

Recommendations to the Security Council

AFGHANISTAN

The Afghan National Police (ANP), including the Afghan Local Police (ALP), and four armed groups (Haqqani Network, Hezb-i-Islami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, ISIL-Khorasan Province, and Taliban forces) are listed for recruitment and use of children. All four 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 Secretary-General (SG) will report on UNAMA's progress pursuant to SCR 2344 (2017). According to the latest progress report (A/72/392-S/2017/783 para. 28), in the first half of 2017, UNAMA documented 32 conflict-related incidents targeting health services or health care workers resulting in 58 civilian casualties. On November 24, the Special Representative to the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict welcomed the transfer of 50 children detained on national security related charges from the maximum-security adult Detention Facility in Parwan to the Juvenile Rehabilitation Center of Kabul province. **The Security Council should:**

- Urge all parties to **immediately cease attacks on medical facilities and personnel and occupation of medical facilities;**
- Urge the Government to **take concrete measures to end impunity for violations of international law regarding the protection of medical care in armed conflict**, including investigating attacks that may constitute such violations and **prosecuting and condemning those responsible in a timely and impartial manner;**
- Welcome the transfer of children from the high-security detention facility in Parwan to an appropriate juvenile rehabilitation center, and urge the Government to **fully and without delay implement the National Directorate for Security directive issued on July 2, 2016, instructing that children no longer be held in its detention facilities** and the cessation of transfers of children to its maximum security prison; children should never be criminalized and prosecuted solely for their alleged association with armed forces or groups, and should be considered **primarily as victims** and alternatives to detention should be given preference whenever possible; as a priority, the Afghan Government should facilitate their recovery and reintegration, and hold those who recruit and use them to account;
- Urge the Government to **implement the *Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict* through implementation of the Safe Schools Declaration** it endorsed to address continued military use and attacks on schools.

JAPAN IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON AFGHANISTAN, AND KAZAKHSTAN CHAIRS THE 1267 ISIL AND AL-QAIDA SANCTIONS COMMITTEE AND THE 1988 TALIBAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

MALI

Three armed groups (Ansar Eddine, Mouvement national de liberation de l'Azawad (CMA), and Mouvement pour l'unification et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest) are listed for recruitment and use and sexual violence against children. In March, CMA signed an action plan with the UN to end and prevent the recruitment and use and sexual violence against children. In December, the SG will report on the implementation of MINUSMA, pursuant to SCR 2364 (2017). In his last report (S/2017/811 para. 45), the SG mentioned that as of September 11, the Malian State authorities were holding 5 boys on terrorism-related charges in detention, among 239 individuals held in State institutions. The SG noted (para. 35) that to address the increasingly volatile and complex security environment, in August, the Government initiated the development of a national action plan on preventing and fighting violent extremism and terrorism, with specific child protection provisions. **Council Members should:**

- Request the SG to continue to include children and armed conflict as a specific aspect of all his progress reports on MINUSMA, and **specifically highlight key children and armed conflict concerns to guide Council Members' actions** on Mali with respect to child protection;
- **Urge the CMA to fully and swiftly implement its action plan with the UN** to end recruitment and use and sexual violence, with engagement from the Country Task Force for Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR), and furthermore, **allow the UN to monitor its progress** on implementation;
- Urge the authorities to fulfill their obligations under international law by ensuring full respect for the rights of children who are detained on terrorism-related charges;

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

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[Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

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[Mali](#)

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MALI cont'd

- 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.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON MALI.

SOMALIA

Somali National Army (SNA) and Al-Shabaab are both listed for the recruitment and use and killing and maiming of children. Al-Shabaab is additionally listed for abduction of children. Ahlus Sunnah wal Jamaah (ASWJ) is also listed for recruitment and use. In 2012, the Federal Government signed two action plans with the UN, one to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by the SNA, and one to end killing and maiming. In December, Council Members will receive a report from the SG on UNSOM's progress, pursuant to SCR 2358 (2017). In his latest report (S/2017/751 para. 54) from September 2017, the SG mentioned the case of 40 children captured in Puntland who are in a rehabilitation center, but whose sentences have not been rescinded. The SG noted (para. 55) the CTFMR verified 245 incidents of grave violations affecting 485 children, the majority of which related to forced recruitment and use by Al-Shabaab. Finally, the SG reported that in June, over ninety violent incidents affected humanitarian personnel, facilities and assets, with four humanitarian workers killed, nine injured, six arrested or placed in temporary detention, and thirteen abducted (para. 78). **Council Members should:**

- Call upon the Government to **swiftly and fully implement its two action plans signed in 2012**, including the criminalization of the recruitment and use of children; issuance of command orders prohibiting and sanctioning the recruitment and use of children and other violations and abuses against children; establishment of age assessment mechanisms in its recruitment process; and continued screening of troops;
- Urge authorities to **revoke the prison sentences of the 40 children captured in Puntland, in compliance with international law**, and call upon the Government to allow access for verification of their conditions while at the rehabilitation center in Garoowe;
- Echoing the SG's calls (S/2017/751 para. 71), **encourage the Government to prioritize measures to protect children from recruitment in the operationalization of their national strategy and action plan for preventing and countering violent extremism**, endorsed in the London Conference in May 2017, which give attention to reintegration and rehabilitation;
- **Urge all parties to facilitate rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access to all civilians in need, including children, especially in Diinsoor, Wajid and Xuddur in the Gedo and Bakool regions**, in compliance with international humanitarian law.

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

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

NIGERIA

The SG's first report on children and armed conflict in Nigeria was formally presented to the Working Group on August 3, and the Working Group finalized its conclusion negotiations on November 15, having begun on September 14 (document is forthcoming). For targeted recommendations, see [Watchlist's September 2017 CAC Monthly Update](#).

Presidency of the Security Council for December: Japan

- 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 Safe Schools Declaration or the Vancouver Principles.

NGO resources

- ➔ Medecins Sans Frontieres, Serbia: Games of Violence, Unaccompanied Children and Young People Repeatedly Abused by EU Member State Border Authorities, October 2017
- ➔ Human Rights Watch, "All of My Body Was Pain" Sexual Violence against Rohingya Women and Girls in Burma, November 2017
- ➔ Save the Children, Horrors I Will Never Forget: The Stories of Rohingya Children, November 2017
- ➔ Theirworld, Despite the Safe Spaces, Danger Lurks In Refugee Camps For Vulnerable Rohingya Children, November 2017
- ➔ Terre des Hommes, How the Colombian Peace Deal Has Yet to Benefit the Children of Buenaventura, November 2017
- ➔ Theirworld, Shocking Stats that Reveal the Full Horror of Life for Children in War-Torn Yemen, November 2017
- ➔ IRIN, Afghan Healthcare Under Siege as Escalating Conflict Cuts Off Access, October 2017
- ➔ Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, "Every Clinic is Now on the Frontline," The Impact on Children of Attacks on Health Care in Afghanistan, March 2017

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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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