced in western Libya, fearing reprisals if they return.

Tuesday
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Turkey – [Riot police fire gas, block Women's Day march in Istanbul](#)

Riot police set up barricades and fired pepper gas to block demonstrators from joining an International Women's Day march in central Istanbul on Tuesday. At least 38 women were detained, media reports said. Demonstrators in Turkey use the March 8 Women's Day events to press for strong measures to prevent violence against women by former partners or family members. At least 73 women have been killed in Turkey since the start of the year, according to the We Will Stop Femicide Platform.

Wednesday
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Ukraine – [UN war crimes panel urges US to probe deadly Syria air raids](#)

UN war crimes investigators have urged the United States to carry out thorough probes into civilian casualties caused by US air raids in Syria to ensure that those responsible for any violations are held to account. In November, US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin ordered a review of a 2019 attack in the Syrian town of Baghuz that caused civilian casualties, the Pentagon said at the time. The New York Times had reported that the raid killed up to 64 women and children, a possible war crime, during the battle against the ISIL (ISIS) armed group.

Friday
11 March 2022

Saudi Arabia – [Saudi blogger Raif Badawi released from prison](#)

The Saudi blogger Raif Badawi has been released from prison in Saudi Arabia after completing a ten-year prison sentence. Badawi was arrested and imprisoned in Saudi Arabia in 2012 under the country's cybercrime law, after being charged with "insulting Islam" and setting up a liberal online forum. He had criticized Saudi Arabia's religious police on his blog, a force that has since seen its power clipped in recent years by the Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and also called for an end to the role of religion in politics.

Egypt – [Rights group says seven men executed over 48 hours in Egypt received no fair trials](#)

The Egyptian authorities carried out executions over 48 hours against seven convicts, who had been found guilty of terrorism-related charges in two different cases. According to an Egyptian rights group based in the Czech Republic, they had not received fair trials, though. EFHR explained that the seven executed convicts had been reportedly subjected to enforced disappearance before questioning, and physical and moral coercion in order to force them to make confessions during interrogation in the absence of their lawyers.

Tunisia – [Tunisia: Looming Curbs on Civil Society Must Be Stopped](#)

Tunisian authorities should immediately scrap plans for new restrictions on civil society organizations, 13 Tunisian and international rights groups said today. Those plans, if carried out, would reverse a major gain for freedom of association following the country's 2011 revolution. They would constitute another blow to human rights safeguards by President Kais Saied since his July 2021 power grab.

Occupied Palestine – [Israel's Knesset passes law barring Palestinian spouses](#)

Israel's parliament has passed a law denying naturalization to Palestinians from the occupied West Bank or Gaza married to Israeli citizens, forcing thousands of Palestinian families to either emigrate or live apart. Under the terms of the citizenship law, which will be valid for one year, Palestinian spouses of Israelis can obtain temporary, two-year residence permits, although they can be revoked on security grounds. Proponents say the law helps ensure Israel's security and maintains its "Jewish character".

Morocco – [From victim to offender: Moroccan teacher sentenced to jail for accusing police of sexual assault](#)

A court in Rabat sentenced on Thursday forty-five Moroccan contracted teachers to different penalties for "not complying with Covid measures" and "insulting authorities" during their protests last year, in which more than 30 teachers had been arrested. The court charged them with "violating the Health Emergency Law", "perpetrating violence against authorities", and "unarmed gathering without a license" during protests that had erupted into violence in April last year.

Saturday and Sunday 12 and 13 March 2022

Saudi Arabia – [Saudi Arabia: 10-year travel ban for freed blogger Raif Badawi](#)

Saudi Arabia has confirmed a 10-year travel ban for freed blogger and activist Raif Badawi, who has become a symbol of freedom of expression around the world. An interior ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the AFP news agency on Saturday: "The sentence handed down to Raif was 10 years in prison followed by a travel ban for the same length of time. The court ruling holds up and is final."

Saudi Arabia – [Saudi Arabia executes 81 people in a single day](#)

Saudi Arabia has executed 81 men over the past 24 hours, including seven Yemenis and one Syrian national, on charges including "allegiance to foreign terrorist organizations" and holding "deviant beliefs", state news agency Saudi Press Agency said, in the largest known mass execution carried out in the kingdom in its modern history. The number dwarfed the 67 executions reported in the kingdom in 2021 and the 27 in 2020.

Libya – [19 people missing, presumed dead after boat capsizes off coast of Libya](#)

A boat carrying around two dozen migrants capsized in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Libya on Saturday, with at least 19 people missing and presumed dead, authorities said. Libya's coast guard said that a group of 23 migrants – both Egyptians and Syrians – set off from the eastern city of Tobruk earlier in the day. Three migrants were rescued and taken to hospital. Only one body was retrieved, and search efforts were ongoing, the agency said.

Tunisia – [Tunisia opposition protesters rally against Saied power grab, economic crisis](#)

Thousands of Tunisian opposition supporters demonstrated on Sunday in the capital against President Kais Saied's power grab and the economic crisis in the North African country. "Poverty has increased", and "Famine is at our doorsteps", they chanted as at least 2,000 people gathered in the city center. Saied last July sacked the government, suspended parliament and moved to rule by decree, sparking fears for democracy in the birthplace of the 2011 Arab uprisings.



INTERNATIONAL

March
7 March 2022

Ukraine – [Ukraine: Mariupol Residents Trapped by Russian Assault](#)

Civilians in Ukraine's southeastern coastal city of Mariupol have not had access to running water, electricity, or heat since March 2, 2022 when Russian forces surrounded the city, as part of a larger offensive, Human Rights Watch said today. Acute water shortages pose a grave risk to more than 200,000 residents without humanitarian assistance or who are unable to flee to safety. City authorities say that hundreds of civilians have been killed during the fighting, though the full extent of civilian casualties and damage to the city's infrastructure is unknown due to the continued shelling and limited communications.

Tuesday
8 March 2022

Germany / The Gambia – [Germany Indicts Alleged Gambia 'Death Squad' Driver](#)

Germany has forged ahead with efforts to bring justice for grave crimes with the indictment of a Gambian national accused of being a former member of a Gambian "death squad." Bai L. has been accused of crimes against humanity allegedly committed under former president Yahya Jammeh. Jammeh's 22-year rule, which ended in 2017, was marked by widespread abuses, including extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, and arbitrary detention.

Ukraine – [Ukraine: Russian Assault Kills Fleeing Civilians](#)

For several hours on March 6, 2022, Russian forces bombarded an intersection on a road that hundreds of civilians were using to flee the Russian army's advance in northern Ukraine to Kyiv, Human Rights Watch said today. The repeated nature of the attacks, which according to the government killed at least eight civilians, suggests that Russian forces violated their obligations under international humanitarian law not to conduct indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks that harm civilians, and failed to take all feasible measures to avoid civilian casualties.

Wednesday
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Russia – [Russia: Brutal Arrests and Torture, Ill-Treatment of Anti-War Protesters](#)

Russian authorities have arbitrarily arrested thousands of peaceful protesters at anti-war rallies across Russia, in line with their increasingly brutal crackdown on those who disagree with Russia's military offensive in Ukraine. The police used excessive force against protesters while detaining them and, in several instances, inflicted abuse amounting to torture or inhuman and degrading treatment, on those in custody. According to OVD-Info, 13,500 people have been arbitrarily arrested since Russia started its full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24.

Chad – [Chad: Killings by Security Forces in East](#)

Security forces killed at least 13 people, including a 12-year-old child, and injured over 80 others in Abéché, Ouaddaï province, Chad, on January 24 and 25, 2022. On January 24, security forces violently dispersed thousands of peaceful protesters who took to the streets of Abéché from the Mahamat Yacoub Dobio high school to the independence square to demonstrate against plans to appoint a new traditional chief from the ethnic Bani Halba community in Abéché.

Thursday
10 March 2022

Ukraine – [Ukraine: Russian Air-Dropped Bombs Hit Residential Area](#)

Russian aircraft dropped multiple unguided bombs simultaneously on March 3, 2022, that hit an intersection in a residential neighborhood of Chernihiv, a city in northeastern Ukraine. The attack, at about 12:15 p.m. local time, killed at least 47 people, according to local authorities, and wounded many others. It caused significant damage to a high-rise apartment building, a hospital, and several other residential and commercial buildings, one of which contained a pharmacy.

Friday
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Uzbekistan – [Uzbekistan Ends Systemic Forced Labor, Civil Society Says](#)

Uzbekistan and its civil society reached a historic turning point in efforts to combat forced labor in the country's annual cotton harvest yesterday. For decades, millions of people in Uzbekistan were forced to pick cotton, a national crop, under one of the world's largest, most exploitable state-run forced labor programs. Yesterday, March 10, the Cotton Campaign, an alliance of human rights nongovernmental (NGO) groups, trade unions, and business associations, confirmed that during the most recent cotton harvest in autumn 2021, for the first time local authorities did not systematically force people to go to the fields to pick cotton.

Mexico– [Mexico: Shelve Regressive Bill to Curb Civil Society Groups](#)

A bill being considered by Mexico's Chamber of Deputies would severely restrict the work of civil society groups in Mexico and violate Mexico's international legal obligations, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International said today. The bill would prohibit nonprofit organizations from trying to influence or change laws either through lobbying or through strategic litigation if they receive funding, directly or indirectly, from foreign governments or corporations. The government would have the authority to revoke the nonprofit status of organizations that violate the prohibition.

Saturday and Sunday
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Ukraine – [Brent Renaud, an American Journalist, Is Killed in Ukraine](#)

Brent Renaud, an award-winning American filmmaker and journalist, was killed in Ukraine on Sunday while reporting in a suburb of the capital, Kyiv, according to Ukraine's Interior Ministry. The Ukrainian authorities said he was killed in Irpin, a suburb that has been the site of intense shelling by Russian forces in recent days, but the details of his death were not immediately clear. At the time of his death Mr. Renaud was on assignment for Time Studios working on a "project focused on the global refugee crisis," according to a statement from Time executives.