

HUMAN RIGHTS MONITOR



AMMAN CENTER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

March 2023



HUMAN RIGHTS MONITOR

Monthly Press Monitoring of Human Rights News in The Middle East and North Africa

Afghanistan	... 5
Algeria	... 5
Bahrain	... 6
Egypt	... 6
Iran	... 6
Iraq	... 7
Jordan	... 7
Kuwait	... 7
Lebanon	... 8
Libya	... 8
Morocco and Western Sahara	... 9
Oman	... 9
Palestine	... 9
Qatar	... 10
Saudi Arabia	... 10
Sudan	... 10
Syria	... 10
Tunisia	... 11
Türkiye	... 12
UAE	... 12
Yemen	... 13

Afghanistan	... 5
Afghan Women's Rights Regressed to Situation 20 Years Ago	
Algeria	... 5
Algeria's Controversial New Law Targets Trade Union Freedoms And Workers' Rights	
Algerian Journalist Trial And Lawyer Boycott Highlight Lack Of Judicial Independence	
Algerian Activist Risks Extradition From Refuge in Tunisia	
Bahrain	... 6
Bahrain Arrests Four People Over Social Media Posts	
Egypt	... 6
Newly Inaugurated Prison Complex Denounced For Human Rights Violations	
Egypt Jails 31 Human Rights Activists And Political Dissidents	
Iran	... 6
UN Special Rapporteur Highlights Human Rights Violations in Iran	
Rise in Drug-Related Death Sentences	
Iraq	... 7
20th Anniversary Of Iraq War Highlights U.S. Impunity	
Jordan	... 7
US Report Details Human Rights Violations in Jordan	
Kuwait	... 7
Kuwait Pledges 90 Million Dollars To Earthquake Relief Amid Insufficient Funds	
Lebanon	... 8
Lebanese Protest Against Deteriorating Economy	
Security Forces Not Held Accountable For Violent Response Since 2019 Protests	
Pharmacies Close In Lebanon	
Libya	... 8
Lybia Votes On Constitutionnal Changes Towards Elections	
AU, EU And UN Push For Urgent Action Addressing Migrants And Refugees In Lybia	
Morocco and Western Sahara	... 9
Moroccan Activists Call To End Normalization With Israel	
Oman	... 9
No News	

Palestine	... 9
Israel To Legalize Death Penalty For Palestinian Resistance	
Israeli Extremists Storm Al-Aqsa During Ramadan	
Three Palestinian Resistance Fighters Brutally Assassinated By Israel	
Qatar	... 10
No news	
Saudi Arabia	... 10
Saudi Arabia Executes Jordanian Man On Unsubstantiated Drug Charges	
Sudan	... 10
Rising Attacks On Darfur Refugees Highlight Need For Increased Security Measures	
Young Man Dies In Anti-Military Protests	
Syria	... 10
UN Commission Of Inquiry On Syria Highlights Human Rights Violations	
Human Rights Watch Asserts Syria Not Safe For Returning Refugees	
Israel Plans To Double Settlements In Occupied Syrian Golan	
UN To Create Mechanism To Investigate Dissapearences In Syria	
Tunisia	... 11
Human Rights Groups Call On EU To Prioritize Human Rights In Tunisia	
Letter To Tunisian Government Condemns Possible Extradition Of Algerian Activist	
UN Watch Representative Denounces Tunisia's Deteriorating Human Rights Record	
Measures To Protect Black Migrants And Refugees In Tunisia Insufficient	
Türkiye	... 12
Post-Earthquake Policies Continue To Harm Refugees In Türkiye	
UAE	... 12
Afghan Evacuees Illegally Detained In UAE Facing Substandard Living Conditions	
Yemen	... 13
Houthi Authorities' Attempts To Crackdown Dissent In Sanaa Sparks Rare Protests	

AFGHANISTAN

Afghan Women's Rights Regressed To Situation 20 Year Ago

In a recent statement, UN experts on the situation in Afghanistan revealed that all progress made in the past 20 years concerning women and girls' rights has been reversed. Since taking over the country in 2021, the Taliban have imposed rights-violating policies that have systematically excluded women from all spheres of society.

"The situation has significantly regressed to the pre-2002 period. Women are denied their fundamental rights and freedoms including the rights to education, to work, to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, freedom of movement and freedom from fear and want and from discrimination" state the experts.

Last year, Taliban authorities ordered one of the most sweeping rollbacks of women's rights since their takeover as they banned all women from working in non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and from attending university.

Sources: [UN](#), [BBC](#)

ALGERIA

Algeria's Controversial New Law Targets Trade Union Freedoms And Workers' Rights

On March 7th, the Algerian parliament passed a controversial law that severely restricts trade union freedoms and the right to strike in the country. The Minister of Labor stated that this law should strengthen the role of trade union organizations in defending rights and achieving social justice.

The passing of this law has generated a lot of criticism both domestically and internationally. Many view this as yet another attempt by the Algerian government to suppress freedom of speech and peaceful assembly, as well as to limit the power of independent organizations that advocate for the rights of citizens.

Critics have argued that this law is a direct attack on workers' rights, which are already fragile in Algeria, and that it will make it easier for employers to abuse their power without any legal repercussions. Furthermore, the prohibition of trade unionists from engaging in politics has been widely condemned as an infringement on the right to participate in the democratic process.

The law has been met with widespread protests across the country, with many unions going on strike to express their discontent. Human rights organizations have also voiced their concern about the potential impact of this law on the already vulnerable population, particularly those who work in low-paid jobs with little job security or protections.

Source: [Courrier International](#)

Algerian Journalist Trial And Lawyer Boycott Highlight Lack Of Judicial Independence

The trial of Algerian media boss Ihsane el Kadi, who has been imprisoned since late December 2022 to March 26th, has been postponed again. El Kadi is accused of "receiving funds and benefits of foreign origin for the purpose of engaging in political propaganda," due to his work as an independent journalist in Algeria, where he has often criticized the ruling power.

El Kadi's lawyers have decided to boycott the March 26th hearing, considering it impossible to work properly under these conditions. According to them, El Kadi's arrest is symbolic of the wave of repression currently sweeping Algeria, targeting activists and independent journalists.

Sources: [Le Monde](#), [RSE](#), [Amnesty International](#)

Algerian Activist Risks Extradition From Refuge In Tunisia

Algeria has issued an international arrest warrant against Zaki Hannache, a political activist and refugee in Tunisia, following his conviction and sentence to three years in prison. Hannache is known for his engagement in the popular movement and has been documenting and publishing information regarding the arrest and prosecution of political prisoners in Algeria since 2019.

After being detained in Algeria for several weeks, he was provisionally released in March 2022 and later fled to Tunisia, where he was granted refugee status by the UNHCR in November 2022. NGOs are urging the Tunisian government to respect Hannache's international protection and to not extradite him to Algeria, where he could face mistreatment in prison.

Sources: [Le Courrier De L'Atlas](#), [Le Monde](#)

BAHRAIN**Bahrain Arrests Four People Over Social Media Posts**

Bahraini authorities have arrested four people over social media posts in which they called for political reforms in early March. Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) have denounced these arrests ahead of the IPU meeting in Manama in mid-March.

“Holding an assembly that claims to promote inclusive societies in a country that regularly arrests people for speaking their minds has only served to embolden the Bahraini government to continue repressing free speech,” said Niku Jafarnia, Bahrain and Yemen researcher at Human Rights Watch. “The current silence of the parliamentary group’s leadership and of the parliament members attending the Assembly is deafening and contributes to Bahrain’s efforts to whitewash its egregious human rights abuses against political opponents.”

Source: [HRW](#)

EGYPT**Newly Inaugurated Prison Complex Denounced For Human Rights Violations**

Since its inauguration in December 2021, the Badr 3 prison complex has become notorious for its human rights violations. Many international organizations have criticized conditions in the prison, having caused the death of five prisoners due to medical negligence and inciting numerous hunger strikes.

Leaked letters from the detainees revealed the deplorable conditions present in the jail, including restrictions on family visits and subpar medical attention, inadequate food, a lack of winter clothes, and the spread of diseases among other detainees.



Photo source: [AFP](#)

Human rights organizations have denounced these conditions as a form of collective punishment.

Sources: [Middle East Eye](#)

Egypt Jails 31 Human Rights Activists And Political Dissidents

In early March, an Egyptian court sentenced 31 dissidents and human rights advocates to prison for up to 25 years following a trial marred by accusations of torture and forced disappearances.

All 31 were designated as terrorists without convictions, investigations, or the opportunity to provide a defense. They were all members of the no longer active Egyptian Coordinating for Rights and Freedoms (ECRF).

These individuals, according to Mary Lawlor, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders, have been arbitrarily arrested since 2018, forcibly disappeared, tortured, and accused of joining a terrorist organization in an unfair trial.

Sources: [Middle East Eye](#)

IRAN**UN Special Rapporteur Highlights Human Rights Violations In Iran**

UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Iran, Javaid Rehman, has warned of the “possibility of international crimes, notably the crimes against humanity of murder, imprisonment, enforced disappearances, torture, rape, sexual violence, and persecution” in his report for the Human Rights Council.

The situation in Iran has worsened progressively since the death in custody of Jina Mahsa Amini in September 2022 and the following protests. The special rapporteur regrets the lack of a transparent and impartial investigation into her death and condemned the massive use of force against peaceful protesters, including children, and their arbitrary arrests and detentions. He emphasized that Mahsa Amini's death "was not an isolated event", but occurred in a context of extreme violence against women and girls. Rehman also highlighted the targeting and repression of ethnic and religious minorities, especially the Baluch and the Kurds, that represent more than half of the persons killed since September 2022.

Among other recommendations, Javaid Rehman called on the Iranian state to acknowledge its responsibility in the death of Jina Mahsa Amini, to release the detainees, and to end the excessive use of violence.

Sources: [Hrana](#), [UN](#), [ohchr](#)

Rise In Drug-Related Death Sentences

Iran Human Rights has warned of the increasing number of executions in Iran related to drug charges. 88 out of the 138 people executed so far in 2023 were convicted on drug-related charges, a significant rise compared to the previous years.

Iran amended its anti-narcotic laws in 2017 to limit the use of the death penalty. However, this amendment “hasn’t had an enduring impact”, said the Director of Iran Human Rights Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam. During the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, he stressed the lack of pressure and reaction from the international community, leading to impunity for the Iranian authorities. This excessive use of death sentences serves as a repression mechanism in the absence of fair trials, a violation of international law.

Sources: [Iran Human Rights](#), [IranWire](#)

IRAQ

20th Anniversary Of Iraq War Highlights U.S. Impunity

On the 20th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, Amnesty International renewed its calls for justice due to the human rights violation of international humanitarian law by the US-led military coalition.

Between 2003 and 2011, Amnesty documented widespread human rights violations by US armed forces including indiscriminate attacks that killed and injured civilians, secret detention, secret detainee transfers, enforced disappearance, torture and other inhuman treatment.

“The US has failed to adequately investigate the widespread human rights violations and war crimes committed by US forces and to hold those responsible to account at all levels, including senior US officials and commanders,” said Elizabeth Rghebi, Amnesty International USA’s Middle East and North Africa Advocacy Director.

Former detainees have alleged a litany of abuses in detention centres, including sleep deprivation, forced nudity, deprivation of adequate food and water, mock executions and threats of rape.

Source: [Amnesty International](#)

JORDAN

US Report Details Human Rights Violations In Jordan

A US State Department report has found instances of torture, harassment, arbitrary arrests, and serious restrictions on freedom of expression and the press by Jordanian government officials.

Jordan is taking “steps to investigate, prosecute, and punish officials who committed human rights abuses; however, government impunity for such abuses remained widespread”. The continuous lack of transparency during investigations and trials continues to feed a sense of impunity felt amongst the population.

According to the Economist Intelligence’s Democracy Index for 2022, Jordan was ranked as one of the worst performing countries for the period of 2021-2022.

Sources: [U.S. Department of State](#), [Jordan News](#)

KUWAIT

Kuwait Pledges 90 Million Dollars To Earthquake Relief Amid Insufficient Funds

Kuwait pledged 90 million dollars to Türkiye and Syria to support earthquake survivors. According to the Kuwait News Agency, it is the largest donation that any country has made since the events.

Donations are essential to provide food, shelter, and healthcare to the millions of people affected. The UN undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator, Martin Griffiths, has said that the targets for emergency funds are far from being reached.

Source: [Arab News](#)



Photo source: [AFP](#)

LEBANON

Lebanese Protest Against Deteriorating Economy

Protesters are demonstrating in Beirut in response to Lebanon's dire economic situation. The protesters demanded better pay, as the Lebanese pound hit an all-time low. Retired soldiers led the protests as they have limited access to their savings after local banks imposed informal capital controls.

Mohamad el-Khateeb, a 59-year-old who served in the army for 32 years, said to Al Jazeera: "We left the army with nothing. No healthcare, no welfare, our kids are out of school and prices are rising obscenely. What do you expect?"

The Lebanese pound has lost more than 98 percent of its value against the US dollar since 2019. The pound hit a new low on Tuesday being valued at 143,000 pounds to the dollar. However, the official rate is only pegged at 15,000 pounds to the dollar.

Source: [Al Jazeera](#)



Photo source: [Joseph Eid/AFP](#)

Security Forces Not Held Accountable For Violent Response Since 2019 Protests

Amnesty International published a new report outlining the lack of accountability from law enforcement officials. No security agents have been prosecuted in Lebanon for their unlawful and excessive use of force against protesters during anti-government protests since 2019.

The report documents how Lebanese security forces and riot police have fired live ammunition, tear gas canisters, metal pellets and rubber bullets directly at largely peaceful protesters from close range. The report documents how security forces deliberately target protesters' heads and chests, causing permanent injuries.

These actions resulted in at least three deaths and hundreds of others injured, since 2019.

Aya Majzoub, Amnesty International's Deputy Director for the Middle East and North Africa, said: "It is shameful that there have been no meaningful investigations into the unlawful use of force by Lebanon's security forces. Judicial officials have stonewalled criminal complaints submitted by protesters and have failed to prosecute any law enforcement officials for their actions, reinforcing the message that they can act with impunity".

Source: [Amnesty International](#)

Pharmacies Close In Lebanon

On the 21st of March, the Syndicate of Pharmacists announced the closure of all pharmacies across the country after running out of medicine. Pharmaceutical import companies have been without medication for two weeks, as they refuse to sell them to pharmacies at the prices fixed by the Ministry of Health.

This is a direct effect of the dire economic situation in Lebanon. More than three-quarters of the population are now living in poverty, according to the United Nations. Many Lebanese are already unable to access lifesaving medicine, having become either too expensive or unavailable on the market.

Source: [Al-Monitor](#)

LIBYA

Libya Votes On Constitutional Changes Towards Elections

On March 2nd, the Libyan council voted an amendment to the Constitution which provides a basis for national elections. This vote brings hope for unification and a safer political environment in the country, having been in a political impasse since 2021. The amendment is the result of the UN's initiative to facilitate presidential and legislative elections in 2023.

UN special envoy Abdoulaye Bathily described the amendment as 'controversial within the Libyan political class and general citizenry' as it still did not address contentious issues such as candidate eligibility, or elections timeline.

Source: [Reuters](#)

AU, EU And UN Push For Urgent Action Addressing Migrants And Refugees In Libya

A joint task force between the AU, EU and UN assembled to work on addressing the pressing needs of migrants and refugees in Libya. The taskforce supports the implementation of a non-discriminatory legal framework for migrants and refugees. They also pledged to assist the Libyan government in enhancing its migration governance and border management, while also promoting the protection of human rights for migrants and refugees and their access to refuge.

Additionally, they urged the Libyan authorities to grant documentation to foreign workers within the country and acknowledge the documentation issued to refugees until a comprehensive national migration management system is established.

They further urged the Libyan authorities to end arbitrary detention of migrants and refugees starting with women and children as well as other individuals with specific needs or disabilities.

Source: [UNHCR](#)

MOROCCO AND WESTERN SAHARA

Moroccan Activists Call To End Normalization With Israel

Several human rights activists, academics and public personalities have called for the end of normalized ties between Rabat and Israel. They condemned the “military occupation of Palestine” and the operations in the northern occupied West Bank. The Moroccan government has yet to issue a statement on the situation.



Photo source: [Abu Adem Muhammed - Anadolu Agency](#)

“Such decisions will not only put Morocco on the side of justice and international legitimacy but will also respond to the deep aspirations of Moroccans and their historical attachment to the cause of the liberation of Palestine,” their collective statement reads.

Source: Middle East Monitor

OMAN

No News

No news related to human rights recorded

PALESTINE

Israel To Legalize Death Penalty For Palestinian Resistance

On March 1st the Israeli parliament voted overwhelmingly in favor of enforcing the death penalty on Palestinians convicted of ‘terrorism’.

Given the fact that Israel already regularly executes Palestinians in extrajudicial killings, the new bill is only a legal acknowledgment of Israel’s de facto policies.

Over the past few months, conditions in Israeli prisons have been deteriorating steadily as Israel attempts to deter resistance to its occupation. Access to food and water has been limited and prisoner rights dramatically curtailed.

Source: [Mondoweiss](#)

Israeli Extremists Storm Al-Aqsa During Ramadan

Israeli settlers and right-wing extremists have been regularly storming the Al-Aqsa compound as has become customary during Ramadan. Israeli security forces have been effectively aiding and assisting the intruders as Israeli government officials have been encouraging the incursions.

Source: [The New Arab](#)

Three Palestinian Resistance Fighters Brutally Assassinated By Israel

Israel has executed three Palestinian resistance fighters while in their car in a village near Jenin, a cradle of Palestinian resistance. News outlets were asked not to share pictures of the slain men due to the brutality of the killing.

The assassination brings the number of Palestinians killed by Israel so far in 2023 to 78, including 13 children and minors.

Source: [Mondoweiss](#)

QATAR

No News

No news related to human rights recorded

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia Executes Jordanian Man On Unsubstantiated Drug Charges

Saudi Arabia has executed a Jordanian man, Hussein Abo al-Kheir, on unsubstantiated drugs charges. Al-Kheir, driver for a Saudi family, always maintained his innocence, however, he was tortured into a forced confession. Riyadh carried out the execution despite opposition from the UN and two British foreign ministers, including Middle East Minister Lord Ahmad.

In late November 2022, when execution seemed imminent, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights joined a number of British MPs in urging the kingdom to stop the execution.

Al-Kheir's execution on March 12th was the eleventh one in eight days, signaling many more may be executed.

Source: [Middle East Eye](#)

SUDAN

Rising Attacks On Darfur Refugees Highlight Need For Increased Security Measures

According to the United Nations, nearly 2.5 million displaced persons and refugees from the Darfur region of Sudan currently reside in camps, as a result of the conflict that began twenty years ago. Despite the signing of the Juba peace agreement in 2020, displaced people are calling on the government to guarantee their safety, as they are facing an upsurge in attacks by Arab militias who are committing multiple forms of violence against them.

Recently, the rape of a 14-year-old girl in central Darfur has brought attention to the widespread abuses suffered by women in these camps. According to human rights organizations working in the region, at least 20 cases of rape have been reported since the start of the year. Many victims do not report these crimes either due to stigma or out of fear of retaliation.

Fatima, member of a women's advocacy group helping victims of rape in a northern Darfur camp, states that women in the camps not only face sexual abuse but also verbal and physical abuse by the Janjawid, militias armed and supported by the state, including the Rapid Support Forces led by General Hemedti. Displaced persons have accused Hemedti of being complicit in the abuses.

Adam Regal, spokesperson for the General Coordination for Darfur Refugees and Displaced Persons, asserts that the same criminals who occupy their land are responsible for these crimes and are supported by the government's complicity. He adds that impunity only encourages these criminals to continue their violent activities.

Sources: [RFI](#), [UN](#)

Young Man Dies In Anti-Military Protests

Sudanese police have admitted one of their officers shot and killed a young man, Ibrahim Mazjoob, at an anti-military protest in early March.

The police insist that it was an isolated event, yet Mazjoob is the 125th protester to be killed by security forces in the weekly protests since the 2021 military coup. Demonstrators have been protesting the Sudanese military's involvement in establishing a civilian government. The protests have routinely been met with a violent police crackdown and hundreds of participants and activists have been arrested.

Sources: [RFI](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [Africa News](#)



Photo source: [Marwan Ali/AP Photo](#)

SYRIA

UN Commission Of Inquiry On Syria Highlights Human Rights Violations

During a meeting of the UN Human Rights Council, Chair of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (COI) Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro briefed attendees on the newest report by the COI.

He discussed several human rights violations including the use of cluster munitions by government forces, arbitrary arrests and forced disappearances, unlivable conditions in detention camps in the northeast, amongst many others.

Sources: [UN Media](#), [UNGA](#)

Human Rights Watch Asserts Syria Not Safe For Returning Refugees

Following the Danish Immigration Service's designation of Latakia, Syria and Tartous as safe cities for returning refugees, Human Rights Watch (HRW) asserted that Syria is not safe for returning refugees who would have their refugee status revoked before being deported to Syria. HRW highlights that Syrians deported to Syria risk persecution and human rights violations by the Syrian regime. They warned that deporting Syrians is a dangerous precedent that should be avoided.

Source: [HRW](#)

Israel Plans To Double Settlements In Occupied Syrian Golan

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights revealed Israel plans to double the number of settlers in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights by 2027 during a debate on the human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories at the Human Rights Council.

Source: [OHCHR](#)

UN To Create Mechanism To Investigate Disappearances In Syria

United Nations General Secretary Antonio Guterres proposed to member states the creation of a new group to investigate the fate of 100,000 of missing Syrians. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk echoed this call, encouraging member states to support this initiative, positing that knowing the reality of missing loved ones could allow Syrians to get closer to lasting peace.

This move is supported by a number of international organizations, including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.

Sources: [Arab News](#), [MEMO](#)

TUNISIA

Human Rights Groups Call On EU To Prioritize Human Rights In Tunisia

Amnesty International, EuroMed Rights, Human Rights Watch, and the International Commission of Jurists co-signed a letter to European Union Foreign Ministers asking them to take a stance against the deterioration of human rights in Tunisia. The letter outlined six recommendations, including a call for a condemnation of the repression of free speech as well as encouragement to pressure Tunisia to release detained political opposition activists.

Source: [HRW](#)

Letter To Tunisian Government Condemns Possible Extradition Of Algerian Activist

A group of 17 international human rights organizations co-signed a letter addressed to the Tunisian government requesting that Tunisia does not extradite Algerian human rights activist Zakaria Hannache to Algeria where he faces 3 years in prison for charges related to his work. The letter reminds the Tunisian government that Hannache is protected by the UN Refugee Convention, the OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, and the Convention against Torture.

Sources: [FIDH](#), [Arab News](#)

UN Watch Representative Denounces Tunisia's Deteriorating Human Rights Record

At Tunisia's Universal Periodic Review discussion, Elijah Frankel of UN Watch recalled Tunisia's history of human rights activism and expressed concern regarding the current situation as civil society activists are facing increasingly severe repression. He specifically addressed the comments by Tunisian President Kais Saied about Black Africans in Tunisia, calling them "racist remarks" that have resulted in violence against migrants in Tunisia and must be condemned.

Source: [UN Watch](#)

Measures To Protect Black Migrants And Refugees In Tunisia Insufficient

Human Rights Watch documented a number of cases where Black migrants in Tunisia have been abused and mistreated following President Kais Saied's racist remarks last month. The group cites both a 2018 Tunisian law as well as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination that serve to protect minority populations against racism. Tunisia has a responsibility to respect and adhere to these conventions.

HRW stated that the Tunisian government's measures to reverse the effects of the president's comments do not suffice to truly protect Black people in Tunisia.

Read also: [Tunisia President's Racist Remarks Incite Wave Of Violence Against Black Migrants And Citizens](#)

Source: [HRW](#)

TÜRKIYE

Post-Earthquake Policies Continue To Harm Refugees In Türkiye

Türkiye's restrictions on refugees' movement and ability to find long-term accommodations have intensified since the February earthquake.

Refugees living in earthquake-affected regions, most of whom are Syrian, were initially granted the ability to travel to other provinces for 90 days. Less than one week later, this was reduced to 60 days. If refugees cannot find new housing accommodations as well as receive a new refugee permit in the region that they travel to, they will likely be forced back into inadequate and dangerous housing in the most heavily affected regions.

Many refugees have reported that in addition to the stress of losing homes, loved ones, and any sense of security, they are unable to find time and resources to re-apply for refugee permits and find new housing, as the large-scale displacement has led to rents being increased across the country. Furthermore, refugees living in the 'less-affected' regions that were hit by the earthquake are not allowed to move to any neighborhoods that are officially only open to new refugees, unless their home was seriously damaged or they need urgent medical care.

The Turkish government has not released any information clarifying the 60-day process for refugees, nor have they made clear the consequences for refugees that breach this process. The 60-day time limit is not only arbitrary, but adds a tremendous burden of stress, physical and financial insecurity, and further confusion onto the already-heavy shoulders of refugees in the country.

Sources: [HRW](#), [Foreign Policy](#)

UAE

Afghan Evacuees Illegally Detained In UAE Facing Substandard Living Conditions

The UAE has been detaining thousands of Afghan evacuees for the past 15 months, according to a new HRW report. Many of the evacuees who arrived in the UAE were later transferred to the Emirates Humanitarian City under the assumption that they would quickly be resettled in the United States.

However, the evacuees in the Emirates Humanitarian City, made up of two apartment buildings, are unable to access UAE or US officials nor seek legal counsel or receive updates on their legal status and their resettlement. Additionally, they are not allowed to freely leave the complex and are confined to their rooms. The facility also does not have cleaning services and does not provide meaningful education services for children. Moreover, both men and women cite concerns for their safety as there are no locks on any of the doors to their rooms.

The failures of the UAE and US governments in providing both adequate services and clarity for the evacuees' resettlement process has led some to return to Afghanistan. Considering that many of the evacuees previously worked for the US in Afghanistan, their return marks certain danger.

Sources: [HRW](#), [DW](#)



Photo source: [WAKIL KOHSAR/AFP](#)

YEMEN

Houthi Authorities' Attempt To Crackdown Dissent In Sanaa Sparks Rare Protests

Three Yemeni youtubers Ahmed Allaw, Mustafa al-Mawmari, Ahmed Hajar, and a fourth man Hamoud al-Mesbahi have been sentenced to prison by Houthi authorities for between 6 months and 3 years. According to their lawyer Waddah Qutaish, the four men have been accused of disrupting public order and inciting violence, after they published videos on social media in which they criticized the Houthis' handling of the economy and accused them of corruption. The court also ordered the termination of their YouTube channels and fined them 10 million Yemeni rials, the equivalent of 40 000 dollars.

This exemplifies the de facto government's attempts at cracking down on dissent in the capital. Despite this, protests have erupted in the country as videos show protesters carrying the body of Hamdi Abdul Razaq, a popular critic of the de facto government found dead after his detention. Activists have accused the Houthis of torturing and killing him due to his vocal criticism of the government and its repressive policies.

Sources: [Arab News](#), [Al Jazeera](#)



Photo source: [Arab News](#)



HUMAN RIGHTS MONITOR

Human Rights Monitor is a monthly press review of regional news concerning human rights in the Middle East and North Africa. Human Rights Monitor is provided by the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS).

Authors: Matthias Alffram, Noussaïba Askar, Cassandra Backx, Veronica Baggi, Thea Bringa, Sumaya Daghestani, Celia Garcia de Medina-Rosales, Juliette Régnier, Connor Shane, Will Wakefield, Emma Huet

Editor: Cassandra Backx

Digital Editor: Juliette Régnier

ABOUT ACHRS

ACHRS is an independent non-governmental Think Tank center advocating for the enhancement of democracy and human rights in Jordan and the MENA region. The center's five priorities are the right to life, the right to speak, the right to think, the right to participate and women's rights. ACHRS also has special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

STAY CONNECTED:

Facebook: [Amman Center for Human Rights Studies](#)

Twitter: [@ACHRS_Jordan](#)

Instagram: [@achrs.jordan](#)

Website: [achrs.org/english](#)