

Recommendations to the Security Council

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

Thirteen parties are listed, including the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC). The FARDC were delisted from the annexes of the Secretary-General's (SG) 2017 annual report on children and armed conflict (CAC) (A/72/361-S/2017/821) for recruitment and use, but remain listed for rape and other forms of sexual violence, pending full implementation of the Government's action plan. In March, the Council will receive the SG's progress report on MONUSCO and is expected to renew its mandate ending on March 31 pursuant to SCR 2348 (2017). In his latest report (S/2018/16 paras. 34-36), covering the last quarter of 2017, the SG reported 66 cases of conflict-related sexual violence against children, with FARDC as one of the main perpetrators. Disconcertingly, the SG also reported that State agents were responsible for more than half of the 40 children killed and 57 maimed in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, Kasai Central, and Kasai. **The Council should:**

- **In renewal of its mandate, maintain MONUSCO's specialized, standalone capacity to document, verify, and report grave violations against children by allocating sufficient budgetary resources and staff to the Child Protection Unit;** to this end, specifically ensure that Child Protection Advisers (CPAs) 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 UN-led Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM); **the Mission should retain distinct budget lines for child protection;**
- Urge the Government to **sustain the gains of the action plan on recruitment and use and to fully and without delay implement its action plan to end and prevent sexual violence against children by members of the FARDC**, and encourage MONUSCO to continue supporting the Government in these efforts;
- Given that 94 percent of the grave violations were committed by armed groups in 2017, urge MONUSCO to **continue dialogue with all listed parties to obtain further commitments and work towards the development and implementation of action plans** to prevent and end violations;
- Urge the Government to **immediately stop all violations and abuses of children's rights by State security forces**, and to bring all perpetrators to justice regardless of their affiliation or rank, in echo of the SG's calls.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO. KUWAIT CHAIRS THE 1533 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

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, one to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by the SNA, and one to end killing and maiming. In March, the SG will report to the Council on UNSOM's progress and the Council is expected to renew its mandate pursuant to SCR 2358 (2017). In his last report (S/2017/1109, paras. 61-63), covering September to December 2017, the SG reported a sharp increase in the recruitment of children, 70 percent attributable to Al-Shabaab. Human Rights Watch [reported](#) that Somali authorities have detained hundreds of boys for their alleged association with Al-Shabaab since 2015. **The Security Council should:**

- **Maintain child protection as one of UNSOM's key priorities in the mandate renewal, ensuring dedicated and sufficient resources exist to carry out this mandate; ensure CPAs are able to follow up with the Government on implementation of its two action plans among other core tasks;**
- **Call upon the President of Puntland to grant presidential pardon to children who remain in a UNICEF-supported reintegration center in Garowe, Puntland;**
- Call upon the Government to **comply with its standard operating procedures for the reception and handover of children separated from armed groups**, ensuring that captured children are handed over to relevant child protection actors within 72 hours, and whose rehabilitation and reintegration should be prioritized; furthermore, allow relevant civilian actors full access to detention facilities where children are held.

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

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

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[Mali](#)
[Myanmar \(Burma\)](#)
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SUDAN

In Sudan, six parties are listed, including Government security forces. In March 2016, the Government signed an action plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by government forces. The listed armed groups JEM, SLA/MM, and SPLM-N have also signed action plans with the UN towards ending and preventing grave violations. In March, the Panel of Experts' (PoE) mandate will expire pursuant to SCR 2340 (2017). In its final report in December 2017 (S/2017/1125, para. 126 and Annex. XX), the PoE reported on the recruitment of children by rebel groups in Darfur. UNAMID's child protection capacity was reduced by 55 percent as of January 2018, negatively affecting the UN's capacity to monitor and report on grave violations in Darfur, as well as engage with parties to conflict. **Council Members should:**

- Remind the Council that per UNAMID's mandate, the mission is requested to continue monitoring and reporting on the situation of children in Darfur through the deployment of child protection capacity to support the implementation of action plans (SCR 2363, para. 28);
- **Seek clarifications on how UNAMID will deliver on its Security Council mandate given the 55 percent reduction in child protection capacity, in particular in field offices, including on who will dialogue with parties to conflict regarding development and implementation of action plans if there are no CPAs; to enable the MRM to operate given political sensitivities, ensure that there are international staff operating in all states, and that national staff are protected;**
- Call on all parties to **allow the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance and access for monitoring and verification of action plans**, particularly in Jebel Marra, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile states.

THE UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON DARFUR. POLAND CHAIRS THE 1591 SUDAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

YEMEN

In Yemen, five parties are listed. 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 of children by the Yemeni Armed Forces. This March marks the third anniversary of the conflict. The Council will receive its regular updates on the developments in Yemen from the SG. In its final report transmitted to the Council in January, the PoE on Yemen reported its investigation of 10 air strikes by the Saudi Arabia-led coalition that led to at least 157 fatalities and 135 injuries, including at least 85 children (S/2018/68, para. 160). **Council Members should:**

- Call upon the Saudi Arabia-led coalition to **immediately and fully lift the blockade; allow unimpeded humanitarian access and commercial imports to all regions, particularly fuel, food, and medical supplies; and reopen the Sana'a airport to commercial flights, especially to allow medical evacuations;**
- Urge for **immediate signing and implementation of a Plan of Action between the UN and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on behalf of the coalition, to end and prevent grave violations for which it is listed**, 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 law perpetrated by all parties, highlighting the principles of precaution, distinction, and proportionality in conducting military operations;**
- 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, including 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

The SG's [fourth report on children and armed conflict in Myanmar](#) was formally presented on January 22. However, conclusion negotiations stalled as the Working Group awaits the SG's follow-up report covering June 2017 through present. See targeted recommendations: [Watchlist's January 2018 CAC Monthly Update](#).

Presidency of the Security Council for March: The Netherlands

- 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

- ➔ Human Rights Watch, "It's Like We're Always in Prison," February 2018
- ➔ Human Rights Watch, South Sudan: Warring Parties Break Promises on Child Soldiers, February 2018
- ➔ Save the Children, The War on Children, February 2018
- ➔ Save the Children, Syrian Children "Terrified and Trapped" as Fighting Escalates, February 2018
- ➔ CARE International, Armed Conflict, Sexual Violence, Torched Homes and Extrajudicial Killings Trigger More Than 14,000 Refugees to Flee DRC in Six Weeks, February 2018
- ➔ Child Soldiers International, Child Soldiers World Index, February 2018
- ➔ Their World, 'Schools and Playgrounds are Battlefields': One In Six Children Living In Conflict Zones, February 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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