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Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Newsletter

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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

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1. Global Developments on Children's Rights

UN cheers for goals against child labour as World Cup kick-off nears

9 June 2010 – As football fever spreads with the kick-off of the World Cup in South Africa this Friday, the United Nations labour agency today urged the world not to forget the plight of an estimated 215 million children who have to work for survival and miss out on education and sports. “While billions are caught up in the excitement of the football World Cup, some 215 million children are labouring for survival. Education and play are luxuries for them. Progress towards ending child labour is slowing down and we are not on course to end its worst forms by 2016,” said ILO Director-General Juan Somavia. “We have to get the momentum going again. Let us draw inspiration from the World Cup and rise to the challenge with the energy, the right strategy and the commitment it takes to get to the goal,” he added.

[Full article](#) – UN News Centre

UN: committee on the Rights of the Child releases Concluding Observations for Session 54

On the 11th June 2010, the Committee on the Rights of the Child released their Concluding Observations for the countries examined during the course of the 54th Session. To access the Concluding Observations for the countries examined in the 54th Session, click [here](#). To access the alternative reports submitted by NGOs for the 54th Session, click [here](#).

UN agencies urge greater action to eliminate child labour by 2016

12 June 2010 - With global efforts to end child labour showing mixed results, United Nations agencies are urging greater action to achieve the goal of eliminating the scourge by 2016. The latest report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) says that if current trends continue, the 2016 target will not be reached and a renewed push to end child labour is urgently needed. The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) is also calling for stepping up efforts to eliminate child labour, which it said is “both a cause and a consequence of poverty, and compromises children's education and safety.” World Day against Child Labour events will be held in more than 60 countries involving governments, employers, workers, and UN, civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The events range from high level policy debates, to football matches and other sporting activities, public debates, media events, awareness-raising campaigns, cultural performances and other public activities. Many of the activities will also focus new attention on the “red card campaign against child labour” initiative led by the ILO. World Day against Child Labour is observed annually on 12 June.

[Full article](#) – UN News Centre

[Full report](#)

UN envoy urges Security Council to punish recruiters of child soldiers

16 June 2010 - Senior United Nations officials urged the Security Council to take action, such as freezing assets and imposing arms embargoes and travel bans, against the leaders of rebel groups and military forces that recruit child soldiers or sexually abuse, maim or kill children during conflicts. “The naming and shaming exercise, along with the possibility of

sanctions against persistent violators, has persuaded parties to cease this reprehensible behaviour and should deter others from future offences,” the Secretary-General’s Special Representative Radhika Coomaraswamy told the 15-member body at the start of a day-long debate on children and armed conflict.

[Full article](#) – UN News Centre

As World Refugee Day gets under way, UNHCR appeals for the displaced

20 June 2010 – As millions of people around the globe were marking World Refugee Day on Sunday, UNHCR chief António Guterres called on the international community to do more for the forcibly displaced. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, meanwhile, also made an appeal on behalf of refugees in a special World Refugee Day (WRD) message. "Refugees have been deprived of their homes, but they must not be deprived of their futures," he said, while calling for working with host governments to deliver services and for intensified efforts to resolve conflicts so that refugees can return home. With "Home," as this year's global theme, UNHCR and its partners, including governments, donors, non-governmental organizations, goodwill ambassadors and refugees themselves, have been taking part over the past week in awareness-raising, cultural, educational, environmental and sport activities, especially football tournaments in this year of the World Cup finals in South Africa.

[Full article](#) - The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly’s (PACE): A Hearing on "Child abuse in institutions: ensuring full protection of the victims"

23 June 2010 – Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly’s (PACE) Committee on Social Affairs is to hold tomorrow, 22 June, in Strasbourg, a Hearing on "Child abuse in institutions: ensuring full protection of the victims", in the framework of the preparation of a report on the subject by Marlene Rupperecht (Germany, SOC). The hearing, which is open to the press, will take place from 8.30 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the Palais de l’Europe (Room 1). According to the motion for a resolution, considering accounts of physical and sexual child abuse occurring within residential facilities, boarding schools, churches and other institutional settings, it is regrettable that “the needs of the victims of this abuse have often been disregarded” both in the past and in the present. European Governments should ensure that “any case of child abuse is subject to their criminal law system, and that perpetrators are prosecuted and all victims (and also whistleblowers) receive the same protection regardless of the institutional setting in which the crime was committed”.

[Full article](#) – HREA

UN urges businesses to craft socially responsible policies to protect children

24 June 2010 – The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and partners called on business leaders to create a set of universal principles to ensure that their companies’ actions have a positive impact on youth. “Protecting children’s rights is a global responsibility that requires global commitment from us all, in every sector,” Anthony Lake, UNICEF Executive Director, said at the opening of the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit, a major meeting of business leaders held in New York. The Children’s Principles of Business – which would be launched in 2011 – are to be based on the Convention on the Rights of the

Child which detail basic human rights of children, such as protection from abuse and exploitation.

[Full article](#) – CRIN

Businesses asked to help protect and promote children’s rights

24 June 2010 – At the opening of a major meeting of business leaders organized by the United Nations today, UNICEF, the UN Global Compact and Save the Children called on the business community to work together to build universal principles that will place children’s rights at the top of the global corporate responsibility agenda. The three organizations are asking business leaders to work with them to develop principles – to be known as the Children’s Principles for Business - so that they can avoid the negative impacts that their activities may have on children, and contribute to a better future for everyone. The Principles will be based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) which spells out the basic human rights of children everywhere: the right to survival; to develop to the fullest; to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; and to participate fully in family, cultural and social life. Recognizing that to be effective, these principles must meet the needs of all stakeholders and that everyone has something to bring to the table, the three partners are appealing to business leaders from all sectors and geographic regions to participate in the consultation process and contribute their expertise to shaping the Children’s Principles for Business. The multi-stakeholder consultation begins on 25 June 2010, and it is hoped that the Children’s Principles for Business will be launched in 2011.

Conference: Adolescent Girls – Cornerstone of Society

25 June 2010 - The 5th International Conference organized by the Graduate Program in International Affairs at the New School and UNICEF reviewed current global trends and ideas regarding adolescent girls, explored ways to fill the knowledge gaps and showcase lessons learned and good practices for effective and strategic policymaking. The conference brought together 400 scholars, researchers, and practitioners from more than 30 countries around the world, whose common goal is raising awareness for equality and empowerment of adolescent girls.

[Full article](#) – The Childwatch International Research Network

Education for All - Global Monitoring Report 2010

25 June 2010 - Education systems in many of the world's poorest countries are now experiencing the aftermath of the global economic downturn. The 2010 Education for All Global Monitoring Report, argues that the crisis could create a lost generation of children whose life chances will have been irreparably damaged by a failure to protect their right to education. The Report examines who these children are and why they are being left behind, and looks at concrete solutions for making sure that no children are excluded from schooling.

[Full article](#) – UNESCO

[Full report](#)

Universal Ratification Campaign: Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

2010 marks the 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the 10th anniversary of the adoption of its two Optional Protocols, respectively on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC) and on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC). The ratification and implementation of these treaties lay the foundation for the safeguard of children's rights and their effective protection from violence, abuse and exploitation. For this reason, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (SRSG-VAC) and the Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC), in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNICEF, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography are promoting a 2-year campaign aiming at the universal ratification of the Protocols to the CRC by 2012, the year of the 10th anniversary of their entry into force.

[Full article](#) – CRIN

HREA– e-learning courses

HREA has extended the application deadline for the following e-learning courses offered in the third trimester of 2010 (September-November):

- [Armed Conflict, Human Rights and Humanitarian Law](#)
- [Election Observation](#)
- [Human Rights Advocacy](#)
- [La Programmation axée sur des droits de l'enfant](#)
- [Le Monitoring des droits de l'enfant](#)
- [Le Plaidoyer pour les droits humains](#)
- [Monitoring & Evaluation in the NGO Sector](#)
- [Monitoring Children's Rights](#)
- [Project Development and Management in the NGO Sector](#)
- [The United Nations Human Rights System](#)

Please note that the registration deadline for these courses is now Thursday, **1 July 2010**. Applications can be submitted online. For further information about each course please click on the course link above. For more information, click [here](#).

DARE – Children's rights for Adult learners

The DARE focus meeting “Children's Rights for Adult Learners” in Brussels (January 2010) explored the strategies of children's rights education for adults, bearing in mind that it is mainly adults who in many cases protect and enforce children's rights. Fourteen experts representing ten European organisations gathered for a two-day exchange of best practices and discussion of policy approaches in the field. The results are available online in the DARE textbook [“Children's Rights for Adult Learners”](#). The textbook includes country reports, case studies, a toolbox for children's rights practitioners, and an analysis of recent policy papers like the draft [“COE Framework for the Development of Teacher's Competences on Citizenship and Human Rights Education”](#) and the draft [“UN Declaration](#)

[on Human Rights Education and Training](#)". The DARE focus meeting was jointly organised by [DARE – Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe](#) and [VORMEN, the Flemish Organisation for Human Rights Education](#)

“We Can and We Will”: Report on the Underserved Youth Forum

The Canadian Underserved Youth Forum brought more than 150 youth and policy makers together in Edmonton from April 7-10, 2010 for intense and insightful discussions of the issues facing underserved youth in Canada today. This national forum was designed to engage diverse Canadian youth aged 15-29 who are/have been abused, neglected or in conflict with the law; living in care or on the street; having mental health or substance abuse issues; or as GLBTIQ youth who are members of sexual and gender minority populations; an opportunity to exchange their experiences with each other, to learn about how current social policies and programs affect underserved youth, and to have their voices heard by the policy makers in attendance. For more information on the report, photos and videos, visit the website www.youcan.ca.

Child Rights in Practice

Child Rights in Practice is a newsletter that aims to provide information and examples of how to turn principles of children’s rights into practice targeting development actors, including civil society, multilateral organisations and governments. The newsletter will offer analytical overview of a variety of rights-based interventions and concrete examples of how different actors work with a child rights approach, hopefully stimulating debate and promoting children’s rights in the broader development spectrum. While, the first issue explores the role of governments in achieving children’s rights, the next issue, which should be out in October, will focus on Budget Tracking on children’s rights. Submission of content is open from now until the 30th of September. For any comments or questions, please contact Tapiwa Gomo by email to tapiwag@saf.savethechildren.se.

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

Qatar: NHRC asks schools to teach human rights

The National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) asked the nation’s schools last week to enlist human rights in their teaching programmes, promising to provide school teachers with the necessary books. In a binding decision, the commission said school teachers had to teach school students basic human rights and means of protecting them. “Written materials, banners, and brochures will be given to the students to teach them about human rights,” a statement by the Secretary General of NCHR, Mariam Al Attia said. It added that NCHR would hold several lectures and organise human rights competitions to create awareness on human rights. For more information, click [here](#).

Media campaign seeks to raise funds for UNRWA programmes

15 June 2010 - A regional media campaign will be launched during the holy month of Ramadan to raise funds for UNRWA health and education projects. Under two agreements signed between the agency and the Zain Group and Zain Jordan, the campaign will be aired throughout the Arab world on MBC TV to highlight the agency's services to Palestinian refugees in the Middle East. Zain's 31 million customers in the region will have the opportunity to send messages to designated numbers and donate funds for UNRWA's health and education programmes in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank. "These initiatives will undoubtedly help address UNRWA's serious budget shortfall and help improve its services," Zain Group CEO Nabeel Ben Salameh said.

[Full article](#) - UNRWA

US Will Contribute \$60 Million to UNRWA

18 June 2010 - Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced today that the United States will be making an additional contribution of \$60.3 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to support UNRWA's core budget and special projects in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. The contribution will provide critical services, including health, to 4.7 million Palestinian refugees. Of this contribution, \$5.7 million will support nine special projects, including reconstruction and rehabilitation of schools in Jordan, Syria and the West Bank, an after-school programme for refugee children in Lebanon, and a referral system to help refugees facing gender-based violence.

[Full article](#) – UNRWA

Brunswick, Maine: International Fundraising Dinner for the Middle East Children's Alliance MAIA Project

In honor of those who lost their lives in an effort to bring humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza, the dinner will be held Saturday, July 31, 6:00pm - 10:00pm Featuring: a talk by Fateh Azzam, Regional Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in Beirut and music by members of the Casco Bay Tumblers. The Suggested donation: \$25 (Please be as generous as your circumstances allow). Please make your check out to Middle East Children's Alliance and send it to Barbara West, 17 South River Road, Arrowsic, ME 04530. Please specify the number of people who will be attending. Would you like to help plan and execute this dinner? Please call Selma at 207 725-7675 or e-mail ssternli@gwi.net

ALEF's Contextual Analysis Publications

ALEF is pleased to share with you four contextual analysis papers prepared with the scope of its Human Rights Violations Monitoring Unit (HRVMU) project 2009-2010. These papers fall within our effort to build the individual and collective capacity of civil society to monitor human rights violations in Lebanon and to promote respect for international human rights law. These publications aim to provide a preliminary contextual analysis and to bring the issues at hand to the forefront of governmental and non-governmental priorities. ALEF presents the positions outlined in the four publications with the objective of triggering a nation-wide debate.

The Right to Health: Greater Access to Healthcare for a Healthier Population

This paper aims to reveal the situation of the health care system in Lebanon and local health disparities, and to bring sensitive issues such as abortion and HIV/AIDs under debate by civil society. For consultation, click [here](#)

Military Tribunal: A Breach in the Integrity of the Judicial System

The underlying assumption adopted by the following contextual analysis is a rejection of the tendency to make military justice a separate, expedient, and expeditious form of justice, outside the scope of ordinary law. For consultation, click [here](#)

The Special Tribunal for Lebanon: Towards Ending Impunity and Promoting Fair Trial

This conceptual analysis aims to shed the light on the STL from a Human Rights perspective and aims to analyze its impact on crime prevention and the promotion of fair, public and impartial trial. For consultation, click [here](#)

Delays in Reporting: The State of Lebanon's Reporting Obligation to UN Treaty Bodies

Lebanon has 12 overdue reports, with a delay period ranging from 3 years to 14 years. This paper aims to paint a clearer portrait of the status of these reports in Lebanon, by outlining the main obstacles causing the Lebanese government not to abide by its international commitments. For consultation, click [here](#)

Children's International Conference "Protective Environment - Active Participation"

The conference hosted by DCI-Palestine and held the 10-11 November 2010 in Bethlehem will provide a platform for experts and activists in the field of child rights to describe and share experiences and discuss the best ways to promote active child participation without affecting the children's enjoyment of their right to protection. It will also shed light on the reality of child protection and participation in their communities, as well as the obstacles that inhibit the achievement of active child participation and finally will provide an opportunity to strengthen cooperation between institutions and local and international organizations active in the field of child rights. DCI/Ps calls upon experts and those interested in child rights from different disciplines to submit papers to be discussed at the International Conference. For more information about the conference, click [here](#), for details about paper submission, click [here](#).

3. Sub-Regional and Country Updates:

In the Levant:

Iraq – Finding hope for former child fighters

14 June 2010 - Clerics believe that the only way to win the war against terrorism and sectarianism in Iraq is to keep young people away from extremists. In late 2007, al-Qaida in Iraq started to use women to carry out suicide attacks, prompting authorities to recruit and train female guards at checkpoints. Trying to outwit these heightened security measures, Sunni insurgents shifted to recruiting teenagers to carry out attacks, as they raised no

suspicion when approaching checkpoints and convoys. "With the absence of governmental and non-governmental programmes to use the power of youths to build the country, we the clerics must take up the role of teaching children what is right and what is wrong to help those who are lost find a way out," the sheikh said.

[Full article](#) – IRIN

Iraq – Iraqi Kurdistan: Girls and Women Suffer the Consequences of Female Genital Mutilation

16 June 2010 – A significant number of girls and women in Iraqi Kurdistan suffer female genital mutilation (FGM) and its destructive after-effects, Human Rights Watch said today in a new report. The report describes the pain and fear that girls and young women experience when they are cut, and the terrible toll that it takes on their physical and emotional health. "FGM violates women's and children's rights, including their rights to life, health, and bodily integrity," said Nadya Khalife, Middle East women's rights researcher at Human Rights Watch. "It's time for the regional government to step up to the plate and take concrete actions to eliminate this harmful practice because it simply won't go away on its own."

[Full article](#) - Human Rights Watch

[Full report](#)

Iraq – UN chief announces 100,000 landmark in resettlement of Iraqi refugees

18 June 2010 – UN High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, announced today a major landmark in resettlement of Iraqi refugees, with 100,000 people having been referred for resettlement from the Middle East to third countries since 2007. "100,000 submissions of Iraqi refugees is a tremendous achievement. Many have been living in limbo for years. This will increasingly be the case if states don't continue to welcome Iraqi refugees for resettlement," said Guterres. Lengthy security checks and the time it has taken for state processing mechanisms to be established have led to considerable delays in the departure of refugees to their new homes. "I call on countries to facilitate the speedy departure of refugees they have accepted for resettlement," said Guterres.

[Full article](#) - The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Jordan – 'Salma and Lily' hits bookshelves across Arab world

29 June 2010 – Her Majesty Queen Rania on Monday read excerpts from her children's picture book "The Sandwich Swap", titled "Salma and Lily" in Arabic, to children in the capital. During a visit to the Zaha Cultural Centre (ZCC) in Amman yesterday, Her Majesty distributed copies of "Salma and Lily" to the children. The Arabic edition of the book made its debut at bookstores across the Middle East this week, giving children a chance to read it in both Arabic and English. Launched in April, 2010, "The Sandwich Swap" topped the New York Times bestseller list for two consecutive weeks. Based on Her Majesty's own childhood experiences, the story revolves around two schoolmates and best friends, Lily and Salma, who start appreciating the cultural differences between them after swapping peanut butter and hummus sandwiches. The symbolic story aims to instil in children the values of respect, tolerance, acceptance of the other and open-mindedness.

[Full article](#) – The Jordan Times

Jordan – Irbid computer clubhouse brings end to 'boring summers'

29 June 2010 – For 12-year-old Ahmad Azzam and his friends, the summer break from school would mean only one thing: Boredom. Azzam said he used to spend his summer holiday either at home or playing in the streets with his friends, wasting days with little structure and no learning activities.

“I used to get bored during the summer because there is nothing to do except for playing or watching television,” the Irbid student told The Jordan Times on Sunday. Boring summers are now a thing of a past for Azzam and his friends, thanks to the new Intel Computer Clubhouse in Irbid Governorate. “Now, I am learning how to use a computer, draw and meet new friends,” Azzam said while learning a graphic design programme at a new computer clubhouse.

[Full article](#) – The Jordan Times

Jordan – Campaign finds over 400 working children

29 June 2010 – A total of 415 working children, eight of them non-Jordanians, were rounded up during a one-week inspection campaign that ended on June 10 and covered 342 businesses, a Labour Ministry report said on Monday. Consequently, the inspectors issued fines to 183 employers and warnings to 65 others who were found employing children, the report said, adding that the ministry’s inspection teams had to explain the ramifications of employing children under the age of 18 to 263 employers who lacked knowledge of the relevant laws. The campaign was carried out as part of the ministry’s efforts to address the issue of child labour, and coincided with the commemoration of the World Day Against Child Labour as well as the National Day for Child Safety, observed on June 12 and June 6 respectively.

[Full article](#) – The Jordan Times

Lebanon – NGOs organize day of fun and games for country's child refugees

28 June 2010 – Hundreds of child refugees from across the country were treated to a rare fun day out Sunday for the concluding event of International Refugee Day, an annual week-long commemoration held to draw attention to the plight of refugees across the world. The children chose from 25 different games and activities organized by a collection of local and international non-governmental organizations (NGO) working under the auspice of the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

[Full article](#) – The Daily Star

Occupied Palestinian Territories (oPt) – DCI-Palestine submits 50 cases of ill-treatment to the UN Committee Against Torture

7 June 2010 – DCI-Palestine submitted 50 new cases of ill-treatment and torture of Palestinian children by the Israeli authorities to the UN Committee Against Torture, a committee of 10 independent experts whose role is to review state compliance with the Convention Against Torture. The Committee last reviewed Israel’s compliance with the Convention in May 2009, and issued its [conclusions and recommendations](#) later that month. One of the recommendations made by the Committee was that Israel report back in twelve months regarding certain areas of concern. Twelve months on, DCI-Palestine has submitted

a [Supplementary Report](#) annexing 50 affidavits to assist the Committee in this continuing review process.

[Full article](#) – DCI Palestine

OPt - President Obama Announces New Funds to UNRWA for Gaza and the West Bank

10 June 2010 – President Barack Obama has unveiled a 400 million US dollar package of new funds for Gaza and the West Bank, which includes 50 million US dollars for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. 40 million USD will go towards UNRWA's Emergency Appeal in the West Bank and Gaza to provide food assistance, job creation as well as emergency education and health programs. An additional 10 million USD has been pledged to build five new UNRWA schools in the Gaza Strip. "We think it is important to reaffirm our commitment to improving the day-to-day lives of ordinary Palestinians," President Obama said following talks with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Washington.

[Full article](#) - UNRWA

OPt – Gaza's children appeal for normal decent lives

10 June 2010 – The children of Gaza have taken part in demonstrations seeking to break the siege on the tiny Strip. Bearing the flags of Arab States, the children made an appeal that they be allowed to live decent, happy, normal lives like other children across the globe. The children also demanded that the world intervene in the dire situation in Gaza whereby even the most basic necessities of life such as sufficient food for them to eat, school stationary and various other goods are prohibited. They asked that the international community come together to bring an end to the continuous Israeli violations; to put pressure on them to open the border crossings and allow Gazans to travel abroad for the purposes of medical treatment, education and otherwise.

[Full article](#) - Middle East Monitor

OPt – Gaza's children appeal for normal decent lives

11 June 2010 – The children of Gaza have taken part in demonstrations seeking to break the siege on the tiny Strip. Bearing the flags of Arab States, the children made an appeal that they be allowed to live decent, happy, normal lives like other children across the globe. The children also demanded that the world intervene in the dire situation in Gaza whereby even the most basic necessities of life such as sufficient food for them to eat, school stationary and various other goods are prohibited. They asked that the international community come together to bring an end to the continuous Israeli violations; to put pressure on them to open the border crossings and allow Gazans to travel abroad for the purposes of medical treatment, education and otherwise. The children held up banners and placards with their appeals and demands written in English; a clear message to the Western world alongside the message to their neighbours that it high time the world intervenes and finds a solution to this ongoing problem.

[Full article](#) – MECA

OPt – UPDATED URGENT APPEAL: Mass arrest of children in Jalazun Refugee Camp

14 June 2010 – On 11 February 2010, at least 17 children were arrested from the Al Jalazun Refugee Camp in the middle of the night by Israeli soldiers. The children and their families report the use of excessive force during the arrests, and ill-treatment and coercion during subsequent interrogations. The children were interrogated in the absence of a lawyer and family member, and the interrogations were not video recorded. The children are accused of throwing stones, and in some cases, Molotov cocktails at Israeli soldiers in 2009 and 2010. The children are being prosecuted in military courts. DCI-Palestine has so far obtained five affidavits from some of the children detained and their parents.

[Full article](#) – DCI Palestine

OPt – Widowed father rebuilds home and life with UNRWA

17 June 2010 – After the death of his wife, 38-year-old refugee Hassan and his two young daughters spent eight years living in a home with no entrance door, no plastering, no windows, no kitchen; not even a bathroom. Now, with support from UNRWA, he has built a new home in the West Bank's Arroub camp. Unemployed, Hassan slipped into depression after his wife's death. With no money, hopeless, the family continued to live in dire conditions for eight years, until visited by UNRWA's shelter rehabilitation unit. The team includes social workers and engineers who investigate every aspect of refugee's life to determine eligibility for rehabilitation. UNRWA's programme measures its success through the impact it has on refugees' lives, not the amount of money spent. For Hassan, the effect is immense.

[Full article](#) – UNRWA

OPt – Life on the Edge: The struggle to survive and the impact of forced displacement in high risk areas

29 June 2010 – Tens of thousands of Palestinian families risk being forced to leave their homes as a result of Israeli policies in the occupied territory. More than half of those affected are children. This report outlines the key findings of Save the Children's study. Increasing numbers of families living in the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT) are being displaced as a result of evictions, house demolitions, land confiscation and military operations. Save the Children has completed a detailed study of living conditions in high risk areas, focusing on the pressures and impacts associated with forced displacement.

[Full article](#) – CRIN

[Full report](#)

OPt/ Egypt –Thousands of Gazans trek to Cairo for medical treatment

29 June 2010 – Thousands of Gazans are taking advantage of an open border crossing with Egypt since 1 June to seek treatment for a range of illnesses in Cairo hospitals. According to the Egyptian government, some 16,000 Gazans have crossed into Egypt so far at a controlled rate of around 500 a day. All those IRIN spoke to complained of the helplessness they felt in Gaza, with severe limits on imports and exports and the inability to rebuild damaged homes and infrastructure.

[Full article](#) – IRIN

OPt – Gunmen set fire to second UN summer camp in Gaza

29 June 2010 – Masked gunmen set fire to a UN-run summer camp in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip overnight in the second such attack in just over a month, the UN refugee agency said on Monday. The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) condemned the attack, which appeared to be the work of Muslim extremists who view the camps as a symbol of Western corruption because boys and girls mingle freely. "This is another example of the growing levels of extremism in Gaza and further evidence, if that were needed, of the urgency to change the circumstances on the ground," UNRWA Gaza Director John Ging said.

[Full article](#) – The Jordan Times

In North Africa:

Algérie – Accidents domestiques : 90% des victimes sont des enfants

20 June 2010 – Les différents services spécialisés des centres de santé de proximité enregistrent chaque année de plus en plus de victimes d'accidents domestiques. Il s'agit notamment d'enfants âgés, pour la majorité d'entre eux, entre 8 et 10 ans. Ils totalisent annuellement plus de 2000 cas soit 90% de brûlés. Ces derniers s'exposent généralement à des risques de brûlures ou à des intoxications dues à la négligence des parents ou des proches. Ces victimes peuvent être handicapées ou garder des séquelles.

[Article complet](#) – El Watan

Algérie – Vacances d'été : 1600 enfants au bord de la mer

24 June 2010 – 1600 jeunes enfants, issus de familles pauvres, disséminés à travers les 42 communes de la wilaya, bénéficieront cette année des bienfaits de la mer » fait savoir un communiqué de la wilaya. Selon notre source, « le wali a intimé aux organisateurs ordre de tout mettre en œuvre pour une bonne organisation des colonies de vacances, tant au point de vue de la restauration que de l'hébergement des enfants » et qu'« il veillera personnellement à tout manquement ». Deux camps ont été cette année retenus par la commission de wilaya.

[Article complet](#) – El Watan

Algérie – Loisirs : Des sorties en bord de mer pour les enfants démunis

26 June 2010 – Des sorties en bord de mer au profit des enfants issus de familles nécessiteuses ont été programmées au cours du mois de juillet, apprend-on auprès des responsables du Bureau d'Aide Sociale de la commune. Deux fois par semaine, les enfants seront transportés par car pour des excursions en plein air, agrémentées de baignades sur la plage de Bouzadjar, au profit de cette catégorie sociale qui n'a pas les moyens de goûter aux plaisirs des vacances estivales. Selon les organisateurs, toutes les conditions sont réunies, notamment l'encadrement humain, les contrats d'assurance pour assurer le bon déroulement de cette opération qui a prévu deux rotations par semaine, à raison de trente enfants par voyage.

[Article complet](#) – El Watan

Algérie – Enfants de la rue : Une brigade sociale contre la précarité

28 June 2010 – Une brigade mobile, pour venir en aide aux enfants abandonnés, a été mise en place par la Direction de l'Action Sociale qui a ouvert une antenne administrative près de la pouponnière, face à l'ancien bureau de poste de Haï Mahieddine (ex-Eckmühl), apprend-on auprès du responsable de cette nouvelle structure. C'est en quelque sorte un Samu social de la jeunesse pour porter secours aux enfants marginaux pour les réinsérer dans les structures éducatives, notamment les centres de formation professionnelle ou autres établissements socio-éducatifs » a notamment signalé le chef de service.

[Article complet](#) – El Watan

Algérie – Centre d'information des droits de l'enfant et de la femme : Idées de jeux et d'animation

29 June 2010 – Le Centre d'information des droits de l'enfant et de la femme, en collaboration avec l'école El Khansa, ont organisé une matinée récréative dédiée aux spectacles et animation divers. Durant deux heures, les enfants se sont surpassés en présentant un programme culturel et artistique des plus éclectiques, et ce, à l'occasion de la fin de l'année scolaire. Après les répétitions d'usage durant l'année scolaire, les enfants ont enfilé leur tenue de scène pour enfin dévoiler au goût du jour leurs performances artistiques. Après un mot de bienvenue de la directrice de l'école El Khansa, le coup d'envoi de cette manifestation aux couleurs de l'enfance a été donné par la toute jeune formation andalouse de ladite école.

[Article complet](#) – El Watan

Egypt – Focus on child labour

28 June 2010 – A 2001 national survey on child labour revealed that 2.7 million children aged 6-14 (21 percent of all children in that age group) work. Nihad Gohar, child protection officer with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Egypt, blamed the phenomenon in part on "poverty, lack of awareness, and dropping out of school because of violence or parents' inability to pay fees", as well as a "culture that condones child labour". Further efforts should be made to reintegrate those freed from child labour into schools, she said, while pointing out that where this is not possible there should be more rigorous implementation of the law on health and safety at work.

[Full article](#) – IRIN

Maroc – La fête de fin d'année des enfants de BAYTI

30 June 2010 – Dimanche dernier s'est tenue la fête de fin d'année scolaire des enfants de BAYTI à la Salle des fêtes de Ain Chock, en collaboration avec les programmes Projets de vie personnalisés et le Programme en Milieu ouvert. Cet événement qui a pour objectif de valoriser les compétences des enfants et de mettre en avant les jeunes et les enfants qui ont eu de bons parcours, a été marqué de nombreuses activités.

[Article complet](#) – BAYTI

Maroc – Le Pôle Formation Expertise organise un groupe de paroles avec les familles d'accueil potentielles

30 June 2010 – Dans le cadre du projet « La mise en place d'un Dispositif Famille d'Accueil au Maroc », en partenariat avec la Fondation Auteuil (France) et la Coopération

Monégasque, le Pôle Formation et Expertise de l'association BAYTI organise le 3 juillet 2010 un groupe de parole avec les familles d'accueil potentielles à Casablanca. Le projet « La mise en place d'un Dispositif Famille d'Accueil au Maroc », constitue une réponse alternative non seulement à l'institution mais aussi à la famille biologique en difficulté.

[Article complet](#) – BAYTI

In the Gulf:

Oman – Celebrate Together art contest for children

23 June 2010 – The contest aimed at instilling time-tested Omani values in the younger generation. Muscat: BankMuscat and Omantel have jointly launched an art contest - Celebrate Together – for children to commemorate the 40th Renaissance anniversary of the reign of Sultan Qaboos bin Saeed. Bringing together the nation as one family and targeting children who are the building blocks of the country, the art contest aimed at instilling time-tested Omani values in the younger generation, said Sayyid Harib Bin Thuwaini Bin Shihab Al Said, Assistant Secretary-General for Conferences at the Al Bustan Palace Hotel on Monday. The theme of the contest will focus on the Sultanate's achievements in the economic, social, health and educational fields and the role of the Omani citizen as the main objective of all such achievements.

[Full article](#) – Gulf news

Qatar – Help educate children in Gaza

7 June 2010 – Schoolchildren and university students in Gaza and West Bank are not able to fully exercise their right to an education, Shaikha Mouza says. "The right to an education is a human right. Today, schoolchildren and university students in Gaza and the West Bank are not able to fully exercise their right to an education," Shaikha Mouza said. "As Special Envoy to Unesco for Basic and Higher Education, I call on all international agencies to focus their attention on lifting the blockade of Gaza to ensure the rights of Palestinian children and youth," she said in a statement carried by Qatar News Agency (QNA). Shaikha Mouza, an active international figure, said the lethal incident in which Israeli forces killed activists on a humanitarian mission in support of Palestinians should be used to lift the blockade of the Gaza Strip.

[Full article](#) – Gulf news

UAE– Sharjah Museums line up summer events for children

24 June 2010 – The summer promises to be filled with fun and learning for children, with the Sharjah Museums Department (SMD) launching the 'Switched on Summer Camp 2010' from June 27 to July 15. A series of activities in both English and Arabic have been lined up at three different museums in Sharjah. Switched on Summer Camp 2010 is organised by the Interpretation and Education Department of SMD for children aged 11 to 14, and includes activities aimed at helping children to learn new skills, re-discover themselves in an atmosphere of fun, how to work as a team, and how to make friends. "The camp aims at keeping the children physically active and mentally stimulated in a positive way, and we wish to encourage them to venture out beyond classroom learning.

[Full article](#) – Khaleej Times

UAE– Towering trouble: etisalat mast poses radiation threat to students

24 June 2010 – Electro-magnetic radiation and children don't mix. It's basic chemistry. Yet that's what staff and parents are battling against at Star International School, Umm Sheif. Michael Henry, the school's principal, is at his wit's end on how to deal with a mobile phone mast that etisalat has put up inches away from their premises. From a strongly-worded letter to etisalat, to a petition signed by parents, Henry's doing his best to have his school free of any potential radiation. In a petition to etisalat, Henry wrote, "I must presume that the installation of the mast has been in your planning pipeline for some time. Yet, there was no communication with the school informing us of the pending project. Is this the standard of common courtesy that you extend to the community you claim to serve?" adding that etisalat should be "well aware that the location of mobile phone masts are extremely controversial" and that "given the potential harmfulness to the fast developing brains of young children, they [the masts] are usually located well away from schools".

[Full article](#) – Gulf news

Yemen – Paying girls is paying off for school attendance

6 June 2010 - A two-year-old government scheme offering financial incentives to parents in the rural areas of two of the country's poorest governorates to send their daughters to school or to prevent them from dropping out is paying off as girls' enrollment rates have increased by around 9 percent in the targeted schools, according to education officials. The incentive scheme seeks to reduce poverty and population growth rates by ensuring girls are educated. "In Yemen, poverty is associated with the rapid population growth," Ahmad al-Arashi, head of BEDP, said. "When girls attain higher levels of education, they will be aware of family planning and birth spacing, which are the key to alleviating poverty." He said many social problems, including early marriage and child malnourishment, are symptomatic of the high female illiteracy rate in Yemen.

[Full article](#) – IRIN

Yemen

8 June 2010 –

Yemen – The first project of its kind

10 June 2010 –

...

Yemen – What to do about child labour?

13 June 2010 – Children in Yemen work on fishing vessels off the Aden coast, in bustling markets carrying goods, in factories doing menial jobs, in fields picking qat - the leaves of *Catha edulis*, which are chewed as a euphoric stimulant - and at intersections in the larger World Day against Child Labour was celebrated on 12 June. A new study on child labour, The national child survey, by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MOSAL), and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) - the first of its kind in Yemen - will help determine the number of children working. According to the US Department of Labor, in 2002, the government passed the Yemeni Child Rights Law, which set the minimum legal working age at 14. While the law prohibits the employment of children under 15 in industrial work, there are no restrictions, regardless of age, on children working in family businesses. The Combating Child Labour Unit at MOSAL said a government survey in 2000 found there were 421,000 child labourers nationwide, but Ahmed al-Gorashi of Seyaj, a local child protection NGO, estimated that there could be as many as 3.5 million child labourers in Yemen.

[Full article](#) – IRIN

Yemen – Child care scheme helps refugee women become breadwinners

24 June 2010 – Mohammed Abdullah's voice reverberates around the small rooms of a child care centre. He sings a well known Somali children's song about a rabbit that was told to stay at home whilst his parents went to work. But the rabbit did not heed their advice and left home - only to be eaten by a monkey. The child care centre, in the home of Saida Ahmed Omar, hosts between 30-40 children of working mothers, and is one of 15 in Basateen, a slum area of Aden, home to about 40,000 Somalis and Yemenis with Somali ties. In Somali communities in southern Yemen, women are increasingly becoming the family breadwinners. According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) [Global Report 2009](#), there were 161,500 Somali refugees in Yemen. The NGO Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS), a partner organization of UNHCR and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), is the chief architect of the child care centres which started in 2007. They are located in the homes of mothers who volunteer to look after other people's children.

[Full article](#) – IRIN