



HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

10 – 16 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

Tuesday
11 Oct 2022

Lebanon – [Lebanon Detects 4 New Cholera Cases](#)

Lebanon recorded four new Cholera cases, bringing the total confirmed number of infections since October 5 to 18. According to the Ministry of Health, the new cases expanded to Aakkar, as four cases appeared in Aarsal, and a case in each of Halba, Al Huwaish, Bebnine, and Rihaniyeh. It added that no deaths were recorded. Last Friday, Lebanon's Health Minister Firass Abiad announced new anti-cholera measures after reporting the first case of the disease in 27 years.

Wednesday
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Lebanon – [Lebanon to begin returning refugees to Syria 'in batches'](#)

President Michel Aoun has said Lebanon will soon begin sending Syrian refugees back to their home country, despite concerns by rights groups over their safety. "As of next week, we will see the start of returning Syrians to their home country in batches," the Lebanese presidency said in a Twitter post on Wednesday, without providing further details. In its September report, the UN's Syria commission said the country "is still not a safe place to return". An official source told the Reuters news agency the returns would only include those who had voluntarily signed up to go back with Lebanon's General Security agency, in coordination with the country's social affairs ministry, and would not be forced to leave.

Lebanon – [Lebanon reports first cholera death in new outbreak](#)

Lebanon has recorded the first death case from cholera since detecting the disease in the country in October, the health ministry has said. Lebanon recorded its first case of cholera since 1993 on October 5, likely the result of a serious outbreak in neighboring Syria crossing the border between the countries. The issue has been further exacerbated by poor sanitation and crumbling infrastructure in Lebanon after three years of unprecedented economic crisis. The total number of recorded infections this month so far has reached 26, the health ministry said on Wednesday. The United Nations warned earlier this month that the outbreak is "evolving alarmingly".

Thursday
13 Oct 2022

Lebanon – [Lebanon's cancer patients turn to the black market for life-saving medication](#)

Lebanon's deepening economic crisis has had a toll on the medical sector and its patients. Medical subsidies have decreased from \$120 million per month to about \$35 million in 2021. The price of a wide range of medications has increased by up to four times. Cancer patients are fighting two battles – one against their disease and another to obtain much-needed treatment. Breast cancer is the most prevalent cancer in Lebanon. In 2020, 1,954 new breast cancer cases were identified, accounting for 33.7 percent of diagnosed cancers that year. Hospitals now face significant medication shortages, and a large number of patients cannot afford treatment due to the capital controls imposed almost overnight by banks in 2019. While some NGOs offer free mammogram examinations, no health centers provide free treatment.

Friday
14 Oct 2022

Lebanon – [Stop the so-called voluntary returns of Syrian refugees](#)

Responding to the news that Lebanon's General Security agency will start sending Syrian refugees back to their country next week in a so-called voluntary process, Diana Semaan, Amnesty International's Acting Deputy Director for the Middle East and North Africa, said, "The Lebanese authorities are scaling up the so-called voluntary returns, a plan which has been in place for four years, when it is well established that Syrian refugees in Lebanon are not in a position to take a free and informed decision about their return due to restrictive government policies on movement and residency, rampant discrimination, lack of access to essential services as well as unavailability of objective and updated information about the current human rights situation in Syria." She added that, "In enthusiastically facilitating these returns, the Lebanese authorities are knowingly putting Syrian refugees at risk of suffering from heinous abuse and persecution upon their return to Syria. Lebanon should respect its obligations under international law and halt its plans to return Syrian refugees en-masse."

Saturday and Sunday
15 and 16 Oct 2022

Lebanon – [Lebanon's pound strikes to historic low at 40,000 against US dollar](#)

The Lebanese pound has sunk to a historic low against the US dollar, trading at LBP 40,000 to the dollar. Lebanon's cost of living index has also recorded a staggering hike of more than 272% in three years. The currency devaluation, coupled with increased prices, has negatively affected the purchasing power of the Lebanese. The country has witnessed a significant and continuous rise in the cost of living, according to data collected by the Central Administration Statistics.



REGIONAL

Middle East

Monday

10 Oct 2022

Yemen – [Houthis continue 'heinous' crimes across Yemen](#)

The Houthis' "heinous" crimes in Yemen's Taiz governorate are ongoing and have resulted in the death and injury of dozens of civilians, Yemeni Minister of Information Muammar Al-Eryani said on Sunday. According to a statement on Yemen News Agency (SABA), the minister condemned a recent Houthi drone attack that injured eight civilians, including a child, in Taiz. "This heinous crime comes hours after the Houthi militia bombed the village of Hamra in Al-Majasha district, south of Hodeidah with drone missiles, which resulted in the injury of 8 civilians, and terrifying their fellow villagers who had just returned home from internal displacement by the terrorist militia," the minister said in a statement.

Tuesday

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Occupied Palestine – [Palestinian, 12, dies of gunshot wound from Israel army raid](#)

A 12-year-old Palestinian boy died after being shot and wounded by Israeli soldiers during a September army raid in a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry said. Mahmoud Samoudi was shot in the abdomen on September 28 during an army raid in Jenin, a refugee camp and stronghold of armed Palestinians. On Monday, the ministry mistakenly reported the boy was wounded during the weekend, but the Israeli military said the incident happened in September and the ministry has since corrected its initial reporting. The Israeli regime has been carrying out nightly arrest raids across the West Bank since a spate of attacks against Israelis in the spring killed 19 people. The army said it had traced some of the perpetrators of those attacks back to Jenin. Israeli fire has killed more than 100 Palestinians during that time, making it the deadliest year in the occupied territory since 2015.

Wednesday

12 Oct 2022

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

Israeli forces have shot dead a Palestinian in a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian health ministry has said. Usama Adawi, 18, was killed "by occupation [Israeli military] live fire to the stomach in the Al-Aroub camp," in the southern West Bank, the health ministry said on Wednesday. Official Palestinian news agency Wafa said he was killed in confrontations during which Israeli forces shot at Palestinians and used tear gas. Another person was injured in the Al-Aroub camp and was in moderate condition in hospital, Wafa reported. The Israeli military said soldiers pursued people who were throwing rocks towards vehicles on a road near the camp. "[Soldiers] spotted the suspects adjacent to the refugee camp ... and responded with live fire towards them. A hit was identified," an army statement said.

Thursday

13 Oct 2022

Syria – [Military bus blast in Syria kills 18 soldiers: State media](#)

At least 18 soldiers were wounded and 27 injured after a bomb exploded on a military bus near Damascus, Syrian state media has reported. "A military bus in Damascus countryside was targeted this morning by a terrorist detonation with an explosive device that was planted in advance," state news agency SANA cited a military source as saying. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitor, said the blast occurred on Thursday in the al-Saboura area in the countryside of Damascus, on a highway leading to the Lebanese capital, Beirut. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, and no comment from Syrian authorities.

Iran – [Iran intensifies crackdown on Kurdish areas as protests rage](#)

Iranian security forces have increased their crackdown on Kurdish regions of the country overnight, deploying shock troops, as authorities pursued their deadly suppression of nationwide protests sparked by Mahsa Amini's death in police custody. Nearly four weeks after Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian Kurd, was detained in Tehran for "inappropriate attire," the protests show no sign of abating in a bold challenge to Iran's clerical rulers, even if the unrest does not seem close to toppling them. The unrest has underlined pent-up frustrations over freedoms and rights in Iran, with many women joining in. The deaths of several teenaged girls reportedly killed while demonstrating have become a rally cry for more protests.

Occupied Palestine – [Israeli police arrest nine in East Jerusalem unrest](#)

Nine Palestinians were arrested during clashes in East Jerusalem, according to Israeli police, with tensions surging in the city and across the occupied West Bank. Palestinians launched a rare general strike on Wednesday in Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem, including closing shops, in response to a days-long operation by Israeli security forces in the Shuafat Palestinian refugee camp. Israel is searching the camp for the suspected killer of 18-year-old Israeli soldier Noa Lazar. With the manhunt ongoing and clashes persisting, Israeli police said they had arrested Palestinians who were "throwing stones and Molotov cocktails and attacking officers." Munib Al-Qutob, an emergency worker, said that there had been "lots of injuries from rubber bullets and tear gas inhalation."

Friday
14 Oct 2022

Yemen – [Houthis accused of executing Yemeni prisoner of war](#)

Government officials and human rights activists in Yemen have accused Iran-backed Houthis of torturing and executing a prisoner of war a year after capturing him in the central province of Marib. Muammar Al-Eryani, Yemen's minister of information, culture and tourism, said Houthi captors tortured Abdul Wahab Al-SHajjae, a Yemeni government soldier, and denied him lifesaving medication, which resulted in his death in prison, and that they refused to return his body to his family. Al-Eryani tweeted: "During his detention the prisoner Abdul Wahab Al-SHajjae was exposed to the harshest kinds of physical and mental abuse and was denied access to medical care and the most fundamental rights." He said that last year the Ministry of Human Rights recorded that 350 inmates out of 1,635 tortured by Houthis had died.

Occupied Palestine – [2 Palestinians killed in Israeli West Bank raid: Palestinian ministry](#)

Two Palestinians were killed during an Israeli raid in the flashpoint city of Jenin in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian health ministry said. "Two martyrs arrived at the Jenin government hospital," the ministry said, as the Israeli military announced an ongoing operation in the city's refugee camp. The army did not immediately comment on the deaths when contacted by AFP. Israeli forces used live fire in clashes with Palestinians in the Jenin camp, the official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported. Dozens of Palestinians have been killed in recent months during near daily Israeli raids across the West Bank.

Occupied Palestine – [Palestinians in Gaza protest against wave of Israeli violence](#)

Thousands of people in the besieged Gaza Strip have protested in solidarity with fellow Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem amid a wave of violence by Israeli forces. The rallies on Friday, called by Hamas and Islamic Jihad, began from mosques in Khan Yunis in southern Gaza and Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip, where the demonstrators carried banners that read: "Palestine brings us together, Jerusalem is ours, We will defend Jerusalem with our hands and souls." The protesters held banners of solidarity with the people of Jerusalem and pictures of young men killed by the Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Turkey – [Death toll in northern Turkey mine explosion rises to 41](#)

An explosion inside a coal mine in northern Turkey killed at least 41 people, the Turkish president has said, as rescue operations were concluded. The blast occurred on Friday at the state-owned TTK Amasra Muessese Mudurlugu mine in the town of Amasra, in the Black Sea coastal province of Bartin. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced that the last missing person had been found dead on Saturday. "Our priority was to find the miners in the gallery. We finally reached the last one. He also died, bringing the number of deaths to 41," he said shortly after arriving at the site. Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu earlier said 58 miners had survived the blast, "either by themselves or thanks to rescuers". He said 28 people had been injured as a result of the blast.

Yemen – ['Contaminated' medicine kills at least 10 children in Yemen](#)

At least 10 children and teens being treated for leukemia have died after being administered expired doses of cancer treatment in Yemen's Houthi rebel-held capital Sanaa, medical officials and workers said. "Ten children suffering from leukemia have died" at the Kuwait Hospital, the Houthi rebels' health ministry said on Friday, adding they were among a group of 19 patients aged between three and 15. It said "bacterial contamination" had been detected in the injections administered to the children, adding that the medication had been smuggled into the country. Another child was in "highly critical condition", it said. The officials did not say when the 10 deaths occurred.

Saturday and Sunday
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Iran – [Four inmates killed in fire at Tehran's Evin prison: State media](#)

At least four prisoners have been killed and 61 others injured after a fire broke out at Tehran's Evin prison overnight following a fight between inmates, the official state news agency IRNA reported quoting the country's judiciary. Smoke inhalation was said to be the cause of the deaths, IRNA reported on Sunday, adding 10 inmates are hospitalized with four in "critical condition". The facility mostly holds political prisoners, including Iranians with dual nationality. Families of about two dozen political prisoners have called to say they are unharmed, according to their accounts on social media. The prison has long been criticized by Western rights groups and was blacklisted by the United States government in 2018 for "serious human rights abuses".



Monday
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Ukraine – [Dozens of Russian missiles hit multiple Ukrainian cities](#)

Many people have been killed after missile attacks hit Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, and many other major cities, according to Ukrainian officials. Russian President Vladimir Putin said his country had launched long-range missiles against Ukrainian energy, military and communications infrastructure. He said the barrage of missile fire was a response to "terrorist attacks" on Russian territory and warned an even harsher "response" could come. The strikes were considered the most intense on Kyiv since Russia abandoned an attempt to capture it in the early weeks of the war that started in late February. Explosions were also reported in Lviv, Ternopil and Zhytomyr in Ukraine's west; Dnipro and Kremenchuk in central Ukraine; Zaporizhzhia in the south; and Kharkiv in the east.

Venezuela – [Venezuela crews search for missing as landslide death toll rises](#)

Emergency crews are searching for dozens of missing people after a landslide fuelled by flooding and days of torrential rain swept through a town in central Venezuela, killing at least 36 people, local officials said. Residents of Las Tejerias in the municipality of Santos Michelena, about 87 km southwest of the capital Caracas, had just seconds to reach safety late on Saturday as mud, rocks and trees tore through the streets and their homes. At least 36 people have been killed by the floods, up from an earlier death toll of 25, Interior Minister Remigio Ceballos told reporters on Monday, while another 56 people remained missing.

Nigeria – [Death toll rises to 76 after boat sinks in southeastern Nigeria](#)

The death toll from a boat accident in Nigeria's southeastern state of Anambra has risen to 76, the president said. The vessel capsized on Friday amid heavy flooding in the Ogbaru area of Anambra, according to officials on Saturday, when they said at least 10 people had died and 60 were missing. In a statement posted on Twitter on Sunday, Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari said emergency authorities had confirmed the higher death toll. Authorities are working to rescue or recover any missing passengers, said Buhari, adding that he had directed the relevant agencies to check safety protocols to prevent future accidents. The head of the Anambra State Emergency Management Agency said 15 people had been rescued as of Saturday night.

India – [At least 18 dead as late monsoon causes havoc across north India](#)

At least 18 people have been killed in 24 hours following incessant rain that has lashed part of northern India. Schools were also forced to close in several cities as an unusually late rainy season prolonged havoc across the country. Heavy rainfall was expected for the northern states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and parts of Rajasthan until Tuesday, according to the state-run Indian Meteorological Department (IMD). Some environmentalists suspect climate change is behind the unusually wet weather.

Tuesday
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Africa – [UN warns global crises causing hunger across Africa](#)

The UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) has warned that African countries face food shortages as a result of converging global crises, undoing years of work to eradicate hunger. The FAO stated that the economic crisis and grain shortages exacerbated by the Russia-Ukraine war, climate change, and internal conflict are all creating severe food instability for millions of people. 44% of Africa's wheat was imported from Ukraine and Russia before the war broke out in February. The worst-affected region is the Horn of Africa, which has suffered from five consecutive years of failed rainy seasons. Somalia, already long ravaged by war, is the worst affected, along with neighboring Ethiopia and Kenya.

Central America – [Dozens dead as storm Julia dumps heavy rains in Central America](#)

At least 28 people have died following rains and landslides caused by Hurricane Julia in many American countries, including Guatemala and El Salvador. Five people died after they were buried due to a hillside that collapsed on their house in Alta Verapaz province, stated Guatemala's disaster prevention agency. Moreover, another nine people died in Huehuetenango province, near Mexico, including a soldier involved in rescue work. Authorities in El Salvador said five Salvadoran army soldiers died after a wall collapsed at a house where they sought refuge in the town of Comasagua. Another soldier was injured. Two other people died in the eastern El Salvador town of Guatajiagua after heavy rains caused a wall of their home to collapse. Another man in El Salvador died when he was swept away by a current, and another died when a tree fell on him.

Wednesday
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Pakistan – [Thousands protest increased violence in Pakistan's Swat Valley](#)

Thousands of people have rallied in Pakistan's Swat Valley to protest against growing insecurity following the killing of a local school bus driver who was shot by an unknown assailant on Monday. Chanting slogans against the increasing number of killings in the area, protesters took to the streets on Tuesday afternoon in Nishat Chowk, demanding that the government do more to ensure the safety of residents there. Ahmed Shah, spokesperson for Swat Qaumi Jirga, a representative body of local residents, said more than 15,000 people had attended the protest – the sixth in the past two months. “We held one protest last week but the one today is among the largest demonstrations ever in Swat,” he told Al Jazeera.

Finland – [UN says Finland violated child rights in Syria camps](#)

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) has accused Finland of violating the rights of Finnish children by leaving them in life-threatening conditions in Syrian camps. The committee of 18 independent experts issued the findings on Wednesday after considering a case filed on behalf of six Finnish children held at al-Hol camp in Syria's northeast region. The children belong to parents suspected of fighting for the armed group ISIL (ISIS). The committee said the prolonged detention of child victims “in life-threatening conditions” amounted to “inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment”. “Finland has the responsibility and power to protect the Finnish children in the Syrian camps against an imminent risk to their lives by taking action to repatriate them,” the CRC said in a statement.

United States – [Public Housing Eviction Concerns in New Mexico](#)

Residents in public housing operated by New Mexico's Northern Regional Housing Authority (NRHA) have described threats of eviction and other practices that appeared inconsistent with their right to housing under international law, Human Rights Watch said today in a letter to the housing authority. The letter contains recommendations for bringing the housing authority's practices into compliance with international human rights standards. “Public housing can be transformative for low-income households by offering affordable rents,” said Jackson Gandour, New York University School of Law fellow at Human Rights Watch. “But if public housing authorities arbitrarily pursue evictions, they undermine the program's promise and place residents at risk of homelessness.”

Thursday
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Slovakia – [Two dead after shooting outside LGBT bar](#)

Two people have been killed during a shooting outside an LGBT venue in Slovakia's capital, Bratislava. A third person was wounded in the attack on Wednesday evening near the Teplaren bar, close to the city center. The suspected gunman was found dead on Thursday morning, police said. Information on his motive has not been released. However, local media reported that he had written social media posts indicating that he held views against LGBT and Jewish people. The young man was also identified in Slovak media as the son of a former candidate for a far-right political party. Prime Minister Eduard Heger condemned the attack, saying any form of extremism was unacceptable. Meanwhile, President Zuzana Caputova called on the country's politicians to stop spreading hate.

Pakistan – [Pakistan bus fire kills at least 18 flood survivors](#)

A bus carrying nearly 50 people displaced by the catastrophic floods in Pakistan has caught fire, killing at least 18 of them, including eight children and nine women. The passengers were all members of an extended family who were forced to shift to Karachi after the floods submerged their homes in Khairpur Nathan Shah in Dadu district of Sindh province. The incident took place on Wednesday night on the Karachi-Hyderabad highway near the industrial town of Nooriabad, situated nearly 185 km (115 miles) from Karachi. “There were 47 people on the bus. The fire started in the back of the bus which we think might be due to a fault in the air-conditioning system,” local police officer Hashim Brohi told Al Jazeera. The officer said an investigation was underway.

Switzerland – [Switzerland proposes \\$1,000 fines for breaking 'burqa ban'](#)

The Swiss government has sent a draft law to parliament, seeking to fine people who violate a national ban on face coverings up to 1,000 Swiss francs (\$1,000). The draft law, which was sent on Wednesday, follows last year's referendum on banning face coverings. The proposed ban, also known as the “burqa ban”, was supported by 51.2 percent of voters, but was criticised at the time as Islamophobic and sexist. After consultations, the cabinet watered down calls to anchor the ban in the criminal code and fine offenders up to 10,000 Swiss francs (\$10,000). “The ban on covering faces aims to ensure public safety and order. Punishment is not the priority,” it said in a statement.

Latvia – [Latvia engaged in 'brutal' pushback against migrants: Amnesty International](#)

Authorities in Latvia have “brutally treated” refugees and migrants trying to cross the Belarus border, Amnesty International reported, warning that human rights violations have been committed, including arbitrary detention and torture. Amnesty interviewed several Iraqi migrants who said they were subjected to violence, including beatings and electric shocks using tasers. Eve Geddie, Amnesty International European Institutions Office director, said, “Latvia has given refugees and migrants a cruel ultimatum: Accept to return ‘voluntarily’ to their country, or remain stranded at the border facing detention, unlawful returns and torture. In some cases, their arbitrary detention at the border may amount to enforced disappearance.”

Friday
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United States – [US to take in some Venezuelans but will send most back to Mexico](#)

The United States and Mexico have announced a joint migration plan that will see most Venezuelan asylum seekers trying to enter the US through its southern border sent back to Mexico while granting access to the US to thousands of others who come by air. The effort aims to address the growing number of Venezuelans arriving at the US-Mexico border. Under the new programme, which came into effect immediately, up to 24,000 Venezuelans will be allowed to enter the US by air, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said. Others who try to enter the US through the border without documentation will be returned to Mexico.

United States – [Five shot dead including police officer in North Carolina capital](#)

Five people including an off-duty police officer were shot dead in the North Carolina capital of Raleigh on Thursday, prompting a massive manhunt that shut down part of the city and resulted in the arrest of one suspect, officials said. At least two other people including another police officer were wounded and taken to hospital, Mayor Mary-Ann Baldwin told a news conference. The shooting broke out just after 5 p.m. EDT at or near the Neuse River Greenway, a trail that runs through part of the city. Raleigh police later said on Twitter that, "The suspect has been taken into custody." The suspect was thought to be a white teenage male with a long gun, WTVD television reported.

Mali – [Mali bus blast leaves over 10 dead, dozens wounded](#)

At least 11 people were killed and 53 injured when a bus hit an explosive device in central Mali, according to a hospital source. The explosion occurred on the road between Bandiagara and Goundaka in the Mopti area on Thursday afternoon, a security source said. The region is known as a hotbed for violence by roaming armed groups. "We have just transferred nine bodies to the clinic. And it's not over yet," said Moussa Housseyni of the local Bandiagara Youth Association, adding that they were all civilians. Earlier, police and local sources gave a provisional toll of 10 dead and many seriously injured.

Saturday and Sunday
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Colombia – [At least 20 killed in Colombia bus accident](#)

At least 20 people died and 15 others were injured when a bus overturned on the Pan-American Highway in southwestern Colombia. The bus was traveling between the port city of Tumaco, in the southwestern corner of Colombia, and Cali, 320km to the northeast, when the incident occurred on Saturday. Among the injured were a three-year-old girl and an eight-year-old boy. Investigators are looking at possible "mechanical failures in the brake system", Colonel Oscar Lamprea, director of traffic and transportation in the area, said in a message to reporters.

Mexico – [Gunmen open fire at Irapuato city bar killing 12](#)

Unidentified gunmen have opened fire in a bar in the central Mexican city of Irapuato, killing 12 people, including six women, local authorities said, the second mass shooting in the state of Guanajuato in less than a month. Three people were injured in the attack on Saturday evening in the south of Irapuato, the city government said in a statement, adding that security officials were trying to track down the assailants. The motive behind the shooting was not immediately clear.