

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 are further listed for attacks on schools and/or hospitals. During the SRS-CAAC's February 13-17 [visit](#), the Government of Afghanistan reiterated commitment to fully implement the Action Plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children in the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). In March, the Secretary-General (SG) is expected to report on UNAMA's progress and the Council is expected to renew the mandate, as per SCR 2210 (2015). **The Security Council should:**

- Urge all parties to conflict to comply with their obligations under national and international law, including international humanitarian and international human rights law, and to immediately cease all violations and abuses against children, and end indiscriminate attacks and use of weapons as prohibited under international humanitarian law;
- Ensure the continuation of and support for the implementation of UNAMA's child protection mandate, taking into consideration the situation of children and armed conflict during discussions of UNAMA's mandate and activities; and to that end, request the SG to maintain dedicated child protection capacity within UNAMA, and to continue to include information and analysis on children and armed conflict in Afghanistan in all his future reports;
- Call on the Government's full implementation of the Action plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children and measures outlined in the Road Map per SCR 2120 (2013) and SCR 2145 (2014), extended through the end of 2016, with the support of the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR), and the allocation of adequate resources towards the implementation;
- Welcoming the criminalization of child recruitment and use by the ANSF, call for a general prohibition on the recruitment and use of children.

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

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

Ten parties are 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 March, the SG is expected to report on MONUSCO's progress and the Council is expected to renew its mandate, pursuant to SCR 2211 (2015). **The Security Council should:**

- Maintain MONUSCO'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, and that the CPAs maintain direct access to senior mission leadership;
- Encourage MONUSCO to continue supporting the Government's implementation of the action plan to prevent and end the recruitment of children and sexual violence against children, and consolidate gains to date;
- 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, urging them in particular to stop abducting and recruiting girls, and using them as combatants, in combat support roles or for sexual purposes; to this end, urge the Government to allow unimpeded access to armed groups in order to facilitate and support that engagement;
- Urge the Government to work together with child protection actors to ensure vulnerable women and children associated with armed groups are given appropriate care, and to ensure that children encountered during military operations are treated in accordance with international human rights and humanitarian law, and transferred without delay to child protection actors.

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

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

[Afghanistan](#)
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[Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)
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MALI

Three armed groups (Ansar Dine, MNLA, and MUJAO) are listed for recruitment and use and sexual violence against children. In March, the SG is expected to report on MINUSMA's progress, including on the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation, as per SCR 2227 (2015). The latest progress report (S/2015/1030) noted continued military use of schools and detention of children by both the Government security forces and armed groups. In March, the Security Council will be conducting a visit to Mali. **The Council should:**

- Include the assessment of the situation of children and armed conflict in Mali in the Terms of Reference for the upcoming visit, and specifically recalling paragraph 33 of SCR 2227 (2015) that **urges all parties to implement the Working Group conclusions on Children and Armed Conflict in Mali adopted in July 2014, take the opportunity of the visit to follow up on the implementation on the recommendations in the conclusion;**
- Encourage MINUSMA to adopt and implement a directive on the protection of schools and universities from military use, similar to the one MINUSCA recently released, with the view to minimize the impact of conflict on children's security and education;
- Call upon the Government to ensure that all DDR programmes and security sector reform take into account the specific needs of children affected by armed conflict and the protection of their rights, by fully integrating DDR strategy for children that MINUSMA is currently developing in collaboration with UNICEF;
- Urge the Government to have the relevant authorities immediately transfer detained children to juvenile facilities and guarantee their release, as well as 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.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON MALI.

SOMALIA

Somali National Army (SNA) and Al-Shabaab are both listed for the recruitment and use and killing and maiming of children. Ahlus Sunnah wal Jamaah (ASWJ) is also listed for recruitment and use. In 2012, the Transitional Federal Government signed two action plans with the UN. In 2014, the Ministers of Defence and National Security signed SOPs on the reception and handover of children separated from armed groups in Somalia. In March, the SG is expected to report on UNSOM's progress and its mandate is up for renewal, pursuant to SCR 2232 (2015). **Council Members should:**

- Maintain the promotion of child protection as one of UNSOM's key priorities, and to that end, continue to ask for the deployment of Child Protection Advisors, ensure that all mandatory pre-deployment training on child protection is being undertaken, and call upon UNSOM to continue to coordinate with AMISOM's Child Protection Adviser appointed in January 2015;
- Urge UNSOM to continue to support the Federal Government with action plan implementation, in collaboration with UNICEF, as well as call for the overall increased implementation of the action plans and continued strengthening of the legal framework for child protection, pursuant to SCR 2232;
- Encourage stronger public reporting on child protection as part of the SG's progress reports on UNSOM, offering disaggregate data on the six grave violations against children;
- Stress to the Federal Government that children detained during military operations, and on charges for their alleged association with armed groups, should be treated primarily as victims and handed over to child protection actors in accordance with the SOPs signed in 2014; and furthermore, encourage UNSOM to support the Federal Government on the implementation of the SOPs, with support from other child protection actors.

THE UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SOMALIA. THE CHAIR OF THE 751/1907 SOMALIA/ERITREA COMMITTEE IS VENEZUELA.

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

AFGHANISTAN

In March, the Working Group is expected to formally adopt the conclusion regarding the SG's report on children and armed conflict in Afghanistan, presented on July 6, 2015 (document forthcoming). The negotiations took place between January 27 and February 9, 2015.

IRAQ

In March, the SG's report on children and armed conflict in Iraq is due to be presented to the Working Group, which will then begin negotiations of the conclusions. Watchlist is currently developing a policy briefing outlining key challenges and recommendations to inform the Working Group ahead of conclusion negotiations.

Presidency of the Security Council for March: Angola

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

NGO resources

- PEIC/Geneva Call, "Education and Armed Non-State Actors: Towards a Comprehensive Agenda" Workshop Report, December 2015 
- Human Rights Watch, Children Behind Bars: The Global Overuse of Detention of Children, January 2016 
- Watchlist, Working Methods 2006-2015: Strengthening the Impact of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, February 2016 
- International Alert, Bad Blood: Perceptions of Children Born of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Women and Girls Associated with Boko Haram in northeast Nigeria, February 2016 

About Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict

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