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المكتب الدولي لحقوق الطفل

Newsletter on Children's rights – Children and Armed Conflicts

Spring 2018

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

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1. Global Development on Children and Human's Rights

[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.

[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)



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

May 28, 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] 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)

[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

May 24, 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)



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[Opinion] Protecting child rights in Hong Kong will take more than an official commission

June 15, 2018 – Grenville Cross says the effectiveness of Hong Kong's new Commission on Children rests on its non-official members, especially the younger ones, making their voices heard.

[Full article](#) (South China Morning Post)

[Reportage] Souffrance, anxiété et dépression pour les enfants migrants placés en détention

20 juin 2018 – Nul besoin d'être pédiatre pour comprendre que la séparation des enfants migrants de leurs familles, provoquée par la politique de tolérance zéro du président Trump, cause énormément de souffrance. Et ce, même si le président des États-Unis vient d'infléchir sa position sur la séparation des familles à la frontière mexicaine en signant un décret mettant fin à cette situation.

[Article complet](#) (L'Actualité)

[Nouvelle] L'ONU ajoute des groupes violant les droits des enfants à une liste noire

26 juin 2018 – Plusieurs groupes congolais, maliens et yéménites ont été ajoutés sur une liste noire annuelle de l'ONU d'entités violant dans les guerres les droits des enfants, annexée à un rapport du secrétaire général de l'organisation publié cette semaine.

[Article complet](#) (La Presse)

[News] NGO pacts to promote children's rights

June 26, 2018 – The Ministry of Social Affairs yesterday signed agreements with three NGOs to promote Cambodian children's rights and their studies in the community. Tep Puthea, the ministry's deputy director of administration affairs and finance, said the ministry signed the memorandum of understanding with the NGOs to work together to promote the interests of Cambodia children and avoid violence against them.

[Full article](#) (Khmer Times)



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[Opinion] How we can fight child labour in the tobacco industry

June 27, 2018 – Many of the world's most popular brands of cigarettes may contain tobacco produced by vulnerable child workers. Over the last five years, we have investigated labor conditions and human rights problems on tobacco farms in four of the world's top 10 tobacco-producing countries. We found that children work in hazardous conditions on farms supplying some of the world's largest multinational tobacco companies.

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

[News] Parents who share pictures of their children on social media putting their human rights at risk, UN warns

June 29, 2018 – Parents who share pictures of their children on social media are putting their human rights at risk, the United Nations has warned. The UN's special rapporteur Joseph Cannataci said that "strong guidelines" were needed to preserve the rights of children whose parents upload video and images of them.

[Full article](#) (The Telegraph)



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2. Conferences, Courses and Events

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 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)

Course – Child Rights and Why They Matter

This online training aims to: raise the level of awareness and understanding of child rights and a child rights approach and why they are so important to UNICEF; stimulate interest, increase motivation and provide inspiration for all UNICEF personnel and partners globally; encourage an improved application of a child rights approach in practice by UNICEF personnel and partners.

Location: Online

Date: Anytime

[For more information](#) (UNICEF)

Formation – Certificat : La parole de l'enfant en justice

La formation se compose de sept modules d'une durée de deux jours chacun qui s'échelonnent jusqu'à mars 2020 sur le site valaisan de l'Université de Genève (Bramois/Sion). Ce CAS privilégie une approche interdisciplinaire et allie des concepts théoriques à des pratiques de prévention, d'accompagnement et d'intervention judiciaire. En explorant l'importance symbolique de la scène judiciaire, il permet aux professionnels de découvrir les mécanismes et les rôles des institutions et des acteurs impliqués auprès des enfants et adolescents.

Emplacement : Université de Genève, Suisse

Dates : Débute en septembre 2018

[Pour plus d'information](#) (Institut international des droits de l'enfant)



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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 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)

Conference – Eurochild Conference 2018

The Eurochild Conference in Opatija will bring positive examples of how public decision-makers at local, national and European levels are respecting the right of children to participate in decisions affecting them. The Eurochild conference will bring together practitioners, researchers, civil society actors, policy and decision makers along with children and young people themselves to contribute to improving children’s participation in public decision-making.

Location : Opatija, Croatia

Dates : October 29-31, 2018

[For more information](#) (Eurochild)

Formation – Le système de justice pénale pour les adolescents: le connaître pour mieux intervenir auprès des victimes

La formation s’adresse aux personnes qui travaillent auprès des victimes (adultes et mineurs) d’actes criminels commis par un adolescent. Elle pourrait intéresser les personnes qui travaillent dans les cliniques jeunesse, CLSC, OJA, CALAC, CAVAC, maisons d’hébergement ainsi que les étudiants de différents programmes universitaires qui s’intéressent aux besoins des victimes. À



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la fin de cette formation, les personnes participantes seront capables de mieux accompagner les victimes d'actes criminels à différentes étapes de leur parcours dans le système de justice pénale pour les adolescents et dans l'exercice de leurs droits et recours.

Emplacement : Drummondville, Québec

Dates : 6 et 7 novembre 2018

[Pour plus d'information](#) (Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes)



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3. Subregional and Country Updates – Children and Armed Conflicts

Burundi – UNICEF denounces killing of children in Burundi

May 15, 2018 – UNICEF has denounced an attack that killed more than 25 people including 11 children, on 11 May in northwest Burundi. According to several reports, children were deliberately targeted after a village in Cibitoke province was attacked. “Children need peace and protection, always,” said Leila Pakkala, UNICEF’s Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa. “UNICEF calls on all parties to immediately ensure full respect of children’s right to safety, and their protection from violence.”

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

Central African Republic – Action Plan to Protect Children Signed in the Central African Republic

June 14, 2018 – The leading UN advocate for the protection and well-being of children affected by armed conflict welcomes the signing of an Action Plan to end and prevent grave violations against children between the Mouvement Patriotique pour la Centrafrique (MPC), part of the Former Séléka coalition, and the United Nations and asks for its immediate implementation.

[Full article](#) (Relief Web)

Democratic Republic of the Congo – Children ‘voluntarily join’ armed groups in DR Congo

May 23, 2018 – The majority of children who join armed groups in Democratic Republic of Congo increasingly do so “voluntarily” because of a lack of alternatives, international charity War Child said Tuesday. There has been a steady drop in the number of child soldiers forcefully recruited by guerilla groups since the 2012 departure of notorious rebel leader Joseph Kony, the organisation said in a study presented in Kinshasa.

[Full article](#) (Independent)

France – Le défi de la prise en charge des «enfants du djihad»

24 mai 2018 – Les services d'aide sociale à l'enfance sont dans l'inconnu : comment s'occuper de ces enfants multi-traumatisés, qui ont connu les armes, les bombardements et les privations ? De retour en France, les «enfants du djihad» doivent apprendre à parler et à se reconstruire. «Nous sommes des pionniers.» D'une phrase, l'aide sociale à l'enfance du département de la Seine-Saint-Denis résume le sentiment d'inconnu qui entoure la prise en charge des «enfants du djihad».

[Article complet](#) (Le Figaro)



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Global – Why Do Children Join Armed Groups 'Voluntarily'?

May 25, 2018 – What made one child more susceptible to joining an armed group... was often the absence of a stable family environment and parental figures? When children who've joined armed groups, or 'child soldiers', are discussed, it's assumed they're recruited by force. While that does happen, the action of joining voluntarily is overlooked.

[Full article](#) (War Child)

Global – U.N. Reports Sharp Increase in Children Killed or Maimed in Conflicts

June 27, 2018 – More than 10,000 children were killed or maimed in armed conflicts last year, the United Nations reported on Wednesday in an annual survey that is closely examined because it names and shames countries that fail to protect children.

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

Irak – Changer d'approche à l'égard des femmes et enfants étrangers dans les procès de l'EI

21 juin 2018 – Les autorités judiciaires irakiennes devraient changer d'approche dans la manière dont elles traitent les femmes et les enfants étrangers détenus sur le territoire national et accusés d'être affiliés à l'État islamique (EI), a déclaré Human Rights Watch aujourd'hui. Depuis janvier, l'Irak a monté des procès expéditifs à l'encontre d'étrangers accusés d'entrée illégale dans le pays et d'appartenance ou d'assistance à l'EI, sans suffisamment prendre en compte les circonstances particulières de chaque cas et sans garantir aux suspects un procès équitable.

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

Myanmar – Nine months after military crackdown, baby boom expected in Rohingya camps

May 2, 2018 – WHEN almost 700,000 Rohingya Muslims fled across the border to escape a military crackdown in Burma (Myanmar), they came with disturbing tales of systematic rape and sexual violence at the hands of soldiers and militiamen. Nine months after the first victims started to arrive in Bangladesh, humanitarian workers are bracing for an anticipated baby boom of infants conceived out of this brutal episode.

[Full article](#) (Asian correspondent)

Nigéria – Des ex-victimes de Boko Haram violées par les forces armées nigérianes

23 mai 2018 – Au Nigeria, 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](#) (Amnesty international)



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Pakistan – Pakistani Children Recruited For Suicide Attacks, Says UN Report

June 28, 2018 – Armed groups in Pakistan continue to recruit children, including those from *madrassas*, and allegedly use them for suicide attacks, according to a UN report released today.

[Full article](#) (NDTV)

Palestine – Children of Conflict: Growing up in Gaza

May 6, 2018 – Rewind meets the grandchildren of Fatima al-Najar, Palestine's oldest female suicide bomber, a decade on. Around the world, millions of children are the unheard voices of war. And the horrors they witness today will inform the adults they become tomorrow. Will they grow up to be the next leaders, teachers or freedom fighters?

[Full article](#) (Al Jazeera)

Soudan du Sud : les rebelles libèrent plus de 200 enfants mais le risque de nouveaux recrutements persiste

23 mai 2018 – Nyiachuoc, âgée de quatorze ans, a passé cinq ans dans la brousse en tant que messagère, cuisinière, porteuse et finalement combattante, servant dans les rangs d'un groupe armé au Soudan du Sud. C'est l'histoire de 210 enfants-soldats qui ont été libérés par leurs ravisseurs à Pibor, dans la région du Grand Jonglei au Soudan du sud. Aujourd'hui, ils échangent désormais des fusils contre des stylos. Ils ont échangé leurs armes et treillis militaires une trousse pour un nouveau départ, qui comprend des livres, des stylos, des vêtements, des draps, une moustiquaire et d'autres articles essentiels.

[Article complet](#) (Africa News)

Ukraine – Les écoliers pris entre deux feux dans le conflit qui perdure à l'est de l'Ukraine (UNICEF)

5 mai 2018 – Plus de quatre années de conflit dans l'est de l'Ukraine ont dévasté le système éducatif, détruit et endommagé des centaines d'écoles, forçant 200.000 filles et garçons à apprendre dans des environnements militarisés, au milieu des combats et des dangers des armes de guerre non explosées, déplore le Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (UNICEF) dans un communiqué.

[Article complet](#) (ONU info)

Uganda – Auto repair shop jump-starts Ugandan child soldiers into new lives

May 9, 2018 – As a young boy chasing chickens on his parents' farm in northern Uganda, Louis Lakor dreamed of becoming a teacher. But when he finally set foot in a local primary school, aged seven, it was as an armed killer. Abducted in a night raid, Lakor was forced to become a child soldier with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebel group, which terrorised northern Uganda for nearly two decades before being driven out of the country by a military offensive in 2005.

[Full article](#) (Thomson Reuters foundation)



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Yemen – UN: Saudi-led coalition behind most Yemen child casualties

June 26, 2018 – A Saudi-led coalition was responsible for more than half of child deaths and injuries in war-torn Yemen last year, according to a new United Nations report exclusively obtained by Al Jazeera.

[Full article](#) (Al Jazeera)