

Recommendations to the Security Council

SOMALIA

Somali National Army (SNA) and Al-Shabaab are both listed for recruitment and use and killing and maiming of children. Al-Shabaab is additionally listed for rape and sexual violence, attacks on schools and hospitals, and abduction of children. Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama'a (ASWJ) is listed for recruitment and use. In 2012, the Federal Government signed two action plans, one to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children and one to end killing and maiming. In August, the Secretary-General (SG) is expected to report to the Council on UNSOM's progress, pursuant to Resolution 2408 (2018). In his recent annual report on children and armed conflict (S/2018/465), covering violations in 2017, the SG reported that abductions in Somalia nearly doubled (1,634 cases) compared to 2016, while recruitment and use also significantly increased. The majority of cases are attributable to Al-Shabaab. The SG also expressed concern over the detention of 217 children for their alleged association with Al-Shabaab. **The Security Council should:**

- **Urge authorities throughout Somalia to cease the detention of children for their alleged association with armed groups**, and to that end, urge the Government to **comply with its standard operating procedures for the reception and handover of children separated from armed groups**, ensuring that captured children are handed over to relevant child protection actors within 72 hours, and that their rehabilitation and reintegration is prioritized; furthermore, **allow UN human rights and other relevant civilian monitors full access to detention facilities;**
- **Echoing the SG (S/2018/465, para 152), call upon the President of Puntland to pardon children accused of association with Al-Shabaab and deprived of their liberty as a result**, specifically those who remain in a UNICEF-supported reintegration center in Garowe, Puntland, and release them to relevant child protection actors; and furthermore, to harmonize local legislation with federal laws and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC);
- Welcoming the African Union and UN's continued commitment to mentor and assist Somali security forces to address all human rights violations, including the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence, request the SG, in his regular updates on the status of the Somali security forces' readiness to perform security tasks, to report on measures taken to address and prevent grave violations against children, including sexual violence, by national forces;
- **Call for the swift implementation of the Government's action plans to end and prevent grave violations, with support of the UN Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR).**

THE UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SOMALIA. KAZAKHSTAN CHAIRS THE 751/1907 SOMALIA/ERITREA COMMITTEE.

SUDAN/SOUTH SUDAN (ABYEI)

In May, the Council adopted SCR 2416 (2018) extending UNISFA's mandate until November 2018 and requesting the SG to report on recommendations on the reconfiguration of the mission's mandate by August 15, 2018. In his most recent report on the situation in Abyei (S/2018/293) from April, the SG reported a relatively stable security situation during the reporting period from October 2017 to March 2018; however, noting a rise in hostilities between communities, he indicated that children continued to be exposed to risks of violence, exploitation, and abuse in the absence of rule of law structures. The report includes no specific information on children and armed conflict, and no disaggregated data on grave child rights violations, as the mission still currently lacks dedicated child protection capacity. In his latest annual report on children and armed conflict (S/2018/465), the SG reports one verified incident of killing and maiming in Abyei. **The Security Council should:**

- **Urge all parties to cease all human rights violations and abuses against civilians, including against children, and violations of international humanitarian law;**
- Echoing the Council's prior request in SCR 2416 (para. 28), **urge UNISFA to expedite the deployment of a Women and Child Protection Advisor, and further ensure the Advisor has the necessary resources and capacities to deliver on the mandate**, including operationalization of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) in Abyei;

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

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SUDAN/SOUTH SUDAN (ABYEI) cont'd

- In light of plans to reconfigure the mission, **continue to ensure that child protection capacity is maintained in UNISFA's mandate;**
- Reiterating paragraphs 26 and 32 of SCR 2416, remind the SG of his responsibility to ensure effective human rights monitoring, including on sexual and gender-based violence and grave violations against children, and to include those topics in his reporting on UNISFA; and furthermore, **call on the SG to include grave violations against children as a specific aspect of all his progress reports on UNISFA, disaggregating the data on the six grave violations,** and specifically signal priority concerns regarding children and armed conflict to guide the Council's actions on Abyei.

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

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

The Working Group received the SG's [sixth report](#) on the situation of children and armed conflict in the DRC in June, and began conclusion negotiations in late July. Fifteen armed groups are listed for grave violations against children, and the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) are listed for rape and other forms of sexual violence. In its conclusions, the **Working Group should:**

- **Urge the Government, UN entities, and other donors to provide sustainable and long-term financial support for reintegration and rehabilitation programming that takes into account the specific needs of girls;**
- **Call on the Government to promptly investigate and ensure accountability for all perpetrators of grave child rights violations, including national security forces responsible for killing and maiming children in the Kasais,** and call on all parties to uphold their obligations under international law and put in place concrete measures to limit the impact of armed conflict on children;
- Urge the Government to **sustain the gains of its completed action plan on recruitment and use, including through ongoing child protection training of national security forces on the prohibition of the recruitment and use of children for military purposes,** including support roles such as porters and children used for domestic and sexual purposes; **and to implement fully and without delay its action plan to end and prevent sexual violence against children by the FARDC and other security forces,** and encourage MONUSCO to continue supporting the Government in these efforts; furthermore support the **engagement of the CTFMR with non-state armed groups, including to negotiate action plans to end violations;**
- Expressing concern about children deprived of liberty, including inhuman treatment and torture, **remind all parties that children should never be criminalized, detained, and prosecuted solely for their alleged association with armed forces or groups; they should be considered primarily as victims and handed over to child protection actors;** and urge the Government to comply with applicable obligations under the UN CRC;
- **Call on all parties to allow the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance,** including by removing administrative impediments, and cease attacks on humanitarian personnel; furthermore, request the SG to ensure the effectiveness of the MRM, including by **strengthening monitoring and reporting on the denial of humanitarian access;**
- **Continue to support MONUSCO's dedicated Child Protection Section and sufficient Child Protection Advisors (CPAs),** and ensure that CPAs continue to have direct access to senior mission leadership, have political and operational space to engage with parties to conflict, and lead the mission's work on the MRM; to this end, **the mission must retain distinct budget lines for child protection;**
- Call upon all parties to **cease attacks on and military use of schools,** and in particular, **urge the Government to uphold its commitments under the [Safe Schools Declaration](#) to implement the [Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use,](#) as well as the **2013 ministerial directive by the Minister of Defense** stating that all military personnel found guilty of using schools for military purposes would face severe criminal and disciplinary sanctions.**

SWEDEN IS THE CURRENT CHAIR OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT.

Presidency of the Security Council for August: United Kingdom

- 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, the Vancouver Principles, and the Safe Schools Declaration.

NGO resources

- Amnesty International, *Stranglehold: Coalition and Huthi Obstacles Compound Yemen's Humanitarian Crisis*, June 2018
- Amnesty International, "We Will Destroy Everything," *Military Responsibility for Crimes Against Humanity in Rakhine State, Myanmar*, June 2018
- Norwegian Refugee Council, *Displaced, Denied, Destroyed: Educational Sites in Afghanistan are Changing from Bastions of Hope and Safety into Spaces of Fear, Armed Conflict and Politics*, July 2018
- Save the Children, *Picking Up the Pieces: Rebuilding the Lives of Mosul's Children After Years of Conflict and Violence*, July 2018

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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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