

Recommendations to the Security Council

AFGHANISTAN

The Afghan National Police (ANP), including the Afghan Local Police (ALP), and three armed groups (Haqqani Network, Hezb-i-Islami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, and Taliban forces) are listed for recruitment and use of children. All three armed groups are also listed for killing and maiming, while the Taliban is further listed for attacks on schools and/or hospitals and abduction. In September, the Secretary-General (SG) will report on UNAMA's progress pursuant to SCR 2344 (2017). From the last progress report (A/71/932/S/2017/508, para. 26), as of April 10, 135 children were detained on national security-related charges, including for association with anti-Government armed groups, and held in an adult maximum security detention facility in Parwan Province. **Council Members should:**

- **Urge the Government to remove Article Nine of Annex One of the Criminal Procedural Code, which enables the transfer of children to the maximum security detention facility in Parwan and apply fully and without delay Afghanistan's national Juvenile Code and the National Directorate for Security directive issued on July 2, 2016, instructing that children no longer be held in its detention facilities and the cessation of transfers of children to the prison; children currently being held should immediately be transferred to juvenile rehabilitation centers in the provinces of origin;**
- **Echoing the SG's calls (A/71/932/S/2017/508, para. 56), urge all parties to end indiscriminate attacks and use of weapons as prohibited under international humanitarian law, and urgently prioritize marking and clearing of explosive remnants of war which contribute to the increase in child casualties; UNAMA recorded 436 deaths and 1,141 injuries in the last period;**
- **Urge the Government to take concrete measures to end impunity for violations of international law regarding the protection of medical care in armed conflict, including investigating attacks that may constitute such violations and prosecuting and condemning those responsible in a timely and impartial manner.**

JAPAN IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON AFGHANISTAN, AND KAZAKHSTAN CHAIRS THE 1267 ISIL AND AL-QAIDA SANCTIONS COMMITTEE AND THE 1988 TALIBAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

MALI

Three armed groups (Ansar Dine, MNLA, and MUJAO) are listed for recruitment and use and sexual violence against children. In March, the Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad (CMA) signed an action plan with the United Nations to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children and sexual violence against children. In September, the Council will receive the SG's report on MINUSMA's progress pursuant to SCR 2364 (2017). The SG's public reporting on MINUSMA's implementation of its child protection mandate pursuant to SCR 2364 (2017) is extremely limited. **Council Members should:**

- **Request the SG to include children and armed conflict as a specific aspect of all his progress reports on MINUSMA, and specifically highlight key children and armed conflict concerns to guide Council Members' actions on Mali with respect to child protection;**
- **In providing support for the implementation of the Agreement on the Peace and Reconciliation in Mali pursuant to para. 20(a)ii of SCR 2364 (2017), ensure that the particular needs of children are accounted for in the demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration (DDR) and security sector reform plans as stipulated by the Resolution;**
- **Urge the CMA to fully and swiftly implement its action plan with the UN to end recruitment and use and sexual violence, with the engagement from the Country Task Force for Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR), allowing the UN to monitor its progress on implementation;**
- **Recalling para. 7(i) of the SCWG-CAAC 2014 conclusions, urge the Government to strengthen its efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence against children, including by holding accountable perpetrators of such crimes, by removing obstacles in the access to justice and ensuring timely and appropriate care for child victims.**

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON MALI.

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

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[Mali](#)
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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. Ahlus Sunnah wal Jamaah (ASWJ) is also listed for recruitment and use. In 2012, the 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. The SG will report on UNSOM's progress in September pursuant to SCR 2358 (2017). In his latest report (S/2017/408, para. 66) covering the first quarter of 2017, the SG noted that on January 26, a Boosaaso military court reversed the death sentences of 10 children for their alleged association with Al-Shabaab but then issued 20-year prison terms instead. Al-Shabaab continues to abduct and recruit children in large numbers. **Council Members should:**

- Welcome the issuance in August 2017 of the command order prohibiting and sanctioning the recruitment and use of children and other violations and abuses against children and **encourage its dissemination and implementation;**
- Welcome Puntland authorities' reversal of death sentences for the 10 children detained for alleged association with Al-Shabaab, **urging authorities to further revoke the children's heavy prison sentences that violate their obligations under international law;**
- Urge the Government to **swiftly resolve existing legal ambiguities related to the age of majority and domesticate Somalia's international obligations under the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC);**
- **Underline importance of using the constitutional review process that has just started to maintain and strengthen existing child protection provisions and raise issues around the CRC domestication.**

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

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

NIGERIA

Boko Haram is listed for recruitment and use, killing and maiming, attacks on schools and/or hospitals, and abduction of children. The Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) is also listed for recruitment and use. On August 3, the Working Group received a formal presentation of the SG's first report on children and armed conflict in Nigeria. In September, as it begins its conclusion negotiations, **the Working Group should:**

- **Call upon the Government to facilitate the adoption of an action plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by the CJTF, and call upon the CJTF to ensure its implementation with the support of the CTFMR;** the CJTF should honor its commitment to appoint a five-member committee to oversee its action plan development and implementation;
- Urge the Government to take all **feasible measures to ensure the release of children from Boko Haram and the CJTF, as well as close all the women and children cells in the military detention center (Giwa Barracks), and to promote their physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration in an environment which fosters the health, self-respect, and dignity of the child; to this end, ensure that children are reunified with their families as soon as possible and that the reintegration** process includes interventions that tackle stigma and promote community acceptance, with attention to the different needs of girls and boys; furthermore, ensure welfare and education for unaccompanied and orphaned children residing in IDP camps and host communities;
- **Express in strongest terms concern over children's deprivation of liberty on the basis of their alleged association with Boko Haram, urging the Government to treat these children primarily as victims** and call for an immediate adoption of a standalone handover protocol for children encountered during military operations to civilian authorities;
- Call upon all parties to **cease attacks on and military use of schools and hospitals, and urge the National Security Forces to immediately vacate the schools it is using for military purposes,** in contravention to the Government's commitments under the Safe Schools Declaration it endorsed to implement the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use.

Presidency of the Security Council for September: Ethiopia

- 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. Not yet a Party to the Rome Statute of the ICC. Has not endorsed the Paris Principles and the Paris Commitments, nor the Safe Schools Declaration.

NGO resources

- 🔗 [Amnesty International, Syria - "I Won't Forget This Carnage": Civilians Trapped in Battle for Raqqa, August 2017](#)
- 🔗 [Refugees International, Nigeria's Displaced Women and Girls, Humanitarian Community at Odds, Boko Haram's Survivors Forsaken, April 2016](#)
- 🔗 [Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, "Every Clinic is Now on the Frontline," The Impact on Children of Attacks on Health Care in Afghanistan, March 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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