

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 and killing and maiming of children. In February, South Sudan is likely to come up on the Council's agenda. The last progress report on UNMISS by the Secretary-General (SG) (S/2016/95, para. 46) attributed the majority of documented violations to the SPLA and SPLA-IO, including recruitment and use, sexual violence, and attacks on and military use of schools. The SG noted security and access constraints for the purposes of verification in Bentiu, Malakal, and Juba, but the UN's Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) was still able to verify 63 of 76 reported incidents affecting 852 children. **The Security Council should:**

- Urge all parties to immediately cease all violations and abuses against children and renew their commitment to action plans, while stressing that the perpetrators of such violations will be held to account;
- Call for an immediate and full implementation of the commitments made by the Government and the Opposition under their respective action plans, with the support of UNMISS;
- Call on all parties to allow unimpeded access to regions of the country where civilian populations urgently need humanitarian support; and furthermore, release access constraints to allow for the work of the UN-led MRM to be carried out effectively;
- Urge the Government to take immediate measures towards preventing military use of schools by honoring its commitment to implement the *Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict* made through the Safe Schools Declaration.

THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SOUTH SUDAN. SENEGAL CHAIRS THE SOUTH SUDAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

SYRIA

Six parties are listed for grave violations against children. In February, the Council will receive its regular briefings on the implementation of SCR 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2328 (2016), and 2332 (2016). On January 23, UNICEF urged all parties to the Syrian conflict to immediately lift all sieges and allow unimpeded and unconditional access to children living in the besieged city of Deir Ez Zor, who were under intense attacks that week, as well as in each of the 15 areas under siege across the country. Save the Children also urged parties to the conflict to immediately grant access to relief convoys and stop stalling on permits and permissions in the 15 besieged areas, and furthermore called for a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire, ending the use of deadly explosive weapons in populated areas and making provision for immediate aid access to all besieged and hard to reach areas. **The Security Council should:**

- Call for an immediate and full cessation of 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, particularly SCR 2328 (2016) concerning international observers for evacuation in Aleppo and the fate of remaining civilians in the city, and demand that all parties take effective measures to prevent and end all grave violations against children in conflict, including those resulting from continuing waves of aerial bombardments, and by ending the use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas;
- Call on parties to conflict to facilitate rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access to all civilians in need, in compliance with international humanitarian law, and to this end, immediately lift all 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 AND SWEDEN ARE LEADING ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES ON SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC.

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

[Afghanistan](#)
[Central African Republic](#)
[Colombia](#)
[Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)
[Iraq](#)
[Mali](#)
[Myanmar \(Burma\)](#)
[Nigeria](#)
[Philippines](#)
[Somalia](#)
[South Sudan](#)
[Sudan](#)
[Syrian Arab Republic](#)
[Yemen](#)

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Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

COLOMBIA

On January 9, the [SG's report on children and armed conflict in Colombia](#) was formally presented and the Working Group began negotiations of its conclusions on January 16. To inform the Working Group ahead of the conclusion negotiations, Watchlist shared a special internal policy briefing with the experts on January 19 developed by its civil society partners working on children and armed conflict on the ground in Colombia.

SOMALIA

The [SG's report on children and armed conflict in Somalia](#) became public on January 17, and the Working Group will soon receive its formal presentation and begin their conclusion negotiations. In Somalia, Somali National Army (SNA) and Al-Shabaab are both listed for the recruitment and use and killing and maiming of children, and Al-Shabaab is additionally listed for abduction of children. Ahlus Sunnah wal Jamaah (ASWJ) is also listed for recruitment and use. In 2012, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) 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. **The Working Group Members should:**

- Echoing the SG's calls, **strongly encourage the FGS to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC)**, and urge federal and regional authorities to **swiftly domesticate the country's international obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child** ratified in October 2015, as well as to **resolve existing legal ambiguities** related to the definition of the child;
- Urge the FGS to **treat children associated with armed groups primarily as victims** guided by the 'best interests of the child' principle and international protection standards; furthermore, **urge the FGS to ensure greater transparency and oversight in the classification of children held on national security charges, the plight of children classified as 'high risk', the absence of a clear legal framework for children detained on security charges, and of international juvenile justice standards;**
- In support of the SG's calls, **urge the Puntland authorities to revoke the death penalty and heavy sentences for children being held in detention for their alleged association with Al-Shabaab**, swiftly facilitate the release of children in cooperation with the UN and relevant child protection actors, and **call upon donors to support programmes for their effective reintegration and family reunification;**
- **Request the Secretary-General to continue to maintain child protection as one of UNSOM's key priorities**, and to that end, continue to ask for the deployment of Child Protection Advisors, ensure that all mandatory pre-deployment training on child protection is undertaken, and call upon UNSOM to **continue to coordinate with AMISOM's Child Protection Adviser** appointed in January 2015;
- Call for **accelerated and complete implementation of the action plans** signed in 2012, and call upon donors to support such implementation;
- Urge the African Union and troop-contributing countries to **take all necessary measures to prevent future violations and abuses** and ensure the protection of children, as well as to ensure accountability by undertaking **prompt and independent investigations of any allegations of the grave violations reportedly committed by their troops**, especially sexual violence crimes.

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

Presidency of the Security Council for February: Ukraine

- 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

- ➔ Human Rights Watch, World Report 2016, January 2017
- ➔ Child Soldiers International, Conference Report: Children, "Violent Extremism", and the Justice System, January 2017
- ➔ Human Rights Watch, KRG: Children Allege Torture by Security Forces, January 2017
- ➔ Norwegian Refugee Council, Syrian Refugees' Right to Legal Identity: Implications for Return, January 2017
- ➔ Save the Children, 350,000 Children Trapped and at Risk in Western Mosul as Offensive Enters More Dangerous Phase, January 2017

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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