# Children and Armed Conflict MONTHLY UPDATE:

# **Recommendations to the Security Council**

## AFGHANISTAN

Four parties, including the national police and three non-state actors, are listed for violations. The Security Council is expected to receive updates on both UNAMA and ISAF. **Council members should:** 

- Call on UNAMA to **prioritize support to implementation of the action plan** signed by the Government;
- Request the Secretary-General to strengthen the child protection capacity of UNAMA;
- Call on all parties to cease violations against children and for the Government to **hold accountable those responsible** for violations of the rights of children.

AUSTRALIA IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON AFGHANISTAN.

## **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

Five parties are listed for grave violations. The Secretary-General is expected to brief the Security Council, including on the impact of the armed conflict on children and on the division of labor between MONUSCO and the UN country team. **Council Members should:** 

- Call on the Government to ensure **swift implementation of the action plan** concluded in October 2012;
- Emphasize the indispensable role of MONUSCO in monitoring and reporting on grave violations against children;
- Demand that all armed groups immediately cease all forms of violations and human rights abuses against children and that parties listed for grave violations conclude and implement action plans to prevent and to end such violations;
- Call for strict compliance by all MONUSCO forces, including the new Intervention Brigade, with international humanitarian and human rights law.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO.

## MALI

No party has yet been listed by the Secretary-General, but there are reports of recruitment and use of children by non-state armed groups. The Chadian army, currently participating in AFISMA, is listed for recruitment and use. The Security Council is expected to review whether to go ahead with the planned transfer of authority from AFISMA to MINUSMA on 1 July. **The Security Council should:** 

- Call on the Secretary-General to ensure the immediate deployment of an **adequate number** of child protection advisers throughout the mission to cover child protection functions throughout Malian territory;
- Request the Secretary-General to take all appropriate measures to enable the timely
  establishment of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism pursuant to Resolution 1612
  (2005) upon listing of any parties by the Secretary-General in his annual report expected
  in June;
- Request the Secretary-General to ensure that all participating troops are screened and additional safeguards are instituted to **ensure no minors participate** in MINUSMA;
- Call for strict compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law by MINUSMA and for adequate training for all peacekeepers, including on child protection;
- Ensure **procedures for encountering children associated with armed groups** are in place and MINUSMA troops are adequately trained before the transfer of authority.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON MALI.

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

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

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# **OPEN DEBATE ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT**

The Security Council is expected to hold an Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict. **Participating Member States should:** 

- Call on the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAC) and on Sexual Violence in Conflict to closely coordinate their efforts aimed at putting an end to rape and other forms of sexual violence in armed conflict;
- Call on the SRSG-CAC to increase efforts to engage listed parties to conclude and to implement action plans on preventing and ending rape and other forms of sexual violence;
- Highlight the importance of deploying **Child Protection Advisers and Women Protection Advisers** in UN missions.

## **SOMALIA**

The African Union is expected to inform the Security Council, through the Secretary-General, about the implementation of AMISOM's mandate. **Council Members should:** 

- Reiterate the Council's request in para. 13 of resolution 2093 (2013) to strengthen child protection, including through the deployment of a child protection adviser, and to mainstream child protection within AMISOM;
- Call on the African Union to ensure strict compliance by AMISOM with international humanitarian and human rights law;
- Request the Secretary-General to ensure that the new UN mission is adequately staffed with dedicated child protection advisers.

#### UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SOMALIA.

# SUDAN (DARFUR)

The International Criminal Court Prosecutor is expected to brief the Security Council on the situation in Darfur. **The Security Council should:** 

- Call on the Government of Sudan and all UN Member States to provide **full cooperation** to the International Criminal Court including in the arrest and surrender of suspects;
- Invite the Prosecutor to investigate the persistent recruitment and use of children in Darfur.

#### UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON DARFUR.

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

### **MYANMAR**

The Secretary-General's report (S/2013/258) was introduced to the Working Group on 20 May 2013. Seven parties are listed for recruiting and using children. The government signed an action plan in 2012 to prevent and end recruitment into the Tatmadaw Kyi, including the integrated Border Guard Forces. 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 Border Guard Forces, including through wide dissemination of the action plan within the Tatmadaw Kyi, criminal prosecution of child recruiters, and permitting unimpeded access by the UN to military sites;
- 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 and to include the protection of children affected by armed conflict in peace processes and ceasefire negotiations;
- Urge the CTFMR and the Government of Myanmar to **disseminate action plan commitments to communities and civil society.**

# Presidency of the Security Council for June: UNITED KINGDOM

• 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, Briefing on Action Plan Implementation by Chad (May 2013)
- Watchlist, Discussion Paper: Action Plans to Prevent and End Violations against Children (April 2013)
- Save the Children, Unspeakable Crimes against Children: Sexual Violence in Conflict (April 2013)
- War Child, An Unwanted Truth? (sexual violence against children) (April 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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