



HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

19 FEBRUARY - 25 FEBRUARY 2024



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

Monday
19 Feb 2024

The Union of Mukhtars of North Lebanon confirmed its rejection of the new fees on official documents and transactions

On February 19, 2024 the National News Agency reported that the Mukhtars' Associations of various northern regions held a press conference in front of the Tripoli Civil Status Center, "rejecting the fees that were approved in the budget law for official documents and transactions that the Mukhtar oversees and follows up on." The spokesperson for these associations, the head of the Tripoli Mukhtars' Association, Fathi Hamza criticized the budget law that was approved by Parliament which "burdens the Lebanese people". The spokesperson called upon the Parliamentary Administration, Justice Committee and deputies to challenge the budget, and announced that the associations will refrain from work until the correction of the "major financial imbalance".

14 injured in two airstrikes on Ghazieh

The National News Agency reported that airstrikes took place in Ghazieh, Lebanon, on February 19, 2024. The airstrikes, which were carried out by the Israeli Air Force, resulted in the injury of 14 people, most of whom were Syrian and Palestinian workers. The National News Agency had [reported](#) earlier that the two airstrikes on Ghazieh targeted a warehouse which manufactures tires and generators.

UN allocates US\$100 million to boost poorly funded humanitarian crises

According to an article released by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on February 19, 2024, the Emergency Relief Coordinator released US\$100 million from the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support underfunded humanitarian emergencies in seven countries in Africa, the Americas and the Middle East. The new allocation is among the smallest in recent years for the world's least-financed crises. With humanitarian needs expected to continue to soar in 2024, this latest CERF allocation is critical to scale up assistance for and spur further donor support for some of the world's most protracted and neglected crises. The new funding will also bolster partnerships with local organizations and enhance accountability. The funds will address large-scale displacement caused by the ongoing conflict in Sudan (\$20 million), while in DRC (\$20 million) they will help people affected by continued fighting in the east. In Syria (\$20 million), the resources will help people affected by fighting, and the funding in Chad (\$15 million) will support refugees and others. Funding will also go to Niger (\$10 million), Lebanon (\$9 million) and Honduras (\$6 million).

Tuesday
20 Feb 2024

Preliminary report on the Choueifat building incident: 4 fatalities and 4 injuries confirmed

A correspondent from the National News Agency reported that the preliminary result of the collapse of the Choueifat building in the Hay El Ain neighborhood is as follows: 4 bodies have been recovered and 4 injured people have been transferred to hospitals in the area, as of February 20, 2024. Rescue teams from the Lebanese Civil Defense, the Islamic Message Scouts Association Ambulance Service, the Islamic Health Authority, and the Lebanese Red Cross have been working since the moment of the collapse to remove debris, transport the injured, secure the perimeter of the building, and evacuate neighboring buildings that are at risk of collapse. The National News Agency had initially [reported](#) on February 19, 2024, that a three-story building in the Choueifat area, inhabited by about 30 Syrian nationals, collapsed completely.

Retired private school teachers protest in front of the Parliament building

On February 20, 2024 the National News Agency reported that retired private school teachers held a sit-in protest in front of the Parliament building, coinciding with the session of the Joint Parliamentary Committees. The protestors demanded that the Parliament pass laws to finance the compensation fund for members of the teaching staff in private schools and to ensure their fair treatment, similar to their colleagues in public education who receive six monthly salaries.

Protest by Sidon municipal police officers demands improved living conditions

According to the National News Agency, members of the Sidon Municipal Police held a protest on February 20, 2024. "Jihad Jumaa" spoke on behalf of the protesters, appealing to the mayor and the municipality's officials to improve their living conditions. He stated that their current salaries are insufficient to meet their basic needs and don't cover education, healthcare, and hospitalization costs. The protesters also demanded that the municipality allocate financial assistance to them to enable them to continue fulfilling their duties towards the city of Sidon and its citizens.

Wednesday
21 Feb 2024

Retired engineers to close the syndicate on Friday in response to delay in approving demands

On February 21, 2024, the National News Agency reported that the founding body of the "Association of Retired Engineers" announced in a statement that it will "close the syndicate on Friday, the 23rd of February, from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm, in response to the procrastination policy pursued by the Pension Fund Management Committee with the retired engineers."

The statement also said: "Our current priorities are to involve the founding body with the Pension Fund Management Committee in studying and preparing the new pension fund budget, to approve a new retirement salary, to exempt or reduce health insurance fees, and to pay a monthly allowance until the approval of the 2024-2025 budget."

Committee of Employees in the Ministry of Information announces Start of the strike and call on the government to change policy in the public sector

According to the National News Agency, Ministry of Information employees issued a statement on February 21, 2024. The statement protested the government's prolonged neglect of basic public sector rights, and announced their decision to stop working in all units of the Ministry of Information, starting from the date of publication of this statement until they are given justice. The committee of employees also demanded the government to correct the errors committed against the entire public administration, in a way that guarantees the unity of the public sector, does justice to all its workers, and enables them to live in dignity. Finally, the committee also demanded that officials develop a comprehensive vision for solutions that will save the public sector and restore its prestige."

Thursday
22 Feb 2024

[Israeli strike kills woman and child in south Lebanon](#)

According to An-nahar, an Israeli air strike killed a woman and a child in south Lebanon on February 21, 2024. The woman and girl were killed near Majdal Zoun, a village some 6 km (4 miles) from the border.

[The Lebanese Army continues to implement measures to prevent crossing into Lebanon](#)

On February 22, 2024 the Army Command - Directorate issued a statement in which it claimed that army units thwarted, on various dates during this month, a border crossing attempt by about 600 individuals at the Lebanese-Syrian border. It also worked to close border loopholes used to smuggle people and contraband.

[No 'plan B' once Palestinian aid agency funds end in March, its Lebanon head says](#)

In a report released by Reuters on February 22, 2024 reported that the head of UNRWA's Lebanon office said that the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees has no "plan B" past March should donor countries that withheld funding following Israeli allegations uphold their suspensions. Israel accused 12 of UNRWA's 13,000 employees in the Gaza Strip of taking part in the Hamas-led assault on Israel last year. Sixteen countries suspended funding pending an investigation by the U.N.'s oversight office that Lebanon chief Dorothee Klaus said would be ready in a few weeks. Already, her office may not be able to finance its quarterly cash distribution to 65% of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. In Lebanon, UNRWA manages 12 camps for refugees, providing services from healthcare and schooling to garbage collection. If funding dries up, within a couple of days there would be trash filling camp streets, Klaus said.

Friday
23 Feb 2024

[Public administration employees: For an uprising of dignity](#)

On February 23, 2024, An-nahar reported that "Public Administration Employees Gathering" called for the continuation of the "Dignity Uprising for Public Administration Employees" in a statement which they released. The Gathering stressed its "solidarity with the demands of the Ministry of Finance employees," and wished that the Ministry of Finance would "publish the figures for the salaries, incentives, and grants received by all cadres in the public sector...so that public opinion can know the truth of the situation and the injustice that the public administration employees are facing." The Gathering also demanded that "the Ministry of Finance disclose the benefits received by civilian and military retirees, whether individuals, non-commissioned officers, or officers.

Saturday and Sunday
24 and 25 Feb 2024

[Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Galant: any agreement to calm the situation in Gaza will not affect Israel's operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon](#)

An-nahar reported that Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Galant said on Sunday, February 25, 2024 that Israeli operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon will not stop, even if an agreement is reached on a ceasefire and the release of hostages in Gaza.

[Israeli army bombed the outskirts of the towns of Markaba, Aita al-Shaab, and Kfar Shouba](#)

On February 25, 2024 An-nahar reported that the Israeli army bombed the outskirts of the towns of Markaba, Aita al-Shaab, and Kfar Shouba. Israeli warplanes also carried out an airstrike targeting Blida in southern Lebanon, while artillery shelling targeted the outskirts of the town of Houla.

REPORTING A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO CLDH

If you wish to report an incident that may potentially constitute a violation of human rights, kindly send an email to the following address: [**violations@cldh-lebanon.org**](mailto:violations@cldh-lebanon.org)

You can also report an incident anonymously through our [**website**](#).

When making a report, please ensure to include the following information:

- **WHERE:** City/village, governorate, additional details (e.g. what prison)
- **WHAT:** Nature of the violation
- **HOW:** A narrative description of what happened
- **WHEN:** Date of the episode (at least the year, if day and month are unknown)
- **TO WHOM:** Information regarding the victim (name, nationality, gender, date of birth, city of origin, phone number). Only share this information with the consent of the person.
- **WHO** is the person reporting (name, phone number) and how were they identified (e.g., victim him/herself, family member, eyewitness, journalist, humanitarian worker...)

The information referred will remain completely private. It will be fact-checked and registered into CLDH's internal system. No action will be undertaken without the explicit and written consent of the reporter.



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