



## **WATCHLIST APPLAUDS NEW UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT, URGES IMPLEMENTATION**

*Contact: Tzvetomira Kaltcheva at + 212 518 6246 or [tzvetomirak@watchlist.org](mailto:tzvetomirak@watchlist.org)  
Interviews with experts available upon request*

**August 4, 2009, New York, NY** – Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, an international network of human rights and humanitarian organizations, applauds the adoption of a new UN Security Council Resolution that strengthens the protection of children affected by armed conflict.

In a major step forward, the Security Council adopted a resolution that calls on the UN system as a whole to monitor and report on grave violations against children caught in the violence of armed conflict. This expansion will make killing and maiming of children and rape and other forms of sexual violence against children top priorities for Security Council action.

Now, all parties to armed conflict, found by the UN Secretary-General to be recruiting and using child soldiers, killing and maiming children, or raping and subjecting children to sexual violence in the context of armed conflict, will face action by the UN Security Council's Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, which aims to hold perpetrators accountable and ultimately to halt these violations.

“Given the rampant sexual violence against girls and boys in many situations of armed conflict across the globe and the alarming rates of killing and maiming of children, this action by the Security Council signifies a real advancement in efforts to protect children,” said Julia Freedson, Watchlist Director. “The Security Council must now make certain that the ideals set out in this resolution translate into tangible improvements in the lives of children—especially the end of violence and the end to the impunity enjoyed by armed groups.”

The resolution's other key achievements include:

- Reaffirmation of the Security Council's intention to use sanctions against persistent perpetrators of crimes against children and commitment to closer cooperation between the Council's Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict and pre-existing Sanctions Committees;
- A call to member states to hold persistent perpetrators of violations accountable and to bring them to justice through national and international justice mechanisms, criminal courts and tribunals;

- A call to parties to armed conflict to develop and implement action plans to halt all violations against children, in coordination with UN teams in the field.

“Watchlist applauds the extraordinary leadership by the government of Mexico, in its role as the Chair of the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict in securing the adoption of this important resolution,” said Kathleen Hunt, Watchlist Steering Committee Chair and UN Representative of CARE International. Watchlist also recognizes and appreciates the strong commitment of all 15 Security Council members to reinforce child protection efforts on the ground. It is of crucial importance, however, that the Security Council and the international community as a whole keep the momentum on the children and armed conflict agenda and continue to demand that all parties to conflict take concrete and measurable actions to halt all violations against children.

—END—

The Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict is a global network of human rights and humanitarian organizations, which strives to end violations against children in armed conflicts and to guarantee their rights. For more information, visit [www.watchlist.org](http://www.watchlist.org).