

Recommendations to the Security Council

OPEN DEBATE ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

In April, the Security Council will hold its annual open debate on sexual violence in conflict under the item of Women, Peace and Security. The Council is expected to adopt a resolution on accountability. In their interventions at the open debate, **UN Member States should:**

- **Ensure adequate funding and resources for programs** to provide medical assistance, psychosocial support, and other services to survivors of sexual violence in conflict and their children; these efforts should take into account measures to **avoid the stigmatization of survivors and children who may have been conceived through sexual violence;**
- **Encourage the UN to continue to strengthen monitoring, reporting, and response to sexual violence against children and its linkages to other grave violations** including abductions, attacks on schools and hospitals, and recruitment and use; where possible, **information disaggregated by gender should be made available** to inform strategies to prevent sexual and gender-based violence and provide appropriate response services;
- **Strengthen support for the reintegration of children formerly associated with armed forces or groups**, including by ensuring that reintegration programming is gender-sensitive and reflective of the different experiences and needs of girls and boys;
- **Demand accountability for sexual violence in conflict**, including within the CAC context, through the development and timely implementation of time-bound action plans between parties to conflict and the UN on sexual violence against children;
- **Ensure adequate resources for dedicated child protection and gender experts in UN peace operations** to monitor and report on sexual violence in conflict and grave violations against children.

THE UNITED STATES IS THE PENHOLDER ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT.

COLOMBIA

In April, the Council will receive a briefing on the Secretary-General's (SG) 90-day report (S/2019/265) on the Verification Mission in Colombia. The *Ejército de Liberación Nacional* (ELN) is listed in the SG's 2018 annual report on children and armed conflict for recruitment and use; the *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia - Ejército del Pueblo* (FARC-EP) were delisted following their dissolution. However, the Colombian Ombudsperson has warned that FARC-EP dissidents, the ELN, and the Autodefensas Gaitanistas Colombianas (AGC) continue to recruit children. In March, clashes between the ELN and other armed groups in Chocó put thousands of civilians' lives at risk; the Ombudsperson and the Colombian Government Victims' Unit warned that thousands could also be displaced as a result. In March, President Iván Duque refused to sign the Statutory Law for the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), established by the peace accord to address justice for victims of the armed conflict, including child recruitment. The UN and several foreign governments publicly expressed their support for the JEP, underscoring the importance of transitional justice. **The Security Council should:**

- Expressing their support for transitional justice, **call on the Government of Colombia to prioritize and accelerate efforts to enact the JEP Statutory Law**, and to avoid such actions that risk denying children's rights and best interests;
- Call upon all parties to conflict to take concrete, effective measures to **avoid and prevent child casualties during hostilities**, including protecting schools, hospitals, and other civilian objects and refraining from using explosive weapons in populated areas;
- **Request an update on the situation of the 124 individuals separated from the FARC-EP** as children in 2016 and 2017, including the provision of basic services to them, their families, and communities;

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!



- **Remind the Government of its obligations under the peace agreement to strengthen institutions and programs** to ensure the adequate reintegration of children and prevent new patterns of recruitment and use, especially in regions where Government presence is limited and communities are more vulnerable to violence and insecurity; in particular, **urge the National Reintegration Council to urgently include newly identified cases** in the reintegration program.

THE UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON COLOMBIA.

YEMEN

In Yemen, six parties are listed for grave violations against children. Despite a reduction of violence since the December 2018 Stockholm Agreement, hostilities between the Houthis and the Saudi/Emirati-led coalition (SELC) continued in Hodeidah, compounding an already dire humanitarian situation. An analysis by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) found that civilian casualties in Hajjah and Taiz alone have more than doubled since the Hodeidah ceasefire and Stockholm Agreement came into effect, with 164 and 184 people killed respectively. On March 25, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC) announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Force Commander of the SELC to strengthen the protection of children affected by armed conflict in Yemen. The MoU foresees the development of a program of activities to strengthen prevention and protection measures for children in Yemen by May 25, 2019. On March 26, a coalition airstrike hit a hospital supported by Save the Children outside of Saada, killing eight people, including five children, and wounding several others. **Council Members should:**

- Building upon the recently signed MoU between the SRSG-CAAC and the SELC, **call for the signing of a time-bound action plan to end and prevent grave violations**, as the formal path for delisting from the annexes of the SG's annual report on children and armed conflict;
- **Call on the SG to list all parties that deserve so in Section A of the annexes of his annual report** for all relevant violations, including the SELC for killing and maiming and attacks on schools and hospitals;
- **Call on all parties to end restrictions on humanitarian access, including for the SELC to immediately reopen all ports and airports, and lift bureaucratic restrictions and delays on commercial imports;**
- **Demand all parties to conflict to respect the Hodeidah ceasefire, and to take credible steps towards the signing of a nationwide ceasefire** to end the suffering of children and other civilians affected by armed conflict;
- **Call on the Government of Yemen to implement the roadmap signed in December 2018**, which aims at revitalizing the 2014 action plan between the Government and the UN to end and prevent child recruitment and use, and **urge all other parties to conflict that have not signed an action plan to do so** without delay.

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

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.

April Presidency of the Security Council: Germany

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

NGO resources

- Amnesty International, Yemen: Ta'iz Authorities Must Tackle Child Rape and Abuse under Militia Rule, March 2019
- Human Rights Watch, Iraq: ISIS Child Suspects Arbitrarily Arrested, Tortured, March 2019
- Human Rights Watch, Myanmar: Women, Girls Trafficked as 'Brides' to China, March 2019
- Joint NGO Letter, Four Years of War in Yemen: 24 Yemeni and Global NGOs Call on Germany to Extend Its Moratorium on Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia, March 2019
- Joint NGO Letter, Open Letter to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Myanmar Review, March 2019
- Save the Children, A Better Tomorrow: Syria's Children Have Their Say, March 2019
- World Vision International, Fears and Dreams: Turning Hope into Reality for Syria's Children, March 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