

Recommendations to the Security Council

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

The ex-Séléka coalition and associated armed groups are listed for recruitment and use, killing and maiming, and sexual violence against children, in addition to attacks on schools and/or hospitals. The anti-Balaka defense militias are listed for recruitment and use, killing and maiming, and sexual violence against children. In April, the Secretary-General (SG) is expected to report on MINUSCA's progress and the Council will renew its mandate per Resolution 2217 (2015). The recent UN response to the alleged cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) revealed that MINUSCA had the highest reported number of SEA cases of any UN peacekeeping mission in 2015, many of them involving children. Protection actors on the ground are deeply concerned with the lack of assistance provided to survivors in the course of the investigative processes. **The Security Council should:**

- **Urge MINUSCA to fully and effectively implement its protection of civilians and child protection mandate, pursuant to SCR 2217 (2015);**
- **Encourage MINUSCA to complete the development of the Special Operating Procedures on child protection** and ensure that they are integrated into the overall planning, preparation, and conduct of operations;
- **Ensure the standard of accountability determined by international law is upheld in the management of SEA cases perpetrated by all elements of the mission**, by revising current procedures and agreements with Member States contributing to the deployment of peacekeeping forces in line with the measures recommended by the SG in his report "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/729)";
- **Urge Member States to ensure that all their investigative teams are vetted and trained before being deployed to interview alleged victims and/or witnesses;** these teams should: have a strong understanding of the risks involved in investigating SEA cases; consistently ensure that survivors and witnesses are willingly involved in the investigation process and have been properly informed of their rights; always allow a legal counsel to be present when survivors and witnesses are interviewed; and ensure that trained social workers are involved in cases where the survivors and witnesses are children.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON CAR. UKRAINE CHAIRS THE 2127 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

SOUTH SUDAN

The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), SPLA in Opposition (SPLA-iO) and White Army are all listed for recruitment and use. The SPLA and SPLA-iO are also listed for killing and maiming of children. In 2014, the Government of South Sudan re-committed to its 2012 Action Plan. In April, the SG is expected to report on the progress of the UNMISS mandate per Resolution 2252 (2015). On March 14, the Special Representative to the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC) briefed the Security Council Committee established pursuant to Resolution 2206 (2015) concerning South Sudan and the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict on the impact of armed conflict on children in South Sudan. **The Council Members should:**

- **Urge all parties to immediately cease violations against children**, and stress that the perpetrators of such violations should be held accountable;
- **Call on UNMISS to continue to systematically monitor and report on grave violations against children;** and furthermore, urge UNMISS to **proactively seek to prevent violations, particularly through conducting more patrols;**
- **For patrolling purposes, encourage UNMISS to collaborate with unarmed civilian protection actors wherever possible**, both by cooperating with civil society actors onsite and by absorbing unarmed approaches into UNMISS protocols and practices;
- **Call on the Government to collaborate with UNMISS in the swift and vigorous implementation of its re-commitment to the Action Plan and associated work plan** to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children, sexual violence and other grave violations against children by the SPLA; and **call on UNMISS to intensify efforts to engage with the SPLA-iO and other listed parties to obtain further commitments towards ending and preventing grave violations against children**, and work towards the development and implementation of action plans;

Situations before the Council involving parties listed for grave violations against children:

[Afghanistan](#)

[Central African Region \(LRA-affected areas\)](#)

[Central African Republic](#)

[Colombia](#)

[Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

[Iraq](#)

[Mali](#)

[Myanmar \(Burma\)](#)

[Nigeria](#)

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[Syrian Arab Republic](#)

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SOUTH SUDAN cont'd

- Welcome more joint briefings by the SRSB-CAAC to the Working Group and the 2206 Sanctions Committee, and **support the SRSB-CAAC's call on the Committee and its Panel of Experts to investigate and examine individual command responsibility of all parties to the conflict for grave violations against children, using names of perpetrators cited from both sides.**

THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SOUTH SUDAN. **SENEGAL CHAIRS THE 2206 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.**

SUDAN/SOUTH SUDAN (ABYEI)

In April, the SG is expected to report on UNISFA's progress per Resolution 2206 (2015). In his latest progress report (S/2015/870), the SG reported on the mission's activities aimed at ensuring the protection of children in the region, such as: family tracing and reunification; training for community-based child protection networks on the protection of children and the provision and management of child-friendly spaces and child-friendly protection units at police stations; support for children in contact with the law; and ongoing monitoring of the protective environment within villages. **The Security Council should:**

- **Urge parties to cease all forms of violence**, human rights violations and abuses, and violations of international humanitarian law, including violations and abuses against children;
- **Call on UNISFA to monitor and report on grave violations against children in Abyei whenever possible**, using the community-based child protection networks trained by UNICEF and partners;
- **Encourage continuation of protection activities targeting community-based child protection networks**, in close collaboration with UNICEF whenever possible.

THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SUDAN/SOUTH SUDAN.

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

IRAQ

On March 2, the [SG's report on children and armed conflict in Iraq](#) was formally presented and the Working Group begins negotiations of its conclusions on April 1. To inform the Working Group ahead of the conclusion negotiations, Watchlist developed and shared a special internal policy briefing with the experts on March 17. **Among other key recommendations, Watchlist recommends the Working Group to:**

- **Urge all parties to comply with their obligations under international law and immediately cease all violations and abuses against children;**
- **Urge all parties to end the use of explosive weapons in populated areas given the death, injury, damage to vital infrastructure, and the psychological damage this causes to children in particular;**
- **Urge the Government to amend the draft National Guard Law presented to the Council of Representatives in early March 2015, to remove exceptions relevant to the age of recruitment, in order to prevent association of children with the pro-Government militias, particularly the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF);**
- **Urge the Government to ensure accountability and end impunity for perpetrators of the recruitment and use and other grave violations against children**, including by the members of its own security forces and pro-Government militias, particularly **through comprehensive, independent, and prompt investigations into alleged violations**, and especially for perpetrators of alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity;
- **Call on the Government to develop a clear reintegration and rehabilitation strategy in partnership with relevant child protection actors**, and consider excluding children under 18 from criminal responsibility for crimes committed when associated with armed forces or armed groups;
- **Urge the Government to respect existing international principles and juvenile justice standards while dealing with detention of children on security charges or formerly associated with armed groups**, and to adopt and enforce accountability mechanisms; **children should be treated primarily as victims and their deprivation of liberty, for any purpose, should only be used as a measure of last resort, and for the shortest possible time;**
- **Call on the Government to adopt concrete measures including accountability mechanisms to deter military use of schools** in contravention of applicable international humanitarian and human rights law, and in line with Resolutions 1998 and 2143.

Presidency of the Security Council for April: China

- Party to Geneva Convention I-IV, Additional Protocols I and II, Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol, ILO Convention 182; Has endorsed the Paris Principles and the Paris Commitments. Not yet a Party to the Rome Statute of the ICC.

NGO resources

- Save the Children, Childhood Under Siege: Living and Dying in Besieged Areas of Syria, March 2016
- Save the Children, Yemen's Children Suffering in Silence: Nearly 10 Million Children Caught Up in a Humanitarian and Protection Crisis, March 2016
- Amnesty International, South Sudan: 'Their Voices Stopped': Mass Killing in a Shipping Container in Leer, March 2016
- LRA Crisis Tracker, The State of LRA in 2016, March 2016

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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