



BUREAU
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DES DROITS DES ENFANTS

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FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

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MENA Newsletter

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

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1. General

Human Rights Policy Fellowships at the Carr Centre for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University

The Center is pleased to announce the availability of five 10-month fellowships for scholars and practitioners starting in September 2009. One fellowship for those with specific interests in human trafficking and modern slavery issues, as part of the Carr Center Initiative to Stop Human Trafficking. A second one, the Gebran G. Tueni Human Rights Fellowship, has a Middle East emphasis and opens the opportunity for two fellows coming from the Lebanon and/or Iraq.

[Full Announcement](#) – Carr Center for Human Rights Policy

Call for Applications *Francophone Fellowship in Morocco* offered by the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

The ICTJ, in partnership with the Center for Cross-Cultural Learning of Rabat, is pleased to announce its 2009 francophone intensive course in Transitional Justice: a 3-week residential intensive course for 20 participants based in Rabat, Morocco.

[Full Announcement](#) – ICTJ

2. Regional Activities (Events, conferences, news, announcements, reportages, campaigns)

Euro-Mediterranean Network for Human Rights (EMHRN) WORKING GROUPS (WG) - CALL FOR PARTICIPATION 2009

As announced at the General Assembly in Barcelona in December, it is now time to launch a call for participation in the EMHRN working groups. We hope you will see this renewal as a positive opportunity for your organisation to become active members of our Working Groups – or to restate your interest in continuing the work in the Working Groups.

[Full Announcement](#)- EMHRN

Campaign: Prescription for Life: Take action to help children with HIV

The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA), in collaboration with partners around the world, are embarking on a year-long action with governments, pharmaceutical companies and media to improve access to medicines for children with HIV. Children and young people are invited to take action with their school, faith community or family to help make this happen.

[Full Article](#) - CRIN

3. Sub-Regional and Country Updates:

In The Levant:

Iraq – Short Paper on “Iraq’s Children: between harsh present and Unknown Future

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[Full Article](#) (Arabic) - Child Rights Information Network (CRIN)

Israel/Opt – UNICEF - In Gaza, nearly one-third of fatalities are children; massive destruction of homes, schools and health facilities

In addition to the destruction of homes, schools and health facilities, a UNICEF partner advises that as of 14 January, 59 schools have been damaged in the fighting. The start of the school year has been postponed until February and UNICEF is preparing to re-furnish schools hit by missile strikes.

[Full Article](#) – UNICEF

Israel/Opt – Gaza Children Increasingly Traumatized - specialists

RAMALLAH (WEST BANK), 13 January 2009 (IRIN) - As the Israeli aerial and ground bombardment continues in Gaza, the number of trauma cases is growing, say specialists.

[Full Article](#) – Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN)

Israel/Opt – UXO Threat in Gaza

TEL AVIV, 26 January 2009 (IRIN) - On 20 January two Palestinian children were killed by unexploded ordnance (UXO) in the Shaaf area, near Jabalia, east of Gaza city, highlighting a new threat to people lives in Gaza. It is becoming clear that unexploded munitions in civilian areas represent another major new danger said an ICRC assessment published on 21 January.

[Full Article](#) – IRIN Middle East

Israel/Opt – Threat of epidemics in Gaza

RAMALLAH, 9 January 2009 - The total halt to vaccinations in Gaza since the Israeli offensive began on 27 December could result in epidemics, a risk increased by Gaza's high population density and dire living conditions, the WHO) warned on 8 January. "Stopping the vaccinations has serious implications for children in Gaza," UNICEF spokesperson Merixie Mercato based in Jerusalem.

[Full Article](#) – IRIN News

Israel/Opt –Effect of conflict on Gaza's children 'devastating,' says UN rights monitoring body

The United Nations body monitoring a key global treaty enshrining the rights of children voiced its deep concern today at the impact of the ongoing conflict in Gaza, which has killed or injured hundreds of young people, and warned that the effects of recent events on an entire generation of children will be severe.

[Full Article](#) – UN News Centre

Israel/Opt – Gaza Schools Open, but Young Minds Closed to Peace

GAZA (Reuters) - Schools reopened in Gaza on Saturday after Israel's devastating three-week war, and peaceful coexistence seemed further than ever from the traumatized minds of young Palestinians

[Full Article](#) – REUTERS

Israel/Opt – U.N. Launches Aid Effort for Gaza Children

AMMAN (Reuters) - The U.N. is launching a major aid effort to help tens of thousands of children suffering in the aftermath of Israel's military campaign in Gaza, a top aid official said on Thursday. "We are scaling up our humanitarian support and looking to expand significantly our psychosocial support. The situation is very dire," Sigrid Kaag, UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, told Reuters in Amman.

[Full Article](#) – REUTERS

Israel/Opt – Gaza Children Return to Schools after War

[GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip] - Tens of thousands of children returned to schools across Gaza on Saturday after three weeks of war, playing games for some relief from the devastation and telling friends and teachers about the explosions they heard and relatives they lost.

[Full Article](#) – CRIN

Israel /Opt– Defence for Children International (DCI)-Palestine Section concerned by increase in arrests of West Bank children

RAMALLAH, 17 January 2006 – DCI-Palestine is concerned by the recent increase in the number of children arrested by the Israeli authorities in the West Bank. DCI-Palestine lawyers have observed that the number of children brought to the Israeli Military Courts in pre-trial hearings in the first two weeks of January was twice as high as numbers in 2008.

[Full Article](#) – DCI

Jordan – Government adopts anti-human trafficking law

AMMAN, 27 January 2009 (IRIN) - The Jordanian parliament has endorsed legislation to combat human trafficking in light of international complaints that local companies are sending foreign workers to Iraq against their will.

[Full Article](#) – IRIN Middle East

Jordan – 2nd Arab Conference for Family Protection from Family Affairs

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[Full Article](#) (Arabic) - CRIN

In North Africa

Algeria – Half Million Children Subject to Exploitation in early age

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[Full Article](#) (Arabic) - CRIN

Algeria- Ces Enfants Qui Travaillent

31 January 2008-On les voit à la station Kouche vendant à la criée des confiseries, des ustensiles ou des chaussettes, debout derrière un étal de cigarettes, ou interpellant les voyageurs qui s'apprêtent à monter dans un transport en commun. Ils sont des dizaines au marché El Hattab à vendre un peu de tout

[Full Article](#) (French)-La Tribune

Egypt – International Conference: “Child Poverty and Disparities: Public Policies for Social Justice”

Under the umbrella of the Egypt's National Observatory for Child Rights, the Egypt Cabinet Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC), the National Council of Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) and the United Nations Children’s Fund in Egypt (UNICEF) are organizing an international conference on “Child Poverty and Disparities: Public Policies for Social Justice.

[Full Article](#) – CRIN

Egypt – Egyptian Schools: An Arena of Conflict

The Egyptian education system continues to decline, as its teachers search for an outlet for their social and economic frustrations. They [teachers] begin their school day standing in front of students who are burdened by their society and all of its problems. These students come to their rickety class-rooms and inhabit an environment of anger and violence transforming these class-rooms into arenas of conflict.

[Full Article](#) – Asharq Alawsat Newspaper

Egypt – Launch of a national Observatory for Child Rights

[Full Article](#) (Arabic) - CRIN

Morocco – White March against Children Sex Tourism

The White March in Marrakesh is planned to take place during July 4th 2009. It will be in the form of Music Festival and with the help of local and international artists we plan to send a strong message of hope to the abused Children of Morocco

[Full Article](#) – CRIN

Tunisia – Committee on rights of child examine report

(27 January 2009) - In its 50th session, the Committee on the rights of the child examined the report on the Optional Protocol on children and armed conflict. The Committee had been reassured that the law of Tunisia prevented the recruitment or enlistment of children in the armed forces. Among recommendations would be the criminalization of acts of recruitment of children, so as to cover such acts both inside Tunisia or those occurring outside its territory. In that connection, it was hoped that the ratification of the Rome Statute, which was under study, would be completed with a positive result soon.

[Full article](#) (Office of the UNHCHR)

In the Gulf:

Bahrain – World Award for the Best Practices and Achievements in Child Protection from Abuse

[Full Article](#) (Arabic) - CRIN

Oman - On the Convention on the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disability

Update: Oman ratified the Convention on 6-1-2009

[Full Article](#) – Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN Enable)

Saudi Arabia – Row over Child Marriages Continue

The controversy over legalising a minimum age for marriage in Saudi Arabia continued as members of parliament and human rights activists likened marrying minor girls to the slave trade, local press have reported.

[Full Article](#) – CRIN

Saudi Arabia – Saudi Human Rights Commission Tackles Child Marriages

Riyadh- The government-affiliated Human Rights Commission in Saudi Arabia released a statement Sunday describing the phenomenon of marrying off minor girls as an “inhumane violation.”

[Full Article](#) – Asharq Alawsat Newspaper

Saudi Arabia - HRC welcomes Justice Ministry move to stop child marriages

JEDDAH: The Human Rights Commission (HRC) has taken steps to end marriages involving minors following the high-profile coverage of such matrimones in the Kingdom. According to the HRC, the Ministry of Justice has begun studying ways to set a minimum age for marriage. It is expected that the minimum age will be set at 16.

[Full Article](#) – Arab News

Saudi Arabia – The 3rd Arab International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) Regional Conference on Child Protection

ISPCAN

2009 -

[Full Article](#) (Arabic) - CRIN

United Arab Emirates – Child rights draft law to be examined soon in Al-Sharqa

2009 24

[Full Article](#) (Arabic) - CRIN

Yemen – What is Blocking Progress on Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)?

[Sanaa, 20 January 2009] The MMR remains high as a result of poor health care and harmful social practices, including child marriage and female genital mutilation, a UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) official in Yemen has said.

[Full Article](#) - CRIN

Yemen – Urgent Humanitarian Appeal to Stop Killing Children in Tribal Wars

[Sana'a, 25 January 2009] SEYAJ organization for childhood Protection calls upon fighting tribes in Amran province and other tribal areas in Yemen to respect traditions and values of the tribes - if they don't respect Islamic orders and national laws - and avoid killing or targeting children and women in wars or civilians who are not involved in the fighting.

[Full Article](#) – CRIN

Yemen – Half Yemen's Tribal Fighters are Children

As many as half of the fighters involved in violent tribal clashes in northern Yemen are under age, a Yemenite child-rights organisation said. The Seyaj Organization for Childhood Protection, based in the Yemenite capital 'San'aa, said at least 63 people had been killed in tribal clashes in the northern 'Amran province over the past four months, and some 40 per cent of them were children.

[Full Article](#) – CRIN

Yemen – Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour

SANAA, 29 December 2008 (IRIN) - A new US-funded project aims to raise awareness of, and significantly reduce, child labour in four of Yemen's 21 governorates. Launched on 21 December, the three-year programme is funded by the US Department of Labor at a cost of US\$3 million and will be implemented in the governorates of Aden, Hudeidah, Taiz and Hajjah. Thousands of children could benefit.

[Full Article](#) – IRIN- Middle East

Yemen – Drive to Eliminate Neonatal Tetanus, Measles

SANAA, 26 January 2009 (IRIN) - A major campaign to eliminate neonatal tetanus and measles - two killer diseases of children in Yemen - is under way, according to the Health Ministry's National Programme for Vaccination (NPV). The six-day campaign began on 24 January.

[Full Article](#) – CIDA

Yemen – Family, School and Society charged with practicing Violence Against Children

[Full Article](#) (Arabic) – CRIN

Yemen – Child Soldiers getting killed in North

SANAA, 29 January 2009 (IRIN) - Hundreds of children are engaged in heavy fighting between two tribes in Amran Governorate, northern Yemen, and a number of them have been killed or injured in the past three months, says the Seyaj Organisation for Childhood Protection, a local NGO.

[Full Article](#) – IRIN Middle East