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المكتب الدولي لحقوق الطفل

Newsletter on Children's rights – MENA

Spring 2018

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

Bureau international des droits des enfants / International Bureau for Children's Rights
805 Villeray Street, Montreal (Québec) H2R 1J4

Tel. : +1 514 932 7656

Fax : +1 514 932 9453

Website: www.ibcr.org

E-mail: info@ibcr.org

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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'échelonneront 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)



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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 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 – MENA

Afghanistan – Half of Afghan children out of school, due to conflict, poverty, discrimination: UNICEF

June 2, 2018 – Nearly 3.7 million Afghan children are missing out on school, due to on-going conflict, grinding poverty, and discrimination against girls, according to a new report from the UN Children's Fund, UNICEF. That represents almost half of all children aged between seven and 17, and it marks the first time that the out-of-school rate has increased, since 2002, said UNICEF.

[Full article](#) (UN)

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

22 mai 2018 – 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)

Algéria – Algeria has expelled more than 13,000 migrants and left them stranded in the Sahara Desert

June 26 2018 - Migrants — including pregnant women and children — are dropped off in the desert and forced to walk on foot to Niger, according to the Associated Press. They must endure harsh conditions, such as temperatures up to 118 degrees Fahrenheit, while heading to Niger, which lies on the southern border of Algeria; some migrants are even threatened at gunpoint. And the country doesn't seem to have any plans for how to improve the situation.

[Full article](#) (Vox)

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)



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Iran – UN rights chief ‘deeply disturbed’ by continuing executions of juvenile offenders

June 27, 2018 – Following the execution of a 15-year-old in Iran on Wednesday – the fourth juvenile to be put to death in the country this year – the United Nations rights chief condemned the practice, citing the strict prohibition of such executions under international law.

[Full article](#) (UN)

Liban – Le Liban instaure une rotation des classes pour scolariser les réfugiés syriens

26 juin 2018 – Environ 350 écoles dans le pays combinent deux jours d'école en un. Ce système est vital pour près de 150 000 enfants réfugiés syriens qui peuvent ainsi continuer à bénéficier d'une éducation.

[Article complet](#) (HCR)

Libya – 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)

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)

MENA – Breaking all barriers: 8 million children sit end-of-year exams across the Middle East and North Africa

June 11, 2018 – An estimated 8 million school children across the Middle East and North Africa are sitting their year-end school exams. Children in the region face a host of challenges to stay in school and complete their national exams. Families increasingly face poverty, child labour, inability to afford transportation to school, overcrowding, lack of teachers and school space, and low-quality education.

[Full article](#) (Relief Web)



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Morocco – Morocco Gives 23,151 Birth Certificates to Unregistered Moroccan Children

June 1, 2018 – In Thursday's government council, Head of Government Saad Eddine El Othmani and Minister of Human Rights Mustapha Ramid revealed the number of children unregistered at birth and discussed the national campaign to accelerate birth registration, as well as approving other draft laws.

[Full article](#) (Morocco World 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 – Poor education system deters Pakistanis from sending children to schools, says education charity

May 22, 2018 – 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)

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 – 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)



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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)