



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

*October 2016*

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

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

### **[News] Five Athens Arrests in International Child Sex Trafficking Bust**

18<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - Five people were arrested in Athens last week as part of an international effort to crack down on child sex trafficking. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, along with representatives from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and several law enforcement partners, announced 82 minors were rescued and 239 traffickers and their associates were arrested as part of Operation Cross Country X. The operation, which ran Oct. 13-15, was an international effort focusing on underage human trafficking. This is the 10th iteration of FBI-led initiative which took place across the United States and, for the first time, in several countries around the world. Law enforcement partners from Cambodia, Canada, the Philippines and Thailand had operations in their respective countries.

[Full Article](#) (Athens Patch)

### **[News] `Island of despair`: Australia intentionally torturing refugees on Nauru, says major Amnesty International report**

18<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - The Australian government is responsible for the deliberate and systematic torture of refugees on Nauru and should be held accountable under international law, according to a major new report informed by unprecedented access to the secretive island. Amnesty International said it had interviewed 62 refugees and asylum seekers on Nauru, and more than a dozen current or former contract workers who delivered services on behalf of the Australian government, to compile a report it titled: *Island of Despair*.

[Full Article](#) (The Sydney Morning Herald)

## **[News] Canada violating international law by jailing hundreds of migrant children, advocacy groups say**

4<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - Canada's incarceration of hundreds of migrant children is a violation of Canadian and international law, and a stain on the country's reputation, according to 46 medical and legal advocacy groups who are pressing the government to stop it. Data obtained by the group show an average of 242 children were detained in each of the past four years, often after failed refugee claims. Canada's government says public safety is a main concern, along with flight risk and uncertain identity, but the group's research shows virtually all detentions, almost 90 per cent, are to prevent people fleeing in advance of deportation or not showing up to a tribunal. In some cases, these people's children have been born in Canada and are therefore citizens, but must be detained as well to avoid leaving children alone. That means the 242 number is lower than the true number, as it only includes formal foreign child detainees.

[Full Article](#) (National Post)

## **[News] UK steps up support to end modern slavery and child exploitation globally**

16<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 – *UK will prioritise ending modern slavery and child exploitation around the world.* To mark the national day against slavery on October 18, International Development Secretary Priti Patel outlined an increase in support for women and girl refugees in Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon, and for vulnerable people at risk of trafficking on migration routes in North Africa and Europe. The International Development Secretary echoed Prime Minister Theresa May at the United Nations General Assembly, as she called on the global community to go further and work faster to stop modern slavery and child exploitation.

[Full Article](#) (Relief Web)

## **[News] Clampdown on child labour in developing world to target UK firms**

15<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - The government is to intervene to encourage companies to scrutinise their supply chains for evidence of worker exploitation or child labour, the international development minister will announce this coming week. Detailing a £1m grant from the aid budget towards a campaign to lobby businesses to take more responsibility for the labour practices within their supply chains, international development secretary Priti Patel, said she wanted to clamp down on global child exploitation.

[Full Article](#) (The Guardian)

## **[News] Syrian girls are being pushed into child marriage in Lebanese refugee camps**

17<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - Each year, 15 million girls are married before the age of 18. In developing countries, one in every three girls is married before 18; one in nine is married before 15. If the present trend continues, 150 million girls will be married before their 18th birthday over the next decade. That is an average of 15 million girls each year. Child marriage is a fundamental violation of human rights. According to reports from both UNFPA and Human Rights Watch, child marriage is associated with many harmful consequences. Child brides face a higher risk of contracting HIV; are much more likely to experience domestic violence; and pregnancy remains among the leading causes of death for girls aged 15 to 19 worldwide.

[Full Article](#) (Huffington post)

## **[News] Bangladesh's 'Wedding buster' takes on illegal child marriage**

11<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - As the UN marks the International Day of the Girl Child on Tuesday, activist Radha Rani Sarker is meeting with European leaders to highlight the plight of girls in her native Bangladesh, where 73% are illegally married off while still in childhood. Radha, 21, met French Women's Rights Minister Laurence Rossignol and reporters in Paris on Monday as part of a tour that will also take her to Brussels. With her baby face and sparkling black eyes, she did not appear to be intimidated in the presence of the minister and her entourage, telling the story of her life with disarming calmness.

[Full Article](#) (France 24)

## **[News] Yemeni child marriage film submitted to Oscars**

12<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - Yemen is submitting its first ever full-length movie entry to the Oscars this year, with a film telling the story of a 10-year-old girl fighting to divorce her much older husband. *I am Nojoom, Age 10 and Divorced* will compete alongside films from 84 other countries for the prize of Best Foreign Language Film at the 2017 Oscars. The film is based on the real-life story of Nujood Ali, now 18, who was married to a man in his 30s when she was nine years old. Based on a book by Ali, it tells the story of her escape two months after the arranged marriage, and her struggle to get a local judge to grant her a divorce in the absence of laws against child marriage.

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

## **[Petition] Child bride faces execution by hanging in Iran**

13<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - Zeinab Sekaanvand Lokran comes from a poor, conservative Iranian-Kurdish family, and ran away from home to marry Hossein Sarmadi in the hope for a better life.

She was 17 when her husband died. Zeinab was arrested and “confessed” that she killed her husband after he’d abused her for months and refused her requests for divorce. She was then held at the police station for the next 20 days and repeatedly tortured by police officers. After a grossly unfair trial, in which she was denied access to a lawyer during her entire pre-trial detention, Zeinab was sentenced to death by hanging

[Full Article](#) (Amnesty)

## **[News] Shattered dreams: Dim future for the refugee child in Malaysia**

16th of October 2016 – IN Malaysia, a country that has positioned itself as a go-to destination for migrants escaping war and persecution in their homes, access to education is a luxury for refugee children. Malaysia is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention, but according to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), there were 246,270 “people of concern” in Malaysia last year, a figure that included registered refugees, asylum seekers, as well as other categories of stateless people and those in “refugee-like” situations.

[Full Article](#) (Asian Correspondent)

## **[News] Pope issues SOS for ‘invisible and voiceless’ refugee children**

14th of October 2016 – In his annual message for the Vatican’s refugee day, Pope Francis focuses his attention on child migrants, saying they’re the most vulnerable group among the refugees because they are “invisible and voiceless.” Quoting Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew - “whoever receives a child in my name receives me” - the pope notes how Jesus goes on to warn those who cause a child to sin: “It is better for him to have a great millstone fastened round his neck and be drowned in the depth of the sea.”

[Full Article](#) (Crux Now)

## **[News] Saving Bangladesh's children**

27th of October 2016 - In our increasingly interdependent world, malnutrition that causes stunted growth in poor children should be of concern to the community of nations. After all, prosperity and good health are the building blocks of a more stable and less violent world. Bangladesh, formerly known as East Pakistan, separated from the rest of Pakistan and became a sovereign nation-state in 1971. According to the World Bank, "Bangladesh emerged from the ashes of a War of Independence in 1971 as the world's second poorest nation."

[Full Article](#) (The Whig)

## **[News] Investing in early childhood development essential to helping more children and communities thrive, new Lancet Series finds**

5<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - An estimated 43 percent—249 million—of children under five in low-and middle-income countries (LMICs) are at an elevated risk of poor development due to extreme poverty and stunting, according to findings from *The Lancet's new Series, Advancing Early Childhood Development: from Science to Scale*. The Series reveals that early childhood development interventions that promote nurturing care—health, nutrition, responsive caregiving, security and safety, and early learning—may cost as little as 50 cents per child per year, when combined with existing services such as health. WHO, the World Bank, and UNICEF contributed to and offered guidance to the Series.

[Full Article](#) (World Health Organization)

## **[News] An investigation found Syrian child refugees in Turkey producing clothes for major brands**

24<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - Nearly 5 million people have now fled the violence in Syria. More have gone to Turkey than any other country. Desperate for income, many have sought employment illegally in the country's garment industry. As many foreign brands making garments in Turkey know, factories often exploit the availability of this cheap labor. A report by BBC Panorama lends weight to critics who argue brands aren't doing enough to safeguard against the practice. "Undercover: The Refugees Who Make Our Clothes," scheduled to air tonight (Oct. 24) on BBC One, found Syrian child refugees in Turkey making clothing for popular British brands Marks and Spencer and Asos. It also found adult refugees working illegally at factories distressing jeans for Spanish brands Zara and Mango.

[Full Article](#) (Quartz)

## **[News] Underage, underpaid and unwelcome**

26<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - As ever increasing numbers of Syrians flee their homes in search of refuge in Turkey, employers in their adoptive country have taken advantage of their destitution. In sweatshops in Istanbul, the *Telegraph* found children as young as five working for a pittance to help their families survive.

[Full Article](#) (The Telegraph)

## **[News] Refugee parents must be involved in children's education, experts say**

23<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister John McCallum was in Winnipeg last week to meet with his provincial counterparts. At the meetings, McCallum admitted he was surprised at the size of Syrian refugee families resettled to Canada and the number of Syrian children was more

than anticipated. With this, media coverage turned to the challenges for schools that a large new student population brings and the need for language and support workers.

[Full Article](#) (CBC)

## **[News] Syria: UN education envoy urges International Criminal Court probe into Idlib school attack**

27<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - The United Nations envoy for education today called for an immediate investigation by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) into what he called a war crime in Syria – the latest attacks on a school compound in the western province of Idlib that left at least 20 pupils and teachers dead.

[Full Article](#) (UN News Centre)

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

### **Conference – With Children, for Children: From Ideas to Action**

On the occasion of 2016 International Children’s Day, a symposium will bring together members of the European Parliament, European Commission officials and 12 children and young people from across Europe who have participated in local, national or international child participation projects. The objective is to demonstrate how Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and officials from the European Commission (EC) can engage with children around Europe in a meaningful way.

**Location:** Brussel, Belgium

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2016

[For more information](#) (EuroChild)

### **Conference - International Family Conference: Children’s Rights and Family**

International Family Conference is a biennial international academic conference which is organized by the Women’s Platform of the Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF), which holds General Consultative Status at UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Its aim is to stimulate interdisciplinary and cross-national collaboration and approach to various family issues.

**Location:** Abuja, Nigeria

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2016

[For more information](#) (Journalists and Writers Foundation)

## **Forum - Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law: Widening the Democratic Space: the role of youth in public decision-making**

In resolution 28/14, adopted on 26 March 2015, the Human Rights Council decided to establish a forum on human rights, democracy and rule of law. The purpose of the Forum is “to provide a platform for promoting dialogue and cooperation on issues pertaining to the relationship between these areas” and to “identify and analyze best practices, challenges and opportunities for States in their efforts to secure respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law”.

**Location:** Geneva, Switzerland

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2016

**Registration deadline:** 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2016

[For more information](#) (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights)

## **Conference - PICCWED-Putrajaya International Conference On Child, Women, Elderly And Disabled**

The conference will bring together scholars and practitioners who are interested to present their papers in a diverse range of areas pertaining to Children, Women, Elderly And Disabled People and other related fields.

**Location:** Putrajaya, Malaysia

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2016

[For more information](#) (Piccwed)

## **Conference – International Conference «Early Childhood Care and Education»**

The idea of the child as innocent, as pure, the ‘little angel’ in need of protection from the harsh realities of life and the corrupting influences of the world around us has come to dominate our thinking, language, values, social policies and educational philosophies in the past few decades. Children are seen as ‘little people’, ‘blank slates’, works in progress who are loved, nurtured and guided as they grow to become mature, rational and responsible adults.

**Location:** Moscow, Russian Federation

**Date:** 10th to 13th May 2017

[For more information](#) (ECCE)

### 3. Subregional and Country updates

#### **[News] Algérie: "Des avancées significatives" sur la voie de l'élimination du travail des enfants (DOL)**

2<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - L'Algérie a figuré en 2015 parmi les 16 premiers pays dans le monde ayant réalisé des avancées significatives sur la voie de l'élimination du travail des enfants, selon un rapport du département du Travail américain (DOL) publié à Washington. Le rapport qui retrace les efforts entrepris par les gouvernements en 2015 pour éliminer les pires formes du travail des enfants, précise que seize pays, dont l'Algérie, ont réalisé "des avancées significatives" dans ce domaine, figurant ainsi dans la première catégorie des pays qui ont agi sur plusieurs fronts pour mettre fin au trafic et à l'exploitation des enfants.

[Full article](#) (Maghreb Emergent)

#### **[News] MAROC. "La mort de Mouhcine Fikri est celle de trop"**

31<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 – Un jeune vendeur de poissons marocain est mort vendredi 28 octobre, à Al-Hoceima, dans le nord du pays, broyé par le mécanisme d'un camion à ordures alors qu'il tentait d'empêcher la destruction de sa marchandise saisie par les forces de l'ordre. [Une mort tragique qui a entraîné des manifestations importantes](#) non seulement dans le Rif mais dans d'autres régions. Car les Marocains "en ont ras-le-bol [...] de se sentir méprisés" raconte l'ancienne présidente de l'Association marocaine de défense des droits de l'homme (AMDH) Khadija Ryadi.

[Full Article](#) (L'OBS)

#### **[News] Universal Periodic Review Submission on Algeria**

6<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - Algeria has undertaken a number of legal reforms that promote women's rights. In 2005, following campaigning by women's rights groups, the parliament passed two laws that improved women's rights. The first amended the Nationality Code to allow Algerian women with foreign spouses to pass on their nationality to their children and to their foreign husbands. The second amended the Family Code by increasing women's access to marriage, divorce, and custody of children. Despite these positive steps, many of the Family Code's provisions remain discriminatory.

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

#### **[News] Lancement de la première caravane "l'Algérie de l'enfant et du livre" à Adrar**

21<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - Une caravane intitulée l'Algérie de l'enfant et du livre a été lancée hier dans la wilaya déléguée frontalière de Bordj Badji Mokhtar (Adrar), à l'initiative de l'association "l'enfance heureuse" d'El-Atteuf (Ghardaïa), indique l'APS. Placée sous le signe de "Pour que la lecture soit un droit pour chaque enfant algérien", cette manifestation d'une semaine prévoit l'organisation, au niveau des établissements scolaires des communes de Bordj Badji Mokhtar et Timiaouine, d'ateliers sur l'enfant et le livre, encadrés par des psychopédagogues, chargés de l'initiation des enfants aux procédés de lecture et d'écriture, ainsi que de médecins pour la prise en charge médicale des enfants.

[Full Article](#) (Huffington Post)

### **[News] Saudi uses role on UN Human Rights Council to cover up its abuses**

24<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - This week, Saudi Arabia will be re-elected to the UN Human Right Council (HRC) for the fourth time, after another non-competitive election at the UN General Assembly (UNGA). While serving its third term on the council, Saudi Arabia blocked international inquiries into its human rights abuses, punished Saudi citizens who worked in collaboration with the HRC, and threatened to cut critical UN funding after being called out for violating children's rights.

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

### **[News] Mothers urged to apply for children's free health services**

8th of October 2016 - The Ministry of Health has urged Bahraini mothers to apply for special health cards to avail the free health services for their children, thanks to the royal decree issued by His Majesty the King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. "Children of Bahraini mothers are entitled to free medical services since the implementation of the Royal Decree issued by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa are being urged to apply for special health cards to continue to avail the services," an official at ministry told Bahrain News Agency (BNA).

[Full Article](#) (Bahrein News Agency)

### **[News] Pictures of two Egyptian children engaged to be married trigger outrage — once again**

22<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - At the wedding, held in a province about 75 miles north of Cairo, the guests didn't find it strange. Some would later tell Egypt's Al Watan newspaper that there was "nothing inappropriate," adding that it was only "an engagement, not a marriage". Omar is 12 years old. His fiancée, Gharam, is 11. Egyptian laws prohibit official registration for marriages for anyone under the age of 18. But the practice remains prevalent. According to UNICEF, 17 percent of Egyptian girls are married before the age of 18, the vast majority of the unions taking place in rural areas.

[Full Article](#) (Washington Post)

### **[News] No end in sight': detention wears on for American who ran Egypt children's clinic**

17<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - For two years after she was arrested, Aya Hijazi refused to give up hope that Egypt's courts would let her, an American who ran a child welfare clinic, go free to reunite with her family. Nine hundred days after her arrest, she has started to lose that hope. (...)Disenchanted by Egypt's convulsing politics, the couple used their wedding fund to start a not-for-profit group, Belady, meant to offer a refuge for homeless children.

[Full Article](#) (The Guardian)

## **[News] European Union supports Egypt in collaboration with UNICEF to expand educational opportunities and enforce child protection systems**

24<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - The European Union (EU) and the Government of Egypt (GoE), represented by the Ministry of International Cooperation, the Ministry of Education, and the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) launched today the five-year programme "Expanding Access to Education and Protection for at Risk Children in Egypt". The programme's budget amounts to a total of 36 million Euro- out of which the EU has contributed 30 million Euro- to increase the access to education of the most vulnerable and socially excluded children and to strengthen child protection in up to 15 selected Egyptian governorates.

[Full Article](#) (Relief Web)

## **[News] Egypt: Fears grow for 'disappeared' student Omar Khaled**

31<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - Fears are growing over the whereabouts of a 22-year-old Egyptian student who was last seen being dragged away from a Cairo metro station by a group of men, shortly before security forces raided his family home. (...)Rights groups accuse Egypt of abducting and torturing hundreds of activists. In a [report](#) published in July 2016, Amnesty International said children as young as 14 were being forcibly disappeared by the state security apparatus.

[Full Article](#) (Al Jazeera)

## **[News] Egypt: More education, rapid care for vulnerable refugee and host community children**

10<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - For the first time in Egypt, the European Union and UNICEF will work together on a humanitarian project to help children attend pre-school, to provide more education opportunities and a safer environment for refugee and Egyptian children. About 37,000 children, families and caregivers will benefit from this funding by the European Union.

[Full Article](#) (Relief Web)

## **[News] UN refugee chief warns of "forgotten population" in Egypt**

20<sup>th</sup> October 2016 - Filippo Grandi met African refugees in Egypt, many of whom are becoming increasingly vulnerable. (...) Sayida and her children are some of the over 70,000 African refugees now registered with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, in Egypt. She told her family's story to UN High Commissioner for refugees Filippo Grandi. He had come to Caritas, an NGO supported by UNHCR and which offers counsel and help to refugees, on his first day of an official visit to Egypt.

[Full Article](#) (UNHCR)

## **[News] Iran rocked by abuse allegations against top Qur'an reciter**

26<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - Complainants use banned media outlets to accuse Saeed Toosi of sexually abusing them when they were aged 12 to 13. Iran has been shaken by scandalous allegations against a top Qur'an reciter, who is accused of sexually abusing underage trainees, in the first case of its kind to cast a spotlight on the taboo topic. The allegations are unprecedented in the Islamic republic, where such figures are

generally trusted by the public and claims of this nature are usually kept in the dark, with few victims known to have ever dared to come forward.

[Full Article](#) (The Guardian)

### **[News] Execution Looms for Iranian Child Bride**

6<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - On September 30, a young woman delivered a stillborn child in Euromieh central prison, in northern Iran. That would be tragic for any mother, but in Zeinab Sokian's case, the tragedy is runs even deeper: the delivery brings her one step closer to the gallows. Zeinab, who was sentenced to death for allegedly murdering her husband in 2012, when she was 17, was informed by authorities this week her execution could take place in the coming weeks. (Zeinab had married a fellow prisoner who fathered the child.)

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

### **[News] Stéphane Dion's gesture in the House offends mother seeking kids' return from Iran**

6<sup>th</sup> October 2016 - Alison Azer, whose former husband is wanted by Canadian police for taking their children to Iran 14 months ago, says she was offended after Foreign Affairs Stéphane Dion made a "disrespectful" gesture Thursday while another MP was raising her case in the House of Commons. "I was truly disappointed to see the foreign [affairs] minister exhibit such unbecoming behaviour on such an important issue to Canadians," Azer told reporters on Parliament Hill after the incident, choking back tears when asked about Dion's gesture.

[Full Article](#) (CBC)

### **[News] Children's books in Iran glorify violence**

27<sup>th</sup> October 2016 - Books in Iran, in general, are subjected to a strenuous approval process. But, the glorification of violence, even in children's books, does not appear to be a problem. The dog was a traitor, one of the wolf's accomplices. The punishment: execution by hanging. The same fate was meted out in another story to the defeated cat enemy. These are some excerpts taken from children's books in Iran.

[Full Article](#) (Deutsche Welle)

### **[News] Shell-shocked children and their mothers flee ISIS after being liberated by troops advancing on Mosul amid warnings of gathering humanitarian disaster**

25<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - Haunting images show scores of Iraqi families gathering on a roadside after being driven out of their homes by the ongoing battle to recapture Mosul. Women and children are seen congregated near the Qayyarah area, as the background is filled entirely with huge plumes of black smoke. Many can be seen looking on with fear and uncertainty in their eyes as they await the outcome of the fighting, which has been ongoing for a week.

[Full Article](#) (Daily Mail)

### **[News] UNICEF And Iraqi Ministry Join Hands To Educate 3.5 Million Children**

5th of October 2016 - United Nations' children's fund (UNICEF) in partnership with the Iraqi Ministry of Education has launched a Back to School campaign in 10 governorates to reach an estimated 3.5 million displaced Iraqi children who are missing out on their education. "Some 3.5 million school-aged Iraqi children are missing out on education, which means they are at increased risk of early marriage, child labour and recruitment into armed groups," the UN News Centre reported on Friday.

[Full Article](#) (Examswatch)

### **[News]Time to invest Iraq's wealth in its future**

25th of October 2016 - Recently I visited a primary school in Basra as part of a UNICEF team. As our plane landed at Basra airport by night, I could see flames shooting out of the oil wells that dot the landscape. Basra, which used to be best known for its port – Sinbad the Sailor journeyed from there – is now synonymous with oil. (...)The school is one of 419 schools across Iraq that will pilot a UNICEF and Ministry of Education project to allocate resources directly to schools and to involve parents in school management. The transition into a schools-based management system aims to improve the school environment and children's learning outcomes.

[Full Article](#) (Relief Web)

### **[News]Civilians Fleeing Through ISIS Minefields Face Detention, Prison-Like Conditions In Northern Iraq**

31st of October 2016 - It took five attempts before Umm Khaled and her young children were able to flee their hometown of Hawija, controlled by the so-called Islamic State group. Each time, the nightmare played out the same: Under cover of night, they crept out of their homes, praying they would survive the ISIS landmines, though others had not. Each time, the militants hiding in the shadows would grab them as they ran and force them to leave the dead and dying behind. Each time, ISIS took what hard-earned money they had left and whipped the men traveling with them into submission.

[Full Article](#) (Huffington Post)

### **[News]Violating the rights of children**

29th of October 2016 - It is with shock that one has learnt that about 20 per cent of marriages registered in Jordanian courts during 2015, according to figures recently issued by the Department of Statistics, involved brides as young as 15 to 18. As per the international norms that the country ratified, any person under the age of 18 is a child, requiring special treatment and protection. In 807 marriages contracted that same year, both the bride and the groom were minors. Families constituted of such young people cannot exercise their civil or political rights.

[Full Article](#) (The Jordan Times)

## **[News] Jordanian women more vulnerable to child marriage and FGM, says new report**

30th of October 2016 - Jordan has ranked 58th globally for opportunities for girls, in the latest report by Save the Children exploring the barriers that hold girls back. The report, launched to mark the International Day of the Girl on October 11, measures countries against five indicators: early marriage, adolescent pregnancy, maternal mortality, women in parliament and secondary school completion. In Jordan, a recent report by the Sisterhood Is Global Institute (SIGI) said that nearly 20 per cent of marriages registered in Jordanian courts in 2015 involved brides aged between 15 and 18.

[Full Article](#) (Albawaba)

## **[News] Children's Race of Samsung Amman Marathon concludes**

22<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - The Children's Race of the 8th Samsung Amman Marathon concluded on Friday with the participation of 2,700 children representing various schools in the Kingdom. There were more than 500 children from the Junior Runners Programme participated in the Children's Race for free, representing the various governorates where this programme is successfully being implemented.

[Full Article](#) (The Jordan Times)

## **[News] Sally Faulkner On Her Final Moments With Her Children**

24th of October 2016 - Brisbane mother Sally Faulkner has recounted the dramatic final moments with her children in Lebanon and revealed footage of the two kids, Lahela and Noah, after they were snatched off the street. In [the second episode of Australian Story's two-part special](#), Faulkner claims her children asked to come back to Australia with her as she initially ran from Lebanese authorities in a desperate attempt to keep her kids.

[Full Article](#) (Huffington Post)

## **[News] In Lebanon, getting Syrian children in school a huge task**

7th of October 2016 - Twelve-year-old Abdulrahman has not set foot in a classroom for nearly three years. Instead of going to school, he works at the grocer's downstairs from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., packing fruit and vegetables to support his family. (...)He and his brother are among an estimated 250,000 Syrian refugee children in Lebanon who are out of school, often having missed years of formal education.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)

## **[News] Syrian girls are being pushed into child marriage in Lebanese refugee camps**

17th of October 2016 - Each year, 15 million girls are married before the age of 18. In developing countries, one in every three girls is married before 18; one in nine is married before 15. If the present trend continues, 150 million girls will be married before their 18th birthday over the next decade. That is an average of 15 million girls each year.

[Full Article](#) (The Conversation)

## **[News] Oman to set up task force to fight child abuse**

7th of October 2016 - Dedicated child abuse units will be set up across Oman in the coming months in a bid to eradicate child abuse in the Sultanate. According to Dr. Moza Al Hatmi, head of the Child Health section at the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Muscat, "We have sent circulars to all governorates to form this task force; it is a team where a group of physicians will be nominated to deal with cases of child abuse. Some of the governorates have already formed this team, but they haven't started operating yet, but in a few months' time, they will."

[Full Article](#) (Times of Oman)