



BUREAU
INTERNATIONAL
DES DROITS DES ENFANTS

INTERNATIONAL
BUREAU
FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

OFICINA
INTERNACIONAL DE
LOS DERECHOS DEL NIÑO

Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Newsletter

January 2010

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

For more information, please contact:

Guillaume Landry
Director of Programmes

International Bureau for Children's Rights
2715 Chemin Côte-Sainte-Catherine, Montréal (Québec) H3T 1B6
Tel: +1 514 932 7656, poste / extension 222
Fax : + 1 514-932-9453
Email : g.landry@ibcr.org
Website : www.ibcr.org

1. Global Developments on Children's Rights	4
The Committee on the Rights of the Child holds its 53 rd session.....	4
UNESCO releases its Education For All Global Monitoring Report.....	4
UNESCO: Gender equality and education	4
UNESCO: New partnership for education.....	5
2. MENA Regional Child Related Activities (events, conferences, news, vacancies, announcements, reportages, campaigns).....	5
HREA is offering distance learning courses in human rights for the spring.....	5
HREA is offering distance learning courses in human rights for the fall.....	5
UNESCO's International Leadership Forum: Call for applications	6
Vacancy – ECPAT UK is seeking a training manager.....	6
Vacancy – Save the Children	6
Be-Free Center Participates in the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Meeting for Medical Students Association	6
Amnesty International is seeking an International Human Rights Education Project Coordinator	6
Course on treaty monitoring bodies and the universal periodic review	7
UQAM offre deux séminaires d'été sur les missions de paix et les opérations humanitaires des Nations Unies	7
Meeting of the Arab Council for Childhood and Development.....	7
Conférence au Caire au profit des enfants handicapés	8
3. Sub-Regional and Country Updates:	8
In the Levant:	8
Iraq – ICRC activities in Iraq.....	8



Iraq – Squatters moved out of nearly two thirds of returnees’ homes	8
Iraq – Training Iraqi children on the danger of guns	8
Iraq – Redoubling efforts to boost medical care for civilians	9
Israel/Opt – DCI Palestine submits 15 cases of child abuse and 13 cases of torture for UN investigation	9
Israel/Opt – Committee on the Rights of the Child examines Israel’s report under Optional Protocol on Children and Armed Conflict.....	10
UNRWA launches emergency appeal to end conflict in the West Bank and Gaza	10
Israel/Opt – Ongoing Israeli blockade jeopardising health of over one million Gazans, UN warns	10
Israel/Opt – Visit to UN Headquarters caps off week-long trip for some of Gaza’s top students.....	11
Israel/Opt – Flood misery for tented communities in Gaza	11
Jordan – The Ministry of Education states that the kingdom is making progress towards the eradication of illiteracy	11
Jordan – Cases of school violence reported.....	11
Lebanon – Camp for blind students’ integration	11
Lebanon – Bomb meant for Hezbollah wounds three children	12
Lebanon – UNRWA closes a deal to open healthcare facilities for Palestinians	12
Syria – A plan for Iraqi refugees sets objectives for child labour.....	12
In North Africa:	12
Algérie – Plusieurs enfants victimes d’accidents domestiques	12
Algérie – L’UNICEF estime que l’Algérie détient un taux de scolarisation exceptionnel	13
Egypt – 17 year old reportedly tortured in a Cairo police station	13
Egypt – H1N1 vaccines campaign for school children	13
Libye – Conférence sur la solidarité avec la famille arabe.....	13
Maroc – Jeunes participant à un événement sur l’économie sociale	14
Maroc – La première télévision scolaire voit le jour.....	14
Tunisie – Construction de trois unités pour enfants handicapés	14
Tunisie – Célébration de la journée de l’enfance.....	14
Tunisie – Coopération bilatérale entre la Tunisie et l’Arabie Saoudite.....	15
In the Gulf:	15
Bahrain – Be-Free Center participates in a TV show on children	15
Bahrain – Children to be educated on a healthy living.....	15
Kuwait – IOM holds workshop to counter human trafficking.....	15
Kuwait – More opportunities for Kuwaiti students	16
Kuwait – Kuwait to host Arab Youth Conference.....	16
Qatar – Doha workshop warns youth against sex tourism	16
Qatar – Humanitarian organizations could be involved in child trafficking.....	16
Qatar – Conference on the empowerment of the family.....	17
Saudi Arabia – Al-Qaeda uses modern technology to recruit youth	17
United Arab Emirates – Six year jail term for trafficking a thirteen year old girl	17
United Arab Emirates – 5 year old girl raped.....	17



United Arab Emirates – Smoking banned in cars transporting children.....	17
United Arab Emirates – Six month jail term for girl molestation	18
United Arab Emirates – Age limit for tobacco sale likely to be increased to 20	18
Yemen – The government working towards the fulfilment of the CRC and its protocols, says the Minister of Education.....	18
Yemen – Children used as soldiers by rebel groups	18
Yemen – Ten year old Yemeni girl files for divorce.....	19
Yemen – Children vaccinated against polio	19
Yemen – Harsh weather worsens plight of civilians in conflict zone	19
Yemen – More than 200,000 displaced by the conflict in Yemen	19
Yemen – Third camp open to accommodate displaced families	20
Yemen – A serious humanitarian crisis in the making.....	20



1. Global Developments on Children's Rights

The Committee on the Rights of the Child holds its 53rd session

The Committee on the Rights of the Child will hold its 53rd session from 11 to 29 January 2010, in Geneva, Switzerland. The States to be examined during this session are: Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mongolia, Norway, Paraguay and Tajikistan. Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Mongolia and Sierra Leone will also be examined for the work they have done towards the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Ecuador, Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, and Sierra Leone will also submit a State Report to the Committee stating the progress and difficulties encountered in implementing the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

[For more information](#)

UNESCO releases its Education For All Global Monitoring Report

19 January 2010 – UNESCO warns that the financial crisis the world has recently been through will have negative consequences on the education of marginalized children. With 72 million children still out of school, the poorest countries will most likely see a reversal in education. Much had been done in those countries in the past decade in order to allow all children to get basic education. However, the increasingly precarious economical situation means that the progress which has been done could be lost if no actions are taken immediately. Industrialized countries are more worried on getting the economy back on track than helping poor countries but in order for the “Education for All” objectives to be met, donors need to increase their financial contributions to the south.

[Full report](#)

[Overview on Arab States](#)

UNESCO: Gender equality and education

UNESCO is organizing an online discussion on Gender equality, Education and Training as part of the 15-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action. The event will take place from 10 January to 7 February 2010. The online discussions are designed to catalyze debate, to analyze progress and to provide an important interactive forum where perspectives, successful initiatives and information can be shared. In addition, participants will be the first to read and learn more about new research and publications by experts in the field, including gender analyses from the 2010 Global Monitoring Report, and contributions from leading agencies and institutions.

Call for paper

The United Nation's Girl Education Initiative welcomes paper for the conference “Engendering Empowerment: Equality and Education”, which will take place in Dakar, Senegal from May 17 to May 20, 2010. This conference is part of a world-wide mobilisation of partnerships to realise the rights of girls and women to education and training and address



the gender inequalities that prevent initiatives from reaching their full potential to transform societies. The key themes for the conference include: violence, poverty and inequalities, participation, health, nutrition, water, HIV and climate change.

[For further information](#) on the online discussion

[For further information](#) on the call for paper for the Dakar conference

UNESCO: New partnership for education

28 January 2010 – A new partnership for education web portal has been launched by UNESCO and the World Economic Forum, which aims at building a community of education practitioner around the world and providing a collaborative space for them to facilitate the exchange of ideas and best practices.

[Full article](#) – UNESCO

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

HREA is offering distance learning courses in human rights for the spring

HREA is offering human rights distance learning course which will take place from April to July 2010. The deadline for applications is 1 February 2010. Several courses are offered. The course relevant to children's rights which is offered for this semester is "Monitoring Children's Rights". For more information on the course and for application procedures, please click on the link below.

[Monitoring Children's Rights](#)

For more information on the other courses HREA has to offer for this period, you may visit their [website](#).

HREA is offering distance learning courses in human rights for the fall

HREA is offering several human rights distance learning courses which will take place from 15 September to 30 November 2010. The deadline for applications is 1 June 2010. The courses offered which are relevant to children's rights are the following: Child Rights Programming, Monitoring Children's Rights (offered in French), Human Rights of Migrants, Migrants Workers and Their Families. For more information on the courses offered and for application forms, please consult the links here below.

[Child Rights Programming](#)

[Monitoring Children's Rights](#)

[Human Rights of Migrants, Migrants Workers and Their Families](#)

For further information on the other courses HREA has to offer, you may visit their [website](#).



UNESCO's International Leadership Forum: Call for applications

The UNESCO Chair & Institute of Comparative Human Rights at the University of Connecticut is receiving applications for the sixth annual International Leadership Programme: A Global Intergenerational Forum, to be held August 6 - 14, 2010 in Storrs, Connecticut. Applications must be submitted by February 26, 2010. The Forum seeks to empower young leaders by involving them in finding solutions to emerging human rights problems, and nurturing individuals to be effective leaders in the field of human rights. Young people between the ages of 18-30, with community service experience, and with demonstrated ability to work on solutions to human rights problems, should apply. Relevant issues include, but are not limited to, human trafficking, the plight of children, refugees, hunger, HIV/AIDS, gender discrimination, racism, the environment and peace education.

[For further information and applications](#)

Vacancy – ECPAT UK is seeking a training manager

ECPAT UK is seeking a training manager. This is a three year, full time position which is located in London. This is a senior position overseeing and delivering the organisation's training programme on safeguarding children. The deadline for applications is **3 February 2010**. The application package and further details can be found on the website here below. One must apply with the application package as CVs will not be accepted.

[Application package and details on the position](#)

Vacancy – Save the Children

Save the Children International is now seeking an Advocacy and Communications Manager for their "Child Protection Initiative". The purpose of the post is to lead and coordinate Save the Children's Child Protection Initiatives' (CPI) advocacy to bring about positive changes to protect children from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence and support the CPI communication strategy. The deadline for applications is **18 February 2010**. Click on the link below for further information on the position.

[Information on the position](#)

Be-Free Center Participates in the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Meeting for Medical Students Association

1 January 2009 – The theme of the conference which will be taking place from 1 to 4 January 2010 in Bahrain will be child abuse. A special emphasis will be given on challenges the medical community faces with respect to child abuse and how professionals can detect and deal with such cases.

Amnesty International is seeking an International Human Rights Education Project Coordinator

Amnesty International is seeking an International Human Rights Education Project Coordinator to coordinate an international human rights education initiative aiming at raising awareness and taking action in order to fight against human rights abuse that deepens poverty. The candidate must have excellent communication skills. This is a three year contract taking place in London. Some traveling will be required.



[For further information on the posting](#)

Course on treaty monitoring bodies and the universal periodic review

From 3 to 14 May 2010, the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) will organise a training course on the treaty monitoring bodies and the universal periodic review (UPR). Participants will have the opportunity to attend the sessions of CAT, CESCR and the UPR, meet with Committee members, other UN officials, diplomats and representatives of relevant international, regional and national non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The course is designed for experienced human rights defenders and organisations that have the capacity to use the international human rights system, in particular the treaty bodies and the UPR mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council, in their work. The deadline for applications is 12 February 2010.

[For applications](#)

UQAM offre deux séminaires d'été sur les missions de paix et les opérations humanitaires des Nations Unies

La Chaire Raoul-Dandurand de l'Université du Québec à Montréal offre deux séminaires d'été dans lesquels peuvent y participer les étudiants de cycles supérieurs ainsi que les professionnels. Le séminaire sur les missions de paix des Nations Unies aura lieu du 3 au 14 mai 2010 et le séminaire sur les opérations humanitaires de cette même organisation se déroulera du 24 mai au 4 juin. Ces séminaires crédités sont offerts en français et constituent une première étape vers l'acquisition du Certificat de formation aux opérations de la paix (COTIPSO) délivré par l'institut de formation aux opérations de paix (POTI).

Pour plus d'information, prière de visiter la [Chaire Raoul-Dandurand](#)

Meeting of the Arab Council for Childhood and Development

13 January 2010



Conférence au Caire au profit des enfants handicapés

31 janvier 2010

3. Sub-Regional and Country Updates:

In the Levant:

Iraq – ICRC activities in Iraq

6 January 2010 - Leaflet published by the ICRC delegation in Baghdad. Overview of the ICRC's key activities in Iraq: supporting hospitals, physical rehabilitation programmes, water and habitat projects, assistance to the displaced and other people in need, visits to people deprived of their freedom, restoring family links, clarifying the fate of missing persons, promotion of international humanitarian law and support to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

[Full article](#) (International Committee of the Red Cross)

Iraq – Squatters moved out of nearly two thirds of returnees' homes

10 January 2010 (IRIN) - Nearly two thirds of homes belonging to Iraqi internally displaced persons (IDPs) or refugees that were occupied by squatters have been evacuated since mid-2008, a government official said on 9 January. Sadiq Amer, who runs one of the two main offices of Iraq's Ministry of Displacement and Migration in Baghdad, said squatters had taken over 3,099 homes of IDPs and refugees as of July 2008, after which the government ordered their evacuation to encourage returns. "As of 20 November 2009, 1,164 houses had been evacuated in Baghdad's Karkh area [western side of the city] out of 2,299 houses that were occupied. While in Rasafa [eastern side] about 800 [homes] have been evacuated," Amer told IRIN. Amer said 18,123 IDP and refugee families had returned to Karkh and 14,000 families to Rasafa as of 5 January.

[Full article](#) (IRIN)

Iraq – Training Iraqi children on the danger of guns

20 January 2010 – Mine Advisory Group (MAG) and UNICEF have commenced a training on the dangers of small arms and weapons in Iraq. Teachers from 60 schools in Diyala and Kirkuk governorates, staff from community-based organizations in Baghdad, Basra, Kirkuk, and Diyala, and youth are among those receiving information to provide to 12,000 community members on the dangers guns pose to the safety and well-being of children and young people. Training children on the danger of gun in Iraq is extremely important taking into consideration the context in which youth lives in. Violence is part of the every day life



and weapons are easily accessible. In 2008 alone, 313 children died, while 975 were wounded, as a result of accidental gunfire.

[Full article](#) – UNICEF

Iraq – Redoubling efforts to boost medical care for civilians

26 January 2010 - Decades of conflict have had a serious impact on the Iraqi health-care system and on the ability of civilians to obtain appropriate treatment. The ICRC has been supporting the system by delivering regular and emergency supplies to hospitals and, more importantly, by providing training for Iraqi doctors and nurses on war surgery, trauma management, infection control and delivery of first aid. "These seminars are important not only because of the topics covered but also because of what they teach us about sharing information and communicating with patients, something not generally taught in our system today," said Dr Jawad Ramadan, one of the surgeons participating in a three-day seminar on war surgery held in December for 40 doctors from different parts of the country. The seminar was organized by the ICRC in cooperation with Iraq's Ministry of Health and with the Ministry of Health of the Kurdistan regional government. Water was delivered by truck to 4,500 displaced people in Sadr City and 340 displaced people in Husseinia and Ma'amil and in Baghdad Teaching Hospital, all in Baghdad governorate and to Qalawa Quarter camp in Sulaimaniya, hosting around 360 displaced people.

[Full article](#) (International Committee of the Red Cross)

Israel/Opt – DCI Palestine submits 15 cases of child abuse and 13 cases of torture for UN investigation

5 January 2010 – DCI-Palestine submitted 15 cases to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories Occupied since 1967. The cases involve children aged between 14 and 15, who were reportedly arrested and prosecuted in the Israeli military court system in 2009. Those children were reportedly accused of throwing stones. According to DCI-Palestine, all of the children report some form of ill-treatment during their arrest and interrogation, including: painful shackling, slapping and beating, attempted suffocation, as well as the threat of long-term detention, rape and death. According to DCI-Palestine, Palestinian children as young as 12 are routinely being interrogated in the absence of a lawyer or family member and without the interrogations being audio-visually recorded.

DCI-Palestine submitted 13 cases to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture for investigation. The cases relate to the ill-treatment, and in some cases torture, of Palestinian children being held at the notorious Al Jalame Interrogation and Detention Centre near Haifa, in Israel, between February 2008 and March 2009. DCI reports that the children held in Al Jalame for interrogation are denied access to a lawyer and do not receive family visits, which violates the Fourth Geneva Convention and multiple human rights treaties. No education is provided to the children at this facility adds DCI.

[Full article](#) on child abuse – DCI Palestine

[Full article](#) on torture



Israel/Opt – Committee on the Rights of the Child examines Israel's report under Optional Protocol on Children and Armed Conflict

19 January 2010 – Israel stated that efforts had been done in recent years in terms of children rights. However, in preliminary concluding remarks, the Committee said that the report had not given enough information on the actual implementation of the Optional Protocol in Israel, but today's discussion had shed some light on it. One of the issues remaining was the issue of the application of the Optional Protocol in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Among other issues Experts raised were the age difference between the definition of a Palestinian and an Israeli child; the impact on children of the illegal occupation of Palestinian territory; the disproportionate use of force by the Israeli Defense Forces during Operation Cast Lead; the disturbing effects of the Separation Wall on students' circulation; the fact that persons at the age of 17 were designated and called for military service and that persons below 18 might be recruited to combat units; the status of students of religious schools which combined military service with Talmudic studies; the purpose of military schools for children between 13.5 and 18 years of age; the detention of Palestinian children under military orders; and whether non-State armed groups existed in Israel.

[Full article](#) – Relief Web

UNRWA launches emergency appeal to end conflict in the West Bank and Gaza

19 January 2010 – UNRWA stated that many women and children suffer from the conflict in both the West Bank and Gaza. Poverty, unemployment, restricted access to food and health service are part of Palestinians' everyday lives. In 2010, the Agency would make humanitarian interventions to alleviate the negative effects of those conditions on the Palestine refugees. The Agency will also work to address the psychological impact of violence, closures and difficult living conditions, as well as providing mobile field services for communities and isolated populations at risk of displacement in the West Bank. The Agency would work urgently to help those who had their homes destroyed because of war. However, the blockade imposed on Gaza severely hampers the Agency's reconstruction effort.

[Full article](#) – UNRWA

Israel/Opt – Ongoing Israeli blockade jeopardising health of over one million Gazans, UN warns

20 January 2010 – United Nations agencies and their non-governmental partners today warned of the impact of the Israeli blockade on Gaza's population and on health services, and repeated their call for an immediate opening of the border crossings. Hospitals and primary care facilities, damaged during the fighting in Gaza one year ago, have not been rebuilt because construction materials are not allowed into the territory owing to the ongoing blockade, which is now in its third year. During last year's 23 day war, 15 out of 27 hospitals were damaged and 43 out of 110 primary healthcare facilities were either damaged or destroyed.

[Full article](#) – UN news services



Israel/Opt – Visit to UN Headquarters caps off week-long trip for some of Gaza’s top students

25 January 2010 – Fifteen young female students from the Gaza Strip traveled to the United Nations Headquarters in New York, in recognition for their achievements in a human rights education programme. The group, which included 15 Palestinian eighth graders and three of their teachers, are part of a programme taught in Gaza by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Education is UNRWA’s largest programme, accounting for more than half of the agency’s regular budget, and one of its key projects promotes non-violent communication skills, conflict resolution, human rights and tolerance.

[Full article](#) – UN news agency

Israel/Opt – Flood misery for tented communities in Gaza

28 January 2010 – Last year’s 23 day war destroyed the homes of many Palestinians who are now forced to live in tents. The recent flooding has made their lives miserable as everything is soaking wet, from the clothes they wear, to the blankets they cover themselves with. The winter’s cold weather has made things even harder. As a result, many kids are getting sick with the flu and other respiratory infections. Several animals have also died due to the heavy rains, making the civilians more dependent on the food provided by Gaza’s ruling party Hamas.

[Full article](#) – IRIN

Jordan – The Ministry of Education states that the kingdom is making progress towards the eradication of illiteracy

8 January 2009 – The kingdom of Jordan has made significant progress towards the eradication of illiteracy. 88 per cent of the population was illiterate in 1952, compared to 45 per cent in 1970 and 7.3 per cent in 2009. The illiteracy rate for girls is slightly higher when compared to the average, being 11.1 per cent for 2009. According to the Ministry, the goal is to reach an illiteracy rate of 5 per cent by 2015. These objectives were set in the Dakar Framework for Action to eradicate illiteracy completely by 2020.

[Full article](#) – Jordan Times

Jordan – Cases of school violence reported

22 January 2009 – The Ministry of Education recorded 84 cases of violence against schoolchildren last year, a ministry report revealed. The report, made available to The Jordan Times, indicated that 51 of the cases involved physical and verbal abuse, including 35 incidents of abuse committed by teachers against their students and 16 committed by school principals and administrative staff. Two cases of sexual abuse were also reported. There are some cases in which the perpetrator was not held accountable because of negligence.

[Full article](#) – Jordan Times

Lebanon – Camp for blind students’ integration

6 January 2009 – Blind students from all over Lebanon attended a camp entitled “Empowerment through integration” in which several activities were conducted in order to



help those living with a disability to gain self-esteem and confidence and to raise social awareness. The event was organized by two students attending Wellesley College in Boston who have won the Clinton Foundation Award for the social work they have done among disabled children.

[Full article](#) – The Daily Star

Lebanon – Bomb meant for Hezbollah wounds three children

14 January 2009 – A bomb which was meant for a Hezbollah official exploded in a residential building. The bomb missed the intended target but wounded three children, as they opened the door of the apartment complex. Two of the children were the son (5 years old) and daughter (16 years old) of the Hezbollah official while the third victim was the daughter of a Hezbollah supporter. One of the victims had to get both her feet amputated.

[Full article](#) – The Daily Star

Lebanon – UNRWA closes a deal to open healthcare facilities for Palestinians

14 January 2009 – UNRWA closed a deal with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) to open up more healthcare facilities for Palestinians. There are currently 422188 registered Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. There is also an unknown number of unregistered refugees. So far, the situation has been very hard for Palestinians living in Lebanon, especially when it comes to healthcare. However, significant progress has recently been made. This year UNRWA has already signed agreements with 35 hospitals to allow Palestinians access to their facilities. Of these, 13 are public hospitals, 17 are private, and 5 are managed by the PRCS. All the hospitals are in close proximity to Palestinian gatherings around the country.

[Full article](#) – The Daily Star

Syria – A plan for Iraqi refugees sets objectives for child labour

18 January 2010 – A meeting in Damascus of over 50 NGOs and host country government representatives has mapped out the next steps in providing vital assistance and protection for Iraqi refugees across the Middle East. The RRP's strategic objectives will focus on ensuring that refugees can continue to seek refuge in their host countries (in many states there is no legal framework regarding refugees, including those in the Gulf where 1,089 Iraqi individuals have been registered), and offering vocational training to those wishing to return to Iraq. The Plan also targets child labour by pursuing measures to get an additional 12,000 Iraqi children in Syria into school, bringing the total number to around 45,000.

[Full article](#) – IRIN

In North Africa:

Algérie – Plusieurs enfants victimes d'accidents domestiques

6 janvier 2010 – Seize mille six cent trente quatre enfants ont été victimes d'accidents domestiques en 2009 à Oran, soit une moyenne de 1400 cas par mois, selon la direction de la santé et de la population de la wilaya. Les accidents domestiques sont désormais catalogués



comme étant des « fléaux sanitaires », provoquant, ces dernières années, des cas d'infirmité chez l'enfant ou des maladies. La première cause de ceux-ci est les chutes, suivies par l'utilisation de produits pyrotechniques ou d'objets contondants. Considérant le nombre élevé d'incidents, des mesures doivent être adoptées sans plus tarder afin de sensibiliser la communauté et les parents pour qu'ils soient plus attentifs avec les enfants.

[Article complet](#) – El Watan

Algérie – L'UNICEF estime que l'Algérie détient un taux de scolarisation exceptionnel

11 janvier 2010 – Le taux de scolarisation des enfants de 6 ans en Algérie a atteint un taux de 97 pourcent. Il ne reste que 3 pourcent des enfants qui ne sont pas scolarisés. Ceci est souvent dû au fait que les parents des jeunes filles préfèrent que celles-ci restent à la maison pour effectuer des travaux domestiques au lieu d'aller à l'école. Toutefois, l'État d'Algérie estime que l'éducation chez les enfants est primordiale et que tous les jeunes âgés de six à seize ans sont obligés par la loi d'être inscrits dans un établissement scolaire. Tout parent qui brise cette loi sera passible d'une amende allant jusqu'à 50 000 dinars algériens.

[Article complet](#) – El Moudjahid

Egypt – 17 year old reportedly tortured in a Cairo police station

1 January 2010 – Ramy Ibrahim was convicted to 15 years in prison after he was found guilty by the court of raping and murdering a three-year old boy. Ibrahim was 17 years old at the time of the alleged crime. The accused confessed to the crime after he was tortured in a Cairo police station. Electric shocks were used against him repeatedly and his family confirms hearing him scream during the interrogation. Despite Ibrahim's confession, some witnesses affirm that he was sitting on a school bench at the time of the crime, making it impossible for him to be the perpetrator.

[Full article](#) – Daily New Egypt

Egypt – H1N1 vaccines campaign for school children

6 January 2010 – On 3 January 2010, Egypt launched a massive vaccine campaign to immunize half of Egypt school children against the H1N1 influenza virus. Though strongly recommended by the Ministry of Health, the vaccines are not mandatory and the permission of parents is required. Many parents have been reluctant to let their children get inoculated because of the several side effects encountered among those who were vaccinated during the immunization campaigns which recently took place in industrialized countries. The Ministry of Health has also decided not to get nursery aged children vaccinated until more information becomes available on the possible side effects of the vaccine. Since the beginning of the epidemic, 159 people have died in Egypt alone, while 4,000 more were affected by the virus.

[Full article](#) – IRIN

Libye – Conférence sur la solidarité avec la famille arabe

22 janvier 2010 – L'Association caritative libyenne "Watassimou" et le comité de direction de l'Organisation de la famille arabe ont tenu jeudi à Tripoli une réunion préparatoire de la conférence sur la solidarité avec la famille arabe à l'ère de la mondialisation, prévue du 6 au 8



mars prochain en Libye. La conférence se penchera sur quatre axes s'articulant autour de l'interaction, les effets négatifs et positifs de la mondialisation sur la famille arabe, le rôle de la famille dans la préservation de l'identité, du patrimoine et de la culture arabe, ainsi que du contact entre familles à l'ère de la mondialisation, des catastrophes et leurs dangers sur la famille.

[Article complet](#) – Afrique en ligne

Maroc – Jeunes participent à un événement sur l'économie sociale

7 janvier 2010 – Plus de 300 jeunes, ainsi que plusieurs membres de la société civile, des établissements éducatifs et des institutions se réuniront du 26 au 31 janvier à Tata, dans le sud du pays pour prendre part à un événement dans lequel plusieurs activités, ateliers et projets seront réalisés autour des Objectifs du Millénaire, de la bonne gouvernance et de l'économie solidaire et sociale. Les participants discuteront notamment du rôle de l'économie sociale dans la stratégie de lutte contre la pauvreté, le chômage et l'exclusion.

[Article complet](#)

Maroc – La première télévision scolaire voit le jour

22 janvier 2010 – Une nouvelle émission scolaire sera diffusée sur le canal télévisé « al-arabia » dans le but d'aider les jeunes du primaire, du secondaire et du baccalauréat dans la préparation de leurs examens. Les matières qui seront ciblées sont les mathématiques, les disciplines scientifiques, l'histoire, la géographie et la philosophie. La maîtrise des langues constitue également un élément important pour « al-arabia » d'où un soutien sera offert aux élèves en français, anglais, arabe et amazigh.

[Article complet](#) – Le Matin

Tunisie – Construction de trois unités pour enfants handicapés

6 janvier 2010 – M. Ali Chaouch, ministre des Affaires sociales, de la Solidarité et des Tunisiens à l'étranger, a effectué, mercredi, une visite à l'Institut national pour la protection de l'enfance à la Manouba. Au cours de cette visite, il a inspecté les trois unités de vie actuellement en construction et qui seront destinées à l'apport de meilleurs services pour les enfants handicapés, notamment en terme de santé, éducation et sécurité.

[Article complet](#) – Agence Tunis Afrique Presse

Tunisie – Célébration de la journée de l'enfance

13 janvier 2010 – M. Moncef Abdelhédi, secrétaire général adjoint du Rassemblement Constitutionnel Démocratique (RCD), et qui est chargé de la jeunesse, de l'éducation et de la culture a déclaré lors de l'événement « Tribune à l'enfance », organisé dans le cadre de la célébration de la journée de l'enfance, que la Tunisie fait partie des quelques pays qui ont fait des efforts pour développer des programmes qui visent le respect des droits des enfants. Cet intérêt pour l'enfant vient notamment du fait que les Tunisiens estiment que les enfants sont l'avenir de demain et qu'ils sont responsables pour l'épanouissement des valeurs et principes de la citoyenneté, de l'authenticité et de l'attachement à l'identité arabo-musulmane. La Tunisie a notamment fixé comme objectifs dans son programme national « Ensemble relevons des défis » le droit de l'enfant à une vie digne, à la sécurité et à la stabilité familiale et sociale.



[Article complet](#) – Agence Tunis Afrique Presse

Tunisie – Coopération bilatérale entre la Tunisie et l'Arabie Saoudite

15 janvier 2010 -- M.Samir Laabidi, ministre de la jeunesse, des sports et de l'éducation physique a reçu vendredi le prince Nawaf Ibn Fayçal Ibn Fahd Ibn Abdelaziz Al-Saoud, vice-président général de la protection de la jeunesse au Royaume d'Arabie Saoudite en visite en Tunisie pour participer aux travaux du colloque international sur "la jeunesse et l'avenir". Cet entretien vise à renforcer la coopération bilatérale entre la Tunisie et l'Arabie Saoudite, notamment dans le but de consolider la coordination des structures de la jeunesse et des sports.

[Article complet](#) – Agence Tunis Afrique Presse

In the Gulf:

Bahrain – Be-Free Center participates in a TV show on children

15 January 2010 – Be-Free Center participated in a TV show in which the link between emotional poverty and children's vulnerability was discussed. A lack of love and attention from the caregiver means that the child is more subject to develop a low self-esteem, which means that abusers are more prone to take advantage of this psychological condition and use the child to their advantage. The problem in many Arab countries is that the caregiver tends to give less affection when the child is older than seven years old because he should already be strong and should not be emotional.

Bahrain – Children to be educated on a healthy living

20 January 2010 – A new strategy to reduce the number of obese and overweight children is being developed by the government. More than 30 per cent of school age children are overweight and obese and the number is increasing daily, Health Ministry school health chief Dr Mariam Harmas Al Hajeri told the GDN. The plan is to teach children how to eat well and exercise, instead of playing video games and eating fast food.

[Full article](#) – Gulf Daily News

Kuwait – IOM holds workshop to counter human trafficking

12 January 2010 – The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and Kuwait judicial officials held a three day workshop to discuss the challenge related to human trafficking and the actions which must be taken to counter this crime. Judiciary Counselor Jamal Al-Shamery stated that human trafficking is a new form of slavery which represents a challenge for all countries in the 21st century. He also mentioned that Kuwait has established a new department in the Ministry of Interior to handle issues regarding house labours. Furthermore, the Ministry of Justice developed a new legislation to confront human trading that was signed by GCC leaders in Abu Dhabi.

[Full article](#) – Kuwait times



Kuwait – More opportunities for Kuwaiti students

17 January 2010 – An official for the Kuwait University mentioned at "Youth and the Future: Current Challenges, Capacity Building and Participation Mechanisms" which took place in the framework of the International Youth Year, that Kuwaiti students are, now more than ever, benefiting for governmental help to study. A huge budget was allocated, in which all students would get a laptop and KD 100 each month, with the objective of helping them to focus on their studies and deepen their academic research.

[Full article](#) – Kuwait times

Kuwait – Kuwait to host Arab Youth Conference

18 January 2010 – The Arab Youth conference due in Kuwait next February under the sponsorship of the Arab League will follow up on implementation of the decisions of the Arab economic and social summit held in Kuwait at the turn of last year. This summit was extremely important as it was the first Arab summit that paid attention to the social issues that concern youth in particular, such as poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, the Millennium Development Goals, health, civil society and the private sector.

[Full article](#) – Kuwait times

Qatar – Doha workshop warns youth against sex tourism

2 January 2010 – Addressing the workshop, Dr Khalid ibn Saud al-Halibi said: “According to international statistics, the total number of people going on tourism in the world over is 900mn, among whom 60mn head for destinations where they can gratify their sexual urges. And these destinations are in countries reeling from poverty, ignorance and diseases.” The Middle East is no stranger to this phenomenon. The workshop also mentioned that sex tourism puts youth more at risk for sexually transmitted diseases and urged all parents to keep a close look at their children’s activities.

[Full article](#) – Gulf Times

Qatar – Humanitarian organizations could be involved in child trafficking

6 January 2010 – Hussein Mohammed, an advisor for the Qatar Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking, has warned of the possibility that children who are cared for by humanitarian organisations end up as victims of human trafficking. In situations of war, poverty or natural disasters, children are more at risk of falling into the hands of traffickers through centres of adoptions. Such as been the case in Darfur. Mohammed expresses deep concern for the increase in child trafficking within Arab countries. He also blames governments for not doing enough to address this problem and expects a substantial growth in modern slavery if no actions are taken immediately. Article 21 of the CRC states that all members shall create a system of adoption in which only competent authorities will have the right to conduct adoptions, taking into consideration the best interest of the child.

[Full article](#) – Gulf Times



Qatar – Conference on the empowerment of the family

18 January 2010 – The Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development (DIIFSD) is organising a conference on ‘the empowerment of the family in the modern world. The conference will have six panels, such as strengthening the family as an institution, trends affecting the family, new challenges, families around the world, family and rights, and moral regeneration. Topics including marriage and divorce are to be discussed, in addition to the financial crisis, ageing and impact of media on children. Consequences of HIV/AIDS, violence within family, impact of Internet on family, and migration are also among the topics brought to attention.

[Full article](#) – Gulf Times

Saudi Arabia – Al-Qaeda uses modern technology to recruit youth

5 January 2010 – Al-Qaeda has been known to use technology as a propaganda tool, spreading terrorist activities worldwide. Cell phones are now also used by terrorist groups to recruit young people. Text messages are being sent to countless university students, spreading extremist ideologies and inciting them to join al-Qaeda. Al-Qaeda calls this new form of recruitment “al-Ansar Mobile Team”. Saudi Arabia’s Ministry of Interior states that a law was passed two years ago, punishing the authors of crimes committed through technology by a maximum jail sentence of ten years.

[Full article](#) – Asharq Alawsat

United Arab Emirates – Six year jail term for trafficking a thirteen year old girl

5 January 2010 – Two persons were sentenced by the Dubai Court of First Instance for trafficking a thirteen year old girl. The accused had bought the young girl from her parents who were living in Iraq. They arranged for a visa and other travel documents. The victim told the authorities that she was forced to prostitute herself for over 300 times in the five months following her arrival in Dubai.

[Full article](#) – Khaleej Times

United Arab Emirates – 5 year old girl raped

5 January 2010 – A five year old girl was raped in her house in Ras Al Khaimah by a male Bangladeshi worker while her mother was away. When the mother found out about the aggression, she stabbed the rapist several times with a kitchen knife. The man was later transported to the hospital for treatments.

[Full article](#) – Khaleej Times

United Arab Emirates – Smoking banned in cars transporting children

6 January 2010 – UAE president Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan recently passed a law which bans smoking in public transportation and closed public areas. Smoking is also prohibited in cars in which children under the age of twelve are travelling. The offenders will have to pay a penalty of up to AED1 million, depending on the case, and are also subject to a jail sentence. Health Minister Dr. Hanif Hassan says this new decree aims at encouraging the population, especially youth, not to use tobacco products.



[Full article](#) – Arabian Business

United Arab Emirates – Six month jail term for girl molestation

8 January 2010 – A security guard from Dubai gets a six month jail sentence after molesting a 12 year old girl. The man followed the girl into the elevator of her apartment building and started kissing her against her will.

[Full article](#) – Khaleej Times

United Arab Emirates – Age limit for tobacco sale likely to be increased to 20

13 January 2010 – The country is likely to revise the minimum age limit set in the federal law for sale of tobacco products from the current 18 to 20, according to health officials. Officials also said that as per the law, cafes or restaurants offering shisha had been given two years from now to shift from residential areas. Nearly all countries in the GCC, including Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Yemen have similar laws except Saudi Arabia that has a tobacco control programme. Egypt, Jordan and Syria are expected to come up with similar laws soon.

[Full article](#) – Khaleej Times

Yemen – The government working towards the fulfilment of the CRC and its protocols, says the Minister of Education

2 January 2010 – The Minister of Education, Mr. Abdul-Salam Al- Jawfi says that a lot remains to be done in Yemen in order for children to be completely safe. Nonetheless, substantial progress has been made in the recent years. The State has ratified all international instruments related to children's rights. Amendments have been passed in order to remove discrepancies related to minimum marriage age, criminal accountability, female genital circumcision and the sale and exploitation of children. A workshop was set up to take action on the Concluding Observation of Yemen's first State report for the CRC's Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Prostitution and Pornography. The workshop discussed six topics namely: policies and legislations, building capabilities and enlightenment, developing surveillance and following up system, evaluation, studies and researches and protecting children and qualifying them.

[Full article](#) – Yemen Times

Yemen – Children used as soldiers by rebel groups

5 January 2010 – The international Community expresses deep concern over the fact that children are used as soldiers by rebel groups to fight off the Yemeni army in the north of the country. It is estimated that half of the fighting forces are below the age of eighteen. Around 500-600 children are either killed or injured each year in Yemen as a result of the conflict. The problem is that it is considered normal by society that boys who are big enough to hold a rifle enter a rebel group. Many of these children are as young as twelve years old.

[Full article](#) – Al-Jazeera



Yemen – Ten year old Yemeni girl files for divorce

5 January 2010 – A Yemeni ten year old girl files for divorced after having been married by her father with a thirty year old man at the age of nine. The little girl who was forced to do domestic chores begged her ex-husband's family to let her return home. She filed herself for divorce after her father refused to take her back home. The father and ex-husband of the young girl were sentenced to jail for ten and fifteen days respectively. The girl who is now living with her family again is happy to be back in school and intends to one day pursue further education.

[Full article](#) – BBC News

Yemen – Children vaccinated against polio

5 January 2010 – The Ministry of Public Health and Population confirms that 90 per cent of children have been vaccinated against polio during an inoculation campaign taking place in the second half of December.

[Full article](#)

Yemen – Harsh weather worsens plight of civilians in conflict zone

12 January 2010 - "The woes of Yemenis affected by the conflict in the north of the country are being made worse by harsh weather and low temperatures, in particular in the governorates of Sa'ada and Amran," said Jean-Nicolas Marti, the ICRC's head of delegation in Yemen. "The situation is all the more difficult because some basic necessities are not available on the market and prices are soaring." Since the outbreak of renewed fighting six months ago, the ICRC and the Yemen Red Crescent have provided aid for more than 150,000 conflict-affected people in Sa'ada and Amran governorates, including some 75,000 displaced people living in or near camps who are still being given food, water, primary medical care and such household essentials as blankets and cooking stoves. Since October 2009, the number of people living in camps for displaced people in Sa'ada governorate has more than doubled, from barely 6,500 to more than 14,000.

[Full article](#) (International Committee of the Red Cross)

Yemen – More than 200,000 displaced by the conflict in Yemen

12 January 2010 - There is no lull in the fierce fighting between the government troops and Al Houti forces in Sa'ada province in northern Yemen as the conflict enters the sixth month. Thousands of Yemeni civilians continue to flee to neighbouring provinces, desperately seeking safety, shelter and assistance. These newly displaced people bring stories of intense clashes in Razeh, Saqain and Sahar districts and report dozens of civilian casualties as a result of air strikes and heavy fighting. UNHCR is not present in the conflict area and has no independent confirmation of these reports. We now estimate that some 200,000 people have been affected by the conflict in Yemen since 2004, including those displaced by the latest escalation which erupted in early August last year. The internally displaced people (IDPs) now arriving to Hajjah and Amran governorates travelled by whatever means available. Many made the long and tiring journey to the IDP camps in Hajjah province on foot while others remain trapped in the conflict area.

[Full article](#) (UNHCR)



Yemen – Third camp open to accommodate displaced families

20 January 2010 – The ongoing conflict in the north of Yemen resulted in the displacement of thousands of Yemeni families. Two camps had already been set up, within which 23,000 people could find housing. Recently, a third camp was opened, with the capacity of welcoming 1, 900 families (approximately 9, 000 people). Water points have been set up within the camp to provide easy access to safe drinking water. In the coming weeks, children will be able to attend school and participate in recreational activities organized and supported by UNICEF.

[Full article](#) – UNICEF

Yemen – Child trafficking to Saudi Arabia down in 2009

25 January 2010 – According to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MSAL), there were 602 children trafficked to Saudi Arabia in 2009, compared to 900 in 2008. The International Organisation for Migration affirmed that many boys are trafficked to Yemen's neighbouring country, mostly for begging, street vending or cheap labour. Awareness campaigns organised by UNICEF and the Yemeni authorities have contributed to a decrease in trafficking. Furthermore, the ongoing conflict in the North between the army and the rebels has been an incentive for parents not to send their children to Saudi Arabia because they fear that the child will be kidnapped by the rebels before crossing the border and used as a soldier.

[Full article](#) – IRIN

Yemen – A serious humanitarian crisis in the making

25 January 2010 - Mr Stillhart spent two days in Sana'a meeting with government authorities, the heads of UN agencies and the leadership of the Yemeni Red Crescent and a further two days in the northern governorate of Amran, where he met a good number of the tribal leaders of the region. He had planned to take a trip further north, closer to the front lines and those civilians who are in greatest need of assistance, however this trip had to be cancelled at the last minute for security reasons. Amran, situated south of Sa'ada, which is the governorate most heavily affected by the conflict in the north, is facing a serious influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Sa'ada, where most of the fighting is taking place. 150,000 civilians are directly affected by the fighting.

[Full article](#) (International Committee of the Red Cross)