



# HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN A WEEK

02 – 08 May 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.***

***The articles shared in this brief are the liability of their respective news outlets and do not reflect the views of CLDH.***



## LOCAL

**Monday**  
2 May 2022

**Lebanon – [Funds will be transferred soon to the company in charge of printing Lebanese passports](#)**

The funds needed to restart the production of passports will soon be transferred to the contracting company in charge of producing Lebanese passports, according to the Director of General Security (GS), Abbas Ibrahim. Since April 29, appointments for new passports had been suspended due to a stockout and insufficient funds to restart production ; exposing the great difficulties of the state to guarantee access to basic public services during the crisis. The high demand for passports is said to be due to the departure of the Lebanese population "for better opportunities abroad" (according to Arab Barometer).

**Tuesday**  
3 May 2022

**Lebanon – [Lebanese legislative elections: the Grand Mufti encourages Sunnis to vote](#)**

During his Eid el-Fitr sermon, the Grand Mufti, Sheikh Abdel Latif Derian, and the highest authority of Sunni Islam in Lebanon, urged Sunnis to participate in the Lebanese parliamentary elections on May 15. International observers have recently warned that Sunnis may not vote. The boycott reflects Sunni skepticism about the outcome of the elections, exacerbated by the fact that their favorite Saad Hariri is not seeking re-election. For Derian, abstention would play into the hands of the corrupt elites by allowing them to stay in power, while Lebanon knows a serious financial crisis and transparent elections are seen as a necessary step towards the country's recovery.

**Lebanon – [Political pressure "stronger than ever": Lebanon drops 23 places in Reporters Without Borders' 2022 ranking](#)**

During the World Press Freedom Day on May 3, Reporters Without Borders released its international ranking 2022, where countries are classified according to their respect for press freedom, noting the abuses committed on media professionals. Lebanon has fallen 23 places compared to 2021 and is now 130th out of 180 ("difficult situations" category). The association admits that political pressure and sectarian control of the media is stronger than ever, reinforced by the lack of resources for the press during the crisis. Recalling the murder of journalist Lokman Slim in 2021, RSF also notes the intimidation campaigns against journalists (by Hezbollah, elites or demonstrators), as well as persistent racism and misogyny.

**Wednesday**  
4 May 2022

**Lebanon – [9,000 Lebanese registered to vote in May 6 legislative elections in Riyadh](#)**

Abroad, Lebanese expatriates are preparing to vote for the May 15 legislative elections in Lebanon. Two days before the vote (scheduled for May 6 and 8 abroad), some 9,000 Lebanese in Riyadh are willing to participate in the electoral process, according to Fawzi Kabbara, Lebanon's ambassador to Saudi Arabia. The diaspora demonstrates its readiness to organize, to exercise its right to vote and mobilize for its country. Where they were only 2,000 registered in 2018, they are now 9,000, or four times more, according to Mr. Kabbara.

**Lebanon – [Victims' relatives call on the government to speed up judicial appointments to resume the investigation](#)**

On Wednesday afternoon, dozens of demonstrators walked in the streets of Beirut to ask for a resumption of the judicial investigation, about the Beirut's port deadly explosions on August 4, 2020. Due to political tricks, the investigation has been frozen for almost 4 months. In addition to paying tribute to the victims, these demonstrations aim to put pressure on the government to sign a judicial appointment draft, mandatory to restart the investigation. The current Minister of Finance Youssef Khalil refuses to sign the decree appointing some chambers' presidents of the Court of Cassation, for confessional reasons. However, the Court of Cassation's assembly is the competent one to unblock the investigation process, since it decides on cases where the responsibility of the state for "heavy fault" is engaged. For the demonstrators, the blocking of the investigation is the result of political strategies. The explosion left 220 dead, 6,500 injured, and many Beirut neighborhoods in very precarious situations.

**Thursday**  
5 May 2022

**Lebanon – [Lebanon probe receives account information on central bank governor's brother: judicial sources](#)**

On Thursday, Lebanon's Prosecutor General Ghassan Oueidat received new information from the central bank's special investigation committee, about Raja Salameh's accounts from nine Lebanese banks. Riad Salameh (head of the central bank) and his brother Raja are under judicial investigation in Lebanon and other European countries for suspected money laundering and embezzlement of at least \$330 million in public funds. The information could be a significant judicial breakthrough after the investigation stagnated and the banks previously refused to cooperate.

**Friday**  
6 May 2022

**Lebanon – [Lebanese expatriates vote in parliamentary elections](#)**

On Friday, the first Lebanese expatriates vote for the Lebanese parliamentary elections, that will take place on May 15 in Lebanon. The Lebanese diaspora voting today comes from 10 countries: Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iran and Iraq. The rest of the diaspora in other countries will vote on Sunday. According to Al-Jazeera, 244,442 Lebanese abroad are registered to vote; twice the number of expatriates registered in 2018. The mobilization of the diaspora is indicative of a desire to rebuild the country after 3 years of economic crisis, inflation and mass emigration.

**Lebanon – [France donates one million euros to the Hotel-Dieu de France hospital in Beirut](#)**

The French ambassador in Lebanon, Anne Grillo, announced a new financial support from France: a donation of 1 million euros will be given to the Hotel-Dieu de France, the university hospital of Saint Joseph University in Beirut, to celebrate the institution's centennial. This donation will be financial aid for the students as well as a donation of medicines for the hospital, while the country is experiencing a medicines' shortage due to the crisis. According to Anne Grillo, French financial aid for Lebanon in the field of health amounts to 54 million euros to this day.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
7 and 8 May 2022

**Lebanon – [The votes of the expatriates arrived in Beirut](#)**

On Sunday, Beirut received the first votes of Lebanese expatriates for the May 15 parliamentary elections in Lebanon. The Lebanese embassies in the countries concerned have now closed the ballot boxes : Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Syria, Bahrain, Jordan, Iraq, Oman, Iran and Egypt have counted 18,214 voters, or 58.9% of registered voters, according to the Lebanese Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib. The highest voter turnout came from Syria (with 83.8% participation). On the same day, other expatriates voted, those from the United Arab Emirates, Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia and Asia. 205 polling stations have been set up around the world.



Monday  
2 May 2022

**United Arab Emirates – [Dubai: Deliveroo riders strike for better pay and work conditions](#)**

Hundreds of Deliveroo food delivery workers demonstrated on Sunday, May 1 in Dubai, to protest against their working conditions. The strike took place on International Workers' Day (May Day) and disrupted partner restaurants' deliveries to customers via the app. The demonstrators were seen wearing Deliveroo t-shirts and protesting against "fuel price hikes, lower pay, and lack of benefits." They denounced a general pay cut, as well as tedious working conditions, up to 12 hours a day, as the amended labor law says 8 hours per day must be the maximum. The demonstration pushed Deliveroo to find an arrangement with the workers, notably to raise the pay as it was before the strike. Delivery workers often denounce their precarious working conditions : a large strike from Deliveroo workers already happened in London in Spring 2021.

**Occupied Palestine – [Israel arrests Palestinians on last day of Ramadan](#)**

As Ramadan ends, the Israeli army arrested twelve Palestinians from the villages of Qarawat Bani Hassan, Jalazone refugee camp, Merka, Sanur, Salem town and Balata refugee camp in Nablus this weekend. The Israeli army is stepping up raids and arrests against Palestinians in the West Bank, this operation coming in retaliation for the death of an Israeli security guard on Friday. Clashes between Palestinian youths and Israeli armed forces followed the arrests. Five youth were shot. According to Arab News, 18 Palestinians were killed by Israeli bullets during Ramadan. In May alone, 604 Palestinians were reportedly arrested and placed in administrative detention without trial or charge, according to HaMoked, an Israeli rights group, the highest number since 2016.

**Egypt – [Egyptian researcher's death requires 'thorough' probe, US says](#)**

The US Department of State, through Ned Price, has called for a "thorough, transparent and credible" investigation into the recent death of an Egyptian economic researcher. Ayman Hadhoud, an economist and member of the Reform and Development Party (liberal), was detained since February by the Egyptian authorities in a psychiatric hospital in Cairo. His death was announced on March 5, officially due to a heart attack. In April, Amnesty International revealed that his body had signs of torture and ill-treatment, suggesting that his death was criminal. The US request is in accordance with a decision by Joe Biden in January to cancel a \$130 million military aid deal to Egypt because of repeated human rights violations. Hadhoud was among the political dissidents held by Egypt since Al Sissi's coup in 2013. They would be "tens of thousands of dissidents" (Al-Jazeera) while Cairo denies holding political prisoners.

**Iraq – [Estimated 3,000 people flee armed clashes in northern Iraq](#)**

3,000 people have fled northern Iraq and the Sinjar region after clashes between a militia group from a Kurdish separatist group and the Iraqi army. According to the military and local Iraqi Kurdish officials, the 3,000 people reached the securized and semi-autonomous regions of Kurdistan on Monday. The conflict started on Sunday, when the Iraqi army decided to clean the North of Iraq from the militia YBS, affiliated to the PKK. According to AFP, one Iraqi soldier has been killed and two others wounded, while the Iraqi army claimed to have killed a dozen militiamen. Kurdistan said it would soon set up a specialized committee to deal with the displaced.

**Syria – [Syria: 60 prisoners released in unprecedented amnesty](#)**

Since Sunday, some 60 detainees have been released by Syrian authorities under a new amnesty issued by Bashar-al-Assad. Since the beginning of the war in 2011, al-Assad has issued several amnesties applying to crimes related to "terrorism," but this would be the most comprehensive amnesty according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The Observatory claims that, since 2011, half a million people have been taken prisoner and one hundred thousand of them have died, under torture and as a result of appalling conditions of detention. This amnesty comes in the favorable context of Eid el-Fitr, as Rabat (Morocco) also announced the amnesty of about thirty detainees for terrorism on Sunday.

Tuesday  
3 May 2022

**Turkey – [Turkey prepares "the return of a million" Syrian refugees](#)**

On Tuesday, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced the return of one million Syrian refugees on a voluntary basis, while Turkey hosts more than 3,6 million of them. Since the start of Turkish military operations in Syria in 2016, Ankara has created "security zones" along its border in which thousands of houses have been built to welcome Syrian refugees. Erdogan announced that Turkey would continue to help Syrians, with 100,000 new homes to be built by the end of 2022, on the border and in northwestern Syria. Assisted by NGOs and international organizations, the country plans a larger project to build facilities, "from housing to schools and hospitals," according to Erdogan.

**Wednesday**  
4 May 2022

**Iran – [Iranian-Swedish academic to be executed at the end of May](#)**

In Tehran, the Iranian news agency Isna said that the Iranian-Swedish academic Ahmadreza Djalali would be executed by May 21. Sentenced to death in 2020, the emergency medicine researcher has been arrested during a visit to Iran in 2016, on suspicion of involvement in the 1988 murder of political prisoners in a prison in Karaj, Iran. UN experts had called on Tehran to release Mr. Djalali, denouncing "cruel and inhumane treatment." These calls were rejected, as was the request of the Swedish ambassador to Tehran to commute his sentence to life.

**Thursday**  
5 May 2022

**Occupied Palestine – [Israeli forces storm Al-Aqsa as hundreds of settlers gather](#)**

On Thursday, the Al-Aqsa mosque was stormed by Israeli forces. About 50 men, including children and elderly, were arrested and taken away from the mosque. 16 Palestinians were injured, according to the Sama al Quds medical center. At the same time, 600 Israeli settlers were allowed to enter the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound under police protection, which Hamas condemned and described as a "provocation" that could lead to civil war and for which "the occupation government bears full responsibility". The raids on the Al-Aqsa mosque during the holy month of Ramadan have further heightened tensions, at their highest for several weeks.

**Morocco – [The leading party in parliament wants to ban underage marriage](#)**

In Casablanca, parliamentarians from the Parliament's leading party, the National Rally of Independents, at the initiative of Idriss Chraïbi, introduced a bill seeking to remove Article 20 of the Moudawana. In Morocco, the legal age of marriage is normally set at 18, but Article 20 provides for a derogatory regime in which the judge may authorize a marriage under 18, after a situation's review on a case-by-case basis. Feminist associations denounce this derogatory regime, which is too often used by judges to authorize marriages without any real social investigation behind it. A UNICEF report published in 2021 called for the abolition of this provision, which is responsible for 57% of forced marriages.

**Iran – [Iran detains Swedish tourist travelling with group](#)**

A Swedish tourist was arrested on Friday in Iran as he was leaving the country after a tourist trip, according to the Swedish Foreign Ministry. The Swedish embassy in Tehran "was seeking information and was in contact with local authorities," but the Iranian authorities did not immediately acknowledge the arrest. The Swedish newspaper Aftonbladet believes that the arrest of the Swedish could be linked to the trial in Sweden of an Iranian accused of genocide, Hamid Nouri, who faces life imprisonment in Sweden.

**Friday**  
6 May 2022

**Yemen – [Coalition: A second plane carrying Houthi prisoners arrives in Aden](#)**

The Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen announced the release of 163 Houthi prisoners of war from Saudi Arabia. The coalition, which aims to support peace and dialogue between Yemeni communities, announced that it had helped them to reach next the cities of Aden and Sanaa. Majed Fadhal, Yemeni deputy minister of human rights, thanked Saudi Arabia for this "humanitarian initiative" and urged the Houthis to also release the prisoners of war it holds. This initiative on the part of the coalition comes in a context where all parties are trying to respect the current 2-month ceasefire negotiated with the UN, even though many violations are committed (on May 4, 10 civilians were injured by a drone bomb launched by Houthis in the town of Taiz, according to Arab News).

**Algeria – [Amnesty and HRW denounce "arbitrary" exit bans](#)**

A joint statement by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch says that arbitrary exit bans have been imposed by the Algerian authorities on three Algerian-Canadian activists. Between January and April 2022, the three citizens were prevented from returning home on suspicion of belonging to the Hirak, a popular Algerian uprising. These bans had no legal basis and often resulted in detentions. Only one of them was able to return to Canada, while the other two are still stranded in Algeria. Amna Guellali, Amnesty International's Deputy Director for the Middle East and North Africa, called on the Algerian authorities to immediately lift the travel bans.

**Occupied Palestine – [Israel says 4,000 settler homes could be approved in occupied West Bank](#)**

Israeli Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked announced Friday a plan to build 4,000 settler homes in the occupied West Bank. A planning committee is expected to rule next week to approve the construction plan. If approved, it would be Israel's biggest settlement push in the occupied territories in two years. Israel had already approved a settlement plan for 3,000 homes in October 2021, despite strong opposition from the United States and most of the international community, which considers it as illegal.

**Sudan – [One death during a demonstration against the military power](#)**

In Khartoum, a protester has been killed by Sudanese police during a demonstration against military authorities. According to the Central Committee of Doctors of Sudan, an independent pro-democracy group, the individual has been run over by a Sudanese army tank. To date, 95 people have been killed in crackdowns on protests since the October 2021 coup by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan. Protesters regularly denounce the military's political and economic control, which has cut off the country from international aid.

**Occupied Palestine – [Israel destroys home of Palestinian accused of killing settler](#)**

On Saturday, near Jenin in the northern West Bank, Israeli forces destroyed the home of a Palestinian man. In the village of Silat al-Harithiya, the home of Omar Jaradate was destroyed with explosives, according to an Israeli army statement. Jaradate is accused by Israel of killing Israeli settler Yehuda Dimentman on December 16, 2021, by gunfire. Israel often destroys the homes of Palestinians accused of anti-Israeli attacks, justifying them as deterrents, while human rights organizations consider them as collective punishment. According to AFP, two Palestinians were injured during the destruction, as clashes occurred between Israeli forces and stone-throwing residents.

**Western Sahara – [More than forty migrants drowned off Western Sahara \(NGO\)](#)**

On Sunday, a boat full of migrants sank off Western Sahara in southern Morocco, at Cape Boujdour. 44 migrants drowned, said the Spanish NGO Caminando Fronteras. According to its director, Helena Maleno, only 7 bodies were recovered. 12 other migrants survived the sinking and were arrested. The destination of the boat is still unknown, but the boat was heading probably for the Spanish archipelago of the Canary Islands. According to the Moroccan Ministry of the Interior, 14,700 attempts at illegal departures were prevented in 2022. In 2021, 4,404 migrants died or disappeared while trying to cross the sea to Spain, according to Caminando Fronteras.



**Monday**  
2 May 2022

## **El Salvador – [Evidence of Serious Abuse in State of Emergency](#)**

According to Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Cristosal, there is overwhelming evidence El Salvador has been responsible for serious human rights violations since the state of emergency was declared on March 27, 2022. These violations reportedly include dozens of arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, and the deaths of two people in detention. On April 24, El Salvador's legislature decided to extend the state of emergency, that has been set up to fight a wave of gang-related killings and endemic violence against the population. The state of emergency has been accompanied by a suspension of the right to privacy and freedom of association. El Salvador claims to have arrested 20,000 people belonging to illegal associations, while HRW explains that 180 of them are innocent or have been subjected to arbitrary and dangerous conditions of detention, which are prohibited by international law.

## **United States of America – [Abortion: What would happen if the U.S. Supreme Court reversed Roe vs. Wade?](#)**

The Politico website has revealed a potentially historic draft Supreme Court decision that would remove the right to abortion. Drafted by Justice Samuel Alito, the bill condemns the entire legal architecture that has made abortion legal in the United States. Therefore, if passed, it would overturn the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that made abortion legal and enshrined women's freedom of self-determination and right to privacy. Each state would be free to adopt its own legislation concerning voluntary interruption of pregnancy and the conditions under which it would be carried out (incest, rape...). Some states, such as Texas, have already begun to adopt legislation that would prohibit abortion and are only waiting for the final decision of the Supreme Court to adopt them. The Court's final decision is expected by the end of July.

**Tuesday**  
3 May 2022

## **Canada – [Time for British Columbia to Cancel Immigration Detention Contract](#)**

On May 4, a 14-day campaign will be launched by human rights organizations and advocates, in the province of British Columbia, Canada. The action campaign, which runs until May 18, aims to pressure the provincial government to cancel the immigration detention contracts. Negotiated with the Canada Border Services Agency, these contracts allow for the systematic incarceration of immigrants in provincial jails, a practice that is extremely violent for immigrants and incompatible with international human rights standards. With the help of Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and in line with the #WelcomeToCanada campaign, the campaign will seek to raise awareness through testimonies of detainees.

## **Ukraine – [War in Ukraine: UN signs cooperation framework to help survivors of sexual violence](#)**

In Kiev, an action plan has been signed to help victims of sexual violence. During a press conference on Tuesday, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Ending Rape in War, Pramila Patten, met the Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister on European and Euro-Atlantic integration, Olga Stefanishyna, to sign a framework for cooperation in protecting victims of sexual violence during the current war. In order to ensuring justice and responsibility, the framework agreement provides for interventions and assistance to survivors of sexual violence, including medical and mental health services, legal assistance, and livelihood support. Men are also included. The question of sexual and physical violence is a major issue in wars, as bodies are often "part of the battlefield" according to Ms. Patten.

## **Ukraine – [The UN helps survivors of the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol after a difficult journey](#)**

On Tuesday, the first UN aid workers, assisted by the International Committee of the Red Cross, began helping evacuees from the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol. Some people are still trapped there. According to the UN humanitarian officer in Ukraine, Osnat Lubrani, 101 civilians have been evacuated from the steel plant and other areas of Mariupol and sent to camps in Zaporizhia. While Mariupol had 500,000 inhabitants before the Russian invasion, only 100,000 remain, as the city was one of the most damaged by the war. The UN is still trying to save the last survivors of Azovstal.

Wednesday  
4 May 2022

### **Worldwide – [Sharp food insecurity reaches new highs, warn UN and partners](#)**

A May 4, 2022 report released by the Global Food Crisis Network, shows that the number of food-insecure people in the world keeps going to rise. The international alliance, which includes the United Nations, defines them as people who are acutely food insecure and in need of life-saving food assistance. It calls for a paradigm shift in the fight against food crises: concerted action by states and international organizations to address the root causes of food crises rather than short-term reactions. The report concerns the year 2021: 53 countries are concerned, i.e., 193 million people, an increase of nearly 40 million people compared to 2020 according to the network. The most affected countries are Ethiopia, Madagascar, South Sudan and Yemen (with 570,000 people). The root causes remain mainly armed conflicts, but also environmental and climatic crises, health crises and economic crises.

### **United States of America – [Right to abortion: Oklahoma enacts one of the most restrictive laws in the United States](#)**

On 3 May, the Oklahoma governor signed one of the most prohibitive laws in the United States concerning the right to abortion: the law prohibits abortion after six weeks of pregnancy, with some medical exceptions, but neither rape nor incest are among them. Republican Governor Kevin Stitt announced that he wanted to make Oklahoma "the most pro-life state in the country." This decision is a reminder of similar decisions that have been taken in other states these years: in 2021, Texas had banned abortion from the moment the heartbeat of the embryo is audible. Many women rely on the neighboring state of Oklahoma to assert and use their right to abortion, which is no longer possible. At least 33 conservative states (Wyoming, Tennessee, South Carolina) would be ready to ban abortion, a scenario that would become possible if the Supreme Court were to overturn *Roe v. Wade* (1973).

### **Guinea – [Justice announces prosecution for "assassinations" against former president Alpha Conde](#)**

In Conakry, the public prosecutor announced today that the state is launching a lawsuit against former President Alpha Conde. Conde is being prosecuted for, among other things, "assassinations," "acts of torture," "kidnappings," and "rapes and sexual assaults" committed during his mandate from 2010 to 2021. Other officials are targeted, including a former president of the constitutional court, former ministers, deputies and presidents of the assembly. These instructions are launched by the ruling junta of Colonel Doumbouya and follow a complaint from the National Front for the Defense of the Constitution (NFDC), one of the groups that fought most against the renewal of Conde's term in 2021, and whose demonstrations had been severely punished by the regime in 2019. Before returning power to civilians, Doumbouya's transition period seeks to cleanse the country of corrupt officials and "bring social justice back" to the fore. International arrest warrants have been issued for those targeted. Mr. Conde is banned from leaving the country, although the junta says he is free to travel.

Thursday  
5 May 2022

### **Ukraine – [War crimes of Russian forces in the Kiev region](#)**

After a 12-day field investigation, Amnesty International released on Thursday, a report providing new evidence of war crimes committed by Russian forces in the northwestern areas of Kyiv. Entitled "*He's Not Coming Back: War Crimes in Northwest Areas of Kyiv Oblast*", the investigation reveals through interviews and analysis of material evidence, that Russia has conducted "deliberate killings of civilians" and "illegal attacks" according to Agnes Callamard, Secretary General of Amnesty International. The investigation comes back on the cases of the Borodyanka and Bucha cities, which were highly publicized after suspicions of war crimes committed by Russians soldiers. This report comes at a time when international criminal justice is seeking to collect evidence of war crimes against Russia, in order to punish those responsible once the war is over.

### **India – [A police officer, accused of raping a teenage girl who complained of gang rape, was arrested](#)**

In India, a police commissioner was arrested after raping a 13-year-old girl who was on her way to the police station to report a gang rape. In the state of Uttar Pradesh, police authorities said that 29 other police officers who were present at the police station during the rape had been suspended. The girl belongs to the Dalit community, the "untouchables", a community that is highly marginalized and abused by others and considered "outcaste" in India. India's record on sexual violence is disturbing: 28,000 rapes were reported in 2020, but it would be much more according to *Le Monde*.



Friday  
6 May 2022

**Ukraine – [WFP appeals for re-opening of Ukraine ports to avert looming famine threat](#)**

The World Food Programme (WFP), the UN's food aid agency, said on Friday that it was urgent to reopen the ports of Odessa, in southern Ukraine, to prevent the global food crisis from getting out of control. In addition to avoiding waste (because food stocks stuck in the ports are bound to expire), this would allow to supply countries dependent on Ukrainian stocks, especially in cereals. For WFP Executive Director David Beasley, this concerns "hundreds of millions of people around the world". The closed Black Sea ports are due to the Russian offensive in Ukraine. 276 million people around the world already face acute hunger and that number could increase by 47 million if the war in Ukraine continues, according to the WFP. Indeed, before the war, 50 million metric tons of grain were exported from the Black Sea ports, enough to feed 400 million people.

**United States of America – [United States: Karine Jean-Pierre named White House spokesperson](#)**

On May 13, 2022, Karine Jean-Pierre will become the first black and lesbian American woman to serve as White House Press Secretary, appointed by Joe Biden. Haitian by birth, she embodies the "American dream" according to the daily Le Nouvelliste, showing that it is possible to achieve great things, despite the systemic discrimination and prejudice suffered by ethnic and gender minorities. For Jen Psaki, current spokesperson, she will "give a voice to so many people".

Saturday and Sunday  
7 and 8 May 2022

**Ukraine – [New evacuations in Mariupol, the UN for a "peaceful solution"](#)**

New liberations took place in Mariupol, a Ukrainian port city besieged by the Russians. 50 more civilians, women, children and elderly people were able to leave the Azovstal steel plant and were evacuated from Mariupol. Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Verechchuk added that evacuations would continue throughout the weekend in the last pocket of resistance of the Ukrainian army in Mariupol. These operations, organized jointly by the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross, have allowed 500 civilians to flee the fighting. At the same time, a new exchange of prisoners took place between Ukraine and Russia : 41 Ukrainian women were released.

**Afghanistan – [In Afghanistan, the Taliban order women to wear a full veil in public](#)**

Afghanistan's supreme leader, Haibatullah Akhundzada, has announced that it is now mandatory for Afghan women to wear the full veil in public, preferably the burqa. The decree, issued by the Taliban government, states that wearing the burqa is "traditional and respectful" and that wearing it "according to the recommendations of sharia" will avoid "any provocation when they meet a man". Heads of households who fail to enforce the wearing of full-face veils face up to 3 days in jail and a court trial. All government employees must be veiled or risk losing their jobs. Since the Taliban returned to power in August 2021, this is the most severe restriction on their freedom, even as the regime bans them from travelling without a male relative and colleges were closed to girls last month. For Pakistani analyst Imtiaz Gul, it is a "step backwards" that will not help the Taliban regime to gain a foothold in the international community.