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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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Table of Contents

1. Global Development on Children and Human's rights	3
[News] Alarming Trends Face Children and Families of World's 21st Largest Country.....	3
[News] California changes laws so children can no longer be prostitutes	3
[News] Canada's child detention policy unjust, illegal: rights group	4
[Communiqué de presse] Dans les 10 pays affichant les taux de scolarisation les plus faibles, 40 % des enfants n'ont pas accès à l'éducation de base	4
[News] Education Commission launches bold plan to get every child in school by 2030	4
[News] Girls Take Over on Day of the Girl	5
[Report] Half a million children have risked exploitation as refugee and migrant crisis turns into big business for smugglers	5
[News] Indian welfare cuts led to deaths of 600 children from malnutrition, activist says.....	5
[Report] Japan and UNICEF team up to strengthen protection of children and women	5
[Communiqué de presse] Les dirigeants mondiaux doivent investir en faveur de meilleures données sur les enfants – UNICEF.....	6

[Communiqué de presse] Près de 50 millions d'enfants « déracinés » dans le monde – UNICEF	6
[Nouvelles] Québec exclut la gratuité scolaire pour les enfants sans-papiers	6
[Report] Save the Children Calls for Ambitious Action to Get All Children Reading	7
[Report] Situation Analysis of Children with Disabilities in Myanmar 2016.....	7
[News] UN General Assembly 2016: world leaders need to deliver education for children in emergencies	7
[Report] UN refugees meeting a wasted opportunity to improve the lives of millions of children	8
[Report] World Vision and ChildPact to release new tool measuring government efforts to protect children.....	8
2. Conferences, Courses and Events	8
Conference - 2nd National Child Wellbeing Conference: Access to Justice for Vulnerable Children	8
Training - Online Certificate Course in Gender-based Violence	9
Training - WASH and Nutrition.....	9
Training - Achieving education 2030 and eliminating child labour	9
Conference – Child in the City.....	9
Conference - Children's Rights in Alternative Care: Walk the Talk!.....	10
Conference - International Family Conference: Children's Rights and Family	10
Forum - Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law: Widening the Democratic Space: the role of youth in public decision-making.....	10
3. Sub-Regional and Country updates.....	11
Algérie - Les enfants autistes laissés en marge.....	11
Egypt - Egypt: New Penalties for Female Genital Mutilation.....	11
Égypte - Enfants des rues en Égypte: l'impossible réhabilitation?	11
Iraq - Animal therapy comforts traumatised Iraqi children.....	12
Iraq - UNICEF launches back-to-school campaign to help millions missing out on education.	12
Iraq - Children disappear across Iraq, but critics say authorities lack plan.....	12
Iraq/Iran - Iraq, Iran accused of sending children to fight 'jihad' in Syria	12
Iran - Military theme park in Iran markets war, violence	13
Iran - Combien d'autres enfants doivent payer le prix de la négligence du régime iranien ?..	13
Lebanon – UNRWA schools in Lebanon open their doors to Palestine refugees.....	13

Libya - children reduced to 'skin and bones' by military blockade of Benghazi	14
Palestine - Israel tells Palestinians: Our textbooks or no funding	14
Palestine - Five days, four children shot dead	14
Saudi Arabia - Saudi Arabia contradicts itself on child executions at UN.....	14
Sudan - Children bear brunt of alleged chemical weapon attacks in Sudan, says Amnesty	15
Syria - Why So Many Children Are Being Killed in Aleppo	15
Syrie - près de 100 enfants tués à Alep suite à la reprise des affrontements, selon l'UNICEF	15
Syria - Syria war: The toy smuggler bringing bags of joy to children	16
Tunisie - Tunisie : ils sont mineurs, mais on a organisé leurs fiançailles	16
Tunisie – Partenariat entre l’association « SOS village d’enfants Tunisie » et Les Cahiers Selecta	16
Turkey/Lebanon/Jordan - Educating Refugee Children in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan	16
Yemen – Yemen hospitals run out of medicine for dangerously malnourished children	17
Yémen - l'UNICEF et ses partenaires viennent en aide aux enfants grâce à des équipes de santé mobiles	17
Yemen - Yemen says rebels forced children to carry arms.....	17

1. Global Development on Children and Human’s rights

[News] Alarming Trends Face Children and Families of World’s 21st Largest Country

14th of September - The world’s 65.3 million forcibly displaced people—who would make up the world’s 21st largest country based on population—are falling far behind others in terms of education, health, child marriage, and other key factors, a new report by Save the Children illustrates. Forced to Flee: Inside the 21st Largest Country examined indicators most relevant to the well-being of children and found results that demonstrate both the enormous challenges faced by refugees and Internally Displaced People as well as the notable contributions they could make to their host countries and communities if they were allowed to do so.

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

[News] California changes laws so children can no longer be prostitutes

27th of September 2016 - Children will no longer be classified as prostitutes in the U.S. state of California after a new law decriminalized prostitution for minors in a move praised by child rights

campaigners. Coming on the back of a public campaign coined "There is No Such Thing" as a child prostitute, crimes of solicitation and prostitution will no longer apply to anyone aged under 18. Under-age victims of sex trafficking are to be referred to child welfare agencies.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)

[News] Canada's child detention policy unjust, illegal: rights group

22nd of September 2016 - Canada's practice of putting children in immigration detention centers or separating them from detained parents is causing them psychological harm and violates international law, a rights group said on Thursday. An estimated 242 children per year, from 2010 to 2014, were detained at Canadian immigration centers resembling medium-security prisons, according to a report from the University of Toronto's International Human Rights program.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)

[Communiqué de presse] Dans les 10 pays affichant les taux de scolarisation les plus faibles, 40 % des enfants n'ont pas accès à l'éducation de base

1er septembre 2016 – Dans les 10 pays affichant les pourcentages d'enfants n'ayant pas accès à l'éducation primaire les plus élevés, près de 2 enfants sur 5, soit 18 millions, ne sont pas scolarisés, a déclaré aujourd'hui l'UNICEF. C'est le Libéria qui enregistre le plus fort taux d'enfants non scolarisés avec près des deux tiers des enfants en âge de suivre une éducation primaire qui n'ont pas accès à l'école. Le Soudan du Sud occupe le deuxième rang : 59 % des enfants ne peuvent pas bénéficier d'une éducation primaire et 1 école sur 3 est fermée en raison du conflit.

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF)

[News] Education Commission launches bold plan to get every child in school by 2030

18th of September 2016 - Bold action and radical funding could see every child in the world in school by 2030 - and avoid a looming global education catastrophe. The high-powered Education Commission today delivered a plan called The Learning Generation to give a quality primary and secondary education to every girl and boy in every country.

[Full Article](#) (A word at School)

[News] Girls Take Over on Day of the Girl

29th of September 2016 - On 11 October, politicians, CEOs and other leaders across the globe will have their positions taken over by girls who are calling for equality and proving they can change the world. Over 200 takeovers will take place in more than 50 countries to mark the International Day of the Girl. Leading figures in politics and business will be taken over by girls including the first female President of Nepal Bidhya Devi Bhandari. By taking over positions where they are rarely seen, girls will call on governments to remove the barriers that deny millions their rights.

[Full Article](#) (Plan International)

[Report] Half a million children have risked exploitation as refugee and migrant crisis turns into big business for smugglers

2nd of September 2016 - New figures reveal that around half a million refugee and migrant children on the move are believed to have turned to smugglers since January 2015, as delays and desperation drive them into the hands of criminals quick to exploit their vulnerability. In order to shine a light on the murky underworld of migrant smuggling in Europe, and better shape the response, UNICEF has gathered information from a range of sources – including Europol-Interpol, testimonies from children themselves, publications from UN agencies, NGOs, and corroborated media reports.

[Full Article](#) (Relief web)

[News] Indian welfare cuts led to deaths of 600 children from malnutrition, activist says

22nd of September 2016 - Funding cuts for welfare schemes by India's government have contributed to child malnutrition in Palghar district in the western state of Maharashtra, where 600 children are said to have died of starvation this year, according to activists. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued a notice to the government of Maharashtra on Wednesday, asking for a detailed report on the deaths within four weeks.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)

[Report] Japan and UNICEF team up to strengthen protection of children and women

21st of September 2016 - The Government of Japan has contributed with approximately US\$ 2.2 million to UNICEF to assist children and women's protection throughout Myanmar. Through this contribution, UNICEF in partnership with the Government of Myanmar, will work to both prevent and respond to cases of gender based violence, as well as contribute to the on-going development and capacity building of key government departments and civil society groups, namely through the provision of quality social work.

[Full Article](#) (Relief Web)

[Communiqué de presse] Les dirigeants mondiaux doivent investir en faveur de meilleures données sur les enfants – UNICEF

14 septembre 2016 – L'UNICEF appelle les dirigeants mondiaux à investir en faveur de meilleures statistiques sur les enfants. Une nouvelle étude du Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance avertit que des données suffisantes sont disponibles pour la moitié seulement des indicateurs de mesure des objectifs de développement durable liés aux enfants.

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF)

[Communiqué de presse] Près de 50 millions d'enfants « déracinés » dans le monde – UNICEF

7 septembre 2016 – Dans le monde entier, près de 50 millions d'enfants ont été déracinés – 28 millions d'entre eux chassés de chez eux par des conflits dont ils ne sont aucunement responsables, et des millions d'autres poussés à migrer dans l'espoir de trouver une vie meilleure, plus sûre. Souvent traumatisés par les conflits et la violence qu'ils fuient, ils sont confrontés à d'autres dangers, dont les risques de noyade lors des traversées, la malnutrition et la déshydratation, la traite des êtres humains, l'enlèvement, le viol et même le meurtre.

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF)

[Nouvelles] Québec exclut la gratuité scolaire pour les enfants sans-papiers

22 septembre 2016 - La question de l'accès à l'école gratuite pour les enfants non-résidents ou sans statut passe à la trappe. Car contrairement à l'ancien projet de loi 86, le nouveau projet de loi visant à modifier la Loi sur l'instruction publique, qui s'ouvrait mercredi aux consultations particulières, n'en fait plus du tout mention. Plusieurs organismes de défense des droits des

réfugiés et des sans-papiers se disent excédés par le report sine die de ce dossier, y compris la protectrice du citoyen, qui a démontré plusieurs signes d'impatience.

[Article complet](#) (Le Devoir)

[Report] Save the Children Calls for Ambitious Action to Get All Children Reading

8th of September 2016 - 250 million primary aged children worldwide are not learning to read and write – 130 million of whom have completed four years of education. The fact that so many children are failing to learn to read is a crisis that must be reversed urgently. In a new report released on International Literacy Day, Save the Children calls for countries to prioritise and invest in efforts to ensure all children are able to read.

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

[Report] Situation Analysis of Children with Disabilities in Myanmar 2016

27th of September 2016 - This situation analysis is the first ever study in Myanmar to provide a systematic understanding of the experiences of children with disabilities and their families, informed by robust, qualitative evidence. Children with disabilities have the same rights as all children. Given the same opportunities to flourish as any other child, they have the potential to lead fulfilling, dignified lives and to contribute to the social, cultural, and economic vitality of their communities

[Full Article](#) (Relief Web)

[News] UN General Assembly 2016: world leaders need to deliver education for children in emergencies

14th of September 2016 - Leaders from around the world will gather in New York to attend high-level meetings at the United Nations General Assembly. In their hands is the future of millions of children who are denied an education because of humanitarian emergencies including conflicts and natural disasters.

[Full Article](#) (A word at School)

[Report] UN refugees meeting a wasted opportunity to improve the lives of millions of children

19th of September 2016 - As the UN high-level meeting on refugees and migrants draws to a close in New York today, World Vision has expressed serious disappointment with the outcome. “We had high hopes for children, but today displaced and imprisoned children are left with a business-as-usual approach that offers little hope,” said World Vision’s Helen Keogh at the Summit in New York.

[Full Article](#) (Relief Web)

[Report] World Vision and ChildPact to release new tool measuring government efforts to protect children

28th of September 2016 - Today, World Vision and ChildPact, will launch the Child Protection Index in Brussels. This tool serves to prevent and end violence, child trafficking, child labour, discrimination and other violations of a child’s rights. The CPI makes use of 600 indicators drawn from child protection language in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). “The Index verifies needs and gaps in protection systems. It is often hard for governments, civil society and donors alike to decide on priorities or next steps. This product offers a way for CP actors to identify what steps should be taken next.

[Full Article](#) (Relief Web)

2. Conferences, Courses and Events

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: 21st to 22nd of October 2016

Registration deadline: 14th of October 2016

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

Training - Online Certificate Course in Gender-based Violence

The overall purpose of the training programme is to increase participant's knowledge and understanding of the concept of gender, and gender-based violence, sexuality, and rights. It will further take a look at the various forms of gender-based violence and the core principles for a code of conduct, reporting mechanisms and developing a programmatic response.

Location: Online

Date: 26th of October to 25th of November 2016

Registration deadline: 24th of October 2016

[For more information](#) (Human Rights & Justice Group International)

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 of October to 11th of November 2016

Registration deadline: 24th of October 2016

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

Training - Achieving education 2030 and eliminating child labour

Child labour is a barrier to education for all. This course explores policy measures and programmes to remove the barriers to education that working children face.

Location: Turin, Italy

Date: 31st of October to 4th of November 2016

Registration deadline: 31st of October 2016

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

Conference – Child in the City

The conference, which takes place every two years, is a key opportunity for children's professionals, city planners, geographers and policy makers to share knowledge, good practice

and research findings from the various disciplines that are important to the shared aim of creating child friendly cities. It aims to promote collaboration within the child friendly city movement and to promote liveable, sustainable designs, services and projects that support the well-being of children and promote their active engagement in the life of their communities.

Location: Ghent, Belgium

Date: 7th to 8th of November 2016

[For more information](#) (Child in the City Foundation)

Conference - Children's Rights in Alternative Care: Walk the Talk!

The conference will serve as a platform for national and international stakeholders from the child protection area to start a dialogue on how to raise the capacity of the children's social care workforce and in particular care professionals on embedding child rights in their work. The training module produced by SOS Children's Villages together with national and international partners, as well as the experience gathered while implementing the project in eight European countries, will serve as starting point of a discussion which we hope will inspire decision makers in setting new standards for training care professionals, ultimately improving the quality of alternative care.

Location: Paris, France

Date: 8th to 9th of November 2016

[For more information](#) (SOS Villages d'Enfants – France)

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)

3. Sub-Regional and Country updates

Algérie - Les enfants autistes laissés en marge

4 septembre 2016 - Pour le professeur Mahmoud Ould Taleb, chef du service de pédopsychiatrie à l'EHS Drid Hocine (Kouba), l'intégration des enfants autistes dans un “milieu scolaire approprié”, contribuerait à “favoriser l'intégration de cette catégorie dans la société et leur offrir une chance de mieux s'assimiler et avoir des opportunités nouvelles”. Faute de structures d'accueils spécialisées et des moyens adéquats de prise en charge, les enfants atteints d'autisme seront privés de rentrée scolaire aujourd'hui. Cette frange de la société, dont le nombre dépasse selon une récente étude de l'Office national des statistiques (ONS) les 80 000, est laissée à l'abandon par les pouvoirs publics.

[Article complet](#) (Liberté Algérie)

Egypt - Egypt: New Penalties for Female Genital Mutilation

9th of September 2016 - More stringent penalties for female genital mutilation approved by Egypt's parliament on August 31, 2016, are a step toward eliminating the practice, but further legal and other reforms are needed, Human Rights Watch said today. Egyptian authorities should make sure that laws and policies against female genital mutilation are enforced, including holding accountable medical facility directors who allow the practice to take place.

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

Égypte - Enfants des rues en Égypte: l'impossible réhabilitation?

21 septembre 2016 - Aucun chiffre précis n'existe, mais les enfants des rues en Égypte seraient plusieurs dizaines, voire des centaines de milliers. Avec la crise économique que traverse l'Égypte, le phénomène s'amplifie. Ils vivent, en bandes, de petits boulots ou de mendicité. Au-delà des difficultés éprouvées pour se nourrir, se vêtir, trouver un endroit fiable pour dormir, les enfants sont aussi directement exposés à une multitude de violences et de menaces, tentés par la consommation de drogue et le repli. Devant cette situation dramatique, les associations tentent de s'organiser pour donner une seconde chance à ces enfants, les protéger de ces dangers, et leur donner la confiance que l'ensemble de la société ne veut pas ou plus leur accorder.

[Article complet](#) (RFI)

Iraq - Animal therapy comforts traumatised Iraqi children

14th of September 2016 - Erbil, Iraq - Eight-year-old Hiwa is delighted when she gets to pet the birds and puppies brought by a group of volunteers to Iraq's Qushtapa camp. "We are already friends. I sing with the birds all the time," Hiwa told Al Jazeera. In the Qushtapa camp for displaced Iraqis and Syrian refugees in Erbil, dozens of children between the ages of three and 18 have been participating in this volunteer-run animal therapy programme. Dogs, birds and even chimpanzees are brought in for the children to play with. They also spend time drawing and learning about the animals.

[Full article](#) (Al Jazeera)

Iraq - UNICEF launches back-to-school campaign to help millions missing out on education

30th of September 2016 - Iraq: UNICEF launches back-to-school campaign to help millions missing out on education several weeks before of the start of the new school year, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), together with the Iraqi Ministry of Education, launched a nationwide 'Back to School' campaign in 10 governorates. Some 3.5 million school-aged Iraqi children are missing out on education, which means they are at increased risk of early marriage, child labour and recruitment into armed groups. About one million school-aged children are internally displaced, and 70 per cent of them have lost an entire year of school.

[Full article](#) (UN News Center)

Iraq - Children disappear across Iraq, but critics say authorities lack plan

9th of September 2016 – BAGHDAD - The Baghdad Operations Command announced the release of two kidnapped children from southern Baghdad on Aug. 20. The crime itself was no surprise, as the abduction of children has become a serious and common social problem in Iraq. This summer, a UN report confirmed that 1,496 Iraqi children have been abducted during the past 36 months and few have been seen again. In one rare case, on Aug. 3, a kidnapped child was released from captivity and his kidnapper arrested in Baghdad.

[Full article](#) (Al Monitor)

Iraq/Iran - Iraq, Iran accused of sending children to fight 'jihad' in Syria

28th of September 2016 - Iraqi civil rights groups have accused their government of staying silent as Iranian-sponsored militias and organisations recruit child soldiers to fight a "jihad" in Syria, Al Jazeera reported on Monday. Campaigners accused Baghdad of adopting a policy of silence or complicity as Iran uses organisations and armed militant Shia factions under its control to press children to take part in the Syrian bloodletting that has now claimed 400,000 lives since 2011. The families of some of these children have complained that Iraqi officials have done little to address their grave concerns regarding the welfare of their children. Their complaints also

suggest that Iraqi children are seen as expendable as they are left unattended when they suffer wounds or their bodies are not repatriated to Iraq after they have been killed in Iran's so-called jihad in Syria.

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

Iran - Military theme park in Iran markets war, violence

30th of September 2016 - A military theme park where children play with weaponry has opened in Iran's city of Mashhad, the capital of Khorasan, for the second year in a row. The local authorities called it the "park of the revolution's children." In the park, the children are trained in shooting virtual fixed and moving targets. The targets carry the flag of countries which Iran view as their enemies, including the US and Israel. The Iranian-speaking website shahrvand-yar commented on opening this park by asking: "What future do you expect to these eight-year-old children who are being trained on carrying and using weapons at this age? What do you think the aim of these drills is?"

[Full article](#) (Al Arabiya)

Iran - Combien d'autres enfants doivent payer le prix de la négligence du régime iranien ?

30 septembre 2016 - Mehdi Fathi, un professeur de math à Sanandaj, au nord-ouest de l'Iran, dans une lettre publiée sur les réseaux sociaux, a expliqué la condition tragique des écoles à travers le pays. Voici des extraits de sa lettre : « Moins de cinq mois après que les murs vieux et usagers d'une école (dans la province du Sistan-Baloutchistan) se soient effondrés sur la tête du dévoué professeur 'Hamid Reza Gangouzehi', nous avons appris qu'une fois de plus dans le Sistan-Baloutchistan, les vieux murs et portes d'une autre école se sont effondrés sur 'Fariba Chardivari', une jeune écolière de 5 ans, qui, avec grand enthousiasme accompagnée d'autres enfants de son âge, allait à l'école pour prendre ses livres, en roulant (se balançant) sur la porte d'entrée de l'école dans son rêve de voler de son univers d'enfant.

[Article complet](#) (CNRI)

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

1st of September 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](#) (UNRWA for Palestinians refugees in the near East)

Libya - children reduced to 'skin and bones' by military blockade of Benghazi

30th September 2016 - Electricity cut off for past two years, food running out. 'While bombs and shells continue to rain down on them, civilians are struggling to survive on rotten food and dirty water' - Magdalena Mughrabi. Fears are growing for hundreds of civilians trapped in a section of the city of Benghazi which faces intensified fighting after several months under military blockade, Amnesty International said today. The organisation has gathered testimony from some of the 130 Libyan families and hundreds of foreign nationals who have been trapped for months in the residential district of Ganfouda, in south-west Benghazi. All entry roads are blocked by the fighting or by the Libyan National Army - and food, water and electricity supplies have been cut off.

[Full article](#) (Amnesty International UK)

Palestine - Israel tells Palestinians: Our textbooks or no funding

1st of September 2016 - Occupied East Jerusalem - As tens of thousands of Palestinian children across occupied East Jerusalem begin a new school year on September 1, teachers, parents and human rights groups have raised concerns over a controversial funding proposal that would only benefit schools that drop the Palestinian curriculum in favour of an Israeli equivalent. The Jerusalem affairs and heritage minister, an irregular portfolio which the current government re-established in June 2015, is set to offer more than 20m shekels (\$5.3m) to schools in East Jerusalem on the condition that they teach the Israeli curriculum.

[Full article](#) (Al Jazeera)

Palestine - Five days, four children shot dead

22nd of September 2016 - Israeli forces shot dead four Palestinian children in Hebron, during the most concentrated period of deadly violence in the West Bank since June. In separate incidents between September 16 and September 20, four Palestinian teenagers were fatally shot by Israeli soldiers in Hebron. Seven Palestinians have been killed by Israeli soldiers in less than a week, marking the highest concentration of Palestinian deaths since June, when three Palestinians were killed in under 48 hours, according to Ma'an News Agency. Earlier this month, another child, Abdul-Rahman Dabbagh, was shot dead by an Israeli soldier in Gaza.

[Full article](#) (Defense for Children International Palestine)

Saudi Arabia - Saudi Arabia contradicts itself on child executions at UN

30th of September 2016 - Saudi Arabia has admitted to the UN in writing that it sentences children to death, despite denying the accusation in oral evidence to the body's child rights committee last week. The Saudi delegation to the UN's Committee on the Rights of the Child said last week, in a live webcast, that "the crime must have been committed by a perpetrator who is an adult at the time in order for them to be sentenced to capital punishment". According to the delegation's oral evidence, "the age of liability is always 18" in Saudi Arabia. However, in written evidence to

the same committee, the Saudi delegation confirmed that children as young as 15 can be sentenced to death in the kingdom. Executing people who were juveniles at the time of the offence is illegal under international law.

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

Sudan - Children bear brunt of alleged chemical weapon attacks in Sudan, says Amnesty

29th September 2016 - Sudanese government forces have used chemical weapons repeatedly against civilians, including babies and young children, in one of the most remote regions of Darfur over the past eight months, according to allegations documented by Amnesty International. The alleged chemical attacks, believed to have killed up to 250 people, mostly children, represent a “new low” in the catalogue of serious abuses perpetrated by government forces in the region, said the human rights group. The most recent of the alleged offensives recorded by the investigation occurred on September 9th. The attacks are ongoing, said Amnesty.

[Full article](#) (The Guardian)

Syria - Why So Many Children Are Being Killed in Aleppo

27th of September 2016 - They cannot play, sleep or attend school. Increasingly, they cannot eat. Injury or illness could be fatal. Many just huddle with their parents in windowless underground shelters — which offer no protection from the powerful bombs that have turned east Aleppo into a kill zone. Among the roughly 250,000 people trapped in the insurgent redoubt of the divided northern Syrian city are 100,000 children, the most vulnerable victims of intensified bombings by Syrian forces and their Russian allies.

[Full article](#) (The New York Times)

Syrie - près de 100 enfants tués à Alep suite à la reprise des affrontements, selon l'UNICEF

28 septembre 2016 – Le Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'Enfance (UNICEF) a annoncé mercredi qu'au moins 96 enfants ont été tués et 223 ont été blessés dans la partie est de la ville syrienne d'Alep depuis vendredi dernier. « Les enfants d'Alep sont pris au piège dans un cauchemar », a déclaré dans un communiqué le Directeur exécutif adjoint de l'UNICEF, Justin Forsyth. « Il n'y a pas assez de mots pour décrire la souffrance qu'ils vivent », a-t-il ajouté. Le système de santé dans la partie est d'Alep est en ruine avec le départ d'environ 30 médecins. Il ne reste pratiquement aucun équipement ou médecine d'urgence pour soigner les blessés alors que la ville connaît un nombre toujours croissant de cas de traumatismes.

[Article complet](#) (UN News Center)

Syria - Syria war: The toy smuggler bringing bags of joy to children

28th of September 2016 - For the girls, it is Barbie dolls. The boys love footballs, cars and teddy bears. Rami Adham knows exactly what brings the biggest smiles to the faces of Syrian children. The Finnish-Syrian father-of-six has become known as the "Aleppo toy smuggler". He says the feeling of handing out toys to children living through a war that is older than many of them is "indescribable". "The smile they give you back, the gratitude... you help them forget that they have lost their homes, their schools, their toys." With over 28 visits to Syria from Helsinki in the past four years, he has honed the logistics of his operation.

[Full article](#) (BBC)

Tunisie - Tunisie : ils sont mineurs, mais on a organisé leurs fiançailles

19 septembre 2016 - Gouvernorat de Gafsa, à un peu moins de 8 heures de route de Tunis. Deux familles procèdent aux fiançailles de leurs enfants. Il a quinze ans, elle en a douze. Les photos de la cérémonie sont partagées sur Facebook. On y voit la pré-ado maquillée, en robe décolletée, apprêtée comme une femme alors qu'elle n'est qu'une enfant. Ces quelques clichés partagés sur le réseau social, le média le plus puissant du pays avec près de cinq millions de comptes pour onze millions d'habitants, vont alerter des internautes. « L'affaire » quitte le giron familial et les profondeurs du Sud pour devenir publique. On s'indigne. Au pays du CSP (Code du statut personnel instauré par Bourguiba en 1956) qui offre aux femmes des droits (divorce, adoption...) peu développés dans le reste du monde arabe, on feint de découvrir qu'on peut fiancer une fillette.

[Article complet](#) (Le point Afrique)

Tunisie – Partenariat entre l'association « SOS village d'enfants Tunisie » et Les Cahiers Selecta

9 septembre 2016 - A la veille de la nouvelle rentrée scolaire, l'Association « SOS Villages d'Enfants Tunisie » les Cahiers Selecta ont décidé de construire un partenariat en joignant leurs efforts pour promouvoir les valeurs de l'égalité des chances d'accès à la scolarisation pour les enfants tunisiens. Ce partenariat vise à sensibiliser les responsables publiques et les autorités gouvernementales pour assurer aux enfants tunisiens une égalité des chances pour un accès équivalent aux instruments de l'éducation nationale leur permettant de devenir de véritables citoyens et des éventuels acteurs de développement pour leur pays.

[Article complet](#) (Tunisie numérique)

Turkey/Lebanon/Jordan - Educating Refugee Children in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan

16th of September 2016 - Human Rights Watch has created a dedicated webpage on access to education for Syrian refugee children, whose school year begins this month, in advance of the New York summits on the global refugee and migration crisis. In addition to the latest Human

Rights Watch findings, statistics, and recommendations, the webpage contains numerous links to videos and photos for journalistic use. The new Human Rights Watch publication on the subject, "Education for Syrian Refugee Children: What Donors and Host Countries Should Do," is based on extensive research in Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan. More than half of the 1.5 million school-age Syrian refugee children living in these countries do not have access to formal education.

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

Yemen – Yemen hospitals run out of medicine for dangerously malnourished children

27th of September 2016 - Desperate parents are being asked to provide their own medicines to treat their malnourished babies and children, as Yemen's hospitals run out of supplies and the health system has collapsed. But Yemeni families told Save the Children staff they are so poor they can barely afford fuel and transport costs to get to hospitals. Even when families are able to borrow cash to get to hospital, they cannot afford essential medicines once they get there. Dr Abdullah Thabit who runs the Malnutrition Section of Al Sabeen mother and child hospital in the capital Sana'a said: "On Saturday two twins died because of a lack of medicine. The situation here is very critical, we receive more than three cases of malnourished children every day from different governorates.

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

Yémen - l'UNICEF et ses partenaires viennent en aide aux enfants grâce à des équipes de santé mobiles

30 septembre 2016 - Le Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (UNICEF) et ses partenaires ont mené au cours de la semaine passée une campagne destinée à apporter des soins de santé et de nutrition à des centaines de milliers d'enfants et de femmes au Yémen où le conflit se poursuit. Du 24 au 29 septembre, une campagne à l'échelle nationale a atteint plus de 600.000 enfants âgés de moins de cinq ans et plus de 180.000 femmes enceintes et allaitantes avec un ensemble de services de santé et de nutrition, incluant les vaccinations, les suppléments en vitamines, le déparasitage, le dépistage de la malnutrition et le traitement d'infections infantiles ainsi que les soins prénatals et postnatals pour les femmes.

[Article complet](#) (UN News Center)

Yemen - Yemen says rebels forced children to carry arms

7th of September 2016 - SANAA: A Yemeni minister with the internationally recognized government Tuesday accused the country's Shiite rebels of forcing children to fight in Yemen's civil war, saying the rebels have recruited as many as 4,800 boys over the past six months. Human Rights Minister Ezz Eddin al-Asbahi also said the rebels known as Houthis have killed about 1,000

civilians in the two-year conflict, and that more than 300 children have died – either because of gunfire or rockets.

[Full article](#) (The Daily Star Lebanon)