

Recommendations to the Security Council

OPEN DEBATE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN CONFLICT

In December, the UN Security Council will hold an open debate on human trafficking in conflict under the Presidency of Spain. The main objective of this debate is to follow up on the December 2015 Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2015/25) that specifically requested the Secretary-General (SG) to report back to the Council in 12 months on progress made to better implement existing mechanisms countering trafficking in persons. Spain proposes a resolution as an outcome document. On the occasion of this debate, **the Security Council should:**

- Ensure that the Security Council's actions to address human trafficking in conflict **take into account children's rights by recognizing the high numbers of children among trafficked persons in conflict, and condemn the recruitment and use of children by parties to conflict** as combatants or in supportive servitude roles such as porters, cooks, lookouts and intelligence-gatherers, sexual slaves, and suicide bombers, which constitutes a form of human trafficking;
- **Request prompt reporting by the Secretary-General to the Security Council on recommended measures for operational and strategic collaboration across the UN system to prevent and respond to trafficking of persons in conflict**, including trafficking by way of child recruitment, sexual violence, and forced labor, as well as **suggestions for engaging the Special Representatives to the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict and Sexual Violence in Conflict** to assess, address, and prevent trafficking-related violations and abuses against women and children;
- Call upon the Secretary-General to **embed specialized expertise within the existing sanctions regimes for assessing and addressing threats of trafficking-related violations and abuses against women and children**, and to this end, **encourage joint briefings** between the Special Representatives to the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict and Sexual Violence in Conflict and the sanctions committees.

AFGHANISTAN

The Afghan National Police (ANP), including the Local Police (ALP), as well as three armed groups (Haqqani Network, Hezb-e-Islami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, and the Taliban forces) are listed for recruitment and use of children. All three armed groups are also listed for killing and maiming, while the Taliban is further listed for attacks on schools and/or hospitals and abduction. In December, the Council will receive the SG's UNAMA progress report pursuant to SCR 2274 (2016). The last report (S/2016/768, para 33) noted that on June 4 and July 4, the Ministry of Education sent two directives to all security-related ministries highlighting Afghanistan's commitment to the [Safe Schools Declaration](#) and requesting security forces to stop using schools for military purposes. UNAMA's preliminary investigation of the November 3 airstrikes on Kunduz [indicates](#) the killing of at least 32 civilians and injury of 19, the majority of whom were women and children. The United States Forces-Afghanistan acknowledged conducting air-to-ground engagements in the area at that time, promising investigation. **The Security Council should:**

- **Urge all parties to cease attacks or threats of attacks against schools and hospitals**, as well as their personnel, in violation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and to **respect the civilian character of those institutions and their personnel** in accordance with IHL;
- **Welcome the steps the Government is taking to implement the commitments made through the Safe Schools Declaration**, also referenced in the conclusions by the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict adopted in February 2016, **urging continued implementation**;
- **Welcome the Government's opening of 14 Child Protection Units to date, and urge their establishment in all ANP and ALP recruitment centers.**

SPAIN IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON AFGHANISTAN. NEW ZEALAND CHAIRS THE 1267 ISIL AND AL-QAIDA SANCTIONS COMMITTEE AND THE 1988 TALIBAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF 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 and sexual violence against children by the FARDC. In December, the SG will report on MONUSCO's progress per SCR 2277 (2016). According to the latest report (S/2016/833, para 52), a total of 115 children (104 boys ▶

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

[Afghanistan](#)
[Central African Region \(LRA-affected areas\)](#)
[Central African Republic](#)
[Colombia](#)
[Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)
[Iraq](#)
[Mali](#)
[Myanmar \(Burma\)](#)
[Nigeria](#)
[Philippines](#)
[Somalia](#)
[South Sudan](#)
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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) (cont'd)

and 11 girls) were separated or escaped from armed groups since June 28, 2016. Twenty-four girls were reported as victims of conflict-related sexual violence (para 50). The report notes that the Bukavu military tribunal sentenced a member of the child protection unit of the Police nationale congolaise to ten years' imprisonment for raping an eight-year-old girl. The listed armed group APCLS signed Geneva Call's Deed of Commitment on November 21, 2016. **The Security Council should:**

- **Maintain MONUSCO's dedicated child protection capacities and 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 UN-led Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM); to this end, retain distinct budget lines for child protection;**
- **Encourage MONUSCO to continue supporting the Government's full implementation of the Action plan, including in its efforts to prevent the use of girls for sexual exploitation purposes by members of the FARDC, and to implement and train the FARDC in the Standard Operating Procedures on age assessment validated in April 2016 to prevent children from being recruited into FARDC;**
- **Welcome the Government's efforts to bring to justice perpetrators of child recruitment and use and other grave violations against children, urging it to continue to prioritize criminal investigation and prosecution of individuals suspected of committing grave violations, particularly recruitment and use of children, through sufficient allocation of resources and technical support; and encourage MONUSCO to support the Government in combating impunity and bringing perpetrators of child recruitment and use to justice.**

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

MALI

Three armed groups (Ansar Dine, MNLA, and MUJAO) are listed for recruitment and use and sexual violence against children. In December, the SG will report on MINUSMA's progress per SCR 2295 (2016). The latest report (S/2016/819 para 47) declared that effective July 1, the specialized protection functions of the Child Protection Unit and the Office of the Senior Women's Protection Advisor were consolidated within the human rights component of MINUSMA. The report noted the Government's violation of its Protocol d'accord on the Release and Handover of children associated with armed forces or groups, signed on July 1, 2013, when on August 4 the National Directorate for the Promotion of Children and Families handed over four children to a member of Parliament with ties to GATIA, which is known to recruit and use children in their ranks. **Council Members should:**

- **In face of consolidation, retain MINUSMA's dedicated child protection capacities and 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 UN-led Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM); to this end, retain distinct budget lines for child protection;**
- **Urge the Government to direct the relevant authorities to immediately transfer detained children to juvenile facilities and guarantee their release, and properly implement its Protocol on handover, with the help of MINUSMA and other child protection actors;**
- **Urge the Government to accelerate its adoption of a child DDR programme, and to ensure that all programmes and security sector reform account for the specific needs of children affected by armed conflict and the protection of their rights.**

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON MALI.

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

On May 17, the Working Group formally received the SG's report on children and armed conflict in CAR, and began its conclusion negotiations on May 31. The Chair delayed adoption of the final negotiated draft, which was promised by November 4. On May 23, in a meeting organized by the Chair, Watchlist briefed the experts on key findings and recommendations from its field mission to Bangui between April 22 and May 3.

Presidency of the Security Council for December: Spain

- Party to the Geneva Conventions I-IV, Additional Protocols I, II and III, Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol, ILO Convention 182, and the Rome Statute of the ICC; Has endorsed the Paris Principles and the Paris Commitments, the Safe Schools Declaration and through it, the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict.

NGO resources

- Save the Children, Banned Cluster Bombs Killing and Maiming Children in Aleppo, October 2016 
- Amnesty International, USA Must Come Clean about Civilian Deaths Caused by Coalition Air Strikes in Syria, October 2016 
- Oxfam, Central African Republic: Unprotected Zones, The Suffering of the Civilian Population in Haute-Kotto, October 2016 
- Sudan Consortium National & Human Rights Monitors Organisation, Impact of the Conflict in Sudan's Southern Kordofan on Children, October 2016 
- Human Rights Watch, Central African Republic: Deadly Raid on Displaced People, November 2016 
- Save the Children, Over a Million Children Living Under ISIS in Iraq Have Missed out on Education, November 2016 
- Child Soldiers International, "If I Could Go to School..." Education as a Tool to Prevent the Recruitment of Girls and Assist with Their Recovery and Reintegration in the Democratic Republic of Congo, November 2016 

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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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