

Recommendations to the Security Council

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

The ex-Seleka coalition and associated armed groups are listed for recruitment and use, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and attacks on schools and/or hospitals. The anti-Balaka is listed for recruitment and use, killing and maiming, and rape and other forms of sexual violence. On 28 April, the Council renewed MINUSCA's mandate pursuant to SCR 2217 (2015). In August, the Secretary-General's (SG) report on MINUSCA's progress is due. **The Security Council should:**

- In expression of concern over the continuous trend of violations, urge MINUSCA to include **attacks or threats of attacks on schools in the protection of civilian assessment** in determining where to send patrols;
- Urge MINUSCA and the UN Country Team (UNCT) to **take steps to ensure that armed groups' 5 May 2015 commitment to release children and end child recruitment is implemented immediately**, including through the signature of time-bound Action Plans with the UN; and furthermore, ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to the implementation and monitoring of Action Plans;
- **Urge the Transitional Authorities, in collaboration with UNICEF, to accelerate the finalization and implementation of a strategy to identify, release, and reintegrate all children associated with armed forces and groups, and support its rapid implementation;** such strategy should be community-based and take into account the challenge presented by children recruited and used within their own communities; implementation of the strategy should be led by UNICEF to improve coordination and ensure that programs conform to international best practice standards, for which training of DDR actors will be necessary;
- **Urge Member States to significantly increase funding for child DDR, psychosocial programming and education in CAR to allow the Government, MINUSCA and the UNCT to ensure prompt release, recovery and reintegration of all children associated with armed forces and groups.**

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON CAR. LITHUANIA CHAIRS THE 2127 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE AND JORDAN IS THE VICE-CHAIR.

SOUTH SUDAN

The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), SPLA in Opposition and White Army are listed for recruitment and use. The SPLA and SPLA in Opposition are also listed for killing and maiming of children. In 2014, the Government of South Sudan re-committed to its 2012 Action Plan. Pursuant to SCR 2223 (2015), the UNMISS mandate was renewed on 28 May, until 30 November. The SG is expected to report on UNMISS' progress in August. **Council Members should:**

- **Call on UNMISS to continue to systematically monitor and report on the grave violations against children;**
- **Call on UNMISS to collaborate with the Government 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 to **intensify efforts to engage with SPLA in Opposition and other listed parties to obtain further commitments**, and work towards the development and implementation of action plans to prevent and end grave violations;
- **Ensure that any peace processes/agreements (IGAD+ process) continue to highlight the plight of children**, and demand that all parties cease violations against children as agreed upon in the Cessation of Hostilities agreement;
- **Call on Member States to urge all parties to immediately cease violations against children**, and stress that the perpetrators of such violations should be held accountable.

THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SOUTH SUDAN. CHILE CHAIRS THE SOUTH SUDAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

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](#)

[Philippines](#)

[Somalia](#)

[South Sudan](#)

[Sudan](#)

[Syrian Arab Republic](#)

[Yemen](#)

For resolution language on Children and Armed Conflict, download the Children and Armed Conflict smartphone app from Watchlist and Liechtenstein, now available on iPhone, iPad, Android and Blackberry!



Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

AFGHANISTAN

On 6 July, the [SG's report on children and armed conflict in Afghanistan](#) was formally presented to the Working Group, and the conclusion negotiations on the report are due to start early August. Watchlist first published recommendations to the Working Group in its '[Children and Armed Conflict Monthly Update May 2015](#)', which was followed by a [joint briefing with Child Soldiers International](#) on 16 June hosted by the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN. **In reiteration, the Working Group should:**

- **Urge the Government to implement the Joint Action Plan fully**, and in particular, strengthen recruitment procedures and oversight across all recruitment sites; ensure that all military and civilian personnel involved in military recruitment have received child protection and age verification training and are aware of the prohibition on recruiting under-18s; and ensure that child protection units are created within ANP and ALP offices in all provinces in addition to the four already functioning;
- Encourage the Government to **identify, register and immediately discharge all children present in the ranks of the ANP, ALP and other pro-government armed groups**, and establish a central database with personal information of individual ANP and ALP recruits with the purpose of identifying and removing underage recruits from the ranks;
- Urge the Government to **provide unimpeded access to its military sites and other areas where children may be present to enable the UN Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR)** to assist in identifying, registering and discharging all children present in the ranks of the ANSF;
- Encourage the Government to **endorse, adopt and implement age verification methods in line with best international practices**;
- Urge the Government to **address, without delay, existing widespread impunity on grave violations against children**, and develop legislation to prohibit and criminalize the recruitment and use of children by armed groups, in line with international law and standards, and ensure its implementation;
- Encourage the Government to **systematically conduct prompt and effective investigations into all credible reports of child recruitment and use**, and furthermore, suspend from duty police personnel suspected of these offences pending completion of investigations, and, if allegations are verified, take appropriate disciplinary actions against them;
- Encourage the Government to, in collaboration with the UN and other child protection actors, collect authoritative data on the numbers of current and former child soldiers requiring assistance (including those over-18 on release), and conduct a full needs assessment of the nature, scope, duration, funding and expertise needed for the provision of "appropriate assistance" to former child soldiers, including rehabilitation, education and vocational training;
- Encourage the Government to **initiate dialogue with the UN CTFMR to jointly develop a strategy to access the armed groups listed in the SG's annual report on CAC through intermediaries**, including independent humanitarian organizations, in order to advocate for and ensure the safe release and reintegration of children associated with these groups;
- **Urge armed groups to release all under-18s in their ranks without fear of reprisal for the children and/or their families**;
- Encourage armed groups to **undertake a dialogue with the UN CTFMR to halt the recruitment and use of children** as called for in SCR 1539 (2004), SCR 1612 (2005) and SCR 1882 (2009);
- Urge the armed groups to **take immediate and specific measures to put an end to and prevent the perpetration of sexual violence by members of their respective groups**, in particular the practice of *bacha baazi*, and to take measures so that perpetrators are brought to justice, and publicly declare an end to such practice;
- Encourage the international community and donors to **provide flexible, timely and sufficient resources and support to the Government of Afghanistan and the UN CTFMR** to implement the Action Plan, particularly in strengthening age determination and vetting procedures, oversight of recruitment activities, as well as to provide follow-up services in the form of recovery and rehabilitation for children affected by armed violence.

SPAIN IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON AFGHANISTAN. NEW ZEALAND IS THE CHAIR OF THE 1267 AL-QAIDA SANCTIONS COMMITTEE AND THE CHAIR OF THE 1988 AFGHANISTAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

Presidency of the Security Council for August: Nigeria

- 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, and the Rome Statute of the ICC; has not endorsed the Paris Principles and the Paris Commitments.

NGO resources

- Human Rights Watch, Yemen: Unlawful Airstrikes Kill Dozens of Civilians, June 2015
- Human Rights Watch, Israel: Security Forces Abuse Palestinian Children, July 2015
- Child Soldiers International, Chad: Concerns about Chad's child protection record one year after delisting, July 2015
- Child Soldiers International: Joint CRIN-CSI briefing on the MRM, July 2015

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.

To subscribe to Watchlist updates and recommendations, [click here](#) or visit: <http://watchlist.org/sign-up>

Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict
122 East 42nd Street
Suite 1620
New York, NY 10168-1289
Telephone: 212.972.0695
Fax: 212.972.0701
Email: watchlist@watchlist.org
Website: www.watchlist.org

