

Newsletter on Children's rights in Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

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

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1. Global Development on Children and Human's rights

[News] World Humanitarian Day: urgent action needed to get crisis-hit children in school

One in four of the world's school-age children - nearly 500 million - live in countries affected by humanitarian crises such as conflicts, natural disasters and disease outbreaks. About 75 million of them are either missing out on their education, receiving poor quality schooling or at risk of dropping out of school altogether.

Full Article (A word at School)

[News] Poorest African children 'being left behind' says nutrition and development scorecard

Every child deserves the best start in life. Growing up with a healthy body and mind - backed by care and learning through play and at pre-primary school - are vital if they are to fulfil their potential. But in many of the poorest parts of the world, huge numbers of girls and boys are being "left behind" because of factors like stunted growth and inadequate childcare in their early years.

<u>Full Article</u> (A word at School)

[Nouvelles] 7 faits sur l'allaitement et son rôle dans la lutte contre la malnutrition chez les enfants

La semaine mondiale de l'allaitement a eu lieu du 1er au 7 Août 2016 et a coïncidé avec le lancement d'un projet financé par le Programme alimentaire mondial et la Banque allemande de développement sous le slogan "1000 jours d'une vie" et mis en œuvre à travers des transferts de fonds, l'éducation et la sensibilisation aux femmes enceintes et les femmes qui allaitent dans les communautés vulnérables.

Article complet (Programme alimentaire mondial)

[News] Ban announces new initiatives to enhance UN's work with and for world's youth

12 August 2016 – Bolstering the commitment of the United Nations to work with and for the world's youth, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today announced several key initiatives towards that end, including the formation of an expert group on 'youth, peace and security,' and naming a new envoy on youth employment.

Full Article (UN News Centre)

[News] On International Day, UN says youth can lead global drive for a more sustainable future

12 August 2016 – The world's young people – who make up the largest generation of youth in history – can lead a global drive to break the patterns of the past and set the world on course to a more sustainable future, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said youth, with their creativity and idealism are the key to delivering the goals of the new UN sustainability agenda.

Full Article (UN News Centre)

[News] 'If you want to protect your image, protect children,' Ban tells debate on war-affected children

2 August 2016 – With children continuing to be tortured, maimed, imprisoned, starved, sexually abused and killed in armed conflict, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today called on all countries to back their words with concrete actions to end such violations. "In places such as Iraq, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen, children suffer through a living hell," the UN chief said as he opened the Security Council's debate on children and armed conflict.

Full Article (UN News Centre)

[News] Young People's 'Fresh Ideas' Can Forge Solutions to Global Challenges, Secretary-General Tells International Leaders Assembly

Following is UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message, delivered by Edmond Mulet, Chef de Cabinet, to the ninth International Young Leaders Assembly, in New York today: I am pleased to welcome all participants to the ninth International Young Leaders Assembly at the United Nations Headquarters. I thank the Permanent Mission of Paraguay for bringing more than 1,000 young leaders to the United Nations. Last September, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — our global plan for people, the planet and prosperity.

Full Article (United Nations)

[Nouvelles] La détention des enfants réfugiés est en baisse dans 12 pays étudiés, selon le HCR

18 août 2016 – Selon deux rapports publiés jeudi par le Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés (HCR), 12 pays, participant à une stratégie pour mettre fin à la détention de demandeurs d'asile et de réfugiés, ont réalisé des progrès importants visant à cesser la détention des enfants ces deux dernières années.

Article complet (Centre d'actualité de l'ONU)

[Nouvelles] Journée des peuples autochtones : l'ONU appelle à répondre à leurs besoins en matière d'éducation

9 août 2016 – A l'occasion de la Journée internationale des peuples autochtones célébrée chaque année le 9 août, le Secrétaire général de l'ONU, Ban Ki-moon, a invité les gouvernements à remédier aux problèmes d'accès à une éducation de qualité des autochtones conformément au Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030.

Article complet (Centre d'actualité de l'ONU)

[Report] Capacity statement: Early childhood care and development in emergencies

Early childhood care and development (ECCD) in emergencies is a key cross-sectoral area of work for Plan International. This publication explains our ECCD in emergencies work - from preparedness to response, recovery and resilience building in conflict and natural hazard situations. Plan International supports girls and boys from conception to 8 years and their parents/caregivers through education and early learning, child protection, health and nutrition support.

Full Article (Plan International)

[Nouvelles] Deux tiers des jeunes de plus de dix-huit pays affirment avoir été victimes de harcèlement

À l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de la jeunesse, un nouveau sondage met en relief la prépondérance du harcèlement et ses effets dévastateurs chez les jeunes. NEW YORK, 12 août 2016 - Plus de neuf jeunes sur dix considèrent que le harcèlement est un problème omniprésent dans leurs communautés et les deux tiers affirment avoir été directement victimes de harcèlement, révèle un nouveau sondage mené par l'UNICEF et ses partenaires.

Article complet (UNICEF)

[Nouvelles] Prêts à tout pour fuir la violence des gangs et la pauvreté

NEW YORK, 23 août 2016 – Chaque mois, des milliers d'enfants d'Amérique centrale courent le risque d'être victimes d'enlèvement, de trafic, de viol ou de meurtre en tentant de se rendre aux États-Unis pour se mettre à l'abri de la brutalité des gangs et de la pauvreté extrême. Aucun ralentissement de cette tendance ne semble par ailleurs se profiler, comme l'explique l'UNICEF dans un rapport publié ce jour.

Article complet (UNICEF)

[News] African Union Commission Commemorates International Youth Day

Addis Ababa, 8 August 2016: On the 12th of August 2016, the African Union Commission will join the world in celebrating International Youth Day (IYD). Since the year 2000, August 12th has provided key stakeholders with the opportunity to focus on the views, initiatives and challenges that affect young people across the globe.

Full Article (African Union)

[News] Young African thinkers from all over the continent come together to celebrate International Youth Day at the African Union Headquarters

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 12th August 2016: The African Union Commission hosted the International Youth Day celebrations under the theme, "Youth Leading Sustainability towards the Realization of Agenda 2063." The celebrations were organized by the Human Resource Science and Technology's Youth Division in collaboration with Beza International. The celebrations were preceded by a two day Young African Thinkers Convention which brought together young people from all the five regions of Africa, including the Diaspora.

Full Article (African Union)

[News] RPT-In Iraq, Nigeria and now Turkey, child bombers strike

Aug 22 The boy looked scared and younger than 16 when Iraqi police grabbed him on the street in the northern city of Kirkuk. Pulling off his shirt, they found a two-kilogram bomb strapped to his skinny frame. That was last Sunday. Less than a day earlier, Turkey was less fortunate: a teenage bomber detonated his suicide vest among dancing guests at a Turkish wedding party, officials say, killing 51 people, nearly half of them children themselves.

Full Article (Reuters)

[News] Food advertisements may work on children's brains

(Reuters Health) - Children make quicker decisions to eat "tasty" food and reward centers in their brains light up after watching food commercials on television compared to nonfood commercials, a small study finds.

Full Article (Reuters)

[News] Many children's heart health not up to standards

(Reuters Health) - Babies are generally born with healthy hearts that should be cared for during childhood to ensure good health later in life, according to the American Heart Association. Yet many U.S. children don't meet seven basic standards of good heart health, the AHA says in a statement in the journal Circulation.

Full Article (Reuters)

[News] Child hunger here to stay unless world 'dramatically changes course': charity

ROME (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Major progress has been made in curbing the number of children going to bed hungry, but a deadly combination of discrimination and poverty means some groups are being left behind, an international children's charity said on Thursday. In September last year the United Nations adopted global development goals to end hunger and poverty by 2030.

Full Article (Reuters)

[News] 244,000 hungry children

After his father, a welder from Bama, died in a camp for internally displaced people in Nigeria's northeastern city of Maiduguri, 17-year-old Dauda began to cater for the two wives and eight other

children who had survived him. Aided by the little money donated by one of the locals bringing food to the Dalori camp, home to 18,000 people rendered homeless by the Boko Haram insurgency, he now sells caps to provide two square meals a day for his family.

Full Article (Irinnews)

[Nouvelles] Tourisme humanitaire : la vraie fausse pitié

Profiter de ses vacances pour aider les populations locales, l'idée est plutôt louable. Mais l'amateurisme et le cynisme de ce secteur en vogue inquiètent les ONG sérieuses.

Article complet (Libération)

[News] Protecting the Rights of the LGBTQ Child

The second article of the Convention on the Rights of the Child ensures children the right not to be discriminated against – in any way. This includes the right to not be discriminated against for one's sexual orientation or gender preference. Children identifying as LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning), growing up in households with LGBTQ parents, or even perceived to be, are subject to many forms of discrimination in most countries around the world.

Full Article (Humanium)

[Nouvelles] L'UNICEF appelle à épargner les civils après la mort de 10 écoliers

Dix écoliers ont été tués dans une zone rebelle du Yémen par des frappes de la coalition militaire dirigée par l'Arabie saoudite, qui est régulièrement accusée de commettre des « bavures » contre des civils dans le pays en guerre. Le Fonds des Nations unies pour l'enfance (UNICEF) a exhorté dimanche les belligérants à épargner les civils au Yémen, où les violences ont repris de plus belle en début de semaine après l'échec des négociations de paix entre pouvoir et rebelles.

Article complet (Le Devoir)

[Nouvelles] Une « nouvelle génération » de crises humanitaires

Le Fonds des Nations unies pour l'enfance demande une somme record de 3,1 milliards. Le monde fait face à une « nouvelle génération » de crises humanitaires, celles provoquées par les conflits armés projetant des millions d'enfants en situation d'urgence. En 2015, l'UNICEF évalue à 62 millions le nombre d'enfants dont la santé sera menacée par l'instabilité politique, notamment dans les territoires tombés sous le contrôle des groupes armés terroristes État islamique (EI) et Boko Haram.

Article complet (Le Devoir)

2. Conferences, Courses and Events

Training – Developing Skills and Livelihood Training Programmes for Older Children in Child Labour

This course will provide practical guidance on how to design and implement skills and livelihood training for out-of-school adolescents with a focus on older out-of-school children in child labour, or children at risk of child labour.

Location: Turin Center, Italia

Date: November 21st to November 25th, 2016 **Registration deadline**: October 3rd, 2016

For more information (International Training Centre of the ILO)

Training - WASH and Nutrition

Nutrition is a key aspect in our day to day life. Sanitation related diseases affect the nutrition status of both children and adults which may consequently lead to many deaths and yet these conditions can be managed nutritionally. This course is designed to equip the participants with knowledge on how to manage WASH related diseases nutritionally.

Location: Nairobi - Kenya

Date: 31st October au 11th November 2016 Registration deadline: 24 October 2016

For more information (Network for Water and Sanitation)

Training – Analysing Disrupted Health Systems in Countries in crisis (ADHS) Ethopia, NFP Scholarship

This 10 days residential training programme for health professionals is focused on the analysis of health systems of countries affected by, or recovering from, protracted crises. It is organised jointly with the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Save the Children and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Location: Ethiopia

Date: November 22nd to December 09th 2016 **Registration deadline:** September 28th 2016

For more information (World Health Organization)

Training – Hygiene & Sanitation Promotion Training using PHAST, CLTS and CHAST approaches

Hygiene & Sanitation promotion plays a key role in changing collective and individual behaviours together with fostering ownership and sustainable use of water and sanitation facilities. It is upon this premise that **IDEAL Public Health and Development Consultancy (IPHDC)** has planned to conduct a **PHAST, CLTS and CHAST training of trainers**. This training is intended to help sector practitioners to accelerate their progress towards achieving the newly adapted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially Goal 6.

Location: Nairobi, Kenya

Date: September 12th to September 23rd 2016 **Registration deadline:** September 07th 2016

For more information (IDEAL Public Health and Development Consultancy)

Workshop - From evidence to advocacy - child rights based tools for protecting kids from alcohol marketing

This one-day workshop aims to provide tools for sound and innovative advocacy to promoting children's well-being, for example through regulating alcohol marketing. Harmful use of alcohol, especially fueled by the wide availability of alcohol, its easy affordability and omnipresent marketing, puts a burden on children and adolescents. Exposure to alcohol marketing increases the likelihood that children will start using alcohol, and that they will consume more, if they are already using alcohol. The earlier children start using alcohol, the higher is the risk for developing alcohol problems later in life.

Location: Stoke-on-Trent, United Kingdom **Date:** September 14th to September 16th 2016 **Registration deadline:** September 14th 2016 For more information (IOGT International)

Conference - Changing Global Perceptions: Child Protection & Bodily Integrity

Genital Autonomy exists as a charity to promote, preserve and protect the health and well-being of male, female and intersex children by protecting them from unnecessary genital surgery or modification; and to promote the human rights of children in relation to genital surgery or modification as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights Of the Child throughout the world.

Location: Bratislava, Slovakia **Date:** September 2nd 2016

Registration deadline: September 2nd 2016 For more information (Genital Autonomy)

Conference - International Alternative Care Conference

How we respond to children without, or at risk of losing, parental care affects millions of children globally, for a wide variety of reasons. Getting it wrong can result in long-term – even permanent – damage for a child when alternative care is provided unnecessarily or in an unsuitable setting. Getting it right prevents unwarranted family separation and ensures that a child requiring alternative care is looked after in ways that protect his/her human rights and meet his/her individual needs.

Location: Geneva, Switzerland

Date: October 3rd to October 5th 2016

Registration deadline: September 19th 2016

<u>For more information</u> (International Institute for the Rights of the Child (IDE) - Centre for Children's Rights Studies at the University of Geneva (CIDE))

Conference - Family separation: Exploring the Causes and Consequences of

Children Separated From Their Families Across International Borders

ISS-USA's 6th Annual Conference, The Ties That Bind: Exploring the Causes and Consequences of Children Separated From Their Families Across International Borders, will focus on the legal and human rights of children separated from their biological families across international borders. From long-standing methods including international adoption and international parental abduction, to emerging issues like international surrogacy and the movement of unaccompanied minors, the impact of denying children access to their biological families will be examined within the context of an increasingly global world. More importantly, the conference will concentrate on how legal, judicial and social service stakeholders can provide appropriate resources and share best practices to protect the safety, permanency and well-being of children.

Location: Baltimore, USA **Date:** October 13th 2016

Registration deadline: September 19th 2016

For more information (The ties that binds - University of Maryland School of Social Work)

Conference - 2nd National Child Wellbeing Conference: Access to Justice for Vulnerable Children

Access to justice is a fundamental principle in securing, promoting, and protecting the rights and wellbeing of children. The President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society works to create safe spaces in which people can come together in an atmosphere of dialogue, participation and inclusion. The Foundation is interested in learning what it is that gives people wellbeing, in order for this to be shared and further promoted and is convinced that access to justice is a cross-cutting component of wellbeing. This conference will explore access to justice from the child's perspective, giving particular attention to children who are vulnerable. The conference is open to NGOs, academics, and practitioners.

Location: Valletta, Malta

Date: October 21st to 22nd October 2016

For more information (The President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society)

Right to work: Eliminating child labour and promoting decent work in agriculture

This course provides theory and practice concerning strategies, policies and programmes to combat child labour in agriculture. Special attention is paid to older children (15 - 17 years).

Location: Turin, Italy

Date: November 14th to November 18th 2016 **Registration deadline:** September 26th 2016

For more information (ITCIL

3. Sub-Regional and Country updates

Turkey – ISIS does the unimaginable, uses child to Carry out terror attack

August 22th 2016 – Turkey - A suicide bombing attack on a wedding in Turkey this weekend turned a happy day into a scene of horrific carnage. Terrorists not only targeted a sacred day but did something else unimaginable, they used a child to carry out their evil plot.

Full article (CBN News)

Iraq – See it: Child suicide bomber foiled in Iraq before he could detonate his explosive belt

August 22th 2016 – Irbil, Iraq - A child would-be suicide bomber was apprehended in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk before he was able to detonate his explosive belt, Iraqi police said Monday.

Full article (NY Daily News)

Syria – How four child Refugees said Goodbye to Syria

April 19th 2016 - On the morning that Sara and her family fled their home in Aleppo, she asked her mother a question that will sound familiar to parents of young children everywhere: "Can I take the toys with me?"

Full article (Frontline News)

Syria - Children among dead in Syria barrel bomb attack

August 26th 2016 - The video shows a devastating scene: Two boys covered in dust desperately cling to each other and cry. "My brother is gone," one sobs. It's one of several harrowing videos activists shared after a barrel bomb in the Syrian city of Aleppo killed at least 15 people, including children, according to two groups monitoring the situation.

Full article (CNN News)

Syria – 1 in 3 Syrian Children have grown up knowing only crisis as conflict reaches 5 year point – UNICEF

March 14th 2016 - An estimated 3.7 million Syrian children – 1 in 3 of all Syrian children – has been born since the conflict began five years ago, their lives shaped by violence, fear and displacement, according to a UNICEF report. This figure includes more than 151,000 children born as refugees since 2011.

Full article (Children of Syria)

Syria - Portraits Capture Piercing Gaze of Syrian Refugee Children

March 16th 2016 – Syria- About half of the 4.8 million Syrians who fled their homeland are children.

Over several days, Associated Press photographer Muhammad Muheisen captured portraits of some of these children at a camp near the Syrian border on the outskirts of Mafraq, Jordan. Refugees from a conflict that is now more than six year old, it's doubtful if many of them can remember Syria before war, but they miss their homeland nonetheless.

Full article (NBC News)

Syria - Rescue 'Em All: Activists Use Pokemon Go to spotligtht Syria kids

July 22th 2016 – Syria - A little boy sits holding a picture of the well known Pokemon character, Pikachu, looking beyond the camera, for what seems like a thousand yards. Some might take it as a stare of longing for a new plush toy and if the child was anywhere other than his home country of Syria, it might have been just that.

Full article (NBC news)

Lybia – Newborn twins among thousands rescued in the Mediterranean

August 30th 2016 – Tripoli, Lybia - Twins who were only five days old and born prematurely were among the thousands of migrants who were rescued on Monday in the Mediterranean, according to a humanitarian group. The mother was traveling alone with her two infant boys. One of the babies was sick — he was vomiting and had a dangerously low body temperature, according to Doctors Without Borders, an international nonprofit agency also known by its French acronym, MSF.

Full article (KNEB)

Lybia – Twins born at sea: Eritrean mother tells of migrant journey

September 2th 2016 – Lybia - The migrants and refugees fleeing to Europe are often numbers until you meet them. Then they become people, with names and faces and stories of hardship, tragedy and hope. It all came together for me when in Italy I met Merhawit Tesfamariam, a 26-year-old Eritrean who gave birth to twins on board a rickety boat off the Libyan coast in late August.

Full article (Gant News)

Iraq - Iraqi Sunni militia groups 'recruiting refugee children to fight IS'

August 30, 2016 - Iraqi Sunni militia groups have recruited refugee children as young as 15 to fight the Islamic State (IS) group, a report from Human Rights Watch (HRW) says. HRW said two tribal militia groups had recruited at least seven children from the Debaga camp and drove them to a town close to Mosul, where Iraqi security forces were preparing an offensive to kick IS out of the city.

Full article (Middle East Eye)

Egypt – Private hospital shuts down after a young girl dies from FGM procedure

May 30th 2016 – Egypt - Suez governor Ahmed Al-Hitamy shut down a private hospital in the city after a young girl died on Sunday while undergoing a female genital mutilation (FGM) procedure, which is illegal according to Egyptian law.

Full article (Daily News Egypt)

Egypt – No guarantee that FGM law amendments will discourage practice: researcher

August 30th 2016 – Egypt- Despite the recent amendment to the law against female genital mutilation (FGM), there is no guarantee that people will be discouraged from performing this controversial operation unless they are made aware of the dangers, thus not forcing their female relatives to undergo such operations, according to Dalia Abdel Hamid, the women's rights officer at the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR).

Full article (Daily News Egypt)

Egypt - Egypt Parliament Toughens Penalties for Female Circumcision

August 31st 2016 - CAIRO — Egypt's parliament on Wednesday toughened penalties for female genital mutilation, adopting amendments that punish perpetrators with up to 15 years in prison if a child dies and up to seven years for performing the procedure.

Full article (The New York Times)

Lebanon - UNRWA schools in Lebanon open their doors to Palestine refugees

September 1st 2016 - The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is working to support the Palestine refugee community in Lebanon. Today, staff members of UNRWA, led by the Director of UNRWA Affairs in Lebanon, Matthias Schmale, and the Chief of the Field Education Programme, Ahmad Mouh, recognized the importance of access to education for Palestine refugee children and attended the openings of schools across the country.

Full article (ReliefWeb)

Syria - Syrian refugee children prepare for school in Turkey

September 5 2016 - Syrian refugee children living in Istanbul have been taking part in a summer preschool programme to help them prepare for their first year of schooling in Turkey. Run by Plan International – the global child rights and humanitarian organisation – in partnership with the Mother Child Education Foundation (known locally as ACEV), the project is helping them learn Turkish and adjust to a whole new curriculum in a different language. This is important because, before arriving in Turkey, the children had only ever spoken Arabic – their mother tongue – and the language barrier has been a major factor in preventing them from getting an education.

Full article (Thomson Reuters Foundation)

Tunisie - Tunisie: Journée de la science 2016 - Soutenir les enfants vulnérables

6 septembre 2016 - Le Centre de loisirs pour les enfants à Hammamet a organisé, le 3 septembre, une rencontre intitulée «Journée de la science». Des responsables du ministère, des experts et des spécialistes des questions éducatives se sont exprimés, en présence de Mme Naziha Laâbidi, ministre de la Femme, de la Famille et de l'Enfance, sur le thème des enfants sans soutien familial, focalisant essentiellement leurs interventions sur l'importance de sensibiliser le grand public aux problèmes des enfants sans soutien familial, dont la situation est précaire.

Article complet (AllAfrica)

13 millions d'enfants privés d'école à cause du conflit au Moyen-Orient et en Afrique du Nord

3 septembre 2015- D'après un rapport de l'UNICEF publié aujourd'hui, l'intensification du conflit et les troubles politiques au Moyen-Orient et en Afrique du Nord empêchent plus de 13 millions d'enfants de se rendre à l'école. Le rapport, intitulé « Education Under Fire », traite de l'impact de la violence sur les écoliers et le système éducatif dans neuf pays qui ont été, directement ou indirectement, touchés par la violence.

Article complet (UNICEF)

Jordan - In Jordan, schools to open doors to all Syrian children

September 16 2016 - Zarqa, Jordan: Intissar Ghozlan's two youngest boys haven't been in school since the family fled from Syria to Jordan two years ago. There's no space in local classrooms, and the boys, 12 and 14, can "barely write their names," having forgotten most of what they learnt back home, she says.

Full Article (Gulf News)

Tunisie - Tunisie: hausse d'abus sur les enfants

18 août 2016 - Chiffres inquiétants des violences sur les enfants. Plus de 630 enfants tunisiens ont été victimes d'abus sexuels cette année. Un chiffre multiplié par trois par rapport à 2013. Dans ce pays, 80% de victimes d'agressions sexuelles répertoriées sont des enfants. Des chiffres qui avoisinent les 96% dans certaines régions où la violence est banalisée et sert de moyen d'éducation dans les foyers,» déplore la responsables de l'association SOS enfant.

Article complet (BBC Afrique)

Syria - New Stats From Aleppo Show Devastating Impact of Airstrikes On Children

August 29, 2016 - Toronto, ON- - The viral video of 5 year old Omran covered in rubble has drawn international attention to the fate of children trapped in Syria. As many doctors in Aleppo say, "Omran is one of the lucky ones". Today videos were released of children suffering severe burns from napalm attacks in Syria.

Full article (ReliefWeb)

Iraq - Iraq's neglected children

August 30, 2016 - Up to 50 per cent of Iraq's population is under 19 years old, according to the United Nations Development Programme. The population is getting younger. Under 19s in Iraq, those born after 1997, would have been at most six when the US-led coalition invaded the country, their earliest memories are clouded by war, violence and destruction. In the 13 years after the invasion, peace has been a word missing from the Iraqi vocabulary. According to a study by the Lancet, approximately one million innocent Iraqi civilians have died as a direct consequence of the war. This violence is rapidly on the rise and the Iraqi Body Count states that civilian deaths have doubled year-on-year. Last month saw the largest act of terror in Baghdad since the start of the war, with over 300 innocent lives lost in one day. The significant impact this is having on Iraq's younger generation is sadly overlooked.

Full article (Middle East Monitor)

Iraq - In Iraq, Nigeria and now Turkey, child bombers strike

August 23, 2016 - The boy looked scared and younger than 16 when Iraqi police grabbed him on the street in the northern city of Kirkuk. Pulling off his shirt, they found a two-kilogram bomb strapped to his skinny frame. That was last Sunday. Less than a day earlier, Turkey was less fortunate: a teenage bomber detonated his suicide vest among dancing guests at a Turkish wedding party, officials say, killing 51 people, nearly half of them children themselves.

Full article (Reuters)

Israel - Israeli army continue to flout regulations on child detainees

August 29, 2016 - Following numerous complaints and legal action concerning pain and injury caused by the use of single plastic hand ties by the Israeli military on detainees, including children, the office of the Military Advocate General announced the introduction of new procedures for the use of restraints in 2010. The nature of the complaints prior to the introduction of the new procedures relating to the use of plastic ties included swelling, ties cutting into wrists and severe pain.

Full article (Middle East Monitor)