

Recommendations to the Security Council

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

Thirteen parties are listed, including the DRC armed forces (FARDC). The FARDC were delisted from the annexes of the Secretary-General's (SG) 2017 annual report on children and armed conflict (CAC) (A/72/361-S/2017/821) for recruitment and use, but remain listed for rape and other forms of sexual violence pending full implementation its action plan signed in 2012. In November, Council Members will receive an update from the SG on the implementation of the December 31, 2016, agreement. In his special report on MONUSCO's strategic review (S/2017/826, para. 85) pursuant to SCR 2348 (2017), the SG recommends the Child Protection Section continue its core tasks, including monitoring and reporting on violations and dialogue with parties for the purposes of action plan implementation and release and reintegration of children. **The Security Council should:**

- **Continue to maintain MONUSCO's dedicated Child Protection Section and sufficient Child Protection Advisors (CPAs),** and ensure that CPAs continue to have direct access to senior mission leadership, have political and operational space to engage with parties to conflict, and lead the mission's work on the UN-led Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM); to this end, **the mission must retain distinct budget lines for child protection;**
- Encourage the Government to **institutionalize the gains of its action plan on ending child recruitment and use,** and urge the Government to **fully and without delay implement its action plan** to prevent and end **sexual violence against children, including by preventing the use of girls for sexual purposes by members of the FARDC,** and encourage MONUSCO to continue supporting the Government in these efforts;
- Urge all parties to **immediately cease violations and abuses against children in the Kasai region, and encourage the Government to ensure accountability for violations and abuses against children in the Kasai;**
- Urge all parties to **immediately cease attacks on health centers and schools, as well as military use of schools** in line with the Safe Schools Declaration which the Government endorsed in July 2016.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO. EGYPT CHAIRS THE 1533 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

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 in December 2015 to end and prevent recruitment and use and killing and maiming of children. In November, pursuant to SCR 2327 (2016), the SG will report on UNMISS' ability to implement its mandate. The SG noted 445 verified incidents of denial of humanitarian access in his 2017 CAC annual report, mostly attributed to SPLA (182). **Council Members should:**

- **Continue to maintain UNMISS' dedicated and standalone Child Protection Section and sufficient CPAs,** and ensure that CPAs continue to have direct access to senior mission leadership, have political and operational space to engage with parties to conflict, and lead the mission's work on the UN-led MRM; to this end, the mission must retain distinct budget lines for child protection;
- **Urge the SG to ensure that child protection concerns are fully taken into account in the ongoing review of UNMISS operations;**
- Call on parties to conflict to **facilitate rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access to all populations and civilians in need,** in compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL), and to this end, lift all obstacles and restrictions to relief activities.

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

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

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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), 2258 (2015), 2328 (2016), 2332 (2016), and 2336 (2016). In his report (S/2017/794, paras. 7, 15) from September, the SG documents recruitment and killing and maiming of children in indiscriminate attacks in the Governorates of Aleppo, Raqqah, Homs, and Dayr al-Zor. The USG for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator told the Council about UNICEF and WHO reported attacks on Al Mayadin that destroyed a vaccine cold room containing at least 140,000 doses of UN-provided measles and polio vaccines, delaying routine immunization for vulnerable children in the area. **Council Members should:**

- Demand **immediate and complete implementation of the relevant Security Council Resolutions**, and that all parties take effective measures to end and prevent all grave violations against children;
- **Call on parties to conflict to treat** children associated with armed groups in line with international juvenile justice standards and promptly release them to civilian child protection actors for support and reintegration;
- **Call on all parties to facilitate rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access to all civilians in need, in compliance with IHL**, 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;
- **Call for an independent investigation into all attacks on schools and hospitals** and ensure these feed into the International Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) to Assist Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011.

EGYPT AND SWEDEN ARE LEADING ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES ON SYRIA.

YEMEN

In Yemen, five parties are listed for grave violations against children. The Saudi Arabia-led coalition was listed for killing and maiming and attacks on schools and hospitals in the SG's 2017 annual report on CAC. Escalating conflict has stalled implementation of the Government's 2014 Action Plan to end and prevent recruitment and use. In November, the SG will report to the Council on implementation of SCR 2201 (2015) and developments in Yemen. OCHA reported that nearly 1,700 schools have been directly impacted by conflict by June, with more than 1,500 damaged or destroyed, and 21 used militarily by armed groups. OCHA also reported that as of October 2016, at least 274 health facilities had been damaged or destroyed. Furthermore, OCHA's Director of Operations, in his statement to the Council in October, highlighted concerns regarding limitations to humanitarian access and obstacles to relief efforts. **Council Members should:**

- **Welcome the listing of the Saudi Arabia-led coalition in the SG's 2017 annual report, and urge for an immediate signing and implementation of a time-bound action plan with Saudi Arabia, on behalf of the coalition, concretely outlining measures it is taking to protect children affected by the conflict;**
- Urge all parties to conflict to **comply with their obligations under national and international law**, including IHL and international human rights law, and **immediately cease all violations and abuses against children**, and end indiscriminate attacks and use of weapons;
- **Welcome the establishment of an international independent investigative mechanism** through the Human Rights Council as a means to ensure accountability for violations of human rights and humanitarian law, including all grave violations against children in Yemen, and support rapid and unobstructed access to investigators;
- **Adopt a resolution to condemn violations of IHL and human rights law perpetrated against children by all parties.**

THE UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON YEMEN. JAPAN CHAIRS THE 2140 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

NIGERIA

The SG's first report on children and armed conflict in Nigeria was formally presented to the Working Group on August 3. Conclusion negotiations began on September 14 and aim to be finalized in November. For targeted recommendations, see Watchlist's September 2017 CAC Monthly Update.

Presidency of the Security Council for November: Italy

- Party to Geneva Convention I-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. Endorsed the Paris Principles and the Paris Commitments, and the Safe Schools Declaration.

NGO resources

- 🔗 Human Rights Watch, "They Said We Are Their Slaves" Sexual Violence by Armed Groups in the Central African Republic, October 2017
- 🔗 Human Rights Watch, "I Won't Be a Doctor, and One Day You'll Be Sick" Girls' Access to Education in Afghanistan, October 2017
- 🔗 Their World, 2017 Set to Be Worst Year Ever for Attacks on Schools, October 2017
- 🔗 Child Soldiers International, What the Girls Say: Practical Guide, 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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