



BUREAU  
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DES DROITS DES ENFANTS

INTERNATIONAL  
BUREAU  
FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

OFICINA  
INTERNACIONAL DE  
LOS DERECHOS DEL NIÑO

المكتب الدولي لحقوق الطفل

## Newsletter on Children's rights in MENA

*November 2016*

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

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### Table of Contents

<b>1. Global Development on Children and Human's rights .....</b>	<b>3</b>
[News] Indigenous children 10 times more likely to be removed from families – report .....	3
[News] Child trafficking victims disappearing from UK care at 'alarming' rate.....	3
[Nouvelles] Journée mondiale de l'enfance: deux cents écrivains de renommée mondiale s'unissent autour des droits de l'enfant .....	3
[Nouvelles] La pneumonie et la diarrhée tuent 1,4 million d'enfants chaque année, plus que toutes les autres maladies infantiles cumulées.....	3
[Nouvelles] Un mois après le passage de l'ouragan Matthew, près de 600 000 enfants attendent toujours de l'aide .....	4
[Nouvelles] Pollution : 300 millions d'enfants dans le monde respirent de l'air toxique.....	4
[News] Fears for 6,000 children as some camps on Greek islands soar to triple their capacity .....	4
[News] Save the Children prepared to respond to children's need in New Zealand earthquake.....	4
[News] After abuse as a girl, U.N. albinism expert aims to end ritual murders .....	5
[News] Africa's charter on children's rights: Turning words into action .....	5
[News] Governments from Asia-Pacific meet to advance children's rights .....	5
[News] Myanmar aid curbs hit children in Muslim-majority region – UN .....	5

[Nouvelles] Calais : les droits de l'enfant oubliés selon l'ONU .....	6
[News] Ikea gets the world playing to support Children's Rights .....	6
[Nouvelles] France : S'engager en faveur de la Déclaration sur la sécurité dans les écoles.....	6
[News] Kyrgyzstan Ups Fight against Child Marriage .....	6
[News] On Universal Children's Day, UNICEF calls for protecting the rights of every child.....	7
<b>2. Conferences, Courses and Events .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Course – Master of advanced studies in children's rights (including child labour) .....	7
Course – Child Rights and Development .....	7
Formation - Responsable de projets Protection de l'enfance en situation d'urgence - parcours court en Afrique.....	7
Course - Thematic Short Course: Sexual Violence in Conflict Settings and Emergencies .....	8
Course - Child Participation .....	8
Training - Training course on Gender-based Violence.....	8
Course - Protection of Human Rights in the Contemporary World: Practices, Challenges and Prospects ...	8
<b>3. Subregional and Country updates .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Afghanistan-Held in bonded labor, Afghan returnee children make bricks for a living.....	9
Algérie-Enfance : viols, enlèvements, agressions diverses, les chiffres glaçants de la LADDH .....	9
Iraq-Iraq's children of caliphate face stateless future.....	9
Irak-En Irak, des enfants ravis de retourner à l'école sans l'EI .....	9
Irak-Irak: 600.000 enfants parmi les civils piégés dans Mossoul (ONG) .....	10
Iraq-Mosul families squat in squalor between frontline and camps .....	10
Iran-Child trafficking a growing problem in Iran .....	10
Israël- Israël condamne un enfant palestinien à 12 ans de prison .....	10
Israel-Committee: 8 Palestinian minors currently held by Israel.....	10
Liban-Journée des droits de l'enfant : la parole à 5 jeunes réfugiés syriens.....	10
Libya-ISIS Orphans Stranded in Foreign Prisons .....	10
Maroc- Maroc : Renoncer à poursuivre des adolescentes pour homosexualité .....	11
Middle East- 20 million children need immediate aid in Middle East, UNICEF says .....	11
Palestine- Palestinian children under siege forced to work.....	11
Syria-The moral outrage of Aleppo child deaths .....	11
Turkey- Turkish government withdraws child rape conviction bill after protests .....	11
Yemen-Yemen: Houthi rebels accused by HRW of child torture, deaths in detention.....	11

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

### **[News] Indigenous children 10 times more likely to be removed from families – report**

9<sup>th</sup> of November 2016- Indigenous children are more than 10 times more likely to be removed from their families by child protection authorities than other Australian children, a new report says, prompting calls for urgent action. A report launched on Wednesday by the Family Matters coalition, which comprises more than 150 Indigenous organisations and academics, has found the number of children removed from their families will triple over the next 20 years. The figure has led a Family Matters co-chair, Gerry Moore, to call for the commonwealth and state governments to develop a program to address the causes of family removals.

[Full article](#) (The Guardian)

### **[News] Child trafficking victims disappearing from UK care at 'alarming' rate**

14<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 - Child trafficking victims and unaccompanied children are going missing from local authority care at an “alarming” rate according to a new report, which reveals that in one year, nearly 30% of all UK child trafficking victims and 13% of unaccompanied children disappeared from care services. New research by child trafficking NGO Ecpat UK and the charity Missing People has found that 167 of the 590 children suspected or identified as child trafficking victims in the year from September 2014 to 2015 vanished from foster and care homes across the country. An additional 593 of the 4,744 unaccompanied children placed under the protection of local authorities also went missing at least once in the same time period. Of the 760 trafficked or unaccompanied children who disappeared from care, 207 have never been found.

[Full article](#) (The Guardian)

### **[Nouvelles] Journée mondiale de l'enfance: deux cents écrivains de renommée mondiale s'unissent autour des droits de l'enfant**

4 novembre 2016 – Plus de 200 éminents écrivains, parmi lesquels des romanciers, des dramaturges et des poètes, se sont associés cette semaine à une campagne littéraire mondiale en rédigeant des « petites histoires » d'environ sept lignes visant à célébrer la Journée mondiale de l'enfance et à rappeler l'injustice à laquelle sont encore confrontés les enfants les plus pauvres et les plus défavorisés de la planète. Cette série de nouvelles marque le début de la commémoration des 70 ans que l'UNICEF a consacrés à apporter de l'aide et de l'espoir à chaque enfant. Certains des écrivains les plus célèbres du monde partageront sur les réseaux sociaux leurs nouvelles avec leur public. Ce concept, qui a été lancé par la première dame finlandaise Jenni Elina Haukio, a ensuite été repris à travers le monde par des écrivains originaires d'Asie, d'Afrique, d'Amérique du Sud, d'Europe, du Moyen-Orient et d'Australie.

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF)

### **[Nouvelles] La pneumonie et la diarrhée tuent 1,4 million d'enfants chaque année, plus que toutes les autres maladies infantiles cumulées**

11 novembre 2016 – La pneumonie et la diarrhée tuent chaque année 1,4 million d'enfant, vivant pour la très grande majorité dans des pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire. La mort de ces enfants survient malgré le fait que ces deux maladies sont largement évitables grâce à des solutions simples et rentables

comme l'allaitement exclusif, la vaccination, des soins de santé primaires de qualité et la réduction de la pollution de l'air à l'intérieur des habitations. Ces conclusions sont rassemblées dans un nouveau rapport de l'UNICEF, Un décès, c'est déjà trop : en finir avec les décès d'enfants par pneumonie et par diarrhée, publié aujourd'hui.

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF)

### **[Nouvelles] Un mois après le passage de l'ouragan Matthew, près de 600 000 enfants attendent toujours de l'aide**

4 novembre 2016 – Un mois après que l'ouragan Matthew a frappé Haïti de plein fouet, près de 600 000 enfants ont toujours besoin d'aide humanitaire et sont tenaillés par la maladie, la faim et la malnutrition, déclare aujourd'hui l'UNICEF. « Un mois après le passage de l'ouragan, la vie n'a toujours pas repris son cours normal pour plus d'un demi-million d'enfants haïtiens », affirme le Représentant de l'UNICEF en Haïti, Marc Vincent. « Trop d'enfants souffrent de la faim et sont sans abri, incapables d'aller à l'école et en danger. Nous renforçons notre réponse et sommes résolus à en aider le plus grand nombre possible, dans les plus brefs délais ».

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF)

### **[Nouvelles] Pollution : 300 millions d'enfants dans le monde respirent de l'air toxique**

31 octobre 2016 - La pollution de l'air affecte très gravement 300 millions d'enfants dans le monde, soit un sur sept, et contribue à la mortalité d'un enfant sur dix âgé de moins de cinq ans, avance l'Unicef dans un rapport publié lundi 31 octobre. « Environ 2 milliards d'enfants vivent dans des zones où les niveaux de pollution dépassent les standards établis par l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS), et 300 millions d'entre eux sont confrontés à un air extrêmement toxique », explique Anthony Lake, le directeur général du Fonds des Nations unies pour l'enfance.

[Article complet](#) (Le Monde)

### **[News] Fears for 6,000 children as some camps on Greek islands soar to triple their capacity**

14<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 - An estimated 6,000 children living in detention centres and camps on the Greek islands are at risk with facilities on four out of five islands overflowing, Save the Children warned ahead of US President Barack Obama's visit to Athens on 15 November. With most new arrivals detained on the islands since the European Union's deal with Turkey in March this year, 16,229 refugees and migrants – including 6,000 children – are living in facilities designed to hold only 8,204 people.

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

### **[News] Save the Children prepared to respond to children's need in New Zealand earthquake**

13<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 - Aid workers from Save the Children will mobilise staff to meet the needs of children and their families affected by last night's earthquake in New Zealand if there is a need for a humanitarian response. The powerful 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck approximately 50kms north-east of Christchurch and was felt across the country. A tsunami warning is in place and residents in low-lying areas have been urged to evacuate.

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

### **[News] After abuse as a girl, U.N. albinism expert aims to end ritual murders**

16<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 - When Ikponwosa Ero was five years old, she couldn't walk down the street in Nigeria without being abused for having albinism -- a lack of pigmentation in the skin, hair and eyes. "(In) five minutes, almost 50 people have said something, pulled your skin, pulled your hair or sung (abusive songs) to you," the United Nations' first independent expert on albinism said in an interview with the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "I was wondering why was I born ? ... How will I get to my adult years and survive this? I don't think I can make it. "People with albinism are frequently shunned, attacked and even killed across Africa. In many countries, their body parts are believed to bring wealth and good luck and are prized in witchcraft for use in charms and magical potions.

[Full article](#) (Reuters)

### **[News] Africa's charter on children's rights: Turning words into action**

7<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 - With more than 500 million people under the age of 18, Africa has one of the world's youngest populations. As birth rates decline in other regions, the number of African children is expected to double by mid-century and gradually overtake Asia as home the largest number of young people. Thanks to a landmark agreement that took effect 17 years ago this month, this growing population of African children enjoys more rights and significantly more protections than earlier generations. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), agreed by African leaders in 1990 and which went into force on 29 November 1999, has helped enshrine the rights of children and their welfare in laws across the continent. The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which was created under the Charter, deserves credit for promoting children's rights and monitor implementation of the ACRWC.

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

### **[News] Governments from Asia-Pacific meet to advance children's rights**

14<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 - Governments from across Asia-Pacific recently held a meeting to discuss ways to advance children's rights in a number of critical areas. The event, 'A Billion Brains: Smarter Children, Healthier Economies', was hosted by the Government of Malaysia. It brought together heads of state and senior leaders from 28 countries across Asia-Pacific, which is home to more than one billion children, or nearly half the world's under 18s. The meeting sought to foster 'South-South cooperation' – countries learning from others that have faced similar challenges, in order to make progress for children.

[Full article](#) (Inquirer.net)

### **[News] Myanmar aid curbs hit children in Muslim-majority region – UN**

9<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 - Unrest in Myanmar's northwest is taking a "terrible toll" on children, the U.N. children's agency UNICEF said and called for full humanitarian access to the Muslim-majority north of Rakhine state. Tens of thousands of people have been cut off from food and other aid normally provided by international agencies since deadly attacks on police guard posts along the border with Bangladesh on Oct. 9. "While some aid has been delivered in recent days, UNICEF calls for full resumption of essential services and the urgent lifting of all restrictions of movement of health and other professionals so they can safely reach children and families," UNICEF said in a statement from New York on Tuesday. Troops have poured into the region in response to the attacks, in which assailants believed to be from the mostly stateless Rohingya group killed nine policemen.

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

### **[Nouvelles] Calais : les droits de l'enfant oubliés selon l'ONU**

3 novembre 2016 - Près de 1800 mineurs non accompagnés quittent à leur tour, ce mercredi 2 novembre 2016, la «Jungle» de Calais, marquant la fin du démantèlement du plus grand bidonville de France. Comme pour les migrants majeurs, ils rejoignent des centres d'accueil dédiés. Mais pour le Comité des Nations Unies sur les droits de l'enfant (CRC), tout reste à faire, notamment la question des droits de ces enfants migrants. Dans un communiqué publié ce 2 novembre, les dix-huit experts du CRC interpellent directement les autorités françaises et britanniques : « Les gouvernements de la France et le Royaume-Uni ne se sont pas montrés à la hauteur de leurs obligations en vertu de la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant dans la façon dont ils ont géré la situation des enfants migrants vivant dans le camp de Calais. »

[Article complet](#) (TV5Monde)

### **[News] Ikea gets the world playing to support Children's Rights**

20<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 - Play is a fundamental right for all children. That's why IKEA and IKEA Foundation are teaming up with six leading children's rights organisations and putting play at the heart of a new good cause campaign: Let's Play for Change, starting on Children's Rights Day 20 November. The campaign will support children's development and learning, equal participation, sports, and of course, play. For every children's book and toy sold between 20 November and 24 December, the IKEA Foundation will make a donation of €1 to support children's right to play and develop in some of the world's most vulnerable communities.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

### **[Nouvelles] France : S'engager en faveur de la Déclaration sur la sécurité dans les écoles**

17 novembre 2016 - Le président François Hollande devrait apporter le soutien de la France à la Déclaration sur la sécurité dans les écoles, a déclaré Human Rights Watch dans une nouvelle vidéo diffusée en amont de la Journée internationale de l'Enfant, le 20 novembre. La Déclaration sur la sécurité dans les écoles est un accord non-contraignant proposé au soutien des États lors d'une conférence internationale organisée à Oslo (Norvège) en mai 2015.

[Article complet](#) (Human Rights Watch)

### **[News] Kyrgyzstan Ups Fight against Child Marriage**

21<sup>st</sup> of November 2016 - "[E]veryone knows mullahs marry [people] at an early age," the head of a community elders court told me when I was in southern Kyrgyzstan researching domestic violence in 2014. Although child and forced marriage are illegal in Kyrgyzstan, an estimated 12 percent of girls marry before age 18. One percent are married before age 15. These girls are typically wed in religious ceremonies and their marriages remain unregistered. On Friday, Kyrgyzstan's President Almazbek Atambayev took an important step in the fight against child marriage by signing a new law introducing criminal sanctions, including imprisonment, for people who conduct or facilitate religious marriages of children under 18.

[Full article](#) (Human Rights Watch)

## **[News] On Universal Children's Day, UNICEF calls for protecting the rights of every child**

20<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 – Highlighting the plight of millions of children around the world, the head of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has called on everyone to recommit themselves to protect the rights of every child. "When we protect their rights, we are not only preventing their suffering. We are not only safeguarding their lives. We are protecting our common future," said the UNICEF Executive Director, Anthony Lake, in his message on Universal Children's Day. Established on 20 November 1954, UN Universal Children's Day promotes international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

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

### **Course – Master of advanced studies in children's rights (including child labour)**

The Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights (MCR) is a part-time international and interdisciplinary postgraduate programme, which takes place over a two-year period. The Programme is designed for professionals who work with children's rights issues, including lawyers, psychologists, sociologists, judges, social workers, government officials, staff of non-governmental organisations, academics and journalists.

**Location:** Geneva

**Date:** February 2016

[For more information](#) (Université de Genève)

### **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)

## **Training - Training course on Gender-based Violence**

This course is aimed at building the capacity and commitment of participants to undertake programs targeted at eradicating gender-based violence and to develop a new movement for gender equality. The course also features a number of exercises and reflective activities designed to examine the concepts of gender, gender-based violence, sexuality, and rights. It will further explore the impact of gender-based violence on education, health and development.

**Location:** Nairobi, Kenya

**Date:** 16 January 2017 – 20 January 2017

[For more information](#) (Indepth Research Services)

## **Course - Protection of Human Rights in the Contemporary World: Practices, Challenges and Prospects**

This 9 week specialized certificate course consciously adopts a contemporary focus for unpacking the diverse dimensions of international human rights law, practice and advocacy. It begins with a juxtaposition of human rights in theory and in practice, and situates the very concept on a spectrum of



competing approaches adopted by contemporary thinkers. Having thus set the tone for a critical and realistic analysis of contemporary human rights issues, the course examines the notion of universality of human rights with the use of case studies from recent global events.

**Location:** Online

**Date:** 18 January 2017 – 21 March 2017

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

### 3. Subregional and Country updates

#### **Afghanistan-Held in bonded labor, Afghan returnee children make bricks for a living**

2<sup>nd</sup> of November 2016-Samina, an eight-year-old Afghan girl, hasn't been to school since she was forced to return home with her family from Pakistan. She spends each day at a dusty, dirty brick kiln near the eastern city of Jalalabad, making bricks with her father to help repay the money the family borrowed to pay the truck driver who brought them across the border.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)

#### **Algérie-Enfance : viols, enlèvements, agressions diverses, les chiffres glaçants de la LADDH**

20 novembre 2016-A l'occasion de la célébration du 27<sup>e</sup> Journée internationale des droits de l'enfant, la Ligue algérienne pour la Défense des droits de l'Homme livre des chiffres qui donnent froid au dos sur les violences subies par les enfants en Algérie. C'est l'occasion pour la Ligue algérienne pour la défense des droits de l'homme (LADDH) d'exprimer son point de vue et brosser un tableau noir de la situation de cette catégorie fragilisée de la société sur la base de la réalité actuelle et le respect des engagements pris par le pays, en tenant compte des dispositions de la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant (CDE) et les Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement (OMD).

[Article complet](#) (Le matin d'Algérie)

#### **Iraq-Iraq's children of caliphate face stateless future**

15<sup>th</sup> of November-Ali and Sara, born in Islamic State's self-styled caliphate in northern Iraq, escaped to a camp for displaced people only to confront a new challenge -- with no identity documents, they risk joining a generation of stateless children.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)

#### **Irak-En Irak, des enfants ravis de retourner à l'école sans l'EI**

13 novembre 2016-"Une balle plus une balle égale?", "Deux balles": voici comment les enfants du village irakien de Jaraf ont appris à compter durant les deux ans passés sous le joug du groupe Etat islamique (EI).

[Article complet](#) (RTBF)

### **Irak-Irak: 600.000 enfants parmi les civils piégés dans Mossoul (ONG)**

27 novembre 2016-Quelque 600.000 enfants figurent parmi les civils piégés dans Mossoul, a indiqué mardi Save The Children, qui a appelé à ouvrir des couloirs humanitaires pour permettre à la population de fuir ce fief du groupe terroriste Daesh que les forces irakiennes se préparent à reconquérir.

[Article complet](#) (TRT Français)

### **Iraq-Mosul families squat in squalor between frontline and camps**

11<sup>th</sup> of November 2016-At the small mosque in Shahrezad village, piles of human faeces dot the ablutions room and rubbish is strewn around the garden. Women with infants huddle in the prayer room and dozens of others have slept on thin blankets in the open air.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)

### **Iran-Child trafficking a growing problem in Iran**

23<sup>th</sup> of November 2016-There is much to buy on the streets of Tehran. Iran's capital offers alcohol, drugs, sex, healthy kidneys and even infants. "It isn't new that babies are sold on the street," Shiva Nazar Ahari told DW. "It is on the rise, however. Desperate people aren't only selling their organs, but also their kids."

[Full Article](#) (Deutsche Welle)

### **Israël- Israël condamne un enfant palestinien à 12 ans de prison**

7 novembre 2016- Les forces de sécurité israéliennes avaient arrêté l'enfant de 13 ans et tué son cousin âgé de 15 ans, dans une colonie au nord de Jérusalem-Est, le 12 octobre dernier, soutenant que les deux enfants ont tenté de poignarder deux soldats.

[Article complet](#) (TRT Français)

### **Israel-Committee: 8 Palestinian minors currently held by Israel**

22<sup>th</sup> of November 2016-Palestinian Committee of Prisoners' Affairs head Issa Qaraqe said on Sunday that eight Palestinian children were being held in closed Israeli facilities upon orders by Israeli military courts until they reached the age of 14.

[Full Article](#) (Middle East Monitor)

### **Liban-Journée des droits de l'enfant : la parole à 5 jeunes réfugiés syriens**

18 novembre 2016-À l'occasion de la Journée internationale des droits de l'enfant, le 20 novembre, La Vie a rencontré des réfugiés syriens au Liban. Ils sont accompagnés par des associations locales, en partenariat avec Asmae, ONG fondée par Sœur Emmanuelle.

[Article complet](#) (La Vie)

### **Libya-ISIS Orphans Stranded in Foreign Prisons**

15<sup>th</sup> November 2016-TUNIS—Tamim Jandoubi, a 2-year-old Tunisian boy whose father joined Islamic State, lives in a militia-run jail in the Libyan capital, where female inmates care for him. His grandfather

Fozi Trabulsi has been trying to bring him home, but has been stymied by bureaucratic hurdles and the stigma of his family's association with the extremist group.

[Full Article](#) (The Wall Street Journal)

### **Maroc- Maroc : Renoncer à poursuivre des adolescentes pour homosexualité**

25 novembre 2016- Les autorités de Marrakech, au Maroc, devraient abandonner les poursuites engagées à l'encontre de deux adolescentes pour homosexualité présumée, ont déclaré aujourd'hui Human Rights Watch et Aswat, une organisation marocaine de défense des minorités sexuelles. Âgées de 16 et 17 ans, les jeunes filles risquent jusqu'à trois ans de prison sous prétexte qu'elles se seraient embrassées.

[Article complet](#) (Human Rights Watch)

### **Middle East- 20 million children need immediate aid in Middle East, UNICEF says**

20<sup>th</sup> of November 2016- More than 20 million children in the Middle East need immediate help, the U.N. children's agency said. Yesterday was Universal Children's Day and UNICEF has called for the rights of every child to be protected. "More than 20 million children, who have been affected by wars and clashes in the Middle East, particularly Syria, Iraq and Yemen, need immediate humanitarian aid," Juliette Touma, UNICEF's Middle East and North Africa communications chief, told Anadolu Agency.

[Full Article](#) (Daily Sabath)

### **Palestine- Palestinian children under siege forced to work**

21th November 2016- Facing hard living conditions school-age children in the Gaza Strip continued to work in unsuitable jobs on the Universal Children's Day on Sunday like it was just another day.

[Full Article](#) (Daily Sabath)

### **Syria-The moral outrage of Aleppo child deaths**

24<sup>th</sup> November 2016-Save the Children has hit out at the "moral outrage" of the mounting deaths and suffering of children in the battleground Syrian city of Aleppo, in a statement released Wednesday.

[Full Article](#) (Your Middle East)

### **Turkey- Turkish government withdraws child rape conviction bill after protests**

21th of November 2016- Turkey's government has withdrawn a bill which proposed the overturning of men's convictions for child rape if they married their victim. The prime minister, Binali Yildirim, said on Tuesday: "We are taking this bill in the parliament back to the commission in order to allow for the broad consensus the president requested, and to give time for the opposition parties to develop their proposals.

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

### **Yemen-Yemen: Houthi rebels accused by HRW of child torture, deaths in detention**

17<sup>th</sup> of November 2016-Human Rights Watch accused Yemen's Houthi rebels on Thursday of arbitrarily detaining, torturing and forcibly disappearing opponents since they overran the capital in September

2014. The group said it had documented two deaths in custody and 11 cases of alleged torture, one of a child.

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