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المكتب الدولي لحقوق الطفل

Newsletter on Children's rights – MENA

May 2017

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

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1. Global Development on Children and Human's Rights

[Communiqué de presse] Le gouvernement du Canada annonce la création d'un fonds afin de doubler les dons pour la famine et la crise alimentaire

30 mai 2017 - Le gouvernement du Canada a annoncé aujourd'hui la création d'un Fonds de secours pour la famine, s'appuyant sur son engagement à venir en aide aux personnes les plus vulnérables touchées par cette crise.

[Communiqué complet](#) (Gouvernement du Canada)

[Nouvelles] Le nombre de cas de sextorsion visant les jeunes garçons augmente

23 mai 2017 - Des spécialistes du phénomène de « sextorsion » en ligne disent avoir remarqué une hausse des déclarations de ce type d'incidents chez les jeunes garçons. Le Centre canadien de protection de l'enfance (CCPE) précise que 65 garçons ont rapporté des incidents au site Cyberaide.ca en 2015-2016, une hausse de 89 % comparativement à la période 2013-2014.

[Article complet](#) (La Presse)

[News] Preventing Gender-Based Violence Will Help Women, Girls and Countries Thrive

May 18th 2017 - The World Bank Group has renewed its commitment to preventing violence against women and girls, investing a minimum of \$3.5 million over five years in innovations designed to prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV).

[Full article](#) (World Bank)



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[Nouvelles] Afrique : la FIDH appelle les États à renforcer et promouvoir les droits des filles

12 mai 2017 - Lors de son intervention à l'occasion de la soixantième session ordinaire de la Commission Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples qui a eu lieu à Niamey du 8 au 22 mai 2017, la FIDH a encouragé la Commission à poursuivre et renforcer son action contre les discriminations et les violences à l'égard des filles en Afrique.

[Article complet](#) (FIDH)

[News] At Least one in four Children Live in Poverty in the Middle East and North Africa

May 15th 2017 - According to a recent UNICEF analysis covering 11 countries in the Middle East and North Africa [1], poverty continues to impact at least 29 million children – one in four children in the region.

[Full article](#) (ReliefWeb)

[News] Putting Child Rights at the Heart of Climate Talks

May 10th 2017 - Over the next 10 days, policymakers from 195 countries are meeting in Bonn, Germany, to discuss how governments should implement the 2015 Paris climate agreement. On Monday, Morocco, which holds the presidency of the climate talks, hosted an event on children's rights and climate change.

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

[News] How Can You Leave no one Behind when Millions of Children are Uncounted?

May 3rd 2017 - One night, a five-year-old boy named Sheru became separated from his older brother at a train station in central India. Somehow, he ended up on a train that took him nearly 1,000 miles away to Kolkata where he knew no one, and none of the language. Sheru inspired a book and the Oscar-winning film *Lion*, but the beginning of the story is far from



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extraordinary. The vast majority are not rescued by kind strangers. Nobody is accountable for them, and the children become some of the millions of the uncounted. The exact figure of unregistered children around the world is unknown but it is measured in millions. Now NGOs are insisting that all children are counted.

[Full article](#) (The Guardian)

[Nouvelles] Le nombre d'enfants réfugiés et migrants voyageant seuls multiplié par cinq depuis 2010

18 mai 2017 - À l'approche du Sommet du G7 prévu en Italie la semaine prochaine, le Fond des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (UNICEF) exhorte les dirigeants mondiaux à adopter un plan d'action en six points pour garantir la sécurité des enfants réfugiés et migrants.

[Article complet](#) (Centre d'actualités de l'ONU)

[News] A Strong Moral Compass: How Faith-Based Organizations Can Tackle Online Sexual Exploitation of Children

May 11th 2017 - A new guide published today aims to help religious communities worldwide harness their strengths to prevent, respond to and end online child sexual exploitation.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

[News] Refugee and Migrant Children Stranded in European Transit Countries Suffer Psychologically in the Face of Uncertain Future

May 4th 2017 - Nearly 75,000 refugees and migrants, including an estimated 24,600 children, currently stranded in Greece, Bulgaria, Hungary and the Western Balkans are at risk of psychosocial distress caused by living in a protracted state of limbo, UNICEF warned today.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)



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[News] UNICEF Joins Tech Giants in Artificial Intelligence Group

May 17th 2017 - UNICEF joins the Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (AI) founded by Amazon, Apple, Google/DeepMind, Facebook, IBM and Microsoft. Through the partnership, UNICEF's Office of Innovation will forge collaborations to scale the use of AI for social good through innovative solutions to humanitarian challenges to benefit children.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

[News] Children Remember Manchester Attack Victims at Vigil

May 24th 2017 - Thousands of people have gathered by Manchester Town Hall to remember the victims of Monday night's terror attack at a concert. Children and adults lit candles, put down flowers and held a minute's silence in tribute, on Tuesday evening.

[Full article](#) (BBC)

[Nouvelles] Médias audiovisuels : des règles claires pour protéger les enfants

18 mai 2017 - Le Parlement a donné un mandat à la commission de la culture ce jeudi pour négocier avec le Conseil sur la nouvelle directive pour les médias audiovisuels, qui couvrira également les plateformes en ligne.

[Article complet](#) (Parlement européen)



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[Nouvelles] Manchester : les enfants étaient-ils spécifiquement visés par les terroristes ?

23 mai 2017 - Le public présent au Manchester Arena était essentiellement composé d'enfants et d'adolescents. Par le passé, les attaques terroristes ciblant des enfants ont été plutôt rares. On ignore encore le nombre d'enfants parmi les 22 morts et 59 blessés de l'attentat survenu lundi soir à Manchester. Mais c'est une certitude, le public du concert ciblé était particulièrement jeune.

[Article complet](#) (L'Express)

[Report] A Child is a Child: Protecting Children on the Move from Violence, Abuse and Exploitation

May 2017 - Among the millions of children on the move worldwide, many – including hundreds of thousands of unaccompanied children and adolescents – undertake dangerous journeys. This report shows how the lack of safe and legal pathways for refugee and migrant children feeds a booming market for human smuggling and puts them at risk of violence, abuse and exploitation.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

[Report] Counting the Invisible Girls

May 2017 - Millions of girls are 'invisible' to governments and policy makers because vital data is not being recorded about their lives. Last year, our 'Counting the Invisible' report revealed how improving the information we have about girls could have a massive impact on the quest for gender equality by 2030 as set by the Global Goals.

[Full article](#) (Plan International)



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2. Conferences, Courses and Events

Conference – Urban Planning and Children

The Urban Planning and Children international seminar will bring together children's professionals, city planners, architects, landscape architects, transport and traffic professionals, geographers and policymakers, along with researchers, academics and advocates, to explore how the planning system engages with and responds to children and young people; how it impacts on them; how it can better include them; and how it might better respond to their rights as stakeholders in the public realm.

Location: Rotterdam, Netherlands

Date: June 19th and 20th 2017

[For more information](#) (Child in the City Foundation & European Network Child Friendly Cities)

Training – Child Rights Situation Analysis

This course is aimed at development practitioners working in the field of children's rights who are planning or considering undertaking an analysis of the situation of children's rights. The course will enable participants to understand the concepts and principles of human rights/children's rights and their application in the production of an analysis of the degree to which children realize their rights and the factors and obstacles that prevent them.

Location: Online

Date: November 1st to December 12th 2017

[For more information](#) (The Global Human Rights Education and Training Centre)



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Training – Child Rights Public Budgeting

This short e-learning course introduces participants to concepts, principles, standards and practical examples of child rights public budgeting and monitoring. The course will address basics of child rights public budgeting and monitoring; the importance of budget transparency; obligations of governments; and possibilities for participation of civil society, including children.

Location: Online

Date: October 18th to November 1st 2017

[For more information](#) (The Global Human Rights Education and Training Centre)

Training – Child Safeguarding

This e-learning course aims to equip professionals who hold responsibilities for implementing child safeguarding policies within their organizations with a basic understanding of the key issues, concepts and frameworks pertaining to child protection and safeguarding.

Location: Online

Date: August 30th to October 10th 2017

[For more information](#) (The Global Human Rights Education and Training Centre)

Training – Unlocking Children's Rights

Unlocking Children's Rights is an innovative training resource, which has been successfully piloted across Europe. It enables professionals and practitioners working with children to:

- Strengthen their skills and knowledge of children's rights
- Communicate effectively and sensitively with children and young people in a professional context
- Ensure children participate meaningfully in decisions affecting them.

The modules are all available for download.

Location: Online

Date: Ongoing

[For more information](#) (Coram International)



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Formation – Cours d'été international relatif aux droits de l'enfant

Le cours d'été 2017 reposera sur les articles 8 et 30 de la Convention internationale des droits de l'enfant (CIDE). Le cours traitera ainsi de la construction de l'identité chez les enfants et les jeunes, et non seulement leur identité culturelle, linguistique ou ethnique, mais aussi leur identité sexuelle et une variété d'identités appartenant à d'autres groupes minoritaires.

Emplacement : Université de Moncton, NB, Canada

Date : 25 au 30 juin 2017

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

Training – Children at the heart of human rights

The International Institute for the Rights of the Child (IIR) and the Centre for Children's Rights Studies (CCR - UNICEF) have the great pleasure to announce the launch of the Summer School 2017 "Children at the heart of human rights". This training in English will take place at the University of Geneva from 6 June to 16 June, 2017.

Location: University of Geneva – Switzerland

Date: June 6th-16th 2017

Registration deadline: May 1st 2017

[For more information](#) (Geneva Summer School)

Appel de propositions – 8e Conférence internationale sur l'éducation aux droits humains à Montréal, Canada

La conférence internationale sur l'éducation aux droits humains (CIEDH) est le forum des praticiens, décideurs et universitaires pour explorer les solutions aux défis mondiaux par l'éducation. Cette conférence de 3,5 jours rassemblera 300 participants du monde entier pour des ateliers pratiques et des sessions de travail présentant les derniers outils, le savoir et les meilleures pratiques en matière d'éducation aux droits humains.

Emplacement: Montréal - Canada

Date: 30 novembre – 3 décembre 2017

[For more information](#) (Equitas)



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3. Subregional and Country Updates

Afghanistan – Children Playing, Then a Blast: Mortar Round From an Earlier Afghan Battle Kills 5

May 15th 2017 – From outside, there were the happy sounds of young children playing cricket. And then an explosion. The men rushed outside to find five children — cousins 10 years old or younger — killed by a piece of stray ordnance they had stumbled on.

[Full article](#) (NY Times)

Afghanistan – Nationwide immunization campaign protects 5 million children against polio in war-torn Yemen

May 15th 2017 – The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) is deeply concerned by the continued increase in conflict-related child deaths in 2017 and urges parties to the conflict to take immediate measures to reduce harm.

[Full article](#) (UNAMA)

Afghanistan – Better Healthcare Reduces Mortality for Afghan Mothers and Children

May 22nd 2017 – The System Enhancement for Health Action in Transition (SEHAT) Program provides basic health services and essential hospital services for citizens in seven district of Afghanistan's Daykundi province. New facilities such as infant warmer, incubator machines coupled with better training and quality health services have noticeably reduced infant and maternal mortality.

[Full article](#) (World Bank)



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Algérie – Les familles syriennes bloquées à la frontière algéro-marocaine doivent être protégées

4 Mai 2017 – Alors que plusieurs dizaines de réfugiés syriens - dont des femmes des enfants - restent bloqués à la frontière algéro-marocaine depuis deux semaines, survivant dans des conditions humanitaires et sécuritaires désastreuses, plusieurs associations exhortent les autorités des deux pays à leur assurer assistance humanitaire et protection juridique.

[Article complet](#) (FIDH)

Égypte– Promulgation d’une loi controversée sur les ONG en Égypte

29 mai 2017- Le président égyptien Abdel Fattah Al-Sissi a promulgué la loi qui encadre l'activité des organisations non gouvernementales (ONG) et qui, selon les associations de défense des droits de l'homme et les groupes caritatifs, entrave leurs actions, montre un décret présidentiel paru lundi. En vertu de la nouvelle loi, les ONG ne peuvent mener un travail de terrain ou d'enquête d'opinion sans autorisation préalable ou « coopérer de quelque manière que ce soit avec des instances internationales sans l'accord nécessaire. »

[Article complet](#) (Radio-Canada)

Iraq – ‘When you grow up, you will blow yourself up’: Iraqi boys tell harrowing tale of ISIL captivity, training

May 10th 2017 - They made the captive children, malnourished and weak from hunger, fight over a single tomato. Then the Islamic State group militants told them, “In paradise, you’ll be able to eat whatever you want. But first you have to get to paradise, and you do that by blowing yourself up.”

[Full article](#) (National Post)



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Iraq – Soaring Temperatures Next Challenge for Mosul Displaced: IOM

May 16th 2017 - It was hard enough coping with flight from conflict-hit areas during the winter months. Now, for the hundreds of thousands of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Mosul, summer heat is the new challenge. Having survived ISIL, most families are now bracing themselves to face their second most dangerous enemy – the sizzling sun and the sweltering temperatures that come with it.

[Full article](#) (Relief Web)

Jordan – Al-Rahma Int'l offers aid to over 400 Syrian families in Jordan

May 19th 2017 - Kuwait's Rahma International charity, an affiliate of the Social Reform Association (Eslah), on Friday distributed relief aid and supplies to over 400 Syrian refugee families in Jordan. The aid, delivered through Relief Convoy 312, is part of the Kuwaiti charity's relief campaign since the outbreak of the Syrian crisis to provide humanitarian and relief aid to refugee families and internally displaced persons in Jordan and other neighboring countries.

[Full article](#) (KUNA)

Lebanon – Islamic State Attack Kills Dozens Near Syria Refugee Camp

May 2nd 2017 - It was one of the largest recent attacks in the area, Hasaka Province in northeastern Syria, by the Islamic State, which has been under pressure in its main urban centers of Mosul in Iraq and Raqqa in Syria.

The attack took place near Al Hol refugee camp, which hosts nearly 17,000 people, most of them Iraqi refugees but also including displaced Syrians, according to the International Rescue Committee. The group said several children were among the dead and injured.

[Full article](#) (NY Times)



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Lebanon – Reconstructing Nahr el-Bared – Completing the Task

May 21st 2017 - Ten years ago today, on 20 May 2007, fighting erupted in the Nahr el-Bared camp for Palestine refugees in North Lebanon. Three months later, the camp lay in ruins, with its 27,000 residents displaced. Since then, with the support of the Lebanese Government and the international donor community, UNRWA has been engaged in its largest ever individual reconstruction project, with an estimated cost of US\$ 345 million.

[Full article](#) (Relief Web)

Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian Territories – The European Union supports access to education for all Palestinian children with disabilities in Lebanon

May 26th 2017 - Today, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) hosted a ceremony at Deir Qassi School in Saida to recognize the support of the European Union (EU) for Palestine refugee children with disabilities in Lebanon.

With the support of the European Union, UNRWA is working to improve opportunities for children and youth and implement the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 4: to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

[Full article](#) (UNRWA)

Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Syria – QRCS Launches 5th Phase of Orthopedic Surgeries for Syrian, Palestinian Children in Lebanon

May 29th 2017 - Doha: Within its commitment to serve the refugees in Lebanon, Qatar Red Crescent's (QRCS) mission in Lebanon launched the fifth phase of its orthopedic surgery project for Syrian and Palestinian children in Tripoli. The activity is part of a project that started in 2016 and will continue along phased intervals.

[Full article](#) (Relief Web)



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Maroc – Au moins un enfant sur quatre vit dans la pauvreté au Moyen-Orient et en Afrique du Nord, selon l'UNICEF

15 Mai 2017 – La pauvreté continue d'avoir influence sur au moins 29 millions d'enfants au Moyen-Orient et en Afrique du Nord, soit un enfant sur quatre, selon une récente étude du Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (UNICEF) couvrant 11 pays de la région.

D'après cette étude, ces enfants sont privés des exigences minimales dans plusieurs domaines cruciaux, dont l'éducation de base, le logement décent, les aliments nutritifs, les soins de santé de qualité, l'eau potable, l'assainissement et l'accès à l'information.

« La pauvreté infantile représente beaucoup plus que le revenu familial, il s'agit de l'accès à une éducation de qualité, à des soins de santé, à une maison et à de l'eau potable. Lorsque les enfants sont privés des choses élémentaires, ils risquent d'être piégés dans un cercle vicieux de pauvreté », a déclaré Geert Cappelaere, Directeur régional de l'UNICEF pour le Moyen-Orient et l'Afrique du Nord (MENA), lors d'une conférence régionale sur la pauvreté chez les enfants, à Rabat, au Maroc.

[Article complet](#) (Centre d'actualités de l'ONU)

Occupied Palestinian Territories – Jerusalem Home Demolitions Harm Children

May 21st 2017 – Ashraf and Islam Fawaqa were at a hospital checkup for their month-old daughter, Aya, on May 4, when Ashraf got a phone call that Israeli forces were demolishing their home. Ashraf had built the house himself, six years ago, on land his family has owned for generations in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sur Baher. Ashraf, a building contractor, works on projects for the Jerusalem municipality. But Ashraf, like many Palestinians in East Jerusalem, couldn't obtain a building permit for his home. Israel has zoned only about 12 percent of the land there for Palestinian residential construction, and most of the zoned area is already overcrowded. The United Nations has estimated that 90,000 Palestinians in East Jerusalem live in homes without permits. By contrast, Israel has zoned 35 percent of the land in East Jerusalem for Jewish settlement construction. Municipal planning documents have had the stated goal of ensuring that Palestinians are a minority in the city.

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



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Syria – Leo Messi Foundation helps UNICEF get Syrian children back into the classroom

May 2nd 2017 – UNICEF has installed 20 new prefabricated classrooms in Tartus, Syria, and rural areas of Damascus, thanks to a generous donation from the Leo Messi Foundation.

The donation has enabled more than 1,600 Syrian children affected by the conflict to attend school with fully furnished classrooms.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

Syrie – Syrie: nombre record de civils tués par la coalition internationale en un mois

23 Mai 2017 – «Entre le 23 avril et le 23 mai, les raids de la coalition ont causé la mort de 225 civils, dont 44 enfants et 36 femmes, soit le bilan le plus lourd de victimes civiles depuis le début de son intervention en Syrie le 23 septembre 2014», a indiqué mardi l'OSDH.

«C'est le bilan le plus lourd pour les civils sur un mois. Il y a une véritable escalade», a déclaré le directeur de l'OSDH Rami Abdel Rahmane.

[Article complet](#) (Journal de Québec)

Yemen – Braving bombs and bullets to stay in school in Yemen

May 2nd 2017 – Like millions of others caught up in Yemen's brutal conflict, 12-year-old Somali refugee Afrah's immediate concern is surviving the bombs, bullets and gnawing poverty it has created.

But with an eye to her future, she is also deeply concerned that the conflict could prevent her from continuing her education and achieving her dream of one day becoming a doctor.

"I am very frightened by the war but I really want to stay in school," said Afrah, wearing a green tunic that is the uniform of the Asma School for Girls in the Yemeni capital Sana'a.

[Full article](#) (UNHCR)



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Yemen – Yémen : l'ONU vient en aide aux déplacés et s'inquiète de la détérioration de la situation humanitaire à Taëz

16 Mai 2017 – Le Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés (HCR) s'est inquiété mardi de la détérioration de la situation humanitaire dans le gouvernorat de Taëz, au Yémen, où les hostilités ont causé le déplacement de près de 50.000 personnes depuis début 2017.

Ces déplacés s'ajoutent aux trois millions de personnes déjà déracinées depuis le début du conflit dans le pays. Parmi elles, deux millions sont déplacées internes et un million sont rentrées temporairement chez elles des conditions précaires. Sur le terrain, les équipes du HCR ont pu procéder la semaine dernière à des distributions d'urgence dans le district de Mokha, l'une des zones les plus affectées du gouvernorat de Taëz, où l'accès humanitaire est difficile en raison des affrontements et des restrictions de mouvement imposés par les parties au conflit.

[Article complet](#) (Centre d'actualités de l'ONU)

Yemen – Choléra au Yémen: 315 morts, 29 300 cas suspects

22 Mai 2017 – Le bilan de l'épidémie de choléra au Yémen s'est encore alourdi à 315 morts dans ce pays en guerre où 29 300 cas suspects ont été recensés depuis fin avril, a annoncé lundi l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS).

[Article complet](#) (La Presse)

Yemen – : un raid aérien tue une vingtaine de civils

17 Mai 2017 – Un raid aérien a tué, mercredi 17 mai, vingt-trois civils près de Taëz, grande ville du sud-ouest du Yémen, dont des femmes et des enfants.

Les rebelles houthistes ont attribué l'attaque à la coalition militaire arabe sous commandement saoudien. L'agence Saba, contrôlée par les rebelles, a affirmé que le raid avait visé un véhicule transportant des civils dans la sous-préfecture de Mawzaa, à quelque 60 kilomètres au sud-ouest de la ville de Taëz. Selon l'agence, six enfants figurent parmi les tués et six corps de victimes ont été carbonisés et n'ont pu être identifiés.

[Article complet](#) (Le Monde)



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المكتب الدولي لحقوق الطفل

Yemen, Syria, Gaza, Iraq, Libya, Sudan – From cholera in Yemen to attacks on hospitals in Syria, conflict threatens lives of over 24 million children in the Middle East and North Africa

May 24th 2017 – Violence and conflict in the Middle East and North Africa have put in jeopardy the health of 24 million children in Yemen, Syria, the Gaza Strip, Iraq, Libya and Sudan. Damage to health infrastructure is depriving children of essential health care. Water and sanitation services have been compromised, causing waterborne diseases to spread while preventative health care and nutritious food are insufficient to meet children's needs.

“Violence is crippling health systems in conflict-affected countries and threatens children's very survival,” said Geert Cappelaere, UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa. “Beyond the bombs, bullets and explosions, countless children are dying in silence from diseases that could easily be prevented and treated.”

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)