

Recommendations to the Security Council

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

The ex-Séléka coalition and associated armed groups, the anti-Balaka local defence militias, and Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) are listed for recruitment and use, killing and maiming, and sexual violence against children. The ex-Séléka are listed for attacks on schools and/or hospitals, and the LRA is listed for abduction. In October, the next progress report on MINUSCA by the Secretary-General (SG) is due pursuant to SCR 2301 (2016), which renewed its mandate until November. The continued presence of armed groups in close proximity to school premises poses serious protection risks to students and educators. Additionally, the sheltering of internally displaced persons in schools, like école Koudoukou which Watchlist visited in April, due to a lack of alternative sites, poses another challenge for the protection of schools. **The Security Council should:**

- Call upon armed groups to **release all children present in their ranks**, and encourage the parties to conflict, the Government, and relevant stakeholders to **ensure rapid agreement on and full implementation of the child demilitarization, demobilization, and reintegration process as a matter of priority**;
- Retain MINUSCA's dedicated child protection capacities and Child Protection Advisors (CPAs), and ensure that the CPAs continue to have direct access to senior mission leadership, have political and operational space to engage with parties to conflict, and lead the Mission's work on the UN-led Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM); to this end, retain distinct budget lines for child protection;
- Call for full and immediate implementation of MINUSCA's internal directive 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; in the process of removing armed groups from school premises, MINUSCA should not use force;
- Encourage the Government to **honor its commitment to protect schools from military use** by implementing the Safe Schools Declaration, and to **prioritize rebuilding its education system in order to ensure safe return of students and teachers to schools**.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON CAR. UKRAINE CHAIRS THE 2127 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

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 October, the Council will receive the next progress report on UNAMI by the SG pursuant to SCR 2299 (2016). On August 31, the UN raised concerns about child recruitment in displacement camps in Iraq, and Human Rights Watch reported that Government-backed militias recruited children in at least one displacement camp in the Kurdistan Region to join the fight against ISIL. **The Security Council should:**

- Urge the Government of Iraq to **criminalize recruitment and use by all parties**;
- Echoing paragraph 11d of the conclusions by the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict adopted on May 17, 2016, **call upon the Government to ensure the release of all children associated with the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) and immediately end all child recruitment and use by the PMF in line with obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict**, including by developing and enforcing appropriate age verification procedures for recruitment;
- Request the SG 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;
- Strongly encourage the Government 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.

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

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SYRIA

Six parties are listed for grave violations against children. In October, the Council will receive its regular briefings on the implementation of SCR 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), and 2258 (2015). On September 19, a humanitarian convoy, warehouse, and health clinic near Aleppo were attacked. **The Security Council 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**, including those resulting from continuing waves of aerial bombardments;
- **Call on parties to conflict to take all measures to protect civilians and facilitate rapid 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;
- 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 noncompliance, by any party, with all relevant resolutions to end attacks on civilians, including health professionals, and medical facilities.

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

YEMEN

In Yemen, four parties are listed for recruitment and use: Government forces, pro-government militias, Al-Qaida in the Arab Peninsula (AQIP)/Ansar al-Sharia, and Houthis/Ansar Allah. Houthis/Ansar Allah is additionally listed for killing and maiming and attacks on schools and hospitals. The Saudi Arabia-led coalition was listed for killing and maiming and attacks on schools and hospitals in the 2016 annual report of the SG, but has been removed from the annexes by the SG pending review. Escalating conflict has stalled implementation of the Action Plan to end and prevent recruitment and use of children the Government signed in 2014. In October, the SG will report on the implementation of SCR 2201 (2015). In August, UN OCHA reported attacks on schools and hospitals resulting in the killing and maiming of children, including the attack on Abs hospital in Hajjah that triggered Medecins Sans Frontieres to pull its staff from Saada and Hajjah governorates. **The Council Members should:**

- **Call for the resumption of the cessation of hostilities agreement**, and ensure that **child protection**, including the release and reintegration of children associated with armed forces and armed groups and preventing and ending attacks on hospitals and schools, **is on the agenda for ongoing peace negotiations**;
- **Demand that all parties to the conflict comply fully with international humanitarian law, and additionally consider supporting the establishment of an international commission of inquiry to investigate alleged violations of international law, including grave violations against children, by all parties to the conflict, and to identify perpetrators of such violations with a view to ensuring those responsible are held to account**;
- **Urge all listed parties to engage with the UN in order to develop and implement action plans**, and for the Saudi Arabia-led coalition to also agree to concrete, time bound actions to prevent and end grave violations against children;
- **Encourage the 2140 Sanctions Committee to request briefings from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict on grave violations committed against children in Yemen**, trends and parties to conflict to whom violations are attributed.

THE UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON YEMEN. JAPAN CHAIRS THE 2140 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE AND UKRAINE IS THE VICE-CHAIR.

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. The Group awaits the final phase, which was promised for early September by the Chair.

Presidency of the Security Council for October: Russian Federation

- 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 (signed but not ratified). Endorsed the Paris Principles and the Paris Commitments.

NGO resources

- War Child, 'I've Moved, My Rights Haven't': Towards a Global Action Plan for Children Forced to Flee, September 2016 
- Human Rights Watch, Greece: Migrant Children Held in Deplorable Conditions, September 2016 
- Human Rights Watch, A Chance for UN Peacekeeping to Get it Right, September 2016 
- Save the Children, Children Make Up Approximately Half of Casualties in Eastern Aleppo, According to Medics, September 2016 
- Human Rights Watch, Urgent Need for International Inquiry on Yemen, September 2016 
- Geneva Call, A Report From Inside Syria: a Visit to Monitor the Prohibition on the Use of Child Soldiers in Kurdish Areas, February 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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