

Recommendations to the Security Council

AFGHANISTAN

The Afghan National Police (ANP), including the Local Police (ALP), and three armed groups (Haqqani Network, Hezb-e-Islami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, 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 and abduction. In September, the Council will receive the next progress report on UNAMA by the Secretary-General (SG) pursuant to SCR 2274 (2016). The last report (S/2016/532) recorded 161 child deaths between January and March 2016, mostly due to ground engagements, explosive remnants of war, and improvised explosive devices. In its midyear [report](#) published in July, UNAMA noted with particular concern the military use of 18 schools, 15 of which were used by the Afghan security forces. **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;
- Urge the Government to **take concrete measures to protect schools from military use**, and to this end, implement commitments made through the Safe Schools Declaration as mentioned in the [conclusions](#) by the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict adopted in February 2016;
- Call for the Government's **continued cooperation with the UN towards full implementation of its action plan and measures outlined in the Road Map**, with the support of the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting, and for the allocation of adequate resources towards that.

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

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

Twelve parties were listed for grave violations against children in 2016, 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 will report on MONUSCO's progress per SCR 2277 (2016). According to the latest report (S/2016/579), MONUSCO documented 589 grave violations against children, almost double from the previous reporting period (214). The report noted that the FARDC released from detention 34 children formerly associated with armed groups. In SCR 2293 (2016) paragraph 14 that renewed the DRC Sanctions Regime in June, the Council called upon the Government to ensure that children are not detained on charges related to their association with armed groups. The listed armed group APCLS amended their code of conduct to limit the age of recruitment to 18 as a result of Geneva Call's [work](#) with them. **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 in line with the National Intelligence Agency Directive of May 3, 2013, on children detained on charges in relation to association with non-state armed groups**, and to work with child protection actors to ensure children associated with armed groups are given appropriate care; **children should be treated primarily as victims**;
- Maintain MONUSCO's child protection capacity through allocation of sufficient budgetary resources and staff; and specifically ensure that child protection expertise is maintained, that Child Protection Advisors (CPAs) maintain direct access to senior mission leadership, and that their role as protection actors remains clearly distinct from that of human rights monitors;
- Encourage MONUSCO to **continue supporting the Government's full implementation of the action plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children** and sexual violence against children, including in its efforts to prevent the use of girls for sexual purposes by members of the FARDC, and implement the SOPs on age assessment validated in April 2016;

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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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC) cont'd

- Urge the Government to **prioritize criminal investigation and prosecution of individuals suspected of recruiting children and/or using them in hostilities**, including for sexual and domestic purposes;
- Urge the Government to **ensure that no military, financial, or logistical support is provided to armed groups suspected of recruiting or using children, or committing other human rights abuses**;
- **Welcome the Government's endorsement of the Safe Schools Declaration as announced during the August 2, 2016, Security Council Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict.**

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

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. Al-Shabaab is additionally listed for abduction. 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. Following her July trip to Somalia where she met in Puntland with children detained and sentenced to death for their association with Al-Shabaab, the Special Representative to the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict **urged** authorities to treat children suspected of association with Al-Shabaab primarily as victims, and consider the best interest of the child and international protection standards as guiding principles. In September, the Council will receive an update on UNSOM's progress per SCR 2275 (2016).

The Council Members should:

- **Stress to the Federal Government that children captured 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;
- **Express concerns about the lack of transparency and oversight in the classification of children held on national security charges, the plight of children classified as medium and high risk, the absence of a clear legal framework for children detained on security charges, and of international juvenile justice standards**;
- **Stress that federal and regional authorities must swiftly resolve existing legal ambiguities related to the age of majority and should domesticate Somalia's international obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child**;
- **Maintain the promotion of child protection as one of UNSOM's key priorities**, and to that end, continue to ask for the deployment of CPAs, 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.

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

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, expected to conclude in early September. 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 September: New Zealand

- 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 Statue of the ICC. Endorsed the Paris Principles and the Paris Commitments, the Safe Schools Declaration and through it, the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict.

NGO resources

- Human Rights Watch, Education on the Front Lines: Military Use of Schools in Afghanistan's Baghlan Province, August 2016 
- Human Rights Watch, Submission on the Philippines to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, August 2016 
- Physicians for Human Rights, Madaya, Portrait of a Syrian Town Under Siege, July 2016 
- Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, R2P Monitor, July 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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