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Newsletter on Children's rights – MENA

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)



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[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.

[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)



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[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)

[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.



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[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)

[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)



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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.

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/khwmwebinars (web streaming)

Date: June 5, 2018

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



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Child labour – World day against child labour

This year, the **World Day against Child Labour (WDACL)** 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 (IDE) have the great pleasure to announce the launch of the Summer School 2018 "Children at the heart of human rights". This Summer 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 – 10th 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



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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 9^{ème} 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 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'informations](#) (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)



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3. Subregional and Country Updates – MENA

Algérie - UNICEF: des efforts "constants" accordés au développement et au bien-être de l'enfance

22 mai 2018 - ALGER - Le développement et le bien-être de l'enfance tiennent une place importante en Algérie, a estimé le Directeur régional de l'UNICEF pour la région Afrique du Nord et Moyen-Orient, Geert Cappelaere, relevant des "avancées considérables" en matière de réalisation des droits de l'enfant, dans les domaines de la santé, de l'éducation, et de la protection de l'enfance.

[Article complet](#) (Algérie Presse Service)

Egypt - Egypt's education system set for major overhaul

May 25, 2018 - Egypt's Education Minister Tarek Shawki announced in April the implementation of new reforms to improve education in Egypt. The reforms, which are in part funded by the World Bank with a \$500 million loan for five years, will cost a total of \$2 billion and are expected to replace the existing education system with a new one to better equip Egyptian youth for the current job market.

[Full article](#) (Al-Monitor)

Liban - Liban: pour que les enfants réfugiés syriens reprennent le chemin de l'école

25 mai 2018 - La crise des réfugiés syriens n'est pas uniquement un drame d'adultes. C'est aussi et surtout une tragédie pour des milliers d'enfants qui n'ont plus accès à l'éducation, un droit pourtant fondamental. Au Liban, sur les quelque 1,5 million de réfugiés, 500 000 ont entre 3 et 18 ans. Des associations se mobilisent pour que les enfants syriens reprennent le chemin de l'école.

[Article complet](#) (RFI)

Lybia - Official: Over 100 Nigerian children kidnapped in Libya

May 22, 2018 - More than 100 Nigerian children have been kidnapped in Libya over the past four months, the official in charge of the anti-human trafficking file in Nigeria has said.

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



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Maroc - L'UNICEF et l'UE soutiennent le nouveau projet pour la promotion des droits des enfants migrants au Maroc

25 mai 2018 - L'UNICEF et l'Union européenne (UE) ont annoncé, ce vendredi à l'occasion de la Journée nationale de l'enfant, leur appui à un nouveau projet pour la promotion des droits des enfants migrants au Maroc, selon un communiqué conjoint de ces deux instances.

[Article complet](#) (APA News)

Pakistan - Street children have equal right over life's amenities — President

May 10, 2018 - President Mamnoon Hussain on Wednesday said street children had equal right to all facilities of life and commended the services of an international non-governmental organization 'Muslim Hands' for the uplift of such children.

[Full article](#) (Arab News Pakistan)

Pakistan - Rise in Militant Attacks on Schools in Pakistan

May 14, 2018 - Last week an improvised explosive device was used to target a girls' school in Hassokhel, North Waziristan, in northwest Pakistan. Thankfully, no children were injured in the attack, although a boundary wall was damaged. That bombing came just three days after another girls' school in North Waziristan was attacked, this time in the town of Mir Ali. Residents said that militants have been distributing pamphlets demanding authorities shut down girls' schools in the area.

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

Pakistan - Poor education system deters Pakistanis from sending children to schools, says education charity

May 22, 2018 - DUBAI: Poor Pakistani parents want to send their children to school, but the quality of public schools is discouraging them from doing so, said the co-founder of The Citizen Foundation (TCF), the largest charity school chain in Pakistan.

[Full Article](#) (Arab News)



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Palestine - Gaza : l'UNICEF distribue des fournitures médicales d'urgence pour couvrir les besoins de 70.000 civils

16 mai 2018 - Depuis le début des manifestations palestiniennes le 30 mars, plus de 1.000 enfants ont été blessés dans les violences meurtrières de la bande de Gaza. Une situation qui met à rude épreuve des centres hospitaliers déjà débordés, selon l'UNICEF.

[Article complet](#) (Onu Info)

Palestine - A Gaza, la détérioration de la situation humanitaire compromet l'éducation des enfants (OCHA)

10 mai 2018 - Dans la bande de Gaza, les onze années de blocus, les conflits récurrents et l'absence concrète de réconciliation inter-palestinienne affectent le bien-être psychosocial des enfants et de leurs enseignants, a alerté jeudi le Bureau de la coordination des affaires humanitaires des Nations Unies (OCHA).

[Article complet](#) (ONU Info)

Saudi Arabia - MoJ allocates rooms for visitation of children

May 20, 2018 - RIYADH — The Ministry of Justice allocated rooms for children involved in custody battles to meet their parents, Al-Madina Arabic newspaper reported. Head of Programs and Initiatives at the ministry Saqr Al-Qarni said these rooms would be implemented in all of the ministry's administrative buildings in various regions of the Kingdom.

[Full article](#) (Saudi Gazette)

Syrie - En Syrie, "réparer les lionceaux du califat" par l'écoute et la "morale"

25 mai 2018 - L'arrivée dans le centre Hori est un choc culturel pour les adolescents ayant baigné dans le fondamentalisme et dont un tiers a déjà été condamné à des peines allant de six mois à sept ans de prison, qui seront réduites en cas de bonne conduite.

[Article complet](#) (L'Orient-le Jour)



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Tunisie - La Représentante de l'UNICEF félicite la Tunisie pour son adhésion au 3ème protocole additionnel de la Convention des droits de l'enfant

24 mai 2018 - L'UNICEF félicite la Tunisie pour son adhésion au troisième protocole additionnel de la Convention internationale sur les droits de l'enfant établissant une procédure de plainte individuelle en cas de violations de ces droits. La Tunisie est le 39ème pays au monde à avoir adopté ce protocole et le premier dans la région MENA.

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF)

Yemen - Yemen civil war: Parents forced to watch their children starve to death as war topples country of 29 million into famine

May 5, 2018 - Nearly a third of Yemen's population – 8.4 million people – rely completely on food aid or else they would starve. That number grew by a quarter over the past year.

[Full article](#) (The Independent)

Yemen - UNICEF and THE WORLD BANK Emergency Cash Transfers Reach 9 million of the Most Vulnerable People in War-torn Yemen

May 28, 2018 - Nearly 1.5 million of the most vulnerable families in Yemen – an estimated 9 million people - have received emergency cash transfers from the Emergency Cash Transfer Project implemented by UNICEF and funded and supported by the World Bank's International Development Association.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)