



HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

05 – 11 September, 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

05 Sept 2022

Lebanon – [Lebanese MP issues urgent Italian sea-rescue plea](#)

Lebanese MP Deputy Maj. Gen. Ashraf Rifi has appealed to Italy to rescue the 70 Lebanese migrants who were on a boat that is stranded off the coasts of Malta and Italy. “We appeal to Italy, the friendly country of Lebanon, to take the initiative to rescue 70 Lebanese migrants stuck in their primitive and disabled boat off the Maltese and Italian coasts, after they threw themselves into the sea fleeing Lebanon,” tweeted Rifi. Two children have reportedly died in the waters in the Maltese search-and-rescue area, and the migrants had no food or water left on the sinking ship. After Malta’s government refused to authorize a rescue operation, Rifi said the Lebanon must rely on Italy’s support to save the migrants’ lives.

Tuesday

06 Sept 2022

Lebanon – [Money changer killed in robbery in Younine](#)

A robbery that took place in the town of Younine, Baalbek, left a money changer killed and a citizen injured. Both victims were returning home to Aarsal from work in Chtaura when gunmen opened fire on them to rob them.

Lebanon – [Human rights groups condemn torture in Lebanese prisons](#)

International human rights groups condemned acts of torture in Lebanese prisons after the death of 30-year-old detained Syrian refugee Bashar Abdel-Saud who was tortured while being questioned. The groups also called upon authorities to transfer the investigation of Abdel-Saud’s death from a military to a civil court. Abdel-Saud’s lawyer stated that Lebanese State Security officers arrested him at his home in a Palestinian refugee camp. Four days later, they called his parents and asked them to retrieve his body. According to State Security, Abdel-Saud was arrested for having a fake \$50 bill and confessing that he was an ISIS combatant, but the lawyer denied the charges. State Security promised an internal investigation, before the case was transferred to Lebanon’s military court.

Wednesday

07 Sept 2022

Lebanon – [Families protest decision to name alternate investigator in port probe](#)

Families of the Beirut Port explosion victims staged a new sit-in outside the Beirut Justice Palace to denounce Justice Minister Henri Houry and the Higher Judicial Council’s plan to name a new investigative judge. The aim behind the decision is to release some port and customs officials and other workers who have been detained without charge since the explosion. However, appointing a new judge was rejected and labeled as an attempt by the country’s political class to avoid justice.

Thursday

08 Sept 2022

Lebanon – [Stranded migrants from Lebanon rescued off Malta, reach Crete](#)

The group of migrants who were stranded off the coast of the central Mediterranean safely reached the island of Crete a few hours after a third severely-ill child died due to dehydration. The migrants had been without food, water, and baby formulas for several days. The vessel had left Tripoli, Lebanon, around 10 days prior in an attempt to head to Italy, and the passengers had urged European coastguards to rescue them.

Friday

09 Sept 2022

Lebanon – [At least 4 people were shot-dead in Tripoli](#)

At least four people were killed in Tripoli when unknown gunmen on motorcycles opened fire inside a store selling mobile phones and accessories in the northern Al-Tal area of the city at 7:00 PM. It is believed that the motive behind the attack was robbery. The army and security forces were then deployed along the main streets of the city.

Saturday and Sunday
10 and 11 Sept 2022

Lebanon – [Lebanon protestors storm Ministry of Justice](#)

Several protestors stormed the headquarters of the Lebanese Ministry of Justice in Beirut to demand the completion of the investigation into the Port of Beirut explosion. According to the Lebanese National News Agency, "Members of the riot squad were brought in to remove the people from the ground floor of the ministry building." Moreover, the Agency stated that the protestors "tried to reach the fifth floor, where the office of Minister of Justice in the caretaker government, Henry Khoury, is located. He was not in his office." The protestors have been demanding that the investigations suspended since December 2021 be completed while staying away from "political rivalries" in order to achieve justice for the victims of the blast and their families.

Lebanon – [Lebanon topped the ranking in the world with food price inflation](#)

Lebanon ranked first in the world in terms of countries that were hit the hardest by food inflation according to a World Bank report. The price of the country's food basket has increased by 332% from June 2021 to June 2022. Zimbabwe and Venezuela came in second and third place respectively, alongside other countries who are facing economic crises. Lebanon's food crisis has been exacerbated as a result of the increase in food prices globally in addition to the increase in the price of exports following the Russia-Ukraine war, noting that Lebanon exports around 90% of the products that it consumes. The situation has also been worsened in light of the devaluation of the Lebanese lira against the US dollar.

Lebanon – [Digital platform treats depression, anxiety in Lebanon](#)

The World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with the National Mental Health Program (NMHP) at the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health developed a mobile application to treat people with anxiety and depression. The application named "[Step-by-Step](#)" ("Khoutouwat" in Arabic) is a free self-help program available to all Lebanese residents experiencing stress and emotional difficulties, mainly within the areas of depression and anxiety. "The WHO was looking into developing easy and scalable solutions to increase access to mental health services in countries suffering from the lack thereof," said Jinane Abi Ramia, research unit, monitoring and evaluation coordinator at NMHP.



REGIONAL

Middle East

Monday
05 Sept 2022

Occupied Palestine – [Israel extends detention of Palestinian French rights lawyer](#)

The Israeli regime has renewed the detention of Palestinian-French human rights lawyer Salah Hammouri for another three months, after he had already been held without trial since March and has yet to be charged. Hammouri's detention will now expire on December 4. This has triggered a #JusticeforSalah campaign which has condemned the decision and called for Hammouri's release. The Israeli occupation renewed Salah's detention only hours from his expected release from prison. Hammouri is a 37-year-old father of two who has been imprisoned based on "secret evidence". According to Israeli policy, neither the detainee nor his lawyer can view the evidence for an indefinite period of time. Today, more than 730 Palestinians are still held under these orders.

Syria – [Four siblings killed in Syria mine blast](#)

Four siblings were killed in a mine blast inside a house in rebel-held north Syria. The victims' family was displaced and had moved into the unfinished house in Binnish two weeks prior. According to the United Nations, remnants of explosives from Syria's 11-year-old conflict are killing more people than in any other country. 176 people have been killed by explosive remnants since the beginning of 2022, and almost 10.2 million individuals reside in areas with explosive devices.

Tuesday
06 Sept 2022

Turkey – [Hate crimes against Syrian refugees in Turkey on rise](#)

Experts have stated that Syrian refugees in Turkey are now living in fear as hate crimes against them continue to rise. It is also believed that Syrian refugees are being used as political leverage in the upcoming Turkish elections which will take place next year. The latest victim of this situation is Syrian teenager Fares Elali who was stabbed to death in the southern Turkish province of Hatay after a disagreement with a female worker in the factory where he worked. Elali moved to Turkey to study medicine after his father died in the Syrian war, and he dreamt of becoming a doctor.

Wednesday
07 Sept 2022

Occupied Palestine – [Israeli forces kill Palestinian in latest occupied West Bank raid](#)

Israeli forces killed young Palestinian man Younis Ghassan Tayeh during a raid on the al-Faraa refugee camp near the northern occupied West Bank governorate of Tubas. The Palestinian Health Ministry stated that Tayeh was killed after being shot in the chest, and the victim's family reported that he was only 20 years old. Israeli forces had raided the refugee camp at 6:00 following daily incursions by the army across the occupied West Bank. Tayeh's uncle stated that the shooting was unprovoked and that Younis was "in an open area, exposed to the soldiers" when he was shot by a sniper.

Syria – [Three killed in Israeli strikes on Syria airport](#)

At least three people were killed and five were wounded following Israeli air strikes that left Aleppo airport in northern Syria damaged for the second time in a week. The strikes damaged the main runway of Syria's second largest airport, leaving it out of service. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights stated that among the targets of the strikes was a warehouse in the airport compound used by Iran-affiliated militia.

Thursday
08 Sept 2022

Occupied Palestine – [Israeli forces kill Palestinian youth near Ramallah in West Bank](#)

17-year-old Haytham Hani Mubarak was killed by Israeli forces near the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah. Mubarak was shot near the Israeli military DCO checkpoint at the northern entrance to Ramallah in the central West Bank. According to the official news agency for the Palestinian Authority, Wafa, the Israeli army had "reinforced their military presence" at the checkpoint, and they were stopping vehicles and checking residency cards. According to the Israeli forces, "a suspect attacked" an Israeli "soldier with a hammer" and was then killed. Mubarak is the latest victim in the series of daily raids on Palestinian towns and cities.

Syria – [Russian strikes on Syria's Idlib province kill 7](#)

7 people were killed and 15 wounded following Russian airstrikes on Syria's last major rebel bastion, the northwestern province of Idlib, according to a Britain-based war monitoring group. Four of those who were killed were civilians, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights which was seeking to identify the other three casualties.

Friday
09 Sept 2022

Egypt – [Egypt cracks down on streaming content](#)

Streaming platforms will be required to adhere to specific regulations to make them align with “societal values and traditions”, following a statement by Egypt’s media regulatory body. According to the Supreme Council for Media Regulation (SCMR), Netflix, Disney+, and other streaming platforms will also be obliged to apply for licenses to be able to operate in Egypt. SCMR states that “necessary measures” will be taken if platforms stream content that goes against society’s values. This decision follows similar moves by media bodies in Gulf countries that have urged Netflix to ban content that contradicts Islamic values and traditions, seemingly referencing LGBTQ+ content.

Saturday and Sunday
10 and 11 Sept 2022

Syria – [Syria Kurds seek UN help after cholera deaths reported](#)

Three individuals have died in northern and eastern Syria due to cholera, according to the region’s Kurdish administration which appealed for international assistance to control the outbreak. The Kurdish administration called on international agencies, “especially the World Health Organization, to provide necessary support to limit the spread of cholera.” The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights stated that the disease had spread in western parts of Deir Ezzor after local authorities stopped distributing chlorine to water pumping stations.



Monday
05 Sept 2022

Pakistan – [Death toll in devastating Pakistan floods crosses 1,300 mark](#)

An additional 25 people died overnight in Pakistan after melting glaciers submerged more than one-third of the country. This has raised the number of total fatalities to 1314 after the devastating floods began in June, including 458 children. The floods have led to more than 33 million displaced individuals, in addition to fast-spreading water-borne diseases and other health challenges such as diarrhea, respiratory infection, and skin diseases. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) also reported that around 128,000 pregnant women needed urgent medical assistance during the weekend.

Afghanistan – [Deadly suicide attack at Russian embassy in Kabul](#)

At least six people were killed in a suicide bombing that took place close to the entrance of the Russian embassy in Kabul, including two employees of the embassy. The other four victims were Afghan civilians, according to a Kabul police spokesman. The Russian foreign ministry stated that an “unknown militant” set off an explosive device at 10:50am. The attacker was recognized and shot before reaching his target. Nevertheless, it was not clear whether the attacker set off the blast before being shot or if the gunfire detonated the explosives.

China – [New evidence of mass DNA collection in Tibet](#)

Human Rights Watch has stated that Chinese authorities are increasing policing, most notably the arbitrary collection of DNA from citizens in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR). Individuals are forced to provide their DNA, and police forces can collect it without the evidence of any criminal conduct. According to a report by Lhasa municipality, blood samples for DNA collection were being taken from children at kindergartens and other residents. Another report showed that DNA was being collected from boys aged 5 and up. “The Chinese government is already subjecting Tibetans to pervasive repression,” said Sophie Richardson, China director at Human Rights Watch. “Now the authorities are literally taking blood without consent to strengthen their surveillance capabilities.”

Somalia – [UN humanitarian chief says ‘famine at the door’ in Somalia](#)

The UN humanitarian chief has warned that some regions in Somalia are close to famine following four failed rainy seasons that have culminated in devastating drought due to climate change. Martin Griffiths, head of the UN’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), stated that south-central Somalia is likely to face famine between October and December of 2022. More than 1 million people in Somalia have been displaced by the drought, with other countries such as Kenya and Ethiopia also being affected.

Tuesday
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Belarus – [Harsh sentences for Belarusian activists in politically motivated case](#)

Maria Rabkova and Andrey Chapiuk were sentenced to 15 and 6 years in prison respectively due to their involvement in leading Belarusian human rights group Viasna. Moreover, another 8 activists were sentenced to anywhere between 5 to 17 years of imprisonment in connection with the same case. Following the court’s verdict, more than 12 of the defendants’ relatives and friends were detained after they gathered outside the court. Nasta Lojka - whose organization, Human Constanta, was shut down last year - was also detained. These prosecutions and harsh sentences are retaliation by the Belarusian government against the activists’ human rights work.

Singapore – [Heterosexual marriage definition a concern for gay Singaporeans](#)

After repealing the colonial-era law criminalizing sex between men, Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsein Loong reiterated that the institution of marriage in the country would remain between a man and a woman. This heterosexual definition of marriage threatens to leave homosexual Singaporeans in long-term relationships without access to social benefits, including public housing, which are available to married couples. Many individuals remain worried that the discriminatory attitudes that were long upheld by the law will continue.

China – [Rescuers search for missing after earthquake in China’s Sichuan](#)

A 6.8 magnitude earthquake in China’s Sichuan province killed at least 65 people and left hundreds stranded or missing. Another 250 people were injured following the incident, with dozens critically wounded. Rescuers attempted to look for survivors through the rubble after the earthquake triggered landslides and shook buildings as far as 200 kilometers away from the epicenter.

Wednesday
07 Sept 2022

Burkina Faso – [At least 35 civilians killed in Burkina Faso IED convoy blast](#)

More than 35 people were killed in Burkina Faso's restive northern region after a convoy of vehicles carrying supplies struck an improvised explosive device (IED). Another 37 people were wounded as a result of the accident

Yemen – [Deadly al-Qaeda attack targets Yemen's southern separatists](#)

20 fighters aligned with Yemen's southern separatists were killed by Al-Qaeda fighters in an attack in the Abyan province, according to a southern military spokesman who stated that all attackers were also killed. The armed group fighters used rocket-propelled grenades, light and medium weapons, and military vehicles in the ambush on a security checkpoint in Ahwar district.

Democratic Republic of Congo – [One dead in fresh anti-UN mission protests in eastern DR Congo](#)

One person was killed after being shot in the eastern Congolese city of Beni during a protest against the United Nations' MONUSCO peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo. For the past 2 months, there have been violent protests against UN peacekeepers, with the latter being accused of using lethal force in retaliation. The demonstrations have killed dozens, including citizens, peacekeepers, and police officers in the past few months. Protestors are complaining that the peacekeepers have not effectively protected civilians against militia violence that has prevailed in the country for years.

Afghanistan – [UN report details Taliban abuses in Afghanistan](#)

Richard Bennett, the United Nations special rapporteur on human rights in Afghanistan, has released his first report which revolves around the abuses committed under the Taliban's rule since August 2021 as well as the consequences that they have had on Afghans. The report also shed light on the country's ongoing economic crisis and the humanitarian effects that it has had on its society, in part due to the actions of foreign governments. The report stated that "All parties bear degrees of responsibility for failures to deliver economic and social rights." It also highlighted the regression in women and girls' enjoyment of fundamental human rights and the limitations of people's freedom and justice.

South Korea – [Typhoon Hinnamnor: Seven drown in flooded South Korean car park](#)

Seven people have died in South Korea after being trapped in an underground parking lot during floods caused by Typhoon Hinnamnor. The victims had gone to the car park to move their cars but ended up being caught by the incoming torrents. Two people were rescued after they clung to ceiling pipes for more than 12 hours and were reported to be in stable condition. Typhoon Hinnamnor is the strongest cyclonic storm to hit South Korea this year, and it has killed at least 10 people.

Uzbekistan – [Uzbekistan's proposed medical testing law violates basic rights](#)

Uzbekistan's Internal Ministry has proposed a new law that requires police to conduct mandatory testing for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, as part of police raids on venues where "dangerous groups" gather. Mandatory HIV testing violates fundamental human rights and is potentially detrimental for public health. The new law constitutes a violation of the rights to bodily integrity, to be free from violence, to the highest attainable standard of health, and to non-discrimination.

Thursday
08 Sept 2022

United States – [Memphis shooting spree leaves four people dead, three wounded](#)

Four people were killed and three others were wounded in a shooting spree at multiple locations in Memphis, United States. The shooting spree began around noon on September 7, 2022, and continued until the late evening. Wounded individuals were taken to the hospital, and the suspected attacker – identified as Ezekiel D Kelly – was arrested. According to the police, the rampage was described as a "mobile mass shooting". There were at least eight crime scenes, seven shootings, and the carjacking of a Dodge Challenger in Southaven, south of Memphis. The suspect, who broadcasted his actions on Facebook Live, was arrested when he crashed during a high-speed chase.

India – [Muslim domestic workers in India changing names out of fear](#)

Muslim domestic workers in India have been exchanging their names with hindu-sounding ones in order to be hired in the workplace and survive. According to the International Labor Organization, there could be anywhere between 20 million to 80 million domestic workers in India. Another report says 9 out of 10 Muslim workers in India earn their livelihood in the informal economy. In general, domestic workers in India often fall victim to rampant discrimination and violence. However, Muslim workers face further marginalization due to their religion, forcing them to hide their identity.

Friday
09 Sept 2022

Uganda – [At least 16 dead as heavy rains trigger landslides in Uganda](#)

16 people died in western Uganda due to heavy rains in the Kasese district that caused a landslide. According to the red cross, most of the victims found were women and children. Another six people were additionally injured and were transferred to a local hospital to receive treatment. Emergency workers have been looking for other survivors by shoveling through mud. Kasese district is a region prone to landslides, most notably during the rainy season, due to its location in the foothills of the Rwenzori mountains. At least 24 people were killed in Mbale district in July due to flooding and heavy rains.

Greece – [Scores of Yazidis stranded outside Greek camp](#)

Around 120 migrants from the Yazidi minority have been forced to sleep outside a migrant camp in northern Greece for two weeks after they were forbidden from entering. After fleeing Iraq in 2014, hundreds of Yazidis have sought shelter in Greece, which had dozens of camps housing asylum seekers. However, authorities have recently been shutting most of these camps down following protests from local communities. The camp near the northern city of Serres is currently housing around 1,000 individuals, 700 of which are Yazidis. Officials say it is at capacity.

Mozambique – [IS says it killed Italian nun in Mozambique](#)

Four Christians, including an Italian nun, were killed in an attack by the Islamic State group (IS) in Mozambique's northern Nampula province. The 83-year-old Italian nun, identified as Sister Maria De Coppi, was shot dead by militants who raided the village of Chipene in Memba district where a Christian missionary is based. Many people were also reported to have been beheaded during the attack. IS claimed that it killed the nun because she had "excessively engaged in spreading Christianity".

Russia – [Ukraine war: Heavily pregnant medic held in Russian prison](#)

Mariana Mamonova, an 8-month pregnant Ukrainian military medic, is being held at a notorious prison camp in the Russian-occupied part of eastern Ukraine. Mamonova was taken prisoner at the start of April while serving in Mariupol, and she is understood to be living in dangerous conditions inside the prison. Mariana's family have appealed to the Ukrainian government for her to be freed as part of a prisoner exchange before her baby is due at the end of September. There is currently scarce information about Mamonova's condition, and it is unclear what would happen to her or the baby if she were to give birth inside the prison.

India – [India journalist Siddique Kappan gets bail after nearly two years](#)

Journalist Siddique Kappan was granted bail after being imprisoned for more than 700 days for attempting to visit the family of a Dalit teenager gang-raped in a small town in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. The 42-year-old journalist was arrested in October 2020 and charged under a stringent law after trying to get to Hathras where authorities had allegedly tried to burn the young woman's body after passing away due to injuries that she suffered during the assault. The top court bailed the reporter after noting that the case had yet to progress from the police investigation filed in April last year. Previous attempts to seek bail were rejected by lower courts. "Every person has a right to free expression. He is trying to show that victims need justice and raise a common voice," the top court said.

Afghanistan – [Taliban close girls schools in east that had briefly opened](#)

Girl schools above the sixth grade were shut down by Taliban authorities in eastern Afghanistan's Paktia province, based on witnesses and social media posts. Four girls schools in Gardez, the provincial capital, and one in the Samkani district were opened without the official permission of the Taliban Education Ministry. However, all five schools were shut down by the Taliban. Dozens of former students took to the streets to protest the closure of the schools, and the Taliban government spokespersons and Education Ministry officials did not make any further comment.

United States – [US Supreme Court allows Jewish university to deny LGBTQ group](#)

The US Supreme Court has granted temporary permission for an Orthodox Jewish university in New York to deny official recognition to an LGBTQ student group. Yeshiva University turned to the court for an urgent ruling after a New York state judge said the school had to let the Pride Alliance register as a student association, which would give it access to certain facilities and services. "As a deeply religious Jewish university, Yeshiva cannot comply with that order because doing so would violate its sincere religious beliefs about how to form its undergraduate students in Torah values," the university stated. The Pride Alliance in turn argued that the university offers several classes on subjects other than religion and has non-Jews among its student body.

Sweden – [Sweden election: Gang shootings cast shadow over vote](#)

Sweden has witnessed an increase in gun violence and gang crime, with its media describing it as one of the ugliest election campaigns in history. According to a 2021 report by the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention, gun crime in Sweden is increasing at a faster rate than anywhere else in Europe. 47 people have died from shootings in the country in 2022 - more than the whole of 2021.

Saturday and Sunday
10 and 11 Sept 2022