



# Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Newsletter

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

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## 1. Global

### Developments on Children's Rights

#### **Protect the Children: Save the Children Sweden publishes a new guide for those Working and living with children Affected by Violence**

03 March 2009 – Children of different age groups signal distress in many forms and the book is all about how frontline workers, adults and peers can follow up and support children harmed by violence – and how we all can work to prevent violence. A book developed by SCS's Regional Office for South and East Asia, the book is part of a package of learning material for child rights workers about relevant measures to protect children against violence. It discusses the different forms of violence and gives advice on how to act to promote the protection of children. It also underscores the role of the frontline worker to become the child's trusted helper and gives a rich insight into how to listen to the child - and how to "read" children and the "language" of distress.

[Full Guide](#)- CRIN

#### **UNESCO reports that Financial crises to deepen extreme poverty, increase child mortality rates**

03 March 2009 – According to a new UNSECO study, the global financial crises sweeping through Wall Street and the European banking sector will touch the lives of the world's most vulnerable, pushing millions into deeper poverty and leading to the deaths of thousands of children, This report documents the potential impact of the current worldwide economic meltdown on the Millennium Development Goals, internationally agreed targets to eradicate poverty and reduce child mortality among other human development objectives. The report highlighted the prospect of an increase of between 200,000 and 400,000 in infant mortality and that child malnutrition, already rising, will be one of the main drivers of higher child death rates.

The authors of the report called for a concerted international effort to limit the impact of the financial crisis on the poor, including an increase of over \$500 billion in International Monetary Fund (IMF) special drawing rights, along with governance reforms to give developing countries an increased voice, as well as the EU to provide a \$4.6 billion aid adjustment.

[More Information Available](#) – United Nations News Service

#### **Human Rights Council: 10th session opened**

04 March 2009 - The Human Rights Council opened its tenth regular session which met from 2 to 27 March 2009 in Geneva with a three-day long "high level segment", where over 70 vice presidents and ministers from across the globe addressed the Council on their countries' efforts to promote and protect human rights..

A special day dedicated solely to the rights of the child was held during the second week, on 11 March 2009. During the session, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay presented her first annual report to the Council and engaged in an interactive dialogue with representatives of governments, non-governmental organisations and national human rights institutions.

The Council will be reviewing Oman in the session.

[More Information Available](#) - CRIN



## Human Rights

### **Council: Week two sees Children's Rights Take Centre Stage**

09 March 2009 - The usual hustle and bustle of the Human Rights Council has, for child rights activists at least, been imbued with special significance at the international forum's tenth session, held in Geneva, Switzerland.

For the first time in the history of the Council, set up in 2006, a full day's work was devoted to the rights of children, thrusting the issue to the summit of the mechanism's agenda. The dedicated event held on 11 March 2009 at the Palais des Nations, included discussion of how the Convention on the Rights of the Child could be better implemented.

[More Information Available](#) – CRIN

### **Human Rights Council: Statement on Child Sensitive Justice System – by International Save the Children Alliance and Child Rights Information Network (CRIN)**

11 March 2009 - Human Rights Council – 10th session (March 2009)

Annual Full Day Meeting on the Rights of the Child

Child-Sensitive Justice Systems – afternoon panel

The statement shows that children's access to justice is extraordinarily limited. Because of their vulnerability, evolving capacity and dependency on adults, children are confronted with real difficulties in pursuing remedies for breaches of their rights. Save the Children and CRIN welcome significant steps that have been taken by some states to improve children's access to justice and call on all States to Incorporate the Convention on the Rights of the Child into national legal systems and make all rights therein included as justifiable for example

[Full Statement](#) – CRIN

### **Human Rights Council: Urgent need for a communications procedure for the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**

11 March 2009 – In a statement delivered by a member of the NGO Group for a Communications Procedure for the CRC during the 10th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, it called upon the Human Rights Council to establish an open-ended Working Group to draft an Optional Protocol to the CRC for the creation of a communications procedure under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

[Full Statement](#) – CRIN

### **Human Rights Council: Council held general debate on protection of all human rights**

16 March 2009 - The Human Rights Council began its general debate on the promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, addressing a wide range of issues including the importance of the prohibition of torture and the abolition of the death penalty; ways to end discrimination against women and children; how to decrease maternal mortality; the need to strengthen measures against trafficking in persons; the implications of climate change on human rights; the importance of human rights education; and the need to protect cultural rights, among others. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Algeria also addressed the Council.

[Full Statement and Debate](#) – UNHCHR



## Human Rights

### **Council: Resolution on the Rights of the Child**

27 March 2009 - This year's resolution entitled "the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto" was submitted by the Czech Republic and Uruguay, and adopted earlier this week. The resolution reflected the fact that this year sees the 20th anniversary of the CRC. and reiterated the sponsors' concern about the delay in appointing a Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence Against Children.

[Full Article](#) - CRIN

### **New Publication by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: "Working with the United Nations Human Rights Programme: A Handbook for Civil Society"**

04 March 2009 - This handbook is a new, user-friendly and authoritative publication on United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms, including the Committee on the Rights of the Child – explaining how they work and exploring the many important ways that civil society actors including NGOs can contribute to their work. The publication is addressed to the civil society actors who, every day in every part of the world, contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights, and it ultimately aims at enabling more people to access and make claim to their human rights through effective use of United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms.

[More Information Available](#) – UNHCR

### **Working with the Private Sector to End Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents – A new document by UNICEF**

11 March 2009 - This document has been prepared to help children and adolescents understand the role corporations, businesses and the private sector have to play in addressing sexual exploitation of children. It will also provide children and adolescents with ideas on how you can work with the private sector to end sexual exploitation, for example: how can you involve businesses in your work; and better understand what motivates businesses – how they think; what businesses have done already and what they need to be doing.

[Full Document](#) - UNICEF

### **Children's Rights Alliance for England publishes a guide on how Journalists can promote children's human rights and equality**

10 March 2009 - The Children's Rights Alliance for England has published "Another perspective, a guide to assist journalists in promoting children's human rights and equality". Endorsed by the National Union of Journalists and funded by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, it looks at the powerful and far-reaching role journalists and editors can play in promoting children's human rights, and in ensuring that children's voices and experiences are fully reflected in the media.

[Full Publication](#) – Children's Rights Alliance for England via CRIN



## A Progress

### Report and Global Survey on Statelessness by Refugees International called Statelessness: Nationality Rights for All

12 March 2009 - Despite gains made in recent years, more forceful efforts are needed to assist 12 million stateless people who hold no effective nationality, Refugees International revealed in a new report today. "Nationality Rights for All: A Progress Report and Global Survey on Statelessness" highlights how stateless people lack access to basic services and receive no legal protection.

"It is clear that identifying and reducing statelessness is achievable. It is possible to register every child at birth, to help stateless children access free education and to prohibit indefinite detention of stateless people," said Katherine Southwick, co-author of the report. "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to a nationality, but millions of people still lack the proper recognition they need to lead normal lives. A loss of nationality rapidly amounts to a massive denial of basic human rights."

[Full Report](#) – CRIN

### UN Human Rights High Commissioner – ‘more to be done to ensure children protection’

نافي بيلاي: نحتاج لمزيد من الجهد لضمان حماية حقوق الطفل

[جينييف، 12 مارس 2009] قالت المفوضة السامية لحقوق الإنسان نافي بيلاي ان اتفاقية حقوق الطفل التي اعتمدت منذ 20 عاما، غيرت نظرة العالم للأطفال، لكن مازال هناك حاجة لمزيد من الجهود لضمان حماية هذه الحقوق. وقالت بيلاي أمام جلسة مجلس حقوق الإنسان حول الاتفاقية أن التحول في نظرة العالم للأطفال من كونهم ملكية خاصة للآباء أو متلقي إحسان إلى كونهم أصحاب حقوق يؤكد مسؤولية الدول- في الوفاء بالتزاماتها- بمبادئ عدم التمييز، ومراعاة مصلحة الطفل وحقه في الحياة، والتنمية، وحرية التعبير عن رأيه. وأشارت بيلاي إلى تعليم حقوق الطفل في المناهج الدراسية كتجربة من أفضل الممارسات الوطنية لدعم وتعزيز حقوق الطفل، أدت إلى زيادة الوعي بخصوص حقوق الطفل، لكنها اعربت عن قلقها إزاء كثير من النواحي ومنها أن "العديد من الجرائم ضد الأطفال لا تلقي العقوبة الكافية"

وتقول منظمة اليونيسيف أن 10 مليون طفل دون سن الخامسة يموتون كل عام بسبب أمراض يمكن الوقاية منها. كما وجدت دراسة الامم المتحدة للعنف ضد الطفل ان من 80% إلى 98% من أطفال العالم يتعرضون للعقوبة البدنية في المنزل، وتلثم لعقوبات جسدية شديدة. وقالت منظمة الصحة العالمية في تقرير صدر عام 2002 أن 150 مليون فتاة و73 مليون صبي دون سن 18 سنة تعرضوا لنوع من العنف الجنسي، وتشير الإحصاءات الأخيرة أنه يتم الاتجار بأكثر من 1.2 مليون طفل كل عام. بالإضافة للأطفال ضحايا الصراعات المسلحة الذين يدفعون ثمنًا باهظًا حين تتعرض مدارسهم للدمار أو يتم خطفهم وتجنيدهم. وأضافت أنه ينبغي أن ننصب لمواجهة التحديات الناجمة عن هذه الأوضاع، وضمان الاستجابة لها، ومعالجة المشكلات بتدابير تتماشى مع روح المعاهدة الدولية.

[Full Article](#) (Arabic) – CRIN

### Violence against Children – 2 year follow-up report by Independent Expert Prof. Paulo Pinheiro

2009 مارس 17

العنف ضد الطفل، تقرير متابعة بعد عامين

يقدم تقرير المتابعة حول العنف ضد الأطفال مراجعة للعمل الذي قامت به خطوط مساندة الطفل في إنحاء العالم لتطبيق توصيات "العنف ضد الأطفال" التي تضمنتها دراسة الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة حول العنف ضد الأطفال عام 2006. في النتائج الختامية للدراسة، يوصي الخبير المستقل البروفيسور باولو بينهيرو، كبير الخبراء الذين أعدوا الدراسة، صراحة، باستخدام خطوط مساندة الطفل للتصدي للعنف ضد الأطفال ويعتبرها آلية مهمة لحماية حقوق الطفل. ولا يمكن توفير الحماية الكاملة لحقوق الطفل ومنع العنف ضد الأطفال إلا من خلال تبني نهج شمولي متكامل.

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



## Committee on

### **the Rights of Persons with Disabilities meets for the first time**

02 March 2009 -from 23 to 27 February 2009, the UN Committee which promotes and monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, met for the first time in Geneva.

According to one of its 12 elected experts, Edah Maina, “the disabled have suffered in ignorance and silence. They are the people without any voice. Stigma and high levels of poverty have affected the voice of the parents and families who hide, chain, neglect and put in confinement their children or adults with disabilities. I want to be that voice of the voiceless and their families, to bring them justice and a better life.” The inaugural session of the Committee discussed the organization of its future work, which involves the examination of periodic reports from State Parties that have signed and ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Committee also deals with individual complaints under the Convention’s Optional Protocol.

[More Information Available](#) – CRIN

### **Save the Children Alliance calls on the UN General Assembly to prioritize education for children affected by conflict and natural disasters**

18 March 2009 - Millions of children who cannot attend school because they live in areas affected by conflict or natural disasters will be in the spotlight today, as the United Nations General Assembly begins a formal debate on the importance of education in emergencies.

"The number of emergencies worldwide is increasing, from today's conflicts in Sri Lanka and Gaza to the recent natural disasters in Bangladesh and Myanmar, leading to an alarming number of children missing school," said Philip Abraham, Executive Director Save the Children New Zealand. "Every year an average of 750,000 children have their education disrupted or miss out entirely on education due to humanitarian disasters. Over half of the 75 million children out of school worldwide, 40 million children, live in areas affected by conflict”.

[Full Article](#) - ReliefWeb

### **Education: UNESCO conducts Survey – Reaching and teaching the most marginalized**

20 March 2009 - UNESCO requests your contributions through a public consultation for its 2010 Education For All Global Monitoring Report. The theme of the 2010 Report is “Reaching and teaching the most marginalised”.

[More information available](#) – CRIN

### **Global Crisis has left another 10 million children hungry – Save the Children Alliance**

30 March 2009 - Save the Children has warned G20 leaders that an extra 10 million children are now malnourished because of world food price rises, and an additional 400,000 children could die by the end of the year as a result of the global financial collapse.

Millions of children could go hungry due to the impact of the credit crunch on developing countries, combined with continuing high food prices that mean the world's poorest families cannot feed their children properly.

[Full Article](#) - ReliefWeb



## 2. MENA

### Regional Child Related Activities (Events, conferences, news, vacancies, announcements, reportages, campaigns)

#### The Third Arab Conference Regarding the Protection of Children: Child Protection in Arab Countries: 13 million child forced to labour a threat to the future and weakening development

المؤتمر العربي الثالث حول حماية الطفل: 13 مليون طفل عربي يرغمون على القيام بأعمال تقتل طفولتهم الطفولة المعذبة تهدد مستقبل الأمة وتفقدتها مقومات التطوير والبناء

[19 مارس 2009] تباينت الآراء في المؤتمر العربي الثالث حول حماية الطفل، الذي عُقد أخيراً في الرياض، حول أسباب العنف في العالم العربي، وطرق معالجته. واتفق أكثر من ألف منخصص ومهتم يمثلون 28 وفداً عربياً ودولياً شاركوا في المؤتمر، على أن إساءة معاملة الأطفال تفتتت في المجتمعات العربية، وسط ضعف في الوعي بالعنف والإيذاء الأسري. وساد لغظ حول التعريف الحقيقي للإهمال، الذي يتعدى العقاب البدني، ليصل إلى الإساءة العامة إلى الطفل. وأجمع المؤتمر على أن المجتمع العربي يعاني ضعفاً في آليات حماية الأطفال، خصوصاً أن أكثر من ربع أطفال العالم العربي، يتعرضون للعنف، مطالبين بإعداد استراتيجيات وخطط وطنية للوقاية والتصدي لهذه الظاهرة.

[Full Article](#) (Arabic) – CRIN

#### Arab League Meets to Amend Arab Charter on Child Rights

الجامعة العربية: اجتماع لتعديل الميثاق العربي لحقوق الطفل

[القاهرة، 17 مارس 2009] بدأت اليوم بمقر الأمانة العامة للجامعة العربية بالقاهرة اجتماعات اللجنة العربية الفرعية لحقوق الإنسان برئاسة القاضية التونسية منية عمار وذلك لمناقشة عدد من القضايا المتعلقة بحقوق الإنسان في المنطقة العربية.

وقال مدير ادارة حقوق الإنسان بالجامعة العربية السفير محمود راشد غالب في تصريح له اليوم إن اللجنة ستناقش على مدى ثلاثة أيام عددا من الموضوعات منها تعديل ميثاق حقوق الطفل العربي حيث تسعى اللجنة لوضع تصور عربي حول التعديلات المطلوبة على ميثاق حقوق الطفل العربي لتراعي المستجدات التي طرأت على حقوق الطفل في ظل التطورات والتشريعات الدولية في هذا المجال خاصة أن ميثاق حقوق الطفل العربي وضع في ثمانينيات القرن الماضي وكانت التشريعات فيها نقص كبير في هذه الحقوق. مؤكداً أن التعديلات الجديدة تستهدف صالح الطفل العربي.

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

#### New Amnesty International Report: Human Rights activists still face repression in the Middle East and North Africa

11 March 2009 - Human rights activists in the Middle East and North Africa still face persecution and repression, more than 10 years after the United Nations (UN) called on all states to support the work of people defending human rights.

A new Amnesty International report, *Challenging Repression*, details numerous cases that highlight the precarious situation of human rights defenders. They face intimidation, harassment, threats, detention without trial or long prison terms after unfair trials or death because of their efforts to uphold human rights.

[Full Article](#) – Amnesty International



## On the Absence of Arab Civil Society Organizations from Arab League Summits

### غياب منظمات المجتمع المدني عن مواسم القمم العربية

19 مارس 2009

بات من المشاهد المألوفة التي تتزامن مع مؤتمرات القمة في العالم مشهد القمم والمؤتمرات المضادة أو الرديفة التي تنظمها المنظمات المدنية المستقلة استقلالاً حقيقياً عن الحكومات. ويسعى القائمون على هذه المؤتمرات والأنشطة الرديفة إلى تأكيد أهمية وجهة نظر القوى التي يمثلونها تجاه القضايا المدرجة على جدول أعمال القمم الرسمية، مثل قضايا الفقر والتنمية والتجارة الدولية والديمقراطية وحقوق الإنسان. وتعمل المؤتمرات الرديفة على تحقيق هدف مزدوج. أنها من جهة تعمل على تعريف الرأي العام العالمي بوجهة النظر التي تعبر عنها، كما تسعى إلى إقناع النخب الحاكمة بتبني مطالبها واقتراحاتها.

لقد حققت العديد من المؤتمرات الرديفة نتائج مهمة بحيث تحولت بعض المنظمات التي ساهمت في تحضيرها إلى مصدر مهم من مصادر المعرفة والتقنية المتقدمة تستعين به الحكومات. واكتسبت بعض المؤتمرات الرديفة أهمية على الصعيدين الإعلامي والسياسي توازي أهمية القمم الرسمية. وكانت هذه النجاحات، في أكثر الأحيان، حصيداً جيداً للمؤتمرات الرديفة تضمن تنظيم سلسلة من ورش العمل والمحاضرات والندوات الرامية إلى الاستفادة من الاهتمام الإعلامي الواسع الذي يحيط عادة بالقمم الرسمية الدولية.

[Full Article](#) (Arabic) – Dar Al Hayat

### Written Statement submitted by The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS): Accountability and Civilian Protection within Armed Conflicts of the Middle East

02 March 2009 - In a statement to the Human Rights Council, CIHRS expressed concern over disregard for the protection of civilians demonstrated by governments and armed militias involved in armed conflicts within the Arab region. In this regard, the statement also noted that in Iraq, despite reports of a relative decrease in the levels of violence, between September 2008 and February 2009, some 2183 Iraqis were killed within the ongoing conflict, of which 138 were reportedly killed in January 2009 alone.

It also called upon the Human Rights Council and UN member states to address the insufficient and highly selective manner in which the international community has carried out their Article 1 obligation to "ensure respect" for the Geneva Conventions and the protection of civilians during armed conflicts throughout the Arab region, and called upon the Council to pass a resolution denouncing the deteriorating respect for international humanitarian law in the Arab region, including in Iraq, the OPTs, Darfur and Yemen;

[Full Statement](#) – CIHRS

## 3. Sub-Regional and Country Updates:

### *In the Levant:*

#### **Iraq – A New Survey on Iraqi Women and their Families**

12 March 2009 - Oxfam and the Al-Amal Association, the Iraqi partner organization that conducted the survey in the five provinces of Baghdad, Basra, Kirkuk, Najaf and Nineveh, do not claim that the information they gathered from 1,700 respondents represents the situation facing all Iraqis, or even all women in Iraq. However, it does provide a disturbing snapshot of many women's lives and those of their children and other family members. The



information presented in this paper was collected over a period of several months, starting in the summer of 2008.

[Full Report](#) – ReliefWeb

### **Israel/oPt – Child Rights Situation Analysis (Right to Protection in the occupied Palestinian territory).**

17 March 2009 - This situation analysis by Defence for Children International (DCI)-Palestine Section and Save the Children-Sweden (SCS-Sweden) provides an overview of the extent to which Palestinian children living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt) in 2008 enjoy their rights to protection, as enshrined in international child rights standards. The scope of the analysis is not comprehensive, rather it focuses on the level of protection available to three particular target groups of children living in the oPt, in terms of laws, policies, mechanisms and practices. The target groups in question are children vulnerable to violence, neglect, abuse and exploitation in their homes and communities; children in conflict with the law under Palestinian Authority (PA) jurisdiction and children detained by Israel under its military order system.

[Full Situation Analysis](#) – DCI-Palestine Section and SCS-Sweden

### **Israel/oPt - Childwatch International launches the book "Children as Citizens? International Voices".**

04 March 2009 - This publication explores how children (8-9 years) and young people (14-15 years) from six countries - Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, Norway, Palestine and South Africa - understand and experience citizenship. It includes chapters with analysis of each country study and background chapters analyzing the global and the local situations for children's participation and citizenship.

[More Information Available](#) – Childwatch International Research Network

### **Israel/oPt – World Vision urges international community to prioritise mental health needs of children**

02 March 2009 - As donors meet today in Egypt to pledge funds for Gaza's reconstruction and recovery efforts, World Vision urges the international community to prioritise the immense psychosocial needs of Gaza's children.

Prolonged exposure to violence and poverty has left hundreds of thousands of children in the Gaza Strip facing severe mental health risks and in need of immediate support

"There is hardly a family in Gaza that has not been confronted with the pain of losing a loved one or close friend," said Charles Clayton, World Vision National Director for Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza. "The level of suffering and distress is immense, particularly among children. Immediate efforts by the international community are greatly needed to address this tragedy," continued Clayton, who witnessed first hand the level of suffering and destruction when visiting Gaza in early February.

[Full Article](#) – ReliefWeb



## Israel/oPt –

### **children ‘innocent victims of conflict’ says UNICEF chief on visit to Gaza**

09 March 2009 - Children pay the price of armed conflict, stressed the head of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) at the conclusion of a week-long Middle-East trip this weekend that included a visit to Gaza, where she saw first-hand the effects of the recent hostilities in the region. Ms. Veneman talked directly with Palestinian and Israeli children affected by the conflict during visits to a partially damaged school, a paediatric hospital and a psychosocial counselling centre in Gaza, as well as a school in Sderot. He also underscored Gaza's urgent need for unrestricted access to humanitarian supplies and personnel to aid recovery and relief efforts, including construction materials to rebuild schools, hospitals, clinics and homes, as well as supplies to rehabilitate water and sanitation networks.

[Full Article](#) – UNICEF

### **Israel/oPt – Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) organizes Psychological Support Workshop**

11 March 2009 -.ERC has organized a psychological support workshop for around a hundred volunteers mobilized in El-Arish and Rafah on the border with the Gaza Strip. Special programmes have been established to counsel and comfort victims and relief workers alike The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has also launched an appeal for funds to finance psychological support for 300 doctors, relief workers and volunteers, who have been under great physical and emotional stress during the hostilities. PRCS also hopes to open psychosocial support centres to provide long-term psychological assistance to the people of Gaza, particularly children and the homeless

[Full Article](#) – ReliefWeb

### **Israel/oPt - Cairo seminar on Palestinian assistance assesses urgent needs in Gaza Strip; basic services, ending isolation, restarting economy among issues discussed**

11 March 2009 – Cairo: The second plenary of the Seminar on Assistance to Palestinian People in Cairo today was devoted to the theme of "Looking ahead: Identifying the most Urgent Humanitarian, Reconstruction and Development Needs" in the Gaza Strip.

Opening the session, the Chairman of the meeting, Angel Dalmau Fernandez of Cuba, highlighted the issues of restoring basic services, providing shelter, launching reconstruction, giving Gaza's children a future, ending Gaza's isolation, restarting the economy and supporting the Palestinian National Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for Gaza among the items that required attention.

Patricia McPhillips, Special Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Jerusalem, said that 56 per cent of the population in Gaza was below 18 years old. During the 22 days of conflict, children had accounted for roughly a third of the casualties; 431 children had been killed and 1,872 had been injured.

[Full Article](#) - ReliefWeb



## Israel/oPt – Defence for Children International (DCI)-Palestine Section concerned by sharp increase in detention of children

11 March 2009 - According to the latest figures compiled by DCI-Palestine from sources including the Israeli Prison Service (IPS), the number of Palestinian children detained in Israeli prisons and detention centres inside Israel and the oPt rose sharply in February, to 423 including seven girls and six children held without charge or trial in administrative detention.

[Full Article](#) – Relief Web

[Full Article](#) (Arabic) – Dar Al Hayat

## Israel/oPt - EducAid and local partner Remedial Education Centre launch EU-funded school inclusion programme for children with special needs in the north of Gaza Strip

17 March 2009 - In collaboration with the Palestinian Ministry of Education, EducAid and the Remedial Education Centre (REC) have launched a three-year project to support six schools in the northern Gaza Strip in taking care of disabled children and children with learning difficulties in the north of Gaza Strip.

[Full Article](#) – ReliefWeb

## Israel/oPt – UNICEF oPt External Information Note

17 مارس 2009

الصحة/التغذية

لا تزال اليونيسيف متخوفة من احتمالية تدهور حالة التغذية والصحة العامة للسكان في غزة وخاصة الأطفال بسبب تدهور الأمن والحالة الاجتماعية والاقتصادية. تشير تقارير منظمة الصحة العالمية إلى وجود ارتفاع بنسبة 18% في حالات الإصابة بالإسهال الشديد بين الأطفال الذين تتراوح أعمارهم بين 0 – 3 سنوات في الفترة ما بين 19 كانون الثاني و 8 شباط، مقارنة بنفس الفترة من عام 2008. ويمكن أن يعزى هذا الارتفاع إلى الأضرار الكبيرة التي لحقت بشبكات المياه خلال الأزمة في غزة.

استجابة اليونيسيف

قامت اليونيسيف في الفترة ما بين 10 – 17 آذار بدعم وزارة الصحة بالمعدات الأساسية اللازمة للسلسلة الباردة (برنامج التحصين الموسع)، والتي تتضمن 12 براد كهربائي لتخزين المطاعيم، 5 برادات شمسية لتخزين المطاعيم، إضافة إلى الأدوية الأساسية. كما زودت اليونيسيف الشركاء بحقائب القابلات، وحقائب التوليد، ومحاليل كلورايد الصوديوم وحقائب جراحة التوليد والأدوية و 1000 حقيبة نظافة للطفل تخدم حوالي 20,000 امرأة لفترة ستة أشهر. كذلك تستمر اليونيسيف في دعم الأئروا بحوالي 50,000 دليل لصحة الأم والطفل.

قامت اليونيسيف أيضا ضمن جهودها في تعزيز النظام الوطني لمراقبة تغذية الأطفال الذين تقل أعمارهم عن خمس سنوات بتزويد وزارة الصحة بالمكملات الغذائية التي تفيد حوالي 120,000 طفل. إضافة إلى تعزيز نظام السيطرة على الأمراض من خلال دعم وزارة الصحة وشركاء اليونيسيف بحوالي 30,000 زجاجة فيتامين (أ) وفيتامين (د) سعة كل منها 100 ملل، و 120,000 زجاجة من مكملات الحديد لمنع ومعالجة حالات نقص الحديد والأنيميا بين أطفال غزة.

[Full Article](#) (Arabic) – CRIN



## Israel/oPt –

### **Appeal to Israel's Supreme Court for free medical treatment for all children by Physicians for Human Rights (PHR)**

25 March 2009 - On 19 March it appealed to Israel's Supreme Court to include all children, regardless of status, in the National Health Insurance Law, allowing them free treatment. According to PHR and other NGOs working with asylum-seekers and refugees in Israel, thousands of immigrant children are not considered "residents of Israel" under the law and are unable to receive health insurance, even though many were born in Israel. [Full Article](#) – IRIN Middle East

### **Israel/oPt – Human Rights Council concluded consideration of human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories**

24 March 2009 - The Human Rights Council concluded its consideration of the human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories after holding an interactive dialogue on the annual report of Richard Falk, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, and a general debate on the human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories. During the interactive dialogue with the Rapporteur representatives of several states raised the high number of casualties amongst Palestinian children during the last Israeli military activities in Gaza.

[Full Article](#) - ReliefWeb

### **Jordan - Workshop conducted by the National Council for Family Affairs and UNICEF/ Jordan on Child Friendly Budgeting**

The National Council for Family Affairs in coordination with UNICEF/ Jordan recently completed a three day workshop (2-4 March 2009) on "Child Friendly Budgeting", involving participants from the Governmental and Nongovernmental sectors. The Child Friendly Budget initiative aims at increasing the attention of policy makers and legislators on public spending that best responds to children's matters and priorities, ensuring its integration into governmental planning in the fields of health, education and social development.

This initiative strives for ensuring that children's needs are an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the public policies and plans, and further intends to assure the grass roots support for the integration of child rights in every step of the budgetary decision making process. In addition, this initiative sets sights on strengthening the knowledge and capacity of the government representatives, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, academia and international organizations (donors) in child budget policy making and implementation.

For additional information on the workshop:

<http://petra.gov.jo/Artical.aspx?Lng=2&Section=&Artical=91833> or

<http://www.alghad.jo/?news=401902>

For more information please contact: National Council for Family Affairs

Website: <http://www.ncfa.org.jo/>



## **Jordan –**

### **UNICEF Executive Director in visit to Jordan on first leg of regional mission**

03 March 2009 – UNICEF Executive Director, Ann M. Veneman, concluded a 2-day visit to Jordan which focused on the country's innovative approaches to child protection and education. The visit to Jordan comes as the first stop of a mission which will also take her to Israel and the oPt, including Gaza, to take stock of the situation of children in the region.

[Full Article](#) – UNICEF

### **Jordan – In Amman, UNICEF regional media awards honour coverage of adolescents**

02 March 2009 – The first UNICEF Regional Awards for Media on Child Rights were handed out at an official ceremony in Amman, under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah, UNICEF's Eminent Advocate for children. The winners are from different categories including the television category, the radio category, for printed media and for electronic media. In addition, special awards went to two determined 16-year-olds from Jordan and the occupied Palestinian territories that produced media projects without financial support from any governmental or private entity.

After the ceremony, the winners, jury members and other media representatives took part in the discussion on the challenges of covering adolescent issues.

[Full Article](#) – UNICEF

### **Jordan – UNICEF chief highlights Jordan's efforts to tackle violence against children in schools**

04 March 2009 - The head of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has highlighted Jordan's efforts to tackle violence against children in schools, a problem affecting over half of the country's young people. "A recent study shows that more than one half of children in Jordan experience physical violence in school," UNICEF Executive Director Ann M. Veneman noted during her two day visit to the country, which wrapped up yesterday. "Violence against children in schools is unacceptable and should not be tolerated," she added. UNICEF is partnering with the Ministry of Education and the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to tackle the issue of violence in schools through the Ma'an (Together) initiative.

[Full Article](#) – UNICEF

### **Lebanon – World Vision and KAFA hold workshop on violence against women**

11 March 2009 – Beirut: Organized by World Vision, the women's rights group KAFA (Arabic acronym for Enough Violence and Exploitation), and the Higher Council for Childhood, the workshop included representatives from women and children's rights non-governmental organizations and the media who deliberated the roots of the problem to come up with a set of recommendations to fight abuse against young girls and engage men in the battle.

[Full Article](#) – The Daily Star



Lebanon –

### **Developmental Action Without Borders – NABA'A: The graduation day of students of women empowerment project**

10 March 2009 - Developmental Action without Borders\Naba'a in partnership with movement for peace (M PDL) \ Spain and supported by Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) has graduated the 2nd cycle of the vulnerable Palestinian refugee girls (61 girls) from 12 Palestinian unofficial gathering and refugee camps in southern area of Lebanon.

The graduation ceremony opened under the patronage of H.E Mr. JUAN CARLOS GAFO ACEVEDO, the ambassador of Spain in Lebanon who gave a speech focusing on importance of education and development for those vulnerable Palestinian girls and how much vocational training and life skills change the life of the women positively. For more information:

Website: <http://www.nabaa-lb.org/index.htm>

E-mail: [nabaa@nabaa-lb.org](mailto:nabaa@nabaa-lb.org)

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

#### **Egypt - Bird flu cases among young children raise concerns**

12 March 2009 - An 18-month-old child contracted the H5N1 bird flu virus on 10 March, bringing the number of human cases in Egypt to 58 since records began in 2006, and prompting the World Health Organization (WHO) to ask for a study to be undertaken of the causes.

The child - from Manoufiya Province in northern Egypt - is one of several recent cases of young children to have contracted the deadly virus in a country where over five million families raise poultry for a living.

Egyptian Health Ministry spokesman Abdel Rahman Shahin told IRIN the girl exhibited symptoms of infection on 6 March after reported contact with infected birds

[Full Article](#) – CIDA

#### **Egypt - A new report by the Land Centre: Egyptian children need care and safe living - Killing of 352 children during 2008.**

15 March 2009 - The report aims to monitor violence against children in the second half of 2008 through the monitoring of news incidents relating to the rights of children in some Egyptian newspapers.

For more information, please contact the Land Centre for Human Rights:

Website: <http://www.lchr-eg.org/55/55.htm>

E-mail: [lchr@thewayout.net](mailto:lchr@thewayout.net)

[lchr@lchr-eg.org](mailto:lchr@lchr-eg.org)

#### **Egypt – New Report by Land Center: Violence against children during the second half of 2008**

مصر: العنف ضد الطفل للنصف الثاني من 2008

البراعم المصرية تحتاج للرعاية والحياة الآمنة: حق الأطفال في النمو السليم والصحي

[15 مارس 2009] أصدر مركز الأرض لحقوق الإنسان تقرير يرصد أخبار جرائم العنف ضد الأطفال الواردة في 9 جرائد مصرية (المسائية، والمصري اليوم، ونهضة مصر، والأحرار، والأهرام، والبيدبل، والدستور، والأسبوع والنبأ)،



خلال النصف الثاني من

2008، ويقدم التقرير تحليل مضمون للأخبار المتعلقة بحقوق الطفل عموماً، والعنف ضد الطفل بوجه خاص، بهدف التعرف على جرائم العنف ضد الطفل، والمشكلات المتعلقة بها، وتقدير حجم العنف الذي يتعرض له الأطفال في مصر. وجد التقرير أن خلال النصف الثاني من 2008، بلغ عدد حالات الاعتداءات الجنسية على الأطفال خارج أو داخل الأسرة والمدرسة، (58) حالة، والاعتداءات البدنية على الأطفال (6) حالات، وحالات العنف الأسرى (37) حالة، وبلغت جملة حالات الإهمال في الرعاية الاجتماعية والصحية والتعليمية والغذائية (159) حالة، وحالات استغلال الأطفال (3) حالات، كما تم رصد (6) حالات كعنف رسمي، والقتل العمد للأطفال (19) حالة، وجرائم خطف الأطفال (9) حالات، بالإضافة لحوادث الطرق والحوادث الأخرى المتنوعة التي لم تندرج تحت أي من التقسيمات السابقة (57) حالة.

[Full Article](#) (Arabic) – CRIN

### **Libya – Hundreds feared drowned off Libya**

31 March 2009 - More than 200 African migrants are feared dead after their boat sank off the coast of Libya, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) says. Libyan officials say 21 people are confirmed dead and 23 rescued. Libyan media report that among the dead was an African woman found lifelessly clutching an infant to her bosom, says the BBC's Rana Jawad in Tripoli. The missing vessel reportedly ran into difficulty shortly after setting off on Sunday from Sidi Bilal, near Tripoli.

[Full Article](#) – BBC News/Africa

### **Morocco - La Délégation de la Commission Européenne au Maroc: Programme «Acteurs non étatiques et autorités locales pour le développement»**

30 March 2009 - Il s'agit d'un programme « axé sur les acteurs » qui vise à soutenir les actions soumises par des acteurs non-étatiques ou des autorités locales, et dont l'objectif est de promouvoir une société qui met l'accent sur les principes d'intégration et d'autonomie, et plus spécifiquement d'améliorer l'accès des populations aux services sociaux, d'accroître leur participation aux processus d'élaboration des politiques, de renforcer les capacités des organisations de la société civile et les autorités locales afin de participer aux stratégies de réduction de la pauvreté et de développement durable, de faciliter les interactions entre les acteurs étatiques et non étatiques dans différents contextes et de soutenir le renforcement du rôle des autorités locales dans les processus de décentralisation.

Pour plus d'informations :

Délégation de la Commission Européenne à Rabat -Maroc-

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome>

<http://www.delmar.ec.europa.eu>

### **Morocco - Consultation société civile/ Programmation UE au Maroc**

Tout acteur de la société civile est invité à transmettre ses recommandations qui devraient être articulées essentiellement sur les points suivants : Avis sur les secteurs d'interventions prioritaires ; Les acteurs les plus à même d'être impliqués; Les types d'actions les plus pertinents à mettre en place ; Le rôle éventuel de la société civile dans les pistes de coopération possibles.

Vos contributions doivent être envoyées au plus tard le 30 avril 2009 à l'adresse électronique suivante : [delegation-morocco-PIN2011-13@ec.europa.eu](mailto:delegation-morocco-PIN2011-13@ec.europa.eu)

[Pour plus d'informations](#) - Délégation de la Commission Européenne à Rabat -Maroc-



## *In the Gulf:*

### **Bahrain – International Conference on Effective Strategies for the Prevention of Child Online Pornography Trafficking and Abuse**

*Date:* 9-10 May 2009- Since children and teens are spending more and more time online for various purposes, the conference focused on discussing and suggesting creative and effective strategies, tools and laws to fight the ongoing creative way child abuse forms is taking shapes online; the effect of culture on child Abuse, the role of telecommunication companies, and ISPs and emphasized the social and official awareness, and role of children in helping and protecting their peers. Keynote speakers include the UN Special Rapporteur on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and representatives of UNICEF,

[More Information Available](#) – CRIN

### **Bahrain – New project for children with disabilities under the Patronage of UN Special Rapporteur on Disability**

**البحرين: تدشين برنامج "أنا طفل قوي وذكي وآمن.. رغم إعاقتي"**

[13 مارس 2009] تحت رعاية المقررة الخاصة بشئون الإعاقة في الأمم المتحدة - سمو الشيخة حصة بنت خليفة آل ثاني - دشن مركز "كن حراً" برنامج "أنا طفل قوي، وذكي، وآمن... رغم إعاقتي" و الذي يهدف إلى حماية الأطفال و المراهقين ذوي الإعاقة من الاعتداء. يشمل البرنامج 4 أنواع من الإعاقات: الإعاقة العقلية البسيطة، الإعاقة الحركية، الإعاقة البصرية، و الصم.

حضر الحفل العديد من المؤسسات المعنية بشؤون الإعاقة و المهتمين بهذا الموضوع. كما شارك الأطفال من ذوي الإعاقة في تقديم فقرات الحفل من خواطر و أبيات نثرية لامست قلوب الحضور و بينت بوضوح أن هؤلاء مميزون بروحهم العالية و تفاؤلهم و إصرارهم على مواجهة التحديات.

و أقيمت بشكل مواز لحفل التدشين و بالتعاون مع المعهد السعودي البحريني للمكفوفين ورشة مهارات الحماية للأطفال كفيفي البصر، تدرّبوا فيها على مهارات الحماية الأساسية التي تساهم في رفع ثقّتهم بأنفسهم و حمايتهم. كما تم توزيع كتيب خاص للمهارات الأساسية لحماية الأطفال كفيفي البصر و الذي طبع بلغة (بريل) في مطابع خادم الحرمين الشريفين.

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

### **Saudi Arabia – The 3<sup>rd</sup> Arab- ISPCAN Regional Conference on Child Protection**

**المؤتمر العربي الإقليمي الثالث حول حماية الطفل**

تحت رعاية خادم الحرمين الشريفين الملك عبد الله بن عبد العزيز ينظم برنامج الأمان الأسري الوطني بالتعاون مع الجمعية الدولية (ISPCAN) للوقاية من إساءة معاملة وإهمال الأطفال "المؤتمر الإقليمي العربي الثالث لحماية الطفل" تحت شعار: "حماية الطفل في الدول العربية: نعمل معا من أجل طفولة آمنة" والذي سيعقد بمشيئة الله في الفترة بين 1-4 مارس 2009 وذلك في قاعة الملك فيصل للمؤتمرات بفندق الإنترنت كونتننتال بمدينة الرياض.

يشكل المؤتمر ملتقى للمهنيين المعنين بالوقاية والتصدي لإساءة معاملة وإهمال واستغلال الأطفال من مختلف التخصصات الصحية والاجتماعية والنفسية والأمنية، يناقشون من خلاله واقع العنف ضد الاطفال في الدول العربية. كما يمكنهم المؤتمر من متابعة أحدث المستجدات في مجال حماية الطفل من إساءة المعاملة. إضافة إلى تعزيز مهاراتهم من خلال دورات تدريبية متخصصة أو متعددة التخصصات تصاحب فعاليات المؤتمر.

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

### **Saudi Arabia – Human Rights Report (2008) by the National Society for Human Rights**

23 مارس 2009

**تقرير أوضاع حقوق الإنسان في السعودية 2008**

أصدرت الجمعية التقرير الثاني عن أحوال حقوق الإنسان في المملكة، وقد جاء هذا الإصدار بعد التقرير الأول عن أحوال حقوق الإنسان في المملكة عام 1427هـ والذي حظي بردود فعل ايجابية و واسعة على المستوى الداخلي والخارجي.



[More information available \(Arabic\) – CRIN](#)

## **United Arab Emirates – Council adopts outcome of Universal Periodic Review process on United Arab Emirates, begins consideration of outcome on Israel**

19 March 2009 - The Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review process on the report on the United Arab Emirates, and began its consideration of Universal Periodic Review process on the report on Israel.

During the discussion on the United Arab Emirates, speakers appreciated and welcomed the efforts taken to implement the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review, and the cooperative nature in which the United Arab Emirates conducted itself, such as the measures taken to combat human trafficking, especially for women and children.

[Full Article](#) - UNHCHR

## **Yemen – Dal Centre for Cultural and Social Studies Conducts study on Girls, poor and black children most discriminated against**

15 March 2009 - Children of poor families, girls and children of the Akhdaam (servants) are the most discriminated against in Yemen, a new study has found. The unpublished study, titled 'Discrimination against Children and its Relation to the Cultural and Social Status in Yemen', was conducted by Dal Centre for Cultural and Social Studies, a local NGO, in cooperation with Save the Children Sweden.

[Full Article](#) – IRIN Middle East

## **Yemen – New Study on Discrimination against Children and its Relation to the Cultural and Social Status in Yemen by National Information Centre, Yemen**

**اليمن: دراسة حديثة عن التمييز ضد الأطفال وعلاقته بالوضع الاجتماعي والثقافي في اليمن**  
[17 مارس 2009] أفادت دراسة حديثة عن التمييز ضد الأطفال في اليمن أن معدلات التمييز ضد الأطفال القائمة على متغيرات الخوف على البنت، وإطلاق حرية الولد، والعنف الجسدي، وتعالى الأغنياء على الفقراء وصلت إلى 90%. وأشارت الدراسة التي نفذها مركز دال للدراسات والأنشطة الثقافية والاجتماعية بالتعاون مع منظمة إنقاذ الطفولة- السويد وأعلنت في ورشة عمل بصنعاء إلى وجود 19 شكلاً من التمييز: الأصل الاجتماعي، الفقر، المكانة في الأسرة، المجتمع، والإهمال، وسلطة الولد على البنت، واللامبالاة بمشاعر الطفل، ورفض رأيه، وعدم الاعتراف بصوابه، ورعاية الولد للبنت، وسوء ترتيب الأولويات، والعنف بشكل عام، والمكانة الأدنى للبنت وإجبار الطفلة على ترك المدرسة، والعمل المأجور، والتهميش، ويصل معدلها إلى 80-89 في المائة في المدن الرئيسية التي نفذت فيها الدراسة وهي أمانة العاصمة وعدن وتعز والمكلا.

وقالت الدراسة أن أعلى معدل عام لكل أشكال التمييز جغرافياً برز في حده الأعلى في تعز بمقدار 86% وحده الأدنى في المكلا بمعدل 68% وبمعدل عام للموافقة مقداره 76% مقابل 20% لعدم الموافقة، وإن ثبوت أشكال التمييز ضد الأطفال في المدن الرئيسية بمعدل عام مقداره 76%. في حين أن ثبوت أشكال التمييز في المدن الثانوية (سيئون- زبيد- مأرب) بمعدل 73% وثبوت أشكال التمييز في أرياف حجة والمحويت وإب والضالع والبيضاء وأبين بمعدل 78%.

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