Children and Armed Conflict MONTHLY UPDATE: APRIL 2013

Recommendations to the Security Council

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Seven parties are listed for the recruitment and use of children. The LRA is listed additionally for killing and maiming as well as rape and other forms of sexual violence. Three parties have concluded action plans to end violations, but one (APRD) has since disbanded. The Security Council is expected to consider the implementation of the mandate of the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) following a report by the Secretary-General pursuant to Resolution 2088 (2013). **The Security Council should:**

- Demand that all armed groups **prevent the recruitment and use of children** and that the CPJP and the UFDR **implement the provisions of action plans** signed with the UN;
- Call on the SRSG for the CAR and Head of BINUCA to prioritize support to action plan implementation and, in coordination with the SRSG for Children and Armed Conflict, to engage armed groups with a view to concluding action plans to put an end to the recruitment and use of children;
- Request the Secretary-General to strengthen the child protection capacity of BINUCA;
- Insist that there should be **no impunity for grave violations against children** and call on all Member States to support efforts to arrest LRA leaders subject to arrest warrants by the International Criminal Court.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

MALI

No party has yet been listed, but there are reports of recruitment and use of children by non-state actors. The Chadian army, operating in Mali, is listed for recruitment and use and has signed an action plan. The Security Council is expected to consider authorizing a peacekeeping operation for Mali. In any resolution authorizing a peacekeeping operation, **the Security Council should:**

- Prioritize the monitoring of grave violations against children within the mission mandate;
- Ensure that the mission is mandated to monitor grave violations committed against children throughout the entirety of Malian territory;
- Request the Secretary-General to include dedicated **child protection capacity** within the mission structure;
- Demand that **all potential peacekeeping forces are fully vetted** by the United Nations before deployment;
- Demand that, as a **prior condition for the integration of any Chadian forces** in the peacekeeping mission or for the continued operation of Chadian forces in Mali, the Secretary-General **certify the full implementation by Chad of the action plan**, signed in June 2011, to prevent the recruitment and use of children;
- Call for **training of all peacekeeping forces** in international humanitarian and human rights law, including protection of children and procedures to ensure the timely and systematic handover of children associated with armed groups to civilian humanitarian actors.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON MALI.

SUDAN (DARFUR)

14 parties, including both Government and non-state actors, are listed for recruitment and use of children in Sudan. The Secretary-General is expected to submit his quarterly report on the implementation of the mandate of the African Union – United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID).

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

Afghanistan Central African region (LRA-affected areas) Central African Republic Chad Democratic Republic of the Congo Iraq Myanmar (Burma) Somalia South Sudan Sudan Syrian Arab Republic Yemen

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SUDAN (DARFUR) (cont'd)

Council Members should:

- Call on all parties to fully **implement the conclusions of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict** (S/AC.51/2012/1);
- Request the Secretary-General to strengthen child protection in UN system activities in Sudan and ensure continued monitoring and reporting of the situation of children affected by armed conflict;
- Demand that Sudan comply with its obligations under Security Council Resolution 1593 to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court and surrender all individuals subject to arrest warrants, irrespective of their official positions.

UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON DARFUR.

SUDAN / SOUTH SUDAN

The Secretary-General is expected to brief the Security Council on compliance by Sudan, South Sudan, and the SPLM-N with decisions set out in resolution 2046 (2012). All three parties are listed for the recruitment and use of children. **Council Members should:**

- Demand an immediate cessation to all hostilities and **full compliance with international** humanitarian law, in particular the prohibition on indiscriminate bombardments;
- Call on all parties to fully **implement the relevant conclusions of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict** (S/AC.51/2012/1 and S/AC.51/2012/2);
- Call on the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan to **facilitate United Nations access to non-State armed groups** for the purposes of humanitarian negotiations with a view to concluding action plans;
- Request the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy to ensure that ending violations against children is an essential component of any peace negotiations.

UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SUDAN / SOUTH SUDAN

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

MYANMAR

The Secretary-General is expected to introduce a new report and negotiations are expected to start in April 2013. Seven parties, including state and non-state actors, are listed for recruiting and using children. The government signed an action plan in 2012 to prevent and end recruitment of children into the Tatmadaw Kyi (national army), including the integrated Border Guard Forces. In its conclusions, the Working Group should:

- Urge the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator to prioritize engagement with the Myanmar Government on action plan implementation;
- Request the Secretary-General to ensure sufficient specialized staff within the country task force in Myanmar to support action plan implementation and monitoring and reporting of violations;
- Call on the Government of Myanmar to ensure the full and immediate implementation of the action plan by the Tatmadaw Kyi and the Border Guard Forces, including through institution of age verification procedures, criminal prosecution of child recruiters, and permitting unimpeded access by the UN to military sites in accordance with the action plan;
- Request the Government of Myanmar to facilitate UN access to all listed armed non-state actors for the purposes of humanitarian dialogue with a view to the conclusion of action plans;
- Urge the CTFMR and the Government of Myanmar to disseminate action plan commitments to communities and local civil society as a means to build broad support for accountability, response and prevention measures.

Presidency of the Security Council for April: Rwanda

- Party to Geneva Convention IV, Additional Protocols I and II, Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol, ILO Convention 182.
- Not yet a Party to the Rome Statute of the ICC; Has not yet endorsed the Paris Commitments.

NGO resources

- Save the Children, Childhood under Fire (Syria), March 2013
- Child Soldiers International, Chance for Change: Ending the recruitment and use of child soldiers in Myanmar, January 2013.

About the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict

The 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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