



NEW UN REPORT ON CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT: LIST OF PERSISTENT PERPETRATORS OF EXTREME VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN DOUBLES.

Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict Says Urgent UN Security Council Action Needed in Fight to End Impunity.

June 11, New York City – Today, the UN Secretary-General submitted his [11th Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict](#) to the UN Security Council. The report provides a global overview of violations perpetrated against children’s rights in situations of armed conflict, as well as the measures taken to protect them.

The most important feature of the Annual Report is the “list of shame”. This is a list of government forces and rebel groups that commit grave violations against children’s rights. These are the armed actors that recruit or use children in their ranks; rape, kill or maim children; and repeatedly attack schools or hospitals or threaten teachers and students. Following last year’s adoption of Security Council Resolution 1998, this is the first Annual Report to list parties to conflict known for attacks on schools and hospitals.

The “list of shame” is growing rapidly. It now contains 52 names, 32 of which are so-called ‘persistent perpetrators’ – parties to conflict whose names have featured on the “list of shame” for five years or more.

The number of persistent perpetrators has doubled since the Secretary-General’s 9th Report, released in 2010. “This trend highlights the continued threats that children face in conflicts around the world. It underscores the need for the Security Council to end impunity and urgently apply targeted measures against those perpetrators that continue to commit grave violations, year after year.” – says Eva Smets, Director of Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, an international network of non-governmental organizations advocating for children’s rights in armed conflicts. “In too many places, children are being raped, killed and maimed, armed as soldiers, and losing their educations as their schools become battlegrounds,” said Smets. “To build lasting peace, all member states should put the protection of children at the top of their agendas.”

The Secretary-General has listed the Syrian Government Forces for killing and maiming of children and for attacks on schools and hospitals. This denunciation comes at a decisive juncture, in the wake of horrific reports of civilian massacres, including many children, in Houla and Mazraat al-Qubair.

In a positive development, two parties to conflict are also de-listed this year: the United Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist (UCPN-M) and the Inya Bharathi faction in Sri Lanka, both previously listed for recruitment and use of children. “The de-listing of the UCPN-M is a great achievement and an important step in Nepal’s peace process” says Ms. Moni Shresta of the Nepalese civil society network Partnerships to Protect Children in Armed Conflict (PPCC). “However, other problems persist. The violations committed during the armed conflict still need to be investigated and prosecuted. Only full accountability for the violation of children’s rights will end impunity for former perpetrators in Nepal.”

The report is scheduled to be discussed by the Security Council during its annual Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict. The Debate will likely take place in September under the German Presidency of the Security Council.

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Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, established in 2001, is an international network of non-governmental organizations striving 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 NGOs, enhancing mutual capacities and strengths. Working together, we strategically collect and disseminate information on violations against children in conflicts to influence key decision-makers to create and implement programs and policies that effectively protect children.

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