

## Recommendations to the Security Council

### AFGHANISTAN

The Afghan National Police, including Local Police, and three armed groups (Haqqani Network, Hezb-e-Islami and Taliban forces) are listed for recruitment and use of children. The armed groups are also listed for killing and maiming, and the Taliban are listed for attacks on schools and/or hospitals. On 1 August 2014, 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 November 2014, the Afghan Lower House of Parliament approved the draft law criminalizing recruitment and use of children into state security forces. In December 2014, the Secretary-General's (SG) report on UNAMA's progress is expected pursuant to SCR 2145 (2014). ISAF's mandate is set to expire on 31 December 2014 pursuant to SCR 2120 (2013), and its report is also due. **The Security Council should:**

- Call on the Government to **amend the draft law to prohibit the recruitment of children into armed groups and their use in hostilities, in order to prevent recruitment and use of children by all listed parties, including non-State actors**, in accordance with international law; and to **widely disseminate legislation criminalizing child recruitment and use to all members of the armed and security forces**, and systematically conduct effective investigations into all credible reports of child recruitment and use;
- Call on Government's **full implementation of the measures outlined in the Road Map** per SCR 2120 (2013) and SCR 2145 (2014);
- Call on the Government to: **develop, adopt, and implement age verification methods aligned with the best international practices**; take measures to **make birth registration free and accessible in law and in practice**, in order to strive towards universal birth registration; and **ensure that all military and civilian personnel involved in military recruitment have received child protection and age verification training**;
- Call on ISAF, and any follow up NATO mandated mission, ending its operations at the end of the year, to **integrate child protection in its trainings for the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF)**, including standard operating procedures and rules of engagement; and to strengthen ANSF's recruitment procedures, age verification mechanisms, and independent oversight and accountability measures for the police and other security forces.

**AUSTRALIA IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON AFGHANISTAN, THE CHAIR OF THE 1267 AL-QAIDA SANCTIONS COMMITTEE AND THE 1988 AFGHANISTAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.**

### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

The ex-Seleka coalition and associated armed groups are listed for recruitment and use, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and attacks on schools and/or hospitals. The anti-Balaka is listed for recruitment and use, and killing and maiming. MINUSCA's progress report to the Council is due in December 2014. **The Security Council should:**

- **Ensure the accelerated deployment of adequate capacity within MINUSCA** to effectively fulfil its protection mandate, including the authorized strength of uniformed personnel, child protection advisors and experts on sexual and gender-based violence;
- **Ensure continued vetting and screening of all MINUSCA troops** to ensure children and perpetrators of the grave violations against children are not included in its ranks, as well as **request the SG to report in detail on vetting and screening processes**;
- Request MINUSCA, in close consultation with UNICEF, to **finalize the development of standard operating procedures for international forces present on the ground** for handover of children formerly associated with armed forces and groups to qualified child protection agents;
- Urge the Government, in collaboration with UNICEF, to **develop a strategy for identification, release, and reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups, and support its rapid implementation**, in line with the 24 July ceasefire agreement signed between the parties.

**FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON CAR. LITHUANIA CHAIRS THE 2127 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE AND JORDAN IS THE VICE-CHAIR.**

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

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[Central African Region \(LRA-affected areas\)](#)

[Central African Republic](#)

[Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

[Iraq](#)

[Mali](#)

[Myanmar \(Burma\)](#)

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## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

Eleven parties are listed for violations, including the Congolese armed forces. The Government signed an action plan in 2012 to end and prevent recruitment and use of children. In September 2014, the Working Group adopted conclusions on children and armed conflict in the DRC (S/AC/51/2014/3). On 28 March 2014, the mandate of MONUSCO was renewed pursuant to SCR 2147 (2014), and in December 2014, its progress report and strategic review are due. **The Security Council should:**

- Echoing the Working Group recommendations, call upon the Government to **swiftly, fully, and effectively implement the Action Plan, and ensure the wide dissemination of action plan commitments and related governmental directives** prohibiting the recruitment and use of children, and rape and other forms of sexual violence against children, issued on 3 May 2013 and 18 July 2013, throughout the military chain of command, particularly to battalions stationed in remote areas;
- Reiterating the Working Group conclusions, call upon the Government to **stop detaining children on charges related to association with armed groups**;
- Call on the Government to **continue to provide free and confidential access to the UN country taskforce on monitoring and reporting to military sites** for the purposes of verification, and to establish effective age verification and oversight procedures, and birth and late birth registration, in collaboration with the UN;
- **Urge the Government to reach out to non-State armed groups for the purposes of developing action plans** to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and attacks on schools and hospitals in violation of applicable international law.

**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.**

## MALI

Three armed groups (Ansar Dine, MNLA and MUJAO) are listed for the recruitment and use of children, and for rape and other forms of sexual violence. SG's progress report on MINUSMA is expected in December 2014, pursuant to SCR 2164 (2014). The last report from September 2014 mentions detentions of minors during MINUSMA's prison monitoring visits. The report also mentioned 12 school occupations by armed groups, and still pending the allocation of an alternative site by the Government, MINUSMA troops from Niger are occupying a vocational training center in Gao - Academie d'Enseignement de Gao. **The Council Members should:**

- **Continue to request that MINUSMA updates the Council on the steps taken for its troops to vacate the Academie d'Enseignement de Gao** in accordance with the '2012 United Nations Infantry Battalion Manual for Peacekeepers,' which states that schools should not be used for military purposes, and repair any damage to the infrastructure and property as a result of the occupation;
- Encourage the Government of Mali to **allocate an alternative site to MINUSMA's contingent occupying the Academie d'Enseignement de Gao** in conformity with its previous Decision 0177/MDEAFSG of 22 November 2013;
- For cases of children detained on charges related to association with armed groups, urge the Government to **work with the UN to establish, as a matter of priority, a joint mechanism for the review of those cases, stressing that children arrested during military operations should be primarily treated as victims**; and furthermore, call on the Government to strictly implement the Protocol d'accord on the Release and Hand Over of children to ensure that any child detained in connection with the armed conflict is held separately from adults and handed over to UNICEF and other child protection actors without delay.

**FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON MALI.**

## Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

## SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Six parties are listed, including the Syrian armed forces. In February, the SRSR-CAAC presented the first SG Report on Children and Armed Conflict in Syria to the Working Group, and the conclusion was adopted on 26 November 2014 (document forthcoming).

**UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC.**

## Presidency of the Security Council for December: Chad

- 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

- Child Soldiers International, Afghanistan: Amend Draft Law on Child Soldiers, November 2014
- NRC/IRC, No Escape: Civilians in Syria Struggle to Find Safety Across Borders, November 2014

## 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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