# Children and Armed Conflict MONTHLY UPDATE: MONTHLY UPDATE: MONTHLY UPDATE:

# **Recommendations to the Security Council**

# **CENTRAL AFRICAN REGION - LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY (LRA)**

The LRA, a persistent perpetrator, is listed for recruitment and use, killing and maiming, and rape and sexual violence of children. The Security Council will receive an update on the activities of UNOCA and the implementation of the Regional Strategy on the LRA, pursuant to S/PRST/2013/18. **Council Members should**:

- Encourage the presence of child protection expertise in the African Union Regional Task Force to adequately mainstream child protection concerns throughout the Task Force;
- Call on donors to provide more support to the long-term reintegration of children separated from the LRA.

THE UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON THE LRA.

## SUDAN/SOUTH SUDAN BORDER AREAS

The armed group SPLM-N is listed for the recruitment and use of children in the disputed areas (South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Abyei). The Council will be briefed on the status of compliance with SCR 2046 (2012), which demanded the end of hostilities and negotiations under the auspices of the AUHIP. The mandate of UNISFA is also expected to be renewed. **The Security Council should**:

- Call on all parties to **allow unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance** to the areas affected by the conflict;
- Call on all parties to ensure that **negotiations systematically incorporate child protection concerns** including: the cessation and prevention of violations against children; demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration of recruited children; and accountability for perpetrators of grave violations against children;
- Call for **enhanced monitoring and reporting of grave violations** against children in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Abyei.

THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SUDAN/SOUTH SUDAN ISSUES.

## **SOUTH SUDAN**

The SPLA is listed for recruitment and use of children. In 2012, the Government of South Sudan adopted a revised action plan to end recruitment and use. The Security Council will receive a report on the implementation of SCR 2132 (2013), which authorized an increase in the military component of UNMISS. Discussions are ongoing on the reprioritization of UNMISS's mandate, which could happen before its scheduled July expiration date. **Council Members should**:

- Call on all parties to put an end to grave violations committed against children, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, killing and maiming and attacks on schools and hospitals;
- As per the campaign, Children not Soldiers, ensure **cooperation with the government in advancing its action plan** to end the recruitment and use of children; **urge all parties to grant child protection actors access** to youth mobilization centers, and military barracks, in order to verify the cessation of recruitment and use of children;
- Call on all parties to ensure that child protection concerns, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, are systematically incorporated in ongoing peace and reconciliation discussions;
- Call for investigation of grave violations committed against children by all parties; recommend for UNMISS to **support the work of the AU Commission of Inquiry** on South Sudan, particularly to investigate grave violations against children.

THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SOUTH SUDAN.

## **SUDAN (DARFUR)**

Nine parties, including the Sudanese armed forces, are listed for the recruitment and use of children. The Sanctions Committee established pursuant to SCR 1591 (2005) will provide a quarterly report of its work to the Security Council. **The Security Council should**:

• Request the SRSG-CAAC to regularly **share information with the Sanctions Committee** on those responsible for grave violations against children;

#### 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> <u>of the Congo</u> <u>Iraq</u> <u>Mali</u> <u>Myanmar (Burma)</u> <u>Somalia</u> <u>South Sudan</u> <u>Sudan</u> <u>Sudan</u> <u>Syrian Arab Republic</u> Yemen

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#### SUDAN (DARFUR) (cont'd)

• Call on the Sanctions Committee to **designate individuals and entities** responsible for grave violations against children, in particular related to the denial of humanitarian assistance;

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

#### YEMEN

Three parties in Yemen (State armed forces, Al-Houthi, Ansar al-Sharia) are listed for recruitment and use of children. The Council will be briefed by the Chair of the Sanctions Committee, pursuant to SCR 2140 (2014). **The Security Council should**:

- Request the SRSG-CAAC to regularly share information with the Sanctions Committee on those responsible for grave violations against children;
- Call on the Sanctions Committee to designate individuals and entities responsible for grave violations against children, in particular related to the denial of humanitarian assistance;
- Call on the Government to **adopt the action plan** to address the recruitment and use of children by Government forces, in line with SCR 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009) and 1998 (2011).

**THE UNITED KINGDOM** IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON YEMEN. LITHUANIA CHAIRS THE 2140 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

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

#### MALI

Three armed groups (Ansar Dine, MNLA and MUJAO) are listed both for recruitment and use of children and for rape and other forms of sexual violence. The national army of Chad, listed for recruitment and use, is participating in MINUSMA. The SRSG-CAAC is expected to present the <u>SG's Report</u> on Children and Armed Conflict in Mali to the Working Group. **Council Members should**:

- Demand that all parties take effective measures to end recruitment and use of children and immediately release all children still in their ranks to child protection actors, as outlined in the Inter-ministerial Circulaire on the prevention, protection and reintegration of the family of children released from armed forces or armed groups;
- Request the Secretary-General to increase the child protection capacity of MINUSMA with a view to strengthening the monitoring and reporting mechanism;
- Call on all parties to ensure that peace and reconciliation efforts systematically incorporate child protection concerns;
- Call on the Government of Mali to ensure that, as consistent with Malian and international law, any children detained in connection with the armed conflict are held separate from adults, and promptly notify child protection actors, notably UNICEF, of any detention of children;
- Urge the Government to ensure that in any **DDR framework** children are treated separately and their reintegration is prioritized;
- Urge the Government to ensure that those **responsible for grave violations against children are held accountable**, in accordance with SCR 2143, through prompt investigation and prosecution of parties who committed grave violations against children; and call on donors to assist the Government in addressing deficiencies in the criminal justice system, to ensure victims' access to justice.

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

## **SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

Two parties are listed: the Free Syrian Army and the Syrian Government. In February, the SRSG-CAAC presented the first report on <u>Children and Armed Conflict in Syria</u> to the Working Group, and negotiations over the conclusions are ongoing. For detailed recommendations to the Security Council Working Group, see <u>'Children and Armed Conflict Monthly Update January 2014</u>'. **FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**.

## Presidency of the Security Council for May: Republic of Korea

• 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**

- UNICEF, Under Siege: The devastating impact on children of three years of conflict in Syria, March 2014
- Save the Children, A Devastating Toll: The Impact of Three Years of War on the Health of Syria's Children, March 2014
- Norwegian Refugee Council, World Vision, and others, Loaded Guns and Empty Stomachs: Fixing a food crisis and preventing a catastrophe in South Sudan, April 2014

#### 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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