



HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

08 - 14 MAY, 2023



UNDEF
The United Nations
Democracy Fund



FNUD
Fonds des
Nations Unies
pour la démocratie



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.



LEBANON

Tuesday
09 May 2023

Lebanon Ranks First in World Food Price Inflation

Lebanon topped the list of countries with the highest food price inflation rates worldwide, recording a 352 percent nominal food inflation rate, a World Bank report has found. The Lebanese people suffer from a high cost of living and high prices of basic goods and services, energy, and transportation. The World Bank stated in a report that Lebanon recorded the highest food price inflation rate in the world, with an increase in prices by 261 percent in the period between the end of February 2022 and the end of February 2023.

Lebanon's Angry Depositors Demand Their Money Back From Banks

A number of angry bank depositors staged a sit-in in front of the parliament in Beirut, in the latest move against the country's deteriorating financial situation. The protest comes in response to a call made last week by the Depositors' Outcry Association, a local group defending the rights of bank depositors, to protest against the state's current financial policies and to demand the recovery of their deposits. Dozens of protesters marched from the Beirut municipality building toward parliament. Some burned tires and blocked the roads around the parliament amid heavy army and security forces deployment. Another group of depositors attempted to storm a branch of Bank Audi in the area and smashed the bank's ATM. Some injuries were reported amid clashes with security forces. The local LBCI channel reported that some protesters gathered in front of caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati's house in Beirut and tried to cut the barbed wire around the building amid heavy security deployment.

Wednesday
10 May 2023

Man Shoots His Pregnant Daughter in Tripoli

M.S. shot his pregnant daughter three times in Tripoli. She was transferred to Nini Hospital, where she remains in intensive care. Her baby was unharmed. According to family members, the crime followed a family fight, as the father was unhappy with his daughter's marriage. He shot her in the vicinity of the Serail, where he lives, and fled in an unknown direction. He is still at large. The incident constitutes yet another example of the recurring pattern of violent crimes against women in Lebanon, the most recent of which was the murder of a young Zeinab Zeaier, at the hand of her husband Hassan Moussa Zeaier, in Sahraa Choueifat on March 25, 2023.

Thursday
11 May 2023

Lebanese Army Pursues its Campaign against Syrian Refugees: Raids and Arrests in the Bekaa

The Lebanese army resumed its random arrests of Syrian refugees, although it had previously stated it would cease arrests and deportation, allowing Syrians with expired residencies to settle their status. General Security had previously given Syrian offenders till the end of June to complete their paperwork. However, sources told Megaphone that the army arrested over 46 Syrians in the area of Bekaa and took them in an unknown direction. At least 10 of the Syrians are from the town of Ghazze in West Bekaa and three are from the town of Shmistar. It has yet to be confirmed whether these refugees have been deported, as was the case in previous arrest campaigns. Recent arrests have disrupted the economic cycle in several Bekaa towns, which depend on Syrian labor for agriculture and trade, after most Syrian workers went into hiding. This led the Lebanese army to temporarily freeze its campaign, under pressure from traders and the residents of Bekaa towns, before resuming it on Wednesday without explanation. The Lebanese Army has dropped off Syrians it detained in previous campaigns in remote border areas, forcing them to choose between coming back to Lebanon through smuggling routes or surrendering to the Syrian Army's Fourth Division. This makes many refugees vulnerable to extortion by smuggling gangs, given the risks surrounding their surrender to the Fourth Division.

Friday
12 May 2023

Lawyers and Judges Silenced After Appeals by 13 Lawyers Rejected

The Court of Appeal has confirmed the Beirut Bar's forfeiture of the freedoms of its members, by limiting their media appearances and forcing them to get prior approval from the Bar president, after rejecting the appeals that 13 lawyers submitted against the Beirut Bar decision. The court's decision converges with the Justice Minister Henri Khoury's two circulars issued on April 26, which require judges to obtain prior permission from him before appearing in the media and prevent them from contacting any organization if the minister is not the mediator between the two parties. The campaign to limit the freedoms of lawyers and judges was preceded by a campaign targeting journalists and activists who oppose the authorities and who were illegally summoned to appear before Security agencies at the start of April.

Saturday and Sunday
13 and 14 May 2023

Lebanese and UAE Foreign Ministers Speak After Man Dies in Custody

Lebanon's foreign minister spoke with his counterpart in the United Arab Emirates following the death of a Lebanese citizen while in custody in the oil-rich Gulf nation, the foreign ministry said in a statement. Lebanon's ambassador to the UAE, Fouad Dandan, spoke by telephone with the wife and brother of the late Ghazi Ezzedine, 55. The envoy later received a signed letter from the family saying the man died as a result of heart problems. Ezzedine's death had earlier raised questions about his possible mistreatment by authorities in the UAE. Earlier this week, a committee of family members of Lebanese citizens detained in the UAE alleged in a statement that Ezzedine had died as a result of being tortured. UAE's Foreign Minister said that Ezzedine's family can leave the UAE or stay if they want. The statement did not say whether the family will be allowed to take the man's body for burial in Lebanon following reports that they were prevented from doing so. According to Ezzedine's family, he was arrested on March 22 along with eight other people, including two of his brothers, on unknown charges. Ezzedine died on May 4, and his family was only notified several days later, when his son was asked by authorities to come to the cemetery and identify the body. Ezzedine's son was only permitted to see his father's face, while his body was kept covered.