

Recommendations to the Security Council

OPEN DEBATE ON CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT

The UN Security Council will hold an Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict on 8 September 2014 under the U.S. Presidency. The September Open Debate takes place following the 1 July publication of the [UN Secretary-General's 13th Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict](#). For detailed recommendations, see '[Children and Armed Conflict Special Update, September 2014](#)'.

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 September 2014, the Secretary-General's (SG) report on UNAMA's progress is expected pursuant to SCR 2145 (2014). ISAF is also expected to report to the Security Council, pursuant to SCR 2120 (2013).

The Security Council should:

- Call for the Government's **full implementation of the provisions in the Road Map** as per SCR 2120 (2013) and SCR 2145 (2014);
- In light of UNAMA's mandate renewal on 17 March 2014, **deploy child protection advisors** to further strengthen the monitoring and reporting of violations by all parties;
- Call on ISAF, and any follow up NATO mandated mission, which ends 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. The DRC armed forces (FARDC), listed for recruitment and use and rape and other forms of sexual violence in the DRC, are currently operating in CAR under the auspices of the African Union as part of MISCA. The DRC signed an action plan with the UN in 2012 but have yet to fully implement it. On 15 September, MINUSCA will formally take over from MISCA, pursuant to SCR 2149 (2014).

- Insist that the **re-hatting and participation of the FARDC in MINUSCA be conditioned on full-compliance with time-bound benchmarks for action plan implementation**;
- Request detailed information from the SG on the **screening of all MINUSCA troops** to ensure perpetrators and/or children are not included in the ranks;
- Call for **training of all peacekeeping forces** in international humanitarian and human rights law, including on protection of civilians and child protection;
- Request MINUSCA to **ensure adequate resources for child protection advisors** to be deployed in all field locations. This essential capacity will be critical to negotiate action plans with armed groups and enhance the monitoring and reporting on grave violations against children;
- Request MINUSCA, in close consultations with UNICEF, to **finalize the development of standard operating procedures** for international forces present on the ground for the handover of children formerly associated with armed forces and groups to qualified child protection agents; ▶

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](#)

[Mali](#)

[Myanmar \(Burma\)](#)

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR) (cont'd)

- In line with the 23 July ceasefire agreement signed between the parties at the end of the Brazzaville Forum for National Reconciliation in CAR, **urge all parties to immediately cease all recruitment and use of children;**
- Urge the Government, in collaboration with UNICEF and MINUSCA, to **develop a strategy for the identification, release, and reintegration of children** associated with armed forces or groups, and support its rapid implementation.

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

SOUTH SUDAN

The SPLA and White Army are listed for recruitment and use and killing and maiming of children. Opposition armed groups, including the SPLA Opposition, are listed for recruitment and use. In 2012, the Government of South Sudan adopted a revised action plan to end recruitment and use; and in June 2014 it recommitted to the action plan. Pursuant to SCR 2155 (2014), the SG will provide a report on the implementation of UNMISS' mandate and an updated assessment on UNMISS operations, including deployments and future requirements. **Council Members should:**

- Work to **ensure urgent deployment of additional troops** authorized by the Security Council in December 2013; and increase military patrolling in areas where military deployments and humanitarian presence remain limited;
- Urge UNMISS to **issue regular and timely public reporting, including grave violations against children.** The May 2014 UNMISS Human Rights report did not include details of grave violations against children;
- Recommend for UNMISS to **support the work of the AU Commission of Inquiry** on South Sudan, particularly in its investigation of grave violations against children.

THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SOUTH SUDAN.

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

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. In July, the Working Group received the SG's Report on Children and Armed Conflict in the DRC. Negotiations over the conclusion are ongoing. For detailed recommendations, see: 'Children and Armed Conflict Monthly Update July 2014.'

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.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Six parties are listed, including the Syrian armed forces. In February, the SRSB-CAAC presented the first SG Report on Children and Armed Conflict in Syria to the Working Group, and negotiations over the conclusion are ongoing. For detailed recommendations, see 'Children and Armed Conflict Monthly Update January 2014.'

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC.

Presidency of the Security Council for August: United States

- Party to Geneva Convention IV, Optional Protocol to the CRC, and ILO Convention 182. Not yet a party to Additional Protocol I or II to the Geneva Conventions, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, or the Rome Statute of the ICC. Has not endorsed the Paris Commitments.

NGO resources

- Council on Foreign Relations, June 2014, *Fragile States, Fragile Lives Child Marriage Amid Disaster and Conflict*
- Child Soldiers International, July 2014, *DRC: Briefing to the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict*
- Amnesty International, August 2014, *Mali: Children Paying a High Price in Ongoing Conflict*

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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