

Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Newsletter

October 2009

Submitted by: the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR)

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1. Global Developments on Children's Rights

Rights of the Child Convention turns 20

8 October 2009 – Taking practical measures to realize the rights of the child is the greatest gift that we can give to our future generations, said High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay as the Convention on the Rights of the Child turns 20 years old. A two-day commemoration is taking place in Geneva on 8 and 9 October to kick off some five weeks of activities world-wide ahead of the 20th anniversary of the Convention on 20 November. [Full press release](#) – OHCHR

Count Every Child Conference to be held in November 2009

Each year, 51 million children are not registered at birth, directly affecting their rights to health, education, welfare, employment and democracy. Plan is holding a unique one day conference to share the latest innovations and practice at local and national levels and explore ways in which to make universal registration a reality. The conference, Count Every Child, will convene a critical audience of government representatives, policy makers, researchers, practitioners and donors and offers the opportunity to hear from leading experts from Harvard University, UN agencies, Interpol and others to debate the issues and make recommendations for achieving universal birth registration.

[For more information and to register](#) – PLAN

Concluding observations adopted at the 52nd session of CRC

Committee on the Rights of the Child recently concluded its 52nd session, held in Geneva from 14 September to 2 October 2009, and adopted the following Concluding Observations for Qatar and Yemen:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/tbru/crc/CRC-C-QAT-CO2.pdf>

<http://www2.ohchr.org/tbru/crc/CRC-C-OPSC-YEM-CO1.pdf>

[For more information](#) – OHCHR

UNICEF releases report card on child protection

6 October 2009 – UNICEF released a new report entitled “Progress for Children: A Report Card on Child Protection”. The report gathers together for the first time data on a range of issues that have an important impact on children, including sexual abuse and trafficking, child marriage, physical punishment of children, child labour, birth registration, the harmful traditional practice of female genital cutting, and attitudes toward violence against women inside marriage. A brief overview on the developments in the child protection field in the MENA region is included.

[Full report](#) – UNICEF

Towards More Coherence between International Trade and the Rights of the Child

Under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), States Parties have the obligation to respect, protect and fulfil children's economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR). On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the CRC, 3D -> Trade - Human Rights – Equitable

Economy submits the paper entitled “Towards More Coherence between International Trade and the Rights of the Child” to outline the importance of taking into account children's ESCR in international trade.

[Full report](#) – 3D-> Trade - Human Rights - Equitable Economy

Save the Children releases report on the world's progress in achieving MDG 4

“The Next Revolution: Giving Every Child the Chance to Survive” is a special report published by Save the Children with the objective to help bring the world on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 4 by bringing about a reduction by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, in the under-five mortality rate. Chapter 5 highlights success stories from a number of countries, including Egypt.

[Full report](#) – ZUNIA

CRIN's Global Report on Status Offences

CRIN released new a publication entitled “Global Report on Status Offences” in order to draw attention to the aspect of discrimination against children. This publication gives an overview of status offences, such as curfew violations, disobedience, begging, and truancy, with examples from around the world, including Bahrain, Egypt, Libya and Qatar.

[Full report](#) – CRIN

UNICEF releases report on children in immigrant families

UNICEF released a new report Children in Immigrant Families in Eight Affluent Countries, which presents a statistical portrayal of children in immigrant families, drawing on research conducted in eight advanced industrialized countries - Australia, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. This is the first study to present internationally comparable data for this group of children. Children originating from Algeria and Morocco represent some of the largest groups of immigrants in the selected EU countries.

[Full report](#) – UNICEF

2. MENA Regional Child Related Activities (events, conferences, news, vacancies, announcements, reportages, campaigns)

Three-week Women's Human Rights Mobilization Caravan in Morocco

Global Rights Maghreb's Women's Human Rights Mobilization Caravan launches the third year of its legislative advocacy initiative to Promote a Violence Against Women Law in Morocco. It also marks the 10th anniversary of Global Rights in Morocco. The Caravan took place from October 3 to October 23, 2009.

[For more information](#) – Global Rights Maghreb

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the CRC in Cairo, Egypt

To commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), under the title “The Convention and Islamic Jurisprudence”, the Ministry of State for Family and Population (MOFP) in the Arab Republic of Egypt, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC), the Islamic Development Bank and UNICEF, is hosting an International Conference in Cairo from 23rd to 24th of November 2009. The Conference will provide an opportunity for Muslim States to examine and exchange its experiences in the implementation of the CRC and its subsequent Protocols.

[For more information](#) and [registration](#)

UNRWA Students Make Stand against Poverty

20 October 2009 – This year 485,023 UNRWA school children in the West Bank, Gaza, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, stood up simultaneously and shouted 'No to poverty' in protest of their own poverty and the poverty of others throughout the world, UNRWA said in an article published Tuesday. The Stand Up events at UNRWA schools were organized as part of the global campaign calling on world leaders to tackle the issue of poverty.

[Full article](#) – Kuwait Observer

A new book published by the Arab Council for Childhood and Development

October 2009 – “The strategy for developing the language of the Arab Child” is the title of the new book released by the Arab Council for Childhood and Development and a number of partners. For more information, please contact Mrs. Eman Bahi El-Din at the following e-mail address: bahi.e@arabccd.org.

[News release](#) – ACCD

Jeunesse et citoyenneté : Béni-Mellal accueille le 3e Festival euro-maghrébin

25 octobre 2009 – L'événement réunira des militants associatifs maghrébins et européens dans le but de renforcer les liens entre les jeunes des deux rives. Et de trois pour le Festival euro-maghrébin de la jeunesse et de la citoyenneté organisé par l'Union des jeunes euro-maghrébins (UJEM). Placé sous le thème: «Coopération internationale et immigration», cet événement a reçu le soutien de la Fondation CDG, du ministère chargé de la Communauté marocaine à l'étranger, de la wilaya de Tadla-Azilal et de l'Association suédoise Train d'Avenir. Cette édition aura lieu du jeudi 29 octobre au dimanche 1er novembre à Béni-Mellal.

[Détails](#) – Le Matin

Vacancy – Program Manager with CHF International based in Jordan

Closing date: 20 November 2009. CHF International seeks a Program Manager for a proposed US government funded project in Jordan focusing on raising awareness at the community level and changing societal views on honor crimes, domestic violence, tribal violence, citizenship rights, trafficking-in-persons, forced labor, and/or child labor.

[For more information](#) – Reliefweb

Vacancy – Emergency Project Officer for Child Survivor, based in Yemen

Closing date: 4 November 2009. Save the Children Sweden is seeking an Emergency Project Officer to work in its country office in Sana'a or field location. The Project Officer will be responsible, amongst other duties, for implementing and monitoring

[For more information](#) – Save the Children Sweden

Vacancy – Education Projects Coordinator with UNESCO in Amman, Jordan

Closing date: 10 November 2009. Acting under the direct authority and supervision of the Director UNESCO Iraq Office, the incumbent will be responsible for the overall planning, coordination, and implementation of a number of Education projects which fall within the framework of UNESCO's support to the rehabilitation of the education system in Iraq, including the implementation of four new projects related to curricula, literacy, higher education and teacher training for a total of 24 million USD.

[For more information](#) – Reliefweb

Vacancy – Coordinator for Education – Public Sector Modernization in Baghdad, Iraq

Closing date: 10 November 2009. Acting under the direct authority and supervision of the Director UNESCO Iraq Office, the incumbent will be responsible for the overall design, planning, coordination, and implementation of the PSM project.

[For more information](#) – Reliefweb

Vacancy – UNRWA Gaza seeks coordinator for student human rights trip to USA

UNRWA Gaza is organising a trip for two groups of the top-performing human rights students and teachers who will travel to the United States in late November/early December to visit areas of particular relevance to human rights in Atlanta, Washington DC, and New York. As part of the trip, UNRWA is looking for a facilitator/coordinator to take on the role of organizing the groups on the ground, as well as translating any tours or information from English into Arabic. The coordinator will be spending 8 days with the groups – travel and accommodation paid for. The desired candidate should have an express interest in human rights, be fluent in both English and Arabic, and ideally have some experience in organizing events for large groups. Please send your CV and a short motivation letter to Julie Mehigan at the following address: j.mehigan@unrwa.org.

Vacancy – IBCR seeks an Administrative and Logistics Assistant based in Montreal, Canada

Closing date: 6 November 2009. The International Bureau for Children's Rights is seeking an Administrative and Logistics Assistant who would support the Bureau in the implementation of one of its projects in the Middle East and North Africa region. The incumbent will be responsible for the evaluation and monitoring of the finances and the performance of the project, as well as for the maintenance of the database, production of various training material, tables and reports, and administration of interns.

[For more information](#) – IBCR



3. Sub-Regional and Country Updates:

In the Levant:

Iraq – Violent acts doubled by Iraqi children

11 October 2009 – A social researcher from the Psychological and Educational Research Centre of Baghdad University reported a rise of violent acts by Iraqi children. Jamal Badeer told Kurdistan News Agency that violence by Iraqi children has been doubled in the past 10 years and that has worried proper sides.

[Full article](#) – AK News

Iraq – Kirkuk, education process in crisis

7 October 2009 – Kirkuk educational officials report that shortages in the educational process in terms of buildings, adoption of different educational systems, and lack of coordination between the Iraqi ministry of education and the Kirkuk directorate of education, hamper the process in the province.

[Full article](#) – AK News

Iraq – Swine flu panic shuts down 2,000 schools

22 October 2009 – Panic over the possible spread of H1N1 influenza has prompted the closure of more than 2,000 schools in Iraq, according to officials. Education Minister Khudhair Al-Khuzai said the unauthorized closure of schools was “illegal and unprofessional” and blamed “exaggerated media reports that have created such a panic”.

[Read more](#) – IRIN

Iraq – 24 Children Among Dead After Twin Truck Bombs Explode in Baghdad

Two dozen children were among the 155 people killed after two truck bombs exploded in one of Baghdad's safest areas on Sunday. An official at the hospital where the children's bodies were brought says they were on a bus leaving a daycare center next to the Justice Ministry when the attack happened.

[Full article](#) – Fox News

Israel/Opt – DCI's report “Bearing the Brunt Again”

29 September 2009 – This report illustrates the scale and range of serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law perpetrated by the Israeli army during Operation Cast Lead. The report is based on sworn victim and witness testimonies and extensive field investigations. Through the presentation of 43 case studies, the report illustrates the scale and range of serious violations of international law, in particular rules and norms related to international humanitarian law, child rights and children in armed conflict, perpetrated during Israel's 23-day military offensive Operation Cast Lead.

[Full article](#) and [report](#) – CRIN

Israel/Opt – La mort d'un enfant élève le nombre des victimes du blocus israélien à 359

1 octobre 2009 – Des sources médicales palestiniennes ont annoncé, le jeudi 1/10, la mort de l'enfant, Baraa Marwan Aïssa, 9 ans, des habitants du camp d'al Boureidj, au milieu de la Bande de Gaza, après une longue souffrance d'une maladie pulmonaire, en soulignant que les forces occupantes ont interdit son voyage à l'étranger pour aller se soigner, en plus du manque des médicaments dans la Bande de Gaza encerclée depuis plus de 3 ans consécutifs.

[Full article](#) – Le Centre Palestinien d'Information

Israel/Opt – Le comité de soutien aux enfants de Gaza envoie 110 véhicules aux handicapés de la Bande

1 octobre 2009 – Le porte-parole de la campagne internationale de solidarité avec les enfants de Gaza, Zaher Birawi, a affirmé que la campagne envoie 100 voitures spécialisées aux handicapés de la Bande de Gaza. Birawi a déclaré, le mercredi 30/9, dans une déclaration de presse spéciale au centre Palestinien d'information que les voitures sont destinées aux organisations de la société civile, au ministère de la santé, aux hôpitaux et écoles.

[Full article](#) – Le Centre Palestinien d'Information

Israel/Opt – UN to teach children about Holocaust in Gaza schools

5 October 2009 – The United Nations' refugee agency is planning to include the Holocaust in a new human-rights curriculum for pupils in its Gaza secondary schools despite strident opposition to the idea from within Hamas. John Ging, the UN Relief and Works Agency's (UNRWA) director of operations in Gaza, told The Independent that he was "confident and determined" that the Holocaust would feature for the first time in a wide-ranging curriculum that is being drafted. The draft, to be completed within weeks and then put out for consultation with parents and the public, is built on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was agreed by the UN General Assembly in 1948 in the shadow of what it called the "barbarous acts" committed by the Nazis during the Second World War.

[Full article](#) – The Independent

Israel/Opt – Israel blocks school supplies from entering Gaza

9 October 2009 – Israeli authorities should immediately lift restrictions that have left students in Gaza's public schools without textbooks and the most basic school supplies, such as notebooks and pens, Human Rights Watch said today. Israel severely limits imports into Gaza of a wide variety of basic goods, from food to construction materials. More than a month into the school year, the Israeli restrictions have caused severe shortages that leave students unable to afford supplies such as notebooks. Students are obliged to share or take turns studying from used textbooks and workbooks. Some did not receive any books for this year's classes. Supplies smuggled through tunnels underneath Gaza's southern border with Egypt have failed to make up for the shortages caused by Israel's arbitrary restrictions on imports of educational materials.

[Full article](#) – Human Rights Watch

Israel/Opt – Hungry to learn across the world

13 October 2009 – Around the world millions of children are not getting a proper education because of poverty or war. In the second report in the BBC's Hunger to Learn series, Katya Adler meets children in Gaza whose schooling has been repeatedly interrupted by conflict.
[Full report](#) – BBC

Israel/Opt – PM Inaugurates School for Blinds in Beit Jala

15 October 2009 – Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, today inaugurated a new school for the blind, funded by the Government of Germany, through its development bank KfW, and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme, in cooperation with the National Society for the Visually Handicapped.
[Full article](#) – Kuwait Obsever

Israel/Opt – UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Mia Farrow concludes visit to Israel and occupied Palestinian territory

18 October 2009 – World renowned actress Mia Farrow ended today a six-day mission to the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel. The mission focused on children affected by conflict. Farrow's stop in Gaza comes nine months after military operations that killed over 1,400 Palestinians, including at least 350 children and injured over 5,000, among them 1,600 children. Thirteen Israelis were also killed, including three civilians. The fighting devastated swathes of the tiny, densely-populated Gaza Strip, which is home to 1.5 million Palestinians, nearly 60 per cent of them children.
[Full story](#) – UNICEF
[Full story](#) – Kuwait Observer
[More information](#) – Kuwait Observer

Israel/Opt – Israel pulls textbook with chapter on Nakba

19 October 2009 – The Ministry of Education has taken the unusual step of collecting all copies of the history textbook, "Nationalism: Building a State in the Middle East" which was published about two months ago by the Zalman Shazar Center. They will be returned to the shelves only after corrections are made to the text, particularly with reference to the War of Independence. On September 22, Haaretz reported that the textbook, which is meant for 11th and 12th-grades, for the first time presented the Palestinian claim that there had been ethnic cleansing in 1948.
[Full article](#) – Haaretz

Israel – 1,200 children face deportation

22 October 2009 – Israeli Interior Minister Eli Yishai has said he will not grant legal status to some 1,200 children of migrant workers, triggering an anti-deportation campaign led by several NGOs. The 1,200 are not included in the 2006 government scheme that granted legal status to over 600 children of migrant workers.
[Full article](#) – IRIN

Israel/Opt – Travel restrictions hit Gaza students

22 October 2009 – Some 838 students formally offered places and/or enrolled at foreign universities are unable to leave Gaza, according to the Palestinian interior ministry and Gisha, an NGO campaigning for freedom of movement. Of the 1,983 Gazan students in this position, only 1,145 have been able to leave Gaza since the beginning of 2009 due to a combination of travel restrictions and bureaucratic hurdles.

[Full article](#) – IRIN

Israel/Opt – Educating for Tolerant Thinking within a Conflict Zone

25 October 2009 – Educating children in a conflict zone is no simple matter. More often than not, those responsible for the curricula succumb to the masters of war and adopt a pedagogical approach that exacerbates rather than diffuses strife. Israel, unfortunately, is no exception. Consider the way Jewish and Palestinian children are educated. Segregation in the classroom is the rule so that Jewish and Palestinian children only rarely mix. This strict segregation exists despite the fact that the Palestinians are citizens of Israel, comprising 19.5 percent of Israel's population — around 1.37 million people — and 25 percent of all school children. Unlike the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, these Palestinians vote and pay taxes like Jewish citizens. Notwithstanding their incorporation into the citizen body, Palestinian citizens do not enjoy full equality. In comparison to their Jewish counterparts, Arab schools receive half the per capita budget. It is therefore not very surprising that Palestinian students have the highest dropout rates and lowest achievement levels in the country.

[Read more](#) – Daily News Egypt

Jordan – School of Amman Ballet to bring the Nutcracker to Jordan

9 October 2009 – This year, a newly established ballet school is bringing to Jordan a staple of the Christmas season frequently found in major cities around the world. The Nutcracker, a fairy-tale ballet whose setting takes place during Christmas Eve, will be performed by the School of Amman Ballet (SAB) this December.

[Full article](#) – The Jordan Times

Jordan – Children's book highlights national pride, respect for others

9 October 2009 – Children's book author Wafa Qusous' new story "Who Loves Jordan More than Me?" seeks to instil in children national pride and teach them about cultural and religious coexistence at an early age. The book tells the story of a little boy called Nadim, who travels with his parents around the world due to the nature of his father's work. In the story, Nadim makes friends with children from different cultures and religions and tells them about the "beauty of Jordan".

[Full article](#) – The Jordan Times

Jordan – Two children, father die in flooded basement

7 October 2009 – A brief downpour on Tuesday flooded the streets of Amman, killing three persons in an incident near the 7th Circle and bringing traffic to a halt in other parts of the capital. According to the Civil Defence Department, three were killed after rain water and mud flooded the basement of a five-storey building. The victims, an Egyptian guard and his

two children, died after a wall collapsed, blocking the flow of floodwater and diverting it towards the building where they resided.

[Full article](#) – The Jordan Times

Jordan – Two UNICEF advocates, Queen Rania and Mia Farrow, meet in Jordan

14 October 2009 – Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan, UNICEF's Eminent Advocate for Children, met with internationally acclaimed actress and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Mia Farrow. Ms. Farrow was on her way to the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel to raise awareness about the humanitarian situation of children affected by conflict in this region.

[Full article](#) – UNICEF

Jordan – A message to the Chairman of Amman National University

15-21 October 2009 – The Monitoring Committee of the National Campaign for Students Rights "Thabahtouna" addressed the Chairman of Amman National University, Maher Selim, in a statement, requesting him to set a near date for student union elections. The university administration has dissolved the union in 2003 and has not called for new elections since then. The statement described the current situation as stealing the will of students and negligence to their representative bodies, holding their rights and singling out students in order for the university to pass its policies without resistance. This situation deprives the students of having an elected body that represents them and stands for their rights.

[Full article](#) – ANHRI

Lebanon – Lebanon's youth must play key role in global fight against climate change

15 October 2009 – Lebanese youth should take an active role in their local communities and join the global fight against climate change, president of the major international organization Junior Chamber International (JCI) said Wednesday. South Korean national Jun Sup Shin told *The Daily Star* that young people between the ages of 18 and 40 could play a vital role throughout the world if they became more active citizens in their own communities, and urged more Lebanese to join JCI to raise their country's international profile.

[Full article](#) – Daily Star Lebanon

Lebanon – Drama gives voice to young Palestinians

12 October 2009 – “If Palestine was free I would play outside with my friends. If Palestine was free I could ask my grandparents about their stories. If Palestine was free I would plant a thousand olive trees.” The voices of Palestinian refugee children in Lebanon are mostly drowned out, by the government, by politicians, and sometimes unintentionally by their own parents and teachers. When you listen hard enough, however, you can hear their faint cries for peace and stability.

[Full story](#) – Daily Star Lebanon

Lebanon – Officials tackle health in schools amid H1N1 concerns

9 October 2009 – Caretaker Health Minister Mohammad Jawad Khalifeh and caretaker Education Minister Bahía Hariri met with representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO) and UN child protection agency UNICEF on Thursday to discuss health and safety measures in Lebanon's 1,400 schools. The main issue discussed was the ongoing A (H1N1) virus, otherwise known as swine flu, Hariri said. "The primary goal now is to ensure a healthy school environment," she told reporters after the meeting. A survey of the country's schools carried out by the Lebanese authorities in partnership with the WHO had found the most pressing need was potable water and clean water for hand-washing, Hariri added.

[Full article](#) – Daily Star Lebanon

Lebanon – New school built for Al Buss camp refugee children

7 October 2009 – A new school has been built in the Al Buss Palestinian refugee camp near the southern port of Tyre with money donated by the Spanish government. The school, Deir Yassin, was inaugurated on Tuesday under the patronage of the Spanish Ambassador to Lebanon Juan Carlos Gafo and the Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Lebanon, Salvatore Lombardo. UNRWA aided construction of the building, which can accommodate 550 pupils from grades 1 to 7.

[Full article](#) – Daily Star Lebanon

Lebanon – UNIFIL's Korean troops aid children with special needs

3 October 2009 – The Korean contingent of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) reached out to south Lebanon's special-needs children on Friday as part of its Angel Gabriel Project. The UNIFIL battalion handed out medical equipment for about 35 children from the southern towns which were part of its area of operations. The children all suffered from physical disabilities and were called to attend the gathering in Tyre with their parents.

[Full story](#) – Daily Star Lebanon

Lebanon – Solar power helps schools, hospitals

29 October 2009 – In Lebanon's remote northeastern district of Akkar, teachers and pupils at the Rajam Issa public school are hoping this winter will be the first when the lights stay on. "Electricity is the lifeline of the school," said head teacher Ibrahim Salame, complaining of frequent and prolonged power cuts. It is hoped that by the end of November their classroom lights, projectors and photocopying machines will stay on during power cuts thanks to a set of rooftop photovoltaic panels producing renewable electricity from one of Lebanon's most abundant natural resources, the sun.

[Full article](#) – IRIN

Syria – In Syria, 'capoeira' helps Palestinian-Iraqi children heal psycho-social wounds

2 October 2009 – In al-Tanf, a refugee camp set up in the no-man's-land near the Syrian-Iraqi border, Palestinian children who have fled the conflict in Iraq participate in various activities designed to help them heal their psycho-social wounds. "Once we brought interactive theatre, another time clowns, and lately 'capoeira', which turned out to be the

most effective activity," says psycho-social consultant Patrizia Giffoni, who has spent the last year and a half working at al-Tanf. The UNICEF-supported team in the camp also includes Project Coordinator Mohammed Nayef and a group of 20 youth volunteers recruited from the refugee population.

[Full article](#) – Reliefweb

Syria – Child labour in Syria on the rise

October 2009 – Crouched down on the dirty floor of a footbridge crossing Damascus's Al-Thawra Street, Nadir, just seven years old, stares blankly at the stall of pistachio and coconut sweets in front of him. Sabah, his nine-year-old sister, pulls restlessly at his threadbare sandals, before goading him into a fight which eventually turns into a fit of giggles. For a split second the children take no notice of the constant stream of people shuffling past, until some money falls in Nadir's lap – a sharp reminder of the job at hand – and it's back to business as usual.

[Full story](#) – Syria Today

Syria – Mobile Learning

October 2009 – Beside a cluster of tents huddled together in the middle of the desert in north-eastern Syria, 11 young children have assembled in front of a portable building. Standing in three orderly lines and dressed in neat school uniforms, they recite the greeting which marks the beginning of the schoolday for every Syrian child. Afterwards, the pupils climb up the steps of the building and enter a classroom where their teacher awaits them with his baby in his arms. Mohammed Khalil, 25, is one of two teachers whose classroom – and home – is the mobile school in Thameriya, northern Raqqa. His only other colleague is his wife, 24-year-old Khadija. For the past year the Mansour family has been living to the rhythm of the seasons and moving with the tribe as it searches for new pasture for its sheep.

[Full story](#) – Syria Today

Syria – Thousands of Iraqi refugees seek resettlement in West

28 October 2009 - Iraqi refugee Leila Johanna Isho is determined to make this her last year in Syria. "Most of our family is scattered across Europe and I have a cousin in Canada so we don't mind where we move, but we have to move because life is becoming too difficult here," said Isho, sitting with her three children in their cramped single-room apartment in Masakin Berzeh, a working-class neighbourhood of Damascus. With savings run dry, incomes unable to match inflation, more stringent visa requirements, and a return to Baghdad ruled too risky by most, the numbers of Iraqi families seeking resettlement from Syria and across the Middle East to Europe and North America is rising fast.

[Full story](#) – IRIN

In North Africa:

Algeria – La révolution à l'école

2 October 2009 – Si la rentrée en termes de calendrier est essentiellement marquée par des préoccupations lourdes pour la majorité des Algériens, c'est qu'il y a des fonctionnements au niveau social, pour la qualité de la vie, à revoir et à huiler. La rentrée scolaire qui charrie les

mêmes problèmes depuis des décennies est, elle aussi, essentiellement d'ordre culturel. Les bancs de l'école, les premiers contacts avec des lieux destinés au savoir, à la connaissance, au vivre ensemble au-delà du sexe, des origines sociales et du niveau de vie de familles, diverses, différentes, selon la fortune des uns et le dénuement des autres.

[Full article](#) – Africtice Network

Algeria – Clashes Break out in Algiers Slum

21 October 2009 – Youths from a slum in Algeria's capital clashed Tuesday with police in a protest against their housing conditions, leaving at least 11 policemen injured, AFP reported. Similar incidents had occurred on Monday as residents of the Diar Echems working-class district of Algiers protested against their squalid housing and demanded new homes.

[Full story](#) – HIC-MENA

Egypt – Egypt adopts aggressive H1N1 flu stance

1 October 2009 – Egyptians blame their government for many things, but they cannot say it has failed to rise to the threat of swine flu. In May it ordered the mass slaughter of Egypt's 200,000-odd pigs. Since the summer, masked health officials have screened the country's airports, hauling some 800 feverish-looking visitors off to quarantine on arrival. In August he government banned anyone under 25 or over 60 from making the pilgrimage to Mecca, in a bid to keep the more vulnerable safe at home. When a few cases of swine flu appeared in private schools and universities last month, the government closed down the lot. They reopen this week, along with state schools, where the academic year was delayed to prepare for the flu. Every school has now been supplied with thermometers, face-masks and on-call doctors. Strict inspections ensure they have functioning bathrooms as well as a room set aside to quarantine any child suspected of being ill. School days have been extended and play times will be staggered in an effort to thin the crowds of students.

[Full article](#) – The Economist

Egypt – Female students pay for ministry's decisions

12 October 2009 – Female students hailing from different governorates fell victim to decisions taken by the Ministry of Higher Education pertaining to the H1N1 virus, the full face veil (niqab) and final grades. A large number of students were barred from entering the universities' dorms in Cairo this year due to precautionary measures against H1N1, for the niqab or for earning an average grade of 'Good.' Last week, the students called on university officials to amend the decisions in question, while at the same time looking for alternative housing.

[Full article](#) – Daily News Egypt

Egypt – Swine flu risk for Cairo's overcrowded schools

22 October 2009 – The Egyptian ministries of health and education have ordered all schools in Cairo to halve the number of children in each class to mitigate the possible spread of H1N1 influenza - no small challenge in this overcrowded city of 20 million. The resulting uncertainty has led schoolchildren to attend classes on three alternate days a week instead of six under a long-running double-shift system designed to ease overcrowding.

[Read more](#) – IRIN

Libye – Le projet d'enseignement d'anglais distingué

25 octobre 2009 – Le projet d'enseignement de la langue anglaise dans les universités libyennes a obtenu le prix international du British Cultural Council pour l'an 2009. Une cérémonie a été organisée dimanche à l'université Al-Fateh à Tripoli en présence du secrétaire du comité populaire général libyen de l'enseignement et de la recherche scientifique Dr Abdelkabir Fakhri, du secrétaire du comité populaire de l'université Al-Fateh Dr Hédi Akremi, de la directrice du British Cultural Council Anna Seril, des directeurs des centres de langues dans les dix universités libyennes, les responsables du projet et de plusieurs spécialistes et intéressés.

[À lire](#) – Afrique en ligne

Morocco – Développer la qualité au sein de l'établissement scolaire

1 octobre 2009 – Le gouverneur de la province, Abderrahmane Zidouh, a procédé dernièrement dans plusieurs établissements scolaires relevant de cette province, à la distribution de cartables garnis de fournitures scolaires aux enfants issus de familles nécessiteuses. Quelque 65.097 élèves ont bénéficié de l'opération "un million de cartables" dont 38.515 dans le milieu urbain et 22.706 dans le milieu rural. L'opération de distribution de fournitures et de livre a concerné 136 établissements scolaires dont 92 en milieu rural, et a nécessité une enveloppe budgétaire de 8.438.925.80 DH. Cette initiative, vise à donner une forte impulsion à la généralisation de l'enseignement fondamental et à l'affirmation de son caractère obligatoire, de sorte à garantir l'égalité des chances et lutter contre la déperdition scolaire.

[Full article](#) – Le Matin

Morocco – Divorce des parents : Il ne faut pas impliquer les petits dans les conflits des parents séparés

1 octobre 2009 – Papa et maman ne vivent plus sous le même toit. L'enfant vit le divorce de ses parents comme un déchirement et il a du mal à s'adapter à cette nouvelle donne qui risque d'ébranler toute son existence. Les conflits du couple ayant atteint un point culminant, on décide sur un coup de tête de rompre le mariage et c'est l'enfant, bien entendu, qui en paie les frais, surtout sur le plan psychique et affectif. Dépression, repli sur soi, difficultés à l'école, manque de confiance en soi... les séquelles du divorce des parents sont quasi fatales et poursuivent l'enfant jusqu'à son âge adulte.

[Full article](#) – Le Matin

Morocco – Projet « Salem » de solidarité avec les enfants du Maroc : Dans le cadre d'une stratégie pour prévenir la migration irrégulière et encadrer les mineurs.

30 septembre 2009 – En partenariat avec les ministères de l'Education nationale et des Affaires étrangères et en collaboration avec le groupe OCP, la délégation provinciale de la jeunesse et des sports et les autorités locales bien entendu, l'organisation internationale pour les migrations a lancé à Khouribga un important projet «Salem» de solidarité avec les enfants du Maroc. Ce programme s'inscrit dans le cadre d'une stratégie pour prévenir la migration irrégulière et encadrer les mineurs, à travers des capacités opérationnelles de l'entraide

nationale, la promotion et le soutien des compétences locales et la consolidation du système de protection des mineurs et des familles vulnérables dans la région de Khouribga qui présente une forte pression migratoire vers l'Italie.

[Full article](#) – Le Matin

Morocco – Au service d'une meilleure scolarisation des enfants ruraux

7 octobre 2009 – Fruit d'actions concrètes de solidarité et d'entraide sociales, les maisons de l'Étudiante ou de l'Étudiant, communément connues sous l'appellation "Dours Attalib ou Attaliba", se veulent, dans leur concept actuel, des structures novatrices combien indispensables à une meilleure scolarisation des enfants, notamment dans les zones rurales ou enclavées, où le taux de la déperdition scolaire bat son plein. Ces structures d'accueil et d'hébergement ont connu, ces dernières années, un développement remarquable à l'échelle nationale, tant dans les zones urbaines qu'en milieu rural. Et pour preuve, nombre de ces maisons n'ont pas tardé à voir le jour dans le cadre de partenariats stratégiques conclus entre nombre d'acteurs, dont la Fondation Mohammed V pour la solidarité, l'Entraide nationale, les Collectivités locales, l'INDH, l'Administration des douanes, la Promotion nationale, des bienfaiteurs, la société civile et des ONG internationales, ce qui témoigne déjà de leur importance à la fois morale, sociale et éducative dans l'encadrement et la formation de bons citoyens de demain.

[Full article](#) – Le Matin

Morocco – Le scandale refait surface: Les pensionnaires sont menacés soit de déménager soit de sortir dans la rue

6 octobre 2009 – Décidément l'Association islamique de bienfaisance Ain Chock n'en a pas fini avec ses scandales. Après la colère royale contre les conditions de vie à l'orphelinat, ses anomalies et dysfonctionnements, aujourd'hui, les pensionnaires se révoltent contre «la décision arbitraire» de fermeture de l'établissement. «La direction a envoyé brusquement les jeunes pensionnaires à un centre de Hay hassani. Elle a fait venir des autocars et les a déplacés sans aucun préavis ou préparation psychologique. Pis, elle a placé les plus grands dans un autre établissement à Sidi Othmane avec l'aide des forces de l'ordre», déplore un résidant à Dar Al Atflal Ain Chock. Les enfants du primaire et collège ont été déplacés sous prétexte d'excursion. Une fois dans le nouveau centre, ils ont découvert qu'il s'agissait d'un déplacement irréversible.

[Full article](#) – Le Matin

Morocco – Abuse sentence 'lenient'

14 October 2009 – Moroccan human rights groups are to appeal against the sentence imposed on a woman at the centre of a high-profile abuse case, saying it was too lenient. The judge's wife was given three years in jail for torturing her 11-year-old maid, Zineb Chetite. The court heard medical reports listing how the girl had at times been burnt with oil and an iron, had had her head shaved and was beaten with a stick. The case has highlighted the plight of maids in Morocco and abroad.

[Full article](#) – BBC

Maroc – Vers une meilleure éducation environnementale

26 octobre 2009 – Aménagés au départ comme composantes intégrantes du paysage des établissements scolaires, les espaces verts ont pris, avec le temps, l'aspect d'un outil indispensable pour l'éducation des jeunes générations à l'environnement et au respect de la nature. L'intérêt pour la protection de l'environnement s'est traduit, au fil des années, par un changement radical du comportement des écoliers vis-à-vis de la nature et des espaces verts, notamment grâce à une prise de conscience quant au rôle indéniable que les jardins peuvent jouer dans la préservation de la santé et du bien être de l'homme et dans l'atténuation des effets de la pollution.

[À lire](#) – Le Matin

Tunisia – Arab Child Day celebrates “Creativeness Advancement”

1 October 2009 – "Creativeness Advancement" is the topic marking the celebration this year of Arab Child Day on October 1. The celebration by Tunisia of Arab Child Day is derived from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's Thought and the modernizing reform process he has initiated. This approach aims, among others, at enhancing the child's creative capacities and development according to the values of civic culture, mutual aid, tolerance, openness and participation in public life.

[Full article](#) – Tunis Afrique Presse

Tunisia – Opening of training session on addictive behaviours

6 October 2009 – The conference of Ministers of Youth and Sport of countries and governments sharing the use of French language (CONFESJES) is holding, in association with the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Physical Education, a training session on addictive behaviours.

[Full article](#) – Agence Tunis Afrique Presse

Tunisia – 1^{er} octobre : Journée de l'enfant arabe

2 octobre 2009 – « La promotion de la créativité chez l'enfant » est le thème de la Journée de l'enfant arabe que la Tunisie célèbre avec la communauté arabe, le 1^{er} octobre de chaque année. Partant de sa conviction de l'importance de la créativité dans la formation de la personnalité de l'enfant, la Tunisie veille à investir davantage dans l'enseignement, la promotion des ressources humaines, l'amélioration du niveau de l'encadrement dans les établissements chargés de l'enfance, la consolidation du rôle de la famille pour éduquer l'enfant sur les valeurs authentique et les nobles principes humanitaires.

[Full article](#) – Africtice Network

Tunisia – « Les enfants de la lune » : film documentaire réalisé en partie en Tunisie

18 octobre 2009 – Un film documentaire sur "Les enfants de la lune", réalisé par Fériel Ben Mahmoud et Daniel Nicolas, vient d'être tourné en partie en Tunisie (chez certains patients et à l'Hôpital Habib Thameur), en collaboration avec deux associations des « enfants de la lune » de Tunisie et de France. Le documentaire qui sera diffusé, mardi 20 octobre 2009, à 19H35 (heure tunisienne), sur la chaîne France 5, montre la qualité de la prise en charge médicale en Tunisie et souligne l'importance de l'aide sociale qu'il convient d'apporter aux

enfants atteints de Xeroderma pigmentosum, communément connue par la "maladie des enfants de la lune".

[À lire](#) – Agence Tunis Afrique Presse

Tunisia – La Tunisie célèbre la Journée internationale pour l'élimination de la pauvreté

16 octobre 2009 – La Tunisie célèbre, samedi, 17 octobre 2009, la Journée internationale pour l'élimination de la pauvreté qui coïncide cette année avec le 20^e anniversaire de la convention internationale des droits de l'enfant. Cette convention vise à protéger les enfants du monde entier de tous les dangers et en premier lieu le fléau de la pauvreté qui a des impacts négatifs sur la santé, la croissance et la scolarité des enfants. A l'occasion de cette journée, la Tunisie réaffirme son engagement total à participer à l'effort international pour l'éradication de la pauvreté et sa volonté constante d'œuvrer à la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement dont en particulier la réduction, de moitié, le taux de pauvreté à l'orée de 2015.

[À lire](#) – Agence Tunis Afrique Presse

In the Gulf:

Bahrain – Bahrain Plans to Tighten Abortion Law

8 October 2009 – To protect the right of unborn children, women who go in for abortion without the knowledge of their physicians would face six months in prison or BD 1,000 fine. Those caught trying to self-abort would be fined BD50, according to a proposal to amend certain provisions of the penal code law. Proposed by five Consultative Council's (Shura) members, the bill was discussed by the Shura Mother and Child Committee on Tuesday as part of the panel's efforts to eliminate all discriminations against women and children in Bahraini laws.

[Full article](#) – Khaleej Times

Bahrain – Children protest outside Saudi embassy

21 October 2009 – Three children of a Bahraini held in Saudi custody without trial for over six years demonstrated once again outside the Saudi Embassy, Manama, yesterday. Abdulraheem Al Murbati's son Osama and his two daughters, Maria, 16, and Aisha, 14, were joined at the protest by rights campaigner Nabeel Rajab. However, just half an hour into the peaceful demonstration they were asked to move by police, even though there were less than five people present and the protest could not be classed as an illegal gathering. The family's repeated appeals for Mr Al Murbati to be released have so far fallen on deaf ears, but Osama said they refused to give up.

[Read more](#) – Gulf Daily News

Bahrain – Drive to register children begins

20 October 2009 – A five-day campaign to register boys and girls born in 2004 will start on November 1 at primary schools. Parents were urged to register their children at schools in

their residential areas. They are required to submit genuine birth certificates issued by the Health Ministry.

[Source](#) – Gulf Daily News

Kuwait – Children's truancy could land parents in Kuwait jail

10 October 2009 – A few days after schools reopened in Kuwait, a parliamentary committee has recommended imprisoning parents of children who miss school for 15 consecutive days without reason. "The penalties for parents of boys and girls who go to elementary or intermediate school but miss 15 school days or more without excuse, will be one month in jail or a KD500 (Dh6,450) fine," MP Dr Salwa Al Najjar, member of the parliamentary education committee, has said. Al Najjar, one of the first women to be elected to Kuwait's parliament last May, hopes that the new provision, once approved by her peers, will force parents to work harder to get their children to school. No official figure is available on the level of school absenteeism in Kuwait, but reports say that it is an issue in rural areas

[Full article](#) – Gulf News

Kuwait – Kuwait women win ticket to independence

21 October 2009 – Kuwaiti women will be able to obtain their own passport without the consent of their husbands, following a ruling by the country's constitutional court. However, access to government housing and the right to pass citizenship to their children remain a challenge in this Arab country.

[Full article](#) – BBC

Kuwait – 116 Kuwaiti pupils catch swine flu since start of term

26 October 2009 – Up to 122 swine flu cases have been reported at Kuwaiti public schools since the start of the new term on September 27, education chiefs have announced. The Ministry of Education's figures came as the Gulf state also reported another swine flu related death, its 12th.

[Full article](#) – Arabian business

Oman – Minister of Social Development announced two royal grants for women's associations and 500 scholarships for girls

21 October 2009 – A three-day symposium on Omani women, held on the directives of His Majesty the Sultan, concluded at Seeh al Makarim on Monday evening with Dr Sharifa Bint Khalfan Al Yahya'eeya, Minister of Social Development, announcing two royal grants in support of Omani Women's Associations and scholarships for girls. Educational grant will allocate full scholarships for 500 girls who obtain grades of 80 per cent and above and have not had the opportunity to be admitted at government higher education institutions.

[Full story](#) – Arab Reform Initiative

Qatar – Qatar begins school flu vaccination drive

7 October 2009 – Qatar began its nationwide flu immunisation drive for school children on Wednesday with pupils at independent schools the first to receive the vaccine. Almost all consent forms sent to parents with children at independent schools across the country have

returned them, Dr Ayman Diab, head of the outbreak and surveillance unit of the Supreme Council of Health (SCH), told Gulf Times.

[Full article](#) – Arabian Business

Qatar – Qatar strives to protect children’s rights

16 October 2009 – The GCC States have taken confident steps towards fulfilling their international obligation regarding the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, said Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Seif al Thani, Counselor at the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to United Nations. Speaking at the 63rd UN General Assembly Panel on Promotion of the Rights of the Child meeting, on behalf of the GCC States, Sheikha Alya al Thani underlined that the GCC States renewed their commitment, at the Commemorative, High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly in December, to full implementation of the Declaration and Plan Action contained in the Final Document of the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children, held in 2007.

[Read more](#) – Qatar News Agency

United Arab Emirates – Verdict from UN expert on exploitation

19 October 2009 – Progress has been made in child protection in the UAE, a UN expert on human rights said yesterday, although she encouraged the country to adopt a federal approach to children’s rights. Najat M’jid Maalla, the UN special rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, ended a five-day mission to assess child protection in the UAE, and said mechanisms to protect children should cover the entire country.

[Full article](#) – CRIN

United Arab Emirates – Facelift at Thalassemia Centre Puts a Sparkle on Children

14 October 2009 – Every three weeks, 11-year-old Nimra Bibi Mohammed Lal comes all the way from her house in Masafi, Sharjah, to the Thalassemia Centre in Al Wasl Hospital, Dubai. She is one of the 450 patients in the centre who regularly receives red blood cell transfusion for the genetic blood disorder. A student of Al Sabah Indian Private School in Dhaid, Nimra reaches the centre by 9am and has to be there till late in the evening to complete the transfusion procedures. “I don’t really enjoy coming here... I find it so boring having to sit inside the room throughout the day,” says the Pakistani girl. Last week, however, the environment in the centre had entirely changed for Nimra.

[Full article](#) – Khaleej Times Online

United Arab Emirates – New booklet aims to make school bus trips safer in Dubai

13 October 2009 – After a massive overhaul of school buses to ensure better transport facilities for pupils, the Dubai Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has now launched a campaign urging children and their parents to follow transport safety guidelines. The RTA's Public Transport Agency has prepared a school transport booklet titled "Students' and Parents' Responsibilities" to educate students and parents about their role in ensuring safe trips to schools.

[Full article](#) – Gulf News

United Arab Emirates – Dubai to host learning disability meeting

14 October 2009 – Dubai will host the third GCC Learning Disability Conference on October 28-29 under the banner of "Bridging the Gap between Research and Practice". The conference, sponsored by etisalat, aims at developing a plan of action to assist educational institutions in the GCC, design curriculums to develop methods of training and creating effective human resources to address the problem of learning difficulties in general, and children in particular.

[Full article](#) – Gulf News

United Arab Emirates – Lending Wings to Dreams

14 October 2009 – Every child wants to fly, airplanes that is. Every child, at one point or the other, fancies the garb of a cabin crew. A dream career in aviation, albeit simulated within an indoor edutainment centre, awaits children at KidZania, the soon-to-open leisure attraction at the Dubai Mall. With its origins in Mexico, KidZania has won over the hearts of thousands of children across the world and is now coming to Dubai. The concept is simple: Scale down a real city to children's size, create a real-life business and lifestyle environment, and give kids a city that they can call their own. They will even have their own currency, KidZos, which they can earn, spend or save. It is to this unique children's leisure concept that Emirates brings in a dash of real-life aviation thrill.

[Full article](#) – Khaleej Times Online

United Arab Emirates – 50% of UAE children prone to fatal diseases

15 October 2009 – More than half of the children in the UAE will be prone to fatal chronic diseases in the next few years due to obesity and the situation needs to be tackled urgently, a senior official of the Ministry of Health warned on Wednesday. Dr Mariam Al Matroushi, Director of Health Legislation and School Health Programmes, said there was a need for a strategic plan to avoid children getting chronic diseases such as Type 2 diabetes, cancer and heart problems in the future. She emphasized the need to give children more access to fresh fruits and vegetables and a legislation to control junk food advertising.

[Full article](#) – Gulf News

United Arab Emirates – Abu Dhabi Education Council sponsors autism screening for children

4 October 2009 – The Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) will provide free autism screenings for children from KG to Grade 5 from Sunday, October 4, till mid-November as a drive to increase awareness about the condition. Visible symptoms of autism can be noticed in children at a very early age, and children who display possible early signs of autism should be taken to a pediatrician for evaluation without delay. Some common indicators of autism include a preference to be alone, lack of eye contact, unprovoked tantrums, and lack of curiosity or interest. Repetitive tendencies such as spinning or stacking objects, repeating words and phrases in place of normal language, and an attachment to routine can also serve as potential signs.

[Full article](#) – Gulf News

United Arab Emirates – UAE reiterates commitment to Children's Rights

20 October 2009 – The UAE has reiterated its commitment to implement the highest international standards of policy on the protection of children and child welfare to boost the rights of children. The country has also underscored its permanent policy in support of children's issues through the implementation of various national development programmes. In a UAE address to the Third committee of the Sixty-Fourth United Nation's General Assembly, deliberating on the protection of the rights of children, during which members of the Third Committee (Social, Cultural and Humanitarian) discussed national programmes to nurture young citizens, Noura Saeed Al-Mansouri, member of the UAE delegation to the UN, reiterated the UAE's determination to continue its support for the UN's efforts to protect millions of children worldwide who are mostly victims of conflicts, natural disasters and poverty.

[Read more](#) – Gulf in the Media

United Arab Emirates – Rehabilitation services for children with special needs

23 October 2009 – The APCCR is the only centre in the UAE that offers residential and rehabilitation services to children with special needs. Till fairly recently, Mubarak Brook Al Darmaki was a person many people found extremely difficult to deal with. He has an intellectual disability and would be aggressive, not only towards others, but even to himself. He refused to obey instructions and found it difficult to interact with others. What's worse was that his condition appeared to be deteriorating and the orphanage where he was placed in had no other choice but to knock at the doors of the Al Ain Private Centre for Care and Rehabilitation (APCCR). After being admitted to the centre there a miracle seemed to take place. In just a short period of time Mubarak's condition began to improve. Today, ten years later, the 22-year-old is a completely different person.

[Read more](#) – Gulf News

Yemen – Saudi aid route could open "next week"

1 October 2009 – The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has received permission from Saudi Arabia to send humanitarian aid to trapped internally displaced persons (IDPs) in northern Yemen through its border, according to agency officials. Naseem Ur-Rehman, chief communications and information officer at the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), told IRIN on 30 September that one UNICEF and three UNHCR officials had been dispatched to the border area to assess needs and the security situation.

[Full article](#) – IRIN

Yemen – Children in north suffer severe malnutrition

4 October 2009 – Many children in the impoverished northern governorates of Yemen, particularly Saada, are suffering severe malnutrition as a result of food price hikes and limited access to food because of escalating violence between the army and rebels, according to UN and Yemeni government officials. In May, the World Food Programme (WFP) screened children in Saada city and in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in and around the city and found they were more malnourished than the national average.

[Full article](#) – IRIN

Yemen – New drive to reduce child mortality

5 October 2009 – The government has welcomed a new campaign launched on 5 October by NGO Save the Children to help reduce child mortality in Yemen, which has the highest rate in the Middle East and one of the highest in the world outside Africa. Yemen was ranked 48th worst in the world for child mortality in 2009 by a UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) report. However, it appears progress is being made as Yemen was ranked 73rd in 2007 and 147th in 1990.

[Full article](#) – IRIN

Yemen – Top UN official highlights Saada crisis

12 October 2009 – “One of the reasons I’m here is to try to give a bit more profile to a conflict, and its humanitarian consequences, which had been fairly low on the list of the international media’s priorities,” UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes told IRIN at the end of his three-day visit to Yemen. Some 150,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been forced to flee their homes as a result of sporadic clashes since 2004 between the Yemeni government and a Shia rebel group in and around the northern governorate of Saada.

[Full article](#) – IRN

Yemen – Yemeni-Swedish Hospital launches children primary health care course

12 October 2009 – The Yemeni-Swedish Children Hospital launched Monday a training course on primary health care programs for children organized by Health Department in the Ministry of Health and Population in collaboration with the UNICEF Organization.

[Full article](#) – Yemen News Agency

Yemen – Yemen, ICRC agree on teaching Int'l humanitarian law in schools

13 October 2009 – Education Ministry and International Committee for Red Cross (ICRC) signed here on Tuesday a memorandum of understanding on teaching Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL) in schools during 2009 – 2011. Under the memorandum, the two sides agreed also on holding workshops for EHL teachers and providing them with financial allowances and launching awareness campaigns in International Humanitarian Law in addition to printing the related-books by ICRC.

[Full article](#) – Yemen News Agency

Yemen – L'Unicef «de plus en plus alarmée»

13 octobre 2009 – L'Unicef est «de plus en plus alarmée» par la situation qui prévaut actuellement dans le nord du Yémen, a indiqué, mardi à Genève, Mme Véronique Taveau, porte-parole de l'Unicef, précisant que deux mois après la reprise des combats dans cette région, l'accès humanitaire est toujours quasiment impossible aux agences humanitaires. Des milliers d'enfants ayant un accès très limité aux soins, à l'eau potable, à la nourriture ces dernières semaines, les taux de malnutrition sont en augmentation et les enfants courent un grand risque pour leur santé et leur développement.

[Full article](#) – Le Matin

Yemen – Child trafficker arrest in Sana'a as Haradh police thwart smuggling attempt

15 October 2009 – The police in Sana'a captured on Thursday a suspect, Al-Shomari, they charge with trafficking Yemeni children into neighboring states. A spokesman for the Criminal Investigation Department said the arrest came as a result of information over the suspect's involvement in child smuggling.

[Full article](#) – Yemen News Agency

Yemen – Internal regulations of children's social care centres discussed

19 October 2009 – A workshop was kicked off here to discuss the children social care and qualification centers' internal regulations, organized by Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor with the United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF)'s support. The three-day course aims at making a final draft for the internal regulations projects related to control work of the children's care and protection centers and involve those who work with children in enriching the centers' internal regulations and reinforce their role in creating a lawful structure for the institutions work with children.

[Full article](#) – Yemen News Agency

Yemen – Learning without chairs

20 October 2009 – Fatma Abdullah's daughters Salma, aged 9, and Khadija, 11, are going to school for the first time in their lives in al-Mazraq camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Haradh District, Hajjah Governorate, northern Yemen. They had never been to school in their home area in Malihidh District, Saada Governorate, near the border with Hajjah, the scene of clashes between government troops and Houthis-led Shia rebels.

[Full story](#) – IRIN

Yemen – Children at Mezraq camp suffer from malnutrition

20 October 2009 – UNICEF has found that 10 percent of children at Mezraq camp in Hajjah province are suffering from malnutrition, after examining more than 1,000 children there, the UNICEF Regional Goodwill Ambassador Mahmoud Kabil said Tuesday. He also affirmed the importance of promoting the joint humanitarian efforts between the government and international organizations working in relief field to meet the growing needs of Sa'ada IDPs from medicines, foodstuffs and tents.

[Full article](#) – Yemen News Agency

Yemen – Democracy School implements awareness sessions for children in Sana'a

28 October 2009 - Democracy School started awareness sessions for children under the program "Children Protection against Discrimination and Violence" carried out by the school in partnership with Yemeni concerned organizations in child rights and in cooperation with the European Union on Wednesday in the capital Sana'a .

[Full story](#) – Yemen News Agency