

Recommendations to the Security Council

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

The ex-Séléka coalition and associated armed groups, the anti-balaka local defense militias, and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) are all listed for recruitment and use, killing and maiming, and rape and other forms of sexual violence. The ex-Séléka coalition is also listed for attacks on schools and hospitals, and the LRA for abduction. In February, the Secretary-General's (SG) Special Representative and head of MINUSCA Parfait Onanga-Anyanga and the chair of the 2127 Sanctions Committee Ambassador Léon Houadja Kacou Adom will brief the Council. On January 24, African Union (AU) led peace talks began in Khartoum and the [Special Representative](#) for MINUSCA is participating as a full member of the Panel of Facilitators and mediation support. In his October report to the Council, the SG reported the continued killing, maiming, and recruitment of children by armed groups, as well as attacks on schools and hospitals. The report also cited the denial of humanitarian access (S/2018/922, para. 39). The Panel of Experts have confirmed widespread rapes and sexual assaults, the indiscriminate killings of civilians, and targeted attacks against humanitarian personnel and their compounds (S/2018/729, summary). The situation of children in CAR remains dire. On [January 23](#) before the start of the peace talks, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Secretary-General Jan Egeland regretted the failure of both the Central African Government and the international community to respond to this crisis and called for a high-level meeting, in addition to the talks, to address the deteriorating situation, increase efforts to ensure protection of the population, and support reconstruction.

The Security Council should:

- **Demand all armed actors immediately cease all grave violations against children**, including attacks on schools, hospitals, and humanitarian facilities; and sexual violence; and **allow the free, safe passage of humanitarian service providers, including child protection actors;**
- **Immediately review and approve designations for individuals who have committed grave violations against children** per SCR 2339 (2017) including recruitment and use and sexual and gender-based violence, and **enforce travel bans and other restrictions on those previously sanctioned without delay;**
- Per the Panel of Experts (S/2018/1119, para. 210) December report, **urge the Government and relevant international partners to strengthen efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence, including strengthening the capacity of the Mixed Rapid Intervention and Repression Unit for Sexual Violence against Women and Children for intervention and investigation, as well as the provision of medical, psychosocial, and legal support to the victims;**
- **Ensure MINUSCA's dedicated Child Protection Section has the support and necessary resources** to efficiently and **effectively carry out monitoring, reporting, and response** activities, as well as **to engage with parties to conflict for the release of children and the development of action plans** to end and prevent grave violations;
- **Urge the Mouvement Patriotique pour la Centrafrique (MPC), part of the ex-Séléka coalition, to fully and swiftly implement its action plan, signed last May,** on ending and preventing recruitment and use, killing and maiming, sexual violence, and attacks on schools and hospitals; further call upon all other listed parties to develop and sign action plans with the UN;
- Call on MINUSCA, other UN entities, the CAR Government, the AU, and other parties concerned to **integrate child protection provisions, including those related to release and reintegration of children from armed groups, in all stages of the peace process;**
- **Urge the CAR Government to criminalize the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups in national law,** as per its obligation under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC).

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON CAR. CÔTE D'IVOIRE CHAIRS THE 2127 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

Situations 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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IRAQ

The Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) are listed for recruitment and use of children. The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is listed for recruitment and use, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, abductions, and attacks on schools and hospitals. In June 2018 UNAMI's mandate was renewed until May 31, 2019. In February, the SG's Special Representative and head of UNAMI, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, will report on UNAMI's progress pursuant to SCR 2421 (2018), briefing the Council for the first time since officially assuming her position on December 17, 2018. In the SG's latest report (S/2018/975, para. 55) which covers the period between August and October, the SG reports that the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR), chaired by UNAMI and UNICEF, verified 16 grave violations against children that resulted in the killing of 3 boys and 4 girls and the maiming of 14 boys and 4 girls, mainly related to explosive hazards and weapons. The CTFMR initiated discussions with the Government of Iraq for the development of an action plan to prevent and end recruitment and use of children by the PMF. ISIL continues to kill and wound civilians. On August 10 at a football game in Salah al-Din Governorate, ISIL gunmen shot and killed five civilians, wounding six others including two children (para. 44). The SG reports that on August 29, the Department of Yazidi Affairs in the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs in the Kurdistan Regional Government reported that 1,845 Yazidi children and 1,250 women were still in ISIL captivity or missing. The detention and torture and ill-treatment of children accused of association with ISIL remains a major concern. Recent [research](#) by Human Rights Watch found evidence that Kurdish authorities in northern Iraq have continued to torture child detainees, despite promises to investigate allegations. **Council Members should:**

- **Urge the Government to take concrete actions to ensure accountability and end impunity for all grave violations including sexual violence against children;** and to that end, fully establish an investigative team to enhance the work of Iraqi judges, investigators, and prosecutors;
- **Ensure the implementation of UNAMI's child protection mandate and request the SG to strengthen the child protection capacity of UNAMI to be able to efficiently and effectively contribute to the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) in Iraq, as well as to engage in negotiations with armed parties listed for committing grave violations against children;**
- **Urge the Government to enter into an action plan with the United Nations to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by the PMF** and enhance measures to protect all children affected by the conflict in Iraq;
- **Remind all parties that children should be considered primarily as victims, entitled to full protection of their rights, and that alternatives to detention should be prioritized** whenever possible;
- **Urge Kurdish authorities to immediately end all use of torture and coerced confessions, and investigate and appropriately prosecute those responsible.**

THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON IRAQ.

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

The Working Group is in the process of negotiating conclusions on Myanmar and on Syria. For recommendations, see Watchlist's [December](#) 2018 CAC Monthly Update.

Presidency of the Security Council for February: Equatorial Guinea

- Party to the Geneva Convention IV, Additional Protocols I and II, and ILO Convention 182, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Has not endorsed the Optional Protocol to the CRC, the Rome Statute, the Safe Schools Declaration, the Paris Principles and the Paris Commitments, nor the Vancouver Principles.

NGO resources

- Norwegian Refugee Council, [Ukraine: The cold reality of Europe's forgotten conflict](#), January 2019
- Human Rights Watch, [Syria: Deadly School Attack Was Unlawful](#), January 2019
- Save the Children, [Syria: Fears mount for more than 11,000 children in Idlib as flooding hits camps](#), January 2019
- Human Rights Watch, [Thailand: Insurgents Bomb School, Attack Hospital](#), January 2019
- Norwegian Refugee Council, [NRC alarmed by displacement of 30,000 people from Nigeria to Cameroon](#), January 2019
- Human Rights Watch, [Colombia: The Unbearable Hypocrisy of the ELN](#), January 2019
- Save the Children, [Yemen: One in Ten Children Forced from Their Homes Because of Conflict and Violence](#), January 2019

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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