



# Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Newsletter

*July 2009*

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

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## 1. Global Developments on Children's Rights

### **Young Leaders Prepare to Tackle Global Issues**

30 June 2009 – Teams of young people head to Rome for the young people's summit (J8) in Rome that was held from 5 to 12 July 2009, to be held in parallel with the G8 meeting. The focus of this year's J8, or Junior 8, was climate change, the financial crisis, and poverty in Africa as they impact on the lives of children and young people. The J8 is a UN Children's Fund program that gives young people aged 14 to 17 the chance to develop their own ideas about the most pressing global issues of our time. Ideas developed at the J8 were presented to leaders of the G8, the unofficial forum of the leaders of eight major industrialised democracies. More than 30 young people from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russian Federation, UK and the USA were joined by teams of four young people each from Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Mexico and South Africa.

[For more information](#)- UNICEF

### **Workshop on "Trafficking in Persons and Exploitation of Migrants: Ensuring Protection of Human Rights" Held in Geneva**

9 July 2009- The importance of the "human dimension" of migration and the need to ensure the effective protection of the human rights of migrants have attracted the attention of policy-makers and other stakeholders involved in migration issues. Increasingly, governments and civil society organizations are considering how best to incorporate human rights, welfare, safety, dignity and security of individuals and communities into migration policies, legislation and programming. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) hosted on 9 and 10 July 2009 a workshop in Geneva that focused on the issue of abuse and exploitation of migrants which in some cases may have come about through trafficking in persons. The workshop examined policy and programmatic approaches to help governments meet the challenges posed by human trafficking and migrant exploitation, while assisting and protecting migrants who, through trafficking or otherwise, have become subject to exploitation and abuse. Speakers from the MENA region were among the participants.

[For more details](#)- The International Organization for Migration

### **Marrakech Seminar on the Draft Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training**

16 July 2009- The Platform for Human Rights Education and Training in the Human Rights Council, which is comprised of six governments -- Costa Rica, Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Slovenia and Switzerland held an expert seminar on the draft UN declaration on human rights education and training, in Marrakech (Morocco) on 16-17 July 2009. The seminar was intended to gather possible elements for the draft declaration in order to assist the work of the Advisory Committee. Seminar sessions were organized in relation to possible sections of the draft declaration: principles and general vision of the declaration;

responsibility of States; the role of different stakeholders; and the role of the UN system and human rights mechanisms. The inputs and discussions collectively reaffirmed the necessity of having a declaration on human rights education and training as complementary to the World Programme on Human Rights Education and in order to further induce States to carry out such programming. At the same time, many details of the declaration will need to be determined and it will be important to see how specific the declaration will be in relation to specifying the responsibilities of States in carrying out human rights education and training, the roles of other stakeholders, approaches to be emphasized, and how the declaration guidelines might link up with other UN treaty bodies and human rights mechanisms.

[For more information](#)- Mission Maroc

## **2. MENA Regional Child Related Activities (events, Research on the need for safe urban spaces for children and youth in the MENA Region conferences, news, vacancies, announcements, reportages, campaigns)**

### **Research on the Need for Safe Urban Spaces for Children and Youth in the MENA Region**

08 July 2009- Arab youth, researchers and practitioners from across the Middle East and North Africa convened in Syria during July to share lessons learned and best practices related to vulnerable and marginalized children and youth in the region. UN HABITAT provided input into this conference through the presentation of research on the need for safe urban spaces for children and youth. The preliminary results of this research provided evidence of the benefits of local authorities establishing youth centers such as the One Stop Youth Resources Centres piloted by UN-HABITAT in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The papers presented at this conference and will be published leading up to the World Urban Forum in Rio in 2010.

[Full Article](#)- UN Habitat

### **5th International Conference on Children and Youth in MENA Cities**

06 July 2009- Arab Urban Development Institute / Child Protection Initiative (MENA CPI) held from 7 to 8 July 2009 an international conference in Aleppo, Syria to present gained results of CPI activities within the global partnership and to share lessons learned and best practices issues related to vulnerable and marginalized children and youth in MENA region. The conference intended to discuss issues facing children and youth, mainly in the fields of education, training, skill development and employment at the national, regional and the local levels in the MENA region.

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

### **Umniah Sponsors the 29th International Arab Children Congress**

07 July 2009- In accordance with its support to key events that aim at developing the intellectual interests of Arab youth, Umniah - the fastest growing telecom service provider in Jordan - announced its sponsorship of the 29th International Arab Children Congress (IACC) organized by the National Center for Culture and Performing Arts, an affiliate of the King Hussein Foundation. The Congress was held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein between 5 and 11 July 2009 under the theme, 'The Right to Protection... Whose Responsibility?'. Approximately 150 young men and women between the ages of 14 and 16 years old participated in this event, representing over 18 countries including Jordan, UAE, Bahrain, Tunis, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Lebanon and Egypt. This year's session also involved a number of non-Arab countries for the second time in the congress's history since 2004.

[For more Information](#)- AME Info

### **Arab Network of Human Rights Trainers' Board of Directors Concludes Work in Amman**

10 July 2009- The participants in the second meeting of the Board of Directors of the Arab Network of Human Rights Trainers were recently hosted by the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies for two days in Amman. The Board of Directors discussed the realities governing the training process pertaining to human rights issues in the Arab World and approved the strategic plan of the network.

[For more information](#)-Arab Reform Initiative

### **Threats to Human Security Impede Development in the Arab Countries**

21 July 2009- In Arab countries, a widespread lack of human security undermines human development, according to the Arab Human Development Report 2009: Challenges to Human Security in the Arab Countries. This report is prepared by independent scholars drawn from the region. The report argues that human security is a prerequisite for human development, and that the widespread absence of human security in Arab countries undermines people's options. Human security refers not only to questions of survival, but also basic needs such as access to clean water and quality of life concerns. Human security in the Arab countries is often threatened by unjust political, social, and economic structures; by competition for power and resources among fragmented social groups; and, in some cases, by the impacts of external military intervention.

[Full Report](#)- Arab Human Development Reports

### **Arab Institute and HREA Launch 19th Anabtawi Summer School**

22 July 2009-The 19th edition of "Anabtawi", the annual summer school for Arab human rights defenders began on 22 July. Anabtawi traditionally consists of a two-week intensive training workshop that takes place in Tunis annually and is organised by the Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR). For the first time an on-line component was added to the training, with the assistance of HREA. Thirty-five participants from 13 countries in the Middle East and North Africa participated in six weeks of an intensive on-line course that began on 1 June and concluded on 12 July. This course introduced participants to the main UN human rights mechanisms, the basics of international humanitarian law, and familiarised

them with other Anabtawi participants and the trainers.

[For more information](#)- HREA Online

### **Arab Human Rights Group Barred for Year by UN**

27 July 2009- The UN decided to bar an Arab human rights group for a year after Algeria argued that it brought in a "known terrorist" to speak on its behalf at a meeting in Geneva. The decision was taken without a vote, despite reservations voiced by Western countries, at the 54-member Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in what an official of the barred grouping said was a move to silence its voice. The action against the Paris-based Arab Commission for Human Rights which has been fiercely critical of Israel but also of what it argues is growing oppression in Arab countries deprives it of the right to speak in UN bodies. "This was a move taken to silence us," the body's Geneva representative Abdel Wahab Hani told reporters. "We upset everybody, including the Europeans and Americans by criticising them too, so there was no one to stand up for us." The suspension of recognition formally known as "consultative status" was recommended in January by the UN's 19-nation Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in New York.

[Full Article](#)-Reuters

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

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

#### **Iraq- Greater Efforts Needed to Rid Iraq of Landmines, says UN Report**

01 July 2009- "Iraqi children have the right to grow up in a safe environment without risk to their well-being and lives as much as any other child in the world," said Sikander Khan, UNICEF's Iraq Representative. "More action to clear mines and other unexploded ordnance is urgently needed so all Iraqi children can grow up without fear of this hidden enemy and be assured of a safer and better future." A new United Nations report warns that Iraq may not be able to meet its obligations under an international treaty to rid the country of the deadly scourge of anti-personnel landmines, and calls for greater efforts to ensure a safe environment for the population.

[Full Article](#)- UN News Centre

#### **Iraq- UN Children's Fund Country Office Returns to Baghdad after Six Years**

01 July 2009- The UN Children's Fund is reinforcing its presence in Iraq with the arrival of five senior staff to Baghdad. This marks the beginning of the UNICEF Iraq country office's full transition back to Iraq over the next year. Although UNICEF has been on the ground in Iraq since 1983, the conflict has meant UNICEF staff have been based in Amman, Jordan for the past six years. "With children representing the most critical resource for Iraq's future stability and prosperity we must now, as reconstruction starts, ensure every effort and investment is made so their survival and development prospects improve. We look forward to developing and enhancing partnerships with all aspects of Iraqi society to bring the

situation of Iraqi children on par with that of children in developed countries.” The move coincides with a \$10 million project funded by the European Community to improve Iraq’s water and sanitation services. Implemented by UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works and the Ministry of Municipalities in Kurdistan, the project will increase the government’s provision of services as well as strengthen their capacity to manage and develop Iraq’s water and sanitation sector.

[Full Article](#)- UNICEF

### **Iraq- Blackwater and Young Iraqi Girls**

03 July 2009- The latest charges, filed this week in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, bring to more than 60 the number of Iraqis allegedly killed or wounded since 2005 by armed Blackwater contractors guarding U.S. diplomatic personnel in Iraq. The US State Department employs Blackwater, which is a private military company, now called Xe. Blackwater is also facing claims of child murder and child prostitution in Iraq, according to the legal team for certain Iraqi families. Allegedly, young Iraqi girls have been taken to the Blackwater compound in Baghdad, to provide oral sex to people working for Blackwater.

[Full Article](#)- CorpWatch

### **Iraq- At Least Seven Killed in Iraqi Violence Including a Child**

06 July 09 - At least seven people, including a child, died in overnight violence in Iraq as gunmen targeted police and civilians, Iraqi security officials said Monday. A car bomb in the northern city of Mosul killed a child and wounded two other civilians Monday, while gunmen in Baghdad Sunday night killed five members of an Iraqi security detail, Interior Ministry officials told CNN. In other attacks Sunday in Mosul, a car bomb targeting a security patrol wounded six police officers, and one civilian was killed and 15 others wounded when attackers lobbed at least 11 grenades into a crowd of civilians, CNN reported.

[Full Article](#)- Top News

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

06 July 09 - The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) may be forced to cut back its services to Iraqi refugees, primarily in Syria and Jordan, from January 2010, despite a US\$5 million donation from Saudi Arabia on 28 June. UNHCR financial and health care assistance to the refugees may be affected if further donations are not received. UNHCR said it would cut its health funding; and plans to expand programmes of psycho-social care for traumatized Iraqis would be shelved. Funding for vocational training programmes would be reduced. Outreach programmes, which have been especially successful in reaching vulnerable children and women, would also be negatively affected.

[Full Article](#)- IRIN News

### **Israel/oPt –International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Report: 1.5 million People Trapped in Despair in Gaza**

29 June 2009- Six months after Israel launched its three-week military operation in Gaza on 27 December 2008, Gazans still cannot rebuild their lives. Most people struggle to make ends meet. Seriously ill patients face difficulty obtaining the treatment they need. Many children suffer from deep psychological problems. Civilians whose homes and belongings

were destroyed during the conflict are unable to recover. During the 22 days of the Israeli military operation, nowhere in Gaza was safe for civilians. Hospitals were overwhelmed with casualties, including small children, women and elderly people. Medical personnel showed incredible courage and determination, working around the clock to save lives in extremely difficult circumstances. Meanwhile, daily rocket attacks launched from Gaza put thousands of residents at risk in southern Israel. Medical workers in Israel provided care for the traumatized population and treated and evacuated casualties. Many people in Gaza lost a child, a parent, another relative or a friend. Israel's military operation left thousands of homes partly or totally destroyed. Whole neighbourhoods were turned into rubble. Schools, kindergartens, hospitals and fire and ambulance stations were damaged by shelling.

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

### **Israel/oPt –Israel: Refugees, Asylum-Seekers and Protection - Analysis**

02 July 2009- Some 15,000 mainly African asylum-seekers in Israel have put the regulatory, security and welfare response under strain, according to the Interior Ministry and UNHCR. Israel does not have a refugee law, despite being a signatory to the 1951 refugee Convention. Israel has granted refugee status to some 170 people. According to UNHCR, only 70 of these are in Israel today. The rest have gone to other countries. Some nationalities such as Liberians, Ivorians and Congolese have been given “group protection” under UNHCR. In addition, 452 people fleeing Darfur in Sudan were granted temporary residency in Israel, but over 1,000 others from Darfur were not. Once in Israel they face tough conditions but receive assistance from UNHCR and local NGOs, including Moked, Assaf, the African Refugee Development Centre (ARDC) and Physicians for Human Rights (PHR). NGOs provide medical care, shelter, clothes and legal assistance. Children over five are entitled to free education until the age of 16.

[Full Article](#)- IRIN News

### **Israel/oPt – Hiyam, a Gaza Teenager killed as she Offered Aid**

05 July 2009- Thursday was as normal and quiet an afternoon as you get in Johr al-Deek village in the central Gaza Strip. "Prepare yourself for I will be taking you to the dentist in half an hour," Salim Abu Ayish recalled telling his 17-year-old daughter Hiyam. Moments later everything changed. "At 5:30 PM an Israeli shell landed on my brother's house," the father told visitors who had come to offer condolences for his daughter at the family's home on Friday. The shell injured a nephew and Salim Abu Ayish rushed to render aid. Two Israeli army shells landed in the family houses of the Abu Ayish clan in the Johr al-Deek village, just north of the al-Bureij refugee camp and about 1.5 kilometers from the border with Israel. The shelling caused critical injury to Husam Abu Ayish, Hiyam's 21-year-old cousin and minor wounds to Hiyam's father and sister, Nawal. For hours after the attack, the Israeli army denied any involvement and claimed the attack was the result of mortar shells fired by Palestinians. But late on Thursday, the Israeli army changed its story, admitting that Palestinian civilians were hit "accidentally" by Israeli army fire directed at Palestinian gunmen in the area, according to Israeli media.

[Full Article](#)- Electronic Intifada

### **Israel/oPt – "Terrible injustice" to Children in Roundup of Migrants Terrible**

09 July 2009- Israeli lawmakers yesterday called for a halt to the "manhunt" for foreign workers, warning their deportation of foreign workers and that of their children would constitute a "terrible injustice" and infringe on the children's basic rights. The Knesset's Committee on the Rights of the Child yesterday discussed the state's treatment of foreign workers and asylum seekers' children, following the police's extensive drive to round up and expel foreign workers. MK Nitzan Horowitz (Meretz), who called the discussion, said the roundup and deportation would have harmful implications on the workers' children, who had been born and raised here and have no other country but Israel. "This is a terrible injustice. They're deporting people while bringing new workers into the country," Horowitz said. "If the policy was to deport foreign workers in view of rising unemployment, so be it. But bringing in new workers casts doubt over the motives for the deportation scheduled for August."

[Full Article](#)- Haaretz

### **Israel/oPt –Israeli Arab School Students Taught their Rights**

17 July 2009- The Education Ministry has recently begun distributing booklets on school students' rights for teachers in the Arab school system. The booklet, a translation of material distributed in Jewish schools several years ago, discusses the Pupils Rights Law, which Education Minister Gideon Sa'ar now wants to see amended to permit expelling children from school for violence. The booklet reflects existing ministry policy to a great extent, and the ministry says it would be changed if the amendment is passed. In the activities it proposes, the booklet links students' rights closely to their responsibilities. For example, chapter 1 deals with "my right to be protected and loved," but also "my responsibility to show others that I care." Another chapter discusses "my right not to be injured, insulted or humiliated by others," as well as "my responsibility not to hurt others verbally or physically."

[Full Article](#)-Canadian International Development Agency

### **Israel/oPt – Israeli Textbooks to Drop 'Nakba'**

23 July 2009- Israel's education ministry is to drop from an Arabic language textbook a term describing the creation of the state of Israel as "the catastrophe". The Arabic word "nakba" has been used with Israeli-Arab pupils since 2007. It does not appear in Hebrew textbooks. Education Minister Gideon Saar said no state could be expected to portray its own foundation as a catastrophe. Israeli Arab MP Hana Sweid called the move an attack on Palestinian identity and collective memory. The passage in question, which occurs in one textbook aimed at Arab children aged eight or nine, describes the 1948 war, which resulted in Israel's creation, in the following terms: "The Arabs call the war the Nakba - a war of catastrophe, loss and humiliation - and the Jews call it the Independence War." The sentence was introduced when Yuli Tamir of the centre-left Labour party was education minister.

[Full Article](#)- BBC News

### **Jordan- The Boston Children's Chorus Performs Live in Jordan**

01 July 2009- The U.S. Embassy in Amman hosted from 2 to 7 July 2009 the Boston Children's Chorus for performances in Amman, Zarqa and Karak, as part of the celebration of 60 years of U.S.-Jordanian diplomatic and development ties. Founded in 2003, the Boston

Children's Chorus is an arts education organization that unites children ages 11 – 17 of different races, religions and economic status. The chorus has the unique mission of creating a world-class children's chorus that also serves as a catalyst for community-building and social healing.

[For more Information](#)- Embassy of the United States in Amman

### **Jordan-Greater Amman Municipality Concludes Training on Child Friendly City Initiative**

05 July 2009- The Greater Amman Municipality concluded a five-day training course organized in Amman for members of the Arab local municipalities and Arab childhood institutions, focused on the child friendly city initiative. The course was organized in cooperation with the Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI), the Middle East and North Africa Child Protection Initiative (MENA-CPI), and the Arab Gulf Program for the United Nations Development Fund (AGFUND). Deputy Mayor of Amman, Eng. Amer Al-Bashir praised the efforts exerted by AUDI in introducing the child's friendly city initiative, which coincided with the launch of the institute's book, 'Towards Having Child's Friendly Cities in the Middle East and North Africa'.

[Full Article](#)- AME Info

### **Jordan- Cairo Amman Bank celebrates summer festivities with children at Zara Centre**

06 July 2009- As part of its ongoing support for various social activities, Cairo Amman Bank sponsored the 'Summer Arrival' event that was held at the Zara Centre on Friday, 26th of June 2009. The one-day event that was attended by families and their children included several activities such as magic shows, dance performances, face-painting and many others. Cairo Amman Bank distributed many giveaways and presents during the event, the parents commended the bank for this family day activity that gave them the opportunity to spend an active day with their children, adding a spark of fun to the summer season. Cairo Amman Bank always strives to support various community groups through different charitable, educational and entertainment activities that emphasize the importance of contributing to the development and refinement of childrens' talents; being the leaders of tomorrow.

[Full Article](#)- Arabian Business

### **Jordan- Improving school facilities for students in Amman**

17 July 2009- Schniller School was first established in Jerusalem in 1860 (149 years ago) and provided services and help for orphans and less fortunate children until 1948. In 1959 Theodor Schniller School started building its permanent location in Amman, where in 1966, King Hussein opened these premises. Theodor Schniller School is helping children from poor or problematic families. The school is taking care of the children and providing them with housing, clothes, meals and many other facilities as well as improving their hobbies and sport activities. With all those mentioned facilities, the school is still considered poor, because most of these facilities were built through donations, donations that do not provide maintenance and running costs. During an international volunteer project that was held from 17 to 28 July 2009, volunteers from all over Jordan helped building indoor or outdoor climbing wall or rock, cleaning the School site, painting the School walls,

landscaping and planting.

[For more Information](#)- Cadip

### **Lebanon- Lebanon illiteracy report shows alarming urban-rural divide**

04 July 2009- If by naming Beirut as the 2009 World Book Capital the United Nations wishes to encourage the Lebanese to study more, its latest report should be a must-read. Lebanon's fourth National Human Development Report (NHDR), "Towards a Citizen's State," highlights a worrying discrepancy in adult reading rates between urban and rural regions. The NHDR, using data compiled from a variety of investigations, emphasizes the need to close this educational gap and demonstrates the strong links between poor education and poverty. The problem is not the quality of the services but access to them. The majority of good services are, of course, located in the capital, with some exceptions. "There is a direct correlation between poverty and illiteracy. The poorer you are the more likely you are to drag your children out of school," she told The Daily Star. She said that many children could not recognize the importance of going to school. "Some don't see the value added in education. Many drop out and decide to work so they can at least earn some money."

[Full Article](#)- The Daily Star

### **Lebanon- Football to Unite Lebanese Children from Diverse Backgrounds**

05 July 2009- A Danish NGO is promoting new means of peace-building in conflict zones by hosting soccer events aimed at uniting different ethnic and religious groups. The Bekaa Valley city of Baalbek's main public park, Ras al-Ain, hosted a soccer festival "Open Fun Football School" held by the Danish NGO Cross Cultures Project Association in Lebanon (CCPA), which has worked since 2005 on establishing dialogue and cooperation across cultural divides in the region. The interest of the locals was reflected by the high turnout on Sunday. Around 250 kids and their families participated in the social activities organized by CCPA. "Our goal is to create a dialogue among different ethnic [or religious] backgrounds in divided societies," said Jens Juul Petersen, CCPA's project assistant. He added that by choosing soccer as a theme, CCPA teams up children from different groups "who do not have enough opportunity to meet one another." The social worker explained that CCPA's soccer project not only melts ethnic and religious barriers, "but also eliminates the gender taboos, while creating a common ground for children to share their experiences.

[Full Article](#)- Cagil M. Kasapoglu News

### **Lebanon- Lebanese Child Struck By All-terrain vehicle ATV - Man Arrested For Assault**

05 July 2009- A 7-year old boy from Lebanon was struck by an all terrain vehicle Saturday while riding his bicycle. Rescue crews and police were called to Evergreen Lane in Lebanon at about 4:45 p.m. Saturday. "When rescue crews were cleared to respond into the scene," said Lebanon Rescue Assitant Chief Jason Cole, "They located a 7-year old male patient who had been riding his bicycle when he was struck head on by a full sized Kawasaki 4-wheeler and then became pinned underneath it." The boy was taken to Goodall Hospital in Sanford where he was stabilized before he was flown by LifeFlight helicopter to Maine Medical Center in Portland. Late Saturday, state police said the boy had been released from the

hospital. Robert Mitchell, 63, of Lebanon, was arrested and charged with operating an ATV under the influence and assault.

[Full Article](#)- WMTW News

### **Lebanon- Lebanese Women Still Struggling for Citizenship**

05 July 2009- "I married an Egyptian and was very happy till my husband passed away," Samira told NOW Lebanon. Samira, who is one of the many Lebanese women who was married to a non-national and therefore forbidden by law to pass her nationality to her husband and children, recently became a bit of a national celebrity when, after four years of battling for her case in the highest court in Mount Lebanon, a judge ruled last month that since she was a widow, her children could be granted Lebanese citizenship.

Samira was overjoyed, and women across Lebanon who have been campaigning for equal nationality rights celebrated. But shortly thereafter, Justice Minister Ibrahim Najjar came out against the ruling in an effort to sway the public against it before the state court, which gives the final decision on the matter, officially passes or rejects it. Samira was crushed.

[Full Article](#)- Now Lebanon

### **Lebanon- Child labor in Lebanon: A breakdown**

06 July 2009- Lebanon has the highest proportion of working kids aged 10 to 17 in the world, with over 100,000 children in the country who are victims of child labor and illicit trafficking. Rights groups say better coverage of the often misreported story could help inform people about the realities of child labor.

[Full Article](#)- Menassat

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

#### **Algeria-: Les enfants de martyrs veulent la repentance de la France**

01 July 2009-Une des associations des fils de chahid (martyrs de la révolution) s'est rendue à l'ambassade de France à Alger le 5 juillet 2009, jour d'anniversaire de l'indépendance. Ils vont exiger que la France demande officiellement pardon au peuple algérien, pour les crimes commis durant la colonisation.

[Full Article](#)- La Kabylie

#### **Algeria-Les enfants de la poubelle**

07 Juillet 2009-Ils ont sept, huit, neuf, dix ou onze ans, rarement plus, tous issus de milieux défavorisés, sillonnant les quartiers de la ville et éventrant les sacs à ordures, en quête d'objets en plastique, à savoir bouteilles, bidons et tous genres de récipients et quelques chutes métalliques de plomb, de fer, de zinc ou d'aluminium qu'ils revendront à des prix dérisoires à l'usine de récupération du coin.

Ils opèrent de nuit, faisant du monde nocturne leur univers qui les protège des regards curieux des passants. Souvent maladroits et pris de panique, les enfants de la nuit n'ont que très peu de temps pour éventrer les poubelles et éparpiller leur contenu, laissant derrière eux



de déchets sur les trottoirs et les chaussées compliquant ainsi davantage la mission des éboueurs.

[Full Article](#)- Bordj Bou Arredijj Info

### **Algeria-Women religious leaders in Algeria spread the word about maternal and child health**

13 July 2009- UNICEF and the Algerian ministries of Religious Affairs and Health launched a series of training sessions for mouchidates, or women preachers, on promoting and protecting the health of women and children.

Lack of accurate information negatively impacts the health of many mothers and children in Algeria. However, because of their significant reach, mouchidates can play a lead role in relaying vital information to women in mosques through guidance and awareness campaigns. According to UNICEF estimates, the annual number of deaths of women from pregnancy-related causes in Algeria is 180 per 100,000 live births. Only 7 per cent of children are exclusively breastfed during the first six months of life and 11 per cent of children under the age of five suffer from stunting.

[Full Article](#)- UNICEF

### **Egypt- Union National Bank Egypt Partners with the AUC to Support Education**

05 July 2009- In a signing ceremony that took place today, at AUC's premises, Union National Bank Egypt announced its commitment to supporting Egyptian students' access to the highest levels of education. The collaboration between the bank and the university will allow parents to access an educational financing program that covers the annual fees of their children's tuition, along with any related fees including dormitory, bus and laptop costs, just to name a few.

[Full Article](#)-Zawya

### **Egypt- Cairo court deems 20,000 Egyptian-Israeli marriages a security risk**

08 July 2009- What is the status of an Israeli woman who marries an Egyptian citizen? Is she Israeli or Egyptian? And what about her children? Will they have the right to a free education in Egypt like other Egyptian children, or will they have to make like foreigners and pay a fortune? Two months ago the administrative court in Egypt handed down a ruling instructing the interior minister to revoke the citizenship of Egyptian men who married Israeli women, as well as that of their children. The reasoning was not new. "Because the children of such mixed couples can have dual citizenship, Egyptian and Israeli, there is a danger that these Egyptian children will be drafted into the Israel Defense Forces, and this means that there is a danger to Egyptian national security," explained the judge. The decision caused an immediate uproar in the Egyptian foreign ministry, which feared that it is liable to undermine Egypt's status and to damage its efforts to prove that it preserves human rights.

[Full Article](#)-Haaretz

### **Egypt- Palestinian children call Egypt to open borders**

13 July 2009- Palestinian Islamic Hamas movement Monday sent children participating in its summer camps to demonstrate in front of Rafah crossing point in southern Gaza Strip,

calling on Egypt to open the border terminal. Seven of the children were dressed in white as one of the cheerleaders spilled red paint on their cloths, trying to highlight the suffering of Palestinians injured in Israel's January offensive in Gaza and their lack of access to medical centers abroad. Nearly 700 children joined the demonstration which took place on the Hamas-controlled side of Rafah crossing. "We came here to call for an end to the siege and to our children's starvation who are dying," said Hamada Mattar, one of the organizers of Hamas' religious summer camps program. Israel and Egypt have been maintaining the closure of their border with the Gaza Strip since Hamas routed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' forces and seized the territory in June 2007.

[Full Article](#)- Egypt News

### **Libya- Children's safety at risk as Italy pushes migrant boats back to Libya**

14 July 2009- Children who have fled fighting and poverty in Africa by boat are at risk from Italy's policy of turning the boats back, say aid workers. The Italian government is pushing back boats carrying migrants from Libya without first looking at the needs of the people on board, which is a serious risk to the safety and lives of thousands of migrant children, it is claimed. Children travelling on the boats— some as young as 14 - are now being sent straight back to Libya. This means they are denied the protection, healthcare and emotional support they need in Italy, said the charity, Save the Children. And they are at risk of being locked up in Libyan detention centres when they are forced back it said. "Many of the children on the boats from Libya had been forced to travel thousands of miles, often alone, to escape conflict and poverty in countries such as Somalia, Eritrea and Nigeria," Fosca Nomis, Save the Children spokesperson told Reuters news agency. "In ten months we received over 2,000 children entitled to receive protection in Italy. They were often exhausted, hungry, severely dehydrated and terrified after the journey. Many children have recounted harrowing stories, of rape and of having to see dead family members thrown out of the boat.

[Full Article](#)- SOS Children's Village

### **Morocco –White March against Children Sex Tourism**

04 July 2009- While much of the initial international attention on sex tourism of children focused on Thailand and other countries of Southeast Asia, Morocco has become a favorite destination where economic difficulties contributes to the alarming growth of this industry. A group of concerned Moroccans and Morocco lovers, united to say "No to Children Sex Tourism in Morocco". The White March in Marrakesh took place in 04 July 2009. Held in the form of Music Festival and with the help of local and international artists, it sent a strong message of hope to the abused Children of Morocco. By launching this event, SOS Morocco was also hoping of attracting tourism to Morocco that would fuel the local economy with healthy income contradictory to sex tourism.

[More information](#)- CRIN News

### **Morocco – Airfare and Summer Camp for 10 Moroccan American Children**

17 July 2009- The Moroccan Embassy in Washington in Washington D.C and the "Fondation Hassan II pour les Marocains Résidant a l'Etranger" selected 10 Moroccan children from the USA to participate in its Annual Summer Cultural Program in Morocco along 1,000 other Moroccan children coming from all over the world. This year's summer

program was held from 17 to 30 of July, 2009, at the Moulay Rachid Complex for Children and Youth in Bouznika, a coastal city between Rabat and Casablanca. Participants received free round trip tickets from New York to Casablanca and will be granted free accommodation and meals during their entire stay.

[For more Information](#)- Moroccan Board

### **Morocco- Trafficking in Persons Report 2009 - Morocco**

24 July 2009- Morocco is a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purpose of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation. Children are trafficked within the country from rural areas to urban centers to work as maids or laborers, or for exploitation in the sex trade. Men, women, and children are trafficked to European and Middle Eastern countries as illegal migrants who become exploited for forced labor and prostitution. Young Moroccan girls from rural areas are recruited to work as child maids in cities, but often face restrictions on movement, non-payment of wages, threats, and physical or sexual abuse. Moroccan boys experience involuntary servitude as apprentices in the artisan and construction industries and in mechanic shops. Transnational human trafficking in Morocco is associated with people smuggling and drug trafficking. Some Moroccan women are trafficked to Gulf States, Jordan, Libya, Syria, Cyprus, and European countries for commercial sexual exploitation.

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

### **Tunisia-International Labour Organisation (ILO) hails Tunisia's progress in social field**

09 July 2009-Secretary of State in charge of Childhood and the Elderly Saloua Terzi Ben Attia Thursday conferred with Mrs. Maria Crisetti, Director of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) office for the Arab Maghreb countries, who is on a working visit in Tunisia, on 6 July 2009. Mrs. Crisetti praised, on the occasion, the progress Tunisia made in the social field and in consolidation of women& children's rights. She called to make better known internationally the Tunisian experience and the excellent results it scored. She also voiced ILO's consideration for Tunisia's success in materialising total gender wage equality. Besides, this meeting was also devoted to looking at the large orientations to be given to the strengthening of cooperation between Tunisia and ILO, and more specifically to stepping up women& children's economic participation.

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

### **Tunisia- Academic sentenced to eight months in prison for posting message about the kidnapping of children on Facebook**

10 July 2009- On 4 July 2009, Tunis's Court of First Instance sentenced academic and rights defender Dr. Khedija Arfaoui to eight months in prison for "publishing false news liable to disrupt public order", under article 49 of the Tunisian press code. Arfaoui is also a member of the Tunisian Association for Research and Development (AFTURD). Arfaoui posted an article from a secondary source on her page on the social networking site Facebook, about the kidnapping of children in Tunisia. Persistent rumours about the kidnapping of children for organ smuggling have rocked Tunisia since May of this year,

prompting the interior minister to call a press conference in which he formally denied the allegations.

[Full Article](#)-International Freedom of Expression Exchange

### **Tunisia- Trafficking in Persons Report 2009 – Tunisia**

24 July 2009- The Government of Tunisia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, but is making significant efforts to do so. Several Tunisian trafficking victims were identified during the reporting period in foreign locations; two women were rescued from forced prostitution in Jordan and three men from forced labor in Italy. Some Tunisian girls are trafficked within the country for domestic servitude. A 2008 survey of 130 domestic workers in the Greater Tunis region found that 52 percent were under the age of 16; twenty-three percent claimed to be victims of physical violence, and 11 percent of sexual violence. Ninety-nine percent indicated they had no work contracts and the majority received salaries below the minimum wage. These conditions are indicators of possible forced labor. In 2007, three Ukrainians were identified as having been trafficked to Tunisia for work in hotels and commercial sexual exploitation.

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

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

#### **Bahrain-Bahrain Makes Steps Towards Greater Equality in Women's Nationality Rights**

13 July 2009- Bahrain's Supreme Council for Women (SCW) has announced their decision to push forward a law that would allow women to pass their Bahraini nationality onto their children. The push to amend the law comes in conjunction with the start of a campaign led by the SCW to promote greater awareness of women's rights across the country. In Article 18 of Bahrain's own Constitution, all Bahraini citizens are equal in the eyes of the law, with no discrimination on the basis of gender, origin, or religion. However, some of Bahrain's laws hold provisions that discriminate against women, and gender discrimination in society continues to be commonplace.

[Full Article](#)- Stop Violence Against Women

#### **Bahrain-Alba's Summer Programme for 2009 Proves to be a Success**

15 July 2009- Aluminium Bahrain (Alba)'s Summer Activities Programme for 2009, which was launched last week at Alba Club, has proved to be a huge success with nearly 300 children of Alba employees participating in its various activities. The participants were divided into more than 10 different recreational programmes under the leadership of a group of professional trainers. Alba Chief Executive Ahmed Saleh Al Noaimi visited the Alba Club on Tuesday, July 14, 2009, and acquainted himself with the activities of the Summer Programme 2009. During his visit, he met with the young participants, trainers and the administrative staff who are supervising the programme. He urged them to get the maximum benefit from the summer programme which aims at creating an ideal educational and recreational atmosphere for Alba employee's children as part of the Company's corporate

social responsibility.

[Full Article](#)- Aluminum Bahrain

### **Kuwait-Kuwait reports new swine flu case among Kuwaiti children**

01 July 2009- Kuwait's Ministry of Health announced on Tuesday that a male Kuwaiti teenager who recently arrived from Egypt has tested positive for the H1N1 virus. "The new infection case pushed to 17 the number of laboratory-confirmed cases in Kuwait including two children," the ministry's spokesman Youssof Al-Nisf told KUNA, referring to the cases registered in Kuwait. "The patient has been admitted to the pandemic hospital and his condition is stable," Al-Nisf said, noting that all people who have been in contact with the patient would undergo medical tests and receive medical advice as a precaution.

[Full Article](#)-Arabian Business

### **Kuwait- Kuwait education ministry to open 16 new schools in Fall**

10 July 2009- Kuwait education ministry will open 16 new schools in the academic year 2009-10, according to a report. The state news agency KUNA reported that assistant education undersecretary for infrastructure, Mohammad Al Sayegh, said on Thursday that the ministry is going to open the new schools in Jahra and Farwaniya educational zones. Al Sayegh told KUNA that 12 new schools are scheduled to be open in Fall 2009 in Jahra educational zone, 11 of which will be in Saad Al Abdullah city.

[Full Article](#)-Arabian Business

### **Kuwait-Kuwaiti Diabetic children participate in educational-medical camp in Italy**

14 July 2009- Former Italian Health Minister Antonio Guidido, on behalf of mayor of Rome, received on Tuesday a group of Kuwaiti children along with their Italian diabetic peers. The Kuwaiti children are participating in an international educational camp, part of the Italian-Kuwaiti cooperation in the fields of health and education. The Kuwaiti delegation is headed by the Diabetes' Society's Deputy Chairman and Deputy Director of Dasman Diabetes Center Dr. Abdullah Hussein Bin Nikhi, as well as the center's Assistant Director Dr. Muneera Al-Arouj. The Italian delegation was represented by Dr. Nicoletta Sullia. Professor Guidido said in the inauguration speech that Rome is a historical city that goes back thousands of years, "as it gained such historic status from emperors who ruled in the past and the future seen in 'you' the children." In a statement to KUNA, Guidido expressed happiness for the role played by Kuwaiti governmental and private sectors and their efforts to develop education and health sectors, especially for diabetic children. He also hoped for bilateral relations between the two countries to further grow in the future.

[Full Article](#)- Kuna News Agency

### **Kuwait-World Bank warns Kuwait about education system**

18 July 2009- The World Bank has raised concerns over Kuwait's current education system, according to a report. The international organisation also warned that the perpetuation of Kuwait's existing education structure may render the country's high school certificates unrecognized by major academic institutions in the future, Al Watan reported on Saturday.

The Kuwait-based daily added that the warning formed a part of World Bank's observations about the overall education system in the Gulf country.

[Full Article](#)- Arabian Business

### **Oman- A proposed library for children in Oman aims to open the world of books to the less privileged youngsters of the country**

09 July 2009- Books are portals to myriad worlds and domains of knowledge and public libraries play a vital role in enabling the discovery of these worlds. Omani academic Dr Samira Mousa believes access to knowledge is every child's right. That belief, coupled with an understanding of the significant roles libraries play in community and culture, motivated Dr Mousa to conceptualise the Children's Public Library in Muscat, which is due to open in 2011. A 2005 study, Assessment of child rights awareness among Omani children, parents and teachers, revealed that only 16 per cent of Omani children read. "It was an eye-opener," Dr Mousa says. Furthermore, according to a 2004 survey, in Muscat alone there were 190,000 children between the ages of 6 months and 19 years, the numbers warranting the creation of a library that could address their needs. After forming an idea of what creating a children's public library would entail, Dr Mousa approached like-minded people to generate support for the project.

[Full Article](#)- Gulf News

### **Saudi Arabia –Elderly and children urged to skip hajj over swine flu fears**

01 July 2009 - Children, pregnant women, the elderly and those with chronic diseases should stay away from the annual hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia to prevent catching swine flu, health experts recommended on Tuesday. The recommendations come as some in the Muslim world have raised questions about the risk posed by swine flu to the millions attending the annual Muslim pilgrimage, which takes place this year in December, with some even suggesting quarantining people returning from Saudi Arabia. The Saudi kingdom invited experts from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, and others to a four-day meeting in the western seaport city of Jiddah to examine Saudi measures to prevent the spread of swine flu during the Muslim pilgrimage.

[Full Article](#)- The Daily Star

### **United Arab Emirates- Capital Club Dubai Donates will go to orphan and refugee children in Middle East**

05 July 2009- The Capital Club, Dubai's premier private business club, recently donated the proceeds of its first anniversary party, which was held in April 2009, to START, a non-profit organisation that links child development with arts education. The funds, totaling AED 185,550, will fund START's work with the Jordan Summer School during July. The START team will be working alongside talented youth from SOS Children, the world's largest orphan and abandoned children's charity orphanages and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The donation, which is part of the Capital Club's corporate social responsibility initiative, will enable the children to benefit from 1:1 support in developing their understanding of painting, drawing, textiles, mosaics, film and design. The START team will be working with

more than 200 children, specifically with Palestinian refugees from two UNRWA camps, orphans from SOS Amman and Iraqi refugees from Musa Al-Saket center in Al Salt.

[Full Article](#)- Dubai City Guide

### **Yemen- Child survivor found after Yemeni plane crash**

30 June 2009- A hospital official said on Tuesday that rescuers found a child survivor of the Yemen Airways plane, which crashed off the coast of the Indian Ocean archipelago of Comoros early Tuesday morning. "A child was found alive. He is now on a rescuers' boat," said Ben Imani, a hospital doctor. A Comoros Red Crescent official confirmed the rescue. "We have all that is needed -- drips, equipment -- to assist the child immediately," said Al-Fachad Salim.

[Full Article](#)- Now Lebanon

### **Yemen- Street children search for their identity**

01 July 2009- According to statistics from Save the Children, over 30 thousand children in Yemen live on streets, 88 percent of teachers practice corporal punishment against children at schools and 80 percent of fathers practice violence against their children. All these children need protection. Many families deprive their children of education and force them to work in dangerous jobs or beg, with little regard to the dangers that they face. Child labor laws are not applied and official monitoring of children's welfare is absent. Although the government supports some children, it is no longer enough due to increase of street children and deterioration of economic conditions of many families, which makes many children believe that they should work to attain their living. This leads them to cut off study and head to streets to work. Around half a million children don't go to school, which makes them illiterate.

[Full Article](#)-Yemen Times

### **Yemen-Yemen needs to know the age of its children**

01 July 2009-One of the most important events in a child's life is widely taken for granted by too many families and authorities. Many do not realize the link between birth registration, a permanent and official record of a child's existence, and nation building initiatives, such as access to better education, healthcare and other human rights. Despite the importance of birth registration, according to UNICEF, approximately 50 million newborn babies are not registered each year, accounting for over 40 percent of the children born annually. In Yemen, only 39.7 percent of births were registered in 2007, according to civil registration authorities. Birth registration gives a child better social services such as education and healthcare. Proof of their age also helps to protect them against child labor and child marriage. Save the Children and UNICEF in February 2009 launched training program in Aden, which targets mosque preachers, community leaders, healthcare specialists and schools, on the importance of birth registration.

[Full Article](#)- Yemen Times

### **Yemen- Execution of Yemeni child killer**

07 July 2009- Yahia al-Raghwa, 22, was found guilty of raping and murdering Hamdi Abdullah, 11, at his barber shop in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, last December. He was shot

by a firing squad in a public square in the capital on Monday, in the presence of hundreds of people including the family of the victim. Photographs of the execution showed al-Raghwa being led by guards to the square before he was forced to kneel. He was then shot in the back of the head in public view before his body was dragged away. His death brings the number of executions in the country this year to nine.

[Full Article](#)- Telegraph