

## Recommendations to the Security Council

### AFGHANISTAN

The Afghan National Police (ANP), including the Afghan Local Police (ALP), and three armed groups (Haqqani Network, Hezb-i-Islami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, and 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 March, the Council will renew UNAMA's mandate and receive the next progress report by the Secretary-General (SG) pursuant to SCR 2274 (2016). UNAMA's [2016 Annual Report on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict in Afghanistan](#) documents the highest ever number of civilian casualties in a single year since 2009 when UNAMA began systematic documentation of civilian casualties, specifically reporting 923 child deaths and injury of 2,589 others. Children comprise 31 percent of all-conflict related civilian casualties in Afghanistan in 2016, according to UNAMA's findings. **The Security Council should:**

- **Ensure the continuation of and support for the implementation of UNAMA's child protection mandate; and to that end, request the SG to maintain dedicated child protection capacity within UNAMA, and to continue to include information and analysis on children and armed conflict in Afghanistan in all his future reports;**
- **Urge all parties to end indiscriminate attacks and use of weapons as prohibited under IHL, and to urgently prioritize marking and clearing of explosive remnants of war which contribute to the increase in child casualties;**
- **Reiterate strong condemnation of attacks on education and health care facilities, including the burning and forced closure of schools and health care facilities, and the intimidation, abduction, and killing of education and medical personnel, particularly those attacks targeting girls' education or vaccination campaigns by armed groups, including the Taliban; and specifically to this end, call upon the Government to report to the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, on measures taken to implement SCR 2286 (2016) related to protecting health care in conflict;**
- **Urge the Government to transfer all children from prisons to Juvenile Rehabilitation Centers in accordance with the national and international juvenile justice standards.**

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

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE 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 of children and sexual violence by the FARDC. In March, the Council will receive the SG's progress report on MONUSCO and renew its mandate per SCR 2277 (2016). On February 11, 2017, the Head of MONUSCO strongly [condemned](#) the Kamuina Nsapu militia's recruitment and use of children in the Kasais. The latest report (S/2016/1130, para 51) noted that in total, 49 boys were separated or escaped from armed groups, while 10 boys were documented as having been newly recruited by armed groups. The report further noted that a total of 20 boys formerly associated with armed groups were released from FARDC custody and handed over to MONUSCO, while 6 remained in detention at the time of writing. After the development of an implementation plan and following the amendment of its code of conduct in January 2016 to increase the minimum age of combatants to 18 years old, the listed group APCLS signed in November 2016 the Geneva Call's *Deed of Commitment* protecting children in armed conflict, which resulted in the release of more than 40 children from the group. **The Security Council should:**

- **Maintain MONUSCO's capacity to document and verify grave violations against children through allocation of sufficient budgetary resources and staff to the Child Protection Unit; and specifically ensure that child protection expertise is maintained, that Child Protection Advisors (CPAs) maintain direct access to senior mission leadership, and that their role as protection actors remains clearly distinct from that of the human rights monitors; ►**

### 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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## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC) cont'd

- Encourage MONUSCO to **continue supporting the Government's full implementation of the action plan to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children as soldiers and sexual violence against children;**
- Urge MONUSCO to **engage in dialogue with armed groups for the release of children, and to end the recruitment and use of boys and girls; to this end, urge the Government to allow unimpeded access to armed groups;**
- Urge the Government to **ensure that children encountered during military operations are treated in accordance with IHRL and IHL, and transferred without delay to child protection actors; children associated with armed groups should be primarily treated as victims and should not be arrested, detained, or interrogated on the sole basis of their alleged association with armed groups.**

**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. On March 29, the SG's progress report on MINUSMA is due pursuant to SCR 2295 (2016), including on the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation's implementation. The last progress report on MINUSMA by the SG (SG/2016/1137) fails to include a paragraph specifically dedicated to the grave violations against children. The Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Commission ordered a study on women and children, which took place in December 2016, and was validated on January 31, 2017. The study will serve as basis for child DDR discussions. Armed groups continue to recruit and use children, but security constraints in regions such as GAO have made it difficult for the UN to verify violations. **The Security Council should:**

- **Request the Secretary-General 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;**
- **Maintain MINUSMA's child protection expertise to effectively carry out MINUSMA's child protection mandate, particularly with respect to the support for the child DDR process and dialogue with armed groups to end and prevent grave violations against children;**
- **Call upon the Government to ensure that DDR programmes and security sector reform account for the specific needs of children affected by armed conflict and the protection of their rights, and specifically to this end, to move forward the discussions on child DDR from the study that the DDR Commission validated in January 2017, involving the UN and relevant child protection actors.**

**FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON MALI.**

## Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

### COLOMBIA

On January 9, the SG's report on children and armed conflict in Colombia was formally presented to the Working Group. Negotiations of its conclusions began on January 16, and were promptly adopted on February 14 (document forthcoming).

### SOMALIA

The Working Group formally received the SG's report on children and armed conflict in Somalia on February 14 and began negotiating its conclusions. For targeted recommendations, see Watchlist's February 2017 CAC Monthly Update.

## Presidency of the Security Council for March: United Kingdom

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

## NGO resources

- Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 2017 Annual Report: Putting Children's Rights Up Front, March 2017
- Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative, Child Soldiers: A Handbook for Security Sector Actors, Third Edition, February 2017
- Geneva Call, DRC Congo: Child Soldiers Leave Armed Groups Following Geneva Call's Awareness-Raising Efforts, February 2017
- Global Coalition to Protect Education From Attack, France and Canada: 58th and 59th Countries to Endorse Safe Schools Declaration, February 2017
- Terre des Hommes, German Arms Exports and Child Soldiers, Small Arms in the Hands of Children, February 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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