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INTERNATIONAL
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FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

OFICINA
INTERNACIONAL DE
LOS DERECHOS DEL NIÑO

المكتب الدولي لحقوق الطفل

Newsletter on Children's rights in Sub-Saharan Africa

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

18th 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

18th 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

4th 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

16th 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

15th 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

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. 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

11th 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

12th 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

13th 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

5th 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

24th 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

26th 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

23th 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

27th 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: 17th 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: 19th to 20th 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: 21st to 22nd of November 2016

Registration deadline: 16th 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: 3rd to 4th 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. Sub-regional and Country updates

Afrique- Sommet de l'UA : des organisations des droits de l'enfant demandent un meilleur budget pour la protection des enfants

11 octobre 2016- Un groupe des organisations de promotion des droits de l'enfant au Togo a saisi lundi l'ouverture officielle des activités parallèles (side-events) au sommet de l'Union africaine sur la sécurité et la sûreté maritime et le développement en Afrique, pour demander une budgétisation favorable aux enfants du continent. Le groupe est composé de six organisations, notamment WAO-Afrique, FODDET, Plan international Togo, Terre des Hommes, BorneFonden et l'UNICEF.

[Article complet](#) (Abijan.net)

Afrique- La mendicité forcée, face cachée du travail des enfants en Afrique

17 octobre 2016- Moins médiatisée et plus difficile à comptabiliser dans les rapports officiels, l'exploitation des enfants par leurs parents est un réel fléau en Afrique. La mendicité, dans les rues, au profit des adultes, comprend des risques importants pour l'hygiène et la santé des mineurs - parfois des nouveaux nés - et les éloigne toujours plus du chemin de l'école.

[Article complet](#) (Afrik.com)

Afrique- Journée des droits de la fille : le mariage forcé freine l'alphabétisation en Afrique

11 octobre 2016- En cette journée des droits de la fille, les ONG rappellent que les mariages forcés empêchent toujours les jeunes Africaines d'accéder au même niveau d'éducation que les garçons. Ils freinent aussi le développement du continent.

[Article complet](#) (Jeune Afrique)

Africa- A troubled decade for Africa's children

15th of October 2016-Over a decade after world leaders gathered at the 1990 World Summit for Children to set ambitious targets for improvements in child health and welfare, life for tens of millions of Africa's youngest and most vulnerable inhabitants remains difficult, dangerous and, all too often, tragically short. Despite the unprecedented global prosperity of the 1990s, and modest advances for children in some African countries, children in sub-Saharan Africa are more likely to be ill, less likely to be in school and far more likely to die before the age of five than children in any other region. Trapped in a downward spiral of war, disease and deepening poverty, African children and their parents were, by some measures, worse off at the end of the decade than they were at the beginning.

[Full Article](#) (Big News Network)

Africa- Former First Lady of Two African Nations, Graça Machel Launches New Women's Network

28th of September 2016- In an effort to transform the narrative and negative perceptions of African women and children, Graça Machel, the former first lady of two African nations, recently established a first of its kind Pan African Women in Media Network (WIMN).

[Full Article](#) (Los Angeles Sentinel)

Afrique du Sud- Afrique du Sud : les « enfants » de Mandela veulent «décoloniser» la fac

9 octobre 2016- "Nous voulons une éducation gratuite et décolonisée". La contestation qui agite les campus sud-africains autour des droits de scolarité prend un tour de plus en plus politique pour les étudiants noirs, qui en profitent pour dénoncer la persistance des inégalités raciales vingt-deux ans après la fin de l'apartheid.

[Article complet](#) (Jeune Afrique)

Burkina Faso- Problématique des droits humains et égalité des sexes : Les acteurs de mise en œuvre du projet SWEED renforcent leurs compétences

26 octobre 2016- Ouagadougou abrite du 25 au 28 octobre 2016, un atelier régional de renforcement des capacités en droits humains et égalité entre les sexes, du projet d'autonomisation des femmes et de dividende démographique au Sahel (Swedd). L'initiative qui est portée par le secrétariat technique régional et l'Unité adolescent and Young Advocacy and Policy, est soutenue par la Banque mondiale.

[Article complet](#) (Le Faso)

Burkina-Faso - Droits des enfants au Burkina Faso: La COBUFAD interpelle le gouvernement

3 octobre 2016 - La coalition au Burkina Faso pour les droits de l'enfant (COBUFADE) a animé une conférence de presse autour du projet d'appui à la société civile en matière de plaider et de suivi des droits de l'enfant au Burkina Faso. L'objectif de ce plaidoyer est la prise de mesures conséquentes afin que les droits de l'enfant soient respectés au Burkina Faso.

[Article complet](#) (Burkina24)

Kenya - Kenya launches child-friendly Tuberculosis drugs

4th of October 2016 - Kenya becomes the first of 18 countries to start dispensing child-friendly Tuberculosis medication in an effort to better treat children infected by the disease. Jillian Kitchener reports.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)

Madagascar- Des jeunes filles de 12 ans se marient déjà

4 octobre 2016- Lors d'une séance d'information concernant la grossesse précoce, le 27 septembre 2016 à Toamasina, le Réseau de Protection des Enfants (RPE) a rendu public les résultats de leurs enquêtes dans la Région Atsinanana de Madagascar durant ces deux derniers trimestres. Le RPE a constaté que le mariage précoce est maintenu et accepté par la tradition dans les familles malgré qu'il va à l'encontre de la loi. Rappelons que la loi 2007-022 sur le mariage et les régimes matrimoniaux a fixé l'âge minimum des deux sexes à 18 ans, pour le contrat de mariage.

[Article complet](#) (Tribune Madagascar)

Niger- Revealed: The Best and Worst Countries to be a Girl

10th of October 2016- Niger is the worst country to be a girl, according to a world-first index by a leading children's charity that has revealed the biggest global struggles faced by women and their female offsprings.

[Full Article](#) (Newsweek)

Nigeria - Dans les zones de conflit du Nigeria, c'est la passion qui motive les enseignants

4 octobre 2016 - « Sans vraie passion pour votre travail, la passion du don de soi et de sortir pour donner le meilleur de soi chaque jour, même dans des circonstances difficiles, vous ne pouvez pas être un bon enseignant » a déclaré Madame Aisha Kadiri, formatrice qui travaille aux côtés des enseignants engagés auprès des élèves déplacés des zones du Nigeria où l'éducation a été perturbée par l'insurrection de Boko Haram.

[Article complet](#) (UNESCO)

Nigeria- President pledges to stop violence against children by 2030

25 October- President Muhammadu Buhari has kicked off the movement to end violence against Nigerian children by 2030. The President launched the campaign on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at the State House conference centre in Abuja. The initiative, which is backed by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), had the President promising to protect children in Nigeria and Africa from violence.

[Full Article](#) (Pulse)

Nigeria- Les enfants oubliés du Nigeria

18 octobre 2016- Deux ans et demi après l'enlèvement de 219 lycéennes de Chibok par Boko Haram au Nigeria, qui avait suscité un tollé international et généré la campagne #BringBackOurGirls, une bonne nouvelle arrive enfin.

[Article complet](#) (Amnesty International)

Nigeria- Dans le nord-est du Nigeria, plus de 10 000 garçons manquent à l'appel

6 octobre 2016- Dans l'État de Borno dévasté par les actions terroristes du groupe djihadiste nigérian Boko Haram, les humanitaires font état de milliers de disparitions chez les enfants de sexe masculin : « Nous savons que plus de 10 000 garçons ont été enlevés par Boko Haram au cours des trois dernières années », affirme Oxfam.

[Article complet](#) (Le Monde)

République Centrafricaine - Violations graves commises à l'encontre des enfants en situation de conflit armé

4 octobre 2016 - Quelques jours après la rentrée scolaire 2016-2017, alors que la majorité des enfants reprennent le chemin de l'école, plus de 10 000 enfants en Centrafrique voient leur scolarisation interrompue en raison de la présence de groupes armés au sein des établissements ou à proximité.

[Article complet](#) (Reliefweb)

République démocratique du Congo- Voitures électriques : polluées par le travail des enfants ?

30 septembre 2016- Les grands constructeurs de voitures électriques doivent dire la vérité à leurs clients sur les mesures qu'ils prennent pour ne pas recourir au travail des enfants via leurs chaînes d'approvisionnement, et dénoncer ouvertement tous les abus qu'ils constatent, a déclaré Amnesty International le 30 septembre, la veille de l'ouverture du Mondial de l'automobile de Paris, où seront exposés de nouveaux modèles de voitures électriques.

[Article complet](#) (Amnesty International)

République démocratique du Congo- Derrière les voitures électriques... des enfants dans les mines de RDC

15 octobre 2016- Elles sont abondamment vantées comme la solution « propre » aux problèmes de pollution et de gaz à effet de serre, et elles ont été les stars du Mondial de l'automobile de Paris. Mais, si l'on tient compte de l'ensemble de leur chaîne de production, l'impact social et environnemental des voitures électriques est-il tellement meilleur que celui des véhicules conventionnels ? Exemple pointé par Amnesty international : plusieurs grands constructeurs, parmi lesquels Renault-Nissan, présentent un risque significatif d'utilisation, pour leurs batteries, de cobalt extrait en République démocratique du Congo par des enfants.

[Article complet](#) (Agora vox)

République démocratique du Congo- RDC: des enfants-soldats stigmatisés à vie

11 octobre 2016- Les anciens enfants-soldats forcés à combattre dans une milice congolaise il y a une dizaine d'années restent stigmatisés, éprouvent des sentiments suicidaires et vivent dans une peur constante, ont souligné mardi des experts devant la Cour pénale internationale.

[Article complet](#) (La Presse)

République démocratique du Congo- Nord-Kivu : plus de 135 000 enfants privés de scolarité à cause de l'insécurité, selon OCHA

14 octobre 2016- Environ 135 000 enfants en âge d'aller à l'école primaire n'ont pas accès à l'enseignement, a alerté mercredi dans son bulletin d'information le Bureau de coordination des affaires humanitaires (OCHA). Ces enfants sont essentiellement des enfants déplacés vivants dans les territoires de Lubero, Beni, Masisi et Rutshuru, précise le document.

[Article complet](#) (Radio Okapi)

Sénégal- Mariages forcés: ces Sénégalaises qui ont dit «non»

12 octobre 2016- Au Sénégal, comme dans toute la sous-région, les autorités tentent de freiner les mariages forcés. Une fille sur trois se marie pourtant avant l'âge de 16 ans. La loi est néanmoins claire : « Le mariage forcé est interdit et personne ne doit donner son enfant en mariage en usant de la force ou en le menaçant. » Une loi qui est loin d'être respectée.

[Article complet](#) (RFI)

South Africa- SA's children need their own commissioner, says UN

12th of October- Last week, the government was given clear direction by the United Nations: South Africa needs a dedicated children's commissioner to ensure their rights are protected and promoted. It should also adopt an interministerial approach to child rights governance. The commissioner, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child said, should be appointed by the Human Rights Commission, in line with its legal obligations.

[Full Article](#) (Mail & Guardian)

South Africa- Children's rights under the spotlight

7th of October 2016- The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) will issue its Concluding Observations, a set of recommendations to the Government of South Africa to better protect and realise children's rights, today (7 October).

[Full Article](#) (IT-Online)

South Soudan- 145 children released by armed groups in South Sudan

25th of October 2016- A total of 145 children were today released by armed groups in South Sudan, UNICEF has announced. This is the largest number of children freed since 2015, when 1,775 children were released in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area.

[Full Article](#) (African Business)