

# Children and Armed Conflict

MONTHLY UPDATE:  
MARCH 2013

## Recommendations to the Security Council

### AFGHANISTAN

Four parties, including the national police and three non-state actors, are listed for violations. The Government has concluded an action plan to end recruitment and use of children by the police, but there are concerns the UN may lack resources to support action plan implementation. In March, the Security Council is expected to renew the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). **The Security Council should:**

- Call on UNAMA to prioritize support to implementation of the action plan signed by the Government;
- Request the Secretary-General to ensure the appointment of child protection advisers in a stand-alone capacity within 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;
- Request the Secretary-General to include in his future reports on UNAMA the matter of children and armed conflict as a specific aspect of reports as required by Security Council resolutions 1612, 1882, and 1998.

**AUSTRALIA IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON AFGHANISTAN.**

### LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY (LRA) / SOUTH SUDAN

The LRA is listed for recruitment and use, killing and maiming, and rape and other forms of sexual violence, committed in several countries in the central African region. The Secretary-General is to submit an implementation plan to support the UN Regional Strategy on the LRA, and he will also report on the LRA in the context of his periodic reports on the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). In discussions on the LRA, Council Members should:

- Encourage the African Union Regional Task Force to deploy a child protection advisor and to adequately mainstream child protection concerns throughout the Task Force;
- Call on all Member States to deny safe haven to members of the LRA and to support efforts to arrest LRA leaders subject to arrest warrants by the International Criminal Court;
- Call on donors to provide more support to the long-term reintegration of children separated from the LRA.

**FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REGION.**

**UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SOUTH SUDAN.**

### MALI

No party has yet been listed by the Secretary-General, but there are reports of recruitment and use of children by non-state actors. In March, the Secretary-General will report on the implementation of resolution 2085. **Council Members should:**

- Urge the Secretary-General to ensure the deployment of human rights observers with child protection expertise as soon as possible;
- Call for the establishment of a civilian-led humanitarian UN presence, completely separated from support to AFISMA, with specific child protection capacity;
- Urge AFISMA and the Malian Government to ensure child protection training for all forces as soon as possible and request the European Union to include child protection training in its training mission; ▶

**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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## MALI (cont'd)

- Call on AFISMA and the Malian Government, with the support of the Secretary-General, to ensure adoption and implementation of adequate **procedures for encountering children associated with armed groups**.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON MALI.

## SOMALIA

Two parties, the Government and non-state actors, are listed for both recruitment and use and killing and maiming. The Government has signed two action plans to end violations. In March, the Security Council is expected to renew the mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), subject to ongoing reviews of the future African Union and UN presences in Somalia. In renewing the mandate of AMISOM, the Security Council should:

- Call on all parties to cease violations against children and for the Government to **hold accountable those responsible** for violating the rights of children;
- Urge the African Union to include a **child protection focal point within AMISOM**;
- Request AMISOM to ensure the full operation of the **Civilian Casualty Tracking, Analysis and Response Cell**;
- Maintain a **clear separation between the military functions of AMISOM and the United Nations activities** in relation to the monitoring and reporting of and response to violations against children;
- Encourage the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to **share information regarding violations against children with the Sanctions Committee** established pursuant to Security Council resolutions 751 and 1907;
- Call on donors to provide more support to **disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes** for children.

UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SOMALIA.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA CHAIRS THE SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

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

### LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY

(negotiations pending 9 months, since the [Secretary-General's Report of 25 May 2012](#))

- Encourage the African Union Regional Task Force to deploy a child protection advisor and to adequately mainstream child protection concerns throughout the Task Force;
- Encourage all relevant States to ensure their militaries adopt standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the reception and handover of LRA children to child protection actors;
- Call on all Member States to deny safe haven to members of the LRA and to support efforts to arrest LRA leaders subject to arrest warrants by the International Criminal Court;
- Call on donors to provide more support to the long-term reintegration of children separated from the LRA.

### Presidency of the Security Council for March: Russian Federation

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

## NGO resources

- Watchlist,  
SCWG Working  
Methods: Update  
January 2013  

- Human Rights Watch,  
Press Release (Mali):  
Islamists should  
Free Child Soldiers

## 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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