

Recommendations to the Security Council

AFGHANISTAN

The Afghan National Police (ANP), Afghan Local Police (ALP), and three armed groups (Haqqani Network, Hezb-e-Islami, and Taliban forces) are listed for recruitment and use of children. All three armed groups are also listed for killing and maiming, while the Taliban is further listed for attacks on schools and/or hospitals. In February, the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict adopted its third [conclusion](#) on Afghanistan. In June, the Secretary-General (SG) will report on UNAMA's progress per SCR 2274 (2016). The last report (S/2016/218) noted the Government's endorsement of the national Age Assessment Guidelines. It also noted openings of two more Child Protection Units (CPUs), now totalling seven. **The Security Council should:**

- Urge all parties to comply **with their obligations under international law**, including international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL), and to immediately cease all violations and abuses against children, and **end indiscriminate attacks and use of weapons as prohibited under IHL**;
- Urge all parties to **cease attacks or threats of attacks against schools and hospitals, as well as their personnel**, in violation of IHL and to respect the civilian character of those institutions and their personnel in accordance with IHL;
- Call for the Government's **continued cooperation with the UN towards full implementation of its action plan and measures outlined in the Road Map for Compliance**, with the support of the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting, and for the allocation of adequate resources to that end;
- Urge the Government to **establish CPUs in all ANP and ALP recruitment centers nationwide, and to expedite the dissemination and implementation** of the Age Assessment Guidelines, and strengthen birth and late birth registration to enhance the capacity of the Afghan National Security Forces to identify and prevent underage recruitment.

SPAIN IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON AFGHANISTAN. NEW ZEALAND CHAIRS THE 1267 ISIL AND AL-QAIDA SANCTIONS COMMITTEE AND THE 1988 TALIBAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

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 June, pursuant to SCR 2281 (2016), the SG is expected to present recommendations to the Council on the basis of conducting a strategic review of MINUSCA, in consultation with the Government. According to an interview with MINUSCA, to date this year, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) accounts for 60 percent of all reported grave violations against children in CAR. **The Council should:**

- **Maintain protection of civilians as a priority for MINUSCA, with a clear distinction between the political, military, and humanitarian components of the mission**, and specifically, **maintain MINUSCA's capacity to document and verify child rights violations** through allocation of sufficient budgetary capacity to child protection resources and staff; and specifically **ensure that child protection expertise is maintained**, that the Child Protection Advisors maintain direct access to senior mission leadership, and that their role as protection actors remains clearly distinct;
- **Strengthen MINUSCA's mandate with respect to protecting civilians in the east and southeast parts of CAR** that have recently seen increased attacks and abductions by the LRA to include increased capacity to deploy troops and conduct operations;
- Welcoming MINUSCA's internal [directive](#) guiding its troops on how to minimize the military use of schools by their troops and the impact of armed conflict on the security and education of children through continued training and awareness-raising efforts, **call for full implementation of these guidelines**;
- Recognizing the large number of vulnerable children and youth in the country, **urge the Government to prioritize rebuilding its education system in order to ensure safe return of students and teachers to schools** that were largely devastated in the conflict; and encourage the Government to honor its commitment to protect the schools from military use by implementing the Safe Schools Declaration.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON CAR. UKRAINE CHAIRS THE 2127 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!](#)



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Ten parties were listed for grave violations against children in 2015, including the DRC armed forces (FARDC). The Government signed an action plan in 2012 to end and prevent recruitment and use of children and sexual violence by the FARDC. In June, the SG will report on MONUSCO's progress per SCR 2277 (2016). The latest report (S/2016/233) notes that 84 children were found among the FARDC during a screening by the Commandement général des écoles militaires (CGEM) with the support of MONUSCO and UNICEF. It also notes detention of children formerly associated with armed groups by the FARDC and the national police. On April 4, 2016, Human Rights Watch reported grave concerns regarding long-term and unlawful detention of children in the Angenga prison in northwest DRC. **The Security Council should:**

- Urge the Government to **ensure that children encountered during military operations are treated in accordance with IHRL and IHL, and transferred without delay to child protection actors**, and to work with these actors to ensure vulnerable women and children associated with armed groups are given appropriate care; **children should not be arrested, detained or interrogated on the sole basis of their alleged association with armed groups;**
- Encourage MONUSCO to **continue supporting the Government's full implementation of the action plan to prevent and end the recruitment of children and sexual violence against children;**
- Urge MONUSCO to **engage in dialogue with armed groups for the release of children from their ranks**, and to stop the recruitment and use of boys and girls; to this end, **urge the Government to allow unimpeded access to armed groups to facilitate and support that engagement;**
- **Welcome the Government's efforts to bring to justice perpetrators of child recruitment and use within its own and armed groups' ranks**, urging it to continue to prioritize criminal investigation and prosecution of individuals suspected of committing grave violations through sufficient allocation of resources and technical support.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO. EGYPT CHAIRS THE 1533 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

MALI

Three armed groups (Ansar Dine, MNLA, and MUJAO) are listed for recruitment and use and sexual violence against children. In June, the SG will report on MINUSMA's progress, including on the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation's implementation. The Council will renew its mandate per SCR 2227 (2015). Thanks to MINUSMA's advocacy, Coordination des Mouvements de l'Azawad (CMA), including MNLA, signed a declaration committing to a ban on the recruitment and involvement of children in armed forces and groups. **The Council Members should:**

- **Maintain MINUSMA's child protection expertise** in support of the Council's children and armed conflict agenda implementation, particularly with respect to the support for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process and dialogue with armed groups;
- Call upon the Government to **ensure that DDR programmes and security sector reform account for the specific needs of children affected by armed conflict and the protection of their rights;**
- Urge the Government to **have the relevant authorities immediately transfer detained children to juvenile facilities and guarantee their release**, and implement its Protocol d'accord on the Release and Handover of children associated with armed forces or groups, signed on July 1, 2013, with the help of MINUSMA and other child protection actors;
- Encourage MINUSMA to **adopt and implement a directive on the protection of schools and universities from military use**, similar to the one MINUSCA adopted in 2015 and recently released publicly, with the view to minimize the impact of conflict on children's security and education.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON MALI.

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

IRAQ

The Working Group formally adopted its conclusions on the SG's report on children and armed conflict in Iraq on May 17, 2016 (document forthcoming).




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. 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 June: France

- 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 Commitments.

NGO resources

- Human Rights Watch, *When Schools and Students Become Spoils of War*, April 2016 
- Their World and Safe Schools, *39 Million Girls are at Risk: Are Humanitarian Responses Doing Enough?*, May 2016 
- Amnesty International, "If You See It, You Will Cry" Life and Death in Giwa Barracks, May 2016 
- Amnesty International, *Yemen: Children Among Civilians Killed and Maimed in Cluster Bomb 'Minefields'*, May 2016 
- Coordination Committee of International NGOs (CCO) in the Central African Republic, *Renewal of the mandate of MINUSCA: What are the issues to be taken into account?*, May 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.

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