

Recommendations to the Security Council

IRAQ

Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) are listed for recruitment and use of children. ISIL is also listed for killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, abductions, and attacks on schools and/or hospitals. In January, the Secretary-General (SG) will report on UNAMI's progress pursuant to SCR 2367 (2017). In December, the SG's Special Representatives for Sexual Violence in Conflict and Children and Armed Conflict (CAC) delivered a [joint statement](#) regarding proposed amendments to the Iraqi Personal Status Law that do not explicitly set the minimum age of marriage to 18, in violation of commitments under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The amendments bear significant impact on preventing and punishing conflict-related sexual violence against children. **Council Members should:**

- **Ensure that UNAMI and UNICEF have the necessary financial and human resources to ensure effective monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children in Iraq, given their child protection mandates;**
- Urge the Government to take **concrete actions to ensure accountability and end impunity, including through prompt investigation and prosecution of parties responsible for committing sexual violence crimes against women and children, as well as other grave violations**, and furthermore, to **enhance their protection from sexual violence;**
- **Express concern regarding amendments proposed to the Personal Status Law**, which may have detrimental effects on the rights of girls and the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence against children;
- Call upon the host Government and other security actors to **ensure the protection of women and children displaced from formerly ISIL-held territories and those deprived of liberty for suspected affiliation with ISIL**. Children formerly associated with armed groups, including ISIL, should be treated as victims first, and their reintegration should be prioritized. To this end, invite donors to sufficiently fund mental health and psychosocial recovery programs to support their rehabilitation and reintegration.

THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON IRAQ.

SYRIA

Seven parties are listed for grave violations against children, including Government forces and pro-Government militias. In January, the Council will receive a briefing on SCR 2393 (2017), adopted on December 19, that reiterates all previous humanitarian resolutions. In his last report (S/2017/982, para. 13) from November, the SG stated that children are particularly affected by the fighting and, in some incidents, have constituted the majority of casualties. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, in his [statement](#) to the Council in November, expressed concern that one third of Syria's schools are damaged or destroyed and more than half of its health facilities are not operational. **Council Members should:**

- Demand **immediate and complete implementation of relevant resolutions**, and that all parties and their influencers take effective measures to end and prevent all grave violations against children;
- **Urge all parties and their influencers to immediately end attacks on schools and hospitals, and call for schools and hospitals to be publically declared no-go objects/targets by parties to conflict, for purposes of threats, attacks, or military use;**
- **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 need of lifesaving care, and end deliberate water cuts used as a weapon of war;
- **Urge all parties to conflict to release children from their ranks, applying to both Government armed forces and non-State armed groups, and to guarantee treatment in line with international norms and standards for children associated with opposing parties and captured during military operations**. These children should be promptly released to civilian child protection actors instead of subjected to detention, already having been victim to the crime of child recruitment.

KUWAIT AND SWEDEN ARE LEADING ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES ON SYRIA.

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

[Afghanistan](#)
[Central African Republic](#)
[Colombia](#)
[Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)
[Iraq](#)
[Mali](#)
[Myanmar \(Burma\)](#)
[Nigeria](#)
[Philippines](#)
[Somalia](#)
[South Sudan](#)
[Sudan](#)
[Syrian Arab Republic](#)
[Yemen](#)

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YEMEN

In Yemen, five parties are listed for grave violations against children. The Saudi Arabia-led coalition forces were listed for killing and maiming and attacks on schools and hospitals in the SG's 2017 CAC annual report. Escalating conflict has stalled implementation of the Government's 2014 Action Plan to end and prevent recruitment and use. In January, the SG will give his periodic report to the Council on implementation of SCR 2201 (2015) and developments in Yemen. On November 16, the heads of UN agencies (WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, OCHA) issued a [joint statement](#) calling for an immediate lift of the humanitarian blockade in Yemen, reminding parties that more than 11 million children are in need of humanitarian assistance. Jamie McGoldrick, Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, issued a [statement](#) mentioning further concerns about reported attacks on hospitals, especially in the western coast and around the city of Sana'a. **The Security Council should:**

- Call upon the Saudi Arabia-led coalition to **immediately lift the blockade and allow unimpeded humanitarian access and commercial imports to all regions, particularly fuel, food, and medical supplies**, in order to allow the assistance to populations in need, at the brink of famine, **especially to children who are currently affected by armed conflict, and to reopen the Sana'a airport to commercial flights, especially to allow medical evacuations;**
- Urge for **immediate implementation of a Plan of Action to end and prevent grave violations, being discussed by the UN and Saudi Arabia on behalf of the coalition following their listing**, and to this end, urge the SG to **transparently outline concrete measures the coalition is taking with the aim to protect children;**
- **Immediately adopt a resolution condemning violations of international humanitarian and human rights law perpetrated by all parties, highlighting the principles of precaution, distinction, and proportionality in conducting attacks;**
- Echoing the request made through the Human Rights Council in [General Assembly Resolution A/HRC/RES/36/31](#), **call upon the SG and the High Commissioner on Human Rights to guarantee full administrative, technical, and logistical support to enable the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts to carry out their mandate to investigate and monitor human rights violations and abuses, including grave violations against children.**

THE UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON YEMEN. PERU CHAIRS THE 2140 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

MYANMAR

In January, the Working Group expects to receive the SG's fourth report on the situation of children and armed conflict in [Myanmar](#). Eight parties are listed for the recruitment and use of children, including Government forces. In its conclusions, the **Working Group should:**

- **Condemn in the strongest terms the grave violations of children's rights committed in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states**, urging all parties to conflict in Myanmar to respect their obligations under international law and put in place measures to immediately cease and prevent all future violations;
- Call upon all parties to conflict to **grant the UN full access to relevant areas for the purposes of monitoring and reporting on and dialogue with all relevant parties to end and prevent grave violations against children**, access for humanitarian organizations to deliver lifesaving aid to children and all civilians in dire need, and access for the special envoy on Myanmar once appointed and the independent fact finding mission;
- Urge the Government to **fully comply with its action plan with the UN** to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children in its national army, and furthermore, to **grant access to the UN's Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting to armed groups listed in the SG's report** in order to develop and sign action plans of their own; to this end, further encourage all listed groups to **consider entering into dialogue with the UN;**
- Strongly encourage all parties to **consider children and armed conflict in all relevant peace negotiations**, building on the first rounds held in 2016 and 2017.

Presidency of the Security Council for January: Kazakhstan

- Party to Geneva Convention I-IV, Additional Protocols I and II, Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol, and ILO Convention 182; not a party to the Rome Statute of the ICC. Endorsed the Paris Principles, the Paris Commitments, and the Safe Schools Declaration; has not endorsed the Vancouver Principles.

NGO resources

- 🔗 Geneva Call, Armed Non-State Actors Speak About Child Protection in Armed Conflict, Meeting Report, 22-24, November 2016
- 🔗 Geneva Call, In Their Words: Armed Non-State Actors Share Their Policies and Practice with Regards to Education in Armed Conflict, November 2017
- 🔗 Save the Children, Horrors I Will Never Forget: The Stories of Rohingya Children, November 2017
- 🔗 CARE International, Men and Boys in Displacement: Assistance and Protection Challenges for Unaccompanied Boys and Men in Refugee Contexts, December 2017
- 🔗 CARE International, Left Behind: How the World is Failing Women and Girls on Refugee Family Reunion, December 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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Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict
122 East 42nd Street
Suite 1620
New York, NY 10168-1289
Telephone: 212.972.0695
Fax: 212.972.0701
Email: watchlist@watchlist.org
Website: www.watchlist.org