# Children and Armed Conflict MONTHLY UPDATE: APRIL 2015

# **Recommendations to the Security Council**

# **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)**

The ex-Seleka coalition and associated armed groups are listed for recruitment and use, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and attacks on schools and/or hospitals. The anti-Balaka is listed for recruitment and use, and killing and maiming. In April 2015, MINUSCA's mandate is expected to be renewed and its progress report to the Council is due, pursuant to SCR 2149 (2014). The Congolese armed forces (FARDC), listed for recruitment and use and rape and other forms of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), are currently operating as MINUSCA peacekeepers. Four hundred out of the 800 FARDC troops currently stationed there are expected to return to the DRC by July 2015. The DRC signed an action plan with the UN in 2012, but has yet to fully implement it. **The Security Council should:** 

- In line with 23 July ceasefire agreement signed between the parties at the end of the Brazzaville Forum for National Reconciliation in CAR, **urge all parties to immediately cease all recruitment and use and other grave violations against children;**
- Bearing in mind the mandate renewal, ensure the deployment of adequate capacity to effectively fulfil MINUSCA's protection of civilians (PoC) mandate, including authorized strength of uniformed personnel, child protection advisors, and experts on sexual and gender-based violence; and ensure its PoC mandate provision on deterring violence against civilians through active patrolling includes schools, hospitals and places of worship;
- Call on Member States and the African Union to ensure that all of their peacekeeping forces are trained in international humanitarian and human rights law, including on protection of civilians and child protection, and to propose a mechanism to monitor that these trainings have taken place;
- Urge the Transitional Authorities, in collaboration with UNICEF, to accelerate the finalization and implementation of a strategy for identification, release, and reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups, and support its rapid implementation, in line with the 23 July ceasefire agreement signed between the parties;
- Express deep concern for the military use of schools, recognizing that such use may render schools legitimate targets of attack and endanger children's safety and education; and furthermore, encourage parties to protect the civilian character of these institutions and, where possible, for MINUSCA and other humanitarian authorities to systematically advocate for armed actors to vacate schools;
- In light of the fact that the FARDC, a listed government force, are contributing troops to a peacekeeping mission, welcome the reduction in size of the Congolese battalion and encourage that all FARDC troops be sent home until their action plan is fully implemented.

**FRANCE** IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON CAR. **LITHUANIA** CHAIRS THE 2127 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE AND **JORDAN** IS THE VICE-CHAIR.

## IRAQ

The Islamic State of Iraq / Al-Qaida in Iraq is listed for the recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, and attacks on schools and hospitals. In March 2015, the Council is expected to receive UNAMI's progress report pursuant to SCR 2169 (2014). The last Secretary-General's (SG) progress report submitted on 2 February 2015 (S/2015/82) reports detrimental effects of ongoing armed conflict and acts of terrorism on children, particularly related to ISIL activity. **The Security Council should:** 

• Call on **all parties to put an end to grave violations committed against children**, including recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, and attacks on schools and hospitals;

#### Situations before the Council involving parties listed for grave violations against children:

Afghanistan Central African Region (LRA-affected areas) Central African Republic Colombia Democratic Republic of the Congo Iraq Mali Myanmar (Burma) <u>Nigeria</u> Philippines <u>Somalia</u> South Sudan <u>Sudan</u> Syrian Arab Republic Yemen

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#### IRAQ (cont'd)

- Strongly encourage the Government to establish an interministerial committee to discuss and follow-up on child protection commitments, in partnership with the Country Task Force for Monitoring and Reporting grave violations against children;
- Urge the UN Country Team to investigate and document potential child recruitment, attacks on schools and military use of schools by state-backed Shia and other militias; and furthermore, request the UN Iraq and Syria country teams to coordinate their advocacy and prevention efforts on recruitment and use of children by armed non-state actors operating in the region, as well as to coordinate their response to facilitate the reintegration of demobilized children.

#### THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON IRAQ.

#### **NIGERIA**

Boko Haram is listed for killing and maiming, and attacks on schools and/or hospitals. In April 2015, the Council will be negotiating a resolution regarding endorsement of the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) in response to Boko Haram. **The Council should:** 

- Demand that Boko Haram and armed militias engaged in the conflict, **prevent and end all** grave violations against children, including recruitment and use of children;
- Recommend that MNJTF, in consultation with relevant UN agencies and regional
  organizations and recognizing as victims those children who have been released or
  otherwise separated from armed forces and armed groups establish standard operating
  procedures for the handover of children to child protection actors, and include child
  protection in military training, as well as in future military directives as appropriate;
- Recommend that the MNJTF undertake targeted and operational trainings for the preparation of mission personnel, including troop and police contingents, on their contribution to preventing violations against children so as to provide all mission personnel with the ability to effectively identify, report, and respond to violations and abuses committed against children.

#### ANGOLA, CHAD, AND NIGERIA ARE COORDINATING.

## **Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict**

## **SOUTH SUDAN**

The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and White Army are listed for recruitment and use and killing and maiming of children. Opposition armed groups, including the SPLA in Opposition, are listed for recruitment and use. In 2014, the Government of South Sudan re-committed to its 2012 action plan. The SPLA in Opposition signed a commitment with the SRSG-CAAC to end grave violations against children. On 30 January 2015, the SRSG-CAAC presented the <u>SG's report on children</u> and armed conflict in South Sudan to the Working Group, and the negotiations over the conclusion are ongoing. For detailed recommendations, see '<u>Children and Armed Conflict Monthly Update</u> <u>February 2015</u>.'

THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SOUTH SUDAN.

# Presidency of the Security Council for March: Jordan

• Party to Geneva Convention IV, Additional Protocols I and II, Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol, ILO Convention 182, and the Rome Statute of the ICC. Has not endorsed the Paris Principles and Paris Commitments.

## **NGO Resources**

- Watchlist, "Who will care for us?" Grave Violations against Children in Northeastern Nigeria, September 2014
- Save the Children, Caught in a Combat Zone: The urgent need to demobilise children from armed groups in the Central African Republic, December 2014

#### About Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict

Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict is a global network of international human rights and humanitarian non-governmental organizations which strives to end violations against children in armed conflicts through local partnerships, reporting and advocacy.

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