

SRL Swiss | Human Rights Bulletin

Weekly monitoring of human rights and the rule of law

Period: 28 September - 5 October 2026 | Data cut-off: 5 October 2026 | Publication: 6 October 2026 | Geneva, Switzerland

MAIN FOCUS | EGYPT



The six detained Matsadaash journalists. Source/Photo: TIMEP, via Human Rights Watch.

Detention of Matsadaash's editorial team in Egypt

- Six journalists were detained on 28-29 September.
- On 4 October, Mohamed Ashraf Abu Emeira was ordered held in pre-trial detention for 15 days pending investigation following approximately 10 hours of questioning.
- On 5 October, EIPR reported that most of the journalists told prosecutors that they had been subjected to torture and compelled to record camera 'confessions'. These are allegations conveyed by defence counsel, not independent judicial findings.

EDITOR'S FOCUS

Press freedom, arbitrary deprivation of liberty, the prohibition of torture, fair-trial guarantees, the death penalty, non-refoulement and the protection of civilians in armed conflict were among the principal concerns monitored by SRL Swiss.

MAIN FILE | EGYPT

Matsadaash: detention, prosecution proceedings and allegations of torture

Egyptian security forces detained the six-member Egypt-based editorial team of the independent fact-checking and investigative journalism platform Matsadaash on 28-29 September. Human Rights Watch and EIPR reported that the six individuals constituted the platform's entire editorial team in Egypt.

Egypt's Ministry of Interior accused the platform of producing 'fabricated news' and of links to the Muslim Brotherhood. The platform denied those allegations. No publicly available final judicial ruling substantiating those allegations was identified in the sources reviewed.

On 4 October, Mohamed Ashraf Abu Emeira appeared before the Supreme State Security Prosecution. According to EIPR, after questioning lasting approximately 10 hours, the prosecution ordered his detention for 15 days pending investigation. The allegations put to him included joining a 'terrorist' group, spreading false news, and using social media for that purpose.

On 5 October, EIPR reported, on the basis of statements relayed by defence lawyers, that most of the journalists told prosecutors they had been subjected to ill-treatment including having their hands tied behind their backs, being blindfolded, beaten, forcibly stripped, subjected to electric shocks, and threatened with harm to family members. EIPR also reported allegations that the journalists were compelled to read prepared statements on camera.

VERIFICATION / OUTSTANDING UNCERTAINTY

The allegations of torture and compelled recorded 'confessions' are based on statements relayed by defence counsel to EIPR. They should not be presented as findings independently established by a court or investigative authority.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Liberty and prompt judicial review: ICCPR Article 9; prohibition of torture and ill-treatment: Article 7; fair-trial guarantees: Article 14; freedom of expression and the press: Article 19.

Source: [Human Rights Watch - 2 October](#)

Source: [EIPR - 4 October](#)

Source: [EIPR - 5 October](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

Sudan | Air strike on WFP aid trucks



Context photo: WFP food-assistance operations in Sudan. Photo: WFP/Mohamed Galal. This image does not depict the 3 October attack itself.

On 3 October, two WFP-contracted trucks travelling from Dilling to Kadugli in South Kordofan, and clearly marked as humanitarian vehicles, were struck in an aerial attack. One driver was killed. WFP called for a prompt and impartial investigation.

Legal framework: The protection of humanitarian personnel, civilians and humanitarian relief operations is a core obligation under international humanitarian law.

Source: [WFP - 4 October](#)

Iraq | Proceedings concerning 5,704 detainees



Photo: Detainees at Al-Karkh Central Prison in Baghdad following transfer from north-east Syria, 12 February 2026. Photo: Hadi Mizban/AP; carried in reporting on the same detainee file.

Human Rights Watch raised concerns regarding proceedings involving 5,704 men and boys transferred from north-east Syria to Iraq earlier in 2026, including allegations of torture, serious illness, deaths in custody, the treatment of children, and the risk of capital punishment for adults. Iraqi authorities denied allegations of ill-treatment and stated that complaints would be investigated.

Legal framework: ICCPR Articles 6, 7, 9 and 14; for children, CRC Articles 37 and 40.

Source: [Human Rights Watch - 5 October](#)

MIGRATION, NON-REFOULEMENT AND PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

Malaysia / Myanmar | Return of 1,476 people

Malaysia

1,476

Myanmar

29 September 2026 - including children

On 29 September, Malaysia returned 1,476 Myanmar nationals, including children, to Myanmar. UNHCR stated that because it lacked access to immigration detention centres, it could not assess whether the returns were genuinely voluntary and informed, and expressed concern that persons in need of international protection may have been among those returned.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

UNHCR considers the principle of non-refoulement to form part of customary international law binding on all States. For children, Articles 3 and 22 of the CRC are additionally relevant.

Source: [UNHCR - 30 September](#)

Myanmar | Air strike on a market area in Rakhine



Photo: Aftermath of the 28 September air strike near a market in Kyauktaw, Rakhine State. Source: AFP/AP imagery carried by international media.

On 28 September, an air strike hit a heavily used market area in Kyauktaw, Rakhine State. Initial reports indicated approximately 50 civilian deaths and at least 58 people seriously injured. Casualty figures are based on early reporting from an active conflict setting and may change as further verification becomes available.

Legal framework: The rules of distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack, together with the protection of civilians, are central rules of international humanitarian law.

Source: [Reuters - 29 September](#)

RIGHT TO LIFE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Iran | Execution of the death sentence imposed on Siavash Jamshidi-Kheirabadi

Iranian judicial authorities announced that the death sentence imposed on Siavash Jamshidi-Kheirabadi, who had been detained in connection with the January 2026 protests, had been carried out. Human rights organisations raised concerns regarding the fairness of the proceedings and interrogation conditions.

Legal framework: Article 6(2) of the ICCPR limits the death penalty, in States that have not abolished it, to the 'most serious crimes'. Article 14 fair-trial guarantees must be applied with particular strictness in capital cases.

Source: [Iran Human Rights - 3 October](#)

Colombia | Death of Keiner Banguera

On 2 October, social leader Keiner Banguera died during a security-force operation in El Charco, Nariño. Colombia's Ombudsman's Office stated that differing hypotheses existed as to the circumstances of the death and called on the Fiscalía to prioritise the investigation and examine the operational protocols used.

Legal framework: The right to life and the duty to conduct an independent, effective and prompt investigation into the circumstances of a death.

Source: [Defensoría del Pueblo - 4 October](#)

VERIFICATION / OUTSTANDING UNCERTAINTY

The precise circumstances of Banguera's death and any potential responsibility of security-force personnel have not yet been conclusively established.

BRIEF NOTES

Nigeria | Detentions in Borno and allegations of pressure on dissent

Amnesty International reported that 11 young men had been held at Maiduguri Maximum Prison since 28 August and characterised the accusations against them as politically motivated. In a separate incident, five people wearing 'Tinubu Must Go' T-shirts were arrested; police rejected the claim that they had been detained solely because of their political views.

Source: [Premium Times - 5 October](#)

Kenya | Reported detention of MUHURI staff and activists

Context photo: MUHURI human-rights workshop/community activity in Kenya. Source: MUHURI's official social-media account. This image does not depict the 29 September detention incident.

On 29 September, six MUHURI staff members and activists were reported to have been taken by uniformed individuals on the Lamu-Malindi road. The circumstances of the incident and the institutional identity of those responsible for the detention require clarification through an independent investigation.

United Kingdom | William Cameron trial begins

Photo: Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London. Source: Wikimedia Commons.

Proceedings against nurse Sean Cregg for gross negligence manslaughter began at the Old Bailey on 1 October in connection with the 2020 death of 38-year-old William Cameron while in police custody. Cregg denies the charges.

Source: [INQUEST - William Cameron](#)

RIGHTS AND CASE LAW

Afghanistan | Alleged imprisonment following a request for divorce

Rukhshana Media reported that a 26-year-old woman, identified by the pseudonym 'Marhaba' for security reasons, had been held in prison for approximately four months with her infant and three-year-old child after seeking a divorce from a husband whom she said had subjected her to violence. The core factual account is based on statements from the woman's lawyer and relatives.

Legal framework: Arbitrary deprivation of liberty: ICCPR Article 9; humane conditions of detention: Article 10; for children, CRC Articles 3 and 37.

Source: [Rukhshana Media - 1 October](#)

ECtHR | Decisions and Case Law



European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg. Source: European Court of Human Rights.

Korkmaz and Others v. Türkiye

29 September 2026

The ECtHR held that an approach treating ByLock use, by itself, as conclusive proof of all elements of the offence and effectively imposing objective criminal liability was incompatible with Article 7 ECHR. The Court referred to the possibility of reopening the domestic proceedings.

[HUDOC judgment](#)

K.A. v. Cyprus

1 October 2026

The Court examined the detention of an asylum seeker on national-security grounds and found a violation of Article 5 § 1 ECHR. It found no violation of Article 5 § 4.

[HUDOC judgment](#)

TO WATCH

United Kingdom	A fresh inquest into Anthony Whittle's death is due to begin on 6 October.
Iraq	The proceedings concerning the 5,704 detainees will be monitored for individualised criminal responsibility, access to counsel, investigation of torture allegations, the status of children and any use of the death penalty.
Egypt	Prosecutorial, forensic-medical and detention developments relating to the Matsadaash journalists' torture allegations will be monitored.

PUBLICATION AND VERIFICATION PRINCIPLES

The SRL Swiss Human Rights Bulletin is prepared on the basis of publicly available judicial decisions, United Nations mechanisms, international and national human rights organisations, reliable media sources and verifiable open-source material. The date of the underlying event is distinguished from the date of publication or subsequent developments. The presumption of innocence is respected in ongoing investigations and proceedings, and information that cannot be independently verified is expressly attributed to its source.

CORRECTIONS AND RIGHT OF REPLY

Reports of material error, significant omission or incorrect attribution are reviewed. Material corrections that are verified are transparently reflected in the published text.

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