

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 in the Secretary-General's (SG) annual report on children and armed conflict for recruitment and use, killing and maiming, and sexual violence. The ex-Séléka coalition is also listed for attacks on schools and hospitals, and the LRA for abduction. The Panel of Experts' midterm report to the Security Council is due by July 30, pursuant to Resolution 2454 (2019). While the February 6 peace agreement between the Government and 14 armed groups represents progress, including in addressing the six grave violations, insecurity and violence have continued, and the humanitarian situation remains dire. Between May 19 and 21, members of the armed group *Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation* (3R) coordinated a series of [attacks](#) in the Ouham-Pendé Prefecture, which resulted in at least 49 civilians killed. UNICEF has [warned](#) that conditions on the ground remain extremely dangerous for children, who have been targeted and recruited to fight. In his latest report on CAR ([S/2019/498](#)), the SG noted that the *Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique* and the *Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique* (MPC), both part of the ex-Séléka coalition, have been reinforcing positions and occupying schools around Bakala in Ouaka prefecture since mid-December 2018, endangering children's lives and denying their right to education. Attacks on humanitarian workers, convoys, and compounds, as well as illegal checkpoints and other obstructions, continue to impede the delivery of assistance to an estimated 2.9 million – half of whom are children – in need. Between April 30 and May 5, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRS-G-CAAC) [visited](#) CAR, where she met with the president, government officials, and armed group representatives, and publicly introduced the idea of a national plan to prevent grave violations against children. **The UN Security Council should:**

- **Encourage the Panel of Experts to continue to support the Sanctions Committee's work** by providing specific information on individuals and entities committing grave violations against children in accordance with designation criteria set out in SCR 2399 (2018), including recruitment and use of children, sexual and gender-based violence, attacks on schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access, and include such information in its reporting to the Council;
- Immediately **review and approve designations** for individuals and entities involved in planning, directing, or committing violations of applicable international human rights law (IHRL) or international humanitarian law (IHL), and enforce travel bans and other restrictions on those previously sanctioned without delay;
- Demand all armed actors **immediately cease all grave violations against children**, including attacks on schools and hospitals and sexual violence; release all children within their ranks; and allow the safe and unrestricted delivery of humanitarian assistance to civilians in need;
- Urge the MPC to **fully and swiftly implement its action plan** to end and prevent grave violations against children; further call upon all other listed parties to **develop and sign action plans** with the UN.

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

LIBYA

In July, Council members are expected to receive a briefing on the situation in Libya, pursuant to Resolution 2434 (2018). Libya is considered a situation of concern in the SG's annual report on children and armed conflict. A lack of dedicated resources for monitoring and reporting on grave violations against children, as well as insecurity, access constraints, and fear of reprisals against survivors and witnesses, significantly impede the UN's ability to effectively monitor and report on violations. However, available information raises serious concerns about the protection of children. Between February 1 and March 31, UNSMIL [documented](#) 89 civilian casualties, including four children killed and seven injured, during the conduct of hostilities. The situation has further deteriorated since early April, when fighting broke out in and around Tripoli. In late April, UNICEF [estimated](#) that 500,000 children were affected by violence across western Libya, with some 1,800 children among civilians in need of evacuation from frontline areas. In addition, credible allegations of recruitment and use of children by all parties have been reported, most recently in the context of renewed fighting. In its June 16 [bulletin](#), UNICEF reported that 122,088 children from nine Tripoli municipalities have not been able to go to school since the beginning of the crisis in April due to fighting, significant internal displacements, and the use of schools to host internally displaced persons (IDPs). Also of serious

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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Libya cont'd

concern is the situation of refugees and migrants, including children, held in Libya's detention centers. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has expressed concerns about the deplorable health and sanitary conditions in these facilities, which the UN Human Rights Office has said may amount to "inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment" and possibly torture. **The Security Council should:**

- Call on UNSMIL and UN agencies with presence in Libya to **increase monitoring and verification of grave violations against children**, and **request the SG to include information on the situation of children** affected by armed conflict in his briefings to the Council;
- **Demand that all parties prioritize the protection of children** at all times and respect IHL in the conduct of hostilities;
- Urge the Government to **immediately and unconditionally release all those detained arbitrarily** or otherwise unlawfully deprived of their liberty, in particular children, and to **put in place measures to ensure that all those detained are protected** from torture and other ill-treatment and granted their right to due process;
- Urge the Government to **intensify its efforts to ensure that those responsible for war crimes and other serious violations of IHRL are brought to justice**, including by fully cooperating with the International Criminal Court, in accordance with Resolution 1970 (2011).

THE UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON LIBYA, AND GERMANY IS CHAIR OF THE SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

Recommendations to the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

YEMEN

At this writing, the Working Group was still negotiating conclusions on Syria and Myanmar. In June, the SG's second report on the situation of children and armed conflict in Yemen was formally presented to the Working Group. Six parties are listed for grave violations against children in Yemen. Children have borne the brunt of the conflict, UNICEF reporting at least 7,300 child casualties since March 2015. The Saudi- and Emirati-Led Coalition (SELC) has been responsible for the greatest number of child casualties, carrying out numerous airstrikes in violation of the laws of war without adequate follow-up investigations, and placing arms suppliers at risk of complicity in war crimes. The second greatest number of child casualties has been attributed to the Houthis, who have used landmines and indiscriminate weapons in civilian areas and targeted civilian infrastructure. On June 17, the head of the World Food Programme (WFP) David Beasley briefed the Security Council on the dire humanitarian situation in Yemen, reporting that food assistance was being diverted in areas controlled by the Houthis, and on June 20, WFP partially suspended operations in these areas. **The Working Group should:**

- **Condemn in the strongest terms all grave violations and abuses committed against children**, and urge all parties to the conflict to immediately cease all violations of applicable international law, including the six grave violations;
- Call upon the Government of Yemen to **implement fully and without delay the December 2018 roadmap** aimed at revitalizing its action plan to end and prevent child recruitment and use, immediately release all those within its ranks, and prioritize the establishment of age assessment mechanisms;
- Urge all other listed parties, including the Houthis and the SELC, to **sign and implement time-bound action plans** to end and prevent grave violations, **as the only path towards delisting** from the annexes of the SG's annual report on children and armed conflict;
- **Express concern at the high number of child casualties**, especially as a result of aerial attacks and ground fighting, and demand that all parties immediately **take actions to protect children**, including by ceasing all military operations in civilian areas and protected facilities such as schools and hospitals;
- Demand that all parties facilitate **the safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance** to children and other civilians in need;
- 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.

July Presidency of the Security Council: Peru

- Party to Geneva Convention I-IV, Additional Protocols I and II, the 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, the Paris Commitments, the Vancouver Principles, and the Safe Schools Declaration.

NGO resources

- Child Rights Now! A Second Revolution: 30 Years of Child Rights, and the Unfinished Agenda, June 26, 2019
- Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, Education Suffered over 14,000 Armed Attacks in Last Five Years, May 26, 2019
- Human Rights Watch, Protecting Schools from Military Use: Law, Policy, and Military Doctrine, May 27, 2019
- Human Rights Watch, South Sudan: Government Forces Abusing Civilians, June 4, 2019
- Human Rights Watch, Gaza: Unlawful Attacks in May Fighting, June 12, 2019
- Norwegian Refugee Council, Schools in Afghanistan Must Be Protected during Turbulent Election Periods, May 29, 2019
- Physicians for Human Rights, Under-Secretary-General Mark Lowcock and Attacks on Health in Syria, June 10, 2019
- Save the Children, No Funeral for Children Killed in Idlib as Death Toll Rises, June 5, 2019
- Save the Children, Investigate Senseless Killings in Mali, Hold Attackers to Account, June 11, 2019
- WarChild, Rethink Child Soldiers: A New Approach to the Reintegration of All Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups, June 11, 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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