

Recommendations to the Security Council

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

Twelve parties were listed for grave violations against children in 2016, including the DRC armed forces (FARDC). The Government signed an action plan in 2012 to end and prevent recruitment and use of children and sexual violence by the FARDC. In August, the Group of Experts' mandate expires and pursuant to SCR 2293 (2016), the Secretary-General (SG) will take all necessary administrative measures to re-establish the Group in consultation with the 1533 Sanctions Committee. The ongoing crisis in the Kasai region has put 7 million children at risk of violence; thousands of children have been displaced and separated, are witnessing atrocities, and are directly targeted by all parties to the conflict. Furthermore, in late June 2017, fighting erupted in South Kivu Province between the FARDC and the *Coalition nationale du peuple pour la souveraineté du Congo* (CNPSC), a newly formed alliance of Mayi-Mayi militia groups. According to OCHA, approximately 80,000 civilians were displaced as a result, and activity by armed non-State actors in Uvira Territory in early July restricted humanitarian actors' movements. **The Security Council should:**

- Urge all parties to **immediately cease violations and abuses of children's rights in the Kasai region, including an immediate stop of the recruitment and use of children;**
- **Condemn the use of children as human shields by the Kamuina Nsapu militia and the high number of children killed or maimed in military operations against the militia;**
- Encourage the Government to **treat children allegedly associated with the militia as victims in line with their commitments under the Paris Principles** and to **swiftly hand them over to child protection actors;** further encourage the Government to establish a child disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) program and to ensure accountability for child rights violations;
- Call on parties to the conflict to **facilitate full and unconditional access to humanitarian aid workers in all areas of the Greater Kasai;**
- Urge all parties to **immediately cease attacks on health centers and schools, as well as military use of schools** in line with the Safe Schools Declaration which the Government endorsed in July 2016;
- Urge the Government to **accelerate the implementation of the action plan to prevent and end the recruitment of children and sexual violence against children, including by preventing the use of girls for sexual purposes by members of the FARDC,** and by implementing the Special Operating Procedures on age assessment validated in April 2016; encourage MONUSCO to continue supporting the Government in these efforts;
- Urge the Government to **prioritize criminal investigations and prosecutions of individuals suspected of recruiting children and/or using them in hostilities, including for sexual and domestic purposes.**

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO. EGYPT CHAIRS THE 1533 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

SOUTH SUDAN

The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), SPLA in Opposition (SPLA-IO), and White Army are all listed for recruitment and use. 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. 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 August, pursuant to SCR 2290 (2016), the Security Council will receive relevant briefings on the parties' implementation of the August 2015 peace agreement, as well as impose any sanctions as appropriate to the situation. **Council Members should:**

- **Immediately review and approve designations for individuals who have committed grave violations against children, and enforce travel bans and other restrictions for those previously sanctioned** without delay; ►

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

[Afghanistan](#)
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[Mali](#)
[Myanmar \(Burma\)](#)
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SOUTH SUDAN cont'd

- Call upon Member States to **designate individuals and entities involved in planning, directing or committing violations** of applicable international human rights law or international humanitarian law in accordance with criteria set out in SCR 2290 (2016);
- **Urge prompt resourcing of the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan in the areas of budget and human resources, that include technical expertise at the Human Rights Council**, in order to facilitate independent investigations with the purpose of ensuring accountability and ending pervasive impunity in the country;
- With the view to ensuring accountability and ending impunity for grave violations, **support the call** made by the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan and the Special Adviser to the SG on the Prevention of Genocide, **for setting up of the international, impartial, and independent investigative mechanism to collect, analyze, and preserve evidence for future use when the hybrid court mandated by the Chapter V of the South Sudan peace agreement is established.**

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

SYRIA

Six parties are listed for grave violations against children. In July, the Council will receive its regular briefings on the implementation of SCR 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2328 (2016), 2332 (2016), and 2336 (2016). During the July briefing, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator Ursula Mueller indicated that heavy fighting and airstrikes in anti-ISIL operations in Raqqa governorate continue to result in civilian casualties and injuries as well as large-scale displacement. Furthermore, an estimated 20,000 to 50,000 people are trapped within Raqqa city with no way out. With regards to humanitarian access, only one United Nations convoy per week managed to reach hard-to-reach areas, assisting more than 120,000 people. According to Ms. Mueller, obstacles to convoys proceeding as planned include lack of approvals and facilitation letters by the Government; other administrative delays; arbitrary restrictions by non-State armed groups, terrorist groups, and others; and insecurity and fighting.

Council Members should:

- **Call for an immediate and complete implementation of the relevant Security Council Resolutions;**
- **Given an increase in child recruitment by all parties to the conflict**, children captured by opposing parties should be treated in line with international standards and promptly released to civilian child protection actors for support and reintegration;
- **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 besieged areas in need of lifesaving care, and end deliberate water cuts used as a weapon of war;
- **Call for an independent investigation into all attacks on schools and hospitals** and ensure these feed into the newly-established Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011.

EGYPT AND SWEDEN ARE LEADING ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES ON SYRIA.

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

PHILIPPINES

The SG's fourth report on children and armed conflict in the Philippines was published on May 2, and the Working Group began its negotiations on June 16. The Working Group will formally adopt the conclusions on August 3. For targeted recommendations, see Watchlist's June 2017 CAC Monthly Update.

Presidency of the Security Council for August: Egypt

- 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. Not yet a Party to the Rome Statute of the ICC (signed but not ratified). Has not endorsed the Paris Principles and the Paris Commitments, nor the Safe Schools Declaration.

NGO resources

- ➔ Amnesty International, South Sudan - "If Men are Caught, They are Killed, if Women are Caught, They are Raped"- Atrocities in Equatoria Region Turn Country's Breadbasket into a Killing Field, July 2017
- ➔ Amnesty International, South Sudan: "Do Not Remain Silent": Survivors of Sexual Violence in South Sudan Call for Justice and Reparations, July 2017
- ➔ Save the Children and Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, No Justice for Yemen's Children? The Case for Listing the Saudi Arabia-led Coalition for Grave Violations, July 2017
- ➔ World Vision International, Good Enough Context Analysis for Rapid Response (GECARR) for the Kasai-Central, Democratic Republic of Congo, July 2017

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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