# Children and Armed Conflict MONTHLY UPDATE: NOVEMBER 2016

# **Recommendations to the Security Council**

# **SOUTH SUDAN**

The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), SPLA in Opposition (SPLA-IO), and White Army are all listed for recruitment and use. The SPLA and SPLA-IO are also listed for killing and maiming. The SPLA is additionally listed for rape and other forms of sexual violence and abductions. In 2014, the Government of South Sudan re-committed to its 2012 Action Plan. The SPLA-IO signed an Action Plan with the UN in December 2015 to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children. In November, the Panel of Experts (PoE) will provide the Sanctions Committee with an update. In its report (S/2016/793) presented to the Council in September, the PoE detailed incidents of killing and maiming, sexual violence, and attacks on hospitals, as well as evidenced mobilization of young people to fight. **The Security Council should:** 

- Use the South Sudan Sanctions Regime as a tool to ensure accountability for grave violations against children by designating perpetrators and applying other viable measures to end these violations;
- Urge all parties to **immediately cease all violations** against children and **renew and implement their** existing commitments contained in action plans and elsewhere, including measures to end the recruitment and use of children, attacks on schools and hospitals, and the military use of schools;
- Request the PoE to continue to investigate the military use or recruitment of children and other grave violations perpetrated against children by armed groups or armed forces in the context of the ongoing armed conflict in South Sudan, with a view to designating perpetrators for sanctions;
- Encourage more joint briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC) to the Working Group and the 2206 Sanctions Committee.
  THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SOUTH SUDAN. SENEGAL CHAIRS THE SOUTH SUDAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

# SUDAN/SOUTH SUDAN (ABYEI)

In November, the mandate of UNISFA will expire pursuant to SCR 2287 (2016). In his latest progress report (S/2016/864, para 25), the Secretary-General (SG) signaled that given weak child protection mechanisms within Abyei, children fleeing conflict from South Sudan and transiting to Sudan through Abyei are exposed to risks of violence, exploitation, and abuse while on the move. He noted that monitoring of child protection concerns happens through the local social welfare department, and that a drop-in center was constructed in Agok to support the reunification of unaccompanied children with their families. The **Security Council should:** 

- Urge parties to **cease all forms of violence**, human rights violations and abuses, **including against children**, and violations of international humanitarian law;
- Call on UNISFA to **monitor and report on grave violations against children in Abyei**, including through the community-based child protection networks trained by UNICEF and partners;
- Call for strengthening of child protection mechanisms within Abyei, including greater support to the above-mentioned community-based child protection networks, in close collaboration with UNICEF; particular attention should be paid to the security of children forcibly migrating from South Sudan.

THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SUDAN/SOUTH SUDAN.

## **SUDAN**

Six parties are listed for grave violations against children, including Government security forces. In March, the Government of Sudan signed an Action Plan with the United Nations to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by government forces. In November, the Council will receive a Sanctions Committee report pursuant to SCR 1591 (2005). In its last report (S/2016/805) to the Committee, the PoE assigned responsibility to JEM and its senior military leaders (paragraph 121) for the recruitment of children and their use in hostilities in Darfur. In September, Amnesty International issued a <u>report</u> alleging that Sudanese Government forces deliberately targeted civilians and utilized "poisonous smoke" during attacks in Jebel Marra (Darfur) between January and September 2016. The victims of exposure to the chemical weapons agents were mostly children. **The Security Council should:** 

 Immediately call for an investigation into the use of chemical weapons and given sufficient evidence, prosecute those bearing responsibility for the attacks which caused injury and death to children;

#### 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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- Urge the Sanctions Committee to **designate individuals named in the PoE's final report for targeted measures** in application of the criteria on grave violations against children;
- Call on all parties to allow the unimpeded access to remote locations such as Jebel Marra to humanitarian actors, and encourage the Sanctions Committee and the PoE to pay particular attention to the denial of humanitarian access;
- Request the PoE to continue to investigate allegations of recruitment of children pursuant to SCR 2200 (2015).

THE **UNITED KINGDOM** IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON DARFUR. **VENEZUELA** CHAIRS THE 1591 SUDAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

## **SOMALIA**

Somali National Army (SNA) and Al-Shabaab are both listed for the recruitment and use and killing and maiming of children. Ahlus Sunnah wal Jamaah (ASWJ) is also listed for recruitment and use. In 2012, the Transitional Federal Government signed two action plans with the UN: one to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by the SNA, and one to end killing and maiming. SCR 2002 (2011) added the recruitment and use of children, as well as the targeting of civilians, including women and children, to the designation criteria for targeted measures imposed by Resolution 1844 (2008). In November, the Council will review the mandate of the Somalia/Eritrea Monitoring Group and receive its regular update from the 751/1907 Sanctions Committee. **Council Members should:** 

- In their recommendations for sanctions, urge the Somalia/Eritrea Monitoring Group to apply designation criteria to individuals who commit grave violations against children, including recruitment and use, killing and maiming, sexual violence, attacks on schools and hospitals, and abduction;
- Given the high rate of incidents continuously well-documented through the UN-led Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism, encourage the 751/1907 Somalia/Eritrea Sanctions Committee to invite the SRSG-CAAC to brief the committee.

THE **UNITED KINGDOM** IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SOMALIA. **VENEZUELA** CHAIRS THE 751/1907 SOMALIA/ERITREA COMMITTEE.

#### **SYRIA**

Six parties are listed for grave violations against children. In November, the Council will receive its regular briefings on the implementation of SCR 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), and 2258 (2015). In October, there were numerous reports of attacks on hospitals in <u>Eastern Aleppo</u> and <u>elsewhere</u> in Syria. **The Security Council should:** 

- Call for an immediate end to hostilities and demand that all parties to the conflict comply fully with international human rights and humanitarian law; demand immediate and full implementation of all relevant resolutions, and demand that all parties take effective measures to prevent and end all grave violations against children in conflict, including killing and maiming, attacks on schools and hospitals, and other grave violations resulting from continuing waves of aerial bombardments;
- Call on parties to conflict to take all measures to protect civilians and facilitate rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access to all civilians in need, in compliance with the international humanitarian law, and to this end, immediately lift sieges on populated areas, allow for immediate medical evacuation of civilians in besieged areas in need of lifesaving care, and end deliberate water cuts used as a weapon of war;
- Noting the particularly severe impact on children, condemn all attacks on medical facilities and personnel and call for full and prompt implementation of SCR 2286 (2016), and furthermore consider additional measures, such as targeted sanctions, to address noncompliance, by any party, with all relevant resolutions to end attacks on civilians, including health professionals and medical facilities.
  EGYPT, NEW ZEALAND, AND SPAIN ARE LEADING ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES ON SYRIAN

ARAB REPUBLIC.

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

## **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)**

On May 17, the Working Group formally received the <u>SG's report on children and armed conflict in CAR</u>, and began its conclusion negotiations on May 31. The Chair expects to adopt the final negotiated draft on November 4. On May 23, in a meeting organized by the Chair, Watchlist briefed the experts on key findings and recommendations from its field mission to Bangui between April 22 and May 3.

## Presidency of the Security Council for November: Senegal

• 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 Statue of the ICC. Has endorsed the Paris Principles and the Paris Commitments. Has not endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration.

# **NGO resources**

- Amnesty International, Sudan: Credible Evidence of the Use of Chemical Weapons to Kill and Maim Hundreds of Civilians Including Children in Darfur Revealed, September 2016
- Human Rights Watch, HRW Letter to UN Security Council Members on South Sudan, September 2016
- Save the Children, Time is Ticking for Mosul's Children, October 2016
- Human Rights Watch, KRD: Men, Boys Fleeing Fighting Arbitrarily Detained, October 2016
- Center for Civilians in Conflict, Under Fire: The July 2016 Violence in Juba and UN Response, October 2016
- Human Rights Watch, Syria: Improvised Mines Kill, Injure Hundreds in Manbij, October 2016

#### 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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