

SRL Swiss | Human Rights Bulletin

Weekly monitoring of human rights and the rule of law

Period: 13–19 October 2026 | Last reviewed: 19 October 2026 | Publication: 20 October 2026 | Geneva

LEAD STORY | SWITZERLAND



Protest photograph accompanying the Swiss Refugee Council announcement. Source: SFH/Keystone. It does not show the return of the nine individuals; the date of the photograph is not specified.

Protection gaps in returns to Türkiye

- Announced on 14 October, a report examines nine cases following return to Türkiye after asylum applications were rejected.
- The cases describe arrest, detention, criminal investigations and convictions; they are not nine new incidents from this week.
- Rights organisations call for revised risk assessments and the suspension of returns in cases involving a reported risk of prosecution.

EDITORIAL FOCUS

This issue leads with return decisions in Switzerland and personal security. European coverage examines protection for women experiencing violence, the right to life after release from prison, trade union organising and policing of protests. Elsewhere, the focus is on the death penalty, journalists' safety, detention conditions and civilian protection.

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MAIN REPORT | SWITZERLAND

Switzerland | Risk assessments questioned in returns to Türkiye

Report announced: 14 October 2026 | Cases concern earlier returns



Protest photograph accompanying the Swiss Refugee Council announcement. Source: SFH/Keystone. It does not show the return of the nine individuals; the date of the photograph is not specified.

The Swiss Refugee Council, Democratic Lawyers Switzerland and the Swiss Observatory for Asylum and Foreigners' Law examined the experiences of nine people after their asylum applications were rejected and they returned to Türkiye. The report describes arrest and detention, criminal investigations, judicial restrictions and convictions. The organisations argue that social media posts, Kurdish identity, previous political activity and family ties were not assessed together. They call for negative asylum decisions and returns to be suspended in cases involving a reported risk of prosecution. These are not nine deportations carried out this week: the new development is the publication of the cases in a joint report.

VERIFICATION / UNRESOLVED ISSUES

The report examines nine earlier cases, not nine new returns this week. Findings are those of the reporting organisations. Not all individual case files were independently examined for this bulletin.

Human rights implications: The central rights issue is whether individual risks were adequately assessed before return. Returning someone while disregarding a real risk of torture or ill-treatment violates the obligation of non-refoulement.

Sources: Swiss Refugee Council

Developments to follow

Monitor the Swiss authorities' response to the report, any changes in risk assessment and the current legal situation of the people concerned. Individual cases should not be generalised beyond the publicly available findings.

EUROPE | PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE AND THE RIGHT TO LIFE**France | Concerns over weakened protection for foreign women experiencing violence**

National Assembly vote: 13 October | La Cimade statement: 15 October 2026



Equal-rights demonstration photograph used by La Cimade; it does not depict the 13 October vote. Photograph date not specified. Source: La Cimade.

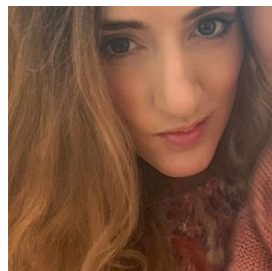
La Cimade stated that important safeguards for foreign women were removed from the text on combating sexist and sexual violence adopted by the National Assembly on 13 October. According to the organisation, provisions protecting residence rights, access to work and protection against orders to leave the country were weakened. It warned that arrangements tied to the complaints process and continued dependence on a spouse's status would make it harder for victims to seek help. This is a rights organisation's assessment of the text adopted by the Assembly; it does not mean that the entire legislative process has been completed or that the provisions have entered into force.

Human rights implications: Fear of losing residence status or being deported when seeking help can obstruct effective protection for victims of violence. La Cimade's criticism concerns this gap in protection.

Sources: [La Cimade](#)

United Kingdom | Colleen Madden's death: post-release protection to be examined

INQUEST announcement: 15 October | Inquest scheduled to open: 19 October 2026



Portrait of Colleen Madden; it does not depict the place of death. Source: INQUEST press release.

INQUEST announced that the inquest into the death of Colleen Madden, a mother of two, was scheduled to open on 19 October. Madden, 31, who had a brain injury, was released from prison into temporary hotel accommodation on 13 January 2025 and was found dead on 16 January. Medical evidence indicates that she died on the evening of 13 January. An earlier safeguarding review identified shortcomings in communication between agencies, suitable accommodation and support planning. The inquest will examine the role of public bodies. The announcement does not establish a judicial finding of negligence or mean that the inquest has concluded.

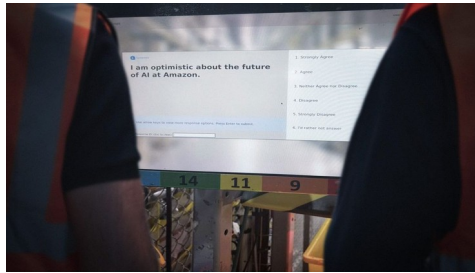
Human rights implications: The allegation that a disabled person facing foreseeable risks was left without support after release engages duties to protect life and ensure continuity of care. The inquest should clarify the responsibilities of the institutions involved.

Sources: [INQUEST](#)

EUROPE | ASSOCIATION AND PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY

United Kingdom | New documents on Amazon’s unionisation risk scoring

Investigation published: 16 October 2026 | Documents concern earlier practices



News illustration using an employee survey screen; it is not a direct screenshot of the union-risk system. Source: openDemocracy/Facebook; editing by James Battershill.

Drawing on documents obtained from litigation in Canada, openDemocracy reported that Amazon used a system called Atlas to score warehouses for the risk of unionisation. The report places the Coventry and Sutton Coldfield sites in the highest-risk category in those documents. The GMB union and legal organisation Foxglove raised concerns about workers’ freedom of association and privacy. Amazon said Atlas is not currently used in the United Kingdom, that individual union membership or political views are not monitored, and that the assessments are intended to support sites at building level. The findings and the company’s response should be considered together; there is no final finding of a violation.

Human rights implications: Monitoring workers’ propensity to unionise and using that information to exert pressure could undermine freedom of association. The scope of the documents and the company’s objections concerning current practice must both inform the assessment.

Sources: [openDemocracy](#)

Albania | Use of force and detention safeguards at Tirana protests

Events: 13–18 October 2026 | Institutional statements: 13 and 16 October



People move away from police water cannon outside the Education Ministry in Tirana, 17 October 2026. © Hameraldi Agolli/AP. The photograph alone does not establish the legal responsibility of any individual officer.

Albania’s Ombudsman announced an own-initiative administrative investigation on 13 October into whether police force at the Tirana protests was necessary and proportionate. Monitoring teams are also checking detainees’ access to lawyers, notification of families and medical examinations. On 16 October, the UN in Albania called for protection of peaceful assembly, expression and press freedom, and for proportionate policing.

According to AP’s report of 17 October, seven police officers were suspended over allegations of excessive force. The report also stated that some demonstrators threw stones and incendiary objects, while police used tear gas, water cannon and batons. Reuters reported continuing clashes on 18 October. Arrest and charge figures announced on different dates have not been combined because they do not measure the same scope.

Human rights implications: Unnecessary or disproportionate force at demonstrations may violate freedom of assembly and physical integrity. Access to lawyers, family and healthcare must remain protected in detention; individual responsibility is under investigation.

Sources: [Ombudsman — 13 October](#) | [UN — 16 October](#) | [AP — 17 October](#) | [Reuters — 18 October](#)

IRAN | THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND FAIR TRIAL**Iran | Death sentences: new ruling for Moradi, sentence upheld for Akbari-Monfared**

HRANA reports: 13 and 14 October 2026 | Akbari-Monfared notified: 11 October



Portrait of Varisheh Moradi with a symbolic gallows montage; this is not an execution photograph. Source: HRANA.

HRANA reported that Branch 15 of Tehran's Revolutionary Court again sentenced Varisheh Moradi to death. The Supreme Court had overturned the previous judgment because of investigative deficiencies. The defence maintains that the new ruling was issued before the required inquiries were completed. Lawyer Amir Sajjadi stated that there was a 20-day period in which to appeal.

In a separate case, HRANA reported on 13 October that Branch 41 of the Supreme Court had upheld Amirhassan Akbari-Monfared's death sentence and that he had been notified on 11 October. The charge concerns armed rebellion through alleged PMOI/MEK membership. The two cases are at different procedural stages; neither report states that an execution has taken place.

VERIFICATION / UNRESOLVED ISSUES

The new Moradi judgment remains open to appeal. In the Akbari-Monfared case, Supreme Court confirmation is reported. Full judgments were not independently examined; neither report announces an execution.

Human rights implications: The irreversible consequences of the death penalty make allegations of procedural deficiencies particularly serious. Protection of life, effective defence and independent judicial review are central to the human-rights implications of these cases.

Sources: [HRANA](#) | [HRANA — Akbari-Monfared](#)

FREEDOM OF RELIGION, EQUALITY AND EDUCATION

Iran | Baha'is in Yazd face home raids, interrogations and prison sentences

HRANA report: 16 October 2026 | Period examined: 28 March–15 October



HRANA's illustration for its report on Baha'i citizens; it does not depict an incident as it occurred. Source: HRANA.

HRANA's compilation on Baha'i citizens in Yazd records home searches, confiscation of personal and religious belongings, interrogation summonses and prison sentences. The organisation reported that a gathering of approximately 50 people was dispersed, 18 interrogation summonses were issued, three people received prison sentences and one person was transferred to prison to serve a sentence. These figures refer to different measures and must not be added together as distinct victim counts. The article is a newly published account of practices spanning several months. Complete judicial files have not been independently examined.

Human rights implications: Interference with homes and punishment on grounds of belief directly engage freedom of religion and non-discrimination. The legal basis of the reported measures and their character as faith-based repression should be subject to independent judicial review.

Sources: [HRANA — Yazd report](#)

Azerbaijan | Hijab restrictions: exclusion from education and arrests

Implementation: from 12 October | New statement: 16 October 2026



Photograph of display mannequins wearing headscarves, used in Amnesty's article. © Denis Doyle/Getty Images. Location and date not specified in the source; it does not show those excluded from school or the protest.

Amnesty International reported that school uniform rules were being used to exclude students and teachers wearing the hijab from schools. According to the organisation, arrests followed peaceful protests in Baku. The Interior Ministry announced 37 arrests; higher figures reported by activists should be treated separately. Amnesty called for the discriminatory restrictions to be lifted and for the release of those held solely for peaceful protest. The case concerns education, freedom of religion and conscience, non-discrimination and the right of assembly.

Human rights implications: Exclusion from school for wearing a hijab engages the right to education, freedom of religion and non-discrimination. Allegations that people were detained for participating in peaceful protest also require examination under freedom-of-assembly safeguards.

Sources: [Amnesty International](#)

PALESTINE AND ISRAEL | CIVILIANS AND DETAINEES**Palestine / West Bank | Attacks on Palestinians and a journalist during the olive harvest**

Incidents: 16–17 October 2026 | Update: morning of 19 October



Palestinian volunteers tackle a fire around an olive tree and vehicle near Turmus Ayya, 16 October 2026. © Ahmad Gharabli/AFP via Getty Images, through NPR. It does not depict the attack on Levine.

NPR reported that masked settlers attacked Palestinians taking part in the olive harvest in the occupied West Bank on 16 October. Washington Post photojournalist Heidi Levine was among those injured. The newspaper stated that she was wearing a press vest, was beaten and had her equipment taken. The attacks raise concerns both for farmers' safety and access to agricultural land and for the protection of journalists covering events.

According to Reuters' report at 06:01 UTC on 19 October, Israeli police detained eight suspects for questioning over separate attacks during the weekend. The investigation covers the attacks on Levine and on European diplomats on 17 October. Police did not disclose the suspects' identities or the allegations against them. Arrest is not proof of guilt or of effective accountability.

Human rights implications: Attacks on farmers and journalists threaten physical integrity, access to livelihoods and press freedom. The competent authorities have obligations to prevent attacks, protect victims and conduct effective investigations.

Sources: [NPR — 16 October](#) | [Reuters — 19 October](#)

Israel | Allegations of close-range rubber-bullet use in prisons

New report: 15 October 2026 | Most cases date from the previous autumn onwards



Detainees preparing for release at Ketziot Prison, 26 February 2025. © Chaim Goldberg/Flash90; The Times of Israel. Archive photograph; it does not depict the shootings described.

Physicians for Human Rights Israel and the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel reported documenting 22 cases of detainees shot with rubber bullets in prisons. Twenty-one were Palestinian and one Israeli. AP stated that it could not independently verify every case; it reviewed medical records and accounts given to lawyers and interviewed two former detainees.

The organisations raised concerns about shots fired at close range and some injured detainees being left untreated. In a written response in August, the prison service defended its use of force as proportionate and appropriate. Most cases were reported from the previous autumn onwards; these are not 22 new incidents from this week.

Human rights implications: Unnecessary or excessive force against detainees and failure to treat injuries engage the prohibition of ill-treatment. Prison authorities are responsible for the safety of people deprived of their liberty.

Sources: [Associated Press](#)

PRESS FREEDOM | DETENTION AND JOURNALISTS' SAFETY**Egypt | Matsadaash journalists' detention extended**

Decision: 13 October | EIPR statement: 14 October 2026



Montage of portraits of the six journalists, produced by EIPR; it does not depict their arrest. Source: EIPR.

The Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR) reported that the detention of six journalists from the fact-checking platform Matsadaash was extended by 15 days on 13 October. According to EIPR, prosecutors identified no specific news item or evidence supporting accusations of joining and financing a terrorist organisation and spreading false information; the journalists denied the allegations. Lawyers reported that some journalists were dragged, subjected to degrading restraint, and deprived of food and water. Restrictions on family contact and private consultations with lawyers, and unmet requests for medication, were also reported. These allegations are attributed to EIPR; no findings from an independent investigation are available.

VERIFICATION / UNRESOLVED ISSUES

Detention and ill-treatment reports are attributed to EIPR. Full forensic reports and the outcome of an independent investigation are not available in this review.

Human rights implications: Criminalising journalistic activity undermines freedom of expression and press freedom; preventing contact with families and lawyers weakens defence safeguards. The reported ill-treatment also requires an effective investigation.

Sources: [Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights \(EIPR\)](#)

Bangladesh | Journalist Alif Fakir killed after reporting threats

Killing: 15 October | Court development: 18 October 2026



Portrait of Lutfuzzaman Alif Fakir. Source: [The Daily Star](#); photograph supplied by relatives. It does not depict the murder scene.

Journalist Lutfuzzaman Alif Fakir was shot dead in Durgapur, Netrokona, on 15 October. Ain o Salish Kendra and the International Federation of Journalists called for an effective investigation. Reports of an earlier attack and threats raise questions about whether protection was provided. According to [The Daily Star's](#) report of 18 October, a court sent 22-year-old Opurba, arrested on suspicion of involvement in the murder, to jail and scheduled a hearing on the request for police remand for 19 October. Police allegations are not established findings; the motive for the attack and the suspect's responsibility remain undetermined.

Human rights implications: The killing of a journalist is a grave attack on the right to life. Whether protection was provided following earlier threats, and the identification of those responsible, must be examined in light of the state's duties to protect and investigate.

Sources: [Ain o Salish Kendra](#) | [IFJ](#) — 16 October | [The Daily Star](#) — court update

WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Afghanistan | UNAMA: arbitrary detention and ill-treatment in morality enforcement

UNAMA publication: 15 October 2026 | Period examined: July–September 2026



Wall inscription instructing women to observe hijab in Kabul, shown for context. Source: Rukhshana Media. It does not depict individual UNAMA cases; photograph date not specified.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) documented at least 443 arbitrary arrests and detentions and 97 incidents of ill-treatment by personnel of the de facto morality ministry between July and September. Women and men reportedly had their freedoms restricted over clothing, beard and hairstyle rules, prayer attendance and music. The Taliban authorities disputed the report’s characterisation. Published on 15 October, the findings cover a three-month period; they are not this week’s detention total.

Human rights implications: Arbitrary detention over clothing, belief or everyday behaviour undermines liberty and personal autonomy. Reports of discriminatory controls on women and ill-treatment engage obligations concerning equality, effective investigation and remedies.

Sources: UNAMA — quarterly report | UN DPPA — 16 October summary | Reuters / ThePrint

Myanmar | Bilin airstrike: AAPP reports five civilian deaths

Attack: 13 October | AAPP briefing: 16 October 2026

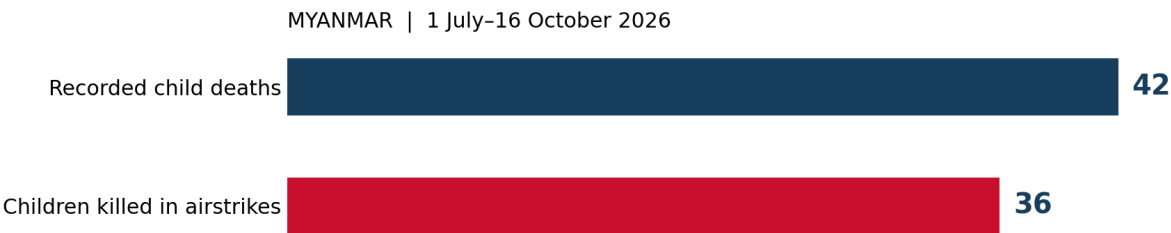


Chart: SRL Swiss; data: AAPP, 16 October 2026. The 36 airstrike deaths are included in the total of 42; these are not weekly figures.

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) reported that an airstrike on Ah Lu Gyi village in Bilin Township, Mon State, on the evening of 13 October killed five civilians, including a child, and injured others. The organisation stated that bombs struck homes. The same briefing recorded 42 children killed between 1 July and 16 October, including 36 killed in airstrikes. These figures are neither a weekly total nor an exhaustive national toll. The circumstances of the individual attack could not be independently verified here; the findings are attributed to AAPP.

Human rights implications: The reported killing of civilians and children raises grave concerns for the right to life and civilian protection. Compliance with the obligations of distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack requires independent investigation.

Sources: AAPP — 16 October daily briefing

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES**Sudan | Blue Nile: allegations of detention over family ties**

Dabanga report: 16 October 2026 | Individual arrest dates not disclosed



Generic prison archive image; it does not show the people named in the report or their place of detention. Source: Radio Dabanga archive.

Dabanga reported allegations by the Blue Nile Civil Society Initiative of arbitrary detention and ill-treatment of civilians. Initiative representative Ali Hajo said security forces targeted some people solely because of relatives' alleged links to the RSF or SPLM-N. Three people named in the report were allegedly blindfolded, taken to unknown locations and tortured. Some detentions were reported to have continued for one or two years without charges. The article does not include independent corroboration of these accounts or a response from the authorities; the new development is the public appeal.

Human rights implications: Detaining people because of kinship rather than their own conduct, and concealing their whereabouts, raises concerns about arbitrary detention. Torture allegations require independent investigation, access to lawyers and information for families.

Sources: [Radio Dabanga](#)

Kenya | New report documents arrests, abductions and ill-treatment of protesters

Amnesty International report: 19 October 2026 | Cases: 2023–2025



Archive image of protests in Kenya, used in the 19 October report announcement. © Amnesty International. It does not depict a specific incident from this week.

New research by Amnesty International documents arbitrary arrests, abductions, incommunicado detention, ill-treatment and surveillance targeting people protesting economic conditions and tax policies. The study examined the 2023–2025 protests and drew on interviews with 102 people conducted between April and July 2026. Journalists reported physical assaults, confiscation of equipment and pressure to delete footage. Amnesty stated that the public bodies to which it sent its findings had not responded by publication. The new development is the release of the research; the cases did not all occur this week.

Human rights implications: Silencing peaceful protesters and journalists through repression undermines freedoms of assembly and expression. Allegations of abduction, incommunicado detention and ill-treatment require independent investigation, accountability and remedies for victims.

Sources: [Amnesty International](#) — 19 October

LIBERTY, JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY**Nigeria | Questions over Lawrence Zongo's detention at a military facility**

Detention: 5 October | Army response: 16 October | Report: 17 October 2026



Photograph of Nigerian soldiers, shown for context. Source: Premium Times. The involvement of the people pictured in this case has not been established.

Premium Times published the army's explanation of journalist Lawrence Zongo's detention at a military medical facility in Jos. The article includes reports that he was detained while visiting injured relatives on 5 October, that Amnesty could not reach him, and that he was held incommunicado. The army cited unauthorised entry and the use of smart glasses as security concerns and denied that his release resulted from external pressure. According to the report, Zongo was released. Questions remain over the legal basis, access to a lawyer and duration of detention. This account should not be read as stating that he remains in custody.

Human rights implications: A dispute over entry to a military facility does not remove safeguards for a detained person's contact with lawyers and relatives. The legal basis and allegations of incommunicado detention require clarification in relation to the right to liberty.

Sources: [Premium Times](#)

Colombia | Crimes against Indigenous peoples: ten former FARC leaders charged

JEP announcement: 13 October 2026 | Conduct examined: 1996–2016



JEP President Alejandro Ramelli Arteaga, Bogotá, 1 July 2025. Archive photograph: AP/Fernando Vergara; it does not show a new hearing.

Colombia's Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) announced war-crime and crimes-against-humanity charges against ten former FARC leaders over acts against five Indigenous peoples. As reported by AP, the case concerns killings, torture, forced displacement, landmine deployment and damage to ecosystems on which the communities depend. The allegations relate to 1996–2016; this week's development is judicial. Charges do not constitute final convictions. The process should be monitored for victims' access to truth, justice and reparation.

Human rights implications: The alleged acts target life, physical integrity and Indigenous peoples' cultural ties to their territories. Victims' participation and right to reparation must be protected alongside defendants' fair-trial guarantees.

Sources: [Associated Press](#)

UNITED STATES | HEALTH AND LIFE IN IMMIGRATION DETENTION

United States | Access to healthcare and reported deaths in ICE detention

New commentary: 13 October 2026 | Events described: earlier months



Flowers and candles at a memorial for Edwin Jovanny López Cornejo. © Olga Fedorova/EPA/Shutterstock, through ACLU. Photograph date not specified; it does not show the detention centre's interior.

ACLU of New Jersey Executive Director Amol Sinha addressed reports of denied access to medication and medical care at the Delaney Hall immigration detention centre. The article recounts allegations of serious medical conditions being ignored, unmet requests for wheelchairs and weight loss. At a congressional hearing in July, Representative Jeff Van Drew questioned these reports and maintained that continuous healthcare was available at the facility. The ACLU states that two more people died in the two weeks following the hearing. A causal link between medical neglect and the deaths has not been independently established in this review.

VERIFICATION / UNRESOLVED ISSUES

A causal link between reported medical neglect and the deaths has not been independently established in this review.

Human rights implications: Depriving people in custody of necessary medication and care endangers health, human dignity and the right to life. The deaths, care conditions and possible neglect require effective investigation.

Sources: [ACLU](#) — [Amol Sinha](#)

PUBLICATION, VERIFICATION AND CORRECTIONS

This bulletin draws on publicly available judicial records, United Nations sources, rights organisations and reliable news reporting. Event dates are distinguished from publication dates; the presumption of innocence is respected in ongoing proceedings. Information that cannot be independently verified is attributed to its source. Human-rights assessments identify relevant safeguards and do not substitute for final judicial findings. Images distinguish events, portraits and archive context; uncertainties concerning dates and permissions are indicated. Reports of factual errors are reviewed, and verified material corrections are incorporated into the text.

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