

## Policy Note

March 2018

# A Credible List: Recommendations for the 2018 Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict and Listings

Following pressure from civil society for a complete and accurate listing of perpetrators in 2017, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres listed the Saudi Arabia-led coalition forces for Yemen and the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) for Iraq, among other parties, in the annexes of his first annual report on children and armed conflict. However, in a change from previous years, the 2017 report segregated parties that have taken “positive measures to improve the protection of children” from those that have not. Violations by parties such as the Saudi Arabia-led coalition continued unabated in 2017, leaving it unclear what constitutes such positive measures. The Secretary-General should publicly document what he considers to be such measures and carefully monitor any progress towards ending and preventing these violations.

Regardless of these so-called positive measures, parties who are listed on the basis of timely, accurate, and credible information on violations collected through the UN’s Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) must enter into time-bound action plans with the UN to be removed from the annexes. The MRM is imperative for informing the work of the UN Security Council on children and armed conflict regarding country situations within its purview, as well as the Secretary-General’s decision-making process for the annual listing of perpetrators.



## About Watchlist

Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict strives to end violations against children in armed conflicts and to guarantee their rights. As a global network, Watchlist builds partnerships among local, national, and international nongovernmental organizations, enhancing mutual capacities and strengths. Working together, we strategically collect and disseminate information on violations against children in conflicts in order to influence key decision-makers to create and implement programs and policies that effectively protect children.

Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict is a project of Tides Center, a non-profit public charity.



[watchlist@watchlist.org](mailto:watchlist@watchlist.org)  
[www.watchlist.org](http://www.watchlist.org)

The listing process serves as a foundation for the UN to enter into dialogue with parties to conflict in order to drive positive change for children through action plans and other commitments by the relevant parties. While the MRM will unsurprisingly continue to serve as a point of scrutiny for some Member States on and off the Council, given past politicization, further concerns arose in the past year regarding the UN's ability on the ground to monitor, report, and respond to grave violations and thus implement the Council's children and armed conflict mandate. Namely, efforts to streamline mandates and cut budgets of UN political and peacekeeping missions seriously undermine the Secretary-General's ability to regularly report to the Council and its Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.

The 2018 annual report is not only a key opportunity for the Secretary-General to ensure a credible, complete, and accurate listing of perpetrators, but also a key moment to highlight the capacity concerns and the need to adequately invest in monitoring and reporting. He should advocate with Member States for the allocation of sufficient staff and budgetary resources for specialized child protection functions, including Child Protection Advisers in key political and peacekeeping missions.

## Background

The Security Council adopted Resolution 1612 in 2005 establishing the MRM, which is mandated to gather field-based data on grave violations of children's rights in a timely, accurate, and credible manner. Since its inception, the MRM has served as the foundation of the Council's children and armed conflict agenda, informing Member States on the situation on the ground and empowering the UN and relevant child

protection actors to respond. The Secretary-General uses MRM data as the basis for his decisions to name perpetrators of grave violations in his annual report's annexes in order to stop such violations. As a result of this agenda, the UN has signed 29 action plans with listed parties to date. Tens of thousands of children have been released and reintegrated from armed forces and groups due to concrete action by UN country teams. However, time and again, the work of the MRM has been undermined by those countries that did not wish to see themselves or their friends on the list, despite the principle of impartiality embedded in the listing process.

In 2017, civil society publically called upon the Secretary-General to hold all perpetrators of grave violations to the same standard regardless of whether they are government security forces or a coalition of governments, armed non-state actors, or even UN peacekeepers. This call came after the Saudi Arabia-led coalition forces were listed and then delisted in 2016 following Saudi Arabia's public threats to withdraw all UN funding.

In response to this worrying trend, Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict ('Watchlist'), a global network of human rights and humanitarian organizations, worked with others to propose a list of parties to conflict that should be included in the Secretary-General's 2017 annual report, and to highlight where additional information on violations should be collected. Watchlist welcomed the Secretary-General's subsequent listing of the Saudi Arabia-led coalition forces, and others, such as the PMF in Iraq. But Watchlist remains concerned about the ambiguous designation that certain parties have taken "positive measures" to protect children, and the possibility of using this as a shortcut to prematurely delist those parties.

In addition to the politicization of the list, civil society has observed an even more worrying trend over the past year that could further undermine the UN's ability to operate the MRM. Specifically, the streamlining of mandates and budget cuts for UN political and peacekeeping missions may seriously impede the Secretary-General's ability to regularly report to the Security Council and its Working Group on children and armed conflict. A number of child protection adviser and officer posts were eliminated in 2017 and additional posts are expected to be cut in the coming months, as certain Security Council Member States push to save money and downsize UN peace operations in 2018. The Secretary-General should advocate with Member States for allocation of staff and budgetary resources needed to carry out specialized child protection functions, including the placement of child protection advisers in key political and peacekeeping missions. Without adequate support to UN field missions to monitor, report on, and respond to grave violations, the Council's global mechanism on children and armed conflict stands to lose ground at a time it is most needed.

## Methodology

Watchlist conducted a systematic desk review of all publicly available reports related to grave violations against children in 25 relevant country situations in 2017. Sources include the Secretary-General's 2017 annual report on children and armed conflict; reports by UN agencies and treaty bodies, as well as Member State governments; and reputable international non-governmental organizations (INGOs). Watchlist's review focused on the five 'trigger' violations: recruitment and use; killing and maiming; rape and other forms of sexual violence; attacks on schools and hospitals;

and abduction of children. Many of the violations documented in these reports have been included in Secretary-General's previous annual reports, but the parties responsible for perpetrating them have not yet been listed.

Watchlist's method to arrive at a recommendation for listing is derived from the Secretary-General's 2017 annual report. To reach a simple yet universally applicable threshold, Watchlist examined the minimum number of verified cases quoted by the Secretary-General for any party listed in the annexes, and for each of the five trigger violations. Subsequently, Watchlist analyzed additional data publicly available for 2017 across situations and trigger violations to determine which parties and violations should be added. For example, for rape and other forms of sexual violence, the minimum number of verified cases for a listed party was four, so Watchlist added all parties with four or more verified cases to its list of recommendations.

For some parties mentioned in the body of the Secretary-General's 2017 annual report that have not yet been listed, Watchlist recommends that the UN further investigate whether they should be included in the 2018 report narrative and/or annexes. For example, the UN could do so by sending a delegation to the country to independently verify allegations, per the MRM's guidelines.

The documentation provided to support Watchlist's recommendations is not an exhaustive list of all incidents perpetrated against children in all relevant situations during the reporting period. Instead, the annex focuses on publicly available sources.

## Recommendations

Based on information in the annex<sup>1</sup> to this report, Watchlist recommends that the Secretary-General:

**1. List the following parties that have committed grave violations against children in the abovementioned period in the annexes of his upcoming annual report:**

### **Afghanistan**

- Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF)<sup>2</sup> and Pro-Government militias

### **Central African Republic**

- Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique (FPRC) in coalition with the Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique (MPC)
- Union pour la paix en Centrafrique (UPC)

### **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

- Police nationale congolaise (PNC)

### **Israel and the State of Palestine**

- Israel Defense Forces (IDF)

### **Mali**

- Coordination of Azawad Movement (CMA)

### **Myanmar**

- State Security Forces (Tatmadaw)

### **South Sudan**

- Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition (SPLA-IO)

**2. Collect further information from the UN country teams to determine whether a situation or party should be included in his 2018 report narrative and/or parties should be listed in its annexes:**

### **Iraq**

- Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and other Kurdish Groups

### **Somalia**

- African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)

### **Syria**

- International Coalitions

### **Philippines**

- Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)

**3. Collect further information through assessment missions to ascertain whether the following situation should be placed on the children and armed conflict agenda and thereby in his 2018 report narrative:**

### **Ukraine (parties on both sides of the conflict)**

<sup>1</sup> Based on the Secretary-General's 2017 annual report, the enclosed annex is organized in 4 sections: 1) annex I countries, 2) annex II countries, 3) countries in the body of the 2017 report but not yet in the annexes, and 4) countries not yet in the report.

<sup>2</sup> ANDSF includes Afghan National Army (ANA), Afghan National Police (ANP), and Afghan Local Police (ALP), as well as the Afghan National Directorate of Security (NDS).

# Annex

## 2018 Annual Report Submission

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### Annex I Countries

#### Afghanistan

Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) and Pro-Government Militias

#### Recommendation to List

##### Recruitment and Use

In September 2017, the Secretary-General reported on six verified cases of recruitment and use of boys by ANDSF.<sup>3</sup> In its 2017 mid-year report, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) identified 14 cases of recruitment and use by ANDSF and referred them to the UN's Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR).<sup>4</sup>

##### Killing and Maiming

On June 12, 2017, Pro-Government Forces shot dead a father and his two sons, aged 5 and 12, in Shinwar district, Nangarhar province, during response operations to an improvised explosive device attack on a joint international and Afghan military force convoy.<sup>5</sup>

According to the UN, Pro-Government Forces opened fire with small arms in the immediate area, striking the man and two boys as they sat together in a nearby brick factory. On June 3, 2017, in Jalrez district, Maidan Wardak province, UNAMA reported that airstrikes from an Afghan Air Force helicopter killed two children and injured another four after hitting their home, despite the absence of active fighting in the area at the time.<sup>6</sup> Similarly, on March 3, 2017, UNAMA reported that helicopter strikes carried out by the Afghan Air Force killed seven children, all under 12 years, and injured 24 other civilians, including 11 children, as they tried to escape fighting between Anti-Government Elements and ANDSF in Bala Baluk district, Farah province.<sup>7</sup> Afghan security forces killed a 16-year-old boy in reaction to protests in Zanzaq Square on June 13, 2017.<sup>8</sup>

On May 19, 2017, an Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier killed a 13-year-old boy near a checkpoint in Bala Murghab district, Badghis province.<sup>9</sup> A 15-year-old girl was injured on May 17, 2017, from mortar fired by ANDSF in response to an Anti-Government Element

<sup>3</sup> UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, Report of the Secretary-General," September 15, 2017, [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/2017/783](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2017/783) (accessed January 5, 2018), para. 29.

<sup>4</sup> UNAMA, "Afghanistan Midyear Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: 2017," July 2017, [https://unama.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/protection\\_of\\_civilians\\_in\\_armed\\_conflict\\_midyear\\_report\\_2017\\_july\\_2017.pdf](https://unama.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/protection_of_civilians_in_armed_conflict_midyear_report_2017_july_2017.pdf) (accessed January 5, 2018), p. 16.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., p. 57.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., p. 15.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., p. 54.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., p. 35.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., p. 57.

attack.<sup>10</sup> On May 13, 2017, in Pashtun Kot district, Faryab province, ANDSF fired mortar rounds targeting Anti-Government Elements that hit a civilian home, killing two 5-year-old girls and injuring nine other civilians, seven of whom were children.<sup>11</sup>

On April 25, 2017, UNAMA reported that international and Afghan Special Forces conducted a search operation targeting Anti-Government Elements in Kakar district, Zabul province, during which shots fired by the Pro-Government Forces killed two children.<sup>12</sup> On April 1, 2017, in a nighttime operation in Lashkar Gah district, Helmand province, Pro-Government Forces destroyed the Anti-Government cache of improvised explosive devices discovered in a house under construction, and in using dynamite to do so, caused a neighboring house to collapse, killing six children.<sup>13</sup> UNAMA reported that, on January 19, 2017, in Shirin Tagab district, Faryab province, while responding to an Anti-Government Element attack, a pro-Government armed group damaged six civilian homes and injured two children when it fired rocket-propelled grenades.<sup>14</sup> When a civilian boy returned from taking food to an injured Anti-Government group member on January 1, 2017, in Sholgareh district, Balkh province, he was killed by a Pro-Government element fighter.<sup>15</sup>

### Rape and Other Forms of Sexual Violence

In February 2017, following alleged participation of six members of the Afghan security forces in a *bacha bazi* gathering, action was taken to fire the police chief, but also to arrest four victims.<sup>16</sup> UNAMA documented two incidents of conflict-related sexual violence against children, including one by Afghan national security forces in the first half of 2017.<sup>17</sup> On January 22, 2017, in Barmal district, Paktika province, Afghan National Border Police sexually abused a 13-year-old boy at their checkpoint before shooting him. The boy later died from his injuries in the local clinic. The perpetrators were investigated and prosecuted by the Afghan National Police prosecution unit and are reportedly serving six-year prison sentences for murder.<sup>18</sup>

### Attacks on Schools and Hospitals

In his 2017 annual report on children and armed conflict, the Secretary-General documented four verified incidents of attacks on schools by Afghan security forces.<sup>19</sup> UNAMA reported mortar fire by the Afghan National Army that hit the Habiburhaman Boys' High School in Mihtarlam city, Laghman province, on February 25, 2017; two boys were killed and eight others wounded.<sup>20</sup>

The Secretary-General also attributed nine attacks on hospitals to ANDSF in 2016.<sup>21</sup> In 2017, according to UNAMA, there were two incidents impacting

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., p. 25.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., p. 26.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., p. 58.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., p. 60.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> US Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, "2017 Trafficking in Persons Report," June 2017, <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/271341.pdf> (accessed January 6, 2018), p. 57.

<sup>17</sup> UNAMA, "Afghanistan Midyear Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: 2017," p. 16.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., p. 15.

<sup>19</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/72/361-S/2017/821), August 24, 2017, [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/2017/821](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2017/821) (accessed January 5, 2018), para. 28.

<sup>20</sup> UNAMA, "Afghanistan Midyear Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: 2017," p. 23.

<sup>21</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/72/361-S/2017/821), para. 29.

health care attributed to Pro-Government Forces, both concerning entry to medical facilities. On March 1, 2017, ANA soldiers entered a health clinic in Baghlan-e-Jadid district, Baghlan province, and parked their vehicles there, resulting in the facility's closure for the day. On January 2, 2017, the ANA broke the locks of a health facility in Tagab district, Kapisa province, and stayed there for a day.<sup>22</sup>

## Central African Republic

Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique (FPRC) in coalition with the Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique (MPC)

### Recommendation to List

#### Recruitment and Use

In his 2017 annual report on children and armed conflict, which covers the 2016 calendar year, the Secretary-General reported nine cases of recruitment and use of children by the FPRC.<sup>23</sup> Since then, the Secretary-General reported additional such incidents in his progress reports on the UN peacekeeping mission in CAR, MINUSCA. In his October 2017 report, the Secretary-General said 74 children were released from FPRC on September 23, 2017, in Kaga Bandoro, after the group issued a directive prohibiting the practice

and ordered the removal of children from its ranks in May.<sup>24</sup> The Secretary-General reported in June 2017 that the hostilities between the FPRC-led coalition and the *Union pour la paix en Centrafrique* (UPC) impacted children, and the CTFMR confirmed violations by these groups. This included 16 cases of recruitment and use of children between March and May 2017.<sup>25</sup> Earlier in the year, the UN reported that armed groups, including the FPRC, UPC, and MPC, were handing over lists of children recruited into their ranks to child protection actors in Vakaga, Ouaka, and Nana Grebizi prefectures.<sup>26</sup>

Union pour la paix en Centrafrique (UPC)

### Recommendation to List

#### Recruitment and Use

The Secretary-General's 2017 annual report on children and armed conflict notes the UPC's recruitment and use of four children.<sup>27</sup> The UN reported in November 2017 that nine boys who were associated with the UPC were released in Ngakobo, Ouaka prefecture, and handed over to relevant child protection actors.<sup>28</sup> As stated earlier, the Secretary-General reported the UPC among the perpetrators of the 16 cases of recruitment and use of children.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>22</sup> UNAMA, "Afghanistan Midyear Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: 2017," p. 17.

<sup>23</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/72/361-S/2017/821), para. 38.

<sup>24</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on the Central African Republic (S/2017/865), October 18, 2017, <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/N1731081.pdf> (accessed January 5, 2018), para. 37.

<sup>25</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on the Central African Republic (S/2017/473\*), June 2, 2017, [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/2017/473](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2017/473) (accessed on January 5, 2018), para. 34.

<sup>26</sup> UNICEF, "Central African Republic Humanitarian Situation Report," July-September 2017, <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNICEF%20CAR%20Humanitarian%20Situation%20Report%20July-Sept%202017.pdf> (accessed January 5, 2018), p. 3.

<sup>27</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/72/361-S/2017/821), para. 39.

<sup>28</sup> UNICEF, "Central African Republic Humanitarian Situation Report," November 2017, <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNICEF%20CAR%20Humanitarian%20Situation%20Report%20as%20of%20November%202017.pdf> (accessed January 5, 2018), p. 7.

<sup>29</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on the Central African Republic (S/2017/473\*), para. 34.

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

Police nationale congolaise (PNC)

### Recommendation to List

#### Killing and Maiming

The Secretary-General attributed four child casualties to the PNC in his 2017 annual report.<sup>30</sup> Between March and May 2017, the UN documented 870 human rights violations by state agents in the provinces of Kasai, Tanganyika, and Kongo Central, 26 percent of which were committed by the PNC.<sup>31</sup> According to the UN, victims included 64 children killed by state agents.<sup>32</sup> A high-level UN official stated that members of local units of the Congolese Army and Police had aided certain Bana Mura militia attacks by directing or arming them, which resulted in the killing and maiming of dozens of children as young as 2.<sup>33</sup> In 2017, the United States Department of State noted allegations that the PNC and Congolese Army executed unarmed children allegedly associated with the Kamuina Nsapu armed group.<sup>34</sup> In March 2017, the UN said the PNC was responsible for killing 31 children.<sup>35</sup>

#### Rape and Other Forms of Sexual Violence

Members of the PNC perpetrated 12 cases of rape and other forms of sexual violence in 2016, according to the Secretary-General.<sup>36</sup> In his October 2017 report on the peacekeeping mission in the DRC, the Secretary-General reported three cases of rape and other forms of sexual violence against children perpetrated by the PNC.<sup>37</sup>

## Iraq

Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and other Kurdish Groups

### Recommendation to Further Investigate to Determine if it Warrants a Listing

#### Recruitment and Use

In his 2017 annual report on children and armed conflict, the Secretary-General said at least 168 boys were recruited and used by groups such as the People's Defense Forces of the PKK.<sup>38</sup> Human Rights Watch wrote about 29 cases it had documented in December 2016 on recruitment and use of children linked to the PKK in Sinjar and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.<sup>39</sup> This includes recruitment from schools.

<sup>30</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/72/361-S/2017/821), para. 65.

<sup>31</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2017/565), June 30, 2017, <https://monusco.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/n1718276.pdf> (accessed on January 6, 2018), para. 39.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Statement of the High Commissioner to the Interactive dialogue on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 35th session of the Human Rights Council, June 20, 2017, <https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/statement-high-commissioner-interactive-dialogue-democratic> (accessed on January 6, 2018).

<sup>34</sup> US Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, "2017 Trafficking in Persons Report," p. 133.

<sup>35</sup> United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Note du BCNUDH sur les principales tendances des violations des droits de l'homme au mois de mars 2017, [https://monusco.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/bcnuhdh\\_-\\_communiqu%C3%A9\\_presse\\_-\\_note\\_mensuelle\\_mars\\_2017\\_-\\_final.pdf](https://monusco.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/bcnuhdh_-_communiqu%C3%A9_presse_-_note_mensuelle_mars_2017_-_final.pdf) (accessed January 6, 2018), p. 133.

<sup>36</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/72/361-S/2017/821), para. 66.

<sup>37</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2017/824), October 2, 2017, [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/2017/824](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2017/824) (accessed January 6, 2017), para. 44.

<sup>38</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/72/361-S/2017/821), para. 76.

<sup>39</sup> Human Rights Watch (HRW), "Stop Recruiting Child Soldiers in Iraq," January 4, 2017, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/01/04/stop-recruiting-child-soldiers-iraq> (accessed January 6, 2018).

## Mali

Coordination of Azawad Movement (CMA)

### Recommendation to List

#### Recruitment and Use

In his 2017 annual report, the Secretary-General reported 18 verified cases of recruitment and use of children by the CMA.<sup>40</sup> The following year, the UN reported that, out of the 38 total cases of recruitment and use it documented in Mali in the second quarter of 2017, nine were children among the CMA's ranks.<sup>41</sup> The UN identified 10 children who were ages 16 and 17 among the 390 combatants registered with the CMA.<sup>42</sup>

said women described being raped and bearing witness to their children being killed. Witnesses also described one instance in which a soldier killed a 5-year-old girl who struggled to keep pace while fleeing with her family.<sup>44</sup>

Based on a survey conducted in refugee settlements in Bangladesh, Médecins Sans Frontières reported that at least 730 children under 5 were killed in Rakhine State between August 25 and September 24, 2017, among at least 6,700 Rohingya deaths during this period.<sup>45</sup> More than 59 percent of these child deaths were killings; 15 percent were burned to death in their homes, 7 percent were beaten to death, and 2 percent died of landmine blasts, according to the survey.<sup>46</sup>

## Myanmar

State Security Forces (Tatmadaw)

### Recommendation to List

#### Killing and Maiming

In the attack on Tula Toli village in Rakhine State on August 30, 2017, Human Rights Watch estimated that Myanmar security forces killed several hundred Rohingya villagers and burned their bodies. These included children, some of whom were killed at the beach and tossed into the river.<sup>43</sup> Human Rights Watch

In October 2017, Human Rights Watch reported on witness accounts of children being executed, then thrown into a pit of 10 to 15 bodies of children under 12, all of whom were hacked to death.<sup>47</sup> In its reporting on the attack on Tu Lar To Li village, Human Rights Watch recounted the testimony of young brothers who witnessed soldiers burn a house with their mother and three siblings, aged 10, 5, and 3, in it.<sup>48</sup> In September 2017, Human Rights Watch reported that soldiers had taken children away from their families and beaten them to death with spades and rifle butts.<sup>49</sup>

<sup>40</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/72/361-S/2017/821), para. 112.

<sup>41</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Mali (S/2017/478), June 6, 2017, [https://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/2017/478](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2017/478) (accessed January 7, 2018), para. 33.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid, para. 39.

<sup>43</sup> HRW, "Massacre by the River - Burmese Army Crimes against Humanity in Tula Toli," December 19, 2017, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2017/12/19/massacre-river/burmese-army-crimes-against-humanity-tula-toli> (accessed January 16, 2018).

<sup>44</sup> HRW, "All of My Body Was Pain' Sexual Violence against Rohingya Women and Girls in Burma," November 16, 2017, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2017/11/16/all-my-body-was-pain/sexual-violence-against-rohingya-women-and-girls-burma> (accessed January 16, 2018).

<sup>45</sup> Médecins Sans Frontières, "Myanmar/Bangladesh: MSF surveys estimate that at least 6,700 Rohingya were killed during the attacks in Myanmar," December 12, 2017, <http://www.msf.org/en/article/myanmarbangladesh-msf-surveys-estimate-least-6700-rohingya-were-killed-during-attacks> (accessed January 16, 2018).

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> HRW, "Burma: Military Massacres Dozens in Rohingya Village," October 4, 2017, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/10/03/burma-military-massacres-dozens-rohingya-village> (accessed January 16, 2018).

<sup>48</sup> HRW, "Rohingya Children Witness Crimes Against Humanity," September 29, 2017, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/09/29/rohingya-children-witness-crimes-against-humanity> (accessed January 16, 2017).

<sup>49</sup> HRW, "Crimes against Humanity by Burmese Security Forces Against the Rohingya Muslim Population in Northern Rakhine State since August 25, 2017," September 25, 2017, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/09/25/crimes-against-humanity-burmese-security-forces-against-rohingya-muslim-population> (accessed January 16, 2018).

Amnesty International reported incidents of grave violations of children's rights in Rakhine in October 2017. It identified 43 children in Cox's Bazaar District Sadar Hospital in Bangladesh who were victims of gunshot wounds.<sup>50</sup> Amnesty International reported that children were among the 37 civilians killed in Koe Tan Kauk by gunshot or burning.<sup>51</sup> According to Amnesty International, children were shot, including one family with seven children ranging from 2 to 17 years, all of whom were killed.<sup>52</sup> Amnesty International further documented a case in which soldiers opened fire and killed scores of men, older boys, women, and girls.<sup>53</sup> Women testified that soldiers killed their children; witnesses said that women and children were being locked inside houses and set on fire.<sup>54</sup> In September 2017, Amnesty International's research pointed out deliberate targeting of Rohingya civilians with landmine blasts, including incidents of two children being seriously injured along the roads which large numbers of Rohingya used to flee.<sup>55</sup>

### Rape and Other Forms of Sexual Violence

Human rights groups have also reported on sexual violence against women and girls in Myanmar. Human Rights Watch documented a case of a girl no older than 15 who incurred injuries on her shin and knee when

soldiers forced her out of her house, tied her to a tree, and raped her.<sup>56</sup> One witness described to Amnesty International seeing several soldiers rape a Rohingya girl in her village.<sup>57</sup> In its November 2017 report on the Rohingya crisis, Save the Children had witnesses describing the targeting of children for sexual violence, among other grave violations, including killing and maiming, as described above.<sup>58</sup>

## Somalia

African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM)

### Recommendation to Further Investigate to Determine if it Warrants a Listing

#### Rape and Other Forms of Sexual Violence

The Secretary-General reported on three verified incidents of rape and other forms of sexual violence against children by AMISOM in his 2017 annual report on children and armed conflict.<sup>59</sup> The UN attributed less than 1 percent of 535 rapes of children it documented in Somalia between January 2016 and October 2017 to AMISOM. It said three of the rapes were committed by the AMISOM Ethiopian contingent, one by the AMISOM Djiboutian contingent, and one by Ethiopian Non-AMISOM Defense Forces (ENDF).<sup>60</sup>

<sup>50</sup> Amnesty International, "My World is Finished: Rohingya Targeted in Crimes Against Humanity in Myanmar," October 2017, <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/ASA1672882017ENGLISH.PDF> (accessed January 16, 2018), p. 10.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid., p. 20.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid., p. 22.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid., p. 23.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid., p. 24.

<sup>55</sup> Amnesty International, "Myanmar: New landmine blasts point to deliberate targeting of Rohingya," September 10, 2017, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/09/myanmar-new-landmine-blasts-point-to-deliberate-targeting-of-rohingya/> (accessed January 16, 2018).

<sup>56</sup> HRW, "The Darkness of Humans: Investigating Mass Rape in Burma," November 16, 2017, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/11/16/darkness-humans-investigating-mass-rape-burma> (accessed January 16, 2018).

<sup>57</sup> Amnesty International, "My World is Finished: Rohingya Targeted in Crimes Against Humanity in Myanmar," p. 24.

<sup>58</sup> Save the Children, "Horrors I will Never Forget: The stories of Rohingya children," November 2017, <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/horrors-i-will-never-forget-stories-rohingya-children> (accessed January 16, 2018).

<sup>59</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/72/361-S/2017/821), para. 138.

<sup>60</sup> United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, Protection of Civilians: Building the Foundation for Peace, Security and Human Rights in Somalia, December 2017, <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ReportProtectionofCivilians.pdf> (accessed January 7, 2018), p. 27.

## South Sudan

### Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition (SPLA-IO)

#### Recommendation to List

##### Rape and Other Forms of Sexual Violence

The Secretary-General reported six verified cases of rape and other forms of sexual violence against girls by the SPLA-IO in his 2017 annual report on children and armed conflict.<sup>61</sup> Between August and October 2017, the UN documented 16 incidents of rape and other forms of sexual violence against 14 children, attributing four incidents to the SPLA-IO.<sup>62</sup>

## Syria

### International Coalitions

#### Recommendation to Further Investigate to Determine if it Warrants a Listing

##### Killing and Maiming

The Secretary-General reported 533 verified child casualties resulting from airstrikes in his 2017 annual report on children and armed conflict, including by international forces supporting the government and members of the International Coalition against ISIL.<sup>63</sup> In its report on the March 16, 2017, U.S. aircraft attack on

the Omar Ibn al-Khatib mosque in Aleppo province in northern Syria, Human Rights Watch said 28 persons, including five children, were among the victim list compiled by the Syrian Civil Defense search and rescue group.<sup>64</sup> In 2017, the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) said 97 children were killed from bombardments by international coalition forces' warplanes.<sup>65</sup> SNHR attributed three child deaths to Russian forces.<sup>66</sup> A November 2017 Human Rights Watch report describes how Russian-Syrian joint military operations hit a market and a police station in a northern Syrian safe zone, killing five children.<sup>67</sup> Human Rights Watch also reported that the June 14, 2017, Russian-Syrian airstrike on a town in Southern Daraa governorate killed civilians in and around a school, and the attack on the Martyr Kiwan courtyard in Tafas killed a child, among others.<sup>68</sup> Another child had been killed near the school in this area about one hour before the incident.<sup>69</sup>

In a report covering June and July 2017, Amnesty International documented 41 child casualties in coalition/Syrian Democratic Forces strikes in Raqqa, while it documented 16 child deaths in a Russia-backed Syrian Government airstrike south of Raqqa.<sup>70</sup> In one U.S.-led coalition strike on a farm in northwest Raqqa, Amnesty International reported that five children were killed and two were wounded on May 11, 2017.<sup>71</sup> Amnesty International's report includes additional incidents and testimony.

<sup>61</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/72/361-S/2017/821), para. 147.

<sup>62</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan (covering the period from 2 September to 14 November 2017) (S/2017/1011), December 1, 2017, <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/N1739953.pdf> (accessed January 9, 2018), para. 41.

<sup>63</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/72/361-S/2017/821), para. 177.

<sup>64</sup> HRW, "Attack on the Omar Ibn al-Khatib Mosque," April 18, 2017, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2017/04/18/attack-omar-ibn-al-khatib-mosque/us-authorities-failure-take-adequate-precautions> (accessed January 8, 2018), p. 3.

<sup>65</sup> Syrian Network for Human Rights, "International Coalition Forces Kill More Civilians than any other Party," September 4, 2017, [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/772\\_civilians\\_were\\_killed\\_in\\_August\\_2017\\_en.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/772_civilians_were_killed_in_August_2017_en.pdf) (accessed January 8, 2018), p. 9.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>67</sup> HRW, "Syria: In Talks, Focus on Protecting Civilians Syrians Under Siege," November 22, 2017, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/11/22/syria-talks-focus-protecting-civilians> (accessed January 8, 2018).

<sup>68</sup> HRW, "Syria: Airstrike on School Kills Civilians," July 12, 2017, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/07/12/syria-airstrike-school-kills-civilians> (accessed January 8, 2018).

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>70</sup> Amnesty International, "Syria - 'I Won't Forget This Carnage.' Civilians Trapped in a Battle for Raqqa," August 23, 2017, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde24/6945/2017/en/> (accessed January 8, 2018), p. 5.

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 15.

# Annex II Countries

## The Philippines

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)

### **Recommendation to Further Investigate to Determine if it Warrants a Listing**

#### **Killing and maiming**

The Secretary-General verified 11 instances of killing and maiming by the AFP in 2016.<sup>72</sup> In 2017, rights groups spoke out about the violations committed against children as a result of the Government's war on drugs. Amnesty International stated that as many as 60 children were killed due to Government operations dating back to June 2016, and that children have been tortured and detained on suspicion of guilt, and shot at point-blank range.<sup>73</sup> Human Rights Watch wrote about deliberate targeting of two children in drug war-related killings by the police, bringing the number of extrajudicial killings of children to at least 54 since July 2016.<sup>74</sup>

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<sup>72</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/72/361-S/2017/821), para. 226.

<sup>73</sup> Amnesty International, "ICC Must Examine 'War on Drugs' Crimes as Child Killings Go Unpunished," December 4, 2017, <http://www.amnesty.org.ph/news/icc-must-examine-war-on-drugs-crimes-as-child-killings-go-unpunished/> (accessed January 10, 2018).

<sup>74</sup> HRW, "Philippines: Abusive 'Drug War' Targets Children," September 9, 2017, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/09/09/philippines-abusive-drug-war-targets-children> (accessed January 10, 2018).

# Countries in the Report/ Not Yet Listed

## Israel and the State of Palestine

Israel Defense Forces (IDF)

### Recommendation to List

#### Killing and Maiming

##### *West Bank and East Jerusalem*

The Secretary-General said Israeli forces were responsible for 30 killings of boys in the West Bank in 2016.<sup>75</sup> Between November 21 and December 4, 2017, the UN reported that Israeli forces injured seven children during clashes across the West Bank.<sup>76</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine documented that Israeli forces injured eight children during protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) that took place between December 6 and 20, 2017.<sup>77</sup> Between November 7 and 20, 2017, the UN reported that Israeli forces injured 10 children in clashes; six of them were

injured by live ammunition.<sup>78</sup> On November 9, Israeli forces fired tear gas canisters into the schoolyard in H2 area in Hebron city, injuring five children.<sup>79</sup> A UN committee documented in its October 2017 report the use of tear gas, sound grenades, and rubber-coated bullets near schools in 2016 and 2017.<sup>80</sup> From October 10 to 23, 2017, the UN reported that Israeli forces injured 24 children in incidents across the West Bank.<sup>81</sup>

The UN reported that between September 29 and October 9, 2017, 62 Palestinians, including 23 children, were injured as a result of clashes with the Israeli forces across OPT, including in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.<sup>82</sup> Similarly, between September 12 and 25, 2017, 12 children were injured in clashes across OPT. Israeli forces shot and injured and subsequently arrested a 15-year-old Palestinian boy after he reportedly attempted to stab an Israeli man next to Kiryat Arba settlement (Hebron).<sup>83</sup> Between August 29 and

<sup>75</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/72/361-S/2017/821), para. 89.

<sup>76</sup> United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 21 November – 4 December 2017," <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-report-21-november-4-december-2017> (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>77</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine, "Violations against Palestinian Children Spike Amid Protests Over U.S. Jerusalem Move," December 22, 2017, [http://www.dci-palestine.org/violations\\_against\\_palestinian\\_children\\_spike\\_amid\\_protests\\_over\\_u\\_s\\_jerusalem\\_move](http://www.dci-palestine.org/violations_against_palestinian_children_spike_amid_protests_over_u_s_jerusalem_move) (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>78</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 7-20 November 2017," <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-report-7-20-november-2017> (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>79</sup> Ibid.

<sup>80</sup> UN General Assembly, Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (A/72/539), October 18, 2017, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/333/39/PDF/N1733339.pdf?OpenElement> (accessed January 13, 2018), para. 62.

<sup>81</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 10-23 October 2017," <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-report-10-23-october-2017> (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>82</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 26 September-9 October 2017," <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-report-26-september-9-october-2017> (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>83</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 12-25 September 2017," <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-report-12-25-september-2017> (accessed January 13, 2018).

September 11, 2017, Israeli forces injured 11 Palestinian children during clashes in the West Bank and Gaza, including by live ammunition, rubber bullets, and tear gas.<sup>84</sup>

The UN reported Israeli forces injured a 17-year-old boy on August 19, 2017, during an attempted stabbing; he died of wounds on the way to the hospital.<sup>85</sup> The UN stated that with this incident, the number of Palestinian children killed by Israeli forces in attacks, alleged attacks, and clashes increased to 13.<sup>86</sup> In a demolition incident on August 16, 2017, in Kobar (Ramallah), the UN reported that Israeli forces injured two children.<sup>87</sup> Between July 18 and 31, 2017, at least 34 Palestinian children were injured in/around East Jerusalem in clashes with the Israeli forces.<sup>88</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine reported on the shooting of a 17-year-old by Israeli forces in clashes in Abu Dis, West Bank.<sup>89</sup> They also reported that Israeli forces killed a Palestinian teenager in Jenin, West Bank.<sup>90</sup> Finally, Defense for Children International-Palestine reported

that Israeli forces shot a 13-year-old Palestinian; his sight was damaged and he suffered facial fractures from a sponge-tipped plastic bullet.<sup>91</sup>

From June 13 to 19, 2017, the UN reported nine Palestinian children were injured in clashes with Israeli forces across the OPT.<sup>92</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine reported that a 14-year-old Palestinian girl died from wounds after being shot by Israeli forces at a checkpoint in northern West Bank.<sup>93</sup>

By May 29, 2017, the UN reported eight children were killed in clashes with Israeli forces.<sup>94</sup> From May 2 to 15, 2017, 26 children were reportedly injured as a result of clashes with Israeli forces escalating in the West Bank.<sup>95</sup> From April 18 to May 1, 2017, Israeli forces injured 45 Palestinian children in the West Bank during clashes and demonstrations.<sup>96</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine reported that Israeli forces killed a second Palestinian teen in May following an alleged stabbing.<sup>97</sup> It also reported that Israeli forces seriously

<sup>84</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 29 August-11 September 2017," <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-report-29-august-11-september-2017> (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>85</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 15-28 August 2017," <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-report-15-28-august-2017> (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>86</sup> Ibid.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid.

<sup>88</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Report: 18-31 July 2017," <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-report-18-31-july-2017> (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>89</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine, "Israeli forces kill 17-year-old amid clashes over access to holy site," July 21, 2017, [http://www.dci-palestine.org/israeli\\_forces\\_kill\\_17\\_year\\_old\\_amid\\_clashes\\_over\\_access\\_to\\_holy\\_site](http://www.dci-palestine.org/israeli_forces_kill_17_year_old_amid_clashes_over_access_to_holy_site) (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>90</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine, "Israeli forces kill Palestinian teen during night raid," July 13, 2017, [http://www.dci-palestine.org/israeli\\_forces\\_kill\\_palestinian\\_teen\\_during\\_night\\_raid](http://www.dci-palestine.org/israeli_forces_kill_palestinian_teen_during_night_raid) (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>91</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine, "Sponge-tipped bullet fired by Israeli forces blinds boy in left eye," July 12, 2017, [http://www.dci-palestine.org/sponge\\_tipped\\_bullet\\_fired\\_by\\_israeli\\_forces\\_blinds\\_boy\\_in\\_left\\_eye](http://www.dci-palestine.org/sponge_tipped_bullet_fired_by_israeli_forces_blinds_boy_in_left_eye) (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>92</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 13-19 June 2017," [https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/poc\\_highlights\\_13-19june\\_2017.pdf](https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/poc_highlights_13-19june_2017.pdf) (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>93</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine, "Palestinian girl dies after being shot and left to bleed," June 7, 2017, [http://www.dci-palestine.org/palestinian\\_girl\\_dies\\_after\\_being\\_shot\\_and\\_left\\_to\\_bleed](http://www.dci-palestine.org/palestinian_girl_dies_after_being_shot_and_left_to_bleed) (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>94</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 16-29 May 2017," <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-report-16-29-may-2017> (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>95</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 2-15 May 2017," <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-report-2-15-may-2017> (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>96</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 18 April-01 May 2017," [https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/poc\\_highlights\\_18\\_april-1may\\_2017.pdf](https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/poc_highlights_18_april-1may_2017.pdf) (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>97</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine, "Israeli forces shoot dead second Palestinian child in month," May 31, 2017, [http://www.dci-palestine.org/israeli\\_forces\\_shoot\\_dead\\_2nd\\_palestinian\\_child\\_in\\_month](http://www.dci-palestine.org/israeli_forces_shoot_dead_2nd_palestinian_child_in_month) (accessed January 13, 2018).

injured a 6-year-old Palestinian child by hitting him on the head on May 21, 2017, in Bethlehem, West Bank.<sup>98</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine reported that the Israeli border police killed a 16-year-old Palestinian girl on May 7, 2017, in Old City Jerusalem.<sup>99</sup>

The UN reported that Israeli forces injured 11 children during clashes in the West Bank between April 4 and 18, 2017.<sup>100</sup> Between March 21 and April 3, 2017, the UN reported Israeli forces injured 14 children during clashes in the West Bank.<sup>101</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine reported that Israeli forces shot a 15-year-old Palestinian boy, who died from wounds at the hospital in Ramallah, West Bank, on March 23, 2017.<sup>102</sup> They reported another attack by Israeli forces, which killed one Palestinian child and injured three others on March 23, 2017, in Ramallah.<sup>103</sup> On April 7, 2017, Defense for Children International-Palestine reported Israeli forces killed a 17-year-old Palestinian boy in Old City of Jerusalem.<sup>104</sup>

The UN reported that on March 17, 2017, Israeli forces shot and killed a 16-year-old Palestinian boy during clashes in Hebron.<sup>105</sup> Israeli forces injured nine Palestinian children in the West Bank during clashes between February 21 and March 6, 2017.<sup>106</sup> During this period, two boys also incurred injuries from unexploded ordnance left on the ground in Ramallah and Hebron.<sup>107</sup> On March 23, 2017, Defense for Children International-Palestine reported that Israeli forces killed a 15-year-old in Gaza and another 17-year-old in Hebron, West Bank, in a span of six days.<sup>108</sup> They reported that on February 24, 2017, an Israeli soldier injured a 10-year-old boy in Qalqilya, West Bank.<sup>109</sup>

Between February 7 and 20, 2017, nine children were injured as a result of clashes with Israeli forces in the West Bank, and the UN further reported that five students were injured in Nablus during clashes near their schools.<sup>110</sup> From January 12 to 23, 2017, the UN reported that Israeli forces injured 12 children in clashes in the West Bank.<sup>111</sup> Between December 27, 2016, and

<sup>98</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine, "Israeli forces misuse crowd control weapons, injure child's head," May 23, 2017, [http://www.dci-palestine.org/israeli\\_forces\\_misuse\\_crowd\\_control\\_weapons\\_injure\\_child\\_s\\_head](http://www.dci-palestine.org/israeli_forces_misuse_crowd_control_weapons_injure_child_s_head) (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>99</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine, "Palestinian girl's death warrants impartial investigation," May 15, 2017, [http://www.dci-palestine.org/palestinian\\_girl\\_s\\_death\\_warrants\\_impartial\\_investigation](http://www.dci-palestine.org/palestinian_girl_s_death_warrants_impartial_investigation) (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>100</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 4-17 April 2017," <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-report-4-18-april-2017> (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>101</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 21 March–3 April 2017," [https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/poc\\_highlights\\_21\\_march-3\\_april\\_2017.pdf](https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/poc_highlights_21_march-3_april_2017.pdf) (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>102</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine, "Child injured by Israeli soldiers dies from gunshot wounds," April 11, 2017, [http://www.dci-palestine.org/child\\_injured\\_by\\_israeli\\_soldiers\\_dies\\_from\\_gunshot\\_wounds](http://www.dci-palestine.org/child_injured_by_israeli_soldiers_dies_from_gunshot_wounds) (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>103</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine, "Israeli forces killed a child and injured three near settlement," April 4, 2017, [http://www.dci-palestine.org/israeli\\_forces\\_killed\\_a\\_child\\_and\\_injured\\_three\\_near\\_settlement](http://www.dci-palestine.org/israeli_forces_killed_a_child_and_injured_three_near_settlement) (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>104</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine, "Early reports suggest Israeli forces unlawfully killed teen," April 7, 2017, [http://www.dci-palestine.org/early\\_reports\\_suggest\\_israeli\\_forces\\_unlawfully\\_killed\\_teen](http://www.dci-palestine.org/early_reports_suggest_israeli_forces_unlawfully_killed_teen) (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>105</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 07–20 March 2017," <https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/poc07-20-march-2017.pdf> (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>106</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 21 February–6 March 2017," [https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/poc\\_21\\_feb\\_6\\_march\\_2017.pdf](https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/poc_21_feb_6_march_2017.pdf) (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>107</sup> Ibid.

<sup>108</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine, "Israeli forces killed two Palestinian teens in last week," March 23, 2017, [http://www.dci-palestine.org/israeli\\_forces\\_killed\\_two\\_palestinian\\_teens\\_in\\_last\\_week](http://www.dci-palestine.org/israeli_forces_killed_two_palestinian_teens_in_last_week) (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>109</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine, "10-year-old Palestinian injured by rubber-coated metal bullet," March 1, 2017, [http://www.dci-palestine.org/10\\_year\\_old\\_palestinian\\_injured\\_by\\_rubber\\_coated\\_metal\\_bullet](http://www.dci-palestine.org/10_year_old_palestinian_injured_by_rubber_coated_metal_bullet) (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>110</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 7-20 February 2017," <https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/poc-7-21-feb-2017.pdf> (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>111</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 10-23 January 2017," <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-report-10-23-january-2017> (accessed January 13, 2018).

January 9, 2017, the UN reported that eight children were injured during clashes with Israeli forces across the West Bank.<sup>112</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine reported that on January 29, 2017, clashes with Israeli forces in Jenin, West Bank, resulted in the killing of one Palestinian youth and an injury of a 17-year-old.<sup>113</sup> On January 18, 2017, Defense for Children International-Palestine reported that Israeli forces killed a Palestinian teenager near Bethlehem during clashes.<sup>114</sup>

### **Gaza**

According to the Secretary-General's report, Israeli forces killed three boys and injured 25 children in 2016.<sup>115</sup> The UN reported that in Gaza, between November 21 and December 4, 2017, Israeli forces shot and injured two Palestinian children with live ammunition exchanged during two protests near a perimeter fence.<sup>116</sup> Between October 10 and 23, 2017, Israeli forces shot and injured three children in Gaza

during protests next to the perimeter fence.<sup>117</sup> From August 1 to 14, 2017, the UN reported 61 Palestinians were injured across the West Bank and Gaza.<sup>118</sup> From August 15 to 28, 2017, the UN reported three children were injured in Gaza as a result of clashes with Israeli forces.<sup>119</sup>

From June 20 to July 3, 2017, the UN reported 70 Palestinian civilians were injured during protests, including one child in the Gaza Strip.<sup>120</sup> An Israeli soldier in Jenin shot and injured a 15-year-old Palestinian girl; she subsequently died of wounds at the hospital, according to the UN.<sup>121</sup> According to Defense for Children International-Palestine, on July 22, 2017, unexploded ordnance detonated, killing a 16-year-old Palestinian boy in Tubas, West Bank, an area that was used by the Israeli military for training.<sup>122</sup> They also reported the killing of a 16-year-old Palestinian, and injuries of two more youths, in a clash near the Gaza strip border fence.<sup>123</sup>

<sup>112</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 27 December 2016-9 January 2017," <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-report-27-december-2016-9-january-2017> (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>113</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine, "Israeli forces seriously injure 17-year-old in Jenin clashes," February 9, 2017, [http://www.dci-palestine.org/israeli\\_forces\\_seriously\\_injure\\_17\\_year\\_old\\_in\\_jenin\\_clashes](http://www.dci-palestine.org/israeli_forces_seriously_injure_17_year_old_in_jenin_clashes) (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>114</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine, "Video shows immediate aftermath of Palestinian teen shot dead," January 18, 2017, [http://www.dci-palestine.org/video\\_shows\\_immediate\\_aftermath\\_of\\_palestinian\\_teen\\_shot\\_dead](http://www.dci-palestine.org/video_shows_immediate_aftermath_of_palestinian_teen_shot_dead) (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>115</sup> UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/72/361-S/2017/821), para. 92.

<sup>116</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 21 November-4 December 2017," <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-report-21-november-4-december-2017> (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>117</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 10-23 October 2017," <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-report-10-23-october-2017> (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>118</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 1-14 August 2017," [https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/15082017\\_poc\\_highlights\\_1\\_14\\_august\\_2017.pdf](https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/15082017_poc_highlights_1_14_august_2017.pdf) (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>119</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 15-28 August 2017," <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-report-15-28-august-2017> (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>120</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Report: 20 June – 3 July 2017," <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-report-20-june-3-july-2017> (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>121</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 30 May-12 June 2017," [https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/poc\\_highlights\\_30may\\_12june\\_2017.pdf](https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/poc_highlights_30may_12june_2017.pdf) (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>122</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine, "Palestinian child killed by UXO in Jordan Valley," August 8, 2017, [http://www.dci-palestine.org/palestinian\\_child\\_killed\\_by\\_uxo\\_in\\_jordan\\_valley](http://www.dci-palestine.org/palestinian_child_killed_by_uxo_in_jordan_valley) (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>123</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine, "Israeli soldiers shot dead 16-year-old Palestinian near Gaza border," July 29, 2017, [http://www.dci-palestine.org/israeli\\_soldiers\\_shot\\_dead\\_16\\_year\\_old\\_palestinian\\_near\\_gaza\\_border](http://www.dci-palestine.org/israeli_soldiers_shot_dead_16_year_old_palestinian_near_gaza_border) (accessed January 13, 2018).

Between May 30 and June 12, 2017, the UN reported five child injuries near Gaza's perimeter fence during protests, and three children were injured after one child detonated unexploded ordnance on June 4, 2017, near Gaza city.<sup>124</sup> The clashes during the 40-day hunger solidarity strike ending on May 27, 2017, resulted in Israeli forces injuring 54 children across the OPT.<sup>125</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine reported that Israeli forces injured a 16-year-old Palestinian near the Gaza border on May 23, 2017.<sup>126</sup>

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<sup>124</sup> Ibid.

<sup>125</sup> OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Reporting Period: 16-29 May 2017," <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-report-16-29-may-2017> (accessed January 13, 2018).

<sup>126</sup> Defense for Children International-Palestine, "Gaza teen shot in a month of high Palestinian injuries," May 29, 2017, [http://www.dci-palestine.org/gaza\\_teen\\_shot\\_in\\_a\\_month\\_of\\_high\\_palestinian\\_injuries](http://www.dci-palestine.org/gaza_teen_shot_in_a_month_of_high_palestinian_injuries) (accessed January 13, 2018).

# Countries Not Yet in the Report

## Ukraine

### Recommendation to Investigate which Parties Committed Grave Violations

#### Killing and Maiming

In 2017, the UN continued to monitor and report on the situation of children affected by armed conflict in Ukraine. Three boys were killed, and nine boys and one girl were injured among the 193 conflict-related casualties the UN recorded between February 16 and May 15, 2017.<sup>127</sup> Between November 16, 2016, and February 15, 2017, the UN reported 130 conflict-related civilian casualties, including the death of one boy, and injury to four children.<sup>128</sup> The UN's civilian casualty tracking from April 14, 2014, to August 15, 2017, included the deaths of 90 boys and 47 girls.<sup>129</sup>

On November 6, 2017, the Organization for Co-operation and Security in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine reported information regarding a boy's death and injury to others during detonation of unexploded ordnance in a factory; two injured boys were admitted to the Donetsk Trauma hospital.<sup>130</sup> Similarly, on August 25, 2017, the OSCE Mission reported a boy was admitted to a hospital with shrapnel wounds from handling an explosive device at his home.<sup>131</sup> The OSCE Mission reported that on August 22, 2017, a boy was hospitalized with heavy injuries from unexploded ordnance detonation in Luhansk, and two other boys were treated in Novoaidar for burns they incurred from igniting gunpowder at an abandoned checkpoint.<sup>132</sup>

The OSCE Mission reported on July 4, 2017, that a boy was injured while playing near a shooting range close to his house in Luhansk city, after picking up an object that exploded in his hand.<sup>133</sup> On June 5, 2017, another 9-year-old boy was admitted to Donetsk Regional

<sup>127</sup> OHCHR, "Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine 16 February to 15 May 2017," [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/UAReport18th\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/UAReport18th_EN.pdf) (accessed January 12, 2018), para. 27.

<sup>128</sup> OHCHR, "Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine 16 November 2016 to 15 February 2017," [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/UAReport17th\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/UAReport17th_EN.pdf) (accessed January 12, 2018), para. 29.

<sup>129</sup> OHCHR, "Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine 16 May to 15 August 2017," [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/UAReport19th\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/UAReport19th_EN.pdf) (accessed January 12, 2018), para. 34.

<sup>130</sup> Organization for Co-operation and Security in Europe (OSCE), "Latest from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), based on information received as of 19:30, 6 November 2017," <http://www.osce.org/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine/355221> (accessed January 14, 2018).

<sup>131</sup> OSCE, "Latest from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), based on information received as of 19:30, 25 August 2017," <http://www.osce.org/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine/336666> (accessed January 14, 2018).

<sup>132</sup> OSCE, "Latest from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), based on information received as of 19:30, 22 August 2017," <http://www.osce.org/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine/336421> (accessed January 14, 2018).

<sup>133</sup> OSCE, "Latest from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), based on information received as of 19:30, 4 July 2017," <http://www.osce.org/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine/327981> (accessed January 14, 2017).

Children's Hospital with heavy shrapnel wounds.<sup>134</sup> On May 10, 2017, the Mission reported an 8-year-old girl was admitted to the same hospital after an explosion.<sup>135</sup> The OSCE Mission reported on March 17, 2017, that a 15-year-old boy was admitted to a hospital in Luhansk with a bullet wound.<sup>136</sup>

### Attacks on Schools and Hospitals

The OSCE Mission reported damage to a school in the Donetsk region from shelling on December 22, 2017.<sup>137</sup> On October 29, 2017, the Mission reported damage to another school building close to the contact line caused by a recoilless gun.<sup>138</sup> In September 2017, the OSCE Mission reported that a school in Bezimenne was closed for two weeks in May because of damage from shelling.<sup>139</sup> According to the OSCE Mission's reporting in August 2017, a school in Sakhanka was in need of repair

due to sustained shelling damages.<sup>140</sup> On June 18, 2017, the OSCE Mission said a boarding school in Yasunvata was damaged by a mortar.<sup>141</sup>

On April 11, 2017, the OSCE Mission noted damage to a school in Marinka from bullets.<sup>142</sup> On March 30, 2017, it reported damage to two other schools from shrapnel and undetermined weapons on Reviakina Street.<sup>143</sup> It noted on February 5, 2017, that a school on Molodizhna Street had damage from mortar fire.<sup>144</sup> In February 2017, Save the Children reported that at least five schools and two kindergartens were damaged by heavy shelling, while 11 other schools were forced to close in Ukraine.<sup>145</sup>

<sup>134</sup> OSCE, "Latest from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), based on information received as of 19:30, 4 June 2017," <https://www.osce.org/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine/321551> (accessed January 14, 2017).

<sup>135</sup> OSCE, "Latest from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), based on information received as of 19:30, 10 May 2017," <http://www.osce.org/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine/316846> (accessed January 14, 2017).

<sup>136</sup> OSCE, "Latest from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), based on information received as of 19:30, 17 March 2017," <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/latest-osce-special-monitoring-mission-ukraine-smm-based-information-received-1930-76> (accessed January 14, 2018).

<sup>137</sup> OSCE, "Latest from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), based on information received as of 19:30, 21 December 2017," <http://www.osce.org/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine/364021> (accessed January 14, 2018).

<sup>138</sup> OSCE, "Latest from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), based on information received as of 19:30, 29 October 2017," <http://www.osce.org/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine/353491> (accessed January 14, 2018).

<sup>139</sup> OSCE, "Latest from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), based on information received as of 19:30, 7 September 2017," <http://www.osce.org/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine/338746> (accessed January 14, 2018).

<sup>140</sup> OSCE, "Latest from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), based on information received as of 19:30, 31 August 2017," <http://www.osce.org/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine/337536> (accessed January 14, 2018).

<sup>141</sup> OSCE, "Latest from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), based on information received as of 19:30, 18 June 2017," <http://www.osce.org/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine/324026> (accessed January 14, 2017).

<sup>142</sup> OSCE, "Latest from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), based on information received as of 19:30, 11 April 2017," <http://www.osce.org/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine/311401> (accessed January 14, 2018).

<sup>143</sup> OSCE, "Latest from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), based on information received as of 19:30, 30 March 2017," <http://www.osce.org/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine/309051> (accessed January 14, 2018).

<sup>144</sup> OSCE, "Latest from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), based on information received as of 19:30, 5 February 2017," <http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/297821> (accessed January 14, 2018).

<sup>145</sup> Save the Children, "Thousands of children out of school after classrooms hit by heavy shelling in eastern Ukraine," February 6, 2017, <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/thousands-children-out-school-after-classrooms-hit-heavy-shelling-eastern-ukraine> (accessed January 14, 2018).

**Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict**

122 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 1620, New York, NY 10168-1289 • Phone: 212.972.0695 • Fax: 212.972.0701

Email: [watchlist@watchlist.org](mailto:watchlist@watchlist.org) • Website: [www.watchlist.org](http://www.watchlist.org)