



THE NEXUS NEWSLETTER

Hundreds Dead in Al-Ahli Hospital Strike

Gaza has been under siege by Israel, for the past weeks. Hospitals are engaged in the overwhelming struggle of sheltering wounded people across the territory. [Read more on page 3]

Important Discussions Regarding the Iran Nuclear Deal

The agreement has been a pillar of global diplomacy since it aims to limit Iran's nuclear aspirations while easing economic pressure through the lifting of sanctions. [Read more on Page 2]

Syria Faces ICJ Hearing as Canada and Netherlands Pursue Torture Convention Violation Claims

Canada and the Netherlands requested *interim measures* to preserve the exercise of rights under the Convention against Torture, provisions of which Syria allegedly violates. [Read more on Page 6]

French Regulatory Authorities Concerned About IOS 17.1 Radiation Levels

This update will specifically target radiation levels on the iPhone 12 as a response to concerns raised by the French watchdog, regarding potential breaches of European radiation exposure limits. [Read more on page 1]

History of Abortion in Poland

Almost as in every country, abortion in Poland has a fluctuating history. Between the years of 1956 and 1993, abortion was widely accessible on therapeutic and socioeconomic grounds in Poland. It was frequently used as a means of birth control due to a lack of availability and use of contraceptives. However, in 1997 abortion based on the account of socioeconomic grounds was repealed by the Constitutional Court. [Read more on page 4]

US Supreme Court Independence and Impartiality

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French Regulatory Authorities Concerned About iOS 17.1 Radiation Levels

By Anna Mrazova



Apple is expected to launch iOS 17.1 following the reports from a French regulatory body. This update will specifically target radiation levels on the iPhone 12 as a response to concerns raised by the French watchdog, regarding potential breaches of European radiation exposure limits.

It has been confirmed that Apple has already developed and validated the software update, which brings the iPhone 12's specific absorption rates in line with European permissible limits.

The update has already been made available to some beta testers and was released to all iPhone 12 users on the 24th of October. Until this update had been released, selling the iPhone 12 in France remained prohibited. Initially, Apple denied these allegations but subsequently agreed to resolve the radiation level concerns through the forthcoming iOS update. Moreover, Apple has proactively released updates for older models, such as the iOS 16.7.1 update earlier this month, which addressed two security vulnerabilities.



Important Discussions Regarding the Iran Nuclear Deal

By Frida Wilka Gonzalez



The Vienna negotiations, which are about to approach a crucial stage, have drawn interest from all around the world because they have the ability to revive the JCPOA, a significant deal that was first signed in 2015.

The agreement has been a pillar of global diplomacy as it aims to limit Iran's nuclear aspirations while easing economic pressure through the lifting of sanctions. With the United States, the European Union, Russia, China, and Iran all involved and each with their own interests and concerns, the current negotiations are intricate and multidimensional.

Even if the talks have taken a while, they are a crucial diplomatic measure to avoid possible armed violence in the area. In addition to preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, a successful conclusion would impact regional conflicts and the likelihood of deeper engagement with Iran, which may have consequences for human rights and the economy.

The negotiations are being watched by the entire world, and they highlight the complex relationship that exists between international law, political concerns, and human rights in a global setting.



Hundreds Dead in Al-Ahli Hospital Strike

Deniz Uder



In response to October 7th's deadly incursion by Hamas, Gaza has been under siege by Israel for the last several weeks. Food, fuel and electricity has been cut-off by Israel, with even crucial humanitarian aid being denied entry.

During this period the Al-Ahli Hospital had been sheltering thousands of displaced civilians when it was bombed on the 18th of October. The Palestinian Health Ministry reported hundreds of dead bodies after the bombing of the hospital by Israel. Furthermore, it was stated that many people were stuck under the rubble of the destroyed hospital.

While Hamas blamed an Israeli air strike, the Israeli Defense Forces denied any claims about the involvement in the hospital attack. Instead, the Israeli Defense Forces claim that what caused the Al-Ahli Hospital attack was a rocket that was misfired by other Palestinian militants, namely the Palestinian Jihad group.

Due to the drastic siege faced by the population of Gaza, hospitals across the territory are facing the tremendous struggle of sheltering and treating those that have been wounded. At the same time, vital humanitarian aid has been waiting at the borders of Gaza despite the diplomatic efforts to open up a canal through Egypt. The United Nations has stated that assurances of safe passage are needed before the pile-up of crucial aid convoys is to enter Gaza.



History of Abortion In Poland

By Natasha Remba



Almost as in every country, abortion in Poland has a fluctuating history. Between the years of 1956 and 1993, abortion was widely accessible on therapeutic and socioeconomic grounds in Poland. It was frequently used as a means of birth control due to a lack of availability and use of contraceptives. However, in 1997 abortions based on the account of socioeconomic grounds were repealed by the Constitutional Court.

In 1993 The Family Planning Act was created and was used to redefine the criteria to receive an abortion. It stated that abortion was only permitted in three circumstances, (1) when the pregnancy posed a threat to the life or health of the pregnant woman; (2) when prenatal examinations or other medical conditions indicated that there was a high probability of a severe and irreversible fetal defect or incurable illness that threatened the fetus's life; and (3) when there was a reasonable suspicion that the pregnancy was the result of an unlawful Act.

Furthermore, in October 2020, the Constitutional Court removed 'fetal defects' as a grounds for abortion (96% of abortions) which has caused uproar and has caused Poland to have been repeatedly called on by various international human rights bodies to improve the quality of women's access to health care.



US Supreme Court: Independence and Impartiality

By Aliya Merimeche



Over the previous year, the independence and impartiality of the Supreme Court of the United States has come into question. Recent bills in congress pose a danger to the separation of powers of the United States' government and the independence of its judiciary.

Under federal law, justices are required to disqualify themselves if their impartiality could be questioned. However, bills in congress dive into the inner workings of the court itself. This includes a proposal that justices adopt a code of conduct consisting of "judicial investigation panels" and would impose standards where disqualification motions can be reviewable.

This would turn Supreme Court litigation into a political circus and diminish public confidence in the impartiality of the court. In combination with impartiality, judicial independence has been under threat as Justice Clarence Thomas did not disclose luxury travel paid by a Republican Donor. This has been perceived as "greater than a mere ethics violation" and calls into question; the legitimacy of the court.



Syria Faces ICJ Hearing as Canada and Netherlands Pursue Torture Convention Violation Claims

By Tamari Vardiashvili



On 10-11 October 2023, the International Court of Justice held public hearings in the case Application of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Canada and The Netherlands v. Syrian Arab Republic).

On 8 June 2023, Canada and The Netherlands had filed a joint Application instituting proceedings against the Syrian Arab Republic before the ICJ, concerning alleged violations of the Torture Convention. In their Application, Canada and the Netherlands contend that “Syria has committed countless violations of international law, beginning at least in 2011, with its violent repression of civilian demonstrations, which continued as the situation in Syria devolved into a protracted armed conflict”.

According to the Applicants, “[t]hese violations include the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”.

Canada and the Netherlands requested *interim measures* to preserve the exercise of rights under the Convention against Torture, provisions of which Syria allegedly violates. According to them, they aim to protect the lives and physical and mental integrity of people who are currently at risk of being subjected to torture in Syria.

Syria opted not to participate in the proceedings, informing the court of its decision to present its arguments in written form.



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