Victims are both staff members and target group:

Annual activity report of Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor (2022)
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Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor is a youth-led independent, non-profit organisation that advocates for the human rights of all persons across Europe and the MENA region. Euro-Med Monitor mainly aims to support and bring justice to victims of violations. Therefore, the key strategy and philosophy of Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor is to enable victims to empower themselves and their communities, as well as transform these victims from passive recipients of support into active human rights defenders. This work strategy explains why victims or survivors of human rights violations make up about 70% of Euro-Med Monitor’s staff and volunteers.

Through recruiting human rights defenders within societies facing widespread violations, Euro-Med Monitor advocates for the rights of individuals from the MENA region and those from other regions who have been driven by armed conflicts and persecution to seek refuge in Europe. Euro-Med Monitor focuses on the most vulnerable groups, such as women and children.

In 2011, Euro-Med Monitor formed a small group of human rights experts and defenders from various Middle Eastern and European nationalities. Since then, the Euro-Med community has grown to include over a thousand workers, volunteers, and supporters from all over the world, with
youth accounting for more than 80% of its staff and volunteers. Euro-Med Monitor was founded and registered in Geneva, Switzerland (CH-660.0.748.0151-), and it has regional offices and representatives throughout Europe and the MENA region. One of the key strategies of Euro-Med Monitor’s work is to train young people in societies where human rights violations are widespread, either as members of its team or as direct beneficiaries who participate in decision-making and determine the priorities of the organisation’s work.

This stems from the firm belief that victims should be involved in decision-making, particularly when most parties decide their needs without involving them. In many cases, we were successful in bringing about real change on the ground, as evidenced by the response of concerned authorities’ decision-makers and governments to improve their policies and deal with crises in a way that ensures the protection of the rights of marginalised people, including victims and affected people.
Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor, which is notable for its accomplishments and creative approach as human rights organisation is not widely known as it deserves to be.
It was inspired 11 years ago by the oppressive conditions existing in the Palestinian territory. From the beginning, its dedication to the promotion of human rights spread beyond the borders of Occupied Palestine, and Euro-Med Monitor now has offices or representatives in 17 countries in Europe and the MENA region, with headquarters in Geneva. Euro-Med Monitor is youth-oriented and much of its work is done by volunteers who learn by doing and working as teams with more experienced defenders of human rights, and has foregone major fundraising efforts, preferring to move forward with a small budget offset by big ideas and motivated by the widespread wrongdoing of governments throughout MENA.
Perhaps, one of the most innovative features of Euro-Med Monitor is its stress on empowering victims of abuse to tell their stories to the world in their own voices. A recent example was the testimony at the Human Rights Council in Geneva of Suhaila al-Masri, the grandmother of Fatima al-Masri, who told the heart-rending story of how her 20-month-old granddaughter died of suffocation because her exit...
permit from Gaza to receive emergency treatment was delayed without reason. Euro-Med Monitor prides itself by working with victims to recover their sense of worth in a variety of struggles against the abuses they endured in the hope of avoiding similar suffering by others. In this innovative sense, the empowerment of victims is complemented by establishing sites for training young human rights defenders to go on to have a variety of societal roles as they get older. Euro-Med Monitor feels its special identity is solidified by having 70% of its active staff either drawn from youth or from the ranks of victimisation. The organisation reaches out beyond victims of war and torture to more subtle forms of encroachment on human dignity such as prolonged refugee status or mistreatment of women. Among the topics covered in recent reports are the targeting of journalists in Sudan, disguised and punitive racism toward MENA asylum seekers and immigrants from MENA, human displacement in Yemen, and interferences with the freedom
and safety of journalists in various countries within their scope of concern.

Euro-Med Monitor uses a network of 300 writers to tell the stories of those who have been abused when the victims themselves are not available. The overall Euro-Med Monitor undertaking seeks to convey the issues of concern in different countries by employing what Ramy Abdu calls ‘the real discourse of the people.’

Euro-Med Monitor is particularly active in the formal proceedings and side events associated with the Human Rights Council.

It has mounted actions and testimony on such matters as opposition to EU surveillance of asylum seekers in Europe, arms exports to Yemen, and the rescue of persons who have been coercively disappeared in Yemen and Syria.

Euro-Med is creating a new and exciting model for how to connect civil society activism with effective efforts to improve the overall protection of human rights. It is a young organisation, but one with incredible promise and a record to admire and emulate.
“For many years now, our efforts have been focused not only on defending rights, but also on preparing and enabling individuals to defend their own rights. When you defend individuals’ rights, you protect them, and when you teach them how to defend their rights, you protect an entire society.”

Ramy Abdu
Chairman of Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor
Programmes and projects

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor develops programmes and projects based on the needs of its target population, involving victims of human rights violations in the process of setting priorities, educating and influencing the uninformed, and making decisions in response to outside assistance provided to them.

Throughout 2022, Euro-Med Monitor launched and/or continued to implement five projects designed for victims—primarily youth living in conflict areas in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region—to participate in. Through attending various trainings, activities, and events, these young people were able to attain vital skills such as capacity-building, awareness-raising, and even speaking out against violations or bringing other victims to speak out at the UN and other international institutions.
The Victims Speak Out programme has been an integral part of the Euro-Med Monitor’s philosophy since its inception. As its sole focus is on uplifting the victims of human rights violations by giving them the opportunity to speak to the rest of the world in their own words, which often go unheard, the only voices centred in the programme are their own.

Programme participants have been connected with international media and decision-makers, and have spoken directly to the United Nations Human Rights Council, as well as been heard by the European Parliament and additional UN and international organisations. Furthermore, participants, who are supported in their efforts to find solutions and achieve justice for themselves and their communities, have carried out activities in collaboration with international organisations that have drawn the attention of international public opinion.
Activities carried out within

Victims Speak Out

Hajar Raissouni spoke out against the detention of her uncle, journalist Soulaimane Raissouni, in Morocco via Euro-Med Monitor’s media platform, HuMedia.

The grandmother of Fatima al-Masri, a Gazan child who died after Israel delayed the required visa for receiving medical treatment abroad, spoke to the Human Rights Council.
Journalist Farah Maraqa complained to the Human Rights Council following a campaign of collective expulsion of Arab journalists from the German media.

Zainab al-Qolaq, a survivor of an Israeli airstrike on Gaza – Occupied Palestinian Territory, organised an exhibition co-implemented by Euro-Med Monitor and the United Nations to display her paintings depicting the 22 family members she lost in the Israeli attack.
Euro-Med Monitor launches its training programme each year in the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe—as part of a strategic plan to ensure the continuity of efforts to defend human rights, and make the greatest possible impact by training and preparing young people to be ambassadors and unwavering defenders of vulnerable groups in their communities.

The programme aims to familiarise those enrolled with human rights work, including mechanisms of lobbying, advocacy, documentation, and investigation of violations, and to enable them to employ these skills to defend their rights and the rights of vulnerable groups.

Once enrolled in the programme, interns get the opportunity to work directly with Euro-Med Monitor team members in multiple departments. During the internship period, each intern will move between different departments depending on their academic background and personal interests, and focus on topics such as research, documentation, analysis, lobbying, advocacy, public relations, media, and administration. Furthermore, the development of the intern’s skills is supervised by experts and specialists in various fields.
Activities carried out within

Euro-Med Monitor’s Internship Programme

Members of the Euro-Med Monitor’s Internship Programme participate in the Human Rights Council sessions.

Euro-Med Monitor provides practical training on human rights defence mechanisms to over 20 young people from Europe and the MENA region.
We Are Not Numbers was launched by Euro-Med Monitor in January 2015, just a few months after Israel carried out a military attack that killed, injured and displaced hundreds of thousands of civilians in the Gaza Strip. Through training young victims in journalistic and nonfiction writing, including poetry, and connecting them with English-speaking international writers and experts from around the world, We Are Not Numbers aims to tell the human stories behind the numbers in the news about victims of rights violations.

In 2022, the We Are Not Numbers (WANN) project celebrated the graduation of two cohorts of Palestinian writers from within and outside of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Graduates received six months of intensive training, including lectures on creative and journalistic writing, public speaking, and the production of short films. Since its launch, WANN has sponsored and trained over 360 young Palestinians, male and female; these emerging writers worked with mentors to edit and publish their own stories in their own words, and also prepared press releases and human rights reports for publication in English.
Activities carried out within We Are Not Numbers

We Are Not Numbers and Amos Trust raise more than $80,000 in donations for breast cancer screening programme in Gaza

In collaboration with Amos Trust, We Are Not Numbers launches advocacy tour featuring living testimony of Gaza blockade victims

We Are Not Numbers celebrates the graduation of the 16th cohort of writers
HuMedia is a digital human rights platform launched in 2019. As part of one of Euro-Med Monitor’s strategic goals, which is to raise awareness about human rights issues, the platform mainly works to transform news related to human rights violations in Europe and the MENA region into interactive materials that will attract a variety of groups and bring about real changes in the culture of human rights activism.
During 2022, the platform produced hundreds of interactive digital materials, and raised awareness about several human rights issues in the Arab world. It also worked with partner organisations to launch media lobbying and advocacy campaigns.
WikiRights is a project launched by the Euro-Med Monitor in 2015, to enrich Wikipedia, which ranks seventh in the world in terms of the number of visitors, with the narration of victims of violations in historical documentation of contemporary events and crises, and the promotion and development of human rights content in the electronic encyclopedia. The project also aims at training human rights defenders to use the encyclopedia and modify its articles. Euro-Med Monitor launched training courses within the project in 2021, targeting more than 60 young people to train them on how to use the encyclopedia and enrich it with live testimonies and stories of conflict victims.
Activities carried out within WikiRights
Lobbying and advocacy

Lobbying and advocacy are pillars of Euro-Med Monitor’s work due to its focus on cooperating with partners to pressure decision-makers into taking steps to limit human rights violations in Europe and the MENA region by sending urgent petitions and letters signed by officials, Members of Parliament, and international and local organisations. Petitions addressed issues such as prisoners of conscience in the Gulf, armed conflict in Yemen, cybercrime, freedom of the press, activist empowerment, and more.

Euro-Med Monitor also launched media campaigns in collaboration with its partners, urging decision-makers and officials to act against human rights violations in their areas of responsibility. This section includes specific examples of lobbying and advocacy activities carried out by Euro-Med Monitor in 2022.
MEPs demand Israel ensure Palestinian journalists’ freedom of movement

A cross-party group of 20 Members of the European Parliament co-signed a petition jointly organised by Euro-Med Monitor and Reporters Without Borders (RSF), demanding that Israel ensures the freedom of movement of Palestinian journalists.

The petition follows a report that Euro-Med Monitor released in November last year, entitled “Punishing Journalists: Israel’s Restrictions on Freedom of Movement”. The report documented the claims of multiple Palestinian journalists that Israeli authorities heavily restricted their freedom of movement in, out and between Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem as a form of punishment or bargaining chip.

At HRC: Euro-Med Monitor warns of Denmark’s racist policies against “ghettos”

Denmark’s discriminatory measures against minorities in ghettos fuel xenophobia, racial prejudice, and intolerance against vulnerable groups, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor and the Youth Parliament said in a joint oral statement on Thursday at the Human Rights Council 49th session.

The statement warned of the dire effects of the punitive and discriminatory measures introduced by the Danish government in 2018 against the population in public housing areas it classifies as “ghettos”, which already suffer from various social problems.
On behalf of Euro-Med Monitor: Israeli air strike survivor speaks to the Human Rights Council

A survivor of an air strike during Israel’s military attack on the Gaza Strip in May 2021 has called on the international community at the United Nations Human Rights Council to put an end to Israel’s enjoyment of impunity and to bring justice to the victims.

Zainab Shukri al-Qolaq, whose home was bombed by Israeli warplanes and who remained under the rubble for 12 hours before being rescued, said that the airstrike killed 22 members of her family, including her mother and three siblings. She called on HRC to explain what progress has been made by the investigation committee that was formed after the Israeli attack, as hundreds of victims are waiting to see those who committed grave violations against them held accountable.

Giving the speech on behalf of Euro-Med Monitor during a general debate under agenda item 7 at the 49th session of HRC, al-Qolaq said: “I know my loss is too great to be compensated. But my mother, my sister, my brother, and my family will rest in peace only when the perpetrators are held accountable.”

At HRC: Euro-Med Monitor calls on European countries respect asylum seekers’ privacy

Illegal, disproportionate, and unnecessary interference with the personal data of individuals in Europe, especially asylum seekers who are treated as liars until proven truthful, has escalated, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor and GIWEH said in a joint speech at the Human Rights Council’s 49th session.

Delivered by Michela Pugliese, Euro-Med Monitor’s migration and asylum researcher, the statement said the authorities in Denmark, Germany, Norway, and Switzerland extensively search asylum seekers’ phones as part of their asylum procedures, which means reviewing all their personal data, such as contact information, geodata, messages, and photos.
Euro-Med Monitor holds a series of meetings with European officials on humanitarian crises in the MENA region

Euro-Med Monitor held a week-long series of meetings with European Union officials from the European External Action Service, Parliament, Commission, Council, and Committee of the Regions. At the European External Action Service (EEAS), the Euro-Med Monitor’s team met with officers and senior advisers from the Peace Mediation and Dialogue Unit; the Israel, Occupied Palestinian Territories and Middle East Peace Process Unit; the Strategic Communication, Task Forces and Information Analysis Division; and the Policy Planning and Strategic Foresight Division.

During the meetings, Euro-Med Monitor discussed wide-ranging regional issues, including the humanitarian situation in Syria, Yemen, Libya and the occupied Palestinian territories; the crackdown on political and civil liberties in the Gulf region, Egypt, and Morocco; and the implications of the political crises in Sudan and Lebanon on the general population.

Euro-Med Monitor to HRC: EU technical support to Libyan Coast Guard must not be used to violate migrants’ rights

Libyan Coastguard should use the technical support and capacity building provided by European countries to support human rights, rather than to violate the rights of at-risk groups, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor said in a joint statement with the Youth Parliament for SDG at the United Nations’ Human Rights Council’s 49th session.

The EU has allocated millions of euros in technical assistance to the Libyan Coast Guard to help control the country’s borders, intercept migrants and asylum seekers at sea, and block their arrival to Europe, said the statement delivered by Maha Hussaini, Euro-Med Monitor’s Strategy Director.
April

On behalf of Euro-Med Monitor: Journalist complains of ‘anti-Arab purge’ in German media at HRC

Palestinian-Jordanian journalist Farah Maraqa has called on the United Nations Human Rights Council to make all possible efforts to stop the arbitrary measures against Arab journalists in the German media and to protect the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

In a speech at HRC’s 49th session, delivered on behalf of Euro-Med Monitor, Maraqa said that she and six of her Arab colleagues were expelled from Deutsche Welle (an official German media network) last February after receiving “false accusations of antisemitism carried out by a public media smear campaign.”

May

Joint letter to the new President of the UAE: Release prisoners of conscience

14 human rights organisations called, in a joint letter, on the UAE President, Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to intervene immediately in favour of all prisoners of conscience in the country, close the case file permanently, and work to improve the human rights situation in the country.
Euro-Med Monitor: EU Commission President must return Ben-Gurion University honorary doctorate

In an urgent letter to the European Parliament, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor demanded that EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen withdraw her acceptance of an honorary doctorate from Ben-Gurion University (BGU) in Israel. The Geneva-based human rights organisation explained that von der Leyen’s acceptance of the BGU doctorate signals condoning the role Israeli academic institutions play in the ever-entrenched occupation of Palestine, as evidenced by BGU’s deep and multifaceted relations with the Israeli military and its discriminatory practices against pro-Palestinian activists.

Euro-Med Monitor at HRC: Enabling Iraqi IDPs to run, vote in elections is necessary to end their plight

The continued plight of Iraqi internally displaced persons (IDPs) has demotivated many from effectively participating in the election since they have not sensed any significant changes to their situation after the last two rounds, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor and GIWEH said in a joint speech at Human Rights Council’s 50th session. The acute vulnerability, despair, and needs of Iraqi IDPs, who have been stuck in this limbo for over seven years, have made them easy targets for exploitation and manipulation, as candidates use money and false promises of resettlement or compensation to IDPs to garner their votes.
Euro-Med Monitor sent an urgent letter to Eric van der Burg, the Minister for Migration of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, concerning the over-crowdedness of temporary asylum accommodation centres and delays in processing asylum claims. The two issues combined have resulted in many asylum seekers sleeping rough in the open, some for weeks.

“In addition to the lack of temporary accommodation, we have received testimonies from asylum seekers who indicated that the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) has delayed starting the procedures for their asylum applications, which contributes to this unsustainable outcome of leaving many individuals stranded in the open,” the letter read.

Euro-Med Monitor called on the Dutch government to reverse its plan to accommodate asylum seekers on cruise ships, work to manage and address the over-crowdedness of accommodation centres in a manner that respects the rights and dignity of refugees, and expedite the processing of asylum applications without arbitrariness or violation of the relevant laws.
At HRC: Euro-Med Monitor highlights plight of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers in Europe

In a joint statement to the UN Human Rights Council’s 51st session, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor and Youth Parliament for SDG said that 71% of all child asylum seekers who arrived in European countries in 2021 were unaccompanied, which exacerbated their suffering and made them even more vulnerable to exploitation.

The statement said that asylum seekers, particularly unaccompanied minors, face a multitude of violations across European Member States, especially in Italy, Bulgaria, and Slovenia.

Euro-Med Monitor stressed that “unaccompanied minors are routinely exposed to measures that exacerbate their vulnerabilities.”

Euro-Med Monitor at HRC: Reinforcing technical cooperation in Libya can save migrants, asylum seekers’ lives

Reinforcing technical cooperation can be beneficial in some countries, but it is critical in Libya, as such efforts can help save the lives of many migrants and asylum seekers, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor and IRDG said in a joint oral statement at the Human Rights Council’s 50th session.

Migrants and asylum seekers are subjected to countless violations in Libya, but part of these violations can be limited by activating and strengthening technical cooperation with the authorities and civil organisations in Libya.
Euro-Med Monitor at HRC: EU Commission must halt expansion of asylum seeker surveillance programme

In a joint statement to the UN Human Rights Council’s 51st session, Euro-Med Monitor and Youth Parliament for SDG warned against the EU Commission’s planned expansion of its asylum seeker surveillance programme, citing its biased and groundless manner. The mass surveillance project, named PeDRA (Processing of Personal Data for Risk Analysis), started in 2016 with the collaboration of Frontex and the European police agency Europol. Initially intended to prevent terrorist attacks and human trafficking, the current expansion plan raises serious concerns about the privacy of migrants and asylum seekers.

Euro-Med Monitor to HRC: Establish international mechanisms to rescue victims of enforced disappearance in Syria and Yemen

The Human Rights Council should adopt and implement the recommendation of the United Nations Secretary-General to establish an independent international mechanism for missing persons in Syria, as well as additional mechanisms to combat this crime in other conflict countries, particularly Yemen. Euro-Med Monitor said, “Conflict parties in Syria and Yemen continue to practice large-scale enforced disappearances in violation of international humanitarian law, with sheer impunity and evasion of accountability and transparency.”
In a joint statement to the UN Human Rights Council’s 51st session, Euro-Med Monitor and Youth Parliament for SDG said European countries are obligated to stop arms sales to the conflict parties in Yemen under relevant agreements such as The Geneva Conventions, the Arms Trade Treaty, and the EU Common Position, which all prohibit the export of arms that may cause foreseeable violations of international law.

The United Arab Emirates government boasts of sending an astronaut to space and even appointing a Minister for Happiness and Wellbeing, but is failing to hold its police force accountable for egregious violations against migrant workers back home.

In a joint statement to the UN Human Rights Council's 51st session, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor and GIWEH condemned the horrific racism and discrimination directed at the UAE’s migrant workers—who have made significant contributions to the country’s economy and infrastructure—saying, “It is immensely disheartening that in the year 2022, [racist acts occur] in societies that claim to be civilised, modern, and enlightened.”
On behalf of Euro-Med Monitor, grandmother of child who died due to Gaza blockade protests Israeli policies at HRC

The grandmother of a victim of Israel's blockade has urged the UN Human Rights Council and its Member States to pressure Israel to end its policy of slow killing against Gaza patients, and hold the state accountable for depriving besieged Gazans of their right to movement and treatment. Suhaila al-Masri, the grandmother of Fatima al-Masri, spoke on behalf of Euro-Med Rights Monitor at the 51st session of the Human Rights Council. She delivered a speech stating that Israeli authorities left her granddaughter to suffocate slowly by stalling the issuance of an exit permit to receive treatment abroad, which eventually caused the toddler's death.

Euro-Med's project We Are Not Numbers launches advocacy tour featuring living testimony of Gaza blockade victims

We Are Not Numbers, a project of Euro-Med Monitor, has launched a weeks-long advocacy tour in several British cities during which project members share testimonies about the impact of Israel’s 16-year blockade of the Gaza Strip, to publicise the human stories behind the numbers of victims in the media.

The tour was carried out in collaboration with the British organisation Amos Trust, and lasted for about three weeks. During this time, project members travelled to seven British cities to speak to parliamentarians, human rights and community activists, academics, journalists, and international organisation workers about the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and the Israeli restrictions that have been imposed on them since the start of Israel’s blockade in 2006.
As part of We Are Not Numbers, Euro-Med Monitor launches a series of training programmes and lectures in the Palestinian territory.

As part of its We Are Not Numbers project, Euro-Med Monitor launched a six-month training programme for 60 young Palestinians from within and outside the Palestinian territory. The training sessions included lectures on creative and journalistic writing, human rights, content production, and short films, as well as rhetoric and advocacy on the rights of victims in areas of armed conflict.

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October

In Johannesburg, Euro-Med Monitor provides training for activists from 10 organisations, space to share experiences

At a regional seminar in the South African city of Johannesburg, Euro-Med Monitor’s Chief of Programmes and Communications, Muhammad Shehada, delivered two key lectures to a group of activists from ten grassroots and civil society organisations across the region, including South Africa, Mauritius, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Denmark.

Coordinated by the Danish organisation Global Aktion, the seminar aimed to address the question of “How do we rebuild strong social movements with real political alternatives, after two years of COVID-19?” Global Aktion brought together more than 50 activists from different countries to share experiences and help establish what it is that organisations across the region have in common, to facilitate alliance and capacity building.

October

Euro-Med Monitor and A Buon Diritto Onlus hold training on immigration law at Loyola University Chicago’s John Felice Rome Centre

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor together with Italian association A Buon Diritto Onlus held a training workshop entitled “Immigration Law in Italy: Rules and Shortcomings” for the students of Loyola University Chicago’s John Felice Rome Center, on Thursday.

A Buon Diritto Onlus provides legal counselling for migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, and undocumented people in Rome, Italy.

As part of its agenda to raise awareness of human rights in the MENA region and Europe, Euro-Med Monitor conducted a series of lectures in various universities across the region to raise awareness on migrants and refugees’ rights as well as the rights of other target groups.
Euro-Med Monitor and RSF host a webinar on Israeli travel restrictions for Palestinian journalists

Euro-Med Monitor and Reporters Without Borders (RSF) hosted a webinar as part of a lobbying and advocacy campaign demanding that Israeli authorities lift the travel ban on Palestinian journalists and respect their right to freedom of movement. The two organisations launched the #LetMajdoleenOut social media campaign in December 2021 to demand that Israel lift the travel ban imposed on dozens of Palestinian journalists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including Majdoleen Hassona, winner of the 2021 RSF Press Freedom Prize for Independence.

Euro-Med Monitor hosts webinar on Double Standards at EU Borders

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor hosted an important and timely webinar on Monday to discuss human displacement and racial discrimination, to affirm the humanity and dignity of all asylum seekers pursuing equal rights, and to advocate for the provision of safe routes for all migrants and asylum seekers, regardless of race, religion, or nationality. The webinar was titled “Double Standards at EU Borders”. The speakers examined the contrast between the legitimate rush to help Ukraine civilians and the widespread disregard for all other human tragedies occurring at the same European borders, from the Belarusian-Polish border to the Mediterranean Sea, from the Balkan route to the English Channel.
Euro-Med Monitor, UN Women Palestine organise exhibition of paintings of Israeli airstrike survivor in Gaza

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor and UN Women Palestine organised an art exhibition, showing paintings made by a survivor of an Israeli airstrike on Gaza during the Israeli military attack on the Strip in May 2021. Titled “I am 22, I lost 22 people” and held at Euro-Med Monitor’s regional office in Gaza, the exhibition showed paintings made by the fine artist and research intern at Euro-Med Monitor, Zainab al-Qolaq, who lost 22 members of her family, including her mother and three of her siblings in an Israeli airstrike on her home.

Euro-Med Monitor hosts expert talk on outsourcing refugees to Rwanda

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor hosted a webinar titled Outsourcing refugee protection: UK and Denmark’s plan to relocate refugees to Rwanda, examining the recent plans to outsource refugee protection outside European territory. The speakers discussed the UK-Rwanda agreement concluded on 14 April 2022 to transfer asylum seekers arriving in the UK to Rwanda to process their claims and host them there. The objective of the discussion was a reminder that such bilateral agreements are incompatible with refugee and human rights and anti-trafficking laws, and perpetuate unequal and neo-colonialist power structures between countries, where, for instance, development aid is provided only in exchange for migration containment.
In meeting with IOM, Euro-Med Monitor raises issue of expelled migrants and asylum seekers in MENA

Euro-Med Monitor’s team met in Geneva with the International Organisation for Migration’s incoming Senior Regional Advisor to the Director General for Middle East and North Africa, Othman Belbeisi, to discuss the situation of migrants in Libya, the Gulf region countries, Lebanon, and Europe. Several topics were discussed, including IOM’s voluntary return programmes, the pushback by officials of asylum seekers and migrants who reach Europe via the Mediterranean Sea, the grim conditions at Libyan detention centres, and the inhumane living conditions of migrant workers in the Gulf.

Euro-Med Monitor hosts UN experts for webinar on Israeli evasion of accountability

Euro-Med Monitor hosted UN officials and human rights experts in a webinar to discuss Israel’s decades-long evasion of accountability and its ongoing rights violations practised against the Palestinians, especially in light of the Breaking Dawn military attack on Gaza and crackdown on the six Palestinian civil society organisations. The speakers offered their individual perspectives on various topics related to Israeli impunity, the international community’s role in pressuring Israel to adhere to its responsibilities, and what is needed to end Israel’s pursuit of attacking and smearing rights defenders.
Euro-Med Monitor hosts a webinar titled “Europe and Palestinian rights: Does the ICJ’s advisory opinion matter?”

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor hosted an expert talk on the UN draft resolution L12, which requests an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory vis-à-vis the legality of Israel’s occupation, the long denial of the Palestinian right to self-determination, and practices that amount to de facto annexation. Titled “Europe and Palestinian rights: Does the ICJ’s advisory opinion matter?”, the webinar featured notable experts in the field that discussed the significance of the resolution, its legal content, and the likely implications if it comes to pass. The discussion also highlighted the ramifications of most EU Member States abstaining or voting against the draft resolution, as well as why it is important that the EU supports the vote on the final resolution.

16 Days of Activism: Euro-Med’s We Are Not Numbers and Amos Trust raise donations for breast cancer screening programme in Gaza

During a Christmas tour organised by Amos Trust, Euro-Med Monitor’s project We Are Not Numbers participated in raising over £70,000 (about 86,000 USD) in donations for the breast cancer screening programme at Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, Occupied Palestinian Territory. The tour was produced in conjunction with the global UN campaign 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. The 2022’s theme was “Orange the World: UNiTe! Activism to end violence against women and girls”. All of the money raised by project members during the UK tour will be donated to the breast cancer screening programme at Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza.
During 2022 and in collaboration with its partners, Euro-Med Monitor issued nine human rights reports and policy briefs based on the documentation of field research teams in Europe and the MENA region. The reports documented the human rights situation and revealed grave violations committed by various parties in both Europe and the MENA region, based on testimonies collected from victims.

The reports addressed several issues, including the increase of drowned and missing asylum seekers and migrants, European state policies toward refugees, restrictions on journalists, and armed conflicts.

This section contains information on the nature of reports issued by Euro-Med Monitor in 2022.
Euro-Med Monitor published a report documenting a significant escalation in migrant drowning incidents in the Mediterranean Sea during 2021, accusing the European Union of exacerbating the heavy loss of life by pushing back migrants and asylum seekers, as well as stopping and criminalising rescue missions.

The report on the movement of migration across the Mediterranean Sea during 2021 stated that 1,838 migrants died or disappeared in the sea in 2021, at a rate of 5 deaths per day. The number is an increase of about 20% compared to 2020, when the number was 1,448.
Euro-Med Monitor said in a policy brief that Denmark’s Ghetto Package is a textbook recipe for discrimination, incitement and unnecessary and counterproductive punitive policies emanating from political expediency rather than sound policymaking. The areas designated as "Ghettoes" are poor and vulnerable areas with a majority of non-Western ethnicities; they face marginalisation and exclusion from the government and decision-makers. In 2019, the Ghetto list included 29 areas and districts. Euro-Me Monitor called on the Danish government to immediately and unconditionally cease all measures taken against areas designated as “Ghettoes,” including evictions, compulsory daycare, double punishment and over-policing.
In a report titled “We Have to Hide Who We Are”, Euro-Med Monitor said security services carried out 55 attacks against journalists and media outlets in Sudan between October 2021 and March 2022. These attacks included arbitrary detention, harassment, the storming and closing of media offices, and physical and psychological assaults. De facto authorities in Sudan appear to be deliberately targeting journalists and media outlets operating in the country following the military coup on 25 October, Euro-Med Monitor said.
In light of the disruption of a large part of the Constitution’s provisions protecting rights and freedoms, violations against journalistic work in Tunisia have soared since President Kais Saied announced his exceptional measures on 25 July 2021, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor and Journalists for Human Rights said.

Entitled “Reporting under the Weight of Fear,” the report stated that journalists and local and Arab media outlets in Tunisia were subjected to multiple types of attacks, including repression, arbitrary detention, harassment, and restrictive decisions.

Euro-Med Monitor and Journalists for Human Rights issue a report titled

“Reporting Under the Weight of Fear: Restrictions on the media in Tunisia under the president’s exceptional measures (25 July 2021 – 15 April 2022)”
Euro-Med Monitor and UN Women Palestine produce a photobook titled

“I am 22, I lost 22 people:
Zainab al-Qolaq tells her story of (not) surviving an Israeli airstrike on Gaza”

Euro-Med Monitor and UN Women Palestine collaborated to produce a photobook in which Zainab al-Qolaq, a survivor of an Israeli airstrike during Israel’s military attack on Gaza, displayed a collection of her paintings and texts. Al-Qolaq described the psychological impact of losing 22 family members, as well as information about the targeting of her family home and several surrounding buildings in al-Wehda Street, west of Gaza City, on May 16, 2021.
Euro-Med Monitor, Lebanese American University release joint paper on displacement in Yemen

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor and the Institute for Migration Studies at the Lebanese American University have released a joint paper on displacement in Yemen as part of a programme launched by the university to shed light on the plight of the displaced and refugees around the world.

The paper indicated that seven years of continuous conflict in Yemen have taken a toll on the population at various levels. About 23.4 million Yemenis (73% of the population) have become dependent on humanitarian aid to meet their basic needs. Military operations have displaced about 4.3 million Yemenis by March 2022. Approximately 40% of them live in unofficial displacement camps and do not have adequate access to basic services, if any.
Given that Iraqi authorities have failed for three years to hold the perpetrators of violence against civilian protestors accountable, the UN must form a fact-finding commission to investigate the violations, which occurred during the October 2019 protests, Euro-Med Monitor said.

In a brief report titled “Perpetrators will not hold themselves accountable”, Euro-Med Monitor stated that despite the succession of two governments and the formation of numerous inquiry commissions since the outbreak of the protests, in which approximately 730 Iraqis were killed and over 25,000 others were injured, justice is still far from being achieved. The authorities only compensated the victims financially, and no one has been held criminally accountable for the killing, disappearance, or assault of protesters.

Perpetrators will not hold themselves accountable:

**Euro-Med Monitor calls for international probe into the killing of Iraqi protesters**
The last decade has seen a noticeable decline in press freedoms in the MENA region, with journalism being one of the most dangerous professions, particularly in areas of armed conflict, Euro-Med Monitor said. In a report published in conjunction with the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, Euro-Med Monitor said that journalists in recent years have been among the most targeted groups in many countries. Journalists have been victims of a variety of crimes and violations, including killing, arbitrary detention, torture, and unfair trials, with the actual perpetrators frequently going unpunished.
In 2022, Euro-Med Monitor issued over 130 press releases about human rights violations in Europe and the MENA region, including those pertaining to armed conflicts, the rights of asylum seekers and migrants, and to freedom of opinion, expression, and the press. These press releases also revealed shocking testimonies on torture and detention in Europe and MENA countries.

Press releases are usually directed to the relevant authorities in a targeted area, pleading with them to limit or reverse their rights violations. 

This section provides specific details on the press releases issued by Euro-Med Monitor in 2022.
Press releases

January

Yemen: Bombing Saada prison, residential neighbourhoods in Sanaa requires international investigation

The Arab coalition’s warplanes bombed Yemeni cities during the past few days, including civilian objects such as a detention centre in Saada and residential neighbourhoods in the capital, Sana’a. An international, impartial, and transparent investigation should be opened into these bombings, Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor said in a statement.

The bombing operations were indiscriminate and carried out without any urgent military necessity, thus constituting a grave violation of international humanitarian law and may amount to war crimes.

February

Plans to send Frontex guards to Senegal illegitimate attempt to stop migrants, asylum seekers

The EU is proposing to send Frontex guards and drones to Senegal, disguising it as ‘cooperation’ rather than framing it as it is: a new and tighter strategy for migration containment, forced return and border externalisation, based on a structural imbalance of power and choking migrants’ and asylum seekers’ rights, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor said in a statement.
March

**Jordan: 11 political activists detained in poor conditions without due process**

Jordanian authorities have been detaining 11 political activists in poor conditions following procedures marred by serious legal violations, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor said in a statement expressing deep concern. Detainees' families and defence lawyers confirmed to Euro-Med Monitor that authorities carried out some of the detentions without judicial warrants. These operations involved the violent storming of several detainees' homes at night, terrifying their families, especially since the arrests were made without prior notice.

April

**Israel killed five times as many Palestinians in 2022 than it killed in the same period in 2021**

Israeli forces have significantly escalated the killing and repression of Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem during the past several days, following a green light from the political officials in Israel, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor said. Euro-Med Monitor’s field team documented the killing of 18 Palestinians in the first half of this month, most of whom were killed following statements by Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on 8 April, granting a mandate to the Israeli army to wage an unrelenting war on what was described as terrorism.
May

**Lebanon: Parliamentary elections marred with irregularities**

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor followed up on the electoral process in Lebanon and has documented several irregularities that occurred during the last stage of the elections, which include residents of all electoral districts inside Lebanon. The polls were opened in 15 electoral districts. Euro-Med Monitor has documented several violations in a statement.

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May

**Qatar: Unfair sentences against four activists signals worrying freedoms conditions**

A Qatari court issued unfair life sentences against dissidents for their participation in peaceful protests calling for the abolition of the Shura Council law in August 2021, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor said in a statement expressing deep concern. The Qatari Criminal Court held a secret session on 10 May, in which it issued life sentences against two brothers and lawyers, Hazza bin Ali Abu Sherida al-Marri and Rashid bin Ali Abu Sherida al-Marri, based on accusations related to exercising their legitimate rights to freedom of opinion, expression, and peaceful assembly.
June

Amid rising death toll, the EU won a ruthless race to the bottom against migrants and asylum seekers

According to Euro-Med Monitor, refugees and asylum seekers in Europe have faced unprecedented restrictions and measures, which have worsened their humanitarian conditions and reduced their chances of stability, safety, and a decent life.

In a statement released in conjunction with World Refugee Day, Euro-Med Monitor stated that the suffering of refugees and asylum seekers has worsened due to several factors, including the escalation of European governments’ violations of migrants’ rights, structural issues in European immigration policy, an increase in forced displacement in countries of origin, and the continued spread of the coronavirus in some regions.

July

Sudan: Official failure to contain tribal violence in Blue Nile state

After dozens of people were killed and injured in Sudan’s southeastern Blue Nile state, Sudanese authorities should take effective measures to control tribal violence in the country and ensure the rule of law, Euro-Med Monitor said in a statement. Euro-Med Monitor has followed with deep regret the tribal clashes in the Blue Nile state in the southeast of Sudan, near the Ethiopian border. At its peak during the past two days, the violence led to the death of 60 people and the injury of more than 157 others, as well as the burning and damaging of dozens of shops and other properties.
August

**Sweden: Call to replicate Denmark’s discriminatory “anti-ghetto” law is highly concerning**

The Swedish Immigration Minister’s call to put a 50 per cent cap on “non-Nordic citizens” in so-called “troubled areas” is a textbook recipe for discrimination, incitement, and counterproductive punitive measures, emanating from political expediency rather than sound policymaking, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor said in a statement. The Swedish government must immediately and unconditionally cease any plans of such nature.

September

**Auction house’s offer of human skulls is evidence that Belgium’s colonial past is also its present**

Human remains from the colonial era being exhibited and auctioned in Belgium recently are evidence of the extent to which Europe’s brutal colonial past is also its present, warned Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor in a statement today urging the Belgian government to comprehensively and critically confront its colonial legacy.

Human remains of “African” individuals from the Congo Free State period (1885-1908)—when Belgian coloniser and king Leopold II established the state of Congo as his personal possession—were recently put up for auction in Uccle, one of the 19 municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region. For a price of between 750 and 1000 euros, the Vanderkindere auction house offered “Lot n. 1405”, described as a “lot of three human skulls” and classified as “curiosa” (i.e. odd, bizarre, intriguing).
Morocco: Continued complication of detained journalists’ prison conditions is shameful, must stop now

Moroccan authorities’ ongoing imprisonment of several journalists in conditions that violate both Moroccan constitutional standards and international obligations is deeply concerning, Euro-Med Rights Monitor said in a statement. Not only have these journalists been detained and imprisoned for many years following trials marred by grave legal violations, but they have also had their basic rights restricted and the conditions of their detention complicated. Authorities have confiscated journalists’ intellectual property, impeded their communication with family members, and violated their right to privacy.

Horrifying crime at state security headquarters epitomises the rampant use of torture in Iraq

Iraq’s new Prime Minister Mohammed al-Sudani must launch an independent investigation into the detention and torture of an Iraqi citizen in one of the country’s official security facilities, as well as ensure that the perpetrators do not receive impunity, Euro-Med Monitor said in a statement. Euro-Med Monitor documented security forces’ detention and torture of Hassan al-Taie at the Intelligence Service headquarters in Kirkuk Governorate, northern Iraq—abuses that have caused the young man to suffer severe physical deformities as well as psychological complications that may be long-term. Following his torture, al-Taie’s family was forced to sign a “clan reconciliation agreement” which allowed the perpetrators to avoid punishment.
December

Syria: Protestors’ transgressions do not justify state-sanctioned violence in As-Suwayda, legitimate demands must be met

The violent incidents that erupted during protests against deteriorating living and economic conditions in As-Suwayda, south-eastern Syria, are extremely concerning, said Euro-Med Monitor in a statement. On Sunday 4 December, Syrian security forces fired live ammunition at protestors near the As-Suwayda Governorate building, killing a young man, Murad al-Matni, and injuring several others. Protesters had demanded that security violations and the deterioration of living conditions be addressed; some demonstrators chanted for the regime’s overthrow.

December

Denmark: Threatening letters to Syrian children part of government’s hostile environment

As part of its anti-asylum crusade, the Danish government is sending threatening letters to Syrian child refugees to convince them to leave Denmark voluntarily or risk facing deportation or indefinite detention, warned Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor in a statement. A Danish documentary by public service broadcaster DR titled På flugt fra Danmark (“Fleeing from Denmark”) has revealed that the government sends letters to children under 15 whose parents are going through the asylum procedure.