

Recommendations to the Security Council

AFGHANISTAN

The Afghan National Police, including the Local Police, 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. On August 1, 2013, the Government of Afghanistan reconfirmed its commitment to end and prevent recruitment and use of children by endorsing a 'Road Map Towards Compliance' with the UN. In September, the Secretary-General (SG) is due to report on UNAMA's progress as per SCR 2210 (2015). In its [Midyear Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict](#), UNAMA notes a 13 percent increase in child casualties as compared to the first six months of 2014, and states that one in four civilian casualties in Afghanistan is a child. **Council Members should:**

- **Urge the SG to continue to include the matter of children and armed conflict in Afghanistan in all future reports, and to this end, maintain the capacity of UNAMA's human rights section and dedicated child protection capacity within that section;**
- **Urge key stakeholders, including UNAMA and UNICEF, engaging in the SG's examination of the UN's role, structure and activities in Afghanistan to include key child protection concerns in their assessments, and furthermore, request the SG to include in his final report recommendations based on that assessment;**
- **Call for the Government's full implementation of the measures outlined in the Road Map per SCR 2120 (2013) and SCR 2145 (2014) with the support of the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR);**
- **Urge the Government to provide unimpeded access to its military sites and other areas where children may be present to enable the CTFMR to assist in identifying, registering and discharging all children present in the ranks of ANSF.**

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

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

Ten parties are listed for violations, 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 September, the SG's progress report on MONUSCO is due pursuant to SCR 2211 (2015). The FARDC, listed for recruitment and use and rape and other forms of sexual violence in the DRC, are serving in CAR as part of MINUSCA. On August 19, the UN [announced](#) serious allegations of rape against a minor involving 3 MINUSCA peacekeepers, and the DRC Ambassador to the UN [confirmed](#) the peacekeepers belonged to FARDC. In September 2014, the Working Group adopted conclusions on children and armed conflict in the DRC ([S/AC/51/2014/3](#)). **The Security Council should:**

- **Ensure that FARDC troops are rotated out of MINUSCA as scheduled, and not permitted to participate in peacekeeping operations until they are delisted from the SG's annual report on children and armed conflict;**
- **Urge all parties to implement the Working Group conclusions on Children and Armed Conflict in the DRC;**
- **Maintain MONUSCO's capacity to document and verify child rights violations in order to improve reporting and allow for a public review of the status of implementation of the Action Plan, specifically through the work of its child protection advisors;**
- **Request the Secretary-General to ensure that MONUSCO, in collaboration with other relevant UN agencies, mainstreams the specific needs of children affected by armed conflict in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs.**

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO. JORDAN CHAIRS THE 1533 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE, AND CHILE AND LITHUANIA ARE VICE-CHAIRS.

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

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[Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)
[Iraq](#)
[Mali](#)
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MALI

Three armed groups (Ansar Dine, MNLA and MUJAO) are listed for the recruitment and use of children and rape and other forms of sexual violence. In June, the Council renewed MINUSMA's mandate pursuant to SCR 2227 (2015). The last progress report (S/2015/426) published on June 11 stated that MINUSMA rehabilitated a vocational training center in Gao - Academie d'Enseignement de Gao, vacated by its forces in December 2014. It also noted six visits to detention centers by MINUSMA and UNICEF; 10 children were released during March and April, but 10 still remain in detention for their association with armed forces or groups. **The Council Members should:**

- **Commend MINUSMA on the rehabilitation of the Gao vocational training center** formerly occupied by its troops;
- Recalling paragraph 33 of SCR 2227 (2015), **urge all parties to implement the Working Group conclusions** on Children and Armed Conflict in Mali negotiated in July 2014;
- With the view to support the Government in its implementation of the Protocol d'accord on the Release and Handover of children associated with armed forces or groups it signed on July 1, 2013, **encourage continued efforts by MINUSMA and other child protection actors, in coordination with the Ministry of Justice and relevant authorities, to review the cases of 9 children still detained on security charges for their association with armed groups and obtain their release**, stressing that children arrested during military operations should be primarily treated as victims and held separately from adults;
- **In observance of the ceasefire, strongly encourage MINUSMA to ensure implementation of the child protection provisions in the Bamako peace agreement**, especially those relating to the release and reintegration of children formerly associated with armed forces or armed groups.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON MALI.

SOMALIA

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 (ASWJ) are listed for recruitment and use. The Transitional Federal Government signed two action plans with the UN in 2012 on the recruitment and use, and killing and maiming. In July, the Council adopted SCR 2232 (2015) extending UNSOM's mandate until March 30, 2016, and authorizing AU Member States to maintain AMISOM's deployment until May 30, 2016. The first written report is due September 12 on the resolution implementation. **The Security Council should:**

- Echoing paragraph 34 of SCR 2232 (2015), **call for increased implementation of the action plans and continued strengthening of the legal framework for child protection**, and to that end, **urge UNSOM to continue to support the Federal Government in the action plan implementation**, in collaboration with UNICEF;
- **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;
- **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 on the reception and handover of children separated from armed groups in Somalia, signed on February 13, 2014; and furthermore, **encourage UNSOM to support the Federal Government on the implementation of the SOPs**, with the 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

On July 6, the [SG's report on children and armed conflict in Afghanistan](#) was formally presented to the Working Group, and the conclusion negotiations on the report are still pending. For detailed recommendations on Afghanistan, see Watchlist's '[Children and Armed Conflict Monthly Update August 2015](#)'.

Presidency of the Security Council for September: 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; Endorsed the Paris Commitments.

NGO resources

- Human Rights Watch, Arrest Rebel Leader Wanted by ICC, July 2015
- Child Soldiers International, Afghanistan: Briefing on the situation of the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and insurgent groups in Afghanistan, June 2015
- Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, Workshop Report: Addressing Child Protection in Conflict Mediation, July 2015

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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