

Recommendations to the Security Council

AFGHANISTAN

The Afghan National Police (ANP), including the Afghan Local Police (ALP), and four armed groups are listed for recruitment and use. All are listed for killing and maiming, while the Taliban is further listed for attacks on schools and/or hospitals and abductions. UNAMA's mandate is due for renewal in March. According to UNAMA's annual [report](#) on the protection of civilians, released on February 24, more civilians were killed in the Afghan conflict in 2018 than at any time since records have been kept. In 2018 alone, 927 children were killed, the highest recorded number of boys and girls killed in the conflict in a single year. UNAMA cites a spike in suicide attacks by Anti-Government Elements (AGEs), as well as a doubling of child deaths from aerial and search operations by Pro-Government Forces, as the key factors contributing to this increase. UNAMA recorded 2,135 children injured in 2018, with children representing 28 percent of all killed and injured. There was a 15 percent increase in child casualties attributed to Pro-Government Forces in 2018. In his December report on Afghanistan, the Secretary-General (SG) cited 33 incidents of attacks on [schools](#) and education personnel, 19 attacks against health care facilities/workers, and eight incidents of denial of humanitarian access between July and September (S/2018/1092, para. 32). The Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) verified nine incidents of recruitment and use involving 19 boys (10 by the Taliban, seven by pro-Government militia, and two by the ALP), as well as three cases of sexual violence against children, including for the purposes of [bacha bazi](#), by the ANP and ALP. **The Security Council should:**

- **Renew UNAMA's child protection mandate, and to ensure its implementation, request the SG to strengthen dedicated child protection capacity within UNAMA;** in subsequent budget negotiations, ensure distinct budget lines for child protection in order to allow UNAMA to effectively deliver on its CAAC mandate;
- **Demand that all parties take effective measures to prevent and end all grave violations against children, including those resulting from aerial bombardments** and from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas;
- **Urge the Government to treat children primarily as victims, ensure due process for all children detained on national security charges, and transfer all children from prisons to juvenile rehabilitation centers** in accordance with national and international juvenile justice standards;
- **Demand that the Government takes concrete actions to ensure accountability and end impunity for grave violations, including sexual violence against children;** and to that end, fully establish an investigative team to enhance the work of Afghan judges, investigators, and prosecutors.

GERMANY AND INDONESIA ARE THE LEAD COUNTRIES ON AFGHANISTAN. INDONESIA CHAIRS THE 1267 ISIL AND AL-QAIDA SANCTIONS COMMITTEE AND THE 1988 AFGHANISTAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

Fifteen armed groups are listed for grave violations against children, and the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) are listed for sexual violence. The MONUSCO mandate is due for renewal by March 31. According to the SG's last [report](#) on MONUSCO, between October 2 and December 31, 2018, the UN verified 165 grave violations against children, including sexual violence in North and South Kivu by the FARDC, Mai-Mai Mazembe, and unidentified armed elements. The SG reports that 156 children (10 girls, 146 boys) escaped or were separated from armed groups in this period, mainly in North Kivu and Kasai provinces, from the Mai-Mai Mazembe, Nyatura, and Kamuina Nsapu (S/2019/6, para. 51). MONUSCO made progress in engaging with armed groups, resulting in the release of more than 440 girls and boys. Urgent protection threats remain, however, including targeted killings, abductions, forced recruitment of children and adults, and large-scale, recurrent displacements. In North Kivu, [Ebola](#) has killed 264 children under 18 since the start of the outbreak in August, with the [WHO](#) confirming a total of 894 cases and 561 deaths as of March 2. The Ebola response faces significant challenges, resulting from insecurity in the [region](#), including multiple [attacks](#) on treatment centers, and the movement of displaced civilians. **The Council should:**

- **Renew MONUSCO's child protection mandate, ensuring full capacity in the Child Protection Unit, and that Child Protection Advisors (CPAs) continue to have direct access to senior mission leadership and the political and operational space to engage with all parties to conflict;** in

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](#)

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!](#)



Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) cont'd

subsequent budget negotiations, ensure distinct budget lines for child protection in order to allow MONUSCO to effectively deliver on its CAAC mandate;

- **Call on all parties to facilitate the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance**, including by removing administrative impediments, and cease attacks on aid workers; and **to ensure access for health workers to Ebola-affected areas, including along the South Sudan border**;
- Urge the Government to **sustain the gains of its completed action plan on recruitment and use, including through ongoing training of national security forces, and to implement fully and without delay its action plan to end and prevent sexual violence against children by the FARDC and other security forces**; furthermore support the CTFMR's engagement with non-State armed groups, including to negotiate action plans;
- **Express concern about detention and deprivation of liberty, including inhumane treatment and torture, of children** for their alleged association with armed groups; and urge the Government to comply with applicable obligations under international law.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON THE DRC. KUWAIT CHAIRS THE 1533 DRC SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

SOUTH SUDAN

The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA; renamed the South Sudan People's Defense Forces, or SSPDF), the SPLA in Opposition (SPLA-IO) – pro-Machar and pro-Taban Deng factions, and the White Army are listed for grave violations. The SSPDF are the only government forces in the SG's annexes listed for all five 'trigger' violations. The UNMISS mandate is up for renewal in March. The Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict (SCWG-CAAC) visited South Sudan in November 2018 and in December issued conclusions on the latest SG report, citing grave concern over rapes and sexual violence perpetrated against children, including those displaced. According to the SG's last update report (S/2018/1103), between September 2 and November 30, 2018, the CTFMR verified 90 incidents of grave violations against children, including 31 cases of recruitment/use, 30 cases of sexual violence, 19 abductions, 10 cases of killing/maiming, and one incident of denial of humanitarian access (para. 43). Attacks on schools and hospitals continued, with three verified attacks on schools and one on a hospital, eight incidents of military use of schools, and four incidents of use of hospitals – affecting an estimated 2,568 children (1,328 boys and 1,240 girls). OCHA reports that 15,000 children have been separated from their families or are missing five years since the conflict's outbreak. In response to threats of the spread of Ebola from neighboring DRC, the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) campaign was launched. Access to areas outside of Yei County remains a challenge for Ebola preparedness. On January 29, for example, OCHA partners reportedly failed to secure access to verify reports of the arrival of over 7,000 returnees from the DRC who required EVD screening. **The Council should:**

- **Renew UNMISS's child protection mandate, ensuring that Child Protection Advisors (CPAs) continue to have direct access to senior mission leadership and the political and operational space to engage with all parties to conflict for the protection of children**; in subsequent budget negotiations, ensure distinct budget lines for child protection in order to allow UNMISS to effectively deliver on its CAAC mandate;
- **Demand all Government and non-State armed actors to allow the safe passage of humanitarian aid, especially in areas along the DRC border to allow for Ebola screening and response**;
- **Without delay, freeze all remaining assets of, and enforce travel bans on, designated individuals on the 2206 sanctions list, and urge States where assets are held to implement similar asset freezes and travel bans**;
- Strongly remind, per the arms embargo, **all Member States to monitor, enforce, and take urgent action to identify and prevent arms shipments** intended for South Sudan;
- **Urge the Government to revise its existing action plan on recruitment and use into a comprehensive plan addressing all six grave violations**; and **urge all other listed parties to sign and implement action plans on all violations for which they are listed**;
- **Request an update from the Government on accountability for sexual violence and other conflict-related crimes, including the status of establishing a hybrid court with the African Union and special units within the national justice system to investigate and prosecute these crimes.**

THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SOUTH SUDAN. POLAND CHAIRS THE 2206 SOUTH SUDAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

Presidency of the Security Council for March: France

- Party to the Geneva Convention IV, Additional Protocols I and II, ILO Convention 182, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Optional Protocol to the CRC, the Rome Statute, the Safe Schools Declaration, the Paris Principles and Commitments, and the Vancouver Principles.

NGO resources

- Watchlist and partners, Open Letter to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Yemen, February 2019
- Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, Safeguard Yemen's Future: Protect Education from Attack, February 2019
- Human Rights Watch, Tunisia: Scant Help to Bring Home ISIS Members' Children: 200 Held in Squalid Camps and Prisons in Libya, Syria, and Iraq, February 2019
- Save the Children, Stop the War on Children: Protecting Children in 21st Century Conflict, February 2019
- World Vision International, No Choice: It takes a world to end the use of child soldiers, February 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.

To subscribe to Watchlist updates and recommendations, [click here](#) or visit: <http://watchlist.org/#get-involved>

Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict
919 2nd Avenue, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10017
Telephone: 212.972.0695
Fax: 212.972.0701
Email: watchlist@watchlist.org
Website: www.watchlist.org

