### Newsletter on Children's rights - MENA

#### October 2018

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

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#### **Table of Contents**

I.	Global Development on Children and Human's rights	3
	Australie - Nauru migrants: Australia evacuates 11 children off detention island	. 3
	Canada - Vulnerable children don't have access to Canada Child Benefit, says advocacy group	. 3
	Canada - How Canada barred adoptions from Muslim countries and used Shariah law to do it	. 3
	European Union - Combating child poverty: an issue of fundamental rights	. 3
	France - Violences à l'école : des professeurs dénoncent sur Twitter le silence de l'Education national	
	Global - Global Child Nutrition Forum celebrates 20th edition in Tunisia	
	Global - 90% of world's children are breathing toxic air, WHO study finds	. 4
	Global - How children learn to recognize faces	. 4
	Global - Investing in knowledge for ending child marriage	. 4
	Indonesia - Sulawesi Earthquake & Tsunami: One month on from the disaster, thousands of children still homeless, out-of-school and in need of humanitarian support	
	Japan - Art classes can help boost your kids' creativity	. 5
	Slovenia - Slovenia adopts a declaration on the creation of a Children's House for child victims of sexual abuse	5
	Sweden - Child bride refugees spur Sweden to tighten marriage law	. 5
	United Kindgom - Children spend twice as long looking at screens than playing outside, study finds	. 5



	United States - USA: Facts and figures on illegal pushbacks, arbitrary detention and ill treatment of asylum-seekers in the United States	6
I	I. Conferences, courses and events	6
	Projection de courts-métrages – Les droits des enfants autochtones	6
	Festival de films documentaires – Enfances dans le monde	6
	Conference - AidEx 2018 : The global humanitarian and development aid event	7
	Colloque étudiant – CERIUM: "Efficaces, les organisations internationales ? »	7
	Lecture - Human Rights Limits to Privatization - Humphrey lecture with Philip Alston	7
I	II. Subregional and Country Updates – MENA	8
	Egypt - CAPMAS launches a mobile phone application and briefs on children and youth in the census	. 8
	Egypt -Egypt broadens potential pool of adoptive, foster parents.	8
	Egypt -Child malnutrition in Egypt: Breaking the vicious circle.	8
	Irak - Children of Islamic State group live under a stigma in Iraq.	8
	Iran - U.S. imposes sanctions on Iranian network supporting child soldiers.	9
	Lebanon - In Lebanon, Iraqi boy with autism finds escape from isolation.	9
	Liban - "Capharnaüm", le film plaidoyer de la cause des enfants et des exilés	9
	Libye - Libye : 4,7 millions de doses de vaccins pour les enfants contre la rougeole, la rubéole et la polio (UNICEF).	9
	Occupied Palestinian Territories - Could this be the last day of school in the West Bank's fated Khan a Ahmar?	
	Syria - Empower Girls; the story of a young Syrian coder	10
	Syria - Syrian refugees and the schooling challenge.	10
	Tunisie - Le Forum mondial sur la nutrition infantile célèbre sa 20eme édition en Tunisie	11
	Yemen - Suspected Cholera cases in Hodeidah nearly triple over three months.	11
	Yemen - Generation of children in need of mental health support in Yemen.	11
	Yemen - «Some pregnant women and sick children arrive so late, we can't save them»	11

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

#### Australie - Nauru migrants: Australia evacuates 11 children off detention island

October 23, 2018 - Some 11 children have been transferred to Australia from the Nauru detention centre to receive medical treatment.

BBC - Full Article

## Canada - Vulnerable children don't have access to Canada Child Benefit, says advocacy group

October 14, 2018 - Thousands of Canada's most vulnerable children don't have access to hundreds of dollars a month in federal aid because of red tape, according to a non-profit organization. CBC – Full Article

### Canada - How Canada barred adoptions from Muslim countries and used Shariah law to do it

October 29, 2018 - At the Pakistani orphanage where he was abandoned at birth, little Imran packed his things and said goodbye to the children who weren't so lucky. At four years old, Imran believed he would finally have a family. "Say goodbye to me," he said. "My mom is coming to take me to Canada." That was two years ago. He never made it — all because of a controversial policy that's kept hopeful Canadians separated from children they had created a space for in their hearts and their homes. But after a year-long investigation by *The Fifth Estate*, that may change. The federal government says it will review a decision going back to 2013 when Canada banned adoptions from Pakistan without warning.

CBC - Full Article

#### European Union - Combating child poverty: an issue of fundamental rights

October 2018 - Almost 25 million children under 18 are at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU. Poverty deprives children of educational opportunities, childcare, access to health care, adequate food and housing, family support and even protection from violence. This report outlines data and survey findings that highlight the magnitude of child poverty in the EU, but also presents tools available to counter this phenomenon and keep track of progress made.

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights – Full Article



#### France - Violences à l'école : des professeurs dénoncent sur Twitter le silence de

#### l'Education nationale

22 octobre 2018 - Ces réactions surviennent après l'affaire d'un élève filmé en train de braquer sa professeure avec une arme factice dans un lycée de Créteil (Val-de-Marne). Le lycéen a été mis en examen dimanche pour « violences aggravées ».

Le Monde – Article complet

#### Global - Global Child Nutrition Forum celebrates 20th edition in Tunisia

October - The 20th annual Global Child Nutrition Forum is expected to gather 300 participants representing 50 countries to discuss the theme National School Meal Programs for Food and Nutrition Security and Multiple Social Benefits. The Forum is the largest annual international conference on school feeding in the world, and this year it will take place in Tunis, Tunisia, from 21 to 25 October.

World Food Programme – Full Article

#### Global - 90% of world's children are breathing toxic air, WHO study finds

October 29, 2018 - Poisonous air is having a devastating impact on billions of children around the world, damaging their intelligence and leading to hundreds of thousands of deaths, according to a report from the World Health Organization.

The Guardian - Full Article

#### Global - How children learn to recognize faces

October 29, 2018 - "I'm very, very good at recognizing faces," said Kang Lee, a professor of applied psychology and human development at the University of Toronto, who studies the development of facial recognition skills in children. If he has met a person once, he said, he will recognize that person two or three years later. "One encounter for me is sufficient, my brain has encoded it."

New York Times - Full Article

#### Global - Investing in knowledge for ending child marriage

October 2018 - The UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage is turning commitments into tangible action for children. It promotes the right of girls to delay marriage, addresses the conditions that keep the practice in place and cares for girls already in union. The Global Programme is being implemented in 12 countries with high prevalence and/or high burden of child marriage: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia.

Reliefweb – Full Article



# Indonesia - Sulawesi Earthquake & Tsunami: One month on from the disaster, thousands of children still homeless, out-of-school and in need of humanitarian support

October 4, 2018 - Almost a month after a deadly earthquake and tsunami struck Palu and the surrounding areas of the northwestern part of Sulawesi, Indonesia, an estimated 375,000 children remain in need of lifesaving supplies and services.

UNICEF – Full Article

#### Japan - Art classes can help boost your kids' creativity

October 7, 2018 - My two daughters are staring, eyes wide open, bodies motionless and completely oblivious to me calling their names. The object of their fascination? A studio full of adults silently sketching in a still life art class — more precisely, the pencil outline of an apple coming to life, as drawn on an easel by a 30-something man.

Japan Times – Full Article

### Slovenia - Slovenia adopts a declaration on the creation of a Children's House for child victims of sexual abuse

October 10, 2018 - Representatives of Slovenian authorities have signed and adopted the <u>Declaration</u> on the creation of a Barnahus (Children's House) for child victims of sexual abuse in Slovenia.

Council of Europe - Full Article

#### Sweden - Child bride refugees spur Sweden to tighten marriage law

October 24, 2018 - Among the tens of thousands of child refugees who have fled to Sweden from war-torn countries is a group of young girls who have presented the Nordic country with a major dilemma - they are married.

Thomson Reuters Foundation – Full Article

# United Kindgom - Children spend twice as long looking at screens than playing outside, study finds

October 26, 2018 - Young children spend twice as long looking at screens as they do playing outside, a study has found. By the time they reach the age of seven, children will have been looking at screens for the equivalent of 456 days — an average of four hours every day. But just 182 days, or an average of just over an hour and a half a day, will have been spent playing outdoors. Independent — Full Article



## United States - USA: Facts and figures on illegal pushbacks, arbitrary detention and ill treatment of asylum-seekers in the United States

October 22, 2018 - Amnesty International's view on US authorities' family separation numbers: There has still not been a proper reckoning of the scale of abuse by US authorities in the family separations scandal. The US Congress must act immediately to publicly investigate and establish an exhaustive record of family separations by US authorities, and pass legislation prohibiting the separation and indefinite detention of children and families. US authorities must reveal their full statistics on family separations for public scrutiny, ensure that all those families are reunited, and guarantee this never happens again.

Amnesty International – Full Article

#### II. Conferences, courses and events

#### Projection de courts-métrages – Les droits des enfants autochtones

La Journée mondiale de l'enfance est célébrée chaque année le 20 novembre afin de promouvoir les droits de l'enfant. En collaboration avec Wapikoni Mobile, les enfants autochtones seront mis à l'honneur au travers une sélection d'œuvres cinématographiques et de discussions sur les thèmes de l'identité culturelle, la participation active des enfants au sein de leur communauté et l'autonomisation des peuples autochtones. Les projections et les discussions seront suivies d'un cocktail pendant lequel vous pourrez échanger avec les expertes et experts présents, sur les défis qu'il reste à relever sur les droits de l'enfant d'ici et d'ailleurs, en particulier les enfants autochtones. Le Bureau international des droits des enfants (IBCR) est très heureux de vous convier à cette soirée courts-métrages, qui s'annonce riche en émotions et en partages.

IBCR – En savoir plus

#### Festival de films documentaires – Enfances dans le monde

Le festival Enfances dans le monde a lieu tous les ans à Paris, au cinéma Les 7 Parnassiens (Paris XIVe). Il est organisé par le Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance (BICE) à l'occasion de la journée mondiale des droits de l'enfant. Enfances dans le monde est le seul festival de cinéma de films documentaires sur l'enfance en France. Les documentaires projetés au festival Enfances dans le monde s'adressent à des adolescents comme à des adultes. Les séances du festival ont lieu à Paris au cinéma Les 7 Parnassiens.

BICE – En savoir plus



#### Conference - AidEx 2018: The global humanitarian and development aid event

AidEx is a two-days event, which encompasses a conference, exhibition, meeting areas, awards and workshops. Its fundamental aim is to engage the sector at every level and provide a forum for aid & development professionals to meet, source, supply and learn. AidEx was created to help the international aid and development community engage the private sector in a neutral setting, drive innovation and support the ever-growing need for emergency aid and development programmes. AidEx – More information

#### Colloque étudiant - CERIUM: "Efficaces, les organisations internationales? »

Le CERIUM organise cette année la 6e édition de son colloque étudiant intitulé : « Efficaces, les organisations internationales ? ». Pour cette nouvelle édition, le comité organisateur du colloque étudiant du cérium a décidé de mener des débats et des discussions sur l'efficacité des organisations internationales. Souvent critiquées, voire remises en cause, les organisations internationales font l'objet de questionnements quant à leur place dans un monde bousculé par plusieurs enjeux fondamentaux. Ainsi, nous élaborons trois thèmes qui nous semblent prioritaires dans leurs agendas. À 9h45, nos intervenant.e.s débattront sur la priorité du développement durable jusqu'à 11h30 sous forme de table ronde. À partir de 13h jusqu'à 15h, la question des femmes dans les organisations internationales sera discutée et débattue sous forme de table ronde. Enfin, de 15h à 17h, nous conclurons par une discussion autour de la place de la gouvernance mondiale et la légitimité des organisations internationales.

CERIUM- En savoir plus

### Lecture - Human Rights Limits to Privatization - Humphrey lecture with Philip Alston

Privatization is generally presented as a technical solution for managing resources and reducing fiscal deficits, but in fact, it is an integral part of an economic and social philosophy of governance. Key international actors such as the World Bank and the IMF now promote it aggressively without regard to its human rights implications or consequences, while most human rights bodies have either ignored the phenomenon or assumed that tweaking existing procedures provides an adequate response. The lecture will explore the ways in which human rights proponents need to fundamentally reconsider their approach to this issue

The Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism – More information



#### III. Subregional and Country Updates – MENA

## Egypt - CAPMAS launches a mobile phone application and briefs on children and youth in the census.

October 11, 2018 - In light of the importance of official statistics as a key pillar in supporting decision-makers in designing better-targeted policies and programs, CAPMAS and UNICEF launched three products in an event that took place on the 30th of September 2017. The 'EgyChildDigest Mobile Application and two briefs on Children and Youth in the Census'. The application and the two briefs on children and youth in the Census were prepared under the joint collaboration of CAPMAS and UNICEF and are particularly important in summarizing new facts on children and youth based on the Census data. UNICEF- Full Article

#### Egypt -Egypt broadens potential pool of adoptive, foster parents.

October 12, 2018 - Egypt has amended its Child Law, opening up the option of adoption and foster parenting to more people — including single women. The amendments, passed Sept. 19, concern orphans and children of unknown parentage under Egypt's Alternative Family system. According to observers, the government is making the changes to confront the country's history of mistreatment and abuse of these children. The problem has been compounded in recent years by the financial strain shouldered by care facilities in light of the dire economic conditions gripping the country.

Al Monitor- Full Article

#### Egypt -Child malnutrition in Egypt: Breaking the vicious circle.

October 18, 2018 - The seminar held 16 October marking the launch of a series of data briefs on child related issues was short and to the point. The first data snapshot presentation titled "Child malnutrition: Unfolding the situation in Egypt" came in conjunction with World Food Day and came with a positive message: malnutrition it is one of the problems we have the power to stop before it even starts. The former sentence which was on banners everywhere in UNICEF headquarters in Maadi district and on brochures gave a positive vibe, and was the lead of the words of Bruno Maes, UNICEF representative in Egypt.

Ahram Online- Full Article

#### Irak - Children of Islamic State group live under a stigma in Iraq.

October 15, 2018 - A family of six lost children lives quietly in a small apartment among strangers in this northern Iraqi city. The "man of the house," an 18-year-old, heads out each morning looking for day labor jobs to pay the rent. His 12-year-old sister acts as the mother, cooking meals, cleaning and caring for her young siblings.



Their home village is less than an hour's drive away, but they can't go back — Shiite militiamen burned down their house because their father belonged to the Islamic State group. And they fear retaliation by their former neighbors, so deep is the anger at the militants who once ruled this area.

Stars and Stripes-Full Article

#### Iran - U.S. imposes sanctions on Iranian network supporting child soldiers.

October 16, 2018 - The U.S. Treasury imposed sanctions on Tuesday on a multibillion-dollar financial network that supports an Iranian paramilitary force that it said recruits and trains child soldiers for the country's elite Revolutionary Guards. The announcement came two weeks before the Trump administration reimposes some of the United States' harshest sanctions against Iran, including its oil sector.

Reuters-Full Article

#### Lebanon - In Lebanon, Iraqi boy with autism finds escape from isolation.

October 10, 2018 - "He stands on the balcony till bedtime," Samer's mother, Catrina Youssef, 48, said. "'He looks at people passing by, he waves at cars and looks at other children playing, he shouts at them and laughs. It is his way of playing with them."Born with autism spectrum disorder – a developmental disability that impairs his social communication and interaction skills – 10-year-old Samer has lived most of his life in relative isolation, struggling to communicate, share feelings or interact with people around him.

UNHCR- Full Article

### Liban - "Capharnaüm", le film plaidoyer de la cause des enfants et des exilés.

15 octobre, 2018 - Prix du jury au Festival de Cannes, Capharnaüm suit le quotidien d'une famille syrienne réfugiée clandestinement au Liban avec ses quatre enfants. L'un d'eux, Zain, 12 ans, décide de fuir ces parents qui le maltraitent. Il trouve alors refuge auprès de Rahil, éthiopienne sans-papiers qui survit avec son fils dans un baraquement. Au fil des jours, le garçon trouve l'affection et l'amour maternel auprès de Rahil. L'enfant décide alors d'intenter un procès contre ses parents. Ce qu'il leur reproche ? De lui avoir donné la vie. Le Figaro- Article complet

## Libye - Libye : 4,7 millions de doses de vaccins pour les enfants contre la rougeole, la rubéole et la polio (UNICEF).

25 octobre, 2018 - Trois avions affrétés par l'UNICEF sont arrivés à Tripoli, en Libye, contenant 4,7 millions de doses de vaccins contre la rougeole, la rubéole et la polio, ainsi que 2,75 millions de doses de supplément de vitamine A et des seringues. Ces fournitures seront indispensables à la campagne nationale de vaccination menée en Libye en coordination avec l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) fin novembre, qui vise à protéger quelque 2,75 millions d'enfants



exposés au risque de maladies pouvant être prévenues par la vaccination, a précisé le Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (UNICEF) dans un communiqué de presse. ONU Info- Article complet

#### Occupied Palestinian Territories - Could this be the last day of school in the West

#### Bank's fated Khan al-Ahmar?

September 30, 2018 - On Monday morning, in the Bedouin village of Khan al-Ahmar, a few miles outside Jerusalem, the latest deadline for the community's survival will expire. The most recent ultimatum was delivered to residents last Sunday by an Israeli government that has long pursued them through the courts. The villagers were told that they have until 1 October to demolish their homes and leave, following the rejection of a last-ditch appeal in Israel's Supreme Court.

The guardian- Full Article

#### Syria - Empower Girls; the story of a young Syrian coder.

October 10, 2018 - If you think that coding is only for boys, Aya from Homs is going to prove you wrong. At only 11, Aya has already won two national programming awards and aspires to become an information technology expert. Last year, Aya started attending a UNICEF-supported centre in Homs, where youth and adolescents receive vocational, life skills and entrepreneurship training depending on their interests. They also learn about social cohesion and civic engagement through participating in youth-led initiatives, with thanks to a generous contribution by the EU. It was at the centre that Aya was first introduced to programming and found her passion. UNICEF - Full Article

#### Syria - Syrian refugees and the schooling challenge.

October 23, 2018- In 2017, the U.N. refugee agency, UNHCR, estimated that globally 68.5 million people had been forcefully displaced—the worst such crisis since World War II. Of these, 40 million were internally displaced peoples (IDPs), 25.4 million were refugees, and 3.1 million were asylum seekers. Over half were minors and over half of those minors were out of school. In 2017, 61 percent of refugee children were in primary school, compared to 92 percent globally and 23 percent were in secondary school compared to 84 percent globally. Two-thirds of refugee children in primary school don't go on to secondary education and only 1 percent go on to higher education.

The Brookings Institution-Full Article



### Tunisie - Le Forum mondial sur la nutrition infantile célèbre sa 20eme édition en Tunisie.

18 octobre, 2018- Les représentants de plus de 50 pays vont se réunir à partir de dimanche à Tunis pour discuter des multiples avantages des programmes nationaux de repas scolaires et de la façon de les concevoir et de les mettre en œuvre. Le 20ème Forum mondial sur la nutrition infantile doit rassembler 300 participants représentants plus de 50 pays pour discuter des programmes nationaux de repas scolaires pour la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle et les multiples avantages sur le plan social. Le Forum est la plus grande conférence internationale annuelle dans le monde sur l'alimentation scolaire. Cette année il se tient à Tunis du 21 au 25 Octobre.

Centre d'information des Nations Unies Tunis- Article complet

#### Yemen - Suspected Cholera cases in Hodeidah nearly triple over three months.

October 5, 2018 - Suspected cholera cases have almost tripled in Yemen's coastal Hodeidah region since fighting escalated in June. Health facilities supported by Save the Children across the governorate recorded a 170 per cent increase in the number of suspected cholera cases, from 497 in June to 1,342 in August. The spike is in line with national data that also shows a steady increase of suspected cholera cases across Yemen. 30 per cent of all suspected cases are children under five years old, according to the World Health Organization. Save the Children-Full Article

#### Yemen - Generation of children in need of mental health support in Yemen.

October 15, 2018 - 12-year-old Khaled was on his way to a picnic when a deadly airstrike hit his school bus, killing 40 children in northern Saada province, Yemen, on August 9. Not only was he badly injured in the attack, putting him in a wheelchair since, the horrifying experience has also left him feeling anguished and numb. Khaled told Save the Children: "We were happy, we were going to [play]. When we reached the market there were people there, and everything [was as usual]. Then there was firing. I couldn't find my friends. I feel my friend's pain and my pain. I don't feel anything else.

Save the Children-Full Article

### Yemen - «Some pregnant women and sick children arrive so late, we can't save them».

October 18, 2018- The MSF hospital in Abs is currently receiving war wounded every day. Between August and September, we treated 362 injured people, more than 40 per cent of all the wounded we have treated at this facility in 2018. Many are civilians caught in the crossfire of airstrikes and missiles. The intensification of the fighting about 50 kilometers north of Abs, in the



المكتب الدولي لحقوق الطفل

area of Beni Hassan, close to the border with Saudi Arabia, has caused a massive new wave of displacement.

Relief Web- Full Article