

## Recommendations to the Security Council

### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

The ex-Séléka coalition and associated armed groups, the anti-Balaka local defence militias, and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) are listed for recruitment and use, killing and maiming, and rape and other forms of sexual violence. The ex-Séléka are listed for attacks on schools and hospitals, and the LRA is listed for abduction. In October, the Secretary-General (SG) will report on MINUSCA's progress pursuant to SCR 2301 (2016) while the Council is expected to renew MINUSCA's mandate in November. The Council is considering a troop increase to aid in its Protection of Civilians (PoC) mandate. The SG's last progress report (S/2017/473, paras. 29, 34) for the period of February-June notes all six grave violations are being documented by the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR). The Government recently ratified the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC). **The Security Council should:**

- **Pending any troop increase to MINUSCA, ensure that all admitted troops are properly vetted and trained on child protection in compliance with UN standards; MINUSCA's mandate should be robust with respect to PoC and should take fully into account child protection as a cross-cutting issue;**
- **Maintain capacity of MINUSCA's child protection section to advance and consolidate commitments made by armed groups towards concrete action plans to put an end to and prevent grave violations against children and to facilitate the release of all associated children;**
- Call upon the Government and its international partners to **ensure that all efforts to build peace in CAR, such as the road map to peace signed in Rome, include commitments on child protection, *inter alia*, in the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) processes and to ensure there is demonstrated compliance to those commitments by all parties to the conflict;**
- Urge the Government to **finalize the draft Child Protection Code and ensure it prohibits and criminalizes the recruitment and use of all those under 18.**

**FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON CAR. UKRAINE CHAIRS THE 2127 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.**

### IRAQ

Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is listed for recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, abductions, and attacks on schools and hospitals. The Council extended UNAMI's mandate through SCR 2367 (2017) in July, and in October, it will receive the SG's progress report. In his second quarterly report (S/2017/592, paras. 51, 52), the SG expressed concern over the high number of attacks on health facilities and health personnel reported by the World Health Organization (WHO), noting three documented incidents of attacks on schools and hospitals. In August, UNAMI and OHCHR issued a [report](#) regarding the *Promotion and Protection of Rights of Victims of Sexual Violence Captured by ISIL/or in Areas Controlled by ISIL in Iraq*, which provides detailed information on this grave violation against children's rights. **Council Members should:**

- Echoing UNAMI and OHCHR's recommendations, urge the Government to take **concrete actions to end impunity, including through prompt investigation and prosecution of parties responsible for committing sexual violence crimes against women and children**, and furthermore, **to enhance their protection from sexual violence;**
- Urge the Government to **strengthen the provision of and access to specialized and gender-sensitive services for child survivors of sexual violence in armed conflict**, including those from ethnic and religious minority groups as per [recommendation](#) of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict; and to this end, **call upon donors to support the provision of such services;**
- Urge the Government to **endorse the *Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use through signing the Safe Schools Declaration* towards addressing the ongoing issue of the military use of schools in Iraq;**
- Urge the Government to **criminalize recruitment and use by all parties to the conflict, and fully commit to work with the UN and other key stakeholders for preventing recruitment and use of children by armed groups**, including by Government-affiliated armed groups such as the Popular Mobilization Forces.

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

### 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](#)

For resolution language on Children and Armed Conflict, download the Children and Armed Conflict smartphone app from Watchlist, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland available on [iPhone](#), [iPad](#), [Android](#), [Blackberry](#), and [the web!](#)



## SOUTH SUDAN/SUDAN (ABYEI)

In October, the SG will report on the progress of UNISFA pursuant to SCR 2352 (2017) that extended its mandate. In his latest report (S/2017/649 paras. 6, 37) covering the second quarter of 2017, the SG highlighted the weak protection mechanisms for children in Abyei, and the fact that risks have increased due to conflict and displacement from South Sudan to Abyei; however, he noted that child protection concerns continued to be monitored in drop-in centers in Agok, which support the reunification of unaccompanied children with their families. **Council members should:**

- Request UNISFA to **immediately complete the recruitment process of its child protection adviser** in support of the Mission's role in child protection;
- **Request the SG to include children and armed conflict as a specific aspect of all his progress reports on UNISFA**, disaggregating data on the six grave violations against children as much as possible, and specifically signaling concerns regarding children and armed conflict to guide Council Members' actions on Abyei.

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

## SUDAN

In Sudan, six parties are listed for grave violations against children, including Government security forces. In March 2016, the Government of Sudan signed an Action Plan with the UN to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by Government forces. The listed armed groups JEM, SLA/MM, and SPLM-N have also signed action plans with the UN towards ending and preventing grave violations. In October, the Council will receive the SG's report on UNAMID's progress pursuant to SCR 2363 (2017). Despite being identified as a priority in UNAMID's mandate renewal, the UN has proposed a 55 percent budget cut for child protection functions that would severely impede upon delivery of the Council's children and armed conflict mandate. **Council members should:**

- **Recall that per UNAMID's mandate, the mission is requested to continue monitoring and reporting on the situation of children in Darfur through the deployment of child protection capacity to support the implementation of the action plans (SCR 2363, para. 28). In this regard, seek clarifications on how UNAMID will deliver on its Security Council mandate given the foreseen 55 percent reduction in child protection capacity, in particular in field offices;**
- **Urge UNAMID to continue monitoring and reporting through field presence for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection of Children from violations in armed conflict**, pursuant to SCR 2363, and expedite measures to end child recruitment and use in armed and security forces;
- **Urge the SLA/MM and JEM to continue to engage with the UN for the purpose of implementing their action plans to end and prevent grave violations against children**, with the CTFMR's support; furthermore, encourage SLA/AW to develop an action plan with the UN, and call upon the Government to facilitate and support that engagement.

**THE UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON DARFUR. UKRAINE CHAIRS THE 1591 SUDAN 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, and it began its conclusion negotiations on September 14, currently ongoing. For targeted recommendations, see Watchlist's September 2017 CAC Monthly Update.

## Presidency of the Security Council for October: France

- 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. Endorsed the Paris Principles and the Paris Commitments, and the Safe Schools Declaration.

**Watchlist will be publishing a Special Bulletin on the occasion of the October 31, 2017, Security Council Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict.**

## NGO resources

- 🔗 [Human Rights Watch, Yemen: Coalition Airstrikes Deadly for Children, UN Should Create International Inquiry, Return Coalition to 'List of Shame', September 2017](#)
- 🔗 [Human Rights Watch, All Feasible Precautions? Civilian Casualties in Anti-ISIS Coalition Airstrikes in Syria, September 2017](#)
- 🔗 [Mwatana Organization for Human Rights, Yemen: Establishing Independent International Mechanism of Inquiry is an Urgent Exigency, September 2017](#)
- 🔗 [War Child, A Deal Worth Defending? The UK's Arms Trade and the War in Yemen, September 2017](#)
- 🔗 [REDRESS, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Peacekeeping Operations: Improving Victims' Access to Reparation, Support and Assistance, September 2017](#)
- 🔗 [Physicians for Human Rights, PHR Documents Worst String of Hospital Attacks in Syria Since April, September 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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