SRL SWISS

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Weekly monitoring of human rights and the rule of law

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Congo: civilians under fire in Ituri

Water and health services serving 76,000 people disrupted



Plaine Savo displacement camp, Fataki–Ituri, April 2026. © MSF. Archive photograph; not an image of the late-October attack. Image source

• OCHA reported the suspension of water trucking and health and nutrition services.

• Local civil society reported further deaths and injuries around the camp.

• Loss of safe access threatens outbreak monitoring and already fragile living conditions.

This issue examines how violence affects people both directly and by cutting off services essential to survival. Alongside Congo, we review new developments in Myanmar and Gaza, together with the protection of women, labour rights, education, voting rights, personal liberty and freedom of belief.

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Sources: OCHA / APO, 30.10.2026 • Bunia Actualité, 30.10.2026

Lead story | Democratic Republic of the Congo

ITURI / PLAINE SAVO | New clashes • 27–30 October 2026

Safety, water and access to treatment threatened at a displacement site



Observation area at the MSF-supported advanced care unit in Plaine Savo, April 2026. © MSF. Archive photograph; it does not show the state of services this week. Image source

A statement distributed on behalf of OCHA on 30 October reports that fighting near Plaine Savo camp in Ituri has trapped families and disrupted humanitarian relief. Access constraints led to the suspension of water trucking and health and nutrition services on which approximately 76,000 people depend. This figure is neither an injury count nor a finding that everyone has lost access to every service.

In a 30 October report by Bunia Actualité, local civil society representative Salomon Pinzile Lolé said three people had been killed and six injured around the camp the previous day. He attributed the attacks to CODECO militias. The report states that these figures were not independently verified and that no incident-specific statement from FARDC or MONUSCO was available.

OCHA, meanwhile, cites reports of at least three deaths and five injuries since 27 October. The sources cover different periods and give different injury counts; we do not add their figures together. Fighting involving other armed groups in nearby Bule should not be added to this civilian toll either.

Human rights implications

SRL assessment: Violence around the camp affects life and physical integrity as well as access to clean water, food and treatment. Obstructing safe exit and the entry of aid reduces the options available to families already displaced. The three Ebola cases that OCHA says were confirmed at the camp in mid-September are not new cases this week; they provide context for the effect of current disruption on outbreak monitoring.

Legal basis and follow-up

Parties to the conflict must protect civilians and allow and facilitate the passage of impartial humanitarian relief: customary international humanitarian law, Rules 1 and 55. Articles 11–12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are also relevant to health, water and adequate living conditions. Priorities are restoring safe humanitarian access, treating the wounded, investigating reported deaths and documenting the effects of disruption on patients.

Sources: OCHA / APO, service disruption, 30.10.2026 • Bunia Actualité, local casualty report, 30.10.2026 • ICRC, humanitarian access, Rule 55

Protection of civilians and health services

MYANMAR | Attacks: 1 November • Report: 2 November

Airstrikes hit a maternity clinic and civilian transport route



Yochaung bridge on the Kyauktaw–Ponnagyun route after the 1 November 2026 attack. Photograph: Arakan Army (AA) / DVB; supplied by a party to the conflict. Image source

According to DVB interviews with aid worker Wai Hun Aung and residents who requested anonymity, airstrikes hit a bridge and a temporary maternity clinic in Rakhine on 1 November. The aid worker reported seven deaths and ten injuries at the bridge. The report states that five people, including a baby, were killed and nine injured at the clinic in Mrauk-U.

The Arakan Army reported a total of 12 civilians killed and 32 injured across four locations. This total comes from a party to the conflict and must not be added again to individual incident figures. Residents said the clinic provided postnatal and infant care. The report reviewed contains no military statement addressing these specific attacks.

Rights and law: Protection of medical units (customary humanitarian law, Rule 28), distinction between civilians and military objectives, and precautions in attack. An investigation should examine target selection and the impact on healthcare; the wounded must have safe access to treatment.

Sources: DVB, Rakhine airstrikes, 02.11.2026 • ICRC, medical units, Rule 28

PALESTINE / ISRAEL | New attacks and statement • 29 October

Civilian casualties in Gaza; patients waiting to leave for treatment



Archive photograph taken after fatalities in Gaza. Source: Anadolu Agency; its 29 October report gives neither the photograph's date nor the photographer. It does not show the current attack. Image source

Anadolu Agency's 29 October report, citing local sources, states that four employees were killed and 30 people injured in an attack on an Economy Ministry post in al-Mawasi; these figures come from Gaza's government media office. A medical source at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital said two bodies and injured people were brought to the hospital following an attack on a vehicle near Maghazi.

The same day, Gaza's Health Ministry said 21,468 sick and injured people were waiting for treatment abroad, including 6,430 priority cases. These figures, reported by Saba, describe a waiting list, not new injuries this week. The reports reviewed contain no response from Israeli authorities addressing these specific incidents.

SRL assessment: Civilian protection and access to treatment for the sick and wounded must be addressed together. The targets of the attacks and precautions taken should be investigated; medical evacuation should be based on actual health needs without discrimination (Fourth Geneva Convention, Articles 16–17).

Sources: AA, Gaza attacks, 29.10.2026 • Gaza Health Ministry / Saba, 29.10.2026

Displacement and essential services

ETHIOPIA | New witness accounts • 30 October

Attack on a camp for displaced families



Images published as showing destruction at Jari 2 camp. Source: Addis Standard / The Eastleigh Voice, 30 October 2026; photographer not identified. Image source

An Addis Standard report based on interviews with camp residents, published by The Eastleigh Voice on 30 October, reports that a drone attack killed 16 people and injured 22 at Hayiq Jari 2 camp in Amhara. Witnesses said families were in their shelters during intermittent strikes; the injured were taken to hospitals in Hayiq and Dessie.

Interviewees said more than 20 shelters burned and families were separated while fleeing. These are witness accounts; the death toll, perpetrator and target have not been independently established. The word “today” in the republished text means the event date requires separate verification; 30 October here is the report’s publication date.

SRL assessment: An investigation addressing the right to life and civilian protection should examine target selection, repeated strikes and precautions for civilians. Treatment of the wounded, tracing separated families and safe accommodation must be addressed alongside accountability.

Sources: Addis Standard / Eastleigh Voice, 30.10.2026

HAITI | New announcement of service disruption • 28 October

Violence halts healthcare and clean water distribution



Patients waiting at an MSF mobile clinic in Bel Air, Port-au-Prince, 19 December 2025. Archive: MSF; not a photograph of this week’s events. Image source

MSF said it had been forced to suspend mobile clinics and treated-water distribution in neighbourhoods affected by fighting in Port-au-Prince. Road and bridge closures mean injured people take hours to reach hospitals.

Its 28 October statement stresses that, in a city whose health system is already severely weakened, this disruption leaves civilians exposed both to violence and to loss of essential services. The 30 injured people cited by MSF relate to 18–26 October, not new injuries this week. The development included in this issue is the announcement that services had been suspended.

Rights and law: The right to health and access to safe water; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Articles 11–12. Safe passage for patients and protection of health workers are urgent priorities.

Sources: MSF, 28.10.2026

Protection of women and freedom of belief

KOSOVO | New investigative action • 29 October

Woman killed despite protection order: 11 police officers suspended



Kosovo Police Inspectorate (IPK) uniform; institutional context image. Source: KosovaPress, 29 October 2026. Image source

The Kosovo Police Inspectorate announced the suspension of 11 police officers in the case of Arlinda Zekaj, killed on 25 October. According to preliminary findings reported by KosovaPress on 29 October, no record was found showing enforcement of a protection order dated 7 September; an order dated 16 October was enforced six days later.

The Inspectorate also said a request for risk assessment and patrol support submitted on 23 October had not been addressed. This week's development is the action initiated over possible failures in protection, rather than a retelling of the killing. Suspension does not establish the officers' criminal responsibility.

Rights and law: Women's lives and protection from violence. Timely action against known risks, enforcement of protection orders and independent investigation are essential; issuing an order alone does not ensure effective protection.

Sources: KosovaPress / Police Inspectorate, 29.10.2026

EGYPT | New decision • 1 November 2026

Release ordered for 19 Shia Muslims



Context image accompanying EIPR's 1 November statement; not a photograph of the people whose release was ordered. Image source

The Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR) reported that the release of 19 Shia Muslims arrested in June had been ordered while the investigation continues. The organisation also calls for the release of others held in the same case and for the charges to be dropped.

This week's concrete development is the decision dated 1 November. It does not amount to an acquittal or closure of the investigation. Completion of actual releases and the next stage of proceedings require separate verification.

Rights and law: Freedom of religion or belief and personal liberty; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 18 and 9. Depriving people of liberty solely because of their beliefs is incompatible with these safeguards.

Sources: EIPR, 01.11.2026

Voting rights and access to education

UNITED STATES | Order: 30 October • Appeal: 31 October

Temporary judicial protection against pressure on election officials



Officials processing ballot envelopes in Santa Ana, 28 October 2026. Photograph: Apu Gomes/Getty Images; Democracy Docket. Image source

In the case brought by SEIU and other plaintiffs, the US District Court for the Northern District of California temporarily barred the Justice and Homeland Security departments from threatening election officials to force them not to process certain ballots. The 30 October order also limits federal demands to segregate or not count ballots based on allegations that voters are ineligible.

The judge found a likely violation of Section 11(b) of the Voting Rights Act and a risk of irreparable harm. This is emergency temporary relief, not a final judgment establishing a violation. The government appealed on 31 October. The order provides for the restraint to remain in force until 16 November and a hearing on 13 November.

SRL assessment: Threats of criminal prosecution against election officials may undermine voting rights by obstructing the processing of lawful ballots. Implementation of the order and the outcome of the appeal require monitoring; this measure does not determine each voter's individual eligibility.

Sources: SEIU v. DOJ, order, 30.10.2026, pp.4–8 • Government notice of appeal, 31.10.2026 • Democracy Docket, 31.10.2026

AZERBAIJAN | New interviews • 30 October

Girls wearing headscarves continue to face barriers to schooling



Protest against headscarf restrictions. Context image on Meydan TV's page; location and date not verified. It does not depict this week's accounts of events at school gates. Image source

An activist interviewed by Caucasian Knot on 30 October said students wearing headscarves arrived at school gates with their families but returned home after being refused entry. Some families reportedly seek home education and avoid public complaints for fear of pressure. The activist also said precise statistics were unavailable; these accounts cannot establish a national total.

Meydan TV's 9 October report describes education authorities' clothing inspections and the regulation's secularism rationale, noting that the text does not explicitly name headscarves. This older report provides legal and visual context. The new element this week is the continuing loss of education described in the 30 October interviews; the report reviewed contains no specific official response to these accounts.

Rights and law: Education, non-discrimination and freedom of religion; Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 2, 14 and 28. The exclusionary effects of clothing rules and less restrictive alternatives should be examined.

Sources: Caucasian Knot, 30.10.2026 • Meydan TV, background, 09.10.2026

Personal liberty and the prohibition of torture

KENYA | New hearing development • 2 November

Missing activist not produced before the court



Archive portrait of Twaha Mwaipaya. Photograph: Handout / Citizen Digital; date not specified. Image source

According to Citizen Digital's report on the 2 November hearing, Twaha Mwaipaya was not produced before the court. Petitioners' lawyer Martha Karua asked police chiefs to appear in person and explain his whereabouts. State counsel Christopher Marwa opposed the request, saying inquiries were continuing. The judge's next procedural decision was pending when the report was published.

On 30 October, the court had ordered the activist's production on 2 November and an explanation of the legal basis for his detention. Vocal Africa's petition alleges that Mwaipaya was abducted in Kamulu on 25 October. The new developments this week are his non-production despite the order and the demand for accountability at the hearing; responsibility for the alleged abduction has not been established.

Rights and law: Personal liberty and judicial review of detention under Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Establishing his whereabouts, ensuring his safety and informing his family are priorities.

Sources: Citizen Digital, 02.11.2026 • Citizen Digital, 30.10.2026

IRAN | New information • 29 October

Torture complaint reportedly referred to the accused investigator



The Rahimi sisters and lawyer Amirsalar Davoudi. Archive portrait collage: Iran Human Rights, 29 October 2026; photographer not identified. Image source

Iran Human Rights reported that Romina and Taraneh Rahimi's torture complaint had been referred to the investigator named in it as the alleged perpetrator. According to the organisation, their new lawyer is also being denied access to the case file. Taraneh faces the death penalty and Romina a lengthy prison sentence.

The same statement reports that lawyer Amirsalar Davoudi, who has been following the case, has been unable to contact his family since 11 October. Information about torture, coerced statements and denial of access comes from the organisation and its source; the statement contains no specific response from judicial authorities.

Rights and law: Prohibition of torture and fair trial guarantees under Articles 7 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Denial of access to defence in a capital case may have irreversible consequences; the torture complaint must be examined independently.

Sources: Iran Human Rights, 29.10.2026

Forced labour and life in detention

CAMBODIA / BANGLADESH | New investigative action • 27 October

Two suspects arrested over alleged forced online fraud



CID officers and two suspects after the 27 October operation. CID / TBS. Those pictured are not the victims; their guilt has not been established. Image source

Bangladesh's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) said it arrested two suspects in Dhaka on 27 October over allegations that two men taken to Cambodia with promises of work were sold to a scam centre. According to CID, their passports were confiscated and they were forced to commit online fraud under threat of ill-treatment; money was demanded from their families for their release.

The two men had returned home with BRAC's support on 3 September; the case was filed on 26 October. This week's development is the arrests. TBS and Dhaka Tribune report the same CID statement, not two independent confirmations from victims. The reports reviewed contain neither a defence statement nor a court ruling.

Rights and law: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 7–9; protection against ill-treatment and forced labour, and personal liberty. Coercion must be investigated; victims' access to safe accommodation, healthcare, legal support and remedies should be monitored alongside the investigation.

Sources: TBS, trafficking case, 27.10.2026 • Dhaka Tribune, 27.10.2026

NIGERIA | New inquiry findings • 27–30 October

Inquiry findings point to preventable deaths in custody



NSCDC Niger State headquarters. Source: Premium Times, 30 October 2026; photograph date and photographer not specified. Image source

The final inquiry report reviewed by Premium Times on 30 October states that 33 people, including 14 children, died in an NSCDC cell in Minna on 16–17 September. According to the report, approximately 50 people were held in a poorly ventilated 12-square-metre cell; pleas for help and warnings from personnel went unanswered.

The report was submitted to the Interior Minister on 27 October. AP's initial report that day gave 37 deaths, while the account citing the final report gives 33; we therefore do not assert a single definitive total. This week's development is the inquiry's findings, not the deaths themselves.

Rights and law: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 6 and 10; life and humane treatment. Article 37 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child requires separation from adults unless the child's best interests dictate otherwise. Independent investigation and remedies require follow-up.

Sources: Premium Times, 30.10.2026 • AP/ABC, 27.10.2026

Follow-up and publication principles

No new information was verified concerning the Gaza doctors covered in the previous issue. Earlier stories have not been repeated. Event and publication dates are distinguished; allegations are attributed to their sources. The presumption of innocence is respected; SRL assessments are not judicial findings. Archive images are identified and verified factual errors corrected.

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