

## Recommendations to the Security Council

### IRAQ

Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is listed for the recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, abductions and attacks on schools and hospitals. In July, pursuant to SCR 2233 (2015), the Secretary-General's (SG) progress report is due, and the Council is expected to renew UNAMI's mandate. On May 17, the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict adopted its second conclusion on Iraq (document forthcoming). The latest progress report (S/2016/396) notes that cases of recruitment and use by ISIL could not be verified due to security and access restrictions. Recent media reports attest to continued recruitment and use by ISIL, but also the Government-affiliated Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF). In June, UNICEF, OCHA, and UNHCR expressed concerns for civilians trapped in the besieged city of Fallujah, including at least 20,000 children, and called attention to the risk of forced recruitment by fighting parties or separation from their families. On June 30, UNICEF called for better protections, warning that 4.7 million or one third of all Iraqi children need humanitarian aid, whose families face deteriorating conditions in Fallujah and around Mosul following military operations. **The Security Council should:**

- Urge all parties to **implement the conclusions on children and armed conflict in Iraq adopted by the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict** on May 17, 2016;
- Request the Secretary-General to **ensure that the Country Task Force for Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) in Iraq, and other relevant UN agencies, continue their efforts to support, within their respective mandates, the Government in addressing violations and abuses committed against children in armed conflict in violation of applicable international law;**
- Call on the Secretary-General to **direct greater financial and human resources towards ensuring effectiveness of monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children, especially in areas most affected by conflict, and to ensure that the matter of children and armed conflict is included as a specific aspect in all his country-specific reports;**
- Call on the Government of Iraq to **criminalize recruitment and use by all parties, and to ensure that the PMF immediately end the recruitment and use of children and release all children currently associated with them;**
- Strongly encourage the Government of Iraq to **activate the inter-ministerial committee on Security Council Resolution 1612 to discuss and follow up on child protection commitments, in partnership with the CTFMR, and to continue the overall cooperation with the UN system.**

**THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON IRAQ.**

### SOUTH SUDAN

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. The SPLA is additionally listed for rape and other forms of sexual violence against children and abductions. In 2014, the Government of South Sudan re-committed to its 2012 Action Plan. The SPLA-IO signed an Action Plan with the UN to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children in December 2015. In July, the Council is expected to renew the UNMISS mandate per SCR 2252 (2015). The latest progress report (S/2016/341) noted 40 schools being used for military purposes. At a June 15, 2016, briefing, UNMISS reported that South Sudan has an estimated 16,000 child soldiers associated with armed forces and groups. **The Security Council 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, and to provide unarmed civilian protection training to its Child Protection Unit;
- Call for an **immediate and full implementation of the commitments made by the Government and the Opposition under their respective action plans, with the support of UNMISS;**

### 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](#)

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## SOUTH SUDAN cont'd

- Urge the Government to **take immediate measures towards preventing military use of schools** by honoring its commitments to implement the *Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict* made through the Safe Schools Declaration.

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

## SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Six parties are listed. The Free Syrian Army and its affiliated groups, Ahrar al-Sham al-Islami, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Nusra Front (Jabhat Al-Nusra), and the People Protection Units (YPG) are listed for recruitment and use of children. Syrian Government forces, including the National Defence Forces and the Shabbiha militia, are listed for killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and attacks on schools and/or hospitals. Also listed for killing and maiming are Ahrar al-Sham al-Islami, Al-Nusra Front, and ISIL; ISIL is additionally listed for rape and other forms of sexual violence, and attacks on schools and/or hospitals. In July, the Council will receive its regular briefings on the implementation of SCR 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), and 2258 (2015). The last SG's report (S/2016/460) records cases of killing and maiming of children as a result of airstrikes, attacks on schools and hospitals, and the challenges to humanitarian access as parties to the conflict continue to restrict access to the besieged areas. **The Council Members should:**

- **Call for an immediate end to hostilities and demand that all parties to the conflict comply fully with international human rights and humanitarian law; demand immediate and full implementation of the relevant resolutions, and demand that all parties take effective measures to prevent and end all grave violations against children in conflict**, resulting from continuing waves of airstrikes;
- **Call on all parties to conflict to take all measures to protect civilians and facilitate sustained and unimpeded humanitarian access to all civilians in need, in compliance with the international humanitarian law**, and to this end, immediately lift sieges on populated areas, allow for immediate medical evacuation of civilians in besieged areas in need of lifesaving care, and end deliberate water cuts used as a weapon of war;
- **Call on all parties to conflict to support, respect, and protect the civil society structures and mechanisms that work to protect children;**
- **Noting the particularly severe impact on children, condemn all attacks on medical facilities and personnel and call for full and prompt implementation of SCR 2286 (2016)**, and furthermore consider additional measures, such as targeted sanctions, to address non-compliance, by any party, with all relevant resolutions to end attacks on civilians, health professionals, and medical facilities;
- **Support resumption of the peace negotiations and the implementation of the confidence building measures addressing protection of children**, including protection of schools and education, prevention of recruitment, release, and safe demobilization and reintegration.

**EGYPT, NEW ZEALAND, AND SPAIN ARE LEADING ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES ON SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC.**

## Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

On May 17, the Working Group formally received the SG's report on children and armed conflict in CAR, and began its conclusion negotiations on May 31, currently ongoing. On May 23, in a meeting organized by the Chair, Watchlist briefed the experts on key findings and recommendations from its field mission to Bangui between April 22 and May 3.

### Presidency of the Security Council for July: Japan

- Party to Geneva Convention 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. Endorsed the Paris Principles and the Paris Commitments.

## NGO resources

- Human Rights Watch, Central African Republic: Murder by Peacekeepers, June 2016 
- Physicians for Human Rights, Anatomy of a Crisis: A Map of Attacks on Health Care in Syria, June 2016 
- Child Soldiers International, Des Milliers de Vies à Réparer: Les défis de la démobilisation et réintégration des enfants associés aux groupes armés en République centrafricaine, May 2016 
- Handicap International, Syria, a Mutilated Future, A Focus on the Persons Injured by Explosive Weapons, May 2016 
- Invisible Children, LRA Crisis Tracker Quarter 1 2016 Report, April 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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