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DES DROITS DES ENFANTS

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FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

OFICINA  
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LOS DERECHOS DEL NIÑO

المكتب الدولي لحقوق الطفل

# Newsletter on Children's rights in Children and Armed conflicts

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

Bureau international des droits des enfants/International Bureau for Children's Rights  
805 Villeray Street, Montreal (Québec) H2R 1J4

Tel. : +1 514 932 7656

Fax : +1 514 932 9453

Website: [www.ibcr.org](http://www.ibcr.org)

E-mail: [info@ibcr.org](mailto:info@ibcr.org)

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## 1. Global Development on Children and Human’s rights

### **[News] UN General Assembly Must Urgently “Unite For Peace” In Syria As Humanitarian Catastrophe Unfolds In Aleppo – Global Coalition**

1<sup>st</sup> of December 2016- As the fall of Aleppo looms amid untold humanitarian catastrophe, over 220 civil society organizations from 45 countries, including over 25 from the UK, have issued a declaration saying that the UN Security Council has “failed to uphold its responsibility to protect the Syrian people”.

[Full article](#) (Save the children)

## **[News] Across the Middle East and North Africa, conflict threatens decades of progress for children**

11<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 - Nearly one in five children across the Middle East and North Africa is in need of immediate humanitarian assistance, according to UNICEF. Over the past 70 years, countries across the region have made major strides in protecting children's rights and wellbeing. But, today, as UNICEF marks its 70th anniversary, violent conflict, poverty and displacement have created dire conditions for children, pushing almost 29 million boys and girls to the brink, and reversing decades of steady progress.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

## **[News] UNICEF commemorates 70 years of tireless work for the world's most vulnerable children**

11<sup>th</sup> of December – On the 70th anniversary of its founding, UNICEF celebrates the immense progress made for the world's children – and renews the urgent call to reach millions of children whose lives and futures are endangered by conflict, crisis, poverty, inequality and discrimination.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

## **[News] Nearly a quarter of the world's children live in conflict or disaster-stricken countries: UNICEF**

9<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 – An estimated 535 million children – nearly one in four – live in countries affected by conflict or disaster, often without access to medical care, quality education, proper nutrition and protection, UNICEF said today. Sub-Saharan Africa is home to nearly three-quarters – 393 million – of the global number of children living in countries affected by emergencies, followed by the Middle East and North Africa where 12 per cent of these children reside.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

## **[News] School “as vital as food and medicine” for children caught up in conflict and other emergencies: EU & UNICEF**

6 of December 2016 – Braving the consequences of war, natural disaster and other emergencies, nearly 2 million children in 20 countries around the world have been able to continue their schooling over the past four years as a result of a partnership between the European Commission's department for humanitarian aid and civil protection and UNICEF.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

## **[News] New film featuring UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador David Beckham highlights urgent need to end violence against children**

5<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 - A powerful new film featuring UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador David Beckham was released today to illustrate the brutal reality that physical and psychological abuse can mark children forever. During the new 60-second UNICEF film, scenes of violence against children appear as animated tattoos on David Beckham's body.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

### **[News] New HIV infections among adolescents projected to rise by nearly 60 per cent by 2030 if progress stalls – UNICEF**

1<sup>st</sup> of December 2016 - New HIV infections among adolescents are projected to rise from 250,000 in 2015 to nearly 400,000 annually by 2030 if progress in reaching adolescents stalls, according to a new report released by UNICEF today.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

### **[News] Where 30 Million 'Missing' Girls in China Actually Went**

1<sup>st</sup> of December 2016 - A recent study "discovered" millions of missing girls lost to China's one-child policy, and the results also shine a light on China's propensity to favor sons over daughters. Over the last few years, China's problem of gender imbalance has been widely reported by media outlets. Experts determined that anywhere from 30 to 60 million girls were missing from the population, thanks to the country's one-child policy originally introduced in 1979.

[Full article](#) (Broadly)

### **[Nouvelles] Singapour, un modèle pour faire réussir les élèves ?**

13 décembre 2016 - Singapour, champion de la réussite scolaire, est-il pour autant un exemple à suivre ? La cité-Etat du sud-est asiatique obtient le plus haut score de la grande enquête PISA sur les acquis des élèves de 15 ans, publiée la semaine dernière, qui porte sur les sciences, les mathématiques et la compréhension de l'écrit. Alors qu'en moyenne, dans les soixante-douze pays de l'OCDE, un élève sur dix obtient de très bons résultats en sciences, c'est le cas d'un élève sur quatre à Singapour...

[Article complet](#) (Le Monde)

### **[News] France's Le Pen Calls for Foreign Children to be Denied Free Education**

9<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 - On Thursday, Marine Le Pen took her xenophobic and discriminatory discourse a step further – espousing anti-equality and anti-rights positions that reject core values of the French constitutional and political system.

[Full article](#) (Human rights watch)

### **[News] Ending Child Marriage Everywhere—Including in the West**

7<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 - Did you know that a 14-year-old child can legally marry in New York State? Ending child marriage is urgent, because it is deeply harmful to children, wherever they live. Married children often drop out of school, and are locked in poverty as a result.

[Full article](#) (Human rights watch)

### **[News] Lost lives: the battle of China's invisible children to recover missed years**

14<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 - Ending the one-child policy has left millions scrambling to make up for lost years. Living in Beijing for 23 years, Li Xue has never attended school, not even for a day. China provides a free, nine-year education to every child but Li was not included. For the past 23 years, she has had no access to any form of social welfare. She has not been allowed to get married, find a job, or open a bank account. For

Li was the second child born to her parents and, due to the nation's one-child policy that ran from around 1978 until 2015 to curtail population growth, she didn't exist in the Chinese government's database.

[Full article](#) (Thomson Reuters Foundation)

### **[News] Children take the lead in cyclone early warnings in Bangladesh**

15th of December 2016 - As Cyclone Roanu approached the coast of Bangladesh last May, 10-year-old Mohammad Hossain worried about his father, a fisherman out at sea in the Bay of Bengal. But the schoolboy, who lives in the Kutubdia Para neighbourhood of Cox's Bazar, a town on the southeast coast of Bangladesh, knew what to do. He sent his father, Ramzan Ali, a text message, asking him to return to shore and take shelter.

[Full article](#) (Thomson Reuters Foundation)

## **2. Conferences, Courses and Events**

### **Course – Child Rights and Development**

This e-learning course focuses on child rights and child protection issues, which will look closely at the entire gamut of international legal framework on the rights of children and protection of children with a particular focus on child rights violations and remedies globally. The course will explore legal, humanitarian, development and other strategies for understanding and advancing the human rights of children. The course is based on a dynamic pedagogy including reading materials, video clips, case studies, and interactive webinars with the instructor.

**Location:** Online

**Date:** 12 July 2017 – 22 August 2017

[For more information](#) (Human Rights Center – University for Peace)

### **Formation - Responsable de projets Protection de l'enfance en situation d'urgence - parcours court en Afrique**

Vous avez une expérience professionnelle et une qualification en lien avec le métier : découvrez votre futur environnement professionnel, adaptez vos compétences en management et maîtrisez les compétences techniques spécifiques, tout en bénéficiant d'un accompagnement de votre projet professionnel et à votre prise de poste. Cette formation comporte 3 mois de formation et 6 mois de mission humanitaire. Elle délivre un certificat de l'Institut Bioforce.

**Location :** Dakar, Sénégal

**Date :** 27 septembre 2017 – 22 décembre 2017

[Pour plus d'information](#) (Institut Bioforce)

### **Course - Thematic Short Course: Sexual Violence in Conflict Settings and Emergencies**

While some organizations have specific projects on sexual violence, others favour an integrated approach. However, as programmatic responses are relatively recent, there is a lack of trained and experienced staff

in this area. CERAH's one-week intensive course on Sexual Violence in Conflict Settings and Emergencies is designed to fill this gap. CERAH has also offered this seminar in French since September 2015. This course is organised with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). Handicap International, OHCHR, UNFPA and UNHCR are further partners collaborating in the development of the course.

**Location:** Geneva

**Date:** 20 March 2017 – 24 March 2017 or 04 September 2017 – 08 September 2017

[For more information](#) (CERAH Genève)

### **Course - Child Participation**

This e-learning course introduces staff members of (international) development agencies and NGOs to meaningful children's participation. Children have participation rights that state parties and other duty bearers should fulfill, respect and protect in families, schools, communities, and wider society.

Location: Online

Date: 1 February 2017 – 14 March 2017

[For more information](#) (European Rights Education Associates)

### **Conference - World Congress on family law and children rights**

The area of family law and children's rights remain exciting, challenging and fast moving areas of legal scholarship and practice and this Congress has established itself as the leading international forum for discussion and deliberation on these issues. The main streams that will feature at the Congress include:

- Justice and Equality (including juvenile justice, race and gender, courts administration)
- Child Protection (including abuse and neglect, violence and exploitation, immigration and separated children, children in conflict situations)
- Child Participation (including court proceedings, private family disputes, ADR)
- Changing Family Forms (including marriage equality, civil partnership, surrogacy)
- International Families (including recognition and enforcement of judgments, international adoption, international child abduction)
- Family Property

Location : Dublin, Ireland

Date : 4 to 7 June 2017

[For more information](#) (WCFLCR)

### 3. Children and Armed Conflicts

#### **Arabie saoudite - Les appels à cesser les ventes d'armes à Riyad se multiplient**

9 décembre 2016 - Exécutions, tortures, massacres de rebelles houthis, frappes sur les civils, dont des enfants, au Yémen... Voilà ce que fait Riyad avec les armes qu'elle achète régulièrement à Washington. Plusieurs institutions internationales ont décidé de monter finalement au créneau pour appeler les pays à cesser la vente d'armes à l'Arabie saoudite.

Alors que le monde entier condamne les actions meurtrières perpétrées par l'Arabie saoudite au Yémen, plusieurs pays, dont la France, les États-Unis et le Royaume-Uni, la considère toujours comme son alliée et continuent de lui vendre des armes. Suite à des violations flagrantes, plusieurs organisations de défense des droits de l'homme appellent depuis longtemps à cesser la vente d'armes à Riyad.

[Article complet](#) (Sputnik news)

#### **Central African Republic – Inside the World of Bangui's Traumatized Street Children**

8th December 2016 - The street children appear suddenly. Some emerge from the tall grass; others hop over a crumbling wall. Soon dozens of homeless kids and teenagers have assembled on the steps of an old, unused open-air stadium in Bangui, the capital city of the Central African Republic (CAR). Seven-year-olds sit down and tuck their bare legs inside their sweaters. Some of the older kids have legs pockmarked by scabs, burns and scars.

Many of these children are victims of the brutal ethnic conflict that racked their country for nearly four years. Some of them are also victimizers—former child soldiers who took part in the conflict. All of them are growing up in a country that the Commonwealth Secretariat—a U.K.-based organization—described in an October report as the worst place in the world to be young. Now child rights advocates and government officials are worried that these traumatized street kids could once again be pulled into war.

[Full article](#) (Newsweek)

#### **Centrafrique - les violations des droits de l'homme en hausse, selon l'ONU**

14 décembre 2016 - Les violations des droits de l'homme commises par des groupes armés en Centrafrique connaissent "une augmentation alarmante" depuis août avec au moins une centaine de morts, a déploré mercredi la Mission des Nations unies (Minusca).

Parmi les victimes, la Minusca a dénombré "203 enfants dont 91 garçons et 67 filles" avec des cas de viols et de violences sexuelles "affectant un total de 46 enfants (31 filles et 15 garçons)".

[Article complet](#) (TV5MONDE)

#### **Iraq – ISIS Sniper kill 15 children refugees in front of their families as they attempt to escape Mosul Battle**

5 December 2016 - The attempts of ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) to contain the population of besieged Mosul, Iraq, have been well documented over the past year, but the extremist organization may

have reached an ethical low point with the latest tactic of fear — having snipers shoot escaping children in order to convince those trying to leave the battle-torn city to remain.

Iraqi News reported last week that ISIS snipers have killed at least 15 children of refugees fleeing the ISIS-held area of Mosul. According to a security source, the refugees were attempting to reach locations taken over by Iraqi security forces inside the city itself.

[Full article](#) (Inquisitr)

### **Iraq - Air strike kills 55 civilians in western Iraq**

8 December 2016 - Air strikes killed dozens of people, including women and children, in an Islamic State-held town near Iraq's western border with Syria on Wednesday, two parliamentarians and local hospital sources said.

They said the air strikes hit a busy market in the town of Qaim, in Iraq's Anbar province, describing the incident as a massacre. The hospital sources said 55 civilians were killed, including 12 women and 19 children, in three air strikes.

[Full article](#) (Middle East Eye)

### **Iraq - «Redevenir des enfants» après les violences, un défi**

15 décembre 2016 - «Maintenant que nous sommes ici, papa va mieux», affirme Malak, le regard sérieux mais le visage souriant. A onze ans, cette petite déplacée irakienne dit «revenir de l'enfer» après plus de deux ans passés avec sa famille sous la coupe du groupe Etat islamique et dans la peur des combats.

A ses côtés, Fayçal, le même âge, parle lui aussi comme un adulte. «On veut rentrer chez nous, mon père ne trouve pas de travail, on a froid ici et on mange mal», dit à l'AFP cet aîné de cinq enfants alors qu'une pluie drue s'abat sur la toile de la tente de l'Unicef où il a repris l'école.

[Article complet](#) (Libération)

### **Nigeria - Money from Nigeria laundered in UK 'should go to helping starving children**

2 December 2016 - Money looted from Nigeria in corrupt practices and laundered through the UK should be used to help save the lives of thousands of children at risk of starvation in the conflict-hit north-east of the country, a leading aid organisation says.

More than \$1.2 bn (£950m) is needed to save children from starvation and help families to try to piece together their lives at the end of a brutal armed conflict, according to Save the Children. It is appealing for UN agencies and donor governments to step up, warning that the region has high levels of child malnutrition and is teetering on the brink of famine.

[Full article](#) (The Guardian)

## **Protecting education in conflict zones**

3 December, 2016 - In conflict zones, it is children who often bear the brunt of the violence. Last month, repeated air strikes on a school compound in Idlib, Syria, killed at least 22 children; and children in the besieged Syrian city of Aleppo have, for months, had no way to escape near-constant bombardments. Just a few weeks before that, a bomb was detonated outside a school in Southern Thailand, just as parents were dropping off their children. The blast instantly killed a father and his four-year-old daughter, and injured ten others. Brad Adams of Human Rights Watch described the bombing as an act of "incomprehensible brutality". Prior to that, air strikes on a school in Yemen's northwestern Saada region killed ten children and injured about 30 more.

[Full article](#) (Gulf News)

## **République Démocratique du Congo - la MONUSCO et ses partenaires ont documenté 154 violations graves des droits de l'enfant au mois de novembre**

7 décembre 2016 - Au mois de novembre, la Section Protection de l'enfant de la Mission de l'ONU pour la stabilisation en République du Congo (MONUSCO) et ses partenaires ont documenté 154 violations graves des droits de l'enfant. Ceci comprend notamment la séparation de 49 garçons et de 6 filles des groupes armés.

Selon Charles Bambara, porte-parole de cette mission onusienne, qui a livré cette information lors de la conférence de presse des Nations-Unies tenue mercredi à Kinshasa, "les enfants continuent à être les principales victimes des conflits armés en RDC". Selon lui, la grande majorité de ces enfants ont été recrutés en 2016, alors que deux d'entre eux étaient associés à des groupes armés depuis 2013.

[Article complet](#) (Centre d'informations Internet de Chine)

## **South Sudan – Conflict hits vulnerable hard**

1 December 2016 - An ongoing civil conflict continues to displace South Sudanese civilians. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that approximately 3,500 South Sudanese per day flee to neighbouring countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Sudan and Uganda.

Save the Children estimates the violence has forced more than 1.1 million people to flee the country, and 700,000 of those refugees are children. According to the UN News Centre, "85 per cent of refugees leaving South Sudan are women and 65 per cent are children under the age of 18."

[Full Article](#) (The whig)

## **Sri Lanka – Children Affected by the Eelam War**

7 December, 2016 - UNICEF recently estimated that over 90% of the victims of today's warfare is women and children. Children who are a vulnerable group have suffered severe traumatic events during the Eelam War. Worldwide studies indicate children of the war zones undergo severe psychological trauma. The research in Gaza, Rwanda, Mozambique and Cambodia reveal children who were exposed to war and atrocities are at a high risk of developing PTSD. Thabet (2000) did a study to estimate the rate of Posttraumatic stress reactions in Palestinian children who experienced war traumas. The sample consisted of 239 children of 6 to 11 years of age. 174 children (72.8%) reported PTSD reactions of at least mild intensity, while 98 (41%) reported moderate/severe PTSD reactions.

[Full article](#) (Lakaweb)

## **Syrie - Crimes de guerre liés aux bombardements d'Alep**

1 décembre 2016 - La coalition russo-syrienne a commis des crimes de guerre au cours d'une campagne de frappes aériennes menée en septembre et en octobre 2016 contre des quartiers de la vieille syrienne d'Alep contrôlés par l'opposition, a déclaré Human Rights Watch aujourd'hui. Selon le Centre de documentation des violations, une organisation civile syrienne, cette campagne de bombardements a tué plus de 440 civils, dont plus de 90 enfants.

[Article complet](#) (HRW)

## **Syrie - Alep-Est: Moscou annonce l'arrêt des raids**

8 décembre 2016 - La Russie, alliée clé du régime de Bachar el-Assad, a annoncé un arrêt des raids aériens et des tirs d'artillerie de l'armée syrienne sur les quartiers rebelles d'Alep, une mesure censée assurer l'évacuation de milliers de civils pris au piège des violences.

Depuis le début de l'offensive à Alep, 384 civils ont été tués, dont au moins 45 enfants, à Alep-Est, selon l'OSDH. 105 civils, dont 35 enfants, l'ont été à Alep-Ouest, qui est toujours resté sous contrôle gouvernemental depuis le début de la guerre.

[Article complet](#) (20 minutes)

## **Uganda - War crimes trial of Ugandan warlord Dominic Ongwen seeks justice for LRA atrocities**

5 December 2016 - The commencement of the International Criminal Court trial of the most feared commander of Ugandan rebels Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), Dominic Ongwen, has been hailed as "an important new chapter" in holding the group accountable for its brutal crimes in northern Uganda. The trial begins on 6 December in The Hague. Ongwen will be charged with 70 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity in northern Uganda. This will be followed by opening statements from the prosecution and lawyers who represent over 4,000 victims. The trial will then adjourn until 16 January 2017, when the prosecution will begin to present its evidence. Led by the Ugandan warlord Joseph Kony, the LRA has committed human rights violations against civilians for nearly three decades, abducted tens of thousands of children for use as soldiers and sexual slaves, and killed and maimed people across the Congo, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic (CAR).

[Full article](#) (International Business Times)