



HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

1-7 August, 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
1 August 2022

Lebanon – [Feminist march “We refuse, we stand in solidarity, we act”](#)

Feminist groups organized a march under the slogan “*We refuse, we stand in solidarity, we act*” on July 31, 2022 to protest the systemic discrimination perpetuated by the State, religious institutions, and society against women and other marginalized groups such as the LGBTQI+ community, refugees, and migrant workers.

Wednesday
3 August 2022

Lebanon – [UN: Set Fact Finding Mission on Beirut Explosion](#)

2 Years after Beirut Port Explosion, Survivors Call on UN Human Rights Council to Act. The United Nations Human Rights Council should pass a resolution at its September 2022 session to create an impartial fact-finding mission into the Beirut port explosion, 11 human rights groups, including Human Rights Watch, said today, on the second anniversary of the explosion. Two years on, the domestic investigation has stagnated with no progress sight. The Lebanese authorities have repeatedly obstructed the course of the domestic investigation into the explosion by shielding politicians and officials implicated in the explosion from questioning, prosecution, and arrest. Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Legal Action Worldwide, Legal Agenda, and the International Commission of Jurists have documented a range of procedural and systemic flaws in the domestic investigation, including flagrant political interference, immunity for high-level political officials, lack of respect for the fair trial standards, and due process violations.

Lebanon – [Human rights experts call for international investigation into 2020 Beirut explosion](#)

A cohort of independent UN experts has called on the Human Rights Council to launch an international investigation into the massive explosion in Beirut two year ago, with a view to securing justice for those who died and were injured. The explosion and its aftermath have further brought into focus systemic problems of negligent governance and widespread corruption in Lebanon, the experts said. Rights experts who recently visited Lebanon found that responsibility for the explosion has yet to be established, affected areas remain in ruins and reconstruction funds from the international community have barely begun to reach the rightful beneficiaries.

Thursday
4 August 2022

Lebanon – [Two years after Beirut explosion, Lebanon awaits justice](#)

Relatives of the blast victims have pressed for justice and accountability for two years, to no avail. United Nations experts and top NGOs have urged the United Nations Human Rights Council to launch an international investigation into the deadly Beirut port blast, on the eve of its second anniversary. The August 4, 2020 mega-blast killed more than 200 people and destroyed swathes of the Lebanese capital, after a stockpile of haphazardly stored ammonium nitrate fertilizer caught fire at the port. Relatives of blast victims have pressed for justice and accountability for two years, but the local probe has been paused since December due to political pressure. “This tragedy marked one of the largest non-nuclear blasts in recent memory, yet the world has done nothing to find out why it happened,” the six UN experts said on Wednesday.

Friday
5 August 2022

Lebanon – Families demand justice two years on from Beirut port blast

Thousands gather in Lebanon's capital Beirut to commemorate two years since the 2020 deadly port explosion, calling for accountability. Tatiana Hasrouly, 21, was at the front of the march, helping to hold a giant Lebanese flag. Her father had worked in the operations center of the port silos for 38 years before being killed in the explosion. It took search teams 14 days to find his body. "It's really important to apply pressure on this ruling state because they're still in power... Nothing can scare us; no militia, no president, no one can scare us," she said, noting the people recently re-elected to parliament who have been charged in the local investigation and have arrest warrants against them.

Lebanon – Liliane Cheaito embrace her son after two years

Liliane Cheaito hugged her son Ali Hodroj today, for the first time in two years. She had been deprived of seeing him since she was injured in the August 4 explosion and fell into a coma. For long months, a doll was placed in her arms to compensate for his absence at her side. The Ja'fari Court had denied Liliane custody of her son and allowed him to visit her only 4 hours a day, but that decision was not implemented when her husband appealed it. The husband also confiscated Liliane's passport and even prevented her from traveling to receive treatment after placing her under court guardianship. The husband's family said they had meant to protect the child from catching any virus or infection if he visited his mother in hospital, as their excuse for not letting Liliane see her son.

Lebanon – 4 numbers the story of an ongoing crime

Another year has passed since the Beirut power explosion, another year of political and judicial obstruction of the investigation. Authorities succeeded in shackling the judicial investigator, who spent 73% of his time forced off the case. The judicial obstruction, however, did not limit the death toll, with 7 new victims passing away as a result of the Beirut port explosion.

Lebanon – Demanding an international fact-finding mission

The families of the fire brigade victims announced in a press conference today that the ambassadors of the United Nations, the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Russia have submitted a request to form a fact-finding mission to help uncover the truth of the August 4 massacre. William Noun, brother of the martyr Joe Noun, said that the families will submit the same request to the Chinese ambassador and other ambassadors of member states in the UN Security Council. He added that the families have received positive responses from the embassies, particularly considering the continued political obstruction of the investigation led by Judge Tarek Bitar. Noun reminded that while the ambassadors of major countries received the delegation of the families of the fire brigade martyrs, they have not been received by top Lebanese officials. Baabda Palace canceled a meeting that was scheduled with the victims' families in April 2021.

Lebanon – Presidency and premiership evade naturalization scandal

Liberation revealed that the offices of the Presidency and of the Premiership and the ministries of the Interior and of Finance are putting together a naturalization decree, hoping to share an amount ranging between €300-€400 million after selling Lebanese passports to individuals close to the Syrian regime, who would use the documents to obtain visas more easily. In late May, Asharq al-Awsat newspaper reported that President Michel Aoun was attempting to issue a new decree to naturalize dozens of Iraqi and Syrian businessmen. Aoun had issued a similar decree on May 11, 2018, to naturalize 411 individuals, including wealthy Syrians close to the Assad regime. The presidency retracted some names after the decree sparked a scandal, when it turned out that some names on the list included persons wanted by Interpol, who were evading international sanctions.



Tuesday
2 August 2022

Occupied Palestine – [Israeli forces kill Palestinian teenager in raid on Jenin camp](#)

The Israeli army has shot dead a Palestinian teenager during a raid on the Jenin refugee camp in the north of the occupied West Bank. The youth, identified as 17-year-old Dirar al-Kafrini, was killed late on Monday when the shooting broke out between the Israeli army and Palestinian fighters in the camp. The family and the Palestinian Prisoners' Society said the army had assaulted al-Saadi and his wife during the arrest. Al-Saadi's wife, Nawal, was hospitalized due to the injuries she sustained. At least 60 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli army since the start of the year, about a third of them were from Jenin. The Israeli army raids Palestinian cities and villages in the West Bank on a near-nightly basis, often resulting in the killing or wounding of Palestinians.

Iraq – [Yazidi genocide anniversary serves as grim reminder of Daesh's crimes against humanity](#)

On August 3, Yazidis around the world will come together to mourn their brothers, sisters, parents, and other loved ones who were massacred by Daesh eight years ago. It was on that fateful day in 2014 that Daesh hordes invaded the historic Yazidi homeland, Sinjar, in Iraq. The terrorist group murdered 1,268 people on the first day; and throughout the weeks that followed, 6,417 Yazidis were kidnapped, 3,548 of whom were women and underage girls who were thrown into sexual slavery and forced labor. The entire community fled, seeking safety in the mountains of Sinjar. More than 65 percent of Yazidis became displaced.

Occupied Palestine – [Investigation ordered into alleged sex abuse of prison guards in Israel](#)

Israeli President Isaac Herzog called on Tuesday for an investigation into allegations of sexual abuse of female guards by prisoners at a maximum-security prison with the encouragement of their superiors. Last week, a former soldier who served as a prison guard in the Gilboa Prison in northern Israel wrote an online post under a pseudonym accusing her superior of repeatedly "handing her over" to be raped and sexually assaulted by a Palestinian inmate a few years ago. Several women have since come forward with allegations that female guards were "pimped out" to be raped or sexually abused by political prisoners at the same prison, according to Israeli media reports. The Gilboa Prison case surfaced amid a wave of sexual abuse allegations against men in Israel's security forces.

Wednesday
3 August 2022

Iran – [Robust international action needed to end cycles of protest bloodshed](#)

The international community must hold the Iranian authorities to account for the torrent of violence which their security forces unleashed on protesters in the south-west of Iran in May 2022 with complete impunity, Amnesty International said today. Amnesty International verified that four people were killed in connection with the protests and documented a pattern of birdshot injuries amounting to torture amongst protesters and bystanders, including children. The authorities imposed internet shutdowns and mobile network disruptions to block peoples' ability to communicate with each other and to conceal their crimes.

Occupied Palestine – [End solitary confinement of Palestinian prisoner jailed as a child](#)

Responding to today's decision by the Israeli Prison Service to renew the solitary confinement of Ahmad Manasra, a Palestinian prisoner who has developed serious mental health problems since his arrest as a child seven years ago, Heba Morayef, Amnesty International's Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, said: "It is outrageous that the Israeli authorities have renewed Ahmad Manasra's spell in solitary confinement. Continuing to detain Ahmad Manasra in such inhumane conditions is a callous act of injustice. Ahmad has been diagnosed with schizophrenia and is severely depressed. "Ahmad Manasra was just 13 years old when he was arrested. The decision to detain him should always have been a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible time. Now, he is said to be a shadow of his former self and has threatened to take his own life. The Israeli authorities must immediately revoke their decision to renew his solitary confinement, and urgently release him from detention." On Wednesday, the Israeli Prison Service rejected a request to move Manasra out of solitary confinement at Eshel prison. There will be a further hearing regarding his solitary conditions at Beersheba District Court on 16 August. His lawyer Khaled Zabarqa told Amnesty International: "He is in danger for his life, actual danger, and the repeated extensions of his solitary confinement are destroying him."

Thursday
4 August 2022

Afghanistan – [Economic Causes of Afghanistan's Humanitarian Crisis](#)

Questions and Answers on Sanctions and Banking Restrictions on the Taliban. Since the US withdrawal and the Taliban takeover in August 2021, Afghanistan has been suffering from a worsening humanitarian crisis. Acute malnutrition is now entrenched across the country. For nearly a year, over 90 percent of households have not been able to get enough food. Almost 20 million people – half the population – are suffering either level-3 “crisis” or level-4 “emergency” levels of food insecurity under the assessment system of the World Food Programme (WFP). Recently, the WFP reported that tens of thousands of people in one province, Ghor, had slipped into “catastrophic” level-5 acute malnutrition, a precursor to famine. The WFP has stated that Afghanistan “continues facing the highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption globally.”

Iran – [Iran destroys Bahai homes in new escalation: NGO](#)

Bahai representatives said 13 community members, including several prominent figures, had already been arrested in raids on Sunday following dozens of arrests over the last two months. Bahais have been subjected to harassment ever since the inception in 1979 of the Islamic republic, which recognizes minority non-Muslim faiths including Christianity, Judaism and Zoroastrianism but does not Bahaism.

Morocco – [Moroccan court jails 14 migrants for 8 months over crossing](#)

A Moroccan court imposed 8-month prison sentences Thursday on 14 migrants for attempting, along with hundreds of others, to scale a border fence separating the north African country from the autonomous Spanish enclave of Melilla in June. Nador's Court of First Instance also ordered the defendants to pay 2,000-dirham (\$194) fines each over the events of June 24. The Moroccan Association for Human Rights, known as AMDH, said at least 27 migrants trying to enter Spain died that day, and numerous others – both migrants and police – were hurt. The AMDH condemned the decision which is described as “very harsh against people who only seek refuge.”

Iran – [Iran arrests militants planning attacks on religious gatherings](#)

Iran has arrested a group of 10 Daesh militants who were planning attacks on religious gatherings, the Iranian intelligence ministry said on Thursday. The 10 were captured in possession of explosive equipment, communication devices and weapons, a ministry statement said, adding the arrests took place over the past three days in two locations in western and southern Iran. The militants injured two Iranian intelligence agents in an exchange of fire before being arrested, the ministry said, without specifying where or when the clash took place. The ministry said the 10 were planning to attack religious processions taking place during the Islamic month of Muharram, which started on July 30.

Friday
5 August 2022

Occupied Palestine – [The Palestinian woman hoping to preserve tatreez embroidery for future generations](#)

Wafa Ghnaim's mother was forced into exile from her home in Safad in historic Palestine at the age of three. To keep the ties with her home region alive, she taught herself the art of tatreez, a form of folk embroidery popular among women in rural Palestinian villages. As a young girl, Ghnaim spent hours trailing after her mother, watching her hands as they meticulously stitched colored threads, fascinated by the motions. Ghnaim has since authored a book, *Tatreez and Tea: Embroidery and Storytelling in the Palestinian Diaspora*. As a researcher, she works on identifying different tatreez styles and gathering as much information as possible about them so that they can be preserved for future generations.

Saturday and Sunday
6 and 7 August 2022

Occupied Palestine – [UN special rapporteur says Israeli strikes on Gaza are 'illegal'](#)

Francesca Albanez calls on the United Nations to investigate whether Israel has breached international law and ensure accountability. The United Nations special rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories says Israel's air raids on the besieged Gaza Strip “not only are illegal but irresponsible”, calling for a diplomatic solution to the latest bout of violence, which began on Friday when Israel launched air attacks on Gaza City. “The situation in Gaza is on the verge of a humanitarian crisis,” Francesca Albanez told Al Jazeera.

Occupied Palestine – [Photos: Children killed as Israel bombards Gaza](#)

Six children and four women were among 29 dead in the latest Israeli attack on the besieged Palestinian enclave. Israeli attacks on Gaza have killed 29 people, including six children and four women, the health ministry in the besieged Palestinian enclave said. The ministry also said that 253 people in Gaza had been wounded since the hostilities with Israel broke out on Friday. The violence is the worst in Gaza since a war last year that devastated the impoverished territory. Israel said it launched the attacks in what it described as the pre-emption of an attack by Palestinian Islamic Jihad attack meant to avenge the arrest of a group leader in the occupied West Bank.

Tunisia – [More than 250 migrants 'rescued' off Tunisia](#)

Tunisian coast guards “rescued” more than 250 migrants who were attempting to cross the Mediterranean to Italy, the North African country’s National Guard said on Sunday. The attempted crossings – 17 in total – took place on the night of Friday to Saturday from the east of Tunisia, according to National Guard spokesman Houcem Eddine Jebabli. The statement did not indicate whether any vessels had got into difficulty or sunk but did note that an unspecified sum of cash was seized during the operations. The National Guard also on Friday carried out a “pre-emptive operation,” arresting five people who were “preparing to lead an illegal immigration bid departing from the coast of Sousse province in the east of the country,” Jebabli said.



Monday
1 August 2022

Myanmar – [Myanmar has 1.1 million fewer jobs after coup, COVID: ILO](#)

Based on the International Labour Organization, the quality of jobs has also deteriorated, with more irregular hours and lower pay. Myanmar has more than one million fewer jobs than before the shocks of COVID-19 and then last year's military coup. The February 2021 coup toppled the democratically-elected government. The quality of jobs had deteriorated, with workers in key sectors such as the garment industry facing more casual work, irregular working hours and lower pay. Also, labor productivity has declined. Eighteen months on from the military takeover, the employment situation in Myanmar remains very difficult.

Libya – [EU's Drone Is Another Threat to Migrants and Refugees](#)

Frontex Aerial Surveillance Facilitates Return to Abuse in Libya. Despite overwhelming evidence of torture and exploitation of migrants and refugees in Libya over the last few years the European Union has propped up Libyan forces' efforts to intercept the boats. It has withdrawn its own vessels and installed a network of aerial assets run by private companies. Since May 2021, the EU border agency Frontex has deployed a drone out of Malta, and its flight patterns show the crucial role it plays in detecting boats close to Libyan coasts. Frontex gives the information from the drone to coastal authorities, including Libya.

Afghanistan – [Taliban policies risk de facto university ban for Afghan women, say officials](#)

Secret schools formed as girls banned from classes languish with no accredited route to university. The Taliban's ban on girls studying at high schools will become a de facto ban on university degrees for women if it stays in place. Girls will not have the documents needed to enroll in higher education, or the academic capacity to start university courses after nearly a year out of school. Even if practical barriers to women entering higher education are removed in the coming months, authorities are also considering limiting them to degrees in healthcare and education. Without a high school graduation certificate, Afghan students cannot take the *kankor* national university entrance exam, which is required to enrol even at private colleges.

Last year, the Taliban automatically "graduated" female twelfth grade students, making them eligible for the exam, should they want to attempt it when the new government holds one. But Afghanistan's new rulers have not yet scheduled a session of the *kankor* since they took control of the country.

Moldova – [Millions of women and children have fled the war in Ukraine. Traffickers are waiting to prey on them](#)

There was nothing obviously untoward about the woman who approached the Palanca border crossing between Ukraine and Moldova with a 15-year-old boy she said was her nephew. But something about the pair just seemed odd. Suspicious, border officials started asking questions, bringing in social workers and psychologists. It turned out their story was a lie. The woman was a stranger who had promised the boy a lucrative job in Cyprus, a chance to "be a man" and support his family living in Ukraine. "We found his mother and called her, and she was crying and said she did not write any declaration and had no idea about this, it was terrible," the psychologist said. The incident was referred to Moldovan law enforcement for an investigation, the psychologist added.

Kenya – [Kenya: Police Impunity Raises Election Risk](#)

Authorities Yet to Investigate Killings by Security Forces Linked to 2017 Voting. The failure of Kenyan authorities to address accountability for past abuses by police heightens the risk of police abuse around the August 9, 2022, general elections. Kenya has a history of election-related violence including excessive, unlawful use of force by police, with few, if any, police officers held to account. Victims' families, activists, government officials, and police officers, have expressed concerns about possible violence if the August 9 presidential election results are disputed. In the aftermath of the 2017 elections, Human Rights Watch and other Kenyan and international human rights organizations documented killings by police and armed gangs, of 104 people, most of the victims being supporters of the then main opposition party, the National Super Alliance (NASA). "The failure to tackle police abuse in previous Kenyan elections risks emboldening them to continue their misconduct around this year's general election," said Otsieno Namwaya. "Kenya's government needs to enforce police accountability, including by restarting stalled police reform, and ending political interference of the police to end this worrying trend."

Tuesday
2 August 2022

Kenya – [Kenya: Police Impunity Raises Election Risk](#)

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USA – [NYPD ordered to hand over documents detailing surveillance of Black Lives Matter protests following lawsuit](#)

The New York Police Department (NYPD) has been ordered to disclose thousands of records of how the force procured and used facial recognition technology against Black Lives Matter (BLM) protesters, after the New York Supreme Court ruled in favor of Amnesty International and the Surveillance Technology Oversight Project (S.T.O.P.) on their joint Article 78 lawsuit. New Yorkers demanding racial justice have a right to know the full details of NYPD's use of facial recognition technology during the BLM protests. It is a damning indictment of the NYPD's lack of transparency and accountability to the public that it took a lawsuit to achieve this.

South Africa – [Four dead in South Africa protests over high power costs](#)

Protests over poor services occur regularly in South Africa, which is battling some of the highest unemployment and crime rates in the world. At least four people have died during protests over the cost of electricity in a South African township, police officials have said. On Monday, residents angry at the high cost of basic services barricaded roads with burning tyres and set ablaze a municipal building in Thembisa township, northeast of the financial hub, Johannesburg. Authorities said two people were killed in alleged police shootings after the protests broke out in the morning. Later in the evening, Thepa said two more bodies had been found near the entrance of the burned building – bringing the total death toll to four. Protests over poor services occur regularly in South Africa, which is battling some of the highest unemployment and crime rates in the world. Power cuts have also become frequent in recent months, as national utility company Eskom battles high debts and a labour strike.

Italy – [What Lay Behind the Brutal Killing of a Nigerian in Italy?](#)

Investigation Should Consider Racist Motivation. On Friday in the small town of Civitanova Marche on Italy's Adriatic coast, an Italian man beat and strangled a Nigerian street vendor in broad daylight. Alika Ogorchukwu, 39, had apparently tried to sell the alleged assailant and his girlfriend a packet of tissues and then asked for some change. Public debate is focused on gruesome details of the crime: Ogorchukwu was beaten with the crutch he used to walk and bystanders failed to intervene for the four minutes it took to kill him. Attention has also focused on the fact that the suspect's lawyer says the suspect has a mental health condition. Yet there's another troubling aspect to this story: The police have excluded any possible racist motivation behind the violence. Italy has historically failed to respond adequately to hate crimes. It has a law providing for longer prison sentences for racially aggravated crimes. But law enforcement, prosecutors, and courts tend to pursue this only if racism is identified as the sole motive.

India – [Repression Persists in Jammu and Kashmir](#)

Indian authorities are restricting free expression, peaceful assembly, and other basic rights in Jammu and Kashmir three years after revoking the region's special autonomous status. The government's repressive policies and failure to investigate and prosecute alleged security force abuses have increased insecurity among Kashmiris. On August 5, 2019, the Indian government, promising security and reform, revoked the constitutional autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir and split the state into two federally governed territories. The government action was accompanied by serious rights violations including arbitrary detention of hundreds of people, a total communications blackout, and severe restrictions on freedom of movement and peaceful assembly. Since then, the authorities have released many of the detainees and restored the internet, but have intensified their crackdown on media and civil society groups, including through frequent use of counterterrorism and public safety laws.

Myanmar – [ASEAN governments need to act on Myanmar](#)

The execution of four opposition activists by the country's junta needs urgent action from governments of all stripes.

In 2012, the activist and writer Kyaw Min Yu (known as Ko Jimmy), had recently been released from prison. It was a time of hope for Myanmar – the country was starting its experiment of “managed democracy” and hundreds of political prisoners had been released. Ten years later, the military is fully back in charge and Ko Jimmy is dead. Junta authorities executed him and the rapper-turned-politician Phyo Zeya Thaw on 23 July following death sentences handed down after trumped-up and politically motivated charges of terrorism. Two other men were also executed, supposedly for killing a military informant. All four were convicted following closed military trials that did not meet any semblance of due process. At the Association of Southeast Asian Nations foreign ministers' meeting this week in Phnom Penh, ASEAN leaders need to move beyond condemnation and take meaningful action.

Singapore – [UN Human Rights Office 'deplores' executions in Singapore](#)

The UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) denounced on Tuesday the hanging of two inmates in Changi Prison, located in the eastern part of Singapore. “We deplore the hanging today of two men in Singapore and are deeply troubled by the planned execution of two others on 5 August,”. The two prisoners, a Malaysian and a Singaporean, were hanged at after being convicted in May 2015 of drug trafficking and their appeals rejected. Meanwhile, Abdul Rahim bin Shapiee and Ong Seow Ping, two other men were convicted in 2018 of drug possession for the purpose of trafficking. Despite appealing their sentences, both are expected to be executed on Friday 5 August. The Human Rights Council underscores that capital punishment is “inconsistent with the right to life” and the right to be free from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Ethiopia – [UN delegation returns from human rights fact-finding mission in Ethiopia](#)

Three UN-appointed independent human rights experts returned from Ethiopia on Tuesday after working to negotiate access to areas important for investigations. The UN International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia is mandated to conduct a thorough and impartial probe into allegations of violations and abuses of international human rights law. Specifically, it will investigate violations of international humanitarian law and international refugee law in Ethiopia state committed on 3 November 2020 by all parties to the conflict in the Tigray region.

Myanmar – [Detainees tortured to crush opposition to coup](#)

Authorities in Myanmar's prisons and interrogation centers routinely subject people detained for resisting the 2021 military coup to torture and other cruel or degrading treatment, Amnesty International said today in a new briefing, more than a year and a half after the power grab shattered the country's halting transition to civilian rule. Since the 1 February 2021 coup, Myanmar's military has arrested more than 14,500 people and killed more than 2,000, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP). From showing up without an arrest warrant and forcing confessions through torture or other ill-treatment, to enforceable disappearances, reprisals against relatives, and holding detainees incommunicado from family and legal counsel, military authorities flout the law at every stage of the arrest and detention process.

Guinea – [Amnesty denounces further arbitrary arrests and excessive use of force](#)

In response to the arbitrary arrests and detentions of members of the National Front for the Defense of the Constitution (FNDC) and the wave of police violence during the demonstrations in Conakry on 28 July that left five dead and at least three more injured by gunfire, Fabien Offner, a researcher in Amnesty International's West and Central Africa office, said: “According to testimonies collected and documented by Amnesty International, the police fired live ammunition at demonstrators as they protested in the streets of Conakry. Amnesty International would remind the authorities that, under international law, the use of force in policing must be strictly necessary and proportional, and that the use of firearms is prohibited unless there is imminent threat of death or serious injury.

Turkey – [Pride Month in Turkey Showcased Homophobia, Resistance](#)

Thousands of Turkish activists took to the streets in protest to commemorate lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Pride month in June. Turkish authorities responded with a series of attacks against LGBT rights activists, lawyers, and journalists; Kaos GL, a Turkish LGBT rights group, reported that the government banned 10 LGBT-related events and detained over 530 people in just 37 days. Many of those detained at Istanbul Pride reported being held, handcuffed, in hot vehicles without food or water for long periods. The majority of detainees were held overnight. Police also prevented lawyers from meeting with clients in a timely fashion, making them wait as long as three hours, a violation of detainees' right of access to a lawyer. Only two lawyers were permitted to meet detainees held on the buses. One lawyer also was met with violence when she confronted the police about her client. She has since filed a criminal complaint. This latest string of attacks is a tidal wave in what were already very treacherous waters for LGBT people in Turkey.

Wednesday
3 August 2022

India – [Muslim women in India allege bias in hiring for jobs](#)

From being denied jobs for wearing a hijab to more implicit forms of exclusion, as revealed by a recent study, the women are struggling. Lubna Aamir, 28, is a dentist by training. After studying dentistry and a few years of practice at a government college in the western Indian state of Maharashtra, Aamir wanted a better position. In 2018, the Pune resident started applying for a job at clinics across India through email. She even dropped resumes in person at some clinics. She applied for jobs at nearly two dozen places but there was no response despite “me having very good credentials”. “I had scored excellent grades and had an internship from a government college which is much sought after in the dental industry. Muslims make up nearly 14 percent of India’s 1.35 billion population but do not have the same representation in government or private sector jobs. Multiple government-appointed commissions have found the community is at the bottom among India’s social groups in terms of education and employment. One of those commissions, headed by now retired Justice Rajinder Sachar, found in 2006 that India’s Muslims were disadvantaged in social, economic and educational terms. Less than 8 percent of them were employed in the formal sector compared with the national average of 21 percent, the commission said in its report.

Burkina Faso – [Burkina Faso army admits to killing civilians in air raid](#) The West African country has been battling rebel groups, some linked to al-Qaeda and ISIL, in recent years. Burkina Faso’s army has said it accidentally killed civilians during a military operation in the country’s southeast earlier this week. The West African country has been battling an armed uprising by rebel groups, some linked to al-Qaeda and ISIL (ISIS), which control large swaths of territory within and wage frequent attacks across the Sahel. During operations which made it possible to neutralize several dozen terrorists, the strikes unfortunately caused collateral victims within the civilian population.

Malaysia – [Malaysian mothers fight country’s unequal citizenship laws](#)

Malaysia is one of just 28 countries that still prevent women from passing their nationality to their children on an equal basis with men. After a decade in the United States, Aniza Ismail returned to Malaysia in 2009 with her two daughters. Recently separated from the girls’ Indonesian father, the 50-year-old wanted to bring them closer to her extended family and equip them with a better understanding of Islam. But despite the fact that Aniza is Malaysian and the family has lived in Malaysia for 12 years, her daughters are not Malaysian. Article 14(1)(b) of Malaysia’s constitution gives fathers the automatic right to confer citizenship on their children born abroad – but omits any mention of mothers. In December 2020, local rights group Family Frontiers and six other Malaysian mothers with non-Malaysian spouses and children challenged the constitutionality of the clause in the courts, asking that judges interpret it in line with the principle of gender equality.

India – [Feminists in India applaud their abortion rights – but they don’t extend to Dalit women](#)

The cost of reproductive care and the discrimination we face leaves my community effectively excluded from any gains made. For a movement claiming to represent all women, Indian feminism is a colossal failure. It persistently overlooks the women of my community. Can they afford safe abortion? Are they able to choose birth control measures? Do they have access to reproductive healthcare at all? India’s caste inequities manifest in healthcare. Dalit women live 15 years less than upper-caste women, on average. Even today, reproductive rights remain a remote luxury many Dalit women cannot afford.

Denmark – [Dutch Decision Helps Protect EU’s Syrian Asylum Seekers](#)

Denmark’s controversial move to designate parts of Syria ‘safe’, thereby opening the door for the potential return of hundreds of Syrian refugees, is losing ground. The intervention comes by way of the Netherlands’ Council of State ruling on July 6 that Syrian asylum seekers in the Netherlands cannot be automatically transferred to Denmark under the European Union’s “Dublin” arrangement that concluded that it cannot be assumed “the prohibition of inhuman treatment is respected by the Danish authorities.” Under “Dublin”, the first EU country reached by an asylum seeker is usually responsible for processing their claim; the “Dublin system” permits an EU member state to automatically transfer an asylum seeker to the member state of first arrival.

Cambodia – [Press freedom increasingly under threat in Cambodia – UN human rights report](#)

Amid growing restrictions on civic space and press freedoms in Cambodia, journalists are being increasingly subjected to various forms of harassment, pressure, and violence, according to a new report published on Wednesday by the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR). All of the 65 journalists interviewed in the State of Press Freedom in Cambodia said they had faced some form of interference in the course of their work – and more than 80 per cent described being put under surveillance, facing disproportionate or unnecessary restrictions, including access to information. “The findings in this report are very concerning, and I urge the authorities to take on board our recommendations to ensure the media can carry out their vital work fairly and transparently for the benefit of all Cambodians,” said the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet.

Thursday
4 August 2022

South Africa – [Mob attacks illegal miners after rapes shock South Africa](#)

Residents in Krugersdorp take to the streets after eight women were raped in an attack blamed on illegal miners. Thousands of angry residents in the South African city of Krugersdorp attacked a group of illegal miners with machetes, golf clubs and hammers after a gang rape last week shocked the nation. The mob set fire to their camps in Krugersdorp's Kagiso township on Thursday and barricaded roads with rocks and burning tires during a protest against the miners' presence, whom they blame for high levels of crime in the area. Some were stripped of their clothes and whipped by residents, while others were chased out of their camps and beaten before being handed over to the authorities. Police kept a distance and fired stun grenades from a helicopter to disperse the crowds.

Ukraine – [Ukrainian army's residential bases endangering civilians: Amnesty](#)

Right group says Kyiv's forces have turned 'civilian objects into military targets' by taking up positions in hospitals and schools. Ukrainian forces have endangered civilians during the war with Russia's invading troops by establishing bases in residential areas, including in schools and hospitals, Amnesty International says. In a report released on Thursday, Amnesty said a team of researchers had "found evidence of Ukrainian forces launching strikes from within populated residential areas, as well as basing themselves in civilian buildings in 19 towns and villages" in three regions of the country between April and July.

Indonesia – [Submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)

Human Rights Watch welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the "Committee") ahead of its upcoming review of Indonesia. This submission highlights areas of concern that Human Rights Watch hopes will inform the Committee's consideration of the Indonesian government's compliance with its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Africa – [Countries Should Remove Barriers That Keep Young Mothers Out of School](#)

Many African governments have made important progress to advance and protect girls' right to education. But tens of thousands of adolescent girls across Africa still face barriers in schooling each year as they are pregnant or have become mothers. Because of the increases in teenage pregnancies in numerous countries throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, the AU has an opportune moment to act and ensure that no girl is left behind. Under international human rights law, African Union member states have the obligation to ensure that girls who become pregnant can continue and complete primary and secondary education, free from discrimination.

Ukraine – [Ukrainian fighting tactics endanger civilians](#)

Ukrainian forces have put civilians in harm's way by establishing bases and operating weapons systems in populated residential areas, including in schools and hospitals, as they repelled the Russian invasion that began in February, Amnesty International said today. Such tactics violate international humanitarian law and endanger civilians, as they turn civilian objects into military targets. The ensuing Russian strikes in populated areas have killed civilians and destroyed civilian infrastructure. "We have documented a pattern of Ukrainian forces putting civilians at risk and violating the laws of war when they operate in populated areas," said Agnès Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary General. et.

Friday
5 August 2022

Malaysia – [Malaysia court overturns landmark citizenship ruling for women](#)

Court finds for the government after it appealed a lower court decision that women, like men, should be allowed to pass their citizenship to children born overseas. Malaysia's appeal court has overturned a landmark decision that women should be able to pass on their citizenship to children born overseas in the same way as Malaysian men. In a 2-1 decision, the judges sided with the government and rejected the September 2021 ruling by the High Court that Malaysian women had the same right as men to confer citizenship on their children.

Colombia – [Step up protection for activists who challenge big business in Colombia](#)

Activists who raise concerns about business projects in Colombia are under serious threat for speaking out, and UN human rights experts are urging the government to do much more to protect them. "Serious threats, including death threats, are commonplace in Colombia for defenders who raise concerns about corporate activity, in particular in land-intensive industries," said Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, in a statement issued on Thursday. The experts drew attention to the situation of Pedro Jose Velasco Tumiña, an indigenous Misak defender who has been receiving threats for his advocacy on land issues.

Saturday and Sunday
6 and 7 August 2022

Sri Lanka – [Sri Lanka's Economic Crisis and the IMF](#)

Support Public Calls to Expand Social Protection, Address Corruption. Sri Lanka's economic turmoil has become a full-blown political crisis and humanitarian emergency. The government defaulted on its debt in May, for the first time in its history, after years of economic mismanagement that has enriched a small number of elites and emptied the public coffers. Since then, protesters have driven President Gotabaya Rajapaksa from power, demanding an end to the corruption and misgovernance that has left millions of people facing acute shortages of food, fuel, and medicine.

Burundi – [Burundi Leader Lashes Out at Rights Groups](#)

Speech Lauded Former Official Who Ordered Killings, Torture. The head of Burundi's ruling political party gave an appalling speech at a public event this week commemorating Lt. Gen. Adolphe Nshimirimana, who, before he was killed seven years ago, oversaw human rights violations including the killing, torture, and arbitrary arrest of suspected political opponents. Ndikuriyo then launched a shocking attack on international human rights organizations documenting abuse in Burundi today, including by members of the ruling party's notorious youth league, the Imbonerakure. Ndikuriyo boasted about the party's strategy to militarize the youth league, whose members commit abuses across the country.

USA – ['No place in America': Biden denounces killing of four Muslims](#)

Police are investigating the murder of Muslim men in the US state of New Mexico as a possible hate crime. President Joe Biden denounced the killings of four Muslim men in New Mexico state that police say may be linked and could be a hate crime. "I am angered and saddened by the horrific killings of four Muslim men in Albuquerque," Biden said on Twitter on Sunday. The Albuquerque police said in a statement that they discovered the latest victim overnight Friday. His body was found near a Lutheran Family Services office that provides assistance to refugees, TV station KOB4 reported. Police did not identify the man, but said he was in his mid-20s, Muslim, and "a native from South Asia".

Ukraine – [Statement on publication of press release on Ukrainian fighting tactics](#)

Amnesty International deeply regrets the distress and anger that our press release on the Ukrainian military's fighting tactics has caused. Since Russia's invasion began in February 2022, Amnesty International has been rigorously documenting and reporting on war crimes and violations committed in Ukraine, speaking to hundreds of victims and survivors whose stories illuminate the brutal reality of Russia's war of aggression. We have challenged the world to demonstrate its solidarity with Ukrainians through concrete action, and we will continue to do so. Amnesty International's priority in this and in any conflict is ensuring that civilians are protected; indeed, this was our sole objective when releasing this latest piece of research. While we fully stand by our findings, we regret the pain caused and wish to clarify a few crucial points.

USA – [Anti-abortion Gen Z-ers see cause as social justice](#)

For a new wave of Generation Z anti-abortion activists, the battle to end abortion is as much about social justice as it is about faith. Noah Slayter estimates he's been to the US Supreme Court almost 50 times in the last five years. The 20-year-old university student, along with his friends, had become something of a fixture on the courthouse steps. Often in matching t-shirts, with placards in hand, they had been united behind one cause: an end to the constitutional right to abortion in the United States. When the Supreme Court announced it was overturning Roe v Wade, "everyone was hugging [and] I started crying my eyes out," he said, recalling the moment the news came. The ruling returns the decision over abortion rights to individual states.