



JANUARY 2025

HUMAN RIGHTS MONITOR



IN SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE
STATUS WITH UN ECOSOC
HONORARY OF THE UN HUMAN
RIGHTS PRIZE 2023

Table of Contents

Introduction	04
Right to Life	05
Tunisia	05
Iran	05
Syria	07
Lebanon	07
Yemen	09
Right to Think	10
Iraq	10
Palestine	10
Tunisia	10
Egypt	11
Right to Speak	12
Egypt	12
Palestine	14
Tunisia	15
Pakistan	16
Sudan	17
Morocco	18
Women's Rights	19
Morocco	19
Palestine	20
Saudi Arabia	21
Iraq	22
Egypt	24
Tunisia	25



Table of Contents

Right to Participate	<hr/>	28
Lebanon	<hr/>	28
Turkey	<hr/>	30
Right to Social Protection	<hr/>	31
Iran	<hr/>	31
Egypt	<hr/>	32
Iraq	<hr/>	34
United Arab Emirates	<hr/>	36
Bibliography	<hr/>	38
Authors	<hr/>	48



Introduction

And as the world welcomed 2025, the burden of injustice rested heavily on the shoulders of millions across the MENA region. In shaded prison cells, journalists awaited judgment for having spoken. Families gambled on restless seas in search of havens from poverty and armed conflicts. Activists heard judges in courtrooms utter sentences that went against the very definition of a free life. This report is not a dry catalogue of facts but a document about perseverance, a chronicle of the struggle, and a demand for action for those who care to listen.

January 2025, the Human Rights Monitor documents broken promises and systemic oppression, where voices in all their diversity are silenced and rights deprived. Execution chambers across Iran have witnessed a tragic increase in numbers. The price of journalism has never been higher in Palestine, where reporters are targeted for revealing the truth. Lebanon's streets are strewn with debts owed to the bankers and warlords who build monuments to themselves; Yemen remains trapped in a crossfire of geopolitical entropy.

But even under oppression, the flame of resistance to injustice remains burning. Though imperfect, Morocco's family law reforms represent a step toward gender equality. Iraq's limited expansion of social welfare is a recognition of its people's ongoing hardships.

This report is not just a record of human rights violations but an effort to shine light on ways forward to justice. It is a call for accountability, an appeal to those who hold the reins of power, a reminder that the world is watching, and a voice for the voiceless. By reading this, you are witness to the pain, the courage, and the indomitable hope of those who struggle for a better tomorrow.

Right to Life

Tunisia

On 1 January 2025, at least 27 people lost their lives in a shipwreck and 83 others were rescued after two boats capsized off the Tunisian coast.

The city of Sfax is one of the most frequently used departure points for irregular migrants and refugees seeking to reach Europe. All the victims and people on the boats were from sub-Saharan Africa.

The Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights has nevertheless noted a reduction in the number of people killed or missing during this crossing. In fact, around 700 people were killed or reported missing in shipwrecks off the Tunisian coast in 2024, compared with more than 1,300 in 2023.

The sea route between Africa and Europe used by migrants is one of the most dangerous in the world. According to the International Organisation for Migration, around 24,500 people have died or disappeared in the Mediterranean since 2014.

In 2023, the European Union and Tunisia signed a migration and development agreement, worth 255 million euros, which aims to strengthen Tunisia's capacity to prevent boats from leaving its shores. This has led to an increase in the number of boats intercepted in the waters off the Tunisian coast. The agreement has been condemned by human rights organisations and rescue missions in the Mediterranean.

Iran

According to Volker Türk, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, "it is very worrying to note that, once again, the number of people subject to the death penalty in Iran is increasing year on year". In fact, in 2024, at least 901 people were executed, including around forty in just one week. It therefore calls on Iran to put an end to this wave of executions, which continues to increase.

Earlier this year, the Iranian regime's Supreme Court confirmed the death sentence handed down to Pakhshan Azizi, a civil activist and social worker imprisoned in Evin prison. Mai Sato, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights, says that the case of Pakhshan Azizi reflects the more general persecution of women working in ethnic minority groups, particularly Kurds.

Right to Life

Iran

Experts from the UN Human Rights Council have stated that the charges against her do not meet the threshold of the most serious crimes recognised by international law for imposing the death penalty. They also highlighted the reports of torture, the denial of her right to the assistance of a lawyer of her choice and other rights arising from the right to a fair trial, as well as the detention of several members of her family in order to force her to "confess". The experts therefore declared Pakhshan Azizi's death sentence to be "arbitrary in nature".

Iranian society is also affected by the widespread practice of femicide. Women in Iran are killed by their fathers or husbands for asking for a divorce, for fleeing a forced marriage or for 'dishonouring' the family. Violence between intimate partners and "honour killings" are soaring in Iran, taking the life of a woman every two days on average. According to the Centre for Human Rights in Iran, the Iranian government is doing nothing to stop it. On the contrary, the country's laws and policies even distinguish "honour killings" from other murders, thereby reducing the penalties incurred by the perpetrators of "honour killings". There is no legal mechanism to ensure the safety of women at risk.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has still not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Furthermore, the Republic does not fulfil its obligation to take clear measures to prevent violence against women and to punish aggressors under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Foreigners and dual nationals are also affected by the use of the death penalty. The Dr Ahmadreza Djalali, an Iranian-Swedish academic and expert in disaster medicine, has been unjustly imprisoned since 2016 in Iran, and faces execution according to the Centre for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI). Hadi Ghaemi, CHRI's executive director, said "Iran's continued abduction of dual nationals and foreign nationals, who are held hostage as political and financial bargaining chips, are an international scandal and a violation of the most fundamental elements of international law and order". Iran is also in the habit of denying medical care to foreign nationals or dual nationals in order to obtain political negotiations through hostage diplomacy.

Right to Life

Syria

Although the fall of the Al-Assad regime offers new hope for Syrian children, they continue to suffer from the severe impact of landmines and other unexploded ordnance. According to the UN, an average of four children are killed or injured every day.

According to UNICEF, at least 422,000 incidents involving these devices have been reported in 14 Syrian governorates over the last nine years, half of them involving the loss of children. The acceleration in displacement since last month has only compounded the danger. For the thousands who are trying to return to their region of origin, they are exposing themselves to the constant and unavoidable danger of unexploded ordnance.

After a decade of devastating conflict, the country has an estimated 324,000 pieces of unexploded ordnance scattered throughout the country. This danger affects more than 5 million children living in these contaminated areas, becoming the main cause of infant mortality in Syria.

Lebanon

On 8 January 2025, the Lebanese government illegally deported Abdulrahman Youssef al-Qardawi , an Egyptian-Turkish poet, to the United Arab Emirates. According to Human Rights Watch, he is at risk of an unfair trial, as well as abuses such as torture.

He was first arrested by the Lebanese authorities on 28 December 2024 at the Syrian-Jordanian border, on his return from a visit to Syria, on a request for provisional arrest made by Egypt. Then on 30 December, another request for arrest was made by the United Arab Emirates. Mr Al-Qardawi is not a citizen of the UAE, and was not on UAE territory when he committed the offence of which he is accused. Despite an appeal by his lawyer, the Lebanese government ignored it, and al-Qardawi was expelled on 8 January.

Right to Life

Lebanon

He is accused of having peacefully criticised the governments of Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia when he was in a Damascus mosque following the overthrow of former president Al-Assad.

Al-Qardawi is not a citizen of the United Arab Emirates and was not in the country when he committed the offences of which he is accused. Mr Sabloun said he had appealed the government's expulsion decision to the Shura Council, Lebanon's highest administrative court, on 8 January, a day after the government announced its decision to expel Mr Al-Qardawi. However, the government did not wait to hear the appeal and al-Qardawi was expelled on 8 January. The day before, 17 Lebanese and international human rights organisations sent a letter to the Lebanese government urging it to reject the extradition requests from Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.

His expulsion to the Emirates therefore violates Lebanese national laws as well as its international obligations. Article 34 of the Lebanese Penal Code states that extradition requests must be rejected if they are "for crimes of a political nature, or which appear to have a political aim". Furthermore, article 3 of the Convention against Torture states that "no State Party shall expel, return ("refouler") or extradite a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture".

The 14-month conflict between 'Israel' and Hezbollah has had devastating effects on civilians in Lebanon. In its World Report 2025, Human Rights Watch reports that the conflict has involved numerous war crimes and violations of the laws of war. Ramzi Kaiss, Lebanon researcher at Human Rights Watch, points out that with "more than 4,000 dead in Lebanon, including hundreds of children and health workers, the international community has yet to ensure that impunity for violations of the laws of war is broken once and for all". Human Rights Watch has documented a series of illegal attacks and apparent war crimes by the occupying army, including deliberate attacks on journalists, peacekeepers and doctors, as well as the widespread use of white phosphorus, including illegally over populated residential areas.

Right to Life

Lebanon

Under the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Lebanon, which came into force on 27 November last year, the troops of the occupying army were due to withdraw from Lebanese territory on 26 January 2025. However, they killed 22 people that same day. And according to the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health, on Sunday at least 124 people were injured when the occupying army opened fire on people trying to return home.

The following day, the occupying forces shot dead at least two people and wounded 17 others, as the inhabitants displaced by the war tried to return to their villages, where Israeli soldiers were still present.

Yemen

Israeli forces attacked a power station and two ports in Yemen on 10 January , killing at least one person and injuring nine. According to the perpetrators of the attacks, they were carried out in response to ongoing Houthi attacks against 'Israel'. Although the "Israeli" army claims to have struck military targets, the ports targeted are essential for the supply of food and other basic necessities to the Yemeni population, which are "absolutely crucial for commercial and humanitarian activities", according to Auke Lootsma, representative of the United Nations Development Programme. In addition, the Hezyaz power station is the main power station in Sanaa, supplying electricity to the city's population. After the attack, the power was cut off throughout the city for two days. According to Human Rights Watch, these deliberate attacks on objects essential to the survival of the population are war crimes.

At the end of January, the Houthis unilaterally handed over 153 prisoners of war to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The head of the Houthi Prisoner Affairs Committee, Abdul Qader al-Murtada, said that those released were "humanitarian cases", including the sick, wounded and elderly. He said that the aim of this initiative was to "strengthen confidence and open a new phase of serious and honest negotiations". However, these releases come at a time when the Houthis are continuing to detain UN personnel, and a few days earlier seven UN staff members were arrested.

Right to Think

Iraq

This month a shooting occurred on the campus of Al-Esraa University in Baghdad. The shooting left six students and faculty members injured before security forces apprehended the perpetrator. Despite Iraq's significant improvement in safety and security overall. Maintaining the safety of university campuses remains challenging. Universities are the center and hope of Iraq's continuous rebuilding effort, the attacks are deeply troubling. Iraqi politicians' repression of descent remains worrying.

Palestine

On January 19th the cease-fire deal between Hamas and 'Israel' took effect. Since October 7th 90,000 Gazan higher education students have lost their access to higher education. Most university buildings in Gaza have been destroyed with the pretense of 'anti-terrorism'. However, some students have been able to partake in remote classes in refugee camps, and thesis defenses continued to be carried out in tents.

This month 'Israel's Knesset' passed a law granting the Department of Education the power to deny employment to teachers who obtained their degree in Palestinian University. The bill states: "The studies at these institutions include, in many cases, antisemitic content and indoctrination whose purpose is to deny the existence of the state of Israel and to seriously incite against it." The law would make exceptions for teachers already in employment and Arab schools. The law comes following another law that allows the prosecution of teachers, researchers, and professors who "support terrorism." And another law that allows the 'Israeli' Department of Education to decrease funding for schools that "endorses terrorism."

Tunisia

A new report emerged that last October, a French doctoral candidate Victor Dupont was arrested in Tunisia for "undermining state security." Dupont was in Tunisia in an official capacity as a researcher of Aix-Marseilles University and the European Research Council. He had plans to carry out interviews of people who were involved in the 2011 revolution.

Right to Think

Tunisia

Victor Geisser, the director of the institute Dupont, is a part of stressed that Dupont's work in Tunisia had nothing to do with the post-2021 era or President Kais Saied. The arrest does not come as a surprise as the Tunisian state increasingly limits journalists' and academics' freedom to criticize the current government and discuss the 2011 revolution. Kais Saied won his reelection for Tunisian president earlier that same month with 90% of the vote. The election did not allow independent observers' participation to ensure fairness and transparency. Both the rejection of independent observers and the disruption of Western political researchers were done under the guise of "Anti-Imperialism". Dupont was detained for four weeks until his release back to France. The regime is increasingly hostile to researchers, especially foreign ones who are researching the 2011 revolution. Tunisia is increasingly becoming more authoritarian in the restriction of academic freedom, and Gulf-style censorship has begun to take shape in the country.

Egypt

A new report emerged that last October, a French doctoral candidate Victor Dupont was arrested in Tunisia for "undermining state security." Dupont was in Tunisia in an official capacity as a researcher of Aix-Marseilles University and the European Research Council. He had plans to carry out interviews of people who were involved in the 2011 revolution. Victor Geisser the director of the institute Dupont is a part of stressed that Dupont's work in Tunisia had nothing to do with the post-2021 era or President Kais Saied. The arrest does not come as a surprise as the Tunisian state increasingly limits journalists' and academics' freedom to criticize the current government and discuss the 2011 revolution. Kais Saied won his reelection for Tunisian president earlier that same month with 90% of the vote. The election did not allow independent observers' participation to ensure fairness and transparency. Both the rejection of independent observers and the disruption of Western political researchers were done under the guise of "Anti-Imperialism". Dupont was detained for four weeks until his release back to France. The regime is increasingly hostile to researchers, especially foreign ones, who are researching the 2011 revolution. Tunisia is increasingly becoming more authoritarian in restriction of academic freedom, and Gulf-style censorship has begun to take shape in the country.

Right to Speak

Egypt

The fall of Assad and the rise to power of Hayat Tahrir al-sham has been viewed with caution by the Egyptian authorities. Domestic concerns about the return of political Islam or the restoration of IS in Sinai, as well as the potential geostrategic consequences regarding Israeli territory have culminated to intensify censorship. Frequently, authorities have utilized practices like “rotation” to enforce restrictions. Authorities have also relied on strong diplomatic relations with other MENA States to orchestrate wide-scale censorship.

Throughout January, there have been calls from Egyptians abroad, particularly those in Syria, to revolt against the Egyptian government. For example, Ahmed al-Mansour, who moved to Syria in 2013 to join the rebel factions, recently posted a photo on X featuring the slogan “25 January Revolutionaries Movement”. He appeared in the photo with masked men, a handgun, a single bullet, and an old Egyptian flag. In response, authorities have intensified speech restrictions, making random arrests and monitoring social media extensively.

The latest example is Mohamed Ahmed Allam, an Egyptian man with a TikTok account followed by 2 million. Allam was arrested after calling the Egyptian police “stupid” and accusing Sisi of dictatorship. On the 8 January, a prominent educational youtuber, Ahmed Abu Zeid, was also arrested after he withdrew a large sum of money. Both Allam and Zeid's arrests have been widely condemned on social media, with one TikTok account stating simply that “to survive in Egypt, you must fail”.

Egyptian authorities have also attempted to extradite Egyptian Turkish national Abdul Rahman, following his support for the ousting of Asad. A three-minute video posted by Rahman on X during celebrations in Syria prompted Egypt and the UAE to file requests for his extradition. In the video he stated that he hoped the “country’s future wouldn’t be hindered by Arab states, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the UAE”. On arrival in Lebanon he was taken by authorities and is currently in custody in the UAE.

Right to Speak

Egypt

On 19 January, founder of the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR), Hossam Bahgat, was summoned to appear before the Supreme State Security Prosecution. He has been charged with “involvement with and financing a terrorist group” and “spreading false news”. Prior to Bahgat’s hearing, EIPR was threatened with legal action after publishing a statement highlighting pretrial detention and abhorrent prison conditions. Other members of EIPR staff report being repeatedly harassed and subject to arrests and travel bans by Egyptian authorities.

Underlining arrests both this month and previously, is a concerning pattern whereby authorities employ a practice known as “rotation” or “recycling” in order to detain individuals past their release date. The practice of “rotation” has been highlighted 22 times in communications sent to the Government of Egypt since May 2020. It was emphasized again in Egypt’s last UN review in March 2023 and reasserted by the Special Rapporteur this month.

On 20 January, authorities renewed the detention of economist Abdel Khalek Farouk. He was initially charged under counter-terrorist laws, the evidence of which stemmed from 40 of his research articles. These articles primarily criticised the government’s economic policies. Farouk has been denied pretrial detention, despite no proof of a committed crime being presented by the state.

Nada Mougheeth, the wife of a detained cartoonist Ashraf Omar was taken to the Supreme State Security Prosecution a month after revealing details of her husband’s arrest in a podcast. Details regarding her arrest are currently obscure. It is believed that Omar, who was arrested in July 2024, was detained as a result of his caricatures, which critically depicted the governments mishandling of the economy. His detention has repeatedly been extended and the right to fair trial denied.

The UN has also cited another 3 cases where detention periods have been extended as a result of “rotation” practices. In one of these cases, human rights defender Ibrahim Metwally was detained without trial for over four years. Despite the Cairo Criminal Court ordering his release two times, the authorities have imposed multiple new terrorism-related offences on Metwally.

Right to Speak

Palestine

Silencing journalists by killing them is the most egregious form of censorship. The 'Israeli' government, as the occupying power, have continued to violate the right to speak to the highest attainable standard. It is estimated that at least 167 journalists have been killed since October 2023. An additional 130 cases of potential killings are also being investigated. CPJ has determined that 13 workers were intentionally targeted and their deaths should therefore be classified as murders. As of January, at least 20 other cases indicate intentional targeting and are currently being reviewed.

Palestinian journalists killed this month include Omar al-Dirawi, a journalists killed alongside his parents, Saed Abu Nabhan, who was killed in Central Gaza whilst working in the Nuseirat area, and Ahmed Al-Shayah, a correspondent, editor and producer who was killed as iof targeted a food distribution in Al-Mawasi.

CPJ has currently documented 75 arrests of journalists in Gaza, the West Bank and the city of Jerusalem. As part of the recent ceasefire deal, 33 journalists have been released. The remaining 42 remain under arrest and at least 10 of these journalists are being held under administrative detention. Several journalists have not been located, indicating that the number of journalists killed or in detention facilities could be much higher.

In Gaza, large scale destruction of media and press facilities is prevalent. It is estimated that at least 70 press organizations, including radio stations, news organizations, journalists training agencies, and transmission towers have been partially or completely destroyed. Access to the internet has been severely hampered and the iof have refused to allow foreign media access into Gaza. As a result, the logistics journalists need in order to share information have been completely compromised.

Media channels have been suspended across the occupied Palestinian territories. On January 1, the Palestinian Authorities (PA) banned the Al Jazeera TV network in the West Bank, accusing the channel of publishing "inciting material". This follows 'Israel's' suspension of Al Jazeera in both occupied East Jerusalem and Ramallah, in May and September 2024, respectively. On 19 January, the PA also arrested and detained Al Jazeera journalist Givara Budeiri as she covered the first day of the ceasefire. The prohibition is PA's latest attempt at maintaining control over the popular narrative whilst simultaneously appeasing the iof.

Right to Speak

Palestine

Throughout the month the media has continued to play a critical role in perpetuating the dehumanization of Palestinians. TikTok users have reported that since the reinstatement of the app under Donald Trump's executive order, comments containing the phrase "Free Palestine" have been labelled as hate speech. It has also been suggested that the app, which has featured significantly more pro-Palestinian content than other social media sites, played a role in influencing congressional support for the ban. Notably, since the app's reinstatement, the scope of speech relating to Palestine has significantly reduced. Globally, those defending Palestinian rights continue to be targeted.

On January 25, Electronic Intifadas' executive director, Ali Abunimah, was arrested by Swiss police prior to his speech in Zurich. The UN special rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, Irene Khan, stated that the arrest was "shocking news" and called on Swiss authorities to "urgently investigate and release" Abunimah.

Tunisia

Authorities in Tunisia continue to invoke Article 24 of Decree Law 54 (2022) to suppress speech perceived as threatening to the government. The law stipulates a 5 year prison sentence and a fine of up to TND 50,000 for using communication networks to spread "fake news" aimed at harming, defaming or inciting violence; or to undermine national security by spreading fear of inciting hatred. Elusive and vaguely defined terms, like "harming" and "defaming", have enabled authorities to unequivocally investigate journalists, regardless of criminality.

On January 18, hundreds of protestors demonstrated in central Tunis, demanding the release of Abir Moussi. Moussi has been jailed for more than a year on charges of "seeking to change the form of the state" and spreading "false news". She is expected to serve 16 months in prison as a result of criticizing the electoral authority.

Also this month, prominent human rights activist and former journalist, Sihem Bensedrine, announced that she was going on a hunger strike. Bensedrine was arrested after an alleged falsification of the Truth and Dignity Commission's (TDC) final report.

Right to Speak

Tunisia

She asserts that the charges against her are politically motivated and part of a broader campaign to discredit the TDC's findings. UN experts have further argued that Benesdrine's detention appears to be "an attempt to discredit crucial information" in the TDC report, which, if investigated now, would result in "legal actions against those involved in corruption during previous regimes". Numerous human rights organizations have sincerely condemned her detention.

Pakistan

On January 23 Pakistani authorities passed a new bill amending the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act. The amendment imposes a penalty of up to 3 years imprisonment and a fine for spreading "false and fake information". The amendment also broadens the powers of the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority by relying on its newly created partner association the Social Media Regulation and Protection Authority. These provisions will allow authorities to block, limit and prosecute more categories of speech, on the basis of vague and ambiguous offence descriptions. Amnesty has stated that the amendment is intended to violate "what little is left of the right" to free speech.

Offline, Pakistani authorities have continued to target journalists or political opponents. On 17 January former Prime Minister Imran Khan was sentenced to 14 years in prison on grounds of corruption. The international community have condemned the ruling, arguing that the legal mechanisms used to prosecute Khan were inconsistent and politically motivated. Pakistani authorities have also been urged to stop deporting and harassing Afghan journalists who fled due to threats from the Taliban. This month, 2 Afghan journalists have been detained and deported by Pakistani security forces. In a separate incident, another two were held and questioned for several hours, despite having valid documentation.

Right to Speak

Sudan

Journalists continue to be arrested and killed in Sudan. The climate for reporting is hostile as a result of famine, forced displacement and fear of harm, and the deliberate destruction of press facilities, internet shutdowns, and social media bans has halted the dissemination of speech. A prominent Sudanese journalist Yahya Hamad Fadlallah, died on January 13, one month after the SAF arrested and detained him. The Sudanese Journalists Syndicate (SJS) have stated that Fadlallah was falsely accused of collaborating with the Rapid Support Forces. Sources have stated that he was tortured and denied access to medical treatment for his diabetes.

On January 26 the RSF issued a statement accusing journalists and media outlets of presenting a biased and inaccurate depiction of the SAF's victories. They further reasserted animosity towards both domestic and foreign correspondents, describing them as "mercenaries". In response the SJS described the RSF statement as explicit incitement against media outlets and journalists. It held the RSF fully responsible for threats inflicted upon journalists and argued that the statement had the capacity to provoke serious and life-threatening harm.

On January 22, South Sudan's telecommunications regulator ordered all internet service providers to block access to social media. The ban was implemented in response to social media footage depicting killings of South Sudanese nationals, which prompted multiple revenge killings of Sudanese nationals in South Sudan. As a result of the social media ban, journalists have been unable to report effectively. Concurrently, public access to information has been significantly limited. The blanket ban follows a wide-scale blackout across Sudan's northern state on January 18.

Right to Speak

Morocco

The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement has raised concern over the criminalization and targeting of pro-Palestine activists in Morocco. Solidarity and engagement with pro-Palestine activism has been equated by the government with incitement to cause hatred or unrest. Ismail Lghazaoui is the latest activist to be detained. His arrest follows the sentencing of 13 pro-Palestine activists last December. In a press conference held on January 6, BDS highlighted the authorities attempt to protect normalisation with Israel by suppressing speech.

4 Moroccan activists are also facing trial this month after criticizing the government's "slow" reconstruction efforts following the 2023 earthquake. One of the activists, Ait Mahdi, has been detained since 23 December. The other three appeared in court on 6 January. The prosecution evidence is relying on social media posts and the sentiment of certain local officials who disapproved of the posts.

Women's Rights

Morocco

The reform of the Moudawana, Morocco's family code, in January 2025 marks a significant moment in the country's ongoing efforts to strengthen women's rights. This revision, the first major one since 2004, has been the subject of intense debate, reflecting both the progress made and the challenges that remain in achieving full gender equality within Moroccan society. While some view this reform as a substantial step forward, others argue that it falls short of the radical transformation that many feminist activists had hoped for.

One of the major changes introduced by the reform is the official recognition of engagements. By legally acknowledging this phase before marriage, the new code provides a clearer framework for couples and enhances legal protections, particularly for women. Another crucial aspect of the reform concerns divorce procedures, which have been simplified to make them more accessible. Previously, women faced significant legal and administrative barriers when seeking separation, often leading to prolonged and difficult proceedings. With this reform, the process has been streamlined, aiming to provide greater autonomy to women and reduce the burdens they face in ending a marriage.

Polygamy, a controversial issue in Moroccan family law, has also been subject to stricter regulations. Although it has not been entirely abolished, the new conditions imposed make it significantly more difficult for a man to take multiple wives. Judicial authorization is now mandatory, and the first wife's explicit consent is required, reinforcing the principle that such practices should remain exceptional rather than the norm. This measure has been seen as an important, albeit insufficient, victory for women's rights advocates who have long called for the complete eradication of polygamy.

Another key advancement brought by the reform is the recognition of domestic work as an economic contribution. For years, the unpaid labor performed by women within households has been invisible in legal and economic frameworks. The new provisions acknowledge this work, granting it legal value in cases of divorce and inheritance. This recognition is particularly significant in a country where many women remain financially dependent on their spouses and where their contributions to household economies have historically been undervalued.

Women's Rights

Palestine

The situation of Palestinian women under the occupation of 'Israel' is marked by extreme violence, systematic oppression, and gross violations of human rights. The 'Israeli' regime has long been accused of using excessive and brutal force against Palestinian civilians, with women often being direct victims of these abuses. Reports from human rights organizations and firsthand testimonies reveal a disturbing pattern of violence, including physical assaults, sexual violence, and psychological terror inflicted by 'Israeli' forces.

One of the most horrifying cases recently reported concerns a Palestinian pregnant woman who was mauled by an 'Israeli' army dog, leading to the tragic loss of her unborn child. According to Middle East Eye, the "Israeli" army deployed attack dogs on Palestinian civilians, demonstrating the regime's complete disregard for human life. The woman, already vulnerable due to her pregnancy, was left severely injured and traumatized by this barbaric act, a clear indication of the inhumane tactics employed by the occupying forces.

Sexual violence has also been documented as a weapon used by 'Israeli' forces to intimidate and humiliate Palestinian women. In northern Gaza, multiple Palestinian women have come forward with testimonies describing sexual assault by 'Israeli' soldiers. These attacks are not isolated incidents but part of a broader strategy of systemic humiliation and control over the Palestinian population. The normalization of such violence highlights the absolute impunity with which 'Israeli' forces operate, targeting women in ways meant to break the social and psychological fabric of Palestinian society.

The broader context of 'Israel's' occupation is one of entrenched military control, where Palestinian women face not only direct violence from 'Israeli' soldiers but also structural oppression that limits their freedom of movement, access to healthcare, and economic independence. The restrictions imposed by 'Israel'—from military checkpoints to arbitrary arrests—exacerbate the suffering of Palestinian women, who must navigate a reality where their basic human rights are systematically denied.

Women's Rights

Palestine

The violence inflicted upon Palestinian women by 'Israeli' forces is part of a long-standing strategy of occupation, aimed at breaking the spirit of the Palestinian people. These acts constitute clear violations of international law, including the Geneva Conventions, which prohibit violence against civilians, particularly women and children. Yet, despite these international legal frameworks, 'Israel' continues its campaign of oppression with near-total impunity.

In conclusion, the situation for Palestinian women under 'Israeli' occupation is one of extreme hardship, marked by physical, sexual, and psychological violence. The reports of women being attacked, sexually assaulted, and subjected to inhumane treatment by 'Israeli' forces are a stark reminder of the regime's brutality. This violence is not random but part of a systematic policy of terror meant to weaken Palestinian resistance and destroy the social fabric of Palestinian communities. Until the international community holds 'Israel' accountable for these crimes, Palestinian women will continue to suffer under one of the most violent and oppressive regimes in modern history.

Saudi Arabia

The repression of women's rights in Saudi Arabia remains a stark example of authoritarian control and gender-based oppression. Despite claims of modernization and reform, the Saudi regime continues to imprison and silence women who advocate for their basic freedoms. One such case is that of Salma al-Shehab, a Saudi women's rights activist who was arrested and sentenced to prison for her social media activity. Her case highlights the ongoing crackdown on dissent and the severe restrictions placed on freedom of expression in the kingdom.

Salma al-Shehab, a PhD student at Leeds University and a mother of two, was arrested upon her return to Saudi Arabia in 2021. Her crime? Using Twitter to share posts that advocated for women's rights and expressed support for political prisoners. According to Middle East Eye, her peaceful online activism was deemed a threat by the Saudi authorities, who handed her a draconian prison sentence of 34 years—one of the longest ever given to a woman in Saudi Arabia for expressing an opinion online. This punishment serves as a chilling warning to all Saudi women that any form of dissent, even on social media, will not be tolerated.

Women's Rights

Saudi Arabia

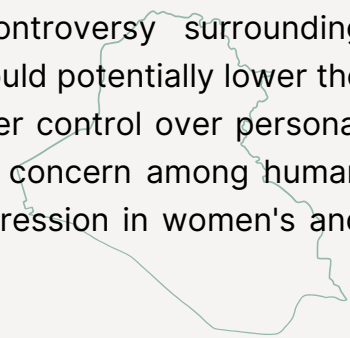
Recent reports indicate that Salma al-Shehab may soon be released from prison. While this is a relief for her and her family, her case remains emblematic of the wider repression faced by Saudi women. The Saudi government has used legal mechanisms to suppress activists, employing charges of “spreading false information” and “destabilizing public order” to justify long-term imprisonment. Many other women’s rights defenders remain behind bars, subjected to harsh treatment and, in some cases, torture.

Saudi Arabia has attempted to present itself as a country undergoing reform, especially with the introduction of new laws that ostensibly grant women more rights, such as the right to drive and travel without male guardianship. However, these reforms exist alongside a brutal crackdown on activists who initially fought for these freedoms. The contradiction is glaring: while the government allows certain superficial changes, it violently suppresses those who call for genuine and lasting reforms.

The treatment of Salma al-Shehab and other women’s rights defenders exposes the reality of Saudi Arabia’s authoritarian rule. The kingdom continues to maintain a rigid patriarchal system that criminalizes free speech and represses women who seek equality. Until meaningful change occurs and activists can speak freely without fear of imprisonment, the Saudi government’s so-called progress on women’s rights remains nothing more than a facade.

Iraq

In recent developments, Iraq has seen significant controversy surrounding proposed amendments to its Personal Status Law, which could potentially lower the legal age of marriage and grant religious authorities greater control over personal status matters. These changes have sparked widespread concern among human rights organizations, activists, and citizens who fear a regression in women’s and children’s rights.



Women's Rights

Iraq

The proposed amendments, introduced by conservative Shia factions, aim to allow religious authorities to govern marriage, divorce, and inheritance issues, potentially permitting child marriages for girls as young as nine years old. This move has been met with strong opposition from various groups, who argue that it undermines the principle of equality before the law and removes protections for women regarding divorce and inheritance.

Human Rights Watch has expressed deep concern over these developments, stating that the amendments could legalize child marriage and erode women's rights in Iraq. The organization emphasizes that such changes would be a significant step backward for the country, which has previously been recognized for its progressive Personal Status Law enacted in 1959.

Public response to the proposed amendments has been robust, with numerous protests occurring across the country. Women's rights campaigners have taken to the streets, condemning the draft bill and highlighting the dangers it poses to young girls. They argue that the legislation could legitimize child marriage and enshrine sectarianism in family relationships, thereby threatening the social fabric of Iraqi society.

Despite the public outcry, reports indicate that the revised 'sectarian' law has been passed without a formal vote in parliament. The new law requires Muslim couples to choose either the Sunni or Shia sect when concluding a marriage contract, allowing that sect to represent them in all personal status matters rather than the civil judiciary. While some lawmakers assert that the revised bill maintains the legal marriage age at 18 or 15 with consent, concerns persist about the potential for religious authorities to permit child marriages under specific interpretations of Islamic jurisprudence.

The international community has also taken note of these developments. The Guardian reported that activists in Iraq are protesting the draft law, arguing that it effectively legalizes child rape. They highlight that dominant Shia religious groups have been gradually eroding women's rights in Iraq for over a decade, and this proposed law represents a significant setback for women's rights in the country.

Women's Rights

Iraq

In conclusion, the proposed amendments to Iraq's Personal Status Law have ignited a significant debate about the future of women's and children's rights in the country. The potential lowering of the legal marriage age and the increased influence of religious authorities in personal status matters pose serious concerns for the protection of vulnerable populations. As the situation continues to evolve, it remains crucial for both national and international stakeholders to advocate for the preservation and advancement of human rights in Iraq.

Egypt

Under the rule of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, women's rights in Egypt have faced significant challenges, with various reports highlighting increasing restrictions on freedoms, gender-based discrimination, and systemic legal injustices. Despite official rhetoric promoting women's empowerment, numerous human rights organizations have documented severe setbacks in the protection and advancement of women's rights in the country.

One of the primary concerns is the repression of women activists and human rights defenders. Many have been subjected to arbitrary detention, travel bans, and smear campaigns, making it increasingly difficult for women to advocate for their rights. Reports indicate that women who publicly criticize government policies, particularly regarding gender issues, are at risk of persecution.

In addition to political repression, Egyptian women continue to face high rates of gender-based violence, including sexual harassment, domestic abuse, and honor crimes. While legislative reforms have been introduced to address these issues, enforcement remains weak, and victims often struggle to obtain justice due to deeply rooted social and legal obstacles. The authorities' failure to adequately protect women from violence and hold perpetrators accountable has exacerbated the crisis.

Furthermore, the economic situation has disproportionately impacted women, particularly in terms of employment and financial independence. Gender discrimination in the workplace remains widespread, with women experiencing significant wage gaps and limited access to leadership positions. Many women are forced into informal or precarious employment, making them more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

Women's Rights

Egypt

The legal framework governing personal status laws in Egypt continues to discriminate against women in matters of marriage, divorce, and child custody. Women face significant legal and social hurdles in securing their rights, with laws favoring male guardianship and limiting their autonomy. Calls for reform have been met with resistance from conservative factions within the government and religious institutions, further delaying progress.

Despite these challenges, Egyptian women's rights organizations continue to fight for change, often at great personal risk. Activists and NGOs persist in advocating for legal reforms, gender equality, and greater protections for women, despite the state's efforts to silence dissent. International human rights bodies, including the United Nations Human Rights Council, have repeatedly urged Egypt to take concrete steps toward improving the situation, yet meaningful progress remains elusive.

In conclusion, the status of women's rights in Egypt remains precarious under the rule of President Sisi. While the government presents itself as a proponent of women's empowerment, the reality on the ground suggests a systematic erosion of rights and freedoms. Addressing these challenges requires significant political will, legal reforms, and stronger enforcement mechanisms to protect and uphold women's rights in the country.

Tunisia

Women's rights in Tunisia, once considered among the most progressive in the Arab world, are increasingly under threat. Recent developments highlight the use of moral conservatism as a pretext for restricting freedoms, as well as the repression of figures advocating for justice and gender equality. This report examines two key issues: the government's intensified use of moral policing to curb women's freedoms and the imprisonment of Sihem Bensedrine, a pivotal figure in Tunisia's transitional justice process.

Since President Kais Saied's consolidation of power in 2021, Tunisia has witnessed a significant decline in civil liberties. In a concerning trend, authorities have increasingly invoked moral values to justify repressive measures, disproportionately affecting women.

Women's Rights

Tunisia

According to a Middle East Eye report, women engaging in activism, journalism, and even personal expressions of freedom are being targeted under vague laws concerning public morality. Recent cases highlight a troubling pattern of arbitrary arrests and social control, where women have been detained for behavior deemed improper or indecent despite the lack of clear legal definitions. Digital surveillance and online harassment have also intensified, with female activists and journalists facing threats and legal action for their online presence, further limiting their ability to voice concerns.

The deterioration of gender protections is evident as laws once celebrated for advancing women's rights are being selectively enforced or ignored, creating a hostile environment for gender equality.

These developments signal a shift from Tunisia's historical reputation as a leader in women's rights within the region toward an increasingly repressive state apparatus. Sihem Bensedrine, a leading figure in Tunisia's transitional justice movement, was arrested in December 2023 under allegations linked to her work with the Truth and Dignity Commission.

Her imprisonment represents a broader crackdown on activists and women who played crucial roles in post-revolutionary accountability. Her case raises serious concerns about the state of women's participation in justice and governance. Political retribution against women leaders is evident, as her arrest is widely seen as an attempt to silence dissent and dismantle past efforts at transitional justice.

The chilling effect on human rights advocacy is significant, as the targeting of women in key positions discourages broader participation in governance and activism.

Selective justice mechanisms are at play while corruption and authoritarian practices resurface, and those who fought against such injustices now face legal repercussions instead of recognition. Bensedrine's imprisonment illustrates the shrinking space for female leadership in Tunisia and the systematic efforts to dismantle the progress made after the 2011 revolution.

Women's Rights

Tunisia

The recent repression of women in Tunisia through moral policing and political persecution reflects a broader decline in democratic norms. The targeting of activists like Sihem Bensedrine and the reinforcement of conservative social controls signal a rollback in gender rights and freedoms. Addressing these challenges requires international attention and advocacy to safeguard the rights that Tunisian women have long fought to secure.



Right to Participate

Lebanon

After a two year presidential void, Lebanon's Parliament finally elected on 10th of January 2025 armed forces commander Joseph Aoun as the country's 14th president. Aoun secured the position with 99 votes out of 128 members. According to the Lebanese Constitution, the president must be a Maronite Christian, the prime minister a Sunni Muslim, and the parliamentary speaker a Shia Muslim.

International pressure from the United States, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, France, and Qatar helped mediate among Lebanese political parties to reach a deal. Many believe that Donald Trump's return to power in January 2025, along with the current turbulence in the Middle East, forced and incentivized this effort to stabilize the country. Hezbollah initially opposed Aoun's presidency. However, the party's political and military weakening during the recent conflict with Israel left it unable to block his rise to power. Hezbollah and the other Shiite party, the Amal Movement, delayed the consensus for two hours in an attempt to demonstrate their continued influence in the country. Mohammed Raad, the head of Hezbollah's parliamentary bloc, stated, "As we were the ones who protected Lebanese sovereignty with our lives, we are also the defenders of the national consensus." However, they helped Joseph Aoun get the required number of votes to become president by backing him in the second round of voting on January 9. The group, which had planned to support Najib Mikati in the vote for prime minister on January 13, abstained after it became clear Nawaf Salam would win.

In his speech, Aoun pledged to uphold the constitution, fight corruption, strengthen institutions, implement reforms—such as expanded administrative decentralization—and focus on reconstruction. One of the most notable points in his address was his assertion that the armed forces should have exclusive control over weapons, a statement widely interpreted as a message to Hezbollah.

Analysts expect Aoun to initiate a national dialogue on a new defense strategy, which could include discussions on incorporating Hezbollah's weapons under state authority. He also underscored the importance of judicial reform and pledged to protect the judiciary from political influence.

Right to Participate

Lebanon

Although Hezbollah refuses to disarm, it is keen on rebuilding the areas destroyed during its conflict with Israel. However, reconstruction depends on international financial assistance, which requires the government to implement economic and political reforms and for Hezbollah to engage in meaningful negotiations regarding its arsenal. He appointed Nawaz Salam, the president of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), as prime minister, a decision that has sparked optimism among many Lebanese. After securing enough seats in parliament, he will serve as prime minister until the next parliamentary elections in 2026, bringing a clear political vision and strong convictions.

The reform movement, which mobilized in mass protests starting on October 17, 2019, views Salam as someone who can represent their demands. While he comes from a well-known Beirut family, he has not held political office domestically, instead rising to prominence in international institutions. He presided over South Africa's ongoing case that accuses Israel of committing genocide in Gaza and ruled that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory is unlawful. He also worked on UN resolutions, including 1701, which is the basis for the current ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon.

Multiple people interviewed said Salam's government programme would focus on reforming the political system, ensuring accountability for crimes in Lebanon – including the August 4, 2020, Beirut port explosion and the banking crisis – and defending the independence of Lebanon's judiciary. In his speech on Tuesday, Salam said his hands were “extended to everyone”, including Hezbollah, after members of the group reacted negatively to the new prime minister's nomination.

The head of Syria's new administration, Ahmed Al-Sharaa, congratulated Joseph Aoun on his election as Lebanon's president during a phone call on Sunday. During the call, Sharaa conveyed his best wishes for Aoun's success in his new role and stressed the importance of strengthening the positive relations between Syria and Lebanon. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Friday welcomed the election of Lebanese President Joseph Aoun after more than two years without a head of state, stating that unity will “defeat” Israel. Salam said he would work to “impose the complete withdrawal of the enemy from the last occupied inch of our land”.

Right to Participate

Turkey

Turkish authorities have significantly intensified investigations and detentions of opposition figures, with three actions occurring on a single day, raising concerns regarding the expansion of government measures against dissent.

On 20 January, the head of the youth branch of the main opposition party, the Republican People's Party (CHP), was briefly detained for a social media post about the Istanbul prosecutor. Additionally, a judicial investigation was initiated against CHP Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, a potential future presidential candidate, for his criticism of the detention. Furthermore, six elected mayors from the pro-Kurdish Democratic Party (DEM) were dismissed and replaced by government-appointed officials, accused of having alleged terrorism connections, which the party denied.

"Recent developments show that Turkey is evolving into an increasingly authoritarian atmosphere, where the opposition's chance of winning elections is becoming less likely," said political analyst Berk Esen of Sabanci University.

Moreover, the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) will hold a preliminary election among its more than 1.5 million members to determine its presidential candidate for the next general election slated for 2028, party leader Özgür Özel has announced.

Right to Social Protection

Iran

Social protection is constituted under article 29 of Iran's official legal code, recognizing social security as a human right and emphasizing the government's responsibility to ensure the welfare of its citizens. Despite this, social protection remains under threat in the country in light of a developing economic crisis and deeply entrenched corruption.

The situation for many Iranians is worsening rapidly. In 2020, 43% of households in Iran were either living below or just above the poverty line. Five years later, this proportion has nearly doubled to 80%. Of particular consequence for many Iranians is spiraling inflation and the sharp devaluation of the Iranian Rial. Previously middle to higher income families have been pushed towards poverty as the national currency became the world's least valuable in 2024.

This situation has been worsened by a combination of economic mismanagement and foreign sanctions. As a result, access to basic necessities is under severe strain. Food insecurity has grown in the face of daily rising prices, threatening the wellbeing of millions. Prices have skyrocketed while wages have largely remained stagnant, pushing many towards food insecurity. As well as this, inflation in the housing sector has seen the cost of buying or renting increase dramatically and has meant many families can no afford suitable accommodation.

Symptomatic of these growing pressures, a wave of protests have engulfed the country since last year and are ongoing as of January 2025. Demonstrations occurred in cities including Tehran, Karaj, Kerman, Arak, and Zahedan, reflecting the discontent nationwide. These have centred on a diverse range of issues including low wages, regime oppression, pensions, and environmental degradation. Firefighters in Karaj, for instance, gathered to protest salary reductions, reflecting the dire financial situation faced by many municipal employees. Their rally underscored systemic failures in compensating essential workers. The failure of the government to guarantee pensions to retired workers has been especially damaging.

Right to Social Protection

Iran

In Kerman, southeast Iran, retirees from the Copper Fund demanded higher pensions and full implementation of past commitments, such as the 2023 equalization plan. Protesters held signs calling for “removal of salary caps” and better healthcare provisions. Similarly, in Tehran, retired employees from the Welfare Store rallied to demand unpaid experience bonuses, while steel and mining retirees protested inadequate pensions and lack of access to basic services. Their chants, including “*We won’t stop until our demands are met!*”, highlighted longstanding grievances with the regime’s failure to address pension adjustments.

The government must prioritize strengthening its social safety nets and enhancing the distribution of resources. Food assistance programs would alleviate the immediate pressure caused by inflation and rising costs. Additionally, efforts to address corruption must be ramped up, ensuring that funds reach the intended recipients. Reforms in the pension system are urgently needed, including the timely disbursement of pensions and a revision of inadequate salary caps.

Egypt

The right to social protection has seen some improvement in Egypt in recent months. A positive development was the January 2025 announcement by the National Authority for Social Insurance, a governmental body that provides social security benefits to Egyptian citizens including retirement pensions, disability pensions, unemployment benefits, and survivor benefits. It reported that its investments in social protection measures have increased by 7.8% to 44.2 billion.

The organisation also continues to provide pension coverage to more than 80 percent of the country's employed population at a maximum of 7000 EGP monthly. *This degree of coverage ranks among the best in developing countries globally.* It should be noted that these developments, though welcome, have had little overall impact in alleviating Egypt's widespread poverty. Estimates place the number of Egyptians living below the national poverty line at 29.7 percent of the population. UNICEF classifies a large proportion of these residents, 21 percent, as living under conditions of multidimensional poverty.

Right to Social Protection

Egypt

Estimates place the number of Egyptians living below the national poverty line at 29.7 percent of the population. UNICEF classifies a large proportion of these residents, 21 percent, as living under conditions of multidimensional poverty. This means they face a continual lack of access to education, health, housing, services, employment, social protection, and food security. Furthermore, more than 1.5 million Egyptians live below the line defined by the United Nations as constituting extreme poverty, usually earning less than 2.15 USD daily. This dire economic situation has only been worsened in the context of governmental mismanagement and rising inflation.

The Egyptian government continues to prioritise lavish investments that have little to no benefit for the majority of Egyptian citizens. Despite agreeing to some US\$57 billion in grants and loans in 2024, the government's economic approach constitutes excessive and opaque infrastructure projects, including those led by the military, and undermines people's economic, social, and cultural rights. Exemplifying this trend has been the more than 204 billion EGP (22 billion USD) set aside for the construction of the New Administrative Capital east of Cairo. While officially advertised as a measure to reduce congestion in the current capital, most of the amenities and housing to be built are directly targeting upper and upper-middle class Egyptians. Money that could be directed towards bolstering social protections is instead funnelled into a vast project aimed at the existing national elite.

Public expressions of discontent towards this situation are met with repression by Abdel Fattah el-Sisi's government. It systematically detains and punishes peaceful critics and activists and authorities continue to thrive on a lack of accountability and public scrutiny. Between April 2022 and September 2023, 4,500 protesters were detained in the country.

With an entirely inadequate government response to inflation, which peaked at 39.7% in August 2024, as well as widespread poverty and a lack of access to basic services, social protection in Egypt is in crisis.

Right to Social Protection

Egypt

To expand social protection in Egypt, the government must prioritize redirecting its investments towards improving the well-being of its citizens, especially the most vulnerable in the population. Reallocating resources from costly infrastructure projects into expanding social services would allow for a more inclusive economic recovery. The government must also engage with civil society to ensure that social protection programs meet the needs of the entire population.

Iraq

Iraq has faced numerous pressures over the last decade that have severely restricted its government's ability to ensure adequate access to social protection. Decades of prolonged conflict, the coronavirus pandemic, and a still-fractured political system have reduced opportunities for many and driven much of the country's population towards poverty. Positive trends in recent years have seen Iraq attain the status of an upper-middle-income country, yet the national poverty rate reached 24.8 percent in 2022. The number of Iraqis facing multidimensional poverty has also dramatically increased to 42 percent in the aftermath of the pandemic.

This means many now face acute shortages in areas such as food security, health, and education. A closer analysis of the economic situation reveals that these shortcomings are significantly more prominent in rural areas (with some regions seeing poverty rates over 50%) and among the country's many internally displaced persons (IDPs). As of 2022, there were more than 1.2 million IDPs in Iraq. Chronic poverty is concentrated in the south, but the north has emerged as one of the most economically deprived areas given significant displacements from the ISIL conflict. Survey data in the conflict's aftermath covering households in Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al-Din estimated that 28 percent of families lacked any access to income.

A major victim of this situation has been the country's healthcare system. Approximately 96% of Iraqis are without health insurance, and therefore most Iraqis rely on the central government-run public health care system. This system remains in a state of crisis and is characterised by disorganisation, shortages of staff and resources, fragmentation, and pervasive corruption.

Right to Social Protection

Iraq

This has eroded the quality, affordability, and accessibility of basic as well as specialist healthcare services for a majority of Iraqis. Years of instability has also meant many skilled physicians and other medical practitioners have left the country, leaving to find better working conditions in Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. The healthcare system again highlights the disparities between urban and rural residents, with many in remote areas severely lacking adequate access to medical care.

Exacerbating the situation has been the clientelism that characterises much of Iraq's political economy. This manifests in an intertwining between the political class and the business elite and is a consequence of the fractured nature of the Iraqi state. Corruption across the country remains particularly high. In 2023, its rank on the Corruption Perception Index was 154th out of 180 countries, making the delivery of vital funds to social programs particularly difficult.

There have, however, been some signs of improvement in the realm of social protection. The country's government recently passed Law No. 18 representing a historic step towards strengthening Iraq's social protection system. The law aims to cover private sector workers and support informal workers in sectors such as agriculture, construction, and manufacturing. Furthermore, the country's Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Ahmed al-Asadi, announced the enrolment of 3.6 million children in social protection programs. These will benefit 2.2 million children through student grants to enhance access to education while health insurance has also been extended to 177,000 children in Baghdad.

Nonetheless, the government should continue its efforts to extend social protection programs to those in rural and conflict-affected regions. Strengthening the healthcare system is also crucial. A national health insurance program should be developed to ensure affordable and accessible care for all citizens. Furthermore, enforcing transparency and fighting corruption will be key to ensuring that funds are allocated effectively and reach those in need.

Right to Social Protection

United Arab Emirates

Ostensibly the United Arab Emirates is one of the wealthiest Arab states and has provided, at least to its citizens, a robust welfare system to counteract poverty. For Emirati citizens whose total income is less than 25,000 AED a month (6,806 USD), the government offers a range of supportive measures. These include unemployment benefits and allowances for university and housing. In addition, there is the inflation allowance, which covers food, electricity and water, and fuel subsidies. The social protection net for 1.17 million Emirati citizens is, therefore, among the best in the MENA region. However, this group of citizens constitutes just over 11% of the country's population. The remaining 9 million residents of the UAE are non-citizen expatriates, to whom significantly fewer social protection measures are afforded. The country's poverty rate is among the highest for developed nations, with those living on less than 22 USD daily comprising 19.5% of UAE residents. Appearances of wealth are further complicated by the fact that 1% of the country's population controls more than 50% of its economy.

Though pension contributions to Emirati citizens are generous, expats are not entitled to mandatory pension compensation. Until recently, employers of non-Emiratis operated a controversial system of end-of-service indemnities. Following the example of other GCC states, this system was reformed in 2023 and has been replaced by a pension scheme. Employers under this new system are instead required to pay an equivalent monthly contribution into the new savings scheme. At the end of service, employers receive the accrued savings and investment returns from their participation in the investment fund. This scheme, though, is entirely optional on the part of employers, limiting the extent to which it can benefit non-citizens in the UAE.

Social protections for low-income migrant workers earning less than 5000 AED per month are particularly lacking. This group constitutes 60 percent of expatriate workers in the country and is predominantly represented by workers from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Pakistan.

Right to Social Protection

United Arab Emirates

Many are subject to appalling living conditions that are inadequate in the context of the UAE's extremely hot summer climate and frequently have their passports confiscated to prevent workers leaving before their terms of work are completed. Moreover, they face constant abuses that exacerbate their dire situation. Many have reported widespread incidents of wage theft and are often forced to pay exorbitant recruitment fees that diminish any benefits of travelling to the UAE for work. These practices persist despite attempts at reform by the UAE government in recent years. The UAE's labour regulations retain provisions that violate established international labour standards, while severe enforcement gaps further undermine protections. UAE migrant workers remain governed by the restrictive labour governance system known as the kafala (sponsorship) system, which gives employers disproportionate control over migrant workers' lives.

A priority should be the implementation of pension schemes for all workers, regardless of nationality, to ensure long-term financial security. Strengthening labour protections, including stricter enforcement against wage theft and exploitation, is also crucial. Reforming the kafala system to reduce employer control over workers' lives would help mitigate abuse and ensure fair treatment. Additionally, improving living conditions and offering legal protections for migrant workers would address systemic inequities and enhance social stability across the country.

Bibliography

Al Jazeera. "At least 27 people killed, dozens rescued after two shipwrecks off Tunisia". Al Jazeera, January 2025. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/1/2/at-least-27-people-killed-dozens-rescued-after-two-shipwrecks-off-tunisia>

UN News. "Iran: at least 901 people executed in 2024". UN News, January 2025. <https://news.un.org/fr/story/2025/01/1151906>

Iran Focus. "Iran: UN Special Rapporteur Condemns Execution Ruling for Pakhshan Azizi". Iran Focus, January 2025. <https://iranfocus.com/iran/53146-iran-un-special-rapporteur-condemns-execution-ruling-for-pakhshan-azizi/>

Iran Human Rights. "Killed Because You Are a Woman-Violence Against Women in Iran Reaches New Heights". Iran Human Rights, January 2025. <https://iranhumanrights.org/2025/01/killed-because-you-are-a-woman-violence-against-women-in-iran-reaches-new-heights/>

Iran Human Rights. "UN: Iran Must Immediately Revoke Death Sentence Against Kurdish Woman Activist". Iran Human Rights, January 2025. <https://iranhumanrights.org/2025/01/un-iran-must-immediately-revoke-death-sentence-against-kurdish-woman-activist/>

Iran Human Rights. "International Community Must Demand Immediate Release of Swedish Academic Facing Execution in Iran". Iran Human Rights, January 2025. <https://iranhumanrights.org/2025/01/international-community-must-demand-immediate-release-of-swedish-academic-facing-execution-in-iran/>

UN News. "In Syria, four children a day fall victim to explosive remnants". UN News, January 2025. <https://news.un.org/fr/story/2025/01/1152111>

Human Rights Watch. "Lebanon: Hostilities Wreak Havoc on Civilians". Human Rights Watch, January 2025. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/01/16/lebanon-hostilities-wreak-havoc-civilians>

Human Rights Watch. "Lebanon: Serious Risk of Abuse for Poet Deported to UAE". Human Rights Watch, January 2025. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/01/08/lebanon-serious-risk-abuse-poet-deported-uae>

Human Rights Watch. "Israeli Forces Continue to Strike Civilian Infrastructure in Yemen". Human Rights Watch, January 2025. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/01/16/israeli-forces-continue-strike-civilian-infrastructure-yemen>

Bibliography

Al Jazeera. "Yemen's Houthi rebels release 153 prisoners of war". Al Jazeera, January 2025. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/1/25/yemens-houthi-rebels-release-153-prisoners-of-war>

Al Jazeera. "Israel kills at least 22 in south Lebanon on day army was due to withdraw". Al Jazeera, January 2025. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/1/26/israel-kills-3-wounds-dozens-in-south-lebanon-in-breach-of-ceasefire-deal>

Al Jazeera. "Israel forces kill two in south Lebanon as displaced people try to return". Al Jazeera, January 2025. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/1/27/israel-deadly-attacks-south-lebanon-displaced-people-try-to-return-home>

The (2025). [Student Shooting at Baghdad University Leaves 6 Injured](https://themedialine.org/headlines/student-shooting-at-baghdad-university-leaves-6-injured/) - The Media Line. [online] The Media Line. Available at: <https://themedialine.org/headlines/student-shooting-at-baghdad-university-leaves-6-injured/> [Accessed 21 Jan. 2025].

University World News. (2025). [90,000 students have lost access to HE in Gaza – Academic](https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20250116095244357). [online] Available at: <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20250116095244357> [Accessed 21 Jan. 2025].

Middle East Monitor (2024). [Israel advances bill to ban teachers with Palestinian degrees](https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20241224-israel-advances-bill-to-ban-teachers-with-palestinian-degrees/). [online] Middle East Monitor. Available at: <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20241224-israel-advances-bill-to-ban-teachers-with-palestinian-degrees/> [Accessed 21 Jan. 2025].

The New Arab (2025). [Egypt summons prominent human rights activist for interrogation](https://www.newarab.com/news/egypt-summons-prominent-human-rights-activist-interrogation). [online] The New Arab. Available at: <https://www.newarab.com/news/egypt-summons-prominent-human-rights-activist-interrogation> [Accessed 21 Jan. 2025].

Anonymous (2024). [Student Victor Dupont's arrest in Tunisia shows no one is safe](https://www.newarab.com/opinion/student-victor-duponts-arrest-tunisia-shows-no-one-safe). [online] The New Arab. Available at: <https://www.newarab.com/opinion/student-victor-duponts-arrest-tunisia-shows-no-one-safe> [Accessed 21 Jan. 2025].

France 24 (2024). [Lack of election observers for Tunisia vote reflects crackdown](https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20241004-lack-of-election-observers-for-tunisia-vote-reflects-crackdown). [online] France 24. Available at: <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20241004-lack-of-election-observers-for-tunisia-vote-reflects-crackdown> [Accessed 21 Jan. 2025].

Bibliography

Saleh Salem, "Why Egypt views Assad's fall with caution and fear", The New Arab, 13 January 2025, <https://www.newarab.com/analysis/why-egypt-views-assads-fall-caution-and-fear>

Osama Gaweesh, "Egypt's Sisi-friendly media attacks Ahmed al-Mansour as protest fears grow", Middle East Eye, 13 January 2025, <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/egyptian-media-attacks-ahmed-al-mansour-fears-protests-grow>

MEE staff, "Egypt: Wife of detained cartoonist Ashraf Omar arrested after podcast appearance", Middle East Eye, 16 January 2025, <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/egypt-wife-detained-cartoonist-ashraf-omar-arrested-cairo>

The New Arab Staff, "Egypt renews detention of economist Abdel Khaleq Farouk", The New Arab, 21 January 2025, <https://www.newarab.com/news/egypt-renews-detention-economist-abdel-khaleq-farouk>

The New Arab Staff, "Egypt summons prominent human rights activist Hossam Bahgat for interrogation", The New Arab, 17 January 2025, <https://www.newarab.com/news/egypt-summons-prominent-human-rights-activist-interrogation>

United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, "Egypt: Special Rapporteur concerned about use of anti-terrorism legislation against human rights defenders", 15 January 2025, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/01/egypt-special-rapporteur-concerned-about-use-anti-terrorism-legislation>

International Service for Human Rights, "Egypt: Lift punitive measures against EIPR staff", 5 December 2024, <https://ishr.ch/latest-updates/egypt-lift-punitive-measures-against-eipr-staff/>

Human Rights Watch, "Egypt: Rights Defender Charged with Terrorism", 22 January 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/01/22/egypt-rights-defender-charged-terrorism>

MEE staff, "UAE takes custody of poet and dissident Abdul Rahman Yusuf al-Qaradawi", Middle East Eye, 9 January 2025, <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/uae-takes-custody-poet-dissident-abdul-rahman-yusuf-al-qaradawi>

Bibliography

MEE staff, "Israeli strike kills Palestinian journalist alongside his parents in central Gaza", Middle East Eye, 3 January 2025, <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/israeli-strike-kills-palestinian-journalist-his-parents-central-gaza>

UNESCO Press release, "UNESCO Director-General condemns killing of journalist Saed Abu Nabhan in Palestine", 10 January 2025, <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-director-general-condemns-killing-journalist-saed-abu-nabhan-palestine>

Palestine Chronicle, "Israel Kills Another Journalist in Gaza – Death Toll Rises to 205", 16 January 2025, <https://www.palestinechronicle.com/israel-kills-another-journalist-in-gaza-death-toll-rises-to-205/>

Committee to Protect Journalists, "Arrests of Palestinian journalists since start of Israel-Gaza war", 24 January 2025, <https://cpj.org/2025/01/arrests-of-palestinian-journalists-since-start-of-israel-gaza-war/>

Lea Peruchon, "The destruction of press infrastructure in Gaza: A strategy to blind the public", Forbidden Stories, 25 June 2024, <https://forbiddenstories.org/the-destruction-of-press-infrastructure-in-gaza-a-strategy-to-blind-the-public/>

CPJ, "Journalist casualties in the Israel-Gaza war", 24 January 2025, <https://cpj.org/2025/01/journalist-casualties-in-the-israel-gaza-conflict/>

Middle East Eye, "Palestinian Authority reportedly arrests Al Jazeera journalist covering prisoner exchange", 19 January 2025, <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/pa-reportedly-arrests-al-jazeera-journalist-covering-prisoner-exchange-deal>

Dana Alomar, "TikTok faces criticism for flagging 'Free Palestine' as hate speech", The National News, 23 January 2025, <https://www.thenationalnews.com/future/technology/2025/01/23/tiktok-free-palestine-censorship/>

Al Jazeera, "UN experts slam Palestinian journalist Ali Abunimah's arrest in Switzerland", 27 January 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/1/27/un-experts-slam-palestinian-journalist-ali-abunimahs-arrest-in-switzerland>

CPJ, "Tunisia uses new cybercrime law to jail record number of journalists", 16 January 2025, <https://cpj.org/2025/01/tunisia-uses-new-cybercrime-law-to-jail-record-number-of-journalists/>

Bibliography

The New Arab, "Blackouts hit wide swathes of army-controlled Sudan after drone attacks", 18 January 2025, <https://www.newarab.com/news/blackouts-hit-wide-parts-sudan-after-drone-attacks>

The New Arab, "BDS warns of Morocco's attempt to 'criminalise' anti-Israeli normalisation activism" 7 January 2025, <https://www.newarab.com/news/bds-warns-morocco-attempt-criminalise-anti-israeli-acts>

The New Arab, "Moroccan activists on trial for critiquing government's slow post-earthquake aid", 2 January 2025, <https://www.newarab.com/news/morocco-activists-trial-critiquing-slow-earthquake-aid>

Medias24. (2024, December 25). Réforme de la Moudawana: La fin du patriarcat ou une semi-victoire pour des militantes féministes ?
[reform-de-la-moudawana-la-fin-du-patriarcat-ou-une-semi-victoire-pour-des-militantes-feministes](#)

TelQuel. (2025, January 16). Latifa Jbabdi: La réforme de la Moudawana aurait pu être au rendez-vous de l'histoire.
[latifa-jbabdi-la-reforme-de-la-moudawana-aurait-pu-etre-au-rendez-vous-de-lhistoire_1913395](#)

Libération. (2024, December 26). Code de la famille au Maroc: Ce n'est pas la réforme radicale que nous attendions.
[code-de-la-famille-au-maroc-ce-nest-pas-la-reforme-radicale-que-nous-attendions-20241226_2IBTQTLRFGVXJPSHXAA2YS4AE](#)

Radio France - France Culture. (2025). Maroc: Ce que va changer la réforme du code de la famille.
[Maroc-ce-que-va-changer-la-reforme-du-code-de-la-famille-5766040](#)

Middle East Eye. (2025). Israeli army dog mauled Palestinian pregnant woman – then she lost baby. <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/israeli-army-dog-mauled-palestinian-pregnant-woman-then-she-lost-baby>

Middle East Eye. (2025). North Gaza: Palestinian women recall sexual assault by Israeli forces.
<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/north-gaza-palestinian-women-recall-sexual-assault-israeli-forces>

Bibliography

Middle East Eye. (2025). Salma al-Shehab expected to be released from Saudi prison within days. <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/salma-al-shehab-expected-be-released-saudi-prison-within-days>

Middle East Eye. (2024). Saudi Arabia: Women's rights defender sentenced to prison over tweets. <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/saudi-arabia-women-rights-defender-prison-tweets>

Human Rights Watch. (2024, August 16). Iraq: Parliament Poised to Legalize Child Marriage. [iraq-parliament-poised-legalize-child-marriage](#)

Human Rights Watch. (2024, September 19). Iraq's Amended Personal Status Law Could Make 9-Year-Olds Brides. [iraqs-amended-personal-status-law-could-make-9-year-olds-brides](#)

MacDonald, A. (2024, August 9). Protests across Iraq against 'sectarian' law that may allow child marriage. Middle East Eye. [protests-iraq-law-sectarian-allow-child-marriage-may](#)

MacDonald, A. (2025, January 21). Iraq: Revised 'sectarian' law that raised fears over child marriage passed without vote. Middle East Eye. [sectarian-law-potentially-allowing-child-marriage-passed-without-vote-iraq](#)

The Guardian. (2024, August 9). Draft Iraqi law allowing 9-year-olds to marry would 'legalise child rape', say activists. [Proposed-iraqi-law-change-would-legalise-child-say-activists](#)

Middle East Eye. (2025). Egypt under Sisi: Women's rights undermined, say NGOs in UN review. [Sisi's rule has undermined women's rights in Egypt, eight NGOs conclude | Middle East Eye](#)

Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights. (2024). Crises of Women and Girls' Rights in Egypt. https://eipr.org/sites/default/files/reports/pdf/crises_of_women_and_girls_rights_in_egypt_-_eng.pdf

Middle East Eye. (2025). Tunisia's moral values: A new pretext to repress freedoms. <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/tunisia-moral-values-new-pretext-repress-freedoms>

Middle East Eye. (2025). Tunisia's transitional justice figure Sihem Bensedrine languishes in prison. [Tunisia-transitional-justice-figure-sihem-bensedrine-languishes-prison](#)

Bibliography

Al Jazeera (2025) Who is Joseph Aoun, the new president of Lebanon. Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/1/9/who-is-joseph-aoun-the-new-president-of-lebanon>

Middle East Monitor (2025) Syria's new administration leader congratulates Lebanese president on election. Available at: <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20250112-syrias-new-administration-leader-congratulates-lebanese-president-on-election/>

Middle East Monitor (2025) Syria's new administration leader congratulates Lebanese president on election. Available at: <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20250112-syrias-new-administration-leader-congratulates-lebanese-president-on-election/>

Middle East Council (2025) Trump's return and implications for the Middle East. Available at: https://mecouncil.org/blog_posts/trumps-return-and-implications-for-the-middle-east/

Turkish Minute (2025) Turkey's main opposition party to hold election to determine its presidential candidate. Available at: <https://www.turkishminute.com/2025/01/28/turkeys-main-opposition-party-to-hold-election-to-determine-its-presidential-candidate2/>

Reuters (2025) Istanbul mayor hit with another judicial probe, media reports. Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/istanbul-mayor-hit-with-another-judicial-probe-media-reports-2025-01-27/>

Reuters (2025) Turkey's opposition faces barrage of arrests, investigations. Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/turkeys-opposition-faces-barrage-arrests-investigations-2025-01-21/>

Al Jazeera (2022) Infographic: How big was the Beirut explosion. Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/8/4/infographic-how-big-was-the-beirut-explosion>

Al Jazeera (2022) Lebanon banks will remain shut indefinitely after heists. Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/22/lebanon-banks-will-remain-shut-indefinitely-after-heists>

Middle East Monitor (2025) Syria's new administration leader congratulates Lebanese president on election. Available at: <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20250112-syrias-new-administration-leader-congratulates-lebanese-president-on-election/>

Bibliography

Al Jazeera (2025) Lebanon's PM designate Nawaf Salam promises to rescue, reform and rebuild. Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/1/14/lebanons-pm-designate-nawaf-salam-promises-to-rescue-reform-and-rebuild>

Al Jazeera (2025) Is Israel backing out of the Lebanon ceasefire terms? Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2025/1/1/is-israel-backing-out-of-the-lebanon-ceasefire-terms>

Al Jazeera (2025) Who is Nawaf Salam, Lebanon's PM designate amid political shift. Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/1/14/who-is-nawaf-salam-lebanons-pm-designate-amid-political-shift>

Al Arabiya (2025) Iran welcomes election of new Lebanese president, says unity will defeat Israel. Available at: <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2025/01/10/iran-welcomes-election-of-new-lebanese-president-says-unity-will-defeat-israel->

Al Jazeera (2024) World Court says Israel's settlement policies breach international law. Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/7/19/world-court-says-israels-settlement-policies-breach-international-law>

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (2025) Reaction shot. Available at: <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://carnegieendowment.org/middle-east/diwan/2025/01/reaction-shot?lang=en&ved=2ahUKEwjnrOLJx5qLAXbTqQEHen9AEkQFnoECBUQAQ&usq=AOvVaw2tl7LaOSpYLCQ4LIDvjFlo>

Washington Institute (2025) Lebanon's new prime minister approaches next crossroads: Hezbollah. Available at: <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/lebanons-new-prime-minister-approaches-next-crossroads-hezbollah>

Naharnet (2025) Raad says protected national consensus by voting for Aoun. Available at: <https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/310262-raad-says-protected-national-consensus-by-voting-for-aoun>

Al Jazeera (2025) Is Hezbollah weakened as Lebanon shifts towards new governance? Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/1/21/is-hezbollah-weakened-as-lebanon-shifts-towards-new-governance>

Bibliography

Iran Protests: Nationwide Demonstrations Highlight Economic Hardship and Oppression

<https://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/iran-protests/iran-protests-nationwide-demonstrations-highlight-economic-hardship-and-oppression/>

The Spread of Poverty in Iran. Iran Focus

<https://iranfocus.com/economy/53195-the-spread-of-poverty-in-iran/>

Social protection in Iran: Recent advances and challenges ahead for a more child-sensitive system

https://ipcig.org/sites/default/files/pub/en/OP553_Social_protection_in_Iran.pdf

IOPS COUNTRY PROFILE: EGYPT

<https://www.iopsweb.org/resources/42952582.pdf>

Poverty & Equity Brief, Arab Republic of Egypt, April 2023. World Bank

https://databankfiles.worldbank.org/public/ddpext_download/poverty/987B9C90-CB9F-4D93-AE8C-750588BF00QA/current/Global_POVEQ_EGY.pdf

Multidimensional poverty in Egypt: an in-depth analysis

<https://www.unicef.org/egypt/reports/multidimensional-poverty-egypt-depth-analysis#:~:text=In%202022%2C%20multidimensional%20poverty%20affected,social%20protection%20and%20food%20security.>

Egypt, ILO

<https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/ShowCountryProfile.action?iso=EG>

Total investments of Egypt's Social Insurance Authority 7.8% up in FY24. State Information Service

<https://www.sis.gov.eg/Story/204113/Total-investments-of-Egypt%E2%80%99s-Social-Insurance-Authority-7.8%25-up-in-FY24?lang=en-us#:~:text=Total%20investments%20of%20Egypt's%20National,by%20the%20Cabinet%20on%20Wednesday.>

Iraq, ILO and partners launch the National Social Security Awareness Campaign

<https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/iraq-ilo-and-partners-launch-national-social-security-awareness-campaign>

Bibliography

Iraq achieves progress in child welfare and social protection <https://shiawaves.com/english/news/115527-iraq-achieves-progress-in-child-welfare-and-social-protection/>

Universal Health Coverage for Better Social Protection: The Case of Iraq. Arab Reform Initiative <https://www.arab-reform.net/publication/universal-health-coverage-for-better-social-protection-the-case-of-iraq/>

Iraq Situation. UNHCR Global Focus <https://reporting.unhcr.org/iraq-situation-global-report-2022#:~:text=GLOBAL%20REPORT%202022,hosting%20some%20180%2C000%20internally%20displaced.>

World Food Programme Iraq <https://www.wfp.org/countries/iraq>

Impact of COVID-19 on social protection in Iraq <https://www.undp.org/arab-states/publications/impact-covid-19-social-protection-iraq>

Conceiving a Long-Term Approach to Youth Economic and Social Policy in Iraq. Arab Reform Initiative <https://www.arab-reform.net/publication/from-tangential-livelihood-programming-to-integrated-social-protection-conceiving-a-long-term-approach-to-youth-economic-and-social-policy-in-iraq/>

Social welfare programme for low-income citizens. UAE Information and services <https://u.ae/en/information-and-services/social-affairs/social-welfare/social-welfare-programmes/social-welfare-for-low-income-nationals>

Poverty in the United Arab Emirates. The Borgen Project <https://borgenproject.org/top-10-facts-about-poverty-in-the-united-arab-emirates/#:~:text=The%20poverty%20rate%20in%20the,Morocco%20mostly%20populate%20the%20UAE.>

Financial Inclusion of Blue-collar Migrants in the UAE: The Case of RAKBANK and Edenred. UNCDF <https://migrantmoney.uncdf.org/resources/insights/financial-inclusion-of-blue-collar-migrants-in-the-uae-the-case-of-rakbank-and-edenred/>

The UAE introduces voluntary pensions to replace end-of-service indemnities, joining an increasing trend of reforms across the GCC countries. ILO <https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/uae-introduces-voluntary-pensions-replace-end-service-indemnities-joining>

Authors

Right to Life – Emilie

Right to Think – Shuming

Right to Speak – Izzy

Women's Rights – Roumaisae El Ouardy

Right to Participate – Julia

Right to Social Protection – Ned

OUR VISION & COMMITMENT

As a think tank center, ACHRS is dedicated to promoting justice, equality, democracy, and all human rights for all. Our mission is to provide credible research, advocacy and educational programs that raise awareness of, promote and protect human rights and drive concrete changes in policies and practices by focusing on six priorities: the right to life, the right to think, the right to expression, the right to participation, women's rights and the right to social protection.

We are grateful to all individuals and institutions who support our priorities. Your contributions enable us to continue advocating for the rights of vulnerable communities and promoting freedom and human dignity across the MENA region.

We call on human rights defenders, policymakers, and international partners to join us in this mission.

Together, we can foster more just and humane societies.



Address

Al Abdali, Amman, Jordan



Email

achrs@achrs.org



Telephone

+962 7 9515 1590



Website

www.achrs.org



IN SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE
STATUS WITH UN ECOSOC
HONORARY OF THE UN HUMAN
RIGHTS PRIZE 2023