

Recommendations to the Security Council

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 all listed for recruitment and use, killing and maiming, and rape and other forms of sexual violence. The ex-Séléka are also listed for attacks on schools and/or hospitals, and the LRA is listed for abduction. The Panel of Experts' midterm report is due to the Council in July, pursuant to SCR 2399 (2018). The Panel's last report from December 2017 ([S/2017/1023](#)) noted ongoing use of children by armed groups, including ex-Séléka armed groups that released 134 children last September, and military use of schools. In June, the *Mouvement Patriotique pour la Centrafrique* (MPC) became the first party in CAR currently listed in the annexes of the Secretary-General's (SG) annual report to sign an action plan with the UN. In light of the recent deterioration of the humanitarian situation, Humanitarian Coordinator Najat Rochdi issued a statement condemning attacks on hospitals and threats against medical workers and patients by unnamed armed groups in Bambari. **The Security Council should:**

- **Urge the MPC to implement its action plan without delay**, with engagement of the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR), and allow it to monitor progress;
- Encourage the Panel of Experts to continue to **support the Sanctions Committee's work by providing specific information on individuals and entities committing grave violations against children** pursuant to its designation criteria, which include recruitment and use of children, sexual and gender-based violence, attacks on schools and hospitals, and obstruction of delivery or access to humanitarian assistance, and include such information in its reporting to the Council;
- **Immediately review and approve designations for individuals and entities involved in planning, directing, or committing violations** of applicable international human rights law (IHRL) or international humanitarian law (IHL), in accordance with criteria set out in SCR 2399 (2018), and **enforce travel bans and other restrictions on those previously sanctioned** without delay;
- Invite the **Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC)** to jointly brief the Sanctions Committee and the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict (SCWG-CAAC), as done in December 2015.

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

COLOMBIA

The *Ejército de Liberación Nacional* (ELN) is listed in the SG's annual report on children and armed conflict for recruitment and use. In July the Council will receive the SG's latest progress report on the UN Verification Mission in Colombia, pursuant to SCR 2366 (2017). The SG's previous report ([S/2018/279](#), paras. 68-69) described challenges in the reintegration of children formally released from FARC-EP ranks, as well as a lack of specialized attention and adequate facilities for children of former FARC-EP members living in the territorial areas. The report also highlighted early warnings from the Office of the Ombudsperson, signaling risks of child recruitment and sexual violence in several regions. **Council Members should:**

- Request an update from the SG on implementation of the Government-led reintegration program for children formerly associated with the FARC-EP, with particular focus on the **integration of gender and ethnic/cultural perspectives**, as well as on **steps taken to address the specialized needs of children currently in the demobilization process who will turn 18** by the end of the year and transition to the adult program, as well as children demobilized outside of formal processes;
- Welcoming resumed dialogue between the Government and the ELN, **urge all parties to prioritize the protection of children** in the early stages of the peace process and to address the protection of children as a confidence-building measure; and to that end, **urge the ELN to immediately release all persons under 18** from its ranks and end all child recruitment and use and abductions;
- Remind all parties that **children should be considered primarily as victims**, entitled to the full protection of their rights, including effective rehabilitation and reintegration into their communities and restorative justice processes, in accordance with their best interest;
- Invite the Government to keep the SCWG-CAAC informed of its efforts to **implement the recommendations of the Working Group and the SG**, as appropriate.

THE UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON COLOMBIA.

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

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SOUTH SUDAN

The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), SPLA in Opposition (SPLA-IO) (both pro-Machar and pro-Taban Deng factions), and White Army are listed for grave child rights violations. In 2014, the Government re-committed to its 2012 action plan, and the SPLA-IO signed an action plan in December 2015. In July, the Council will review the Panel of Experts mandate pursuant to SCR 2418 (2018), which indicates the Council would consider sanctioning individuals identified in Annex 1 after receiving the SG's report updating on the fighting and progress towards a political agreement, expected by June 30, 2018. One individual is included in the Annex for grave violations against children. On June 27, President Salva Kiir and former Vice President Riek Machar agreed to a permanent ceasefire to take effect within 72 hours (Khartoum Declaration). The Panel of Experts' April 2018 report (*S/2018/292*) indicates that one in two children are directly affected by the conflict, noting that the Government and opposition groups continued to obstruct humanitarian access.

The Council should:

- In light of the mandate renewal, **encourage collaboration between the Panel of Experts and the SRSG-CAAC** on grave violations against children in South Sudan;
- In light of the Khartoum Declaration, **urge the parties to conflict to release all children in their ranks to child protection actors and take immediate measures to facilitate their reintegration and rehabilitation;**
- **If the impending ceasefire does not hold, immediately review and approve designations for individuals and entities involved in planning, directing, or committing violations** of applicable IHRL or IHL, in accordance with criteria set out in SCR 2206 (2015), including those identified in Annex 1 of SCR 2418 (2018);
- Echoing the SG (*S/2018/163*, para. 69), **urge all parties to allow rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access to all civilians in need, in compliance with IHL.**

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

SYRIA

Seven parties are listed for grave violations, including Government forces and pro-Government militias. In July, the Council will receive regular briefings on the implementation of resolutions 2118 (2013), 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018). In his May report (*S/2018/484*, paras. 18, 19), the SG expressed concern over the number of child victims of explosive hazards and the impact of air and ground-based strikes on children, noting 2017 was the deadliest year for children since the conflict began. He further expressed concern regarding ongoing attacks on schools and hospitals and denial of humanitarian access. UN officials, including Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria Panos Moutziz and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs/Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock, have expressed concern over the deteriorating situation in Idlib, where dozens of children were killed in a recent airstrike. **The Council should:**

- **Call on parties to facilitate rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access to all civilians in need, in compliance with IHL, and urge the Government to authorize immediate access of humanitarian convoys to besieged and hard-to-reach areas;** and to this end, immediately lift all sieges on populated areas, allow for prompt medical evacuation of civilians in need of lifesaving assistance, and end deliberate water cuts;
- **Urge all parties to immediately end threats of and attacks on schools and hospitals, including against protected persons, and take steps to avoid their military use;**
- **Call for the acceleration of humanitarian mine action programming,** prioritizing areas where civilians are returning, including Raqqa, to reverse the growing number of child victims;
- Echoing the SG, **call for a full and independent investigation into the June 7 attack on Zardana village in northern Idlib.**

KUWAIT AND SWEDEN ARE LEADING ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES IN SYRIA.

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

In June, the Working Group received the SG's sixth report on the situation of children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Conclusion negotiations are expected following the July 9 Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict.

Presidency of the Security Council for July: Sweden

- 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, "War of Annihilation" Devastating Toll on Civilians, Raqqa – Syria, June 2018
- 🔗 Amnesty International, Yemen: Restrictions to Life-Saving Supplies Putting Millions of Civilians at Risk, June 2018
- 🔗 Center for Civilians in Conflict, CIVIC Statement: Parties to the Conflict in Yemen Should Take Immediate Steps to Prevent Harm to Civilians, June 2018
- 🔗 Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, July 2018 Open Debate Special Bulletin, June 2018

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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