

Children and Armed Conflict

MONTHLY UPDATE:
JANUARY 2015

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, and killing and maiming. In January 2015, the 2127 Sanctions Committee and The Panel of Experts' mandates are due to expire. The designation criteria for the 2127 Sanctions Committee, expanded in SCR 2134 (2014), include recruitment and use of child soldiers, attacks on schools and/or hospitals, acts involving sexual violence, abductions, and obstructing humanitarian access. **The Security Council should:**

- In light of the CAR sanctions regime renewal, call on the Sanctions Committee and/or the Council to designate individuals and entities responsible for grave violations against children, in accordance with its designation criteria, including recruitment and use of children, acts involving sexual violence, attacks on schools and/or hospitals, abductions, and denial of humanitarian access;
- Request the SRSG-CAAC to continue to regularly share information with the Sanctions Committee and the Panel of Experts on those responsible for grave violations against children in CAR.

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

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

Eleven parties are listed for violations, including the Congolese armed forces. The Government signed an action plan in 2012 to end and prevent recruitment and use of children. In September 2014, the Working Group adopted conclusions on children and armed conflict in the DRC (S/AC/51/2014/3). The Working Group also visited the DRC in December 2014. In January 2015, the Council is expecting a briefing on MONUSCO, as well as by the 1533 Sanctions Committee based on the Panel of Experts report that is due. **The Security Council should:**

- Echoing the Working Group recommendations, call upon the Government to swiftly, fully, and effectively implement the Action Plan, and ensure the wide dissemination of action plan commitments and related governmental directives prohibiting the recruitment and use of children, and rape and other forms of sexual violence against children, issued on 3 May 2013 and 18 July 2013, throughout the military chain of command, particularly to battalions stationed in remote areas;
- Reiterating the Working Group conclusions, call upon the Government to continue to ensure that children are not detained on charges related to association with armed groups;
- Call on the Government to continue to provide free and confidential access to the UN country taskforce on monitoring and reporting to military sites for the purposes of verification, and to establish effective age verification and oversight procedures, and birth and late birth registration, in collaboration with the UN;
- Urge the Government to facilitate and support engagement of non-State armed groups by the OSRSG-CAAC, UNICEF and/or specialized NGOs for the purposes of developing action plans to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and attacks on schools and hospitals in violation of applicable international law;
- Echoing the Working Group conclusions, call upon the Government to ensure that the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) and security sector reform (SSR) programmes take into account the specific needs and rights of children, including girls, affected by armed conflict, and that the 'DDR III' is carried out in the best interest of these children;
- Urge the Government to ensure accountability and end impunity for perpetrators of grave violations through systematic criminal investigations into all allegations of child recruitment and use, as well as sexual violence, with the cooperation and assistance of donors, and call

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

[Afghanistan](#)

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

[Central African Republic](#)

[Democratic Republic
of the Congo](#)

[Iraq](#)

[Mali](#)

[Myanmar \(Burma\)](#)

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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (cont'd)

on Member States to support efforts to arrest and to bring to justice those responsible for grave violations against children.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO. JORDAN CHAIRS THE 1533 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE, AND CHILE AND LITHUANIA ARE VICE-CHAIRS.

IRAQ

The Islamic State of Iraq / Al-Qaida in Iraq is listed for the recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, and attacks on schools and hospitals. In January 2015, the Council is expected to receive UNAMI's progress report pursuant to SCR 2169 (2104) that extended its mandate to 31 July 2015. The last SG's progress report was submitted on 31 October ([S/2014/774*](#)), stressing detrimental effects of ongoing armed conflict in Iraq on children, with 239 child casualties and marked increase in recruitment by ISIL and pro-Government militias in all affected areas. **The Security Council should:**

- Call on all parties to put an end to grave violations committed against children, including recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming and attacks on schools and hospitals;
- Request the SG to continue to include the matter of children and armed conflict as a specific section of the UNAMI progress reports, pursuant to SCR 1998;
- Strongly encourage the Government to establish an interministerial committee to discuss and follow-up on child protection commitments, in partnership with the Country Taskforce for Monitoring and Reporting grave violations against children;
- Call on the Government to adopt concrete measures to deter military use of schools in contravention of applicable international humanitarian and human rights law, in line with SCR 1998 and 2143;
- Urge the UN Country Team to investigate and document potential child recruitment, attacks on schools and military use of schools by militias.

THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON IRAQ.

SOMALIA

The Somali National Armed Forces (SNA) and Al-Shabaab are both listed for the recruitment and use and killing and maiming of children. Ahlus Sunnah wal Jammah are listed for recruitment and use. The Government signed two action plans with the UN in 2012. In January 2015, the SG's UNSOM progress report is due, and the Council is expecting a briefing based on that report, to be followed by consultations. **The Security Council should:**

- Request continuous documentation and reporting of the cases of grave violations against children being committed in Somalia to the Council, as well as investigation of those cases, as per SCR 2102 (2013);
- Encourage UNSOM to continue to make the promotion of child protection one of its key priorities, including through assisting the Government in implementation of its actions plans, as mandated by SCR 2102 (2013);
- Urge the Government to continue to meet its commitments towards the implementation of its action plans with the UN, with UNSOM and UNICEF's support.

THE UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SOMALIA. THE CHAIR OF THE 751/1907 COMMITTEE IS VENEZUELA. THE TWO VICE-CHAIRS ARE CHAD AND JORDAN.

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Six parties are listed, including the Syrian armed forces. In February, the SRSG-CAAC presented the first SG Report on Children and Armed Conflict in Syria to the Working Group, and the conclusion was adopted on 26 November 2014 ([S/AC.51/2014/4](#)).

THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC.

Presidency of the Security Council for January: Chile

- Party to Geneva Convention IV, Additional Protocols I, II and III, Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol, ILO Convention 182, and the Rome Statute of the ICC; Endorsed the Paris Commitments.

NGO resources

- GCPEA, Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict, December 2014
- World Vision, Fear and Want: Children Living in Crisis in South Sudan, December 2014

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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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