

Jordan

Adaptation of the cybercrimes law

The Jordanian parliament introduced a new cybercrimes law on 27.07.23. Media professionals and human rights activists criticised the law's broad definitions of criminal offences considering it as a further threat to freedom of expression. According to human rights organisations, freedom of expression has already been continuously curtailed in recent years and political opposition has been largely suppressed. The new law would endanger the right to anonymity of internet users and increase government control on internet platforms, the organisations say. Jordan's prime minister refuted the criticism, citing increased online crime, hate speech on the internet and the spread of misinformation as reasons for the necessity of the law. The law allows courts to order websites, social media platforms or public account operators to delete content that meets the law's broad criteria, as well as to surrender relevant information, including personal data.

Kuwait

Five death sentences carried out

Kuwaiti authorities announced on 27.07.23 that they had carried out five death sentences by hanging. Three of the five executed persons had been convicted of murder, they included one Egyptian and one Kuwaiti national. Another person was from Sri Lanka and had been convicted of drug smuggling. One of those executed was also a Bidoon, who are descendants of the nomadic population of Kuwait and are considered stateless by the government. He was convicted for his involvement in a bomb attack on a Shia mosque in 2015 for which IS claimed responsibility. 27 people lost their lives at the time and 220 were wounded. Media reported that at his trial he was accused of driving the Saudi bomber to the mosque in Kuwait City.

The last time seven death sentences were carried out in Kuwait was in November 2022, while no executions had previously been carried out since 2017.

Lebanon

Clashes in Ain al-Hilwa

On the night of 30.07.23, Fatah and an armed Islamist group clashed in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain al-Hilwa near the southern Lebanese town of Sayyida/Sidon. According to reports, assault rifles, grenades and mortar shells were used in the fighting, which continued until Sunday evening. Official reports say that five Fatah members and one member of the Islamist group died and others were injured.

The Lebanese military has no access to the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. These are under self-administration and regularly experience escalating violence.

Liberia

Attack on mine

Unidentified armed persons attacked the Tokadeh mines owned by the Arcelor Mittal Liberia (AML) mining company in Yekepa, Nimba State on 28.07.23. The attackers looted and caused damage including to mining facilities, according to media reports. Reportedly, one staff member was injured. Locals and employees had protested against the mining company in the past over wage arrears and other issues. AML's locomotives have also been repeatedly attacked by violent actors.

Mali

Sanctions imposed on politicians

On 24.07.23, the US government announced that it will impose sanctions against several senior politicians in Mali. The reason given was their support of mercenaries of the Russian Wagner Group. The number of civilian deaths in