



Newsletter on Children's rights – Middle East and North Africa

August 2020

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Afghanistan – Lives of Afghan Children during Coronavirus Pandemic

5th August – Afghanistan is one of the poorest countries in the world and its poor economy continues to pose immense challenges to its population. Among the citizens, young lives especially children struggle to live happily and to meet daily needs. The recent Corona pandemic has further added to the woes in those growing lives. In a survey, researchers outlined that approximately 3 million children across the country are vulnerable to daily survival struggle, 2 million are engaged in construction and mining activities, and over 5 million are unable to attend schools for basic education.

MENAFN – [Full article](#)



Algérie – Les enfants adoptés autorisés à changer de nom de famille

21 août - Les enfants adoptés désirant changer de nom de famille sont désormais autorisés à le faire, selon une nouvelle loi indiquée par le Premier ministre Abdelaziz Djerad. En effet, le Premier ministre a apporté quelques changements au décret exécutif relatif au changement de nom; de ce fait les enfants nés de pères inconnus en Algérie ont le droit de changer leur nom de famille; conformément au décret n° 20-223 du 18 Dhou El Hidja 1441 (8 août 2020), paru au numéro 47 du journal officiel de la République rapporte Algérie 360.

Zair Daily – [Article complet](#)

Global – Impact of Covid-19 on Children's Education in Africa

26th August - Between April and August 2020, Human Rights Watch conducted 57 remote interviews with students, parents, teachers, and education officials across Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, and Zambia to learn about the effects of the pandemic on children's education. Our research shows that school closures caused by the pandemic exacerbated previously existing inequalities, and that children who were already most at risk of being excluded from a quality education have been most affected.

Human Rights Watch – [Full article](#)

Iran – Analyzing the Sufficiency of Iran's Child and Adolescent Protection Law

7th August – Iran recently passed a law criminalizing abandonment, physical or emotional abuse of children, taking a major leap in terms of rights provided to children and juveniles. The Child and Adolescent Protection Bill was approved by the Guardian Council, the body which determines if a legislation passed by the Parliament is in consonance with Sharia and the Iranian constitution.

Jurist – [Full article](#)

Jordan – After hundreds of teachers arrested, coronavirus is just the start of Jordan's back-to-school challenges.

27th August – Jordan is facing even more uncertainty than most countries as it prepares to send children back to school. A simmering labor dispute saw hundreds of teachers jailed this summer, and there's a risk that, just as the coronavirus crisis sees thousands of kids transfer into the public school system, it could be hobbled again.

CBS News – [Full article](#)



Liban – les enfants particulièrement fragilisés après l'explosion à Beyrouth

23 août - Trois semaines après l'explosion sur le port de Beyrouth, qui a fait plus de 180 morts et des milliers de blessés, les associations pour le droit des enfants alertent sur le développement de traumatismes spécifiques chez les plus jeunes. Des pathologies difficiles à accompagner, alors que les hôpitaux sont détruits.

La Croix – [Article complet](#)

Maroc – Ce mal criminel attaque les enfants dans un silence de plomb

14 août - Plus de 1,8 million de jeunes marocains seraient atteints de saturnisme, selon un récent rapport de l'Unicef (Fonds des Nations unies pour l'enfance) et de l'ONG américaine Pure Earth. En cause: un empoisonnement massif au plomb qui crée un sérieux problème de santé publique et de société dont presque personne ne parle au Maroc.

Sputnik News – [Article complet](#)

Maroc – Mariage des mineures : des générations sacrifiées

28 août - Plus de 16 ans après l'entrée en vigueur du Code de la famille, et près d'une décennie après l'avènement de la nouvelle Constitution, le mariage des mineures continue de poser problème. En atteste les chiffres de l'étude de l'association Droits & Justice. Dévoilés lors de la Journée mondiale de l'exploitation sexuelle célébrée le 4 mars dernier, ces chiffres dénotent d'un véritable mal être social.

Femmes du Maroc – [Article complet](#)

Saudi Arabia – Saudi Arabia Reviews Child Death Penalty Cases

31st August – On August 26, the Saudi Human Rights Commission announced the judiciary would review three death sentences in accordance with a recent decree to halt capital punishment for child offenders. Ali al-Nimr, Dawoud al-Marhoun, and Abdullah al-Zaher were sentenced to death for allegedly committing crimes when they were children.

Human Rights Watch – [Full article](#)

Sudan – Sudan May Have Banned FGM, but the Harsh Practice Continues

11th August – Just four months ago, Sudan took the monumental step to ban female genital mutilation, a painful, unnecessary, and dangerous procedure that leaves lasting scars. Generally



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carried out on girls before they reach puberty, genital mutilation is now punishable in Sudan by up to three years in prison and subject to a fine.

Pass Blue – [Full article](#)

UAE – Don't subject children to ridicule or public shaming, Sharjah child safety body advises parents

18th August – Sharjah: The Child Safety Department (CSD) of Sharjah recently organised a webinar in collaboration with the Emirates Child Protection Association to educate parents, teachers and child-care workers in the UAE on child safety issues and offer them key tools and resources to ensure the well-being of their children. The session focused on children's rights and shined a light on what child safety means as well as the types of abuses that children are at risk of facing today.

Gulf News – [Full article](#)

UAE – Why the UAE's new paternity leave decree is so significant

31st August – Recognising the importance of the father's role in childcare is a landmark move. This August the UAE announced that it has become the first Arab country to grant paid paternity leave for the private sector. Amendments to the Federal Law on the regulation of labour relations will see new fathers in the private-sector being granted a paid "Parental Leave" of five working days to care for their newborn infant, from the date of birth up to six months.

Gulf News – [Full article](#)