

Recommendations to the Security Council

SUDAN (DARFUR)

9 parties, including both Government forces and non-state actors, are listed for recruitment and use of children in Sudan. The Sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 will provide its quarterly report to the Council. **Council members should:**

- **Express concern at the continuing grave violations** against children and **call on parties** to the conflict to immediately cease such violations and to enter into dialogue with the United Nations **to sign action plans** to halt violations;
- Invite the **Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAC) regularly to inform the Sanctions Committee** about violations of international humanitarian or human rights law or other atrocities committed against children and commitments by parties to the conflict to end such violations;
- Request the Sanctions Committee to **take into account the conclusions of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict**;
- Call on the Sanctions Committee to **designate individuals and entities** responsible for grave violations against children;
- Encourage the **exchange of information between the Sanctions Committee and the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict**.

UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON DARFUR. ARGENTINA CHAIRS THE 1591 COMMITTEE.

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

MYANMAR

The Secretary-General's report (S/2013/258) was published on 1 May and introduced to the Working Group on 20 May 2013. Seven parties, including state and non-state actors, are listed for recruiting and using children. The Government signed an action plan in June 2012 to prevent and end recruitment of children into the Tatmadaw Kyi (national army), including the integrated Border Guard Forces (BGFs). In its conclusions, the Working Group should:

- Call on the Government of Myanmar to ensure the full and immediate **implementation of the action plan** by the Tatmadaw Kyi and the BGFs without exception, including through wide **dissemination** of the action plan within the Tatmadaw Kyi, **criminal prosecution** of child recruiters, and guaranteeing **unimpeded access** by the UN to military sites to identify and to secure the release of underage recruits;
- 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 concluding action plans and to **include the protection of children affected by armed conflict in peace processes and ceasefire negotiations**;
- Call on **donors and the international community** to ensure that assistance to support security sector reform, including military-military dialogue, contributes to tangible change through the prevention of child soldier recruitment and use, including by strengthening recruitment procedures and age verification mechanisms and independent monitoring and oversight in the armed forces and the BGFs;
- 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.

YEMEN

The Secretary-General's report was published on 28 June 2013. Three parties, including state and non-state actors are listed for recruitment and use of children. The Government has committed ▶

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

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YEMEN (cont'd)

to develop an action plan to end the recruitment and use of children by Government forces. The Al-Houthi armed group has initiated a dialogue with the United Nations on the release and reintegration of children. In its conclusions, the Working Group should:

- Request the Secretary-General to **strengthen the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting**;
- Call on all parties to **immediately cease the recruitment and use of children** and all other violations;
- Call on the Government to take measures to prevent the recruitment of children, including **regularizing recruitment processes**, strengthening the **national civil registration system**, introducing **effective age verification** measures, and imposing **criminal sanctions** on individuals responsible for the recruitment of children;
- Welcome progress with regard to development of an action plan by the **Government and encourage the Government and the United Nations swiftly to conclude the action plan**.
- Encourage the SRS-GCAC and the Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Yemen to enhance efforts to **persuade the Al-Houthi armed group to conclude an action plan**, and invite the 'Group of Ten Ambassadors' to support these efforts;
- Invite the SRS-GCAC to share information with the **Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee** on violations against children by Ansar al-Sharia;
- Call on **donors engaged in military assistance programs, security sector reform and peacebuilding** to support measures to prevent child recruitment and use, including strengthening recruitment procedures, age verification mechanisms, independent oversight of the armed forces and accountability measures as well as to increase support to the **long-term sustainable reintegration of children**;
- Request the Government to submit **regular follow-up information** on the status of action plan development and implementation.

PHILIPPINES

The Secretary-General's report was published on 12 July 2013. Three non-state armed groups are listed for the recruitment and use of children. The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) concluded an action plan in 2009, but the plan expired before being fully implemented. In its conclusions, the Working Group should:

- Call on the Government of the Philippines and the MILF to ensure that **child protection concerns, including vetting and accountability for violations, are fully integrated in ongoing peace negotiations**, in any peace agreement, and in the mechanisms for monitoring implementation of any such agreement, and to incorporate vetting mechanisms also applicable to the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters;
- Urge **third-party governments mediating peace processes** with the MILF or the New People's Army (NPA) to encourage the parties to prevent the use of children and to enter discussions with the United Nations on an action plan to end violations;
- Welcome the signing of an extension to the **MILF action plan** and call for its swift implementation, including to MILF rank-and-file and local communities;
- Urge the Government of the Philippines and the MILF to **end the military use of schools**, including through appropriate orders, planning and training;
- Urge the Government of the Philippines to ensure appropriate vetting and accountability mechanisms in place to prevent the **recruitment of children in the Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) and use of children as informants** by the armed forces;
- Urge the Government of the Philippines to amend the Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Bill (CSAC Bill) with provisions that **prohibit the prosecutions of children allegedly associated with armed groups** and/or parents of such children;
- Request the **SRS-GCAC and the Government of the Philippines to keep the Working Group updated** on steps taken to implement the conclusions of the Working Group.

Presidency of the Security Council for August: Argentina

- 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; Endorsed the Paris Commitments.

NGO resources

- Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, Where Are They? The Situation of Children and Armed Conflict in Mali, June 2013 
- Child Soldiers International, Shadow Report to the CRC on Yemen, March 2013 
- Child Soldiers International, Louder than Words, 2012 (with case studies on Myanmar and Yemen) 
- Human Rights Watch and Child Soldiers International, Philippines: Amend Draft Law on Child Soldiers, October 2012

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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Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict
122 East 42nd Street
Suite 1620
New York, NY 10168-1289
Telephone: 212.972.0695
Fax: 212.972.0701
Email: watchlist@watchlist.org
Website: www.watchlist.org