Children and Armed Conflict MONTHLY UPDATE:

Recommendations to the Security Council

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

The ex-Seleka coalition and associated armed groups are listed for recruitment and use of children, 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. There will be a briefing on the preparations for the full deployment of MINUSCA by 15 September 2014. The Panel of Experts Interim Report is due, pursuant to SCR 2127 (2013). 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:**

- Request the SRSG-CAAC to regularly **share information with the Sanctions Committee and the Panel of Experts** on those responsible for grave violations against children;
- 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 obstruction of humanitarian access.

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

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 July 2014, the Security Council is expected to renew UNAMI's mandate pursuant to SCR 2110 (2013). The March <u>Secretary-General's (SG) progress</u> report on UNAMI (S/2014/190) recorded an increasing trend of violations committed against children, as well as an increasing number of attacks or threats of attacks against education and medical personnel. **The Security Council should:**

- Call on all parties to put an end to grave violations committed against children, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, killing and maiming and attacks on schools and hospitals;
- Bearing in mind UNAMI's mandate renewal, include specific provisions on the protection of children and the deployment of child protection advisers in the resolution, and request the Secretary-General to continue to include the matter of children and armed conflict as a specific section of the UNAMI progress reports, both pursuant to SCR 1998;
- Pursuant to SCR 2143, encourage the Government of Iraq 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 of Iraq 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.

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. The 751/1907 Somalia/Eritrea Committee will report to the Council on its work. Since expanding its designation criteria in SCR 2002 (2011) to include recruitment and use of child soldiers, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and attacks on schools and/or hospitals and abductions, no individual has been listed for these grave violations against children. **The Security Council should:**

 Request the SRSG-CAAC to regularly share information with the Sanctions Committee and the Panel of Experts on those responsible for grave violations against children;

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

Afghanistan <u>Central African region</u> (LRA-affected areas) <u>Central African Republic</u> <u>Chad</u> <u>Democratic Republic</u> of the Congo Iraq <u>Mali</u> <u>Myanmar (Burma)</u> <u>Somalia</u> <u>South Sudan</u> <u>Sudan</u> <u>Syrian Arab Republic</u> <u>Yemen</u>

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SOMALIA (cont'd)

• 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, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, attacks on schools and/or hospitals, and abductions.

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

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

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, and rape and other forms of sexual violence. In July, the Working Group is expected to receive the SG's Report on Children and Armed Conflict in the DRC, and negotiations over an outcome document will start soon after. **The Working Group should:**

- Encourage the Government, in collaboration with MONUSCO and UNICEF, to implement the action plan in full;
- Encourage 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, as issued on 3 May 2013 and 18 July 2013, throughout the military chain of command, in particular to those battalions stationed in remote areas;
- Urge the Government to systematize efforts for the **immediate identification**, **separation and release of children** associated with the Government security services, in collaboration with child protection actors, who should be given free and confidential access to military sites for verification purposes;
- Encourage the Government to develop and implement a national strategy to provide children released from Government security services and armed groups with reintegration support, including programs tailored to the particular needs of girls;
- 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, with the cooperation and assistance of donors;
- Urge the Government to ensure that perpetrators of grave violations are not integrated or otherwise recruited into the government security services by establishing vetting mechanisms;
- Call on donors to provide financial and technical support to the DRC government for action plan implementation, especially with regard to the Provincial Technical Working Groups.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO.

MALI

Three armed groups (Ansar Dine, MNLA and MUJAO) are listed both for recruitment and use of children and for rape and other forms of sexual violence. In May, the SRSG-CAAC presented the <u>SG's</u> <u>Report on Children and Armed Conflict in Mali</u> to the Working Group, and negotiations over the conclusions are ongoing. For detailed recommendations, see <u>'Children and Armed Conflict Monthly</u> <u>Update May 2014</u>.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON MALI.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Six parties are listed, including the Syrian armed forces. In February, the SRSG-CAAC presented the first <u>SG Report on Children and Armed Conflict in Syria</u> to the Working Group, and negotiations over the conclusions are ongoing. For detailed recommendations, see '<u>Children and Armed Conflict</u> <u>Monthly Update January 2014</u>.'

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC.

Presidency of the Security Council for July: Republic of Rwanda

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

NGO resources

- Human Rights Watch, Democratic Republic of the Congo: Ending Impunity for Sexual Violence, June 2014
- Human Rights Watch, Maybe We Live and Maybe We Die: Recruitment and Use of Children by Armed Groups in Syria, June 2014
- War Child, Child Protection Alert: Iraq, June 2014

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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