

Recommendations to the Security Council

IRAQ

Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) are listed for recruitment and use of children. ISIL is listed for recruitment and use, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, abductions, and attacks on schools and/or hospitals. In April, the Secretary-General (SG) will report on UNAMI's progress pursuant to SCR 2367 (2017). In his last report (S/2018/42 para. 54) from January, covering the third quarter of 2017, the SG noted that the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) verified 20 incidents resulting in 14 children killed and 12 maimed, as well as the recruitment of 30 children and five attacks on schools. The report also mentions incidents of children wounded by explosive remnants and improvised devices. **Council Members should:**

- **Urge all parties to end the use of weapons as prohibited under international humanitarian law, and urgently prioritize marking and clearing of explosive remnants of war which contribute to the increase in child casualties;**
- **Encourage the Government to ensure implementation of age verification mechanisms and procedures to prevent recruitment of children, in line with Law No. 3/2010, article 30 (2), and release children currently in PMF ranks to child protection actors;**
- **Urge the Government to take concrete actions to ensure accountability and end impunity**, including through prompt investigation and prosecution of parties responsible for grave violations against children;
- In discussing the provision of support for the reintegration of children formerly associated with ISIL, as mentioned by the SG (S/2018/42 para. 54), **remind all parties that children should be considered primarily as victims entitled to full protection of their human rights**, and that alternatives to detention should be given preference whenever possible.

THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON IRAQ.

SOUTH SUDAN

The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the SPLA in Opposition (SPLA-IO), and White Army are all listed for recruitment and use of children. The SPLA and SPLA-IO are also listed for killing and maiming. The SPLA is additionally listed for rape and other forms of sexual violence, and abductions of children. In 2014, the Government of South Sudan re-committed to its 2012 action plan. The SPLA-IO signed an action plan with the UN in December 2015 to end and prevent the recruitment and use and killing and maiming of children. In February, the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan issued its [report](#) pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution 34/25. The Commission documented instances of all six grave violations against children and cited a [report](#) by the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism (CTSAMM) on child soldiers, where they suggest that recruitment is still ongoing throughout the country. In his last report (S/2018/163, para. 44), covering November 2017 to February 2018, the SG stated that the CTFMR verified 42 incidents of grave violations affecting children. **Council Members should:**

- **Urge the Government to take concrete actions to ensure accountability and end impunity** by promoting the work of the national justice system to establish a special unit focused on conflict-related crimes as mentioned by the SG (S/2018/163 para. 36);
- **Echoing the recommendation made by the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan (A/HRC/37/71 para. 136 (c)), urge all parties to release all children within their ranks to child protection actors; and to that extent welcome the release of over 300 children by armed groups in Yambio, Western Equatoria State, and encourage the Government to take immediate measures to facilitate children's reintegration and recovery;**
- Echoing the SG (S/2018/163, para. 69), **urge all parties to allow rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access to all civilians in need, in compliance with international humanitarian law;**
- Urge the Government to honor its commitment to implement the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict made through the [Safe Schools Declaration](#).

THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SOUTH SUDAN. POLAND CHAIRS THE SOUTH SUDAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

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

[Afghanistan](#)
[Central African Republic](#)
[Colombia](#)
[Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)
[Iraq](#)
[Mali](#)
[Myanmar \(Burma\)](#)
[Nigeria](#)
[Philippines](#)
[Somalia](#)
[South Sudan](#)
[Sudan](#)
[Syrian Arab Republic](#)
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SYRIA

Seven parties are listed for grave violations against children, including Government forces and pro-Government militias. In January, the Council will receive briefings on SCR 2393 (2017), adopted on December 19, that reiterates all previous humanitarian resolutions. In his last report (S/2018/138, paras. 9, 14, and Annex) from February, the SG expressed concern over the high prevalence of children being affected by incidents stemming from unexploded ordnance, landmines, and improvised explosive devices. Both the SG's report and the [statement](#) by Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, to the Security Council, mention high numbers of child casualties as result of continued air and ground-based strikes. **The Council should:**

- **Demand the immediate and complete implementation of relevant Security Council Resolutions**, especially Resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2268 (2016), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017), and 2401 (2018), and that all parties and their influencers take effective measures to end and prevent all grave violations against children;
- **Urge all parties and their influencers to immediately end attacks on schools and hospitals, and call for schools and hospitals to be publically declared no-go objects or targets by parties to conflict, for purposes of threats, attacks, or military use;**
- **Call on parties to conflict to facilitate rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access to all civilians in need, in compliance with international humanitarian law**, and to this end, immediately lift all sieges on populated areas, allow for immediate medical evacuation of civilians in need of lifesaving care, and end deliberate water cuts used as a weapon of war;
- Urge all parties to **ensure that captured children associated with armed groups or armed forces are treated in line with international standards and are promptly released to civilian child protection actors for support and reintegration, as stipulated by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights law instruments.**

KUWAIT AND SWEDEN ARE LEADING ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES ON SYRIA.

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

MALI

In March, the Working Group received the SG's second report on the situation of children and armed conflict in Mali and is currently working on its conclusions. Three armed groups (Ansar Eddine, Mouvement national de liberation de l'Azawad (MNLA), and Mouvement pour l'unification et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest-MUJAO) are listed for recruitment and use and sexual violence against children. **The Working Group should:**

- **Condemn in the strongest terms all grave violations of children's rights, especially in Gao, Kidal, Timbuktu, and in the central regions of Segou and Mopti**, urging all parties to respect their obligations under international law and put in place measures to immediately cease and prevent all future violations;
- **Urge the CMA to fully and swiftly implement its action plan with the UN to end recruitment and use and sexual violence**, with the engagement from the CTFMR, and allow the UN to monitor its progress on implementation;
- In providing support for the implementation of the Agreement on the Peace and Reconciliation in Mali pursuant to para. 20(a)ii of SCR 2364 (2017), **ensure that the particular needs of children are accounted for in the demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration (DDR) and security sector reform plans, as stipulated by the Resolution;**
- In light of the Government's development of a national action plan on preventing and fighting terrorism and violent extremism that will include child protection provisions, **remind all parties that children associated with armed groups, including those engaged in violent extremism, should be treated as victims entitled to full protection of their human rights, and ask them to urgently put in place alternatives to detention and prosecution of children;**
- **Welcome the Government's recent endorsement of the Safe Schools Declaration and call upon all parties to cease attacks on and military use of schools and hospitals**, and urge the Government to uphold its commitment to implement the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict.

Presidency of the Security Council for April: Peru

- Party to Geneva Convention I-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 Principles and the Paris Commitments. Has not endorsed the Vancouver Principles or the Safe Schools Declaration.

NGO resources

- ➔ Amnesty International, Syria: Seven Years of Catastrophic Failure by the International Community, March 2018
- ➔ Amnesty International, Nigeria: Security Forces Failed to Act on Warnings about Boko Haram Attack Hours Before Abduction of Schoolgirls, March 2018
- ➔ Human Rights Watch, "It's Like We're Always in a Prison," Abuses Against Boys Accused of National Security Offenses in Somalia, February 2018
- ➔ Human Rights Watch, Endorsing Safe Schools Declaration Important to Protect Children from Horrors of Armed Conflict, March 2018
- ➔ Theirworld, Seven Ways that Seven Years of Syrian War has Affected Children and Their Education, March 2018
- ➔ Human Rights Watch, Syria: Civilian Deaths in Turkish Attacks May Be Unlawful, February 2018

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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