



HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

24 – 30 October, 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.

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LOCAL

Monday

24 Oct 2022

Lebanon – Woman shot dead her husband 10 days after marriage in Lebanon

A woman of Arab nationality killed her husband after shooting him only 10 days following their marriage. The woman shot her husband in the town of Brital, wounding him in the stomach. He bled to death, according to local media. The Internal Security Forces in Lebanon stated that a woman of Arab nationality, born in 1996, killed her husband with a Kalashnikov weapon in cooperation with his nephew. The statement added that the woman admitted that she had agreed with her husband's nephew to leave the house's door open at one o'clock at night, allowing him to enter and kill her husband with a bullet to the head.

Tuesday

25 Oct 2022

Lebanon – Return of displaced Syrians to be voluntary: Lebanese General Security

Lebanese Security General chief Abbas Ibrahim confirmed on Tuesday the organization of a new convoy to return displaced Syrians to their country, noting that the return will be "voluntary." In a press conference held at the General Security headquarters in Beirut, Ibrahim said that "The return will be voluntary, and we will not force any displaced to return; this is a principle we have established, and we seek to reduce the burden on Lebanon." He revealed the opening of 17 public security centers in all Lebanese regions in order to organize the voluntary return of Syrian refugees. The Lebanese official also stressed that the file of the displaced Syrians is a national one and that "returning them to their land is a national duty that we must carry out."

Wednesday

26 Oct 2022

Lebanon – Palestinians in crisis-hit Lebanon plunge deeper into poverty: UN

A United Nations agency warned that more Palestinians living in crisis-torn Lebanon have fallen deeper into poverty, spelling a "dramatic humanitarian crisis". For three years, Lebanon has been in the throes of one of the worst economic crises in recent history according to the World Bank - dealing an especially heavy blow to vulnerable communities, including refugees. Two thirds of Palestinian refugee families in Lebanon have cut down on the number of daily meals, Leni Stenseth, deputy commissioner general at the UN agency for Palestinian refugees UNRWA, told reporters in Beirut. Days ago, the UN body "urgently" appealed for \$13 million in funding for cash assistance to families, primary health care services, and to keep the agency's schools open until the end of this year. The poverty level among Palestinian refugees in Lebanon has shot up from a little more than 70 percent at the beginning of the year to 93 percent, according to UNRWA.

Lebanon – Lebanon returns hundreds of refugees to Syria

Hundreds of Syrian refugees have left Lebanon and returned to their home country in the voluntary program run by Lebanese security services. The refugees, many of whom had been living in Aarsal, packed belongings and furniture and crossed at Al-Zamrani into western Qalamoun. Others who had been living in the southern city of Nabatieh returned via the Masnaa crossing. Lisa Abou Khaled, a spokesperson for the UN refugee agency UNHCR, told Arab News that it was not "facilitating or promoting" the repatriation program. Lebanon's General Security Office is running the program to return Syrians who it says have expressed their wish to return. Estimates suggested 400 crossed into Syria on Wednesday, but the number could be as high as 700. Hector Hajjar, Lebanon's caretaker minister of social affairs, said: "We are not showing off the number of refugees. The political decision has been made. There are other groups and the operation will continue."

Thursday
27 Oct 2022

Lebanon – [In Lebanon, a call for help costs too much](#)

In July, Lebanon witnessed a drastic rise in the cost of phone and internet use, and many aid groups say they've seen a significant decline in calls to their helplines. NGOs worry that this is impacting their ability to reach those looking for help – which is particularly concerning since numbers in need have grown fast since Lebanon's economy began its dramatic collapse in late 2019. Rose Habchi Daher, resilience programme manager at Himaya, told The New Humanitarian that the number of calls the group has received has dropped by more than 50% through September as opposed to the same time period last year, while the organization's own telecom bills have increased 20-fold since July 2022. Some NGOs are seeking to acquire toll-free lines to mitigate the rising costs, in addition to making other shifts in the way they work.

Friday
28 Oct 2022

Lebanon – [Lebanon to get 600,000 cholera vaccines as outbreak grows](#)

Lebanon will receive 600,000 doses of a cholera vaccine to help combat the outbreak of the deadly disease in the country, according to Public Health Minister Firas al-Abyad. Lebanon will receive the vaccines within the next two weeks after the World Health Organization approved the request for them, Abyad said at a press conference. Health sector workers, followed by inmates at Lebanon's crowded prisons, will be high on the priority list for the vaccine. Lebanon currently has a recorded total of 346 confirmed cases of cholera and 14 associated deaths since the outbreak began.



REGIONAL

Middle East

Monday
24 Oct 2022

Iran – [Iran security forces fire tear gas near Tehran school after dispute](#)

Iranian security forces fired tear gas near a girls' school in Tehran on Monday, according to videos posted on social media, after a dispute between authorities and students over their mobile phones amid ongoing anti-government protests in Iran. Iran's Ministry of Education said several students were treated by emergency services for a drop in blood pressure, but denied that security forces had entered the school. Videos circulating on social media showed heavily armed security forces outside the school. One clip showed them on motorbikes and firing at least one teargas canister. Reuters could not independently verify the authenticity of the footage.

Turkey – [Rights group: Turkey forces hundreds to return to Syria](#)

Hundreds of Syrian men and boys were detained, beaten and forcibly returned to their country by Turkish authorities over a six-month period, a leading human rights group said Monday. The treatment of migrants living in Turkey under temporary protection is a breach of international law, New York-based Human Rights Watch said in a report. The Turkish government has in the past rejected accusations of forcibly returning refugees to Syria. Human Rights Watch said deported Syrians told researchers that Turkish officials arrested them in their homes, workplaces and on the street. They were then detained in poor conditions, with most suffering beatings and abuse, and forced to sign documents agreeing to "voluntarily" return to Syria. After being driven in handcuffs to the Syrian border – journeys sometimes lasting up to 21 hours – they were forced across at gunpoint, the Syrians said.

Tuesday
25 Oct 2022

Occupied Palestine – [Thousands mourn Palestinians killed by Israel in Nablus](#)

Thousands of people have turned out for the funeral procession of five Palestinian men killed by Israeli forces during a raid in Nablus in the northern occupied West Bank. Residents and journalists confirmed to Al Jazeera that two of the men – Hamdi Sharaf, 30, and Ali Antar, 26 – were unarmed barbers who were on their way home from work when they were shot dead on the street by Israeli special forces. The other three men – Hamdi Qayyem, 35; Wadee al-Hawah, 31; and Mish'al Baghdadi, 27 – belonged to the Lions' Den armed resistance group. A sixth man, Qusai al-Tamimi, was killed later on Tuesday morning in ensuing confrontations with the Israeli army. "There is a state of sadness in Nablus, a very difficult atmosphere," Bakr Abdelhaq, a local journalist for Palestine TV, told Al Jazeera. "The fighters, even though they were young, were respected and had a large popular regard." Millions of Palestinians across the West Bank observed a general strike as they mourned the six killed. Schools and stores closed early in all cities.

Wednesday
26 Oct 2022

Syria – [Syrians braced for their worst winter since the war began. UN says](#)

Members of the UN Security Council expressed dismay at the ongoing hostilities in northwestern Syria, which in the past two months alone have caused the deaths of more than 90 civilians, including 35 children. This, a cholera outbreak across all of the country's governorates, and rising fuel prices that are forcing families "to choose between keeping warm or eating" have further increased the humanitarian needs in the war-ravaged country to the point where they have reached their highest-ever levels, according to the latest UN report. As Syrians once again prepare for a bitterly cold winter, 6 million people need assistance to survive, a figure that has grown by 30 percent since last year. Levels of severe food insecurity are "staggering," according to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who said Syrians can now only afford one-sixth of the amount of food they could buy in 2019.

Iran – [Attack on Shiraz shrine kills 15: Iranian state media](#)

At least 15 people have been killed and 40 others injured in an attack on a Shia religious shrine in the southern Iranian city of Shiraz, according to the country's state media agency, IRNA. The report said that the attack, which took place at the Shah Cheragh Shrine early on Wednesday evening, was carried out by three armed men who entered the shrine. Two of the attackers have been caught, with one still on the run. ISIL (ISIS) claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement on their telegram channel. Nour news, a media outlet affiliated with the Iranian state, had earlier reported that the attackers were not Iranian nationals. The Fars News Agency said that one woman and two children were among those killed in Shiraz.

Iran – [Iranian dies after remains of stricken building collapse](#)

An Iranian woman died when the remains of a building that had collapsed in May in the country's southwest also crumbled, state news agency IRNA said. The 10-story Metropol building, which had been under construction in the city of Abadan in Khuzestan province, collapsed on May 23, killing 43 people. It took emergency services almost two weeks to recover the bodies of those killed in the disaster, one of Iran's deadliest in years. A remaining part of the building collapsed and "the body of a woman... was extracted from the ruins by firefighters," IRNA reported.

Thursday
27 Oct 2022

Iran – [Iran forces kill 'at least eight' protesters in 24 hours: Amnesty](#)

Iranian security forces have killed at least eight people since Wednesday evening as they push on with a deadly crackdown against nearly six weeks of women-led protests, Amnesty International said. "Iran's security forces have killed at least eight people since last night as they again opened fire on mourners and protesters," Amnesty said on Thursday, condemning the "reckless and unlawful use of firearms."

Friday
28 Oct 2022

Occupied Palestine – [Israeli forces kill two Palestinians in occupied Nablus](#)

The Israeli army has shot and killed two Palestinian men at a military checkpoint south of Nablus in the occupied West Bank, according to Palestinian officials. The Palestinian health ministry announced just before 2 am on Friday that 47-year-old Imad Abu Rasheed was killed with bullets to his stomach, chest and head, with two others seriously wounded, at the Huwwara checkpoint on Route 60 in the northern occupied West Bank. At 6:30 am, officials reported that Ramzi Sami Zabara, 35, had succumbed to his wounds from a bullet to the heart. The circumstances of their killing remain unclear.

Saturday and Sunday
29 and 30 Oct 2022

Iran – [Iran protests continue as UN 'concerned' at detainees' treatment](#)

The United Nations human rights office has voiced concern at Iran's treatment of detained protesters and said authorities refused to release some of the bodies of those killed, as demonstrations in the country continue. "We've seen a lot of ill-treatment ... but also harassment of the families of protesters," Ravina Shamdasani, spokeswoman of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, told a Geneva press briefing. Shamdasani added that in some cases, authorities were placing conditions on the release of bodies, asking families not to hold a funeral or speak to the media. Protesters in detention were also sometimes being denied medical treatment, she said. The Iranian government has not commented on the claims so far, but has accused Western nations of meddling in its internal affairs, and said Iran's "enemies" were hatching plots against the country.



Monday
24 Oct 2022

United States – [US school shooting leaves two dead, suspect killed by police](#)

A woman and a teenage girl were killed and six people were injured after a gunman opened fire at a high school in the US state of Missouri, officials said. The attack at Central Visual and Performing Arts High School in St Louis forced students to barricade doors and huddle in classroom corners, jump from windows and run out of the building to seek safety. One girl said she was eye-to-eye with the shooter before his gun apparently jammed and she was able to run out. Police Commissioner Michael Sack said during a news conference that the shooter was about 20 years old but did not provide a name for him or his victims. Sack declined to say if the woman killed was a teacher. He said the gunman, who was armed with a “long gun”, was fatally wounded in an exchange of gunfire with police officers who arrived at the school within a couple of minutes of receiving a report of an active shooter.

Kenya – [Outspoken Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif killed in Kenya](#)

A prominent Pakistani investigative journalist critical of the country's powerful military has been killed in Kenya nearly two months after he left Pakistan. The 49-year-old journalist fled the country in August to avoid arrest after he was faced with multiple cases, including sedition charges over an interview with Shahbaz Gill – a close aide of former prime minister Imran Khan – during which Gill made comments deemed offensive to the military. Alleging harassment by state institutions as well as threats to his life he moved to Dubai in August and later relocated to Kenya. The channel ARY for which Sharif worked for the last eight years was briefly taken off air in August for airing “false, hateful and seditious” content. The channel announced late August it was parting ways with the journalist, who was one of its top prime-time news anchors.

Indonesia – [Indonesian passenger boat carrying 240 catches fire: 14 dead](#)

A passenger boat carrying 240 people caught fire Monday off southern Indonesia, killing 14, rescue officials said. The KM Express Cantika 77 was headed to Kalabahi from Kupang in East Nusa Tenggara province when it caught fire. It was carrying 230 passengers and 10 crew members, officials said. The cause of the fire was being investigated. Ferry and boat tragedies are common in Indonesia, an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands, where ferries are often used for transport and safety is lax.

Tuesday
25 Oct 2022

Myanmar – [Death toll from air raids in Myanmar's Kachin reported to hit 80](#)

The death toll from a Myanmar military air raid in northern Kachin state has risen to 80, according to reports, as human rights groups accused the ruling generals of violating the laws of war and called on the international community to impose a ban on the sale of arms and aviation fuel to the country. The number of casualties from the bombing of hundreds of people who had gathered to celebrate the founding of the Kachin Independence Organisation appeared to be the single-worst air attack since Myanmar's military seized power in February 2021. As many as 80 people were killed, and about 100 were injured, a spokesperson for the Kachin Artists Association told The Associated Press news agency.

Bangladesh – [Cyclone Sitrang lashes Bangladesh, killing nine](#)

At least nine people have died after Cyclone Sitrang slammed into Bangladesh's southern coast, snapping communications and power links and destroying houses, officials said. “Nine people have died, most by trees falling, including three from one family in Cumilla,” Jebun Nahar, a government official, told AFP news agency. The cyclone – the equivalent of hurricanes in the Atlantic or typhoons in the west Pacific – made landfall in southern Bangladesh late on Monday but authorities managed to get about a million people to safety before the monster weather system hit. Power and telephone links have been largely cut and coastal areas plunged into darkness, officials said.

Uganda – [Dormitory fire kills children at school for the blind in Uganda](#)

At least 11 people, mostly children, have died in a blaze that tore through a dormitory at a school for the blind in eastern Uganda as pupils were sleeping, officials said. The disaster occurred at about 1am on Tuesday at the Salama School for the Blind in Mukono district's Luga village, east of the capital, Kampala. “The cause of the fire is currently unknown but so far 11 deaths as a result of the fire have been confirmed while six are in critical conditions and admitted [to hospital],” the Uganda Police Force said on Twitter. Police added that an investigation had been launched and more details would be released later.

Wednesday
26 Oct 2022

Philippines – [At least 26 injured in magnitude 6.4 earthquake in Philippines](#)

At least 26 people were injured by a magnitude 6.4 earthquake that rocked the northern Philippines, forcing the closure of an international airport, sending panicked residents into the streets and causing substantial damage to a hospital. The earthquake, which struck at about 10:59 pm on Tuesday near the upland town of Dolores, was felt as far away as the capital Manila, more than 330 km to the south. Police and civil aviation officials said that at least 26 people were injured in Ilocos Norte, the home province of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, where the international airport in the capital city of Laoag was ordered to close temporarily on Wednesday due to damage from the earthquake.

Thursday
27 Oct 2022

Mexico – [Same-sex marriage becomes legal nationwide in Mexico](#)

The congress of Mexico's northeastern border state Tamaulipas has voted to recognise same-sex marriage, making it legal across the country. Becoming the last of the country's states to do so, Tamaulipas amended the state's Civil Code on Wednesday. Recently, the states of Mexico, Sonora and Sinaloa voted to legally recognise same-sex marriage, as it has been a long-awaited mark of progress for a country known for gender-related violence. "Today is a historic day for the LGBTQ community and for Mexico. Today, we and our families are more visible, more equal, and we are a country with more justice," said activist Enrique Torre Molina. Mexico City became the country's first area to legalise same-sex marriage in 2009. The president of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation, Arturo Zaldívar, welcomed the vote.

Sri Lanka – [Protests in Sri Lanka over economic crisis and police brutality](#)

Thousands of Sri Lankans protested in the capital, Colombo, with civil rights groups, trade unions and students expressing their discontent over the economic situation and the brutal suppression of previous demonstrations. Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis in decades, pushing many into poverty. Annual food price inflation is at 85.8 percent, and prices of non-food items are at 62.8 percent. Sri Lanka's gross domestic product (GDP) is forecast to contract by 8.7 percent. Al Jazeera's Minelle Fernandez said the protesters are frustrated as there seems to be "no let-up" in the ongoing economic crisis. "The cost of living is soaring, food inflation is topping 90 percent, and people are really, really struggling," she said.

Global – [UN warns the planet is heading for 'climate catastrophe'](#)

The planet is heading for "climate catastrophe", the UN has warned as a report showed how far off track nations are on cutting global warming pollution. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) released its annual Emissions Gap report on Thursday, showing that current commitments by governments to curb the rise of global temperature are "woefully inadequate". Current government climate policies leave the world on track to reach an average 2.8 degrees Celsius temperature rise this century, the report said, while implementation of current pledges will lower the rise of temperature to 2.4-2.6C this century. Government officials will meet from November 6-18 at the COP 27 climate talks in Egypt to discuss how to limit the warming to below 2C above pre-industrial levels and ideally to 1.5C.

Italy – [6 stabbed in supermarket attack in Italy, one killed](#)

A man grabbed a knife from a supermarket shelf and stabbed six people inside a shopping center south of the Italian city of Milan, killing one person, Italian media reported. Police arrested a 46-year-old Italian man suspected in the attack, the news agency LaPresse reported. A supermarket employee died en route to the hospital, according to the ANSA news agency, which said three other victims were in serious condition. The motive for the attacks was unknown. Italian authorities said there were no elements to suggest terrorism.

Friday
28 Oct 2022

Ethiopia – [Ethiopia's Tigray runs out of medical supplies as malaria spreads](#)

Ethiopia's Tigray region has run out of medical supplies such as vaccines, antibiotics and insulin, World Health Organization officials say, warning that many deaths are probably going unrecorded from preventable and treatable diseases. Only about 9 percent of health facilities in Tigray are fully functional as Ethiopia's army battles forces from the northern region, WHO officials said in Geneva. Those that can still operate are resorting to using saline solution to treat wounds and rags to dress them, they said. "In this situation of hardship and limited access, often death happens at a community level that goes underreported and unregistered," said Altaf Musani, WHO director of health emergencies interventions. He described the situation as "deeply worrying". The Tigray conflict has killed thousands of people, displaced millions and left thousands on the brink of famine. Peace talks are going on in South Africa.

Saturday and Sunday
29 and 30 Oct 2022

South Korea – [More than 150 killed in Halloween stampede in Seoul](#)

154 people have died in a crush in South Korea's capital, Seoul, and another 133 were injured, including 37 who were seriously hurt, according to Yonhap news agency. The foreign ministry says 26 foreign nationals are among the dead, Reuters reports. The jam of people developed as huge crowds gathered in Itaewon - a popular nightlife area - for the first outdoor no-mask Halloween event since the pandemic. Most victims were teenagers and adults in their 20s, and officials still do not know the cause or the circumstances that led to the stampede.

Somalia – [At least 100 killed, 300 hurt in 'heinous' Mogadishu car bombings](#)

At least 100 people have been killed and 300 wounded in two car bomb explosions in the capital Mogadishu, Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud said. Blaming the al-Shabab armed group for the attacks, Mohamud told reporters on Sunday that he expected the death toll from the twin blasts to rise further. Authorities said the attack at the busy Sobe intersection on Saturday targeted the Somali education ministry and a school. Sadiq Doodishe, a police spokesperson, told reporters that women, children and the elderly had been killed in the attack. State news agency SONNA said independent journalist Mohamed Isse Kona was also killed. The first explosion hit the ministry; then the second blast occurred as ambulances arrived and people gathered to help the victims, police officer Nur Farah told the Reuters news agency.

Baghdad – [Gas tanker explosion in Baghdad kills nine, wounds many](#)

A gas tanker has exploded in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, killing at least nine people and injuring several others, security forces said. The explosion, which was heard across much of Baghdad, happened near a football field in an eastern part of the city on Saturday night. "Nine civilians were killed and 13 injured" when the tanker exploded, the commander of security forces in Baghdad, Ahmad Salim, said in a statement. "The explosion is an accident and not an act of terrorism," he added. Most of the victims were amateurs playing football in their neighborhood stadium, the Reuters news agency reported.