



# Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Newsletter

*June 2009*

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

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## 1. Global Developments on Children's Rights

### **The ILO marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of ILO Convention 182 on World Day against Child Labour**

01 June 2009 – On 12 June, civil society across everywhere will mark World Day Against Child Labour, this year coming on the 10th anniversary of adoption of ILO Convention 182, the convention that condemns the worst forms of child labour. In step with this year's International Labour Conference gender theme, the ILO will focus the 12<sup>th</sup> of June on the exploitation of young girls in child labour.

[For more information](#)-International Labour Organization (ILO)

### **FAB CONFERENCE - CARDIFF - Feeding a Better Future: Mothers' and Children's Diets**

02 June 2009 – The Food and Behaviour Research (FAB) centre hosted on June 2<sup>nd</sup> a conference in London that focused on mothers' and children's diets. The event represented an exceptional opportunity to hear from a panel of top UK experts, researchers and practitioners about how nutrition affects behaviour, learning and mood - specifically in mothers' and children.

[For more information](#)-Food and Behaviour Research

### **Human Rights Council: Child Rights Dominate Day One plus Representative from MENA**

04 June 2009 – The Human Rights Council opened its eleventh session by adopting its agenda and holding an interactive dialogue with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. Several representatives of States from the MENA region were among the participants. The discussion focused on several themes such as the immigration of children, education, and children in detention. The different representatives stressed on the necessity to ensure an effective protection of the rights of the child in those fields.

[For more information](#)- Relief Web

### **The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers Issues 2009 Bibliography on Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration**

10 June 2009- As in their 2005 edition, the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers has concentrated on presenting articles and reports that are freely available on line. The bibliography will be particularly helpful for busy practitioners who either do not have easy access to libraries, or lack sufficient time to research many sources of this nature. The bibliography is organised under different headings, such as 'DDR' (Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration), 'Recruitment Use of Child Soldiers' and 'Gender'.

[Full Bibliography](#)-Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers

## **Conference in London to Mark the 20th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

11 June 2009 – In partnership with the Child Rights Information Network (CRIN), the Centre for International Human Rights, the Institute of Education, the University College London (UCL) Centre for International Health and Development and the Institute of Child Health, held a conference in London on 11 and 12 June to mark the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) entitled '*20 years of children's rights between law and practice*'. The occasion provided a timely opportunity for assessing the value of the CRC in engaging with dilemmas on the ground, in devising multi-faceted approaches and not just a purely legal or technical response, and in the Convention's ability to evolve in order to meet new challenges that emerge from its implementation.

[For more information](#)-Institute of Common Wealth Studies

## **UNICEF Joins its Partners in Calling for Action to Tackle the Underlying Poverty that Leads to Child Labour on the Tenth Anniversary of the World Day against Child Labour**

12 June 2009 – On the World Day against Child Labour, UNICEF joins its partners in calling for action to tackle the underlying poverty that leads to child labour. Improving access to quality education, particularly for girls in poor and rural settings, is a key part of an effective overall approach. Around the world, many of the estimated 100 million girls involved in child labour undertake similar types of work as boys, but endure often also additional hardships and face extra risks. Moreover, girls are all too often exposed to some of the worst forms of child labour, often in work situations that are out of sight, hidden behind the walls of factories, deep in fields or behind the doors of their own homes.

[Full Article](#)-UNICEF

## **International Labour Office Releases Report entitled "Give Girls a Chance: Tackling Child Labour, a Key to the Future"**

14 June 2009 – This report focuses on girls and child labour, the theme of the World Day against Child Labour for 2009. The report presents a comprehensive profile of child labour amongst girls. In its assessment of the work that girls perform in the world today, it presents important new statistics on certain aspects of that work – for example, on the extent of engagement in unpaid household services. While there is little difference in the involvement of boys and girls in economic activity in general, the report suggests that girls work significantly more than boys in household chores and as a result often jeopardise their schooling.

[Full Report](#)- CRIN

## **New Machel Report Calls for Urgent Action to Protect Children Affected by Armed Conflict**

16 June 2009- UNICEF and the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict launched the Machel 10-Year Strategic Review today, calling on governments, UN agencies, and civil society to urgently step up efforts to protect *all* children affected by conflict. The report emphasises that war violates children's rights: the right to life, the right to family unity, the right to health and education, the right to protection from violence and abuse, and the right to receive humanitarian assistance.

[Full Report](#)-Relief Web

## **World Forum on Early Care and Education**

16 June 2009 – Over 600 early childhood administrators, trainers, caregivers, public officials, and advocates from 70+ countries gathered in Belfast for the 2009 World Forum to exchange ideas about the quality of services for young children in diverse settings. The event was held from 16-19 June 2009 with the participation of over 5,000 early childhood professionals from all over the world.

[For more information](#)-World Forum Foundation

## **The Cost of War Conference focuses on the Middle East**

17 June 2009 – Liverpool Hope University held from June 17-19 June 2009 a conference on the Cost of War. Special attention was accorded to the War in the Middle East as lecturers from the region described the acute and chronic mental health impact of war on families, including unique harms inflicted on children and adolescents.

[For more information](#)- Liverpool Hope University

## **New threats to Children in Conflict Need New responses, UN says**

18 June 2009- According to the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy, the changing nature of conflict, including the use of children in terrorist activities, poses new threats to children, and international actors must do more to respond. Children are increasingly being used as suicide bombers, are recruited into terrorist networks and are being detained in relation to these activities, she stated.

[Full Article](#)-IRIN

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

### **Arab Regional Conference on Higher Education**

31 May 2009- How Arab states can cooperate in the field of higher education will be one of the subjects for discussion at the Arab Regional Conference on Higher Education taking place in Cairo on 31 May to 2 June 2009. Attending the Cairo event will be officials and representatives of ministries of higher education and scientific research, universities, Arab

governmental organizations, professional organizations, international organizations as well as experts, academics and journalists.  
[For more Information](#)- UNESCO

### **Les pays du Maghreb célèbre la journée de l'enfant africain et la semaine nationale de l'enfant**

02 June 2009 – Instituée depuis 1990 par l'Union Africaine dont tous les pays du Maghreb à l'exception du Maroc sont membre, la « Journée de l'Enfant Africain » (JEA) est célébrée le 16 Juin de chaque année en commémoration du massacre des enfants survenus en 1991 à Sowéto en Afrique du Sud. Le thème de cette année « une Afrique digne des Enfants : appel pour une action accélérée en vue de leur survie » interpelle toute la communauté sur la précarité de survie des enfants ci-dessus évoquée.

[For more information](#) – The Wafi Abdouss Foundation: Guérissez-le-monde

### **Arab Childhood Committee Urges Protection for Palestinian Children**

03 June 2009 – At the end of several meetings held in Cairo, the Arab Childhood Committee called upon participants to implement the 2002 Arab summit's resolutions regarding the provision of international protection for Palestinian children.

[Full Article](#)- Kuwait News Agency (KUNA)

### **Support from the Maghreb Education Council to President Ben Ali's Initiative to Proclaim 2010 World Youth Year**

06 June 2009 –Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministers asserted their support to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's initiative to proclaim 2010 a World Youth Year. The Council, whose 9th session was held on 1-3 June 2009 in Tripoli, pointed out the importance of addressing the issues of youths and their concerns in the education and employment fields, and in the dialogue between the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) and its international partners.

[Full Article](#)- Agence Tunis Afrique Presse

### **Arab Youth perceive many Barriers to Economic Opportunity**

08 June 2009 – A report published by Gallup Press examined the views of youth in the League of Arab States toward job creation and entrepreneurship in their respective countries, and the challenges they currently face to enter the job market.

[Full report](#)- Gallup

### **Mohammed Foundation and Silatech Launch Joint Initiatives for the Capacity Building of Young Arabs**

08 June 2009 – As part of a collaboration for ensuring the capacity building of young Arabs towards the overall development of the region, the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation (of UAE) and Silatech, today announced the launch of two initiatives. The latter is a Qatari innovative initiative engaging the private, public and civil society sectors to promote large-scale training, job placement, and entrepreneurship for young people. It is

intended to help address the critical issue of youth unemployment, which poses a serious and growing challenge impacting countries throughout the world.

[Full Article](#) – Emirates News Agency

### **Education Reforms Needed in the Arab Region**

10 June 2009 – According to Dr Tarik M Yousef, an expert on education in the Middle East., the future of the Middle East and North Africa region depends on education. It plays a crucial role in economic growth and reflects the aspirations of the people for successful integration into the global economy in an ever-changing world. The large "pre-existing" education system in the Arab region must undergo radical reform to equip young Arabs to face the emerging challenges in the labour market,

[Full Article](#)-Gulf in the Media

## **3. Sub-Regional and Country Updates:**

### ***In the Levant:***

#### **Iraq- Children in Iraq still Suffering Psychologically from War Trauma**

01 June 09 - The Iraq war and the following violence had affected millions of children. Lots of Iraqi children have been killed and the lucky survivors are found to be suffering from serious stress. The negative affect of violence on Iraqi children is pervasive and will alter their lives in unimaginable and horrible ways for years.

[Full Article](#)-People's Daily Online

#### **Iraq- Labour Ministry to Participate in Childhood Conference in Cairo**

02 June 09 - The Children's Authority of the Iraqi Labour and Social Affairs Ministry participated in the 15th round of the Arab childhood committee's meeting, which took place in Cairo from June 2-4, 2009.

[Full Article](#)- Aswat Al-Iraq

#### **Iraq- US Military: Iraqi Children Used to Carry out Attacks**

02 June 09 - Terrorist groups are capitalizing on the fact that children do not draw as much attention and Soldiers do not want to harm them, according to Chief Warrant Officer Two Michael Hyatt, the 2nd BCT 1st Cavalry fusion chief. Children that are hurt while carrying out insurgent activities are also being used in propaganda campaigns by terrorists depicting them as martyrs.

[Full Article](#)-Multi-National Force Iraq

#### **Israel/oPt – CODEPINK: Gaza Children's Delegation**

June 2009 - The people of Gaza, especially the children, are suffering both physically and psychologically from the devastation of the 22-day Israeli invasion and the continuing siege. For the first time ever, Americans are partnering with Jewish and Arab Israelis to demand that the Israeli government end the siege. From 4-15 June 2009, Women for Peace and the

Coalition of Women for Peace (Israel) organized a rally, conference and encampment at the Erez border between Israel and the Gaza Strip. Among the variety of activities planned is participating in building a children's playground.

[For more information](#)-Global Exchange

### **Israel/oPt –Palestinian Children urge Obama to Help lifting Gaza Siege**

04 June 2009 - Palestinian children demonstrated at Rafah border crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt Thursday, urging President Barack Obama to press Israel to lift a two-year-old blockade on the enclave. Hamas authorities allowed the children to reach the Egyptian gate of the terminal shortly before Obama started delivering a speech to the Muslim world from Cairo. The kids held banners wondering if Obama's speech was going to be "a light of hope for Gaza children." Other banners read: "Gaza children appeal for help."

[Full Article](#)-China View

### **Israel/oPt –Reading as Resistance: Free Gaza Movement Launches its “Right to Read” Campaign**

06 June 2009 - In partnership with Al-Aqsa University, the Free Gaza Movement (FG) launched its “Right to Read” campaign which will use the FG fleet to deliver textbooks and other educational supplies to universities throughout the occupied Gaza Strip. According the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East UNRWA, Israel’s blockade restricts paper, ink, and other learning materials from entering into Gaza. More than one-third of Gaza's children and university students started the school year missing necessary textbooks and vital school supplies As a result of Israel’s hermetic closure of and repeated military attacks on the Gaza Strip, an entire generation of students in Gaza is growing up stunted both intellectually and academically;. Moreover, they are trying to learn in circumstances that no student should have to endure. .

[Full Article](#)-Free Gaza

### **Israel/oPt – According to Confessions by Israeli soldiers: Palestinian Child Detainees Abused during West Bank Military Operation.**

08 June 2009- Two Israeli officers have testified that troops in the West Bank beat, bound and blindfolded Palestinian civilians as young as 14. The damaging disclosures by two sergeants of the Kfir Brigade include descriptions of abuses they say they had witnessed during a search-and-detain operation involving hundreds of troops in Hares village that took place on 26 March 2009. The testimonies have been seen by *The Independent* and are expected to add fuel to the controversy over recent remarks by Colonel Itai Virob, commander of Kfir Brigade, in which he had stated that violence against detained Palestinians was justified in order to accomplish missions.

[Full Article](#)- Defence for Children International-Palestine Section (DCI-Palestine Section)

### **Israel/oPt –Palestinian Children risk Losing their Home in Occupied West Bank**

08 June 2009 - Five families in the West Bank hamlet of Hadidiya are under threat of immediate eviction. At least 12 others are fighting eviction and demolition orders in the Jordan Valley area. In total, more than 150 people, many of them children, risk losing their home and being evicted from the area. The Israeli army destroyed the homes of 18 Palestinian families and their animal pens in the nearby hamlet of Ras al-Ahmar on Thursday 4 June 2009. More than 130 people, many of them children, lived in the hamlet.  
[Full Article](#)-Amnesty International

### **Israel/oPt –Top UN Sports Envoy Visits Gaza to Help Improve the Daily Lives of Children and Youth.**

08 June 2009 - The United Nations envoy tasked with promoting sport for development visited Gaza today to explore ways to improve the daily lives of children and youth. Wilfried Lemke, the Secretary-General's Special Adviser, was able to enter the Gaza Strip through the Erez crossing. The success of UNRWA and its partners in organizing the event is a testament "to their remarkable commitment and dedication," he said, adding that "not only are the games a source of joy and fun for the children, but they also contain a crucial income-generating component that makes a considerable difference in the current alarming lack of professional opportunities for the people of Gaza." .  
[Full Article](#)- United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine (UNISPAL)

### **Israel/oPt –Israeli Forces Kidnap 13 Palestinians, Including 4 Children**

10 June 2009 - Israeli forces kidnapped four Palestinian children during a raid in the West Bank village of Hizma, northeast of Jerusalem. Witnesses in the village said Israeli soldiers stormed numerous houses, detaining Dawood Mohammad Najeeb, 12, Abdullah Hassan Najeeb, Shararah Hassan Mahmood Najeeb, 11, and Mahmoud Kareem Najeeb, 12.  
[Full Article](#)-Al-Jazeera

### **Israel/oPt – DCI-Palestine Section Releases Report on Palestinian Child Prisoners: The systematic and Institutionalised Ill-Treatment and Torture of Palestinian Children by Israeli Authorities**

11 June 2009 - This report documents the widespread ill-treatment and torture of Palestinian children at the hands of the Israeli army and police force. It contains the testimonies of 33 children who bear witness to the abuse they received at the hands of soldiers from the moment of arrest through to an often violent interrogation. Children report being painfully shackled for hours on end, kicked, beaten and threatened, some with death, until they provide confessions, some written in Hebrew, a language they do not speak or understand.  
[Full Report](#)-Defence for Children International-Palestine Section

### **Israel/oPt –Fundraiser for Israeli Children by Orr Shalom**

16 June 2009 - Orr Shalom, a non profit Israeli organization, launched during the month of June a fund raising event for “children without a home”. On 6 June 2009 a play by Neil Simon, with the actors; Eli Yatzpan and Yaakov Cohen was held at Habima in Tel Aviv. Orr Shalom was founded in 1980 with the intention of providing family structure and support to children who were removed from their home for reasons of abuse, abandonment and severe neglect.

[For more Information](#)-One Jerusalem

### **Israel/oPt –Playground equipment for Palestinian children banned by Israel**

18 June 2009 - There is a long list of items that Israel bans from Gaza. This includes equipment to clean up the toxic detritus of Israel's US munitions, which is the suspected cause of rising cancer rates. Toys and playground equipment, such as slides and swings, are also banned. A group of Israelis and Americans tried to cross into Gaza through Erez on 7 June 2009, bringing toys and children's playground equipment - slides, swings, kites, and magic castles for children. They were stopped at the gate and prevented from coming.

[Full Article](#)-Common Dreams

### **Israel/oPt –UN Criticizes the Israeli Blockade of Gaza: “It Created an Atmosphere of Deprivation for Women and Children”**

19 June 2009 -

[Full Article](#)-Dar el Hayat

### **Israel/oPt –425 Young Palestinians in Israeli Prisons: Sexual Abuse Threats and Suicide Attempts**

22 June 2009 -

[Full Article](#)-Dar Al Hayat

### **Jordan –Jordan’s poor people to participate in "End Hunger: Walk the World"**

01 June 2009 - The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) together with its major corporate partners prepared for a global walk against child hunger on Sunday entitled "End Hunger: Walk the World". The person in charge of the programme in Jordan Fatim al-Hindi said thousands of people –many of whom can no longer afford the food available in the markets, will come together with government officials, representatives of UN agencies, WFP corporate partners, their employees, friends and families to walk over a 24-hour period, in each of the planet’s time zones, to raise awareness and funds to feed Children.

[For more information](#)-World Food Programme

### **Jordan –U C MAS, a Global Development Mental Programme, reaches children in all corners of Jordan**

01 June 2009 - U C MAS is a global mental development programme available in 42 countries designed for children between the age of 4 and 12 to develop their latent mental power. In line with U C MAS's global presence, U C MAS - Jordan aims to be accessible to all children in that country. Since its local launch in 2008, U C MAS has entered the market full force, providing over 2,000 children in the cities Amman, Ibrid, Zarqa, Karak, Al Salt, Al Huson, Madaba, Al Fuhais and Aqaba with an opportunity to develop their mental abilities.

[Full Article](#)-AME Info

### **Jordan – Amman Training for Trainers in Child Friendly Cities**

21 June 2009 –

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[For more information](#)- MENA Child Protection Initiative

### **Jordan –START, a non-profit art programme, Helps Refugee Children in Jordan Smile this Summer**

01 June 2009 - This summer START the popular non-profit, art programme is giving Palestinian and Iraqi refugees a summer art school to paint their dreams. START has a team of international artists working with SOS orphanages and the refugee camps of Baqa’a, Jabal el-Hussein and Jerash just outside of Amman Jordan. The programme is inspired by the UN principle that every child has a human right to express themselves and access the arts. For those families living in the poorest of social conditions this human right often goes unprovided.

[Full Article](#)-Eye of Dubai

### **Lebanon – Children ‘abused’ during political campaigning**

30 May 2009 - They might not all be able to vote, but Lebanon's young people are playing an important part in political campaigning ahead of the June 7 elections, either by appearing in poster or television campaigns or by handing out flyers. According to a national child's rights

coalition, however, the use of 14-18 year olds in political campaigning often tends to be exploitative.

[Full Article](#)- The Daily Star Lebanon

### **Lebanon –« La littérature des enfants » au cœur des projets de Beyrouth «Capitale mondiale du livre » pour le mois de Juin 2009**

Juin 2009 – A l'occasion de la proclamation de Beyrouth «Capitale mondiale du livre », pour l'année 2009 par l'UNESCO, le ministère de la Culture a adopté une politique de partenariat, pour associer le plus grand nombre d'organismes possibles. Beyrouth, Capitale mondiale du livre organise pour le mois de Juin 2009 différents projets destinés à renforcer le secteur du livre au Liban, avec une attention particulière accordée aux livres de jeunesse. Parmi les projets, figure un Colloque international sur la littérature des enfants, des concours, ateliers et séminaires sur le thème : « Le Liban vu par les enfants ».

[For more information](#)-Beirut World Book Capital

### **Lebanon –Lebanese children's TV series aims to heal societal rifts**

02 June 2009 - Lebanon's civil war may be over, but it's no secret that social and religious divisions remain. However, with increased dialogue and interaction, particularly among young people, a better future is possible for the country. This goal, at least, is the driving force behind a new children's television series that premiered on 6 June 2009 on a Lebanese channel.

[Full Article](#)-Common Ground News Service

### **Lebanon –NGO organizes health festival for Palestinian children in Lebanon**

03 June 2009 - Children at a Palestinian school in Bar Elias in Beirut were treated to live theater and educational games at a health festival organized by Children of Al-Jaleel Centre together with American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA). The day of activities was arranged for the children to promote healthy eating and exercise as part of ANERA's "Creative Health Campaign," and the children were also informed concerning the dangers of smoking.

[Full Article](#)- The Daily Star

### **Lebanon –Women Battle for Citizenship Rights of her Children in Lebanon**

06 June 2009 - Lebanon is one of few remaining countries in the Middle East where a mother is unable to pass citizenship to her children. Campaigners have succeeded in securing that right in countries such as Egypt, which amended the law in 2004 to allow women to pass citizenship to their children, and in Algeria, which granted women full citizenship rights in 2005. In Lebanon the struggle continues.

[Full Article](#)-Inter Press Service News Agency

### **Lebanon –Samira Sweidan Manages to Obtain Citizenship for her Children after a Long Battle with the Lebanese Judicial System**

19 June 2009 -



[Full Article](#)-AL-Akhbar

## **Lebanon –150 Lebanese Students in “Sawt-el Shabab” to Debut the Experience of Alternative Media**

08 June 2009 –

[Full Article](#)-Dar el Hayat

### ***In North Africa:***

#### **Algeria – Un appel pour arrêter l’exploitation des enfants sur le marché du travail : « Des anges exploités par des démons »**

01 June 2009 - Pour soutenir leurs familles ou pour fuir une vie malheureuse, des centaines de milliers d’enfants rejoignent le monde du travail en Algérie. En 2008, une ONG belge qui a beaucoup travaillé sur cette question, a avancé le chiffre alarmant d’un million huit cent mille mineurs algériens exploités sur le marché du travail. L’auteur de l’article lance un appel pour que toutes les parties concernées (associations, justice, parents, autorités publiques) œuvrent pour éradiquer définitivement ce phénomène.

[Full Article](#)-L’Expression

#### **Algeria –Ils sont près de 1,5 million à travailler au noir : la détresse des enfants algériens a l’aube de la journée mondiale de l’enfance**

01 June 2009 – Le 1er Juin 2009, l’Algérie, à l’instar des autres pays, a célébré la Journée mondiale de l’enfance. Cette journée symbolique - instituée en 1954 par les Nations unies - est censée être un rendez-vous de fraternité mondiale et de compréhension entre les enfants - et envers eux - et d’activités favorisant le bien-être des enfants du monde entier. Ce n’est malheureusement pas le cas. Désastreuse est la situation de beaucoup d’entre eux. Bien que



protégé par des textes de loi, l'enfant algérien reste fortement exposé à des dangers multiples et subit de plein fouet les fléaux sociaux. Pédophilie, kidnapping, travail au noir, les chiffres disponibles sont effrayants.

[Full Article](#)-El Watan

### **Algeria – Journée internationale de l'enfant : Nedjma se met de la fête**

01 June 2009 –A L'occasion de la Journée internationale de l'enfant, Nedjma, l'opérateur leader de l'innovation et du multimédia en Algérie, célèbre cette journée par le lancement de deux concours et de nouveaux contenus amusants et éducatifs sur ZhoO Web/Wap destinés aux jeunes abonnés Nedjma, passionnés de nouvelles technologies et pour qui le multimédia n'a plus aucun secret.

[Full Article](#)-El Watan

### **Algeria –Une journée pour les orphelins**

03 June 2009 – Près de 800 orphelins et plus de 204 familles ont été enregistrés au niveau de quelques communes de Tizi Ouzou par l'association Thafounasth Igoujilène de la ville, lors d'une journée de sensibilisation portant autour du thème « L'orphelin, réalité et horizon » au centre culturel Mouloud Mammeri. Plusieurs aspects ont été présentés, notamment le côté psychologique et social de la vie de l'enfant.

[Full Article](#)-El Watan

### **Algeria –4,7% des enfants algériens travaillent !**

03 June 2009 – Une enquête récente, parrainée par le ministère de la Santé et en collaboration avec des ONG internationales, révèle que le niveau de vie des familles constitue un facteur discriminant dans la prolifération de ce fléau, ainsi, 7,3% des enfants issus des milieux les plus pauvres se retrouvent contraints de travailler à des âges très précoces. Malgré la rigueur et la fermeté de la législation algérienne qui proscrit toute exploitation ou embauche des enfants avant 16 ans, les résultats de cette enquête indique que 334 000 enfants âgés entre 5 et 15 ans travaillent en Algérie, ce qui représente 4,7% de l'ensemble de cette frange.

[Full Article](#)-Actualité El-Annabi

### **Algeria –De nombreux enfants algériens souffrent de problèmes buccodentaires - Redynamisation du «Programme Fluor» dans les établissements scolaires**

03 June 2009 – En raison du nombre de plus en plus croissant des cas de caries dentaires chez les élèves algériens du cycle primaire, le ministère de la Santé, de la Population et de la Réforme hospitalière relance sa campagne pour la distribution du fluor dans les établissements scolaires.

[For more Information](#)-All Africa

### **Algeria –Plus de 1 000 enfants algériens participeront à la cérémonie d'ouverture - 2ème festival national du théâtre pour enfants à Khenchela**

08 June 2009 – Le deuxième Festival national du théâtre pour enfants se déroulera du 16 au 23 juin prochains à Khenchela avec au menu carnaval, concours des meilleures pièces pour enfants et colloque. L'ouverture du festival qui coïncide avec la Journée africaine de l'enfant, sera marquée par «l'organisation d'un carnaval professionnel, où 1 000 enfants brandissant des tableaux véhiculant des messages culturels et éducatifs longeront les rues et ruelles de la ville de Khenchela, annonçant ainsi le lancement des festivités», a indiqué à l'APS la commissaire du festival, Fatima Bouzidi.

[Full Article](#)-All Africa

### **Algeria –Rise in Child Sex Abuse Causes Alarm**

10 June 2009 – There is growing concern in Algeria about an increase in the reported cases of sexual violence against children. The director of the National Office for Algerian Children, Khayra Masuda, says that since the beginning of 2009, there have been 805 alleged cases of sexual abuse against children. Masuda, who is also a police officer, said these children were among the 1677 minors picked up by police from the side of the road suffering from extreme poverty.

[Full Article](#)- Adnkronos News

### **Egypt –Egypt Working Children Infected with Heart Diseases**

05 June 2009 –Speaking at a conference on forced labour and human rights in the context of human trafficking, organized by the National Centre for Social and Criminal Research, Counselor of Egypt's Psychology, Dr. Nahed Ramzy said there are 2.8 million working children in Egypt. The figures were part of the latest study released by the National Council for Motherhood and Childhood in cooperation with the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in 2006.

[Full Article](#)-Egypt News

### **Egypt – Christian Egyptian Children Find Refuge in Catholic School Haven**

05 June 2009 – Catholic News Service published a story about a Catholic school in Egypt that serves as a refuge for Christian Egyptian children, many of whom have been sexually abused.

[Full Article](#)-Catholic News Service

### **Egypt – Egypt Passes Law Banning Female Circumcision**

09 June 2009 – Egyptian members of Parliament passed a new law that bans female circumcision. The new bill also changed the legal minimum age for marriage to 18 years-old for both genders. Furthermore, the laws passed imposes a sentence of up to two years or a fine between \$200 and \$1,000 on anyone who is caught practicing female circumcision.. The only exception for this ban is in case of "medical necessity." International rights groups welcomed the decision, saying it is a step in the right direction for the country.

[Full Article](#)-All Headline News

### **Egypt – Egypt Takes Part in Global Walk to End Child Hunger**

8 June 2009 – Egyptians joined thousands of people who took part in the UN World Food Programme (WFP) global walk to raise awareness and money to feed hungry school children in some of the poorest countries in the world. The event was held in the historic site of the Citadel of Saladin in Cairo, and included youth participants, representatives of UN country team and WFP partners. Speakers highlighted the importance of increasing public awareness of WFP to support the implementation of its school feeding programmes. WFP also encourages school enrolment and girls' education through the provision of fortified snacks to children, as well as take-home rations for their families in the most vulnerable governorates of Egypt.

[For more information](#)- UN Information Centre-Cairo

### **Morocco –La société civile marocaine se mobilise pour sauver les jeunes du tabagisme et de la drogue**

29 May 2009 - La société civile au Maroc s'implique dans la lutte contre le tabagisme et la drogue auprès des jeunes. Bon nombre d'adolescents ont été réorientés après l'intervention des associations. Une campagne de sensibilisation a été lancée le 15 mai et s'étalera sur trois semaines, à l'initiative de l'Association Lalla Salma pour la lutte contre le Cancer (ALSC). L'objectif est de "Bousculer les esprits et accentuer la prise de conscience des dangers du tabac et faire évoluer les comportements pour éviter la première cigarette."La Journée mondiale sans Tabac, organisée par l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé, se tiendra le 31 mai.

[Full Article](#)- Magharebia

### **Morocco – Les droits de l'Enfant et de la Femme aux priorités du gouvernement marocain**

02 June 2009 - La promotion de la culture des droits de l'enfant, ainsi que la lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes et les inégalités des genres font partie des priorités aux programmes du gouvernement et de la société civile au Maroc, a affirmé lundi à Rabat la Ministre du Développement social, de la famille et de la solidarité, Mme Nouzha Skalli, lors d'une allocution devant la 3ème réunion du comité arabe de suivi des recommandations de l'étude onusienne sur la violence à l'égard des enfants.

[Full Article](#) – 20 Minutes

### **Morocco – A new Moroccan Non Profit Group, 'Walou' to the Rescue of Street Children in Morocco**

03 June 2009 - Starting as an eight-people non profit group, 'Walou' aspires to make a difference in the lives of many children roaming the streets of Morocco with no shelter or future. The task seems quite challenging, but it just needs a lot of perseverance and much will, both abundant elements in Walou, the Moroccan Arabic for 'Nothing'.

[Full Article](#)- Maghreb Arab Presse (MAP).

### **Morocco – 15 jours d'action pour combattre l'autisme des enfants et adolescents au Maroc**

06 June 2009 – Léa pour Samy, association de parents d'enfants autistes, lance du 6 au 20 Juin 2009 à Casablanca, sa campagne annuelle pour la sensibilisation du grand public et des medias à l'autisme chez les jeunes. L'objectif est de permettre la mise en place de partenariats locaux afin d'impliquer les acteurs économiques dans le développement et la pérennisation de notre réseau de classes « FuturoSchool » à destination des enfants et adolescents atteints d'autisme. Le programme inclut différentes activités et formations destinées tant aux familles qu'aux professionnels.

[For more information](#)- Léa pour Samy

### **Morocco – Journée nationale de l'Enfant au Maroc: un engagement constant pour garantir aux enfants une vie digne et épanouie**

07 June 2009 –La célébration le 25 mai de la journée de l'enfance est l'occasion de réaffirmer l'engagement du Maroc à œuvrer avec constance en faveur du bien-être et du plein épanouissement social et culturel de l'enfant. Décidée par Feu SM Hassan II dans le message Royal adressé au 1er congrès national sur les droits de l'enfant en mai 1994, cette journée a toujours été une occasion pour dresser le bilan des acquis réalisés dans le domaine de l'enfance. La politique de la protection de l'enfance dans le Royaume ne cesse de s'enrichir des efforts soutenus de toutes les forces vives du pays, sous l'impulsion de SM le Roi Mohammed VI qui a fait de la question de l'enfance une des priorités nationales.

[Full Article](#)-Casa Free

### **Morocco – Volunteer Morocco Launches its Summer 2009 Programme**

11 June 2009 – Volunteer Morocco, a non-profit organization founded in 2007, committed to the support of health, education and farming development projects in Morocco, launched during the month of June its summer 2009 programme. Several activities aiming at the welfare of children were held, such as volunteer activities in orphanages, such as the organizing of parties and delivering gifts to orphans.

[For more information](#)-Volunteer Morocco

### **Morocco – A Round Table on the Protection and Assistance of Refugee Women and Refugee Children**

15-16 June 2009 - The Ministry of Justice in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) - Rabat will organize in June a Round Table on the protection and assistance of refugee women and refugee children in Morocco, with a special focus on unaccompanied and separated children, and on sexual & gender based violence against women and children.

For more information- Contact UNHCR Rabat

### **Tunisia –Tunisian Students Brace for the Bac Exam**

06 June 2009 - On 4 June 2009, 156,013 students faced an annual event eagerly anticipated and often dreaded by students and parents alike: the baccalaureate exam. According to figures released by the Ministry of Education and Training, 58% of students taking the exam are girls. The number of students taking the bac in 2008 increased by nearly 9%, compared to 2007 figures. A typical Tunisian family starts preparations weeks before the onset of the "bac", and spare no effort to offer their children a convenient environment so they can study.

[Full Article](#)-Magharebia

### **Tunisia – Developing Cooperation in Childhood Field**

06 June 2009 – Women, Family, Children and Elderly Affairs Minister Sarra Kanoun Jarraya conferred with a delegation of Italian experts in educational and social activities, who visited Tunisia in the beginning of the month of June in the framework of a co-operation project between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Italian Alessandria municipality in the field of childhood clubs, “Ludobus.” The meeting focused on the achievements accomplished as part of this project aimed to step up the exchange of expertise between Tunisia and Italy in the fields pertaining to educational and social activities for the benefit of children and youths in rural areas and highly populated districts.

[Full Article](#)- Agence Tunis Afrique Presse

### ***In the Gulf:***

#### **Bahrain – Sport for Peace Push by Bahrain**

05 June 2009 - According to a top United Nations official, Bahrain has agreed to join a group of 41 countries supporting peace through sports around the world,. It was one of the key decisions taken following the visit of UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace Wilfried Lemke to Manama. Mr Lemke urged the country to promote peace by encouraging young people to take part in sport and attract more international events like the Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix. He said that encouraging youngsters to take up sport was not just a problem unique to Bahrain, but one that the whole of the developed world needed to tackle.

[Full Article](#)-Gulf in the Media

#### **Bahrain – Bahrain’s Battle against Human Trafficking**

08 June 2009 - According to a new US State Department report, Bahrain must step up the battle against human trafficking, Despite issuing new guidelines on the employment conditions of migrant workers, the country remains on a special watchlist of nations being monitored for what action they are taking to combat the problem,. Bahrain was one of 170 nations included in the ninth annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP), many of whom are Children, which said it did little to improve its services to protect victims of trafficking.

[Full Article](#)- Gulf Daily News

### **Oman – UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Examines Reports of Oman under Optional Protocols on Children in Armed Conflict and on Child Sexual Exploitation and Sale**

9 June 2009 - The Committee on the Rights of the Child today reviewed the initial reports of Oman on how that country is implementing the provisions of the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

[Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child](#) -United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

### **Saudi Arabia – Lecture on Therapeutic Recreation by Prince Salman Centre for Disability Research**

June 2009 - Recreation is a critical dimension of the quality of life for all people, including those with developmental disabilities. There are a vehicle through which people have fun, meet new friends, and develop skills and competencies. Among others, the Therapeutic Recreation programme provides services to children and adolescents in Saudi Arabia. It focuses on the abilities of the patients, as well as teaching them new skills to cope with disabilities. The lecture will be held in Riyadh on 9 June 2009.

[More Information available](#)-Prince Salman Centre for Disability Research

### **Saudi Arabia – New Study Highlights Discriminatory Remarks against Jews and Christians in Saudi Textbooks for Children**

03 June 2009 - Representatives Anthony D. Weiner (D – Brooklyn and Queens), Joseph Crowley (D – Queens and Bronx), and Shelley Berkley (D – Las Vegas) released a report of translated 2009 Saudi textbooks, documenting what they qualified as an on-going pattern of discrimination against Jews and Christians taught in Saudi Arabian schools. In a letter to President Obama, Weiner condemned those teachings and urged the President to address the issue during his meetings with Saudi officials scheduled for the month of June.

[Full Article](#)-New York's 9<sup>th</sup> District

### **Saudi Arabia – Saudi Organization to Treat Nigerian Children with Diseases**

06 June 2009 – According to the head of the International Islamic Relief Organization (IIRO) with headquarters in Saudi Arabia Dr. Jameel A. Alata , the organization will treat children with cardinal heart disease in Nigeria, leader of the organization's delegation has said. In an interview with Daily Trust during the organization's one week visit to Nigeria, Dr. Alata said they have done a survey and evaluation of Pediatric Cardiologist service in Nigeria with special interest to Bauchi State. He said though they included Kano and Abuja in their survey their special interest is with Bauchi State because their visit to Nigeria was sponsored by Bauchi State. He said the organization does not discriminate and offers assistance to both Muslims and Christians.

[Full Article](#)-All Africa

### **United Arab Emirates – Maktoob.com joins fight against Rising Child Obesity in the UAE**

03 June 2009 – Maktoob.com, a leading Arab online community, will be using its strength in the market for good by supporting "The Fat Truth Campaign", under the patronage of HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, wife of HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. The event is organized by the Ministry of Health and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), to raise awareness of the dangers of childhood obesity in the country.

[Full article](#)-Zawya

### **United Arab Emirates – UAE court reduces jail term of child abuse parents**

03 June 2009 - The Abu Dhabi Appeals Court reduced on 2 June 2009 a jail term against a couple who physically abused their nine-year-old daughter. The child had been admitted with head injuries, which caused her to suffer an 80 percent disability. Even though the father claimed she had fallen from a bike, doctors contested his testimony as they also found other signs of beating, including old burn marks on her thighs. Although the Public Prosecution had asked for a harsher punishment, the court reduced the jail term to seven years,

[Full Article](#)-Arab News

### **Yemen – Children, Teenagers most Smokers in Yemen**

01 June 2009- Yemen has been ranked second in the Arab World on smoking, with a WHO report saying that Yemenis smoke 604 billion cigarettes per year, at a total cost of YER 21.5 billion. According to a study conducted by the National Programme for Combating Smoking, 29 percent of the total rate of Yemeni smokers are young people, aged 17-24, mostly high school students.

[Full Article](#)- Saba News

### **Yemen – Donors Discuss Basic Educational Programmes**

01 June 2009- Minister of Education Abdul-Salam al-Jawfi held talks with representatives of donors in Yemen concerning the educational programmes implemented by donors in the basic education field. The talks reviewed work papers to be discussed at the Educational Meeting of the 5th Annual Joint Review for Implementing the National Strategy of Basic Education Development, scheduled to begin on 2 June 2009.

[Full Article](#)- Saba News

### **Yemen – Police capture 11 Yemeni Children Attempting to Enter Saudi Arabia**

02 June 2009- Police stationed at the border area of Haradh, Hajjah between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, intercepted 11 Yemeni teens aged 9 -15 from illegally entering Saudi Arabia, reported the Interior Ministry's Information Centre. The teenagers were immediately sent to a childhood protection facility in Hajjah until their parents were summoned to receive them. The ministry's information centre did not give any further details as to whether or not smugglers were helping the teenagers.

[Full Article](#)- Yemen Observer

### **Yemen –Parents Break Cycle of Corporal Punishment**

03 June 2009- In an effort to ending corporal punishment in Yemen, Save the Children and the Ministry of Education held at the beginning of June discussions with up to 200 parents on non-violent methods that they could employ to discipline their children. Although corporal punishment is banned in Yemeni schools by a ministerial decree, it is still lawful at home. In this regard, researcher Dr. Abdullah Al-Yahri recently found that up to 80 percent of mothers in rural areas use corporal punishment as method to discipline their children. Not only does the practice adversely affect a child's cognitive development and progress in school, its persistence at home also undermines efforts to expel the detrimental practice from educational institutions.

[Full Article](#)-Yemen Times

### **Yemen –Launch of Construction Work for a Children’s Hospital in Yemen, funded by Qatar Charity (QC).**

03 June 2009- Qatar Charity (QC) chairman Ghanim bin Saad al-Saad laid the foundation stone for the project in Sanaa. The event was attended by Qatar Ambassador to Yemen Jassem bin Abdulaziz Albuainain, and QC vice-chairman Abdullah bin Hussein al-Ni'mah. The children’s hospital project is a joint effort with the Social Reform Society. Al-Saad said that the medical facility would adopt the highest level of standards, latest equipment and medical techniques, and would help improve the image of charity work in Arab societies

[Full Article](#)-Gulf Times

### **Yemen –Exclusive Breastfeeding an Effective Solution for Yemeni Infants with Malnutrition**

08 June 2009- With 46 percent of Yemeni children under five underweight, 12 percent suffering from wasting disease, and 53 percent from stunted growth, it is a mystery why Yemeni women do not breastfeed their children for two full years, or at least exclusively for the first six months. The percentage of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months has decreased from 24.5 percent in 1997 to only 12 percent in 2007.

[Full Article](#)-Yemen Times