

SRL Swiss Human Rights Bulletin

Issue 4 | 20-26 October 2026 | Planned publication: 27 October 2026



Archive: A camp in Chad for people fleeing Sudan, 16 May 2023. Henry Wilkins / VOA, public domain. Not a photograph of this week's attacks.

Lead story | Civilian protection in Sudan

New statements on drone attacks in Sudan and testimony from El Fasher make the right to life and civilian protection this week's lead focus. The periods covered by casualty figures and the limits of source verification are stated separately.

Other highlights include returns to Afghanistan, protests and biometric surveillance in Europe; the death penalty in Iran; and civilian safety and healthcare workers in Palestine and Israel. New records from Myanmar and Bangladesh submitted by volunteers have been compared with their sources and included in the selection.

In this issue

2 Sudan • 3 Returns and child protection • 4 Freedoms in Europe • 5 Death penalty and press freedom • 6 Palestine, Israel and Yemen • 7 Myanmar, Bangladesh and Nigeria • 8 Follow-up and editorial principles

Content checked: 26 October 2026. This copy is for pre-publication review. Permission to reuse some source photographs has not yet been verified.

Cover photograph and usage record

Lead story | Civilian protection in Sudan



Archive / context: Chad, 16 May 2023. Henry Wilkins / VOA, public domain.

New statements: 23 and 26 October 2026 • Drone attack data: the first three weeks of October • El Fasher testimony: new research on earlier events.

Drone attacks and new testimony from El Fasher

Anadolu Agency and Sudan Tribune, citing UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk, report at least 306 deaths and hundreds of injuries in drone attacks during the first three weeks of October. This is not the toll for 20–26 October. Homes, markets, health facilities and displacement sites are among the places affected. Different attacks are attributed to the Sudanese army or the Rapid Support Forces (RSF); a single perpetrator must not be assumed for all incidents.

Amnesty International's separate research, published on 23 October, includes accounts from civilians leaving El Fasher of detention, torture, ransom demands, forced labour and denial of healthcare. It draws on August and September interviews with 19 residents and six aid workers. Amnesty says it sent its findings to the RSF on 9 October and had received no response by publication. The new development is the publication of these accounts.

26 October: Sanctions and support for survivors

On 26 October, the UK announced travel bans and asset freezes against 15 senior commanders from the Sudanese army and RSF over suspected serious abuses, including conflict-related sexual violence. It also announced £5 million for survivors of sexual violence and £10 million in humanitarian support. Sanctions are not criminal convictions; investigations into individual responsibility and protection for victims require follow-up.

UK Government • 26 October

Rights impact and verification

Safe escape, treatment and humanitarian assistance for civilians are urgent priorities. Common Article 3, the prohibition of torture, and the principles of distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack provide the relevant framework. The circumstances and responsibility for each attack require individual examination.

The OHCHR page could not be accessed directly. AA and Sudan Tribune relay the same UN statement; they are not two independent field counts. The El Fasher testimony comes from a separate investigation.

AA • UN statement • 23 October

Sudan Tribune • 25 October

Amnesty • El Fasher research • 23 October

Returns and child protection

Switzerland and Afghanistan: Protection safeguards



Afghanistan, 15 August 2026. EPA / Samiullah Popal, SWI. Archive; not a deportation scene.

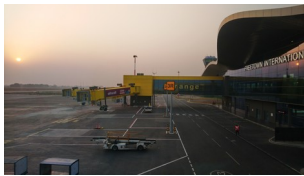
A WAV/Le Courrier investigation published by SWI on 24 October reports that personal data of Afghans facing deportation were shared with the Taliban administration. SEM states that three people were returned following talks in August 2025. SEM says the procedures rested on court decisions; lawyers challenge the data sharing and safety after return. Separately, UN experts warned EU states on 22 October against returning Afghans facing serious danger.

Rights and follow-up: ECHR Articles 3 and 8; Convention against Torture (CAT), Article 3. The investigation and UN statement are new developments. Post-return safety and individual risk assessments require monitoring; the statement is not a court ruling.

SWI • Documents and SEM response • 24 October

UN / UNRIC • Report of the 22 October statement

United States and Sierra Leone: Risk of onward removal



Freetown Airport, 28 January 2024. Davidbstanley / Commons, CCO. Archive; not the transfer.

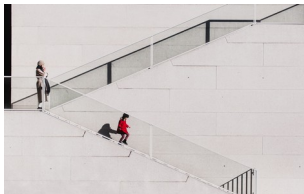
According to Amnesty's urgent appeal of 23 October, the US transferred three people with court protection against return to their countries of origin to Sierra Leone on 12 October, alongside five others. Amnesty reports that the three face onward removal to their home countries. A second transfer has not been confirmed.

Rights and follow-up: CAT Article 3; individual risk assessment. Follow up on current official responses and the individuals' whereabouts.

Amnesty • Urgent appeal • 23 October

Image source • Freetown / CCO

Switzerland: Children in the emergency assistance system



Asile.ch / Pexels source photograph. Illustrative; not the children in this report. Date unspecified.

On 21 October, Asile.ch published a call by the Refugee Parliament and around 30 organisations to improve children's housing, education and privacy. The underlying position paper is dated 4 October; this is not a new court ruling.

Rights and follow-up: Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 3, 16, 27 and 28. Monitor cantonal responses and practical improvements.

Asile.ch • Joint position • 21 October

Freedom of expression and security in Europe

France: Journalists' safety and racist violence



RSF source photograph, 21 October publication. Protests, not the Trappes attack. Date unspecified.

RSF's 21 October publication highlights violence and obstruction affecting journalists covering protests. LDH's challenges to demonstration bans are also relevant to peaceful assembly safeguards. In a separate case, LDH described an attack on 23 October in Trappes and La Verrière, in which one person died and five were injured, as racist and Islamophobic violence.

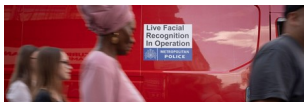
Rights and follow-up: ECHR Articles 2, 10, 11 and 14. The characterisation of motive is attributed to LDH; the prosecution file was not examined. Incidents affecting journalists and individual ban decisions require separate investigation.

RSF • France • 21 October

LDH • Trappes • 24 October

Council of Europe • Peaceful assembly safeguards

United Kingdom: Facial recognition planned for Oxford Street



Liberty source photograph of live facial recognition. Not the Oxford Street installation. Date unspecified.

According to Liberty's statement of 23 October, police plan to install fixed cameras with live facial recognition on Oxford Street in December. Liberty opposes expansion before a specific legal framework and independent oversight safeguards are in place. The cameras are not yet operating.

Rights and follow-up: ECHR Article 8; privacy, data protection and false matches. There is no finding of a violation concerning a specific individual at this stage.

Liberty • 23 October

Germany and Tajikistan: A deported activist's imprisonment



Asadullo Boboev. HRW source portrait. Date and photographer unspecified.

HRW reported on 22 October that Tajik activist Boboev, deported from Germany, had received a 17-year prison sentence. The case raises questions about risk assessment before removal and effective protection.

Rights and follow-up: CAT Article 3; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Articles 9 and 14. Independent examination of the full judgment and trial safeguards is needed.

HRW • Boboev • 22 October

Death penalty and press freedom

Iran: Separate death penalty cases



Ilya Ben-Rashid. HRANA, 21 October publication. Source portrait graphic; date unspecified.

HRANA reports that Ilya Ben-Rashid was notified of his death sentence on 20 October. IHR reports that more than 200 death-row prisoners at Ghezelhesar were notified of compulsory transfer, potentially increasing execution risks. IHR's 21 October report states that Manouchehr Fallah's sentence was upheld again and his case sent to the enforcement unit. These developments do not establish that the sentences have been carried out.

Rights and follow-up: ICCPR Articles 6 and 14: life and fair trial. Full judgments and the transfer order were not independently reviewed. Transfers, access to lawyers and avenues to halt executions need urgent monitoring.

HRANA • Ben-Rashid • 21 October

IHR • Ghezelhesar • 20 October

IHR • Fallah • 21 October

Azerbaijan: Lengthy prison terms sought for journalists



Baku, 19 September 2023. AFP / Tofik Babayev, CPJ. Archive; not a court hearing.

CPJ reports that prosecutors sought prison terms of up to 12 years for Meclis.info journalists. A prosecution request is not a sentence imposed by a court. The case is being monitored for the relationship between journalistic work and criminal allegations.

Rights and follow-up: ECHR Articles 5, 6 and 10. Follow the court's decision, evidence and defence objections.

CPJ • Meclis.info • October 2026

Türkiye: Mehmet Baransu and proceedings against journalists



Mehmet Baransu. Archive portrait from MLSA's 22 October report. Photograph date unspecified.

Mehmet Baransu's prolonged deprivation of liberty, dating from March 2015, remains under review. MLSA reported on 22 October that his slander trial, brought following Dursun Çiçek's complaint, was adjourned to 11 February 2027 for the prosecutor's final opinion. Baransu denied the charge and sought acquittal; the complainant reiterated his allegations. MLSA also reported the detention on remand of İsmail Arı and Murat Ağirel. The Ağirel announcement is dated 19 October and is included as follow-up to the previous period.

Rights and follow-up: ECHR Articles 5, 6 and 10. Baransu's remand and convicted-prisoner statuses in separate cases must be distinguished; the adjournment is not a new prison sentence.

MLSA • Baransu hearing • 22 October

CPJ • Mehmet Baransu case

MLSA • Weekly bulletin • 23 October

Protection in Palestine, Israel and Yemen

Palestine: Displacement in Hebron



Hebron, 8 September 2015. [بدارين](#) / Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0. Archive; not this week's operation.

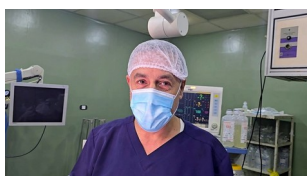
Reuters reported on 24 October, citing local officials, that around 1,200 Palestinians were displaced in Hebron during Israel's military operation. The figure comes from local officials and has not been independently verified. Movement restrictions and difficulties accessing homes affect daily life and safety.

Rights and follow-up: Civilian protection, housing, family life and access to healthcare. Monitor the operation's scope, opportunities to return and individual harm.

Reuters • Hebron • 24 October

AP • West Bank operation

Israel: Call to release doctors from Gaza



Dr Hussam Abu Safiya. Photograph supplied by Elyas Abu Safiya / ABC News. Date unspecified.

On 21 October, CIVICUS and Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHRI) called for the release of Dr Hussam Abu Safiya and 13 other doctors from Gaza. According to their joint statement, Israel is holding the doctors without charge. The organisations called for access to healthcare, lawyers and family members. The doctors' detention also makes access to treatment more difficult for patients in Gaza.

Rights and follow-up: Liberty and security, fair trial and health; prohibition of torture and ill-treatment. Each doctor's legal status and conditions of detention require separate monitoring.

CIVICUS / PHRI • Appeal for 14 doctors • 21 October

Image source • Dr Abu Safiya / ABC News

Yemen: Humanitarian assistance and civilian life in Taiz



Taiz, 6 June 2014. [Anas Alhaji](#) / Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0. Archive view.

A UN humanitarian briefing dated 23 October highlights the needs of around 800,000 people in Taiz. This is not a death toll or a count of new victims. Movement restrictions and obstacles to humanitarian access affect food, health and safe living conditions.

Rights and follow-up: Humanitarian access and civilian protection. Follow the period covered by the needs assessment and the obstacles to access.

UN • Yemen and humanitarian assistance • 23 October

Myanmar, Bangladesh and Nigeria

Myanmar: Separate attacks and newly documented deaths



© MSF. Source published 24 October.
Context image; not the attack.
Photograph date unspecified.

MSF reports two deaths and 17 injuries in the Sittwe incident on 23 October. AAPP's 22–23 October bulletins separately record two civilian deaths in the Pauktaw attack on 20 October and nine, including an infant, in the Paletwa port attack on 18 October. These are separate incidents. AAPP's 44 documented deaths of women and girls for 1–23 October are not a weekly total and must not be added to six unconfirmed reports or individual incident figures.

Rights and follow-up: Right to life; Common Article 3, distinction and precautions. Independent verification of AAPP's individual records remains pending.

MSF • Rakhine • 24 October

AAPP • 23 October

AAPP • 22 October

Bangladesh: Purbachal raid and summary proceedings



Lawyer Sara Hossain, a signatory to the appeal. The Daily Star source portrait; not the raid.

According to The Daily Star on 25 October, at least 85 people, including 26 women, were arrested in the 20 October raid and sentenced after brief proceedings. Four rights groups and 101 citizens sought an investigation and judicial review. Police allege that drugs were seized; rights groups challenge access to lawyers and the public exposure of identities.

Rights and follow-up: ICCPR Articles 9, 14 and 17. Judgment texts were not examined; allegations of unlawfulness are not final judicial findings.

The Daily Star • 25 October

Nigeria: Court action over social assistance funds



ECOWAS Court. SERAP source photograph with an emblem overlay. Photograph date unspecified.

SERAP announced on 25 October that it had filed a case at the ECOWAS Court concerning allegations involving more than 78.8 billion naira in social assistance expenditure. The audited spending relates to 2023–2024; the new development is the court application.

Rights and follow-up: Social protection and effective remedy. Filing a case is not a finding of a violation; the full audit report and government response were not reviewed.

SERAP • ECOWAS application • 25 October

Nigeria: Follow-up on restrictions on political expression



DW / Borno State Police. Seized T-shirts from the September incident. Photograph date unspecified.

DW's 20 October report describes the September arrest of five people in Borno in connection with "Tinubu Must Go" T-shirts, and the blocking of a meeting in Kano two weeks later. Police cite public order and suspected substances; rights defenders say political criticism is being punished. These arrests did not occur during this reporting week.

Rights and follow-up: Freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. Monitor the basis of the charges and subsequent proceedings.

DW • New report / earlier events • 20 October

Follow-up and editorial principles

Egypt: New documentation and continuing cases



Mining photograph from EFHR's 21 October statement. Date and photographer unspecified; not the attack.

EFHR's joint statement of 21 October calls for an independent investigation into deadly attacks on miners near the Sudanese border on 10 October. Its 20 October publication reports that around 125 relatives of dissidents have been detained since the second half of August; this is not a weekly total. The latest verified follow-up on the Matsadaash journalists is the extension of detention reported on 14 October.

Rights and follow-up: Life, liberty and effective investigation. Egypt's responsibility for the attacks and individual detention cases require further examination.

EFHR • Attacks on miners • 21 October

EFHR • Detention of relatives • 20 October

Kenya: Follow-up on a new report about earlier protests



© Amnesty International. Source photograph from the 19 October report; photograph date unspecified.

Amnesty International's 19 October report documents allegations of arbitrary arrest, abduction, torture, surveillance and interference with journalists during the 2023–2025 protests. It draws on interviews with 102 people and documentary review. Amnesty says the state bodies sent its findings had not responded by publication. The report belongs to the previous bulletin period and appears here as follow-up.

Rights and follow-up: Liberty, prohibition of torture and peaceful assembly. Monitor effective investigations and remedies for victims.

Amnesty • Report announcement • 19 October

Follow-up on earlier cases



Shampa Goswami / Front Line Defenders. Archive portrait; date unspecified.

No new final decision was verified on returns from Switzerland to Türkiye or the Colleen Madden case. Shampa Goswami's protection needs continue. IHR's 23 October publication reports an execution risk for Kolsoom Akbari; the appeal statement is dated 6 October.

INQUEST • Colleen Madden inquest

Front Line Defenders • Shampa Goswami

IHR • Kolsoom Akbari • 23 October

Selection and scope

SRL Swiss selects stories for its weekly Human Rights Bulletin according to the gravity of abuses, public and legal importance, reliable and verifiable sources, geographical and thematic diversity, and follow-up needs. Verified facts are distinguished from allegations, and material limitations and relevant responses are stated. The bulletin is not an exhaustive record of all human rights violations worldwide.

This issue follows 13–19 October without a gap. Next period: 27 October–2 November 2026. Source links appear beneath the relevant stories. Archive photographs do not depict current events. Legal analysis does not replace final judicial findings.

Last checked: 26 October 2026 • English edition, based on Turkish v08 • Updated with volunteer contributions. Institutional publication approval and the stated image permissions remain pending. Corrections: info@srlswiss.com.