

MEDIA RELEASE

UNICEF presents Arabic version of UN Study on Violence Against Children in Tunisia

Tunis, October 30 2006- Following the October 11th launch of the UN Study on Violence Against Children and the presentation of the report to the UN General Assembly by independent expert Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Rima Salah today introduced the Arabic version of the study in Tunisia, upon official invitation by the Minister of Education. Mr. Sadok Korbi.

Rima Salah commented on the prevalence and impact of this phenomenon in the Arab world. She declared that "*exposing a child to violence is deviant and even if the physical wounds disappear in time, it is rare to see psychological harm fading completely*".

During his intervention, Tunisian Minister of Education, Sadok Korbi highlighted some of the results of the National Study on Violence in Schools. He also underlined the efforts carried out by the country to prevent this form of violence by means of a decree ruling over school life and educational institutions. This resulted from high level deliberations at the April 2005 International Colloquium in Tunis, "*Towards a School of Dialogue and Respect*" –

"Violence has a durable effect not only on children and their families, but also on communities and nations", asserted UNICEF Executive Director, Ann M. Veneman earlier this month at the report launch event in New York. "*We congratulate ourselves for this global study on the impact of the violence against children.*"

The study, which approaches the problem from the human rights, public health and child protection perspectives, centres its focus on five settings where different types of violence occur: a) violence in the home and family; b) violence in schools and educational settings; c) violence in institutions (care and judicial); d) violence in the workplace, and e) violence in the community.

For more information, please contact

Mr. Mokhtar Dhahri, UNICEF Tunisia Communication Officer
Telephone:
E-mail: mdhahri@unicef.org

Mr. M. Anis Salem, UNICEF MENA-RO Regional Communication Adviser
Mobile: + 96279 557 9991
E-Mail: asalem@unicef.org

Mr. Wolfgang Friedl, UNICEF MENA-RO Communication Officer
Mobile: + 96279 573 2745
E-Mail: wfriedl@unicef.org