

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. In SCR 2405 (2018) the Council extended UNAMA's mandate until March 2019 and expressed concern over the high levels of recruitment and child casualties, especially by armed groups. In his last report (S/2018/165, para. 23), the Secretary-General (SG) expressed concern over last year's increase in civilian casualties, and especially child casualties, from aerial attacks, making it the deadliest year since 2009. In March, the Norwegian Refugee Council reported that an attack on a school in Kabul injured at least 11 students and a later air attack in the northern province of Kunduz allegedly killed hundreds of civilians, mostly children. **Council Members should:**

- **Demand that all parties take effective measures to prevent and end all grave violations against children in conflict**, including those resulting from aerial bombardments, and by ending the use of explosive weapons in populated areas;
- Call upon all parties to **cease attacks on and military use of schools**, and urge the Government to uphold its commitments under the Safe Schools Declaration to implement the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use;
- **Echoing the SG's concern (S/2018/165, para. 25), urge all parties to immediately cease attacks on medical facilities and personnel, and occupation of medical facilities;**
- In discussing the concern of recruitment by armed groups, **remind all parties that children associated with non-state armed groups should be considered primarily as victims and in accordance with applicable international justice standards and ensure appropriate programs are established for adequate reintegration of children formerly associated with armed forces or groups.**
- With this year's parliamentary elections, **call on the Government to avoid using school premises as polling stations, which can heighten their vulnerability to attack and disturb children's right to education.**

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. In March, the Assistant-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ursula Mueller, mentioned in her briefing on CAR that the upsurge in violence generated a 50 percent increase in recruitment and use of children between 2016 and 2017, and is preventing humanitarian aid from reaching populations in need. In his last report (S/2018/125, para. 51), the SG also noted the deterioration in the human rights situation and stated that MINUSCA documented cases of all six grave violations, human rights abuses, and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law involving 191 children. **Council Members should:**

- **Urge all parties to release all children within their ranks to child protection actors**; and to that extent welcome the recent release of children from armed groups, as mentioned by the SG in his last report (S/2018/125, para. 56);
- 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;
- Echoing the SG's concern regarding the lack of funding for long-term reintegration in child protection efforts (S/2018/125, para. 56), **encourage donors to contribute to reintegration programs for children released from armed groups to aid in the prevention of their re-recruitment;**

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

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

- **Call on all parties to conflict to facilitate rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access to all civilians in need, in compliance with international humanitarian law.**

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 his last report (S/2018/293) covering the period from October 2017 to March 2018, the SG mentions the work that has been done to implement gender-related activities attending to concerns related to weak protection mechanisms for women and children against sexual exploitation, abuse, and violence. Nevertheless, the report included no specific information on children and armed conflict, and no disaggregated data on child violations. **The Security Council should:**

- **Renew UNISFA's child protection mandate; and to ensure its implementation, request the SG to strengthen the child protection capacity of UNISFA to be able to efficiently contribute to the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) in Sudan;**
- **Urge parties to cease all forms of violence, human rights violations, and abuses, including against children, and violations of international humanitarian law;**
- **Urge UNISFA to operationalize the MRM for grave violations against children in the Abyei area to ensure that the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict is kept apprised about the situation of children there;**
- **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.

OPEN DEBATE ON THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS/SCR 2286 (2016)

In May, the UN Security Council will receive the SG's annual report on the implementation of SCR 2286 (2016), regarding protection of civilians in armed conflict, and the protection of medical facilities and personnel. Briefings on the matter are expected, in which the monitoring and reporting of this issue, as well as the challenges and progress made will be presented. Council Members should support the SG's calls on Member States to:

- Support the UN's monitoring and data analysis regarding attacks on health care in armed conflict, and specifically, allow independent monitors unhindered access to affected locations and persons, establish national data collection and analysis systems on attacks on health care in armed conflict, and share data with monitors at regional and global levels;
- Incorporate provisions of international law relating to the protection of medical care in armed conflict into rules of engagement and standard operating procedures, and issue orders to prohibit military use of health facilities; and to this end, publish and disseminate military orders, rules, and operating procedures to inform all troops about the legal protections for medical facilities and personnel;
- Recognize the need to approach the issue of protection of civilians as linked to political strategies, especially in the case of the implementation of non-military tools to protect and complement armed peacekeeping, and defend civilians through capacity-building of local civil society, community engagement, and relationship-building.

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

MALI

The SG's second report on children and armed conflict in Mali was formally presented to the Working Group in March. The Working Group concluded its negotiations in late April, with the final document forthcoming. For targeted recommendations, see [Watchlist's April 2018 CAC Monthly Update](#).

Presidency of the Security Council for May: Poland

- Party to Geneva Convention I-IV, Additional Protocols I, II, and III, 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, Mali: Mass Grave Discovered as Security Crisis Deepens, April 2018
- Amnesty International, Iraq: Women and Children with Perceived Ties to IS Denied Aid, Sexually Exploited and Trapped in Camps, April 2018
- International Rescue Committee, They Die of Bombs, We Die of Need: Impact of Collapsing Public Health Systems in Yemen, March 2018
- Save the Children, Horrors I Will Never Forget: The Stories of Rohingya Children, April 2018
- Their World, After Years Out of School, Children Return to Classrooms in Eastern Syria, April 2018
- Their World, Four Years On, Many Chibok Families Still Wait for Their Schoolgirls to Come Home, April 2018
- World Vision, Hear Our Voices: Investing in Conflict-affected Children in the DRC, April 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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