

# HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

26 September – 02 October, 2022

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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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Monday

LOCAL

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#### Lebanon – Syrian Refugee Apparently Tortured to Death

Human Rights Watch, Legal Agenda, Amnesty International, and MENA Rights Group are calling upon Lebanese authorities to transfer the prosecution of security force members charged in the torture and murder of Syrian refugee Bashar Abed AI Saud from military courts to the ordinary criminal courts. 30-year-old AI Saud was allegedly tortured by Members of State Security following his arrest on August 30, 2022. He died from his injuries on August 31. After news of AI Saud's death and photographs of his bruised body circulated in the media, the Military Prosecutor Judge Fadi Akiki arrested and charged a State Security officer and three other members with torture and referred them to the Military Investigative Judge Najat Abu Shaqra on September 2. They are being investigated in the military justice system, which lacks independence and includes judges appointed by the defense minister. "AI Saud's death during his detention at State Security requires a fair and comprehensive investigation in front of the ordinary judiciary, as the military justice system cannot bring justice for his family," said Ghida Frangieh, head of litigation at Legal Agenda.

#### Lebanon - 100 dead in Lebanon migrant shipwreck off Syria: new toll

Syrian authorities have recovered 100 bodies from the Lebanese migrant boat that sank off Syria last week, making it one of the deadliest recent shipwrecks in the eastern Mediterranean. Only 20 out of more than 150 passengers were rescued off the boat, and all survivors have been discharged from the hospital. "The number of victims of the Lebanese boat has reached 100 people so far after another body was recovered from the sea," said Syria's official news agency SANA, quoting the head of Syrian ports Samer Kbrasli. Nearly three years into its worsening economic crisis, Lebanon has turned into a launchpad for migrants, as its own citizens are joining Syrian and Palestinian refugees who are desperate to flee rising poverty through dangerous sea voyages.

#### Lebanon - 'My life's empty': Father who lost family in Lebanon boat tragedy

Mohamad Fares is one of the few survivors who were on the boat that drowned off the coast of Syria last week, killing more than 104 people. Fares lost his wife and three children after they drowned on September 23. "[It feels] empty," the 40-year-old tells AI Jazeera, referring to the bedroom he shared with his wife, Soha. "Life is empty." The trip was supposed to be a fresh start for the family, after Mohamad and Soha sold their jewelry and borrowed money from their relatives to pay \$10,000 for the boat journey. Mohamad's home is in the Nahr al-Bared Palestinian refugee camp, near Lebanon's northern city of Tripoli. Palestinians lack the Lebanese citizenship rights, even if the majority were born and raised in the country. Mohamad had a job as a nurse but was still desperate to leave. His salary had previously been equal to approximately \$1,000, but it was now worth \$40 after the Lebanese pound lost 95 percent of its value in recent years, a direct consequence of the country's financial crisis. Mohamad survived more than 30 hours in the water until a boat from Tartous, Syria, rescued him. His youngest son's body, who was 4 years old, is still missing.

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#### Lebanon - Lebanon schools struggle to open as finance woes bite

Lebanon's public education system is facing collapse a week before the start of the academic year, with teachers unable to pay for transport, and students dropping out because their parents cannot afford essential school items. After three years of an economic crisis that shows no sign of ending, schools are also struggling to provide basic needs, such as heating and electricity. An adviser to Abbas Halabi, the minister of education and higher education in the caretaker government, told Arab News that meetings are being held with donor countries, international organizations, the World Bank and ambassadors in an effort to cover the costs of teachers' transport to school. Assistance to help students attend school has not yet been discussed, the official said. Lebanon's spiraling economy has forced thousands of parents to transfer their children from private schools and universities to public institutions.

#### Lebanon - Feminist groups organize protest in solidarity with Iran

Under the title "#FeministsForJina" (#MahsaAmini), feminist groups organized a protest in solidarity with Iranian activists at 5 PM on Sunday, in front of the National Museum in Beirut. Protests took place simultaneously across cities of the world, in Istanbul, Stockholm, Berlin, Paris, Toronto, Montreal, New York, Vancouver, and Rotterdam, to denounce the practices of the Iranian regime and its control over female activists and their bodies. Mahsa Amini was tortured to death after being arrested by the "morality police" on September 16 for wearing her hijab improperly. This sparked protests against the social and religious repression of women and of the Iranian people as a whole.



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#### Occupied Palestine - Palestinians arrested, injured as far-right Jews enter Al-Agsa

Hundreds of ultranationalist Jews have entered the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem - under the protection of Israeli authorities - for the second day in a row, as Israeli police attacked Palestinians gathered in the compound and prevented others from entering. The Palestinian Red Crescent says at least three Palestinians were injured by Israeli forces, while journalists reported that 10 others were arrested in and around the compound. Israeli forces were seen using batons to attack Palestinian women, elderly men, and journalists.

#### Syria - Cholera death toll rises to 29 in Syria as outbreak spreads

At least 29 people have been killed due to a cholera outbreak in several regions of Syria, with the United Nations labeling it the worst outbreak in the war-torn country. 338 cases were confirmed since the outbreak began last month, and the majority of deaths and cases have been in the northern Aleppo province, according to the Syrian health ministry, 230 cases were reported in Aleppo province, with 25 people confirmed dead. According to the UN, the outbreak was believed to be linked to the irrigation of crops using contaminated water and people drinking unsafe water from the Euphrates River, which bisects Syria from north to east.

#### Iran - Iranians outraged after TikToker shot dead in protests

Young Iranian woman Hadis Najafi was shot dead by security forces during protests near Tehran. Najafi was shot six times in the city of Karaj, with bullets hitting her neck and face, according to a report by Radio Farda. Videos of the 20-year-old victim's funeral have been circulating on social media as people have paid tribute to her. Najafi had earlier gone viral in a TikTok video where she was seen tying her hair and preparing to join the anti-government protests, which were sparked by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in the custody of the 'morality police' for breaching the strict Hijab rules. At least 41 people have been killed as Iran continues to crack down on the nationwide demonstrations.

#### Occupied Palestine - Three killed in Israel Jenin raid: Palestinian ministry

Three Palestinians were killed during an Israeli West Bank raid targeting alleged militants, including the brother of a man blamed for a deadly attack in Tel Aviv, the Palestinian health ministry said. The victims included Abed Hazem, brother of Raad Hazem, named as the killer of three Israelis in a Tel Aviv shooting spree on April 7. The Israeli army confirmed troops had shot dead "two suspects involved in a number of recent shooting attacks." The Israeli army confirmed in a tweet that troops were "operating in Jenin," a militant stronghold that has suffered near daily violence. It did not immediately provide further details of the raid. Since March, Israel has launched hundreds of operations in the northern West Bank, including Jenin and nearby Nablus, in pursuit of individuals it accuses of involvement in deadly attacks targeting Israelis. The raids have sparked clashes that have killed dozens of Palestinians, including fighters.

#### Occupied Palestine - Imprisoned Palestinian-French human rights lawyer begins hunger strike

Palestinian-French human rights lawyer Salah Hamouri, who has been imprisoned without charge by Israeli authorities for six months, has gone on hunger strike in protest. Hamouri was arrested on March 7 at his home in East Jerusalem. No charges have been filed against him, but his detention order has been extended until at least early December based on undisclosed evidence, The Guardian reported. A member of the #JusticeforSalah campaign told the newspaper that negotiations with Israeli authorities for the lawyer's release were unsuccessful. Hamouri, along with 29 other detainees in Israeli prisons, reportedly began an indefinite hunger strike on Sunday to protest against administrative detention.

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#### Occupied Palestine - Israel extends detention of Palestinian prisoner Khalil Awawdeh

An Israeli court has extended the detention of Palestinian prisoner Khalil Awawdeh, who ended a 172-day hunger strike in August, days before his expected release. Awawdeh, 40, was due to be released on October 2, but Israel's magistrate court in Rishon LeZion, near Tel Aviv, ruled on Wednesday that he would be held until at least October 9, his wife told Al Jazeera. According to prisoners' rights groups and his family, Awawdeh's imprisonment was extended under the claim that he attempted to take the mobile phone he had at Assaf Harofeh hospital with him to the Ramla prison clinic where he was transferred. "We don't know what will happen with this new case, whether it will be closed on bail, or whether he will be released, or put on trial for this new case," Dalal, Awawdeh's wife, said. The father of four was arrested by Israeli forces from his home in the village of Ithna, south of the city of Hebron in the occupied West Bank, in December 2021.

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#### Occupied Palestine - Seven-year-old Palestinian boy dies after Israeli army chase

A seven-year-old Palestinian boy died on Thursday after falling from a significant height while running away from Israeli soldiers in the village of Tuqu in Bethlehem, health officials said. The Beit Jala hospital announced the death of the child, Rayyan Yaser Suleiman, after efforts to revive him failed. The Palestinian education ministry said Suleiman died while being chased by Israeli soldiers after he and other students left his Al-Khansa School in the Bethlehem District, where he was a year two student. Though Palestinian sources said that the boy had died after a fall, Haaretz quoted his uncle as saying the boy had died from a heart attack.

#### Iran - Iran says it has arrested 9 foreigners over protests

Iran's intelligence ministry says it has arrested nine foreigners over recent anti-hijab protests sweeping the country. In a statement carried by the state-run news agency IRNA, the ministry said Friday that those arrested included citizens of Germany, Poland, Italy, France, the Netherlands and Sweden. Iran has detained individual foreigners in the past, often on claims that they were spies while not providing evidence. Critics have denounced the practice as an attempt by Iran to use detained foreigners as bargaining chips for concessions from the international community.

#### Occupied Palestine - Palestinians mourn boy who died 'of fear' of Israeli troops

Rayan Suleiman, with bright eyes and a backpack emblazoned with an animated race car, was walking home from school on Thursday when his family says he and his brothers were chased by Israeli soldiers. After the boys bolted home, the troops banged furiously on the door and threatened to arrest the children, their parents say. Just moments later, Rayan, the youngest of the three brothers, was dead. The story shot across the occupied West Bank, providing an emotive focus for fury over Israel's military tactics and what Palestinians contend is their victimization by the Israeli occupation. The Israeli army called the death a tragedy and said its soldiers were not to blame. Rayan's father said his son collapsed after he saw the Israeli soldiers who chased him appear at his front door. Yasser Suleiman said he was trying to reason with the soldiers, who accused his children of throwing rocks. The soldiers threatened to return at night and arrest all three children, including Rayan's older brothers, ages 8 and 10, Suleiman said. Rayan tried to run away and fell on the floor, unconscious. "He died of fear on the spot," Suleiman said

#### Iran - Iran arrests artist whose viral song becomes protest anthem

Shervin Hajipour, whose viral song became the anthem for anti-government protests in Iran, has been arrested by police with his whereabouts currently unknown. It was also unclear what were the charges brought against the young singer, news website Radio Farda reported. A few days before his arrest on September 29, Hajipour posted the moving song on Instagram describing the current situation in the Islamic Republic, which was triggered by the death of Mahsa Amini while in custody of the morality police. Hajipour's song had garnered more than 40 million views on Instagram and spread on other social media platforms before it was removed.

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### **INTERNATIONAL**

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#### France and United Kingdom – Police clash with Iran protesters in London and Paris

Police clashed with protestors who attempted to reach Iran's embassies in Paris and London. In Paris, police used tear gas and anti-riot tactics to prevent hundreds of demonstrators in the capital from marching on Tehran's diplomatic mission. In London, 12 people were arrested and five officers were "seriously injured" as protestors tried to break through barriers protecting Iran's UK embassy, according to the police. Protestors gathered again in Paris the next day, expressing outrage at Mahsa Amini's death, who died after being arrested by Iran's morality police, and showing solidarity with the deadly protests that took place in Iran. Similar rallies have been observed around the world in support of Iranian women. The protests started peacefully at Trocadero Square in Paris. Some protestors chanted "Death to the Islamic Republic" and slogans against Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "On several occasions, groups tried to break through the roadblock set up near the Iranian embassy. The police used ... tear gas to repel them," police said in a statement.

#### Pakistan - Six killed as Pakistan army helicopter crashes in Balochistan

An army helicopter has crashed during an overnight mission in southwest Pakistan's Balochistan province, killing all six people on board, including two officers. The chopper crashed late last night during an operational flight near the town of Khost, roughly 121 kilometers (75 miles) from Balochistan's capital Quetta, according to a statement by the military. The statement did not include the causes of the accident nor the nature of the operation that was taking place. Authorities said they are investigating the incident – the second in less than two months. Opposition leader and former federal information minister, Fawad Chaudhry, demanded an evaluation of the safety of Pakistan army helicopters.

#### Cuba – Cuba overwhelmingly approves same-sex marriage in referendum

Cuba has passed a 100-page "family law" that legalized same-sex marriage and adoption after overwhelming support. More than 3.9 million voters – 66.9 percent – voted to ratify the new code while 1.95 million or 33 percent opposed, National Electoral Council President Alina Balseiro Gutierrez said on state-run television. The law would also enhance the rights of children and grandparents and promote equal sharing of domestic rights and responsibilities between both sexes. "Love is now the law," President Miguel Diaz-Canel wrote on Twitter. "It is paying off a debt with several generations of Cuban men and women, whose family projects have been waiting for this law for years. As of today, we will be a better nation."

#### Russia – Gunman opens fire at Russia school killing 17

At least 17 people have been killed, including 11 children, after a shooting in a school in Izhevsk city, 960 km east of the capital, according to authorities. The gunman was identified as 34-year-old Artyom Kazantsev, a graduate of the school that he attacked. He shot himself dead at School No. 88 in Izhevsk, located west of the Ural Mountains in the Udmurt region. Of the two-dozen people injured, 22 of them are children, some of whom were wounded jumping out of school windows as they fled, according to the Investigative Committee. "There are suggestions that he adhered to the Nazi ideology, because he was in a T-shirt with Nazi symbols, in a balaclava," Brechalov said.

#### Philippines - Five killed as Typhoon Noru powers across northern Philippines

Five rescuers have died in the Philippines after Typhoon Noru swept across the northern part of the country, exacerbating floods and power cuts. Noru, with sustained winds of 185km/h (115 mph), was the most powerful typhoon to hit the Southeast Asian nation this year. According to officials, thousands of people were transferred to emergency shelters. Five rescuers, who were using a boat to help residents trapped in floodwaters, were hit by a collapsed wall and then apparently drowned in the rampaging waters, said Governor Daniel Fernando of Bulacan province, north of Manila. "They were living heroes who were helping save the lives of our countrymen amid this calamity," Fernando told the DZMM radio network. "This is really very sad."

#### Sudan - Over 10 tons of food baskets distributed in Sudan

The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center has distributed 10 tons and 890 kg of food baskets to several residential areas in Sudan, benefiting 1,200 people. The move is part of KSrelief's initiative this year to counter the food shortage and aid needy families in Sudan. Meanwhile, Sudan recently announced five more cases of the monkeypox virus, bringing the tally up to seven patients. The Health Ministry said in a statement that the new cases were detected in the capital of Khartoum and the provinces of West Darfur, North Darfur and Kassala. Four of the seven cases detected so far in the county were in West Darfur, including the first patient to contract the virus.

#### Haiti - Haiti facing 'humanitarian catastrophe', says UN envoy

Officials have warned of "new levels of desperation" in Haiti as multiple crises have been compounded by recent protests, the looting of millions of dollars in humanitarian aid and an ongoing "siege" of a key fuel terminal. Speaking to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on Monday, Haiti's envoy, Helen La Lime warned that "an economic crisis, a gang crisis and a political crisis have converged into a humanitarian catastrophe." The situation has worsened amid widespread looting and protests that followed Prime Minister Ariel Henry's announcement of fuel price hikes on September 11. About 4.9 million Haitians were already in a state of humanitarian need ahead of the latest unrest, Le Lime told the council. "In the last two weeks alone, attacks on WFP (World Food Programme) have resulted in the loss of some 2,000 tonnes of food aid valued at close to \$5m, that would have collectively supported up to 200,000 of the most vulnerable Haitians over the next month," she said.

#### Afghanistan - Taliban official calls for schools to be reopened for girls

A senior member of Afghanistan's Taliban-run government has urged the new rulers to reopen schools for girls beyond the sixth years, arguing that there is no valid claim in Islam that justifies the ban. This appeal came from Taliban Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai during a Taliban meeting in Kabul. It constituted a rare moderate voice amid the harsh measures imposed by the Taliban since they seized control of the country in August 2021. Since then, the Taliban has closed down girls' secondary schools across Afghanistan, ordered women to wear hijabs and cover their faces in public and at work, and banned women from traveling long distances without a male relative. The Taliban stated that they are planning to open secondary schools for girls, but it is unclear when that will happen. The United Nations has called the ban "shameful", and the international community has been wary of officially recognizing the Taliban.

#### India - India teacher allegedly kills Dalit student over spelling mistake

A teacher in India has been accused of beating a Dalit student to death over a spelling mistake, and police are searching for her. The incident has triggered violent protests. The 15-year-old victim, Nikhil Dohre, was struck with a rod and kicked until he fell unconscious by his high school teacher earlier this month after misspelling the word "social" in an exam, according to his father. Dohre later died from his injuries at a hospital in northern Uttar Pradesh state, and the teacher fled the area. "He is on the run, but we will arrest him soon," police officer Mahendra Pratap Singh told the AFP news agency. The Dalit community is at the lowest rung of India's caste system, and its members have faced prejudice and discrimination for decades.

#### Bangladesh - Bangladesh ferry disaster: Overcrowding blamed, death toll at 66

At least 66 people have been killed in Bangladesh after an overcrowded ferry sank, leaving many passengers still missing two days after the accident, according to authorities. At least 15 more people are still unaccounted for, said Dipankar Roy, a senior government official in the northern Panchagarh district, where the boat capsized on Sunday. A five-member committee is investigating the accident, with initial reports suggesting the boat was carrying nearly three times its capacity, said Jahurul Islam, chief administrator of Panchagarh. "Divers are searching for more bodies as some are still missing," he said. The small boat packed with Hindu devotees on their way to a popular temple flipped over in the Karatoya River. Police said that while some of the passengers managed to swim ashore or were rescued, about 10 were still missing. Passengers said more than 80 people were on board.

#### Burkina Faso – <u>11 killed, dozens missing after attack on Burkina Faso convoy</u>

At least 11 soldiers have been killed and 50 civilians went missing after armed fighters attacked a 150-vehicle military-escorted convoy taking supplies to a northern town in Burkina Faso, according to the government. The assault occurred in the commune of Gaskinde in Soum province, where armed groups linked to al-Qaeda and the ISIL (ISIS) group have been escalating attacks and seizing territory since 2015. Around 28 individuals were wounded, 20 of which were soldiers, and dozens of trucks were destroyed. Violence has been on the rise in Burkina Faso after Lieutenant-Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba seized power in a coup in January, toppling the West African country's elected leader and promising to rein in the armed groups.

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#### China – 17 dead in China restaurant fire: authorities

A fire at a restaurant in northeastern China on Wednesday killed 17 people and injured three, according to local authorities. The blaze broke out at 12:40 pm in an eatery in the city of Changchun, the local government said in a statement posted on the Weibo social media platform. According to authorities, the cause of the incident is still under investigation.

#### Afghanistan - UN official warns of conflict, more poverty in Afghanistan

A senior UN official warned of a possible internal conflict and worsening poverty in Afghanistan if the Taliban don't respond quickly to the needs of all elements of society, saying their crackdown on the rights of girls and women signals indifference to over 50 percent of Afghanistan's population and a willingness to risk international isolation. Markus Potzel, the UN deputy representative for Afghanistan, told the Security Council some of the Taliban's "claimed and acknowledged achievements" are also eroding. He pointed to a steady rise in armed clashes, criminal activity and high-profile terrorist attacks, attacks on foreign embassies, fire rockets against Afghanistan's neighbors, and a longstanding campaign against Shia Muslims and ethnic minorities.

#### Armenia - Three Armenians killed in fresh clashes with Azerbaijan

Three Armenians were killed in border clashes with Azerbaijan, two weeks after both sides' worst fighting since their 2020 war jeopardized peace talks. At least 286 people were killed from both sides during the two-day fighting earlier this month, before the United States brokered a truce. On Wednesday, Armenia's defense ministry said "Azerbaijani forces opened fire from mortars and large-caliber firearms at the eastern direction of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. As a result, there are three dead from the Armenian side." Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan tweeted that three of his troops had been killed "in an attack against Armenian independence, sovereignty and democracy."

#### United States - Hurricane Ian: 20 migrants still missing in waters off Florida

A boat carrying more than two dozen migrants has sunk off the coast of Florida, a United States government official said, as crews searched for 20 people that remain missing as Hurricane Ian slams the US state. Walter Slosar, chief patrol agent at the US Border Patrol's Miami Sector Headquarters, said on Wednesday that Iaw enforcement agencies had launched a search-and-rescue mission after the vessel sank "due to inclement weather". Slosar said four migrants swam ashore at Stock Island in the Florida Keys, but that crews were looking for 23 others. Later, the Coast Guard said three people had been rescued south of Boca Chica, another island in the Keys, amid the ongoing search. "They were brought to the local hospital for symptoms of exhaustion and dehydration. Air crews are still searching," the agency said on Twitter.

#### Mexico - High Toll of Violence For Women With Disabilities New Survey Reveals

A new survey by the Mexican government has revealed that Mexican women with disabilities experience a shockingly high rate of domestic violence. It was the first time that the National Survey on the Dynamics of Relationships in Households by The National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) included girls and women with disabilities as a separate category. According to the 2021 survey, released in August 2022, 11.9 percent of girls and women 15 and older in Mexico, more than 6 million, have a disability. The rates of violence experienced by all women and girls during their lives in Mexico is high—at 70.1 percent. But for girls and women with a disability, the number is even higher: 72.6 percent of them have experienced violence at least once in their lives. The survey covers five categories of violence: psychological, physical, sexual, economic and patrimonial violence. For each form of violence except sexual violence, the percentage of victims in the past year was higher for girls and women with disabilities.

#### Pakistan - Chinese-Pakistani dual national killed in gun attack in Karachi

An armed attacker posing as a dental patient has killed a Chinese-Pakistani dual national and injured two others at a clinic in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi, police have said. A man entered the private clinic in the Saddar neighborhood and opened fire 15-20 minutes later, killing a Chinese-Pakistani employee Ronald Raymond Chou on the spot and injuring Richard Hu and Phen Teyin, Senior Superintendent of Police Syed Asad Raza said in a statement. The assailant fled the scene with the help of an accomplice aboard a motorbike parked around the corner from the clinic

#### Afghanistan - Taliban fire into air to disperse women's rally backing Iran protests

Taliban forces fired shots into the air to disperse a women's rally supporting protests that have erupted in Iran over the death of a woman in the custody of morality police. Chanting the same "Women, life, freedom!" mantra used in demonstrations in Iran, about 25 Afghan women protested in front of the Iranian embassy in Kabul, before being dispersed by Taliban forces firing in the air, an AFP correspondent reported.

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#### United States - At least 6 people wounded in shooting at school in Oakland

At least six individuals were wounded in a shooting at a school in Oakland, according to officials. Paramedics transported six patients to hospitals, all with gunshot wounds, according to Oakland Fire Department spokesperson Michael Hunt. Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf tweeted that all of the wounded were adults and the shooting happened at Sojourner Truth Independent Study, an alternative K-12 school. Officials didn't say if any of the victims might be students aged 18 or older. Three of the wounded were in critical condition at Highland Hospital in Oakland, the other three were taken to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley and their conditions were not known, officials said. City Council Member Treva Reid said investigators told her the shooting may be tied to rising "group and gang violence."

#### India - All women have right to safe, legal abortion: India's top court

India's Supreme Court has ruled that a woman's lack of marital status cannot deny her the choice to abort a pregnancy at any time up to 24 weeks. The decision was hailed by women's rights activists, especially after the right to abortion has created contention worldwide after the United States Supreme Court criminalized abortion after overturning Roe v Wade. "Even an unmarried woman can undergo abortion up to 24 weeks on par with married women," Justice D Y Chandrachud of India's Supreme Court said on Thursday, holding that a lack of marital status could not deprive a woman of the right. A law dating from 1971, the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, had limited the procedure to married women, divorcees, widows, minors, "disabled and mentally ill women" and survivors of sexual assault or rape. The top court added that sexual assault by husbands can be classified as "marital rape" under the MTP law. Indian law does not consider marital rape an offence, though efforts are being made to change this.

#### Russia – Russian attack kills 23 in civilian convoy in Ukraine: Governor

At least 23 people were wounded, and dozens injured after a Russian missile attack on the Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia, according to a Ukraine official. A Russian official blamed Ukrainian forces for the deadly strike. Zaporizhzhia regional Governor Oleksandr Starukh made the announcement in an online statement on Friday. He said there were at least 28 wounded when Russian forces targeted a humanitarian convoy heading to Russian-occupied territory. He posted images of burned-out vehicles and bodies lying in the road. Starukh said those in the convoy planned to travel into Russian-occupied territory to pick up their relatives and then take them to safety. He said rescuers were at the site of the attack. It comes as Moscow prepares to annex four regions into Russia after an internationally criticized referendum vote as part of its invasion of Ukraine. Those regions include areas near Zaporizhzhia, but not the city itself, which remains in Ukrainian hands.

#### Afghanistan - At least 19 killed, 27 injured in suicide bombing in Afghan capital

A suicide bombing at a learning center in the Afghan capital Kabul killed at least 19 people on Friday morning, police spokesman Khalid Zadran said. "Students were preparing for an exam when a suicide bomber struck at this educational center. Unfortunately, 19 people have been martyred and 27 others wounded," Zadran said. The blast happened in the Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood, a predominantly Shiite Muslim area in western Kabul home to the minority Hazara community, the scene of some of Afghanistan's most deadly attacks. Videos posted online and photos published by local media showed bloodied victims being carried away from the scene.

#### Zimbabwe – Zimbabwe court fines novelist Tsitsi Dangarembga over protest

Prize-winning Zimbabwean novelist and filmmaker Tsitsi Dangarembga has been fined and given a six-month suspended jail sentence after a court found her guilty of "inciting public violence" during a 2020 anti-government protest. Dangarembga was fined 70,000 Zimbabwean dollars (\$193) and given a suspended sentence, meaning that she remains free provided she does not commit a similar offense in the next five years. A vocal critic of President Emmerson Mnangagwa's government, Dangarembga has been fighting for years against corruption and demanding reforms. She argued during the trial that Zimbabweans had the right to demonstrate.

#### Indonesia – Powerful earthquake shakes Indonesia's Sumatra, kills 1

A strong and shallow earthquake shook Indonesia's Sumatra island on Saturday, killing a resident, injuring 11 and damaging more than a dozen houses and buildings, police said. The magnitude 5.9 earthquake struck about 40 kilometers northeast of Sibolga, a coastal city in North Sumatra province, according to the US Geological Survey. It was 13 kilometers deep. The pre-dawn earthquake was followed by two 5.0 magnitude aftershocks. A 62-year-old man died of a heart attack while fleeing to safety in Tarutung village, which is closest to the epicenter, said local police chief Johanson Sianturi. Eleven people have been injured and at least 15 houses and buildings damaged in the village, he said.

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#### Indonesia - Hundreds killed, hurt in stampede at Indonesia football match

At least 125 people have been killed and dozens more injured in a riot and a stampede at an Indonesian football stadium, rendering it one of the world's deadliest sporting stadium disasters. Police in East Java province said thousands of fans of Arema FC stormed the pitch at Kanjuruhan Stadium after their team lost 3-2 to Persebaya Surabaya. Officers tried to control the "riots" by firing tear gas, triggering a stampede as panicked fans rushed to an exit gate. Some suffocated in the chaos while others were trampled to death. The death toll was revised down to 125, according to East Java Vice Governor Emil Dardak, who said that some names were recorded twice. Earlier officials had put the figure as high as 174.