

## Recommendations to the Security Council

### MALI

Three armed groups are listed in the Secretary-General's (SG) 2018 annual report on children and armed conflict for recruitment and use and sexual violence, and the Platform, including affiliated groups, is listed for recruitment and use. The *Coordination des Mouvements de l'Azawad* (CMA) signed an action plan with the UN in March 2017 on recruitment and use and sexual violence. In June, the Security Council is expected to renew MINUSMA's mandate, which expires at the end of the month. The increasing presence of armed groups and intercommunal violence have led to the deterioration of security, particularly in the central region of Mopti, and have resulted in mass displacement of civilians. On May 23, the Security Council issued a press statement condemning separate attacks on UN peacekeepers in Timbuktu and Tessalit on May 18. Violence and insecurity have had serious impacts on children, especially their access to education. At the end of March 2019, 525 schools in Mopti were closed – out of a total of 866 closed schools across the country – leaving approximately 157,000 children with no access to education. School closures have been linked mainly to insecurity and direct threats by extremist armed groups, which have triggered the withdrawal of teachers. From April to December 2018, the UN Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) documented 98 cases of child recruitment and use by armed groups. In the same period, it documented 105 cases of killings and maiming of children in the North and Center of Mali. Conflict-related sexual violence continues to be a serious concern, with 22 cases documented by MINUSMA in 2018, although it remains highly underreported. The mid-term report of the Panel of Experts (S/2019/137) also highlights incidents of obstruction of humanitarian assistance. **The Security Council should:**

- Urge the CMA to **fully and swiftly implement its action plan** with the UN, and furthermore, **allow the UN to monitor its progress** toward implementation;
- Call upon all other listed parties to publicly **express their commitment to ending and preventing all violations against children**, and to expeditiously develop action plans with the UN;
- Demand all parties **cease attacks on and military use of schools**, and urge the Government to uphold its commitments under the Safe Schools Declaration;
- Call on all parties to allow the **unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance**.

**FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON MALI, AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CHAIRS THE SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.**

### SUDAN

Four non-State armed actors are listed for child rights violations in Sudan, three of whom have signed action plans with the UN to end and prevent grave violations. The Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) were delisted from the annexes of the SG's most recent annual report on children and armed conflict. In June, the Security Council is expected to renew UNAMID's mandate, which expires at the end of the month. The current mandate includes a series of benchmarks and indicators to be achieved before the exit of UNAMID in June 2020 "provided that there is no significant change in the security situation in Darfur" (S/RES/2429, para. 2). The Security Council named monitoring and reporting on grave violations against children among UNAMID's strategic priorities (para. 11). In his April update to the Council on the situation in Darfur (S/2019/305), the SG highlighted "ongoing human rights violations, in particular sexual and gender-based violence, including those violations reportedly perpetrated by Government security personnel." Between January and March, 3,815 internally displaced persons (IDPs) arrived in Otash camp in South Darfur as a result of continuing clashes in the Jebel Mara region. While underreported, sexual and gender-based violence continues to be a serious concern, especially in the Jebel Mara area. Between January 4 and April 3, UNAMID documented four incidents of rape of girls, in addition to an unverified report of a gang-rape of a 14-year-old girl. The risk of sexual and gender-based violence continues to limit the freedom of movement of women and girls in areas of return and around IDP camps. **The Security Council should:**

- Renew UNAMID's **child protection mandate**, recognizing the mission's critical role in monitoring grave violations against children and **ensure adequate resources for the mission's child protection section** to ensure it can continue to deliver on the CAC mandate;

### 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](#)  
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[Sudan](#)  
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## Sudan cont'd

- In light of the proposed mission drawdown, **increase and transfer appropriate funding and capacities to the UN Country Team and UNICEF** to allow for the necessary monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children, engagement with listed groups, and other core child protection functions;
- Call upon the UN vis-à-vis its CTFMR to **strengthen engagement with listed non-State armed groups**; in particular, to support the SLA/MM and JEM in the implementation of their action plans, and to encourage the SLA/AW to develop an action plan;
- Urge parties to **allow unimpeded humanitarian access** for ensuring safe and rapid delivery of assistance to all civilians, including children, affected by conflict and violence.

**THE UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON DARFUR. POLAND CHAIRS THE 1591 SUDAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.**

## SYRIA

Government forces, including the National Defense Forces and pro-Government militias, and six armed groups are currently listed. In June, the Council will receive its monthly briefings on the humanitarian situation, political process, and use of chemical weapons in Syria. The humanitarian situation remains deeply concerning, especially since the mid-April escalation of hostilities in northwestern Syria, which has displaced at least 180,000. At the same time, hundreds of thousands of civilians – including vulnerable groups with limited mobility, such as female-headed households, elderly, and persons with disabilities – are effectively trapped due to restrictions on freedom of movement, fears of reprisals, and closure of the Turkish border to refugees. At least 134 children have been killed since the start of the year, and at least 18 health facilities, three IDP settlements, and one refugee camp have reportedly been affected by the recent hostilities. Due to attacks, at least 16 humanitarian organizations have suspended some operations in Idlib, exacerbating an already dire situation where at least 1.5 million people need urgent humanitarian assistance. Most medical facilities in the area have suspended their activities, putting additional strains on those that continue to function as needs grow. According to local humanitarian partners in the area, more than 65 percent of schools in Hama have been forced to close, preventing 250,000 students from completing the school year. On May 24, a group of 44 Syrian and international NGOs called for an immediate end to attacks on civilians and hospitals in Idlib. Also of serious concern is the situation of approximately 73,000 displaced civilians – 94 percent of whom are women and children – housed in the overcrowded Al-Hol camp in northeastern Syria. Many are children of foreign nationalities whose parents were associated with the Islamic State (IS), and as a result, they face restrictions on their freedom of movement, stigmatization, and other rights violations. **Council Members should:**

- Demand that all parties, including Russian and Syrian Government forces, **immediately halt attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure**, including hospitals and schools;
- Exert pressure on warring parties to **facilitate cross-border and cross-line humanitarian access**, in order to allow aid agencies to reach all communities in need, in compliance with Resolution 2393;
- Call on all parties to **immediately cease the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects** and inherently indiscriminate weapons, to mitigate the risk of civilian harm;
- Remind all parties that all children, including those suspected of association with armed groups, are **entitled to special care and protection** under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and **should be treated first and foremost as victims**;
- Call on countries of origin to **safely repatriate foreign children and their families**, following individual rights-based needs assessments, for the purposes of prosecution, rehabilitation and/or reintegration, as appropriate, and in line with international law and standards.

**BELGIUM, GERMANY, AND KUWAIT LEAD ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES ON SYRIA.**

## June Presidency of the Security Council: Kuwait

- Party to Geneva Conventions I-IV, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, and ILO Convention 182. Not yet a party to the Rome Statute of the ICC. Has endorsed the Paris Principles and Commitments. Has not yet endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration nor the Vancouver Principles.

## NGO resources

- ↻ Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, Democratic Republic of Congo: Girls' Lives Shattered by Attacks on Schools, May 20, 2019
- ↻ Human Rights Watch, Iraq: Confining Families With Alleged ISIS Ties Unlawful, May 7, 2019
- ↻ Human Rights Watch, Yemen: Warehouse Blast Kills Schoolchildren, May 9, 2019
- ↻ International Rescue Committee, Idlib: Children Show Signs of Severe Distress After Being Forced to Flee – Again, May 30, 2019
- ↻ Joint NGO Statement, Eastern DRC: Tens of Thousands Forcibly Displaced by Surge in Violence, May 3, 2019
- ↻ Open Letter from 21 NGOs to the Secretary-General Calling for a Complete and Accurate List of Perpetrators of Violations against Children, May 24, 2019
- ↻ Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition, Impunity Remains: Attacks on Health Care in 23 Countries in Conflict, May 15, 2019
- ↻ WarChild, Being Kept Behind: The Impact of Conflict on the Education of Yemen's Children, May 28, 2019
- ↻ Watchlist, Recommendations for the 2019 Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict, May 24, 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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