

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. 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. On March 17, UNAMA's mandate will end pursuant to SCR 2344 (2017). According to the Secretary-General's (SG) progress report on UNAMA (A/72/651-S/2017/1056 para. 34) covering the last quarter of 2017, the UN continued to monitor 50 children who were detained on national security-related charges in Parwan maximum security facility and subsequently transferred to the Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre in Kabul thanks to UNAMA's advocacy. In early anticipation of the UNAMA mandate renewal, **the Council Members should:**

- **Renew UNAMA's child protection mandate**, and to ensure its implementation, **request the SG to strengthen dedicated, robust child protection capacity within UNAMA given the cut to the P5 position resulting from the recent strategic review process**, and continue to include disaggregated data and analysis on children and armed conflict in Afghanistan in all his future reports; **UN budget negotiations for UNAMA should comply with the Council's mandate for ensuring distinct lines for child protection to deliver on the Council's mandate;**
- 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;
- **Urge the Government to ensure due process for all children detained on national security charges, regardless of the arresting authority, with an emphasis on alternatives to prosecution;** children associated with non-state armed groups should be treated primarily as victims and in accordance with international juvenile justice standards. Urge the Government to transfer all children from prisons to Juvenile Rehabilitation Centers in accordance with national and international juvenile justice standards;
- Support the SG in his observation (A/72/651-S/2017/1056 para. 62) that it is unacceptable that armed forces and groups continue to use education facilities, and **remind the Government of its commitments under Safe Schools Declaration.**

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

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

The ex-Séléka coalition and associated armed groups, anti-Balaka local defence militias, and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) are listed for recruitment and use, killing and maiming, and rape and other forms of sexual violence. The ex-Séléka are listed for attacks on schools and/or hospitals, and the LRA is listed for abduction. According to the SG's last report (S/2017/865, para. 37), 865 children were identified after the Country Task Force for Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) initiated dialogue on release of children with self-defense groups in Bangui's PK5 district. The SG reported 74 children, including 48 girls, were formally released from the FPRC/MPC coalition in accordance with FPRC's May 2017 directive prohibiting recruitment and use of children. In February, the SG will present his MINUSCA progress report pursuant SCR 2387 (2017). In January, Médecins Sans Frontières reported on several attacks on medical facilities in Batangafo and Zemio during renewed violence. **Council Members should:**

- **Continue to maintain capacity of MINUSCA's child protection section** to advance and consolidate commitments made by armed groups towards action plans to end and prevent grave violations against children and facilitate the release of all associated children;
- Urge all parties to **immediately cease attacks on health facilities, personnel, and patients**, calling for respect of medical care in conflict under international law, and urge the Government to **investigate such attacks and prosecute perpetrators** in a timely and impartial manner;
- Urge the Government to **finalize the draft Child Protection Code and ensure it prohibits and criminalizes the recruitment and use** of all those under 18;

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

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[Colombia](#)
[Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)
[Iraq](#)
[Mali](#)
[Myanmar \(Burma\)](#)
[Nigeria](#)
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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR) cont'd

- Encourage donors to contribute to reintegration programs for children released from armed groups, to prevent re-recruitment of children who are yet to enter these programs.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON CAR. CÔTE D'IVOIRE CHAIRS THE 2127 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

SOUTH SUDAN/SUDAN (ABYEI)

In November 2017, the Council adopted SCR 2386 (2017) extending UNISFA's mandate until May 2018. In February, the SG will present his progress report. Although SCR 2352 (2017) called for UNISFA to deploy a Child Protection Adviser (CPA), the UN instead recruited a Woman and Child Protection Adviser, as noted in the SG's latest report (S/2017/870, para. 27). The SG noted continued concern regarding weak local protection mechanisms in Abyei and the resultant risks for women and children to violence, exploitation, and abuse. The report did not disaggregate any data on child violations. **Council Members should:**

- **Noting that distinct expertise is needed on both gender and child protection within the mission,** call upon UNISFA to ensure the necessary resources and capacities exist for the new Women and Child Protection Adviser in order to deliver on the mandate with respect to monitoring, reporting, and responding to child rights violations;
- Request the SG to **include children and armed conflict as a specific aspect of all his progress reports on UNISFA,** disaggregating data on the six grave violations against children, and specifically signaling priority concerns regarding children and armed conflict to guide Council Members' actions on Abyei.

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

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 recruitment and use and killing and maiming. In December 2017, the Security Council extended the UNMISS mandate until March 2018 in SCR 2392 (2017), and is expected to start discussions on renewal before then. In his last report (S/2017/1011, para. 47), covering September to November 2017, the SG reported on 16 schools being used militarily, and attacks on four health facilities by armed groups. **The Council should:**

- **In renewing its mandate in March, ensure UNMISS has a dedicated, standalone Child Protection Section and sufficient CPAs,** and ensure they 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 Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM). **The mission must retain distinct budget lines for child protection and Council Members should ensure UNMISS' budget will sufficiently enable it to deliver on its mandate during budget negotiations;**
- Urge all parties to **immediately cease attacks on medical facilities and personnel, and occupation of medical facilities,** as well as **allow international and national humanitarian agencies unhindered and safe access to provide assistance to civilians,** particularly children, affected by the conflict;
- Urge the Government to **take immediate measures towards preventing military use of schools** by honoring its commitments made through the [Safe Schools Declaration](#);
- Urge all parties to release all children and the Government to take immediate measures to facilitate their reintegration and recovery.

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

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

MYANMAR

The SG's fourth report on children and armed conflict in Myanmar was formally presented to the Working Group on January 22. It will begin conclusion negotiations in February. For targeted recommendations, see [Watchlist's January 2018 CAC Monthly Update](#).

Presidency of the Security Council for February: Kuwait

- 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. Has endorsed the Paris Principles and the Paris Commitments, but has not endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration or the Vancouver Principles.

NGO resources

- Human Rights Watch, Somalia: Al-Shabab Demanding Children, Residents Threatened to Hand Over Boys, Girls, January 2018
- Human Rights Watch, Syria: Children Under Attack in Damascus Enclave, UN Security Council Should Act on Eastern Ghouta Situation, January 2018
- OXFAM International, The Future of Central African Republic is Still at Risk, January 2018
- Their World, Children are 'Disposable' Victims of Illegal Attacks on Syrian Schools, January 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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