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المكتب الدولي لحقوق الطفل

## Newsletter on Children's rights – Sub-Saharan Africa

April 2017

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

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

### **[News] More than 120 child refugees missing in UK after being trafficked from France, report finds**

28 Mai 2018 - The NSPCC has called on the government to bolster cross-border arrangements on child trafficking after it emerged children as young as 11 had been sexually abused and forced to take drugs by traffickers promising to take them to the UK.

[Full Article](#) (Independent)

### **[News] Vitamin A deficiency puts 140 million children at risk of illness and death – UNICEF**

May 2, 2018 - More than 140 million children are at greater risk of illness, hearing loss, blindness and even death globally if urgent action is not taken to provide them with life-saving vitamin A supplements, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has warned.

[Full article](#) (UN)

### **[News] 200,000 children forced to learn in bullet-riddled classrooms**

May 4, 2018 - Some 200,000 girls and boys in eastern Ukraine are commuting to schools whose classroom walls are often riddled with bullets, and playgrounds scattered with metal remnants of war.

[Full article](#) (UN)

### **[News] UNICEF urges wealthy countries to encourage more breastfeeding**

May 10, 2018 - Babies in wealthy countries are five times more likely to miss out on breastfeeding than those in the under-developed, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Thursday, explaining that this gap could be addressed by better support for working mothers, and regulating sales of infant formula.

[Full article](#) (UN)

### **[News] Mothers, children, lacking basic nutrition in North Korea: UN food aid chief**

May 11, 2018 - The head of the United Nations food relief agency said on Friday that many mothers and young children in North Korea are still relying on humanitarian assistance to meet their nutritional needs.



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[Full article](#) (UN)

### **[Nouvelle] Une course contre la montre pour les droits des enfants.**

14 Mai 2018 - C'est une course contre la montre en direction du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 pour les droits de l'enfant. Pour ce haut responsable du Haut-Commissariat aux droits de l'homme, le monde n'a plus que 12 ans pour renverser cette tendance et atteindre les cibles fixées par les Etats membres de l'ONU.

[Article complet](#) (ONU)

### **[News] Trump's immigration policy will separate kids from their parents. But don't confuse them with 'lost' children.**

The Trump administration's new "zero tolerance" immigration policy will result in more children being removed from their parents while trying to cross the U.S. border — and it's a "cruel" practice to break up families this way, immigration rights advocates say.

[Full article](#) (CBC News)

### **[Nouvelle] Droits des enfants : deux tiers de gamins laissés pour compte dans le monde.**

15 Mai 2018 - Le directeur de la Division des mécanismes des droits de l'homme au Haut-Commissariat des Nations unies aux droits de l'homme, Adam Abdelmoula, a averti que la situation est déplorable, près de trente ans après l'adoption de la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant.

[Article complet](#) (Agence d'information d'Afrique centrale)

### **[News] Children in UK care homes vulnerable to traffickers: experts**

MAY 8, 2018 - Thousands of children living in British care homes far from where they were brought up are at heightened risk of being trafficked, experts said on Tuesday, as figures showed increasing numbers are going missing.

[Full article](#) (Reuters)



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## **[News] From nightmares to dreams - rescued Indian children sketch life in slavery**

MAY 16, 2018 - CHENNAI, India (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Menacing dogs, violent bosses and a house left empty because its inhabitants are always working - these are the grim images of family life created by Indian children raised in bonded labor.

[Full article](#) (Reuters)

## **[News] Bollywood actress urges world to step up support for Rohingya women, children**

MAY 24, 2018 - Bollywood actress and UNICEF goodwill ambassador Priyanka Chopra called on the international community on Thursday to step up support for Rohingya women and children who fled to Bangladesh from a military crackdown in Myanmar.

[Full article](#) (Reuters)

## **[News] Senegal's street children turn trauma into art in Africa's biggest exhibition**

Young boys who were forced to beg on the streets for Islamic teachers have turned their suffering into art, as they join more than 1,000 artists showing their work at Africa's biggest and oldest biennale art exhibition in Senegal this month.

[Full article](#) (Reuters)

## **[Nouvelle] Ces élèves empêchés de fréquenter leur école de quartier.**

28 mai 2018 - Nous vivons à Pointe-Saint-Charles une situation absurde : depuis deux ans, la Commission scolaire de Montréal (CSDM) ne permet plus à nos enfants de fréquenter l'école secondaire se trouvant dans notre quartier — ou plus précisément à 300 mètres de celui-ci — uniquement parce qu'elle appartient à la commission scolaire voisine.

[Article complet](#) (Le devoir)



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## **[News] Why Child Soldiers Rarely Stay Free for Long in the Central African Republic**

May 25, 2018 - Since conflict erupted in the Central African Republic in late 2012 after the Séléka armed groups seized power from President François Bozizé, between 3,000 and 6,000 people have been killed, almost 700,000 people displaced and countless villages destroyed.

[Full article](#) (The Time)

## **[Report] Japan commits US\$25.5 million to support the most vulnerable children and communities in Syria through the UN's 'Education for All' joint programme**

24 May 2018 - The government of Japan announced the second phase of funding for the UN's 'Education for All' joint programme in Syria, bringing the total support to the programme to US\$25.5 million. Anchored in the No Lost Generation Initiative, the programme will contribute to ensuring increased access for children and young people to quality learning, skills- building and participation, including those living in hard to reach and besieged areas. Programme implementation started in early 2017 to be concluded by the end of 2018.

[Full article](#) (Reliefweb)

## **[News] A numbers game: Indigenous children in care and the threat of another stolen generation**

May 24, 2018 - Tomorrow is Sorry Day, the anniversary of the Bringing them Home report, which documented the systematic removal of thousands of Aboriginal and Islander children forcibly taken from their families and communities.

[Full article](#) (The guardian)

## **2. Conferences, Courses and Events**

### **Formation continue – La place essentielle de l'avocat d'enfants dans toutes les procédures**

Cette formation a pour objectif de donner aux participants une notion dans toutes les matières où ils interviennent pour les enfants avec un focus particulier au pénal et en Assistance éducative. Créer et renforcer ainsi les groupements d'avocats d'enfants qui existent ou pourraient se créer afin de permettre à l'Ordre de désigner un avocat pour toutes les problématiques où l'enfant est concerné, spécifiquement en droit pénal.



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**Emplacement** : Paris, France

**Date** : 5 juin 2018

[Pour plus d'informations](#) (Ecole des avocats – Grand-Est)

### **Évènement – Vues D'ailleurs: Retour d'expériences de coopération volontaire au Pérou, Maroc et Côte d'Ivoire.**

Le projet de coopération volontaire « Protection des droits des enfants, des femmes et autres collectivités vulnérables » (PRODEF) est mis en œuvre par Avocats sans frontières Canada (ASFC) en consortium avec le Bureau international des droits des enfants (IBCR) et en collaboration avec le Barreau du Québec. Cet évènement sera l'occasion pour trois coopérantes revenant du Pérou, Maroc et Côte d'Ivoire, de partager leurs expériences dans ces divers pays et de réseauter avec les invités.

**Emplacement** : Montréal, Canada

**Date** : 18 juin 2018

[Pour plus d'informations](#) (Bureau International des droits des enfants)

### **Webinar – Migration and health webinar six: health of refugee and migrant children, and unaccompanied minors**

WHO/Europe will host the 6th in a series of webinars dedicated to addressing the timely and relevant topic of refugee and migrant health and well-being. The upcoming webinar will discuss the health of refugee and migrant children, and unaccompanied minors.

**Location:** Auditorium 3, UN City, Copenhagen (live audience); [www.euro.who.int/khhtmwebinars](http://www.euro.who.int/khhtmwebinars) (web streaming)

**Date:** June 5, 2018

[For more information](#) (WHO/knowledge hub on health and migration)

### **Child labour – World day against child labour**

This year, the **World Day against Child Labour (WDAFL)** and the **World Day for Safety and Health at Work (SafeDay)** shine a spotlight on the global need to improve the safety and health of young workers and end child labour.

**Date:** June 12, 2018

[For more information](#) (ILO)

### **Summer School – Children at the heart of human rights**

The University of Geneva's Centre for Children's Rights Studies (CCR - UNIGE) and the International Institute for the Rights of the Child (IIRC) have the great pleasure to announce the launch of the Summer School 2018 "Children at the heart of human rights". This Summer





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School is a unique opportunity for students and young professionals to work side by side with leading experts in a dynamic scientific interdisciplinary environment. It is the perfect preparation for those students interested in children's rights and international human rights organizations. The course is shaped to bring out the best of current issues in the international debate on children's rights studies and policies.

**Location:** University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland

**Date :** June 18-29, 2018

[For more information](#) (Institut international des droits de l'enfant)

### **Open training – Child sexual exploitation**

This course gives anyone who works with children, young people and families the opportunity to know their statutory responsibilities in dealing with exploited children, how to identify children and young people who are at risk of CSE and spot the signs, definitions and models of CSE and professional responses within the Welsh context.

**Emplacement:** Cardiff, Wales

**Date:** June 19, 2018

[For more information](#) (children in Wales)

### **Conference – 10<sup>th</sup> Nordic conference on child abuse and neglect**

The Nordic Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect invites child maltreatment professionals to the 10th Nordic Conference in Tórshavn on the Faroe Islands. The conference will feature keynotes and other presentations related to theme, In the Best Interest of The Child: Rhetoric or Reality? Topics will include trauma and hidden wounds, poly-victimization, prevention and early intervention, and possible improvements. Participants will have the opportunity to hear from speakers from every Nordic country, who will discuss their clinical experiences and research, as well as plenty of time for important informal exchange with colleagues from the region.

**Location:** Tórshavn, Denmark

**Date:** August 19-22, 2018

[For more information](#) (Nordic Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect)

### **Formation – Entreprises et droit international des droits de l'homme**

La Fondation René Cassin et la Fondation Friedrich Naumann pour la Liberté organisent une 9ème session à Dakar sur le thème "Entreprises et Droit International des Droits de l'Homme" en partenariat avec le Bureau Régional pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest du Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme (BRAO), l'ambassade de France au Sénégal, le Comité



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Sénégalais des Droits de l'Homme (CSDH) et la Délégation de l'Union Européenne au Sénégal (UE).

**Emplacement** : Dakar, Sénégal

**Dates** : 10 au 21 septembre 2018

[Pour plus d'information](#) (Institut international des droits de l'homme, Fondation René Cassin)

### **Discussion – Day of general discussion on protecting and empowering children as human rights defenders**

The Committee on the Rights of the Child (the Committee) holds a Day of General Discussion in Geneva (DGD) every two years in September focused on a specific article of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) or a related subject. These meetings are an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the contents and implications of the CRC. The topic is selected by the Committee and announced at least one year in advance.

**Location:** Geneva, Switzerland

**Date:** September 28, 2018

[For more information](#) (Child rights Connect)

## **3. Subregional and Country Updates – Sub-Saharan Africa**

### **Bénin – « Le gouvernement et les OSC déterminés à assurer la protection de l'enfant »**

17 Mai 2018 - La Maison de la société civile en collaboration avec le Forum des organisations de défense des droits de l'enfant au Bénin, Foddeb, avec le soutien de Plan international et de l'agence suédoise de développement internationale, Asdi, a organisé hier jeudi 17 mai 2018 à l'Infosec, la troisième table ronde entre la société civile et l'Etat sur les engagements liés aux droits de l'enfant.

[Article complet](#) (La Nouvelle Tribune)

### **Burkina Faso – « Vers le retrait des enfants et femmes en situation de rue au Burkina »**

25 Mai 2018 - Le gouvernement burkinabè envisage mener une opération de retrait des enfants et des femmes en situation de rue, a-t-on appris à l'issue du conseil des ministres du jeudi. Selon le compte rendu de la réunion gouvernementale parvenu à l'AIB vendredi matin, «l'opération, qui débutera par la ville de Ouagadougou, sera précédée d'une période de sensibilisation sur la nécessité de protéger les enfants et les femmes».

[Article complet](#) (Agence d'information du Burkina)



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### **Burundi – « Les enfants victimes de la recrudescence de la violence »**

15 Mai 2018 - Au Burundi, l'ONU et notamment l'UNICEF s'inquiètent de la recrudescence de la violence à l'entame du « référendum constitutionnel controversé de jeudi prochain ». Les Nations Unies observent une montée de la tension suite à une récente attaque meurtrière contre un village qui a fait 26 morts parmi les civils dont dix femmes et onze enfants.

[Article complet](#) (ONU Info)

### **Central African Republic – “UNICEF calls for the urgent protection of children in the Central African Republic”**

12 May 2018 - A dramatic increase in violence in the Central African Republic in the first part of 2018 has forced at least 55,000 people, including 28,600 children to flee because of brutality and violence in their communities. The already precarious humanitarian and security situation in the country has deteriorated over the past year, worsening even further since the start of 2018.

[Full article](#) (Relief web)

### **Central African Republic – “Why Child Soldiers Rarely Stay Free for Long in the Central African Republic”**

27 May 2018 - Since conflict erupted in the Central African Republic in late 2012 after the Séléka armed groups seized power from President François Bozizé, between 3,000 and 6,000 people have been killed, almost 700,000 people displaced and countless villages destroyed. [...] Amid this deepening crisis, more than 14,000 children have been recruited by armed groups on all sides of the conflict. However, with roughly 80% of the country under the control of armed groups, the number is likely much higher and will continue to rise.

[Full article](#) (Time)

### **Congo (Democratic Republic of) – “Children must be at heart of response to Ebola outbreak”**

25 May 2018 - Children continue to be at risk and are affected by the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), making it essential that their health and wellbeing are prioritized in the response.

[Full article](#) (Relief Web)

### **Congo (République démocratique du) – « Réinsertion sociale : l'Unicef se préoccupe des enfants congolais associés dans les groupes armés »**

26 Mai 2018 - L'ambassadrice de l'agence de l'ONU pour les enfants et les conflits armés, la Suédoise Gufran Al-Nadaf, a effectué une visite de travail en République démocratique du



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Congo (RDC) pour récolter les desiderata de ces enfants afin de les porter au Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies.

[Article complet](#) (Agence d'information d'Afrique centrale)

### **Congo (République démocratique du) – « Kasai : 770 000 enfants de moins de 5 ans souffrent de malnutrition aiguë »**

09 Mai 2018 - Au moins 770 000 enfants dans la région du Kasai en République démocratique du Congo souffrent de malnutrition aiguë, dont 400 000 sont gravement dénutris et menacés de mort - a indiqué l'UNICEF dans un rapport publié aujourd'hui. L'organisation prévient que si des mesures urgentes ne sont pas prises pour renforcer la réponse humanitaire, le nombre de décès d'enfants pourrait monter en flèche.

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF)

### **Kenya – “Kenya's flood-affected children in need of psychosocial support”**

28 May 2018 - NAIROBI – Thousands of children forced to flee their homes due to recent floods may be in need of psychosocial support, World Vision is warning.

[Full article](#) (Relief Web)

### **Mali– “Alarming needs among families fleeing Mali violence”**

28 May 2018 - More than 8,000 people who fled their homes in Menaka, Mali, are living under precarious conditions. An assessment led by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) reveals urgent needs for water, food, medical and psychosocial support. "Displaced families are drinking stagnant rainwater. Sanitary conditions are precarious. We fear the spread of water-borne diseases," warned Badou Handane, emergency coordinator for NRC, who led the needs assessment.

[Full article](#) (Relief Web)

### **Nigéria – « Des ex-victimes de Boko Haram, violées par les forces armées nigérianes »**

23 mai 2018 - Au Nigéria, des milliers de femmes et filles qui ont survécu au groupe armé Boko Haram se retrouvent désormais aux mains des forces armées nigérianes qui les soumettent à de nouvelles violences.

[Article complet](#) (Amnistie internationale)



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## **Sahel – “UN’S Emergency fund releases US\$30 million to avert acute hunger and malnutrition in the Sahel”**

24 May 2018 - Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock released today US\$30 million from the UN’s Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to urgently scale-up relief efforts in West Africa’s Sahel, where an acute drought, combined with exceptionally high food prices and worsening insecurity, has escalated humanitarian needs. Thousands of families have exhausted their food reserves and are cutting down on daily meals. Up to 1.6 million children are at risk of life-threatening malnutrition...

[Full article](#) (Relief web)

## **Sahel – « L’ONU appelle à investir davantage dans une meilleure gouvernance et des opportunités pour la jeunesse »**

23 May 2018 - Une responsable des Nations Unies a appelé jeudi la communauté internationale à investir davantage dans une meilleure gouvernance, des services sociaux et des opportunités pour la jeunesse dans la région du Sahel pour répondre aux défis en termes de paix et de sécurité.

[Article complet](#) (UN News)

## **Somalia – “UN expert urges action to stop children being kidnapped and used as fighters”**

4 May 2018 - The Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, Bahame Tom Mukirya Nyanduga, has condemned recent terrorist attacks in the country, and called for the immediate release of all children kidnapped or recruited as fighters in the country’s armed conflict.

[Full article](#) (OHCHR)

## **South Sudan – “For third time this year, hundreds of children released by armed groups in South Sudan - UNICEF”**

18 May 2018 - On 17 May 2018 in Pibor, South Sudan, 210 children were formally released from armed groups. During the release ceremony, the children were formally disarmed and provided with civilian clothes. Medical screenings will be carried out, and they will receive counselling and psychosocial support as part of the reintegration programme, which is implemented by UNICEF and partners. The children released today included three girls and largely came from the opposition group the SPLA-IO, with eight having been associated with the National Salvation Front (NSF). More than 800 children have been released since start of 2018. An estimated 19,000 children continue to serve in the ranks of armed forces and groups in South Sudan.

[Full article](#) (Relief web)



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### **South Sudan – “WHO supports stabilization centres to treat malnourished children in South Sudan”**

16 May 2018 - In South Sudan, food insecurity continues to deteriorate to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) due to displacement, restrictions on movement and trade flows, and limited access to normal livelihoods activities.

[Full article](#) (Relief web)

### **Sudan – “Freed From War: The Road to Reintegration for Ex-Child Soldiers in Sudan”**

22 May 2018 - In the welding class at a vocational training center supported by the Child Development Foundation (CDF) in Medani, El-Gezira state, Sudan, dozens of young adults are listening carefully to their instructor while he explains how to clean and soften the surface before cutting the iron. Two of the students are ex-child soldiers, the others are children from Medani. They are part of a community-based reintegration programme directed to all the children in Medani, in order not to stigmatize former child soldiers.

[Full article](#) (Office of the Special Representative for Children and armed conflict)

### **Sudan – “Teenage girl’s death sentence spotlights Sudan’s failure to tackle forced marriage, gender-based violence – UN rights office”**

18 May 2018 - The case of Noura Hussein Hammad Daoud, a Sudanese teenager convicted of fatally stabbing the man she was forced to marry, after he had allegedly raped her, highlights the country’s failure to tackle the tragedy of early and forced marriage, marital rape and other discrimination and violence against women and girls, the United Nations human rights office said on Friday.

[Full article](#) (UN News)

### **Sudan – “Group of Friends of Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) in Sudan”**

17 May 2018 - Following the signature of an Action Plan in March 2016 between the United Nations and the Government of Sudan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, Canada and Sweden, two long-time advocates of the CAAC agenda, teamed up with UNICEF to establish the Group of Friends of CAAC in Sudan. This informal platform allows the 23 members of the local diplomatic community to place issues facing conflict affected children in Sudan on the agenda and to develop collective advocacy efforts to enhance the protection of children in Sudan.

[Full article](#) (Office of the Special Representative for Children and armed conflict)



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