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Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Newsletter

July 2010

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

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1. Global Developments on Children's Rights

Convention on the Rights of the Child General Comment No. 12

UNICEF and Save the Children organised a cross regional consultation for Government officials on field-testing the Handbook on General Comment No. 12 on 16 June 2010 in Istanbul. UNICEF brought together 35 Government representatives from 9 countries - Azerbaijan, Lebanon, Oman, occupied Palestine territory, Kazakhstan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey and United Arab Emirates. The General Comment on Article 12 was finally adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in May 2009, and published in July 2009. The General Comment provides governments with a detailed overview on 'what' their obligations are. Save the Children and UNICEF jointly supported the development of a handbook for governments on 'how' to implement the General Comment. Using the structure of the General Comment as a framework, the handbook will elaborate the practical application of the obligations to ensure that children are afforded the right to be heard and their views given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

Adoption: States gathered in The Hague admit the existence of child trafficking in the context of adoption

2 July 2010 – After nine days of heated and intense discussions, the Hague Special Commission, a kind of general assembly of Member States to The Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption, was concluded. The discussions and the resulting conclusions will certainly have an important impact on the protection of children deprived of family care and will hopefully improve adoption practices in future. For the first time in the history of the Convention, States have accepted the existence of child abduction, trade and trafficking in the framework of intercountry adoption and openly debated on this issue.

[Full article](#) - CRIN/ Terre des Hommes, Suisse

Success stories highlighted at UNESCO-UNICEF breakfast meeting on Women's and Girls' Education

5 July 2010 – The event aimed to assess the current state of women and girls' education worldwide and determine what needs to be done to achieve gender equality by 2015. Many success stories were highlighted, in countries such as Bangladesh, Egypt and Morocco. They mentioned innovative strategies which help expand educational opportunities for young women and girls, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized. However, significant obstacles remain. Speakers drew attention to gender stereotypes and cultural attitudes as among the greatest barriers to gender equality.

[Full Article](#) – UNESCO

Key tools to improve education in emergencies

7 July 2010 – UNICEF and partners today announced minimum standards for education to help the 25 million children in countries and territories affected by conflict who are currently missing out on their right to primary education. "UNICEF's experience in emergencies shows that one of the best things for children is to get them back in school," said Ellen van Kalmthout, Senior Education Specialist of UNICEF. "This handbook is an important tool

to help government officials, international aid workers and other partners react when emergencies strike, schools are damaged and destroyed, and children's education is at risk." The 2010 edition encourages preparedness, response and recovery. It also focuses on the links between education, disaster risk reduction and conflict mitigation.

INEE Guidance Notes on Teaching and Learning, INEE Reference Guide on External Education Financing and INEE Gender Pocket Guide will also be launched along with the 2010 edition of the Minimum Standards. Visit www.ineesite.org for further information.

[Full article](#) – UNICEF

[Full publication](#)

[Full publication \(French\)](#)

Former child soldiers lack support

15 July 2010 - Former child soldiers exposed to brutal episodes of war-related violence face a range of psychological and emotional problems that are often left untreated when they leave military service, experts have found. Two studies which are to be published next month in the journal Child Development, explored how such children adjust to life in peacetime and found that many of them suffer serious emotional and behavioural problems that are rarely treated.

[Full article](#) (Aljazeera)

UNICEF Prizes Awarded at Festivals

26 July 2010 – Television and film are very important to children – both can open the world to young people, help them learn through entertainment and give them a voice. At two European festivals this spring, UNICEF gave awards to producers and filmmakers who use the visual medium to celebrate children's rights and raise awareness about issues facing youth.

[Full article](#) – UNICEF

Better Care Network Toolkit

26 July 2010 – Worldwide child care practitioners face increasing challenges in providing appropriate care and protection services to children, youth, and families. The Better Care Network Toolkit has been developed to support practitioners around the world in planning for and delivering better care for children who require an out-of-home placement. They cover the types of policies required to support a quality care system, and practice guidance and tools for the delivery of alternative care. The BCN Toolkit can be used and adapted to serve as a professional development tool for practitioners worldwide.

The BCN Toolkit is now available as a 'Practitioner's Portal' on the BCN website: <http://bettercaretoolkit.org/bcn/toolkit/>.

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

Committee on the Rights of the Child 55th (13 September - 1 October 2010)

All observers of the Committee session require accreditation to the session. To obtain accreditation, please fill out the accreditation form (available in pdf and Word), sign and send it by fax. In order to ensure the accreditation of participants, all requests for accreditation should reach OHCHR by Friday **3 September 2010**, at the latest. The session

will take place at Palais Wilson (ground floor conference room), 52 rue de Paquis, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland.

For further information [click here](#)

'Defining Best Practice in Care and Protection of Children in Crisis-Affected Settings'

The CPC Learning Network is pleased to announce the publication of a new study entitled 'Defining Best Practice in Care and Protection of Children in Crisis-Affected Settings: A Delphi Study'. The earthquake in Haiti was another in a litany of crises that has revealed the risks to children of neglect, exploitation, and abuse in situations of disaster or conflict. Engaging with senior practitioners with the leading humanitarian agencies, the study for the first time distills the core knowledge that is used in designing programs to assist children at risk in these situations.

The study published in the July/August 2010 issue of *Child Development*, provides suggestions of best practices in the field from experts working in senior roles with such international agencies as UNICEF and Save the Children, and responding to humanitarian crises.

[Full PDF Study](#)

New Human Rights Education Associates (HREA) introductory e-course on Rights of Refugees and Displaced Persons

Displaced people fleeing human rights violations give up their homes in the search for safety. The displaced are vulnerable to further rights abuses and therefore need the protection of international institutions and foreign countries. This introductory e-course gives an overview of the institutions and mechanisms that serve to protect refugees and internally displaced persons.

Additional introductory e-courses on the Rights of the Child (September 2010) and Human Rights in Europe (November 2010) will be launched later this year.

For further information, to watch a demo and to enrol in the introductory e-course Rights of Refugees and Displaced Persons, please [click here](#)

For more information about short and specialised distance learning courses offered by HREA, please visit: <http://www.hrea.org/courses/>

Human Rights Education Associates (HREA)

New Quarterly E-newsletter: Child Rights in Practice - Issue 1 July 2010

Child Rights in Practice will focus on how the obligations outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child can be translated into improvements in the daily lives of millions of African children and putting children's own views and participation at the centre of interventions.

This first issue explores the role of governments in achieving children's rights. It presents arguments from different experts from southern Africa, are further corroborated by practical examples and children's own stories from South Africa and Swaziland.

The next issue, which should be out in October, will focus on Budget Tracking on children's rights. While Save the Children will be in-charge of editorial management, we kindly request you to provide content in the form of human interest stories, opinion editorials, and interviews with children, including pictures and any other resources that may be useful and contribute towards increasing awareness and understanding of child rights issues.

Submission of content is open from now until the **30th of September**. Comments and suggestions are welcome as well.

For more information about this publication, contributions and comments, please contact Tapiwa Gomo, Save the Children Sweden, Southern Africa Regional Office
Email: tapiwag@saf.savethechildren.se

Employment - International Youth Program Officer (Ottawa, Canada) Contract Period: 1.5 years (3 month probationary period)

Under the general direction of management and working in close collaboration with other staff members and partners, the main duties of the Program Officer will be to implement and manage all of MAC's international youth programs including: an international Youth to Youth Network aimed at facilitating global youth action in the movement to ban landmines and cluster bombs; a small grants program for international partners; assisting in the program development and delivery of an annual international Youth Leaders Forum (taking place in Laos in 2010 and Cambodia in 2011); coordinating an annual global youth fundraising project for mine action; providing support for interns and partners in the Young Professional International Mine Action Program (YPIMAP); coordinating the production on an online educational Explosive Remnants of War toolkit, and donor reporting for all of the above. The Program Officer also shares responsibility, with other staff for the effective and efficient functioning of the office.

Qualifications include

- Familiarity with MAC youth programming, its goals and structure
- Knowledge of the issues pertaining to landmines, cluster bombs and other victim-activated weapons.
- Demonstrated ability in all aspects of project management
- Proven ability to mobilize and coordinate large groups of people around a cause;
- Ability to work in English and French
- Ability to travel internationally
- A minimum of two years of work experience in a related area;
- University degree in international relations/development, communications, education or project management; and

To apply, please e-mail CV and cover letter expressing why you are interested in this position and how your qualifications meet the organization's needs, including what you will bring to this position and why you are best suited to jobs@minesactioncanada.org

Deadline: 9 August 2010

Mines Action Canada (MAC)

World Youth Conference Mexico 2010 (August 23 – 27)

The World Youth Conference (WYC) Mexico 2010 will bring together young people from the country and from all over the world in order to have a conversation and a proposal with Government representatives, legislators and civil society organisations. The WYC will address 11 themes and create a Declaration with suggestions and recommendations for governments in the areas of youth and development. For more information, visit <http://www.youth2010.org/site/index.php>.

[Full article](#) – CRIN

Conference: Children and War: Past and Present

University of Salzburg, Austria, on 30 September – 2 October 2010. The aim is to bring together scholars from various academic disciplines, practitioners in the field, representatives of governmental and non-governmental institutions and the media, who are engaged in research on any topic and theme on ‘Children and War’, ranging from the experience of war, flight, displacement and resettlement, relief and rehabilitation work, gender issues, persecution, trafficking, abuse and prostitution, trauma and amnesia, the trans-generational impact of persecution, individual and collective memory, educational issues, films and documentaries, artistic and literary approaches, to remembrance and memorials, and questions of theory and methodology.

[For further information](#)

5th Edition: Child in the City 2010 – Conference

The 5th Child in the City Conference will further build on the ideas of the former events by addressing the following themes: *Poverty of children, Assessment tools, Participation and the Right to play*. The conference will take place in 2010 in Florence, Italy, from the 27 to 29 October 2010. The Child in the City Conference 2010 will be an excellent opportunity to encourage cities all over Europe to create a child friendly public space. The fifth conference ‘Child in the City’, organised in one of the most famous cities of the world, will further build on the ideas of the former events with themes like children’s participation, space for children, children’s mobility and assessment tools.

[For further information](#) (Child in the City), [Conference brochure](#)

Businesses asked to help protect and promote children’s rights

At the opening of a major meeting of business leaders organized by the United Nations today, UNICEF, the UN Global Compact and Save the Children called on the business community to work together to build universal principles that will place children’s rights at the top of the global corporate responsibility agenda. Campaigns to end child labour and other breaches of children’s rights are nothing new, but to date there is no simple universal guidance that enables business to be confident their activities, including their social responsibility programmes, are a positive force for the youngest and most vulnerable global citizens. The three organizations are asking business leaders to work with them to develop principles – to be known as the Children’s Principles for Business - so that they can avoid the negative impacts that their activities may have on children, and contribute to a better future for everyone.

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

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) Concludes a Human Rights Training Course in the Central Governorate

On Thursday, 1 July 2010, the Training Unit of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) concluded a training course in the field of human rights in the central Gaza Strip. The twenty-hour course was held in the Youth Media Gathering from 27 June – 1 July 2010.

The course focused on a number of international human rights instruments, including the International Bill of Human Rights; Convention on the Rights of the Child; Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.

[Full article](#) – Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR)

Pan-Arab programme teaches community spirit

15 July 2010 – “All the Arab countries are now in a similar level of civil society development and they are all pretty near the beginning,” said Issa Nesheiwat, volunteer coordinator with Madarasati, a Jordanian civil society initiative. Nesheiwat is one of the 34 volunteers from nine different Arab countries who have arrived in Lebanon this week to participate in Learning to Care, an intensive week-long course on how to encourage volunteerism and how to implement youth training projects. The groups, made up of teams of four, comprised mainly of NGO workers and Education Ministry representatives who were selected for their philanthropic work in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Yemen, Mauritania, Jordan, Syria, Tunisia and Lebanon, where they have worked on projects, such as educating underprivileged children.

[Full article](#) – The Daily Star

Regional conference “Child Participation: Together We Decide’

On December 15th 2010, the Egypt National Child Rights Observatory and its partners including the United Nations Children’s Fund in Egypt (UNICEF), with the collaboration of the Italian Co-operation, is going to organize the regional conference “Child Participation: Together We Decide”. Therefore, policy experts, practitioners as well as academic researchers from Middle East and Mediterranean countries are invited to submit papers, posters and audiovisual materials relevant to the conference’s themes.

The conference will take place in Cairo and will aim at exchanging successful experiences, case-studies and evidence-based researches on child participation for inclusive and child-centered public, social and economic policies. To submit your abstracts, send it by e-mail to conference2010@encro.org

Kindly note that the **deadline for submission** of abstracts is: August, 30th 2010. Full papers must be submitted before November, 15th 2010.

For further information [click here](#)

Employment - Child Protection Coordinator (Iraqi Kurdistan)

The Child Protection Coordinator (Coordinator) implements a range of programs designed to improve legal protections, promote human rights, and expand social services for Iraqi children and adolescents in the criminal justice system. The Coordinator will provide training and supervision to local non-government organization (LNGO) sub-grantees as well as Heartland Alliance national staff in legal services including trial advocacy, detention monitoring, and child protection services. The position is based in Sulaimaniyah, Iraqi Kurdistan, and requires national and international travel.

[For further information](#) (Heartland Alliance)

Employment – UN Chief Human Rights Office (Baghdad, Iraq)

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq is looking for a Chief of Human Rights Office who will be responsible for acting as the Principal Human Rights Advisor to the Secretary-General (SCSG) for Iraq and report to him on human rights issues that are relevant to UNAMI mandate, and advise the SRSG on approach and advocacy strategies regarding human rights issues being addressed with the Iraqi Government.

Deadline: 6 August 2010

For further information [click here](#)

Employment – Country Director (Sana'a, Yemen)

NOTE: This position requires written and oral fluency in both the English and Arabic languages.

The Country Director-Yemen will manage and implement a new, multi-faceted conflict transformation programme in the country that will utilise media and educational programmes to promote non-violent solutions to conflict. The key qualities needed in this position are knowledge of Yemeni society and culture, the ability to function as both a conflict resolver and social entrepreneur, and demonstrated leadership skills in team-building and fundraising. The closing date is 31 August 2010.

For further information [click here](#)

Employment – Internally Displaced People (IDP) and Refugee Returnees Coordinator (Baghdad, Iraq)

The Returnee Coordinator will contribute to International Medical Corps (IMC)'s current work on strengthening the Iraqi Ministry of Migration and Displacement and implementing initiatives that facilitate the return of refugees and IDPs and promote durable solutions on return, reintegration and resettlement. Responsibilities include providing effective management and oversight of all returnee resettlement services and activities, serving as the onsite liaison with the government of Iraq, as well as conducting regional travels to Jordan, Syria and Lebanon to acquire better understanding of Iraqi refugee issues.

Closing date: 01 September 2010

For further information [click here](#)

Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP): Mid-Year Review - Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2010

13 July 2010 - The situation in Yemen is a complex mix of interlinked acute and chronic emergencies and needs. It is now becoming increasingly difficult for humanitarian actors to manage. Some of the challenges facing humanitarian organizations are insecurity in the north and lack of sustained access to hundreds of thousands of internally displaced people (IDPs), a significant refugee influx, and widespread and worrying levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. To continue saving lives and assisting and protecting hundreds of thousands of people, the organizations participating in this YHRP need revised requirements of US\$ 187 million until the end of this year. The HCT urges donors to fully fund the projects contained within this appeal.

[Full article](#) - ReliefWeb

[Full report](#)

3. Sub-Regional and Country Updates:

In the Levant:

Iraq – Female genital mutilation fatwa positive, but not definitive

17 July 2010 – A religious edict by the Kurdistan Islamic Scholars Union on female genital mutilation (FGM) sends a clear signal that the practice is not prescribed by Islam, says Human Rights Watch. The edict, however, does not call for an outright ban on this harmful traditional practice. It says parents may choose to "circumcise" their daughters but that it is better to avoid the practice because of the negative health consequences. FGM has been internationally recognised as a violation of children's and women's rights, including their rights to life, health, and bodily integrity.

[Full article](#) – Human Rights Watch

Iraq – UN forced to cut food aid to Iraqi women, children

19 July 2010 - Lack of donor funding has forced the United Nations to cut back on its humanitarian efforts in Iraq, with its food aid agency halting distributions to hundreds of thousands of women and children in the conflict-ridden country. The halt in food aid will affect some 800,000 pregnant and nursing women and malnourished children, as well as up to 960,000 schoolchildren, according to Edward Kallon, the UN World Food Program's representative for Iraq.

[Full article](#) – CRIN

Iraq – Toxic legacy of US assault on Fallujah 'worse than Hiroshima'

24 July 2010 – Dramatic increases in infant mortality, cancer and leukaemia in the Iraqi city of Fallujah, which was bombarded by US Marines in 2004, exceed those reported by survivors of the atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, according to a new study. Iraqi doctors in Fallujah have complained since 2005 of being overwhelmed by the number of babies with serious birth defects. They said they were also seeing far more cancers than they did before the battle for Fallujah between US troops and insurgents. Their claims have been supported by a survey showing a four-fold increase in all cancers and a 12-fold increase in childhood cancer in under-14s.

[Full article](#) – The Independent

Jordan – Officials, advocates explore ways to combat child labour

12 July 2010 – Labour officials and family advocates on Sunday discussed ways to improve cooperation to address child labour in the Kingdom. As part of a four-day workshop organised by CHF International, stakeholders concerned with the issue of child labour explored ways to meet the goals of the CHF's Combating Exploitive Child Labour Through Education (CECLE) project, which aims to take 4,000 working children off the streets and back into schools, organisers said. A report compiled between 2006 and 2007 and issued recently by the Department of Statistics revealed that 90 per cent of working children are between the ages of 12 and 17 and mostly work in car repair, trade and agriculture.

[Full article](#) – The Jordan Times

Jordan – Children’s congress delegates call for action to safeguard the environment

20 July 2010 – Teenage delegates from 17 countries have called for adopting solar energy, planting trees and promoting recycling to preserve the environment and prevent its degradation. At the closing ceremony of the 30th International Arab Children’s Congress (IACC) on Sunday, the 150 young participants proposed developing solar energy technologies and cultivating trees to fight desertification and soil erosion. The teenagers announced their recommendations, which also called for banning the use of plastic bags that threaten the environment and public health. They urged policy makers to ban construction on agricultural lands and increase recycling of wastewater for irrigation purposes, in addition to including environmental topics in school curricula. In their recommendations, the young participants underscored the importance of drafting laws that oblige every individual to plant a tree in order to fight global warming and create more green spaces.

[Full article](#) – The Jordan Times

Jordan – 65 per cent of schoolchildren suffer from dental caries – study

20 July 2010 – Approximately 65 per cent of schoolchildren suffer from dental caries, according to a new study released on Monday. The study, conducted by the Jordan Dental Association (JDA), indicated that 18 per cent of schoolchildren brush their teeth effectively and only 2 per cent use dental floss. The study was conducted on a sample of 1,004 children from schools across the country. According to related studies, 25 per cent of parents advise their children to brush their teeth and supervise the procedure, 60 per cent advise their children but do not monitor them, while 15 per cent neither advise their children nor care for their dental health. The studies also indicated that 70 per cent of dentists explain procedures to their patients before treatment, while 30 per cent only concentrate on the treatment. The results of the studies were presented at a ceremony yesterday, where the JDA announced the launch of a six-year project to promote preventive dental care in the Kingdom schools.

[Full article](#) – The Jordan Times

Jordan – Public schoolchildren, teachers to have free access

27 July 2010 – For the third consecutive year, public school students and teachers from across the Kingdom will be able to visit the Children’s Museum of Jordan (CMJ) free of charge. Under a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed by Minister of Education Ibrahim Badran and CMJ General Director Nissreen Haram on Monday, public schoolteachers and their families can enjoy the museum’s over-150 indoor and outdoor exhibits on “Free Open Days”, every fourth Friday of the month during the 2010/11 scholastic year. On these open days, children can have full access to all CMJ facilities, including exhibition halls, the library and art studios.

[Full article](#) – The Jordan Times

Lebanon – World Health Organization workshop introduces prescriptive child growth chart

13 July 2010 - An international training workshop was organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) in association with the American University of Beirut (AUB) and the Lebanese Association for Nutrition and Food Sciences (LANFS). The WHO Child Growth

Standards will be used as a tool in public health, medicine and governmental and health organizations for monitoring the well-being of children and detecting children or populations not growing properly. “The assessment of children’s growth will increase awareness of the magnitude of the problem of child malnutrition worldwide and decision-makers will be alerted as to how much remains to be done in order to ensure children’s healthy growth and development,” the AUB statement concluded.

[Full article](#) – The Daily Star

Lebanon – Documentary to raise awareness of Lebanon's child beggars

13 July 2010 - Social Affairs Minister Salim Sayegh launched an awareness documentary about child beggars, during a news conference Monday. The documentary is part of the ministry’s program to protect street children. The program includes amending protection laws and forming a national protection and prevention plan.

[Full article](#) – The Daily Star

Lebanon – NGO urges citizens not to encourage child beggars

14 July 2010- People should keep candy, food and clothes in their cars instead of giving child beggars money, Lebanese NGO Home of Hope on Tuesday advised those who feel compelled to give beggars money. Giving money to young children can actually be harmful, especially as the children are trained to beg and taught to lie and manipulate people from an early age, even persuading policemen to not take them into custody, explained Jean Eter, founder of Home of Hope.

[Full article](#) – The Daily Star

oPt – Thousands missing out on education in Gaza

5 July 2010 - About 39,000 child refugees in Gaza will not attend UNRWA schools this year, since the agency is unable to build or re-build schools due to the Israeli blockade, damage sustained during the 23-day Israeli offensive and population growth, UNRWA spokesperson Chris Gunness said in Jerusalem. “We are also unable to recruit new teachers due to our budget constraints.” In addition, mathematics teacher Sufian Ghanem pointed out that "[o]n this road and under these conditions - lack of access, physical deterioration and its psychological effect- the situation will get worse”

[Full article](#) – IRIN

oPt – Finland Supports Children's Summer Event in Gaza

7 July 2010 – Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Paavo Väyrynen has granted 1.5 million Euros in financial support to the Gaza Summer Games 2010, a children's event organised by the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA.

The Games offer children a break from the conflict and the poverty that surrounds them, by organising summer holiday activities that enhance and contribute to tolerance.

[Full article](#) – UNRWA

oPt – EU contributes €2 million to UNRWA’s Summer Games and the Agency’s Organizational Development

18 July 2010 – The European Union has today announced a contribution of €2 million to support the largest ever youth initiative in Gaza - Summer Games – and to support

UNRWA's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) - a crucial tool to modernise the Agency. One million euros of the EU donation will support the 1,200 summer camps run by UNRWA over a course of eight weeks accommodating 250,000 children.

[Full article](#) – UNRWA

oPt – Gaza children shelled with flechette bombs

26 July 2010 – “She came in through the front door and it wasn't clear she was injured. Suddenly a lot of blood came from her nose and she vomited, all of the family saw this -- her little brothers were very scared. She had just been playing in the front of the house.” That is how Nihed al-Massry describes what happened to her daughter, nine-year-old Samah Eid al-Massry, after the Israeli army reportedly shelled and fired four bombs into and around a residential area in Beit Hanoun, northern Gaza Strip, on 21 July. Samah is now being hospitalized in serious condition, suffering from extensive blood loss and very low haemoglobin. Shells containing flechettes are illegal under international law if fired into densely-populated civilian areas. Three other children were wounded in the attack.

[Full article](#) – MECA

oPt – Thousands of Gaza kids set unofficial record for basketballs bounced

28 July 2010 – More than 7,200 children in Gaza dribbled their way to an unofficial record Thursday night at an airport in Rafah, officials from a United Nations agency said. “It was a fantastic day today,” John Ging, head of the U.N. Relief Works Agency said of the event. “Children of Gaza once again show they have fantastic abilities, fantastic talent, and all we need to do is help them to realize their potential.” Relief agency spokesman Chris Guinness said the mass-dribbling record still needs to be verified by the Guinness Book of World Records. Organized by the U.N. agency, the Great Gaza Global Bounce is part of the annual Summer Games program that provides recreational activities for more than a quarter of million children across Gaza.

[Full article](#)– MECA

oPt: Kites fly high over Gaza as children at UN summer camp soar to new world record

29 July 2010 - More than 6,200 children attending a summer camp in the Gaza Strip run by the United Nations agency assisting Palestinian refugees have broken their own world record for the number of kites flown at the same time. Around a quarter of a million children participate in the Games, which include sports as well as recreational and cultural activities. This is the fourth year that UNRWA has organized the programme in Gaza, whose 1.5 million Palestinian residents have been languishing under a three-year-old Israeli blockade.

[Full article](#) (UN News Service)

In North Africa:

Algérie – Enfants de *chouhada* [martyrs]: Droits légaux confisqués

10 Juillet 2010 – La majorité des orphelins mais aussi des veuves de la guerre de libération nationale est encore aujourd'hui dans le besoin quand elle ne vit pas dans un total

dénuement. Pour autant, l'Algérie indépendante avait fait le serment d'en prendre soin. Ce serment a vite été oublié, trahi. Les garçons ont été mis dans des internats créés à leur intention : les « maisons d'enfants de chouhada ». Dans tous les cas, pour un grand nombre de ces jeunes enfants, cet épisode de leur vie a été au mieux un très mauvais souvenir, au pire il a constitué un véritable traumatisme psychique.

[Article complet](#) – El Watan

Algérie – Solidarité avec les démunis : Des vacances pour les enfants

15 Juillet 2010 – La Direction de l'action sociale de la wilaya de Blida (DAS) a prévu des séjours de solidarité au profit de plusieurs enfants, notamment ceux issus de familles démunies. Il s'agit plus précisément de colonies de vacances d'une durée de 15 jours. Les premiers bénéficiaires de cette opération de solidarité « vacances pour tous » ont séjourné du 1er au 15 du mois en cours, aux environs de Ghazaouet, une belle localité balnéaire située dans l'extrême-ouest du pays. Les bénéficiaires doivent avoir entre 8 et 12 ans. Ils s'agit généralement d'enfants souffrant de handicaps (catégories particulières) ou issus de familles démunies ou victimes de terrorisme.

[Article complet](#) – El Watan

Algérie – Les enfants du Sud découvrent la mer

22 Juillet 2010 – Les enfants du Sud dans leur écrasante majorité ne connaissent la mer qu'à travers des images diffusées par les chaînes de télévision. Les œuvres sociales de la wilaya organisent une colonie de vacances d'été pour les fonctionnaires et retraités de l'administration de la wilaya et daïras. Un contingent d'une trentaine de familles qui avoisine près de cent cinquante personnes a pris la route, hier, vers un camp planté au bord de la mer à Bouzedjar dans la wilaya d'Aïn Témouchent. Il faut noter que, depuis quelques années, peu d'institutions publiques organisent des colonies de vacances en faveur des enfants du Sud en raison, croit-on savoir, des restrictions budgétaires invoquées, le manque ou l'insuffisance de crédits alloués aux œuvres sociales de ces établissements.

[Article complet](#) – El Watan

Egypt – Ministry starts campaign against underage, summer marriages

15 July 2010 – For the second year in a row, the Ministry of Family and Population launched a campaign to raise awareness of the dangers posed by underage as well as summer marriages, also referred to as temporary marriages, in the 6th of October governorate. The awareness campaign will target young girls, students and families in the villages of Abou El-Nomros, El-Badrasheen and El-Hawamdeya through informal teaching methods and utilizing media outlets, according to a press statement issued by the ministry. In the statement, Minister Moshira Khattab said that combating underage marriages is essential for Egypt's fight against child trafficking and abuse.

[Full article](#) – Daily News Egypt

Maroc – Youth and Morocco in the Headlines of SHS views n° 28/29

As the month of August 2010 marks the beginning of the International Youth Year, the news magazine of the Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO dedicates a large part of its columns to actions of the Organization for young people. Covering the news for the

months of April to September 2010, this double issue is also continuing its journey to the National Commissions for UNESCO, by focusing on Morocco.

[Full article](#) – UNESCO

[Full publication \(French\)](#)

In the Gulf:

Bahrain – International Children's Games: Game for global friendship

28 July 2010 - The International Children's Games (June 28 – July 3), staged for the first time in the kingdom, brought together youngsters from around the world with the aim of building relations and creating ties through their love of sport. The 44th Games was backed by the International Olympic Committee and hosted by Bahrain's General Organisation for Youth and Sports (GOYS). More than 1,300 children aged 11 to 15, representing 31 countries, attended the five-day event along with their coaches and some parents.

[Full article](#) – Gulf Weekly

Qatar – Summer camp for children

15 July 2010 - The first summer camp organised by the French Cultural Centre for children in the age group of 4 to 12 years concluded today after a 12-day run. Children from Qatar, Lebanon, South Africa, Brazil, France and many other countries took part. The summer camp promoted the children's French language, self confidence and creativity.

[Full article](#) – Gulf Times

Saudi Arabia – 'Building Hope' for blind children

15 July 2010 - A group of young children, including those who are blind, are visiting public places every day and interacting with members of the public with a view to educating themselves and at the same time raising awareness about blindness. Mohammad Tawfiq Bellow, founder and general manager of the Jeddah-based Ebsar Foundation, said the idea behind the campaign is to integrate blind children into society and also give them basic information on a variety of subjects.

[Full article](#) – Arab News

Saudi Arabia – NSHR investigating child abuse in Egyptian family

15 July 2010 – A telephone call from a Saudi woman to the National Society for Human Rights (NSHR) in Jeddah on Tuesday led to the discovery of an eight-year-old Egyptian girl who was being abused by her mentally ill mother. The NSHR assigned Matouq Al-Sharif to investigate the claim. "When the girl was brought, she had obvious burns and bruises all over her body," said Al-Sharif, adding that he then learned that the child's mother was the one torturing her.

[Full article](#) – Arab News

UAE– Panel on legislation against child abuse

26 July 2010 – A sub-committee for reviewing legislation set up by the Higher Committee for Child Protection at the Ministry of Interior discussed the mechanisms regarding legislative amendments. The meeting held at Abu Dhabi Headquarters, sought the requirements needed to establish a record for those who committed sexual related crimes.

Major Faisal Al Shamri, a member and rapporteur of the Higher Committee for Child protection, said the meeting discussed the requirements for conducting a benchmark comparison with the legislatures of the advanced countries respecting child protection.

[Full article](#) – Khaleej Times

UAE– Children’s panel to develop training programmes

29 July 2010 – The Ministry of Interior’s Higher Committee for Protection of Children will develop comprehensive, coherent training, professional and academic programmes for fighting sexual exploitation and abuse of children. While giving directives in that respect to the awareness, media and research arm of the Committee, Major General Nasser Al Nuaimi, Secretary General of the Office of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, said there is a need for educational and awareness programmes targeting children and be infused into the school syllabus given the nature of each level. Al Nuaimi, who chairs the Committee, added that specialised awareness programmes will also be tailored to target guardians and educators alike. The top MoI official acknowledged the critical role the media can play in delivering the message and vision of the Committee.

[Full article](#) – Khaleej Times

UAE– Kids have loads of fun at summer camps

29 July 2010 – Fun-loving kids and their families have a wide range of entertainment and summer camps to choose from. The international character show stories of Sponge Bob is in town to entertain children for free until August 7 at Dubai Festival City. Show timings are 4:30pm and 6:30pm (Saturday to Wednesday) and 4:30pm, 6:30pm and 8pm (Thursday and Friday). There are no shows on Mondays. While this show is on, the five-week Kids Summer Camp at Dubai Dolphinarium has already filled the summer holidays of over 100 children between the ages of 4 and 12 with fun, learning and adventure.

[Full article](#)– Khaleej Times

Yemen – Dicing with death to reach Saudi

6 July 2010 – Mona Ali Salem of MOSAL’s Child Labour Unit worries that when internally displaced persons (IDPs) start returning to their homes in Saada, poverty will force many to put their children to work. According to Jamal al-Haddi of The Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW), child trafficking is linked to poverty. “In many instances [parents] will rely on their children for money.” Children are both smuggled into Saudi Arabia to find work, and themselves also smuggle goods across the border. It is a dangerous business and often leaves children without much of an education in Yemen. “Many children leave school, as they work at night,” said al-Haddi. “Sometimes the Saudi authorities crack down on smuggling. Often children will try to run away, which results in them sometimes being shot at and wounded or killed,” he said.

[Full article](#) – IRIN

Yemen – SEYAJ launches a campaign to support children victims of war

10 July 2010 – SEYAJ has launched an assistance campaign to support children victims of war and remnants in Sa’ada governorate & Harf Sufian district and camps of displaced in Haja & Amran governorates in northern Yemen. As a result of the many complaints and reports that SEYAJ received from victims’ families about their inability to secure necessary

medical services for their children, this campaign - that continues until September 2010 – arose to contribute in providing medical services and assistance to victims.

Therefore, SEYAJ calls all the interested people or organizations to donate financial support or medical aid to assist SEYAJ in this humanitarian duty.

[Full article](#) – SEYAJ Organization for childhood Protection

Yemen – One-third of Yemenis going hungry – report

19 July 2010 – Water scarcity, rapid population growth and internal conflicts are some of the main factors causing an “alarming state of food insecurity” at national and local levels, a new report has warned. Rural areas are particularly affected with five times as many food-insecure people as in urban areas. Food insecurity and child malnutrition in rural areas are much worse than in cities, where less than 29 percent of the population live. According to the report by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), 37.3 percent of the rural population is food insecure compared to 17.7 percent of the urban population. In addition, 62.1 percent of rural children were stunted compared to 45.4 percent of urban children.

[Full article](#) – IRIN

[Full report](#)

Yemen – Two sisters welcome children in their home providing them with life skills to protect themselves

21 July 2010 – Amira, 14 years old and her sister Amal, 15 years old, are from Al-Khafji district, a poor neighborhood on the outskirts of Sana’a where a lot of refugees and Yemeni returnees live. They participated in a child focused health education training with a focus on nutrition, arranged by Save the Children.

A previous study had shown that children, as well as their parents and teachers, have low levels of knowledge on nutrition. After the training, they were ready to take the lead in their poor community and raise the awareness of the children on different aspects of nutrition, aiming at changing practices through improved information. “All the activities are participatory and in the form of games, children interacted with me in a very good way. And now I train 15 children three days a week.” Amira said.

[Full article](#) – Save the Children Sweden