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

*March 2016*

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

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

### **[News] Human Rights Council: increasingly complex conflicts had a devastating impact on children in 2015**

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Increasingly complex, widening or relapsing conflicts showed no signs of abating in 2015 and had a devastating impact on children, Leila Zerrougui, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, told the Human Rights Council during the presentation of her Annual Report covering the period between December 2014 and December 2015.

[Full Article](#) (Office of the special representative of the secretary-general for children and armed conflict)

### **[News] U.S. commission calls for urgent action to protect drug-affected babies**

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Warning that lives are at stake, a federal commission that spent two years examining child abuse and neglect is urging Congress and the White House to strengthen protections for drug-affected newborns.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)

### **[News] ISIS glorifies the death of a 14-year-old child soldier**

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - ISIS has eulogized their “youngest Islamic State martyr,” a boy allegedly named Abu Anas al-Ansari, who was killed before he turned 15. Posts on two ISIS forums on Monday showed what the terror group said was the dead body of the boy, described as a “warrior of the 23 mm cannon” and a star “cub of the Caliphate.”

[Full Article](#) (Vocativ)

### **[News] UNICEF urges EU leaders and Turkey to find common ground for refugee and migrant children**

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - With the lives of more than 20,000 children in Greece and in the Balkans on hold, UNICEF urges leaders of the European Union and Turkey to find common ground for refugee and migrant children when reaching an agreement that could have serious consequences for them.

[Full Article](#) (UN Children's Fund)



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## **[News] "If you get it right for girls and women, you get it right for humanitarian action"**

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - OCHA co-hosted this high-level round table on 17 March to highlight the importance of women's and girls' rights, resiliency and leadership roles in humanitarian action, including concerted steps to address gender-based violence.

[Full Article](#) (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)

## **[News] Sexual abuse allegations rise against UN peacekeepers**

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Allegations of sexual abuse by United Nations peacekeepers and staff rose in 2015, despite the institution's "zero tolerance" policy on such misconduct. According to a new report from Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, released Friday, there were 99 such allegations last year, compared to 80 in 2014.

[Full Article](#) (News from Africa)

## **[News] Speaking out about menstruation: "Blue" schools in Nepal**

March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 - "This event supported the breaking of social beliefs of menstruation that it is supposed to be invisible, silent and that girls and women are untouchable during menstruating days." Lalita Regmi, teacher, Dhuleshwor Higher Secondary School, Dullu Dailekh.

[Full Article](#) (HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation)

## **[News] AFPPD New Report on Child Marriage: Parliamentary Good Practices for Effective Implementation of Laws and Policies for Prevention of Child Marriage**

March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 - A new report by the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) titled Parliamentary Good Practices for Effective Implementation of Laws and Policies for Prevention of Child Marriage will be released on 22 March 2016 at the South Asia Parliamentarians' Meeting on Child Marriage in Kathmandu, Nepal.

[Full Article](#) (The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development)

## **[News] Top French Catholic cleric denies covering up acts of pedophilia**

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - One of France's most senior Catholic clerics on Tuesday denied having covered up acts of paedophilia, his second denial in two weeks, after Prime Minister Manuel Valls demanded that he take responsibility for the situation.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)



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## **[News] Top India court orders protection from trafficking for adopted children**

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - India's top court has ordered the government to draw up strong guidelines for screening and tracking adoptions after a charity appealed for a federal probe into allegations that adopted children were being abused.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)

## **[Nouvelle] TRIBUNE Les enfants réfugiés ont besoin de notre protection**

2 mars 2016 - La visite d'un centre d'hébergement pour enfants réfugiés à Bruxelles compte parmi les expériences les plus fortes qu'il m'a été donné de vivre depuis le début de mon mandat. J'ai rencontré un garçon de 11 ans qui avait voyagé seul pendant 15 mois. Fuyant l'Afghanistan déchiré par la guerre et laissant sa mère derrière lui, il a franchi plusieurs frontières attaché sous un camion et a parcouru des centaines de kilomètres à pied.

[Article complet](#) (La Croix)

## **[Nouvelle] Au Pakistan, convaincre pour vaincre la polio**

21 mars 2016 - Dans un quartier populaire de Karachi, Rabia rechigne avant d'accepter qu'une voisine vaccine ses enfants. Au Pakistan, l'un des deux derniers pays au monde où la poliomyélite est endémique, il faut convaincre des parents sceptiques pour espérer éradiquer la maladie.

[Article complet](#) (Courrier international)

## **[News] Over 250,000 children affected by Colombia conflict since 2013, despite peace talks**

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - More than 250,000 children have been affected by the conflict in Colombia since peace talks between the Government and the country's main armed opposition group (FARC-EP) started three years ago, UNICEF said in a report released today.

[Full Article](#) (UNICEF)

## **[News] Myanmar army releases 46 underage recruits: U.N.**

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Myanmar's military released 46 children and young people from service, the United Nations said in a statement on Monday, in its first discharge of underage recruits this year.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)[News]



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## **[News] Mongolia: State becomes 49th to ban all corporal punishment of children**

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Mongolia has enacted new legislation prohibiting all corporal punishment of children, including in the home. In February 2016, the Mongolian Parliament – the State Great Hural – passed the Law on Child Protection 22016 and the Law on the Rights of Children 2016, which confirm children’s right to protection from all corporal punishment, explicitly prohibit the use of corporal punishment by parents, carers and others, and put an obligation on parents and other adults caring for and educating children to use non-violent discipline.

[Full Article](#) (Child Rights International Network)

## **[News] How Islamic State is training child killers in doctrine of hate**

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - A new generation of Isis recruits is being developed in the Islamic State’s “caliphate”, indoctrinated with religious concepts from birth, and viewed by its fighters as better and purer than themselves, according to the first study of the exploitation and abuse of children as a means of securing the group’s future.

[Full Article](#) (The Guardian)

## **[News] What makes a happy school? - UNESCO Bangkok launches new report**

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - The report, Happy Schools: A Framework for Learner Well-being in the Asia-Pacific, which will be launched following International Day of Happiness on 20 March 2016, addresses the challenges faced by students in today’s competitive, stress-fuelled, and test-focused world.

[Full Article](#) (UNESCO Media Services)

## **[Nouvelle] L'exploitation sexuelle des enfants prendra des proportions épidémiques, croit la GRC**

22 mars 2016 - Le patron de la GRC estime que l'exploitation sexuelle d'enfants au moyen d'Internet va prendre des proportions « épidémiques » au Canada, selon des documents obtenus par Radio-Canada.

[Article complet](#) (Radio Canada)



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### **[News] Twice as many girls as boys will never start school says UNESCO eAtlas launched in advance of International Women's Day**

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 - Almost 16 million girls between the ages six and 11 will never get the chance to learn to read or write in primary school compared to about 8 million boys if current trends continue, according to a new report from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

[Full Article](#) (UNESCO Media Services)

### **[News] Multi-partisan Group of Young Parliamentarians created in El Salvador**

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 - On 1 March 2016 an important agreement was reached at the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador for the establishment of a multi-partisan Group of Young Parliamentarians, with support from UNESCO. This group, composed of members of parliament below the age of 35, will work to build an agenda of inclusive policies with an intergenerational perspective, and promote mechanisms for youth participation in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public policies.

[Full Article](#) (UNESCO Media Services)

### **[Opinion] Services de garde : le financement universel devrait primer**

19 mars 2016 - À la suite du tollé provoqué par la campagne publicitaire lancée par les Caisses Desjardins dans les derniers jours pour proposer, en pleine période de déclarations de revenus, un financement aux familles devant acquitter des paiements supplémentaires en raison de la modulation des frais de garde de garderies subventionnées en fonction du revenu familial, la question de la modulation des frais de garde a refait surface dans le débat public.

[Article complet](#) (Le Devoir)

### **[Nouvelle] Le centre Zebra déménage à cause d'une augmentation de ses clients**

21 mars 2016 - Un centre de protection des enfants d'Edmonton emménagera dans de nouveaux locaux en avril à cause d'une augmentation de sa clientèle traitée pour agression physique et sexuelle.

[Article complet](#) (Radio Canada)



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## 2. Conferences, Courses and Events

### UNESCO and You: Free and open media and information literacy course for youth

If you are a young woman man anywhere in around the world, you can now enrich your knowledge in media and information literacy by pursuing a free online course at your own pace and based on your unique interest in certain related topics. In addition, you can receive a certificate from the Athabasca University in Canada for each unit completed – at absolutely no charge to you.

**Location:** Online course

**Date:** Any time in 2016

[For more information](#) (UNESCO Media Services)

### 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:** Italy

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016 in Turin (Italy)

**Registration deadline:** 3 October 2016

[For more information](#) (International Training Centre of the ILO)

### WASH in Schools (WINS) Training

IDEAL Public Health and Development Consultancy (IPHDC) has planned a five-day training course aimed at equipping stakeholders with knowledge and skills for effective and efficient management of WASH in Schools (WINS) in both development and emergency contexts.

By the end of the course, trainees will be able to design, implement, monitor and evaluate WASH programs in schools that are responsive, inclusive and sustainable in terms of meeting the needs of school children.

**Location:** Kenya

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016

**Registration deadline:** 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016

[For more information](#) (IDEAL Public Health and Development Consultancy)



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## 16ème Colloque de formation sur les enfants disparus ou exploités (CEDE)

Organisé par le Centre canadien de protection de l'enfance, le CEDE est l'un des plus grands colloques sur les enfants disparus ou exploités au Canada. Le CEDE offre trois jours de formations données par des experts sur divers sujets, dont les indices et les enquêtes de maltraitance d'enfants et la cyber exploitation.

**Endroit:** The Fort Garry Hotel, Spa and Conference Centre, 222, Broadway, Winnipeg (Manitoba)

**Date :** 17-19 mai 2016 de 08h00-16h00

[Pour plus d'informations \(CEDE\)](#)

## Cours d'été relatif aux droits des enfants

Le Cours d'été international relatif aux droits de l'enfant examinera cet été les enjeux touchant les privations de liberté des enfants et le droit des adolescents à un système de justice pénale adapté. Il permettra notamment aux participants de réfléchir et de contribuer aux efforts de recherche et d'analyse concernant l'étude globale sur les conditions des enfants privés de liberté annoncée en décembre 2014 par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies.

**Endroit :** Campus de l'Université de Moncton, Nouveau-Brunswick, Canada.

**Date :** 3 au 8 juillet 2016

[Pour plus d'informations](#) (Université de Moncton)

## Formation - « Faire vivre les droits de l'enfant au quotidien »

Cette formation s'adresse à tous les agents territoriaux évoluant dans les domaines de la petite enfance, de l'enfance ou de la jeunesse. Plus généralement, elle intéressera chaque agent amené à être directement ou indirectement en contact avec des enfants. Elle s'appuie sur une méthodologie pédagogique participative et des mises en situation.

**Endroit :** Paris

**Date :** 23 et 24 mai 2016

26 et 27 septembre 2016

5 et 6 décembre 2016

[Pour plus d'informations](#) (Unicef France)



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## **Training - The Rights of the Child Summer School**

This exciting programme will consider legal, political and societal debate, both internationally and comparatively, on issues concerning the rights of the child. These issues include child participation, child poverty, children in conflict and child rights monitoring and advocacy.

**Location:** Nottingham – United Kingdom of Great Britain

**Date:** 27 June to 01 July 2016

**Registration deadline:** 01 Jun 2016

[For more information](#) (University of Nottingham)

## **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:** 31 octobre au 11 novembre 2016

**Registration deadline:** 24 octobre 2016

[For more information](#) (Network for Water and Sanitation)

## **Training - Introduction to Children in Emergencies (credit-rated option)**

This course will enable participants to explore perspectives on children's rights in emergencies and develop the critical skills to respond in a child-centred way. The course aims to develop the competencies required to effectively meet the needs of children through humanitarian programmes.

**Location:** London - United Kingdom of Great Britain

**Date:** 22 to 26 August 2016

**Registration deadline:** 15 August 2016

[For more information](#) (RedR UK)



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## Training/Workshop - Research and Evidence at UNICEF

In this short course, you will explore why research at UNICEF matters and observe ways to ensure that the highest-quality research is impacting the lives of women and children.

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Describe the importance of research to UNICEF programming, policy and advocacy.
- Provide examples of where and on what topics research is done at UNICEF
- Describe the research process
- Describe key principles and tools used throughout that process
- Identify where to go to find more information about UNICEF research.

**Location:** Globally

**Date:** online

[For more information](#) (UN Children's Fund)



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### 3. Vacancies

#### **Administrateur/trice de données – International Committee of the Red Cross**

The data administrator manages and processes data relating to individuals and events covered by the ICRC's mandate such as prisoners of war and other detainees, missing persons, children separated from their families and violations against civilians and their property. In so doing, he/she contributes directly to the activities of the Protection department in our offices abroad. His/her main duties are the following:

- Managing database
- Following up data collected in the field
- Managing documents and information
- Compiling detailed and complex analyses and statistics
- Establishing and maintaining data update procedures
- Supervising and training colleagues in the Protection department

**Location:** ICRC delegation abroad

**Application deadline:** 31 August 2016

[For more information](#) (ReliefWeb)

#### **Senior Reading Specialist – FHI 360**

The Senior Reading Specialist provides overall technical oversight and guidance to the program's three outcomes. S/he provides guidance to program staff on essential components of reading programs including curriculum design, lesson planning, instructional approach, teacher professional development, materials development and distribution, classroom-level assessment and large scale assessment to develop highly effective activities in these areas and to integrate them for maximum effectiveness at the program level. S/he engages with actors across the education system to optimize use of available resources with specific attention to school and classroom management practices including quality assurance, supportive supervision, and coaching leading to improvement in learning outcomes at the primary school level.

**Location:** Dakar - Senegal

**Application deadline:** 30 April 2016

[For more information](#) (ReliefWeb)



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## **Operations Director – World Vision**

As Senior Program Officer you will lead, develop, direct and manage all aspects of World Vision's Programmes in South Sudan ensuring that the ministry achieves optimum impact on child well-being as well as attain organizational Vision, Mission and Core Values. You will ensure that World Vision South Sudan upholds the integrated focus of the organization's ministry which is child focused, Christian, and community based, and that it complements the plans of the Government of South Sudan. You will also ensure that WV South Sudan is accountable to all partners and that all work is of the highest standard, cost effective and adheres to standards and policies of World Vision International.

**Location:** South Sudan

**Application deadline:** 11 April 2016

[For more information](#) (ReliefWeb)

## **Chief of Party, GAC – World Vision**

As Chief of Party - GAC, South Sudan you will be responsible for the strategic leadership and overall management for the GAC funded Fortifying Equality and Economic Diversification project, which focuses on improving food security in South Sudan. You will oversee program implementation and financial management, including oversight and coordination of local consortium members and staff. This position has principal responsibility for the representation of the project to the donor, Government of South Sudan representatives, and other key stakeholders. Other key responsibilities include ensuring high quality implementation of project activities, financial management according to donor requirements and international accounting standards, timely donor and other stakeholder reporting, and overall contribution to Child Well Being outcomes.

**Location:** South Sudan

**Application deadline:** 11 April 2016

[For more information](#) (ReliefWeb)

## **Technical Advisor I, Monitoring and Evaluation – FHI 360**

Based in Bata, Equatorial Guinea, the Technical Advisor I, Monitoring & Evaluation will provide technical leadership and oversight to the implementation of all M&E activities in line with the technical direction of the Program.

**Location:** Bata – Equatorial Guinea

**Application deadline:** 30 April 2016

[For more information](#) (ReliefWeb)



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## **Program Manager II-OVC Specialist – Catholic Relief Services**

The OVC Specialist will provide technical leadership for the Sustainable Outcomes Project around strengthening HIV sensitive programming parenting with a focus on creating opportunities to more effectively and holistically address the needs of adolescent girls' age 10-18 years. Working collaboratively with the Deputy Chief of Party, the Household Economic Strengthening, and the Health Linkages Technical Leads, the OVC Specialist will ensure continuous refinement and effective roll out of HIV sensitive programming and ensure that the program is well aligned to PEPFAR strategic priorities.

**Location:** Uganda

**Application deadline:** 18 April 2016

[For more information](#) (ReliefWeb)

## **Technical Advisor, Formal Secondary Education – FHI 360**

The Formal Secondary Education Technical Advisor is responsible for providing technical leadership and oversight to the design and implementation of activities to improve educational outcomes for lower secondary school students in Equatorial Guinea. Specifically, the Advisor focuses on improving the quality of teaching through teacher professional development by linking the training to what happens in the classroom. Looking at the transition to secondary education, the Technical Advisor also provides technical guidance for activities targeted at improving learning at the upper primary education level. As a member of the PRODEGE technical field team based in Bata, Equatorial Guinea, the Technical Advisor reports to the Associate Director for Education Development. The Technical Advisor is a member of the FHI 360's Global Education Post-Primary and Youth Initiative.

**Location:** Bata – Equatorial Guinea

**Application deadline:** 30 April 2016

[For more information](#) (ReliefWeb)

## **Chargé de projet – protection des droits de l'enfant, IBCR**

Sous la responsabilité de la direction des programmes et du développement, le ou la titulaire du poste est responsable de mettre en œuvre un projet visant à renforcer le système de protection des enfants en République démocratique du Congo (RDC), et notamment en ce qui a trait aux rôles et responsabilités des policiers, du personnel de la justice et des assistants sociaux. Le poste est basé à Montréal et comporte des missions terrain en RDC.

**Location :** Montréal

**Application deadline :** 22 avril 2016

[For more information](#) (Reliefweb)



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## **Conseiller(ère) juridique volontaire en sein de l'Association des Femmes Juristes de Côte d'Ivoire (AFJCI), IBCR**

Le/la conseiller(ère) juridique appuiera l'équipe de l'AFJCI à travers l'appui-conseil, l'assistance juridique et judiciaire de cas de violations des droits des enfants, et le développement de programme en faveur de la protection des mineurs présentés par les cliniques juridiques (CJ) ou les centres d'informations juridiques (CIJ) devant les tribunaux nationaux et, lorsqu'applicable, devant les instances internationales.

**Location :** Côte D'Ivoire

**Application deadline:** 01<sup>er</sup> mai 2016

[For more information](#) (Relief web)

## **Conseiller(ère) juridique au bureau de CHS Alternativo, IBCR**

Le/la conseiller(ère) juridique appuiera l'équipe de CHS Alternativo au Pérou dans la promotion, la protection et le plaidoyer en faveur des droits des enfants et des adolescent(e)s du Pérou.

**Location :** Lima, Pérou

**Application deadline:** 15 mai 2016

[For more information](#) (Relief web)



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## 4. Sub-Regional and Country updates

### **Afghanistan: Two years of ‘Children, Not Soldiers’ campaign brings tangible progress in Afghanistan**

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. A few days before I was scheduled to travel to Afghanistan, I read about the death of Wasil Ahmad. You may remember him. Wasil was an 11-year-old Afghan boy, described as a hero by some in his community for helping fight the Taliban.

[Full Article](#) (KHAAMA PRESS)

### **Afghanistan – Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict adopts its Third Conclusion on Afghanistan**

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 - The Security Council Working on Children and Armed Conflict adopted its third conclusion on Afghanistan (document forthcoming). The conclusion negotiation was timely for the February 13 to 17 visit of the Special Representative to the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC), Ms. Leila Zerrougui, to Afghanistan, where she met with key authorities and partners to assess the situation of children affected by armed conflict. The conclusion was also well-timed to inform the renewal of the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA) mandate in mid-March 2016. The Working Group commended the Government of Afghanistan’s implementation of the “Action Plan regarding children associated with national security forces (ANSF) in Afghanistan” and its commitment to the SRSG-CAAC’s ‘Children, Not Soldiers’ campaign. However, expressing grave concern over the deteriorating situation, the Working Group made targeted recommendations urging the Government to continue taking necessary measures towards preventing and ending the recruitment and use of children by the ANSF, and strongly urged all armed groups to immediately cease all violations against children.

[Full Article](#) (Watchlist)

### **Egypt - Egypt: Reverse Blasphemy Sentences Against Christian Children**

MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2016 - Egyptian authorities should quash blasphemy sentences handed down to four Christian children and their teacher over a video mocking ISIS. They should also revoke the penal code article that authorities use to prosecute blasphemy.

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



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## **Egypt - On the Anniversary of the International Women's Day The Egyptian Organization for human rights calls upon The President to release the arrested students for the sake of their mothers**

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR) calls upon the president /Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to grant the presidential amnesty for the youth who were sentenced to prison because of the demonstration cases for the sake of their mothers who are suffering from their absence. The EOHR had demanded the president to adopt a presidential decree of pardon for those imprisoned students previously but EOHR believes that the International women's day and Mother's day, are suitable anniversaries deserving amnesty for those students to reduce the suffering of their mothers and enable those students to complete their education.

[Full Article](#) (The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights)

## **Iraq – IS Forcing Children to Be Killers, Suicide Bombers**

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 - Islamic State (IS) extremists are training Iraqi and Syrian children as young as eight years old to carry out suicide attacks and fight to kill, Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga commanders tell VOA.

[Full Article](#) (Voice of America)

## **Iraq: Iraqi children scavenge for a living**

March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Standing next to a pile of rubbish as high as a hill, Ali, a 12-year-old child from Mosul, looks excitedly at his latest discovery. "They say it's expired, but I am still eating it," he says, popping a strawberry candy into his mouth. Like Ali, dozens of displaced Iraqi children who fled from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as ISIS) group are now working in a massive landfill site 15km outside Erbil, the capital of Iraq's Kurdish region. They scavenge their way through tonnes of rubbish to collect plastic and metal to sell to recycling plants, making between 10,000 and 30,000 Iraqi dinars (\$9 to \$27) a day.

[Full Article](#) (Al-Jazeera)



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## **Iraq - Iraqi officials: ISIS chemical attacks kill child, wound 600**

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - ISIS has launched two chemical attacks near the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, killing a three-year-old girl, wounding some 600 people and causing hundreds more to flee, Iraqi officials said Saturday. Security and hospital officials say the latest attack took place early Saturday in the small town of Taza, which was also struck by a barrage of rockets carrying chemicals three days earlier. "There is fear and panic among the women and children," said Adel Hussein, a local official in Taza. "They're calling for the central government to save them." Hussein said a German and an American forensics team arrived in the area to test for the presence of chemical agents.

[Full Article](#) (Daily Star)

## **Iraq - Two more children die after Iraq chemical attack**

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Two more children have died of wounds sustained in a suspected jihadist chemical attack last week in Iraq, a local official said Friday, raising the death toll to three.

[Full Article](#) (Agence France-Presse)

## **Iraq – Children starve to death in Fallujah**

March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Five Iraqis, three of them children, have starved to death in the city of Fallujah, a local official revealed on Sunday. Saad Al-Sha'lan blamed the deaths on the severe shortage of food and medicines in Al-Anbar province, *Anadolu* has reported. He added that Al-Fallujah Hospital is working at only 20 per cent of its normal capacity.

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

## **Iran - UN Human Rights Council: Interactive Dialogue on High Commissioner's report on Iran/Colombia**

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 - Last week, Human Rights Watch joined 33 human rights and civil society organizations calling on Council members to support the resolution to renew the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran. We believe that sustained international attention, particularly at this stage of Iran's rapprochement with the international community, is necessary to address the ongoing and extensive rights violations in Iran.

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



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## **Iran - Dispatches: Rights Key as Australia Embraces Iran**

March 14, 2016 - Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif arrives in Canberra this week for talks to increase economic ties, his Australian counterpart Julie Bishop hopes to finalize an agreement to return thousands of failed Iranian asylum seekers back home. Even more reason than for human rights to feature high on the agenda.

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

## **Islamic State - 'New strategy needed' for rehabilitating IS child soldiers**

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - The international community must address the challenge of rehabilitating children indoctrinated by so-called Islamic State (IS), a new report says. The Quilliam Foundation and the Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative say children are taught extreme values and desensitized to violence from birth.

[Full Article](#) (BBC World)

## **Islamic State: ISIS using more child soldiers as fighters quit**

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - ISIS is relying more heavily on child soldiers as growing numbers of fighters desert the militant group, the United States said Monday. That may indicate the group's leaders are "struggling with their ability to recruit and retain manpower," State Department spokesman John Kirby told reporters during a daily briefing. He would not confirm reports that Kurdish Peshmerga forces in northern Iraq had captured a US citizen who defected from ISIS.

[Full Article](#) (Al-Arabeya)

## **Israel moves to sentence Palestinian children aged under 14**

March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Israel's Ministerial Committee on Legislation approved a bill that seeks to allow the trial of Palestinian minors aged under the age of 14. The decision came following a committee meeting held on Sunday evening to approve the bill that provides for tightening the punishment allowed to be imposed on the "perpetrators of operations" who are under the age of 14. Israeli Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked proposed the draft legislation.

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



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## **Jordan – Queen says child deaths as result of domestic violence unacceptable**

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Her Majesty Queen Rania on Monday said that institutions in charge of protecting children must be held accountable when they fail to do so. At a meeting with members of the National Framework for Family Protection Committee, the Queen said child deaths as a result of domestic violence are unacceptable. Alarmed by the killing of six children at the hands of their parents last year alone, Her Majesty added that what was more disturbing was the fact that some of them had been identified as victims of domestic violence by various government institutions. The committee is part of the National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA). The Queen met with the committee to discuss ways to curb violence against children, and address its recent shortcomings in child protection, according to a statement from Her Majesty's office.

[Full Article](#) (National Council for Family Affairs)

## **Lebanon investigates claims Syrian children are being sold**

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 - Lebanon is investigating media claims that four Syrian children have been sold in Beirut, Minister of Interior Nohad El Machnouk said. US journalist Franklin Lamb claimed in an article published in the Information Clearing House and titled “I bought four Syrian children” that he had purchased four Syrian children; two girls aged five, a one-year-old baby boy and his eight-year-old brother in order to save them from a Syrian woman who was trying to sell them near Ramlet Al-Baida beach in Beirut.

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

## **Lebanon: Health ministry closes two daycare centers**

March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Health Minister Wael Abu Faour Tuesday ordered the closure of two daycare centers in Beirut for allegedly failing to acquire a required license.

[Full Article](#) (The Daily Star)



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## **Lybia - Germany is raising its support for the children who are affected by the ongoing conflict in Libya**

March 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 - Dr. Gerd Muller, Germany's Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, announced on 28 February 2016, an additional funding of 1.5 million Euros for UNICEF Libya, to help the provision of appropriate child protection services and psychosocial support, as well as access to quality education, with a special focus on conflict-affected and out of school children.

[Full Article](#) (UNICEF MENA)

## **Lybia: UN official: Libyan children live in 'catastrophic conditions'**

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 - UNICEF Special Representative in Libya Ghassan Khalil has said that Libyan children are living under "catastrophic conditions", which are becoming more difficult over time. Khalil made his remarks to *Anadolu news agency* on the side-lines of his meeting with the Embassy of Libya Health Attaché Masoud Greifah on Tuesday. Khalil added that Libyan children, both in the country and those in Tunisia and Egypt, face very difficult situations, pointing out that the recent period has witnessed "an increase in abductions and abuses against children".

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

## **Palestine: 7 Palestinian children imprisoned for throwing stones**

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - An Israeli court sentenced seven Palestinian minors to jail terms ranging from one to three years yesterday for throwing stones. The boys, aged between 14 and 17, were given the sentences for throwing stones at Israeli cars, Palestinian prisoner rights group Addameer said in a statement. According to Addameer, at least 406 Palestinian children are in Israeli prisons, with a quarter of them under 16 years old. It added that the majority of the 700 children prosecuted annually are charged with stone throwing.

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

## **Palestine: West Bank teachers' strike leaves 500,000 children at home for weeks**

March 11, 2016 - For a month, more than 25,000 teachers in the West Bank have been on strike over pay and benefits, causing chaos for schools, pupils and parents, and prompting the Palestinian Authority to deploy military police on the streets of Ramallah. And yet, if Palestinian officials have any doubts about the quality of some of the teachers they employ, they need look no further than Hanan al-Hroub of Bethlehem, who is in the running to win \$1 million this week for being the world's best teacher.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)



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## **Palestine - Palestinian Family Taken Into Custody; Toddler Held for Hours Outside**

March 2, 2016 - A Palestinian toddler spent four hours outside a Jerusalem police station on Sunday, after his parents had been taken into custody during a security operation to arrest his 16-year-old brother, according to family members. The two-and-a-half-year-old boy from the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Issawiya, who was said to be barefoot and wearing pajamas, was later released into the custody of his grandparents. His older brother was apparently arrested for throwing stones and other offense, while the detention of and his parents appeared to result from their resisting or objecting to the arrest of their son.

[Full Article](#) (Middle East Children's Alliance)

## **Palestine - UNRWA Implements phase two of UAERC-Funded project, constructing and equipping four schools in Gaza**

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), through generous funding from the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent (UAERC), commenced implementation of the second phase of the "construction and equipping of UNRWA Schools in the Gaza Strip" project at the beginning of 2016. This phase includes enhancing UNRWA's education services to Palestine refugees through the construction of four schools - in Gaza city, Rafah (southern Gaza), Beit Lahia and Beit Hanoun (both in northern Gaza). In 2013, through this project, UAERC contributed US \$8 million to construct and equip eight schools in Gaza; four of these were completed in 2015 as phase one of the project, and are now fully operational.

[Full Article](#) (UNRWA)

## **Palestine – Over 1,000 Gaza schools students fly kites in solidarity with Japanese earthquake survivors**

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - On the fifth anniversary of the most powerful earthquake ever recorded to hit Japan, messages of continued empathy and solidarity fly in the skies of Gaza. Over 1,000 Palestine refugee students from three UNRWA schools located in the Japanese housing project gathered to fly kites in commemoration of the disaster that killed more than 15,891 people and caused immense damage. UNRWA students in Gaza were engaged in flying the kites at the Japanese re-housing project quarter in Khan Younis, southern Gaza, together with the participation of more than 300 other children with special needs from different community-based organizations (CBOs) in Gaza.

[Full Article](#) (UNWRA)



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## **Palestine - Gaza children, brother and sister, killed in Israeli airstrike**

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - A Palestinian boy and his sister were killed in Hamas-controlled Gaza Saturday when they were hit by fragments from a missile fired by an Israeli aircraft, while three senior Hamas leaders traveled to Cairo to try to repair relations with Egypt after years of tension. The incident in Gaza took place hours after militants launched rockets into Israel. An Israeli military statement said aircraft had targeted four militant training camps belonging to Hamas after four missiles landed in open areas in southern Israel Friday night. No casualties were reported from the rocket strikes.

[Full Article](#) (Daily Star)

## **Palestine: IOF Airstrikes Kill Two Children; Injures Three**

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - The Israeli occupation forces (IOF) launched four airstrikes at several training sites in Gaza using excessive force resulting in destruction beyond the targeted sites and inflicting damage on civilians and their houses. The airstrikes killed two young siblings and injured three others. Al Mezan Center for Human Rights (Al Mezan) condemns the attacks and calls upon international community to act to protect civilians and lift the closure on the Gaza.

[Full Article](#) (Al-Mizan)

## **Palestine - Clowning around offering relief to Gaza's children**

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 - A pair of Palestinian clowns are offering some laughs and some relief to children with chronic illnesses at paediatric wards in hospitals across the Gaza Strip. With no circus or fair in Gaza to offer employment, Majed Kaloub and Alaa Miqdad began reaching out to kindergartens and schools. Now, thanks to the aid of CISS, an Italian non-profit organisation, they have found a niche for their skills in hospitals, bringing some much-needed cheer to sick children.

[Full Article](#) (The New Arab)

## **Syria - Water restored to Aleppo after a 48-days deliberate shutdown of water facility**

March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - The resumption of operations on 4 March of the al-Khafseh water treatment facility is critical for the lives and well-being of more than two million people. The al-Khafseh facility is one of the most important in Syria, producing an average of 400 million litres of drinking water daily.

[Full Article](#) (UNICEF MENA)



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## **Syria - Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake following his visit to Syria**

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 - I complete this visit to Syria, together with Dr. Peter Salama, UNICEF Regional Director, on the eve of the fifth anniversary of this war. My previous trip came on the eve of the third anniversary, two years of suffering ago. Now, the cessation of hostilities offers the Syrian people the possibility of peace.

[Full Article](#) (UNICEF)

### **Syrian war creates child refugees and child soldiers**

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Syria's 5-year-old conflict has created 2.4 million child refugees, killed many and led to the recruitment of children as fighters, some as young as seven, U.N. children's fund UNICEF said Monday. Its report "No Place for Children" said more than 8 million children in Syria and neighboring countries needed humanitarian assistance, with the international response plan for Syria chronically underfunded. "Twice as many people now live under siege or in hard-to-reach areas compared with 2013. At least 2 million of those cut off from assistance are children, including more than 200,000 in areas under siege," the report added.

[Full Article](#) (Daily Star)

### **Syria - 250,000 children living in terror in Syria's besieged areas**

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - A new report from Save the Children reveals that barrel bombs, air strikes and shelling are the biggest issues for the more than a quarter of a million children estimated to be living in besieged areas in Syria. Parents testify to the horror of family life under siege, not only dealing with the psychological impact on children terrified of explosions, but the dire consequences of being deprived of food, basic medicine and clean water.

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

### **Syrian children's memories of home fade in Jordan camp**

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Over five years of Syria's civil war, tents have given way to sturdy shacks in Jordan's Zaatari Refugee Camp, dusty tracks have been paved, acquiring names, and a generation has been born to parents who fear their children will never see home.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)



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## **Syrian teachers use cloud technology to create safe schools for refugee students**

March 10th, 2016 - A project using cloud technology to teach Syrian refugee teachers how to better work with traumatised students was presented as part of UNESCO's flagship ICT event, Mobile Learning Week (MLW) at the Organizations headquarters from 7 – 11 March, 2016.

[Full Article](#) (UNESCO Media Services)

## **Syria - Rare EU law allows Syrian children into UK**

March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Three Syrian children from the Calais “Jungle” have arrived in the UK after a rare legal process successfully allowed them into the country. The unaccompanied boys, aged 14 to 16, include one orphan who lost his parents in the Syrian war. The boys are expected to live with their relatives in the UK as authorities assess their asylum claims, after a long campaign by charities, refugee groups and celebrities backed their cause. The boys are the first group to successfully be admitted into Britain using the Dublin III process - also known as the Dublin Regulation.

[Full Article](#) (The New Arab)

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March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Over five years of Syria's civil war, tents have given way to sturdy shacks in Jordan's Zaatari Refugee Camp, dusty tracks have been paved, acquiring names, and a generation has been born to parents who fear their children will never see home.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)

## **Syria: Report reveals horrifying cost of conflict to Syria, its neighbours and its children**

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - The cost of conflict to Syria is an estimated \$275 billion (USD) in lost growth opportunities. This lost money will never be recovered; never be spent on children's futures. If the conflict continues to 2020, the cost of conflict to Syria will be \$1.3 trillion (USD).

[Full Article](#) (World Vision International)



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

### **Syria: Save the Children receives grant worth €3.7 million from Ikea foundation to help children and families caught up in Syria conflict**

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016: As the conflict in Syria enters its fifth year, the IKEA Foundation has donated €9.4 million to help children and their families, both within Syria and in neighbouring countries. The money is supporting the lifesaving work Save the Children and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). The conflict has created one of the worst humanitarian crises of recent times. More than 11 million people—half the country's pre-war population—have been killed or forced to flee their homes. Many essential services such as schools and healthcare have completely disintegrated. The IKEA Foundation's €5.7 million grant to MSF is funding emergency medical aid to some of these children and families in Syria, and to Syrian refugees and vulnerable people in Lebanon and Iraq. It will pay for essential healthcare, mental health services—particularly for children—and training medical workers, in a region that is home to 1.17 million people.

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

### **Tunisia: Shaping a National Youth Council in Tunisia**

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 - Within a national context characterized by a search for new frameworks and models of concertation strengthening the emerging democracy in Tunisia, NET MED Youth, in collaboration with a number of youth organizations, supports the setting up of a National Youth Council.

[Full Article](#) (UNESCO Media Services)



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## **Yemen: Ending Yemen's conflict now a matter of life and death for millions of children**

March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - One year since the conflict in Yemen escalated, nearly 90% of children are now in need of emergency humanitarian aid and the desperate plight of 10 million children is still being largely ignored, Save the Children said today. The humanitarian agency warned that international governments are exacerbating the crisis and endangering children's lives by choosing to support military action while ignoring the devastating consequences for civilians. "An entire generation of children – the future of Yemen – is being abandoned to their fate," says Edward Santiago, Save the Children's Country Director in Yemen.

[Full Article](#) (Save The Children)

## **Yemen - Starving baby who died at five months old shows devastating humanitarian consequences of Yemen civil war**

March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - One of the last pictures of baby Udai Faisal show him in his mother's arms. The little boy's sunken eyes stare from their sockets, as feeding tubes wind around his skeletal face and body, swaddled in a blanket. He died days later, finally breaking down under the ravages of malnutrition in Yemen.

[Full article](#) (The Independent)

## **Yemen: Six children killed, maimed daily in Yemen since Saudi air strikes began: UN**

March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Six children have been killed or maimed daily in Yemen since Saudi-led air strikes began a year ago, the UN said Tuesday, warning the conflict was taking a horrifying toll on the country's youth. In a report marking the anniversary of the start of the Saudi-led campaign, the UN children's agency said nearly a third of the more than 3,000 civilians killed in Yemen were children. "Children are not safe anywhere in Yemen. Even playing or sleeping has become dangerous," UNICEF representative in Yemen Julien Harneis told AFP in an email.

[Full Article](#) (The Daily Star)



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## **United Arab Emirates – UNRWA and Dubai cares support the safety and wellbeing of Palestine refugee students in Gaza**

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Supported by generous funding from Dubai Cares, the UNRWA Education Department and Community Mental Health Programme (CMHP) has engaged more than 175,000 children in UNRWA schools in Gaza through the delivery of weekly arts and sports classes. Around 1,620 UNRWA children have also received psychosocial support in the period between February and December 2015.

[Full Article](#) (UNRWA)

## **United Arab Emirates : Children with disabilities call for inclusion at school and work**

March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Don't shut us out, be our friend, is the message from children who are deaf and their parents who are advocating more inclusion and integration in schools and at work. Young students have already taken the initiative in some cases. When Mahnoor Dodhy, 8, signed to invite her grade 1 classmates to a recent open day at her speech therapy centre, her hearing friend Noora was quick to join in. The girls ran on the lawn, petted animals and baked cookies at the Kalimati Communication and Rehabilitation Centre with Noora sometimes stepping in as Mahnoor's unofficial interpreter.

[Full Article](#) (GAATES)

## **United Arab Emirates: International Conference on Inclusive Education in Abu Dhabi**

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - More than 150 policy and decision makers, experts, specialists, teachers and educational psychologists from across the GCC are convening at Abu Dhabi University as the "International Conference on Inclusive Education: Education for Diversity- (ICIE2016) March 15-17" kicks off to discuss the best practices, opportunities and challenges, organized by the College of Arts and Sciences at Abu Dhabi University.

[Full Article](#) (GAATES)



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## **United Arab Emirates - Habitat School merging nature, technology in education**

March 24th, 2016 - Habitat School aims to create a model of schooling for the expatriate community by responding to specific issues and building on possibilities. Lack of social spaces, non-availability of time and space for a community, cultural issues with a number of unknown and unpredictable components and lack of proper research in making a specific syllabus, are some issues experienced by expatriates. The availability of a global student and teacher base, which can be used as a source of exposure and learning, is the best possibility of schooling in the Middle East.

[Full Article](#) (Khaleej Times)

## **United Arab Emirates - Children's forum to focus on volunteering**

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 - The benefits that children receive when they give their time for their communities is a concept that will form a major component of this year's Sharjah Arab Children's Forum (SACF), to be held from March 28 until April 3 at Al Rigga Children Centre, Sharjah. More than 120 Arab children in the age group 8-12 years have been selected to participate from more than 10 Arab countries.

[Full Article](#) (Khaleej Times)

## **United Arab Emirates - 'Use technology to impact access to education'**

March 12th, 2016 - Technology is rewriting the rules of education. "Even nations that have access to cheap labour, which are increasingly resorting to automation to meet the high global standards of quality," said Fareed Zakaria, CNN GPS host and Washington Post columnist. He added: "To address the challenges in the two-track world, there is only one powerful weapon - Education. It is important to recognise the importance of education in the broadest and deepest dimension"

[Full Article](#) (Khaleej Times)