

Recommendations to the Security Council

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

The ex-Séléka coalition and associated armed groups, the anti-balaka local defense 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 coalition is also listed for attacks on schools and hospitals, and the LRA for abduction. In November, MINUSCA's mandate is due for renewal per SCR 2387 (2017). The Secretary-General's (SG) October report on MINUSCA reported the continued killing, maiming, and recruitment of children by armed groups, as well as attacks on schools and hospitals. The report also cited the denial of humanitarian access, noted as particularly problematic in Kaga Bandoro (S/2018/922, para. 39). The Panel of Experts' most recent report, pursuant to SCR 2339 (2017), submitted to the Security Council in July, also confirmed ongoing fighting that resulted in violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, involving both anti-balaka and ex-Séléka fighters, including widespread rapes and sexual assaults, indiscriminate killing of civilians, and targeted attacks against humanitarian personnel and their compounds (S/2018/729, summary). The Panel also reported the attack on a Fulani camp in Mbaidou by anti-balaka elements in mid-March, which resulted in the killing of approximately 15, including children. The report's annex 6.8 contains photos of the victims, including a baby or small toddler. **The Security Council should:**

- **Renew MINUSCA's child protection mandate; to support its implementation, ensure MINUSCA's dedicated child protection section has the necessary resources to efficiently and effectively carry out monitoring, reporting, and response activities, as well as to engage with parties to conflict for the release of children and for the development of action plans to end and prevent grave violations;**
- **Demand all armed actors immediately cease all grave violations against children, including attacks on schools, hospitals, and humanitarian facilities;** and allow the free, safe passage of humanitarian service providers, including child protection actors;
- **Urge the *Mouvement Patriotique pour la Centrafrique* (MPC), part of the ex-Séléka coalition, to fully and swiftly implement its action plan, signed in June, on ending and preventing recruitment and use, killing and maiming, sexual violence, and attacks on schools and hospitals; further call upon all other listed parties to develop and sign action plans with the UN;**
- **Call on MINUSCA, other UN entities, the CAR Government, the African Union, and other parties concerned to integrate child protection provisions, including those related to release and reintegration, in all stages of the peace process;** to this end, urge stakeholders to draw upon tools such as the Checklist for drafting CAC provisions in peace agreements, developed by Watchlist and other experts;
- **Immediately review and approve designations for individuals who have committed grave violations against children per SCR 2339 (2017), and enforce travel bans and other restrictions on those previously sanctioned without delay;**
- **Urge the CAR Government to criminalize the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups in national law, as per its obligation under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC).**

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

YEMEN

The Saudi Arabia-led coalition forces are listed for killing and maiming of children in Yemen, while Yemeni Government Forces are listed for recruitment and use. Four non-State armed groups are listed for recruitment and use; of these, the Houthis/Ansar Allah are also listed for killing and maiming and attacks on schools and hospitals. In November, the SG will report to the Council on the implementation of SCR 2201 (2015), on the political situation in Yemen. Aerial strikes by the Saudi-led coalition and the use of indiscriminate weapons by the Houthis continue to raise serious concerns for the protection of civilians, including children. On August 9, coalition forces dropped a bomb on a school bus, killing at least 40 children. Most recently, on October 24,

Situations 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 cont'd

a coalition airstrike hit a vegetable market, reportedly killing 19 civilians, including two children. In addition to the use of weapons with wide area effect in urban areas, Houthi snipers have killed children in their homes and communities. On October 23, Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock briefed the Security Council, highlighting the dire effects on civilians of the denial of humanitarian access and the blockade of commercial goods. Lowcock warned that Yemen is in grave danger of an imminent famine, with 14 million people – half the total population – at risk of becoming severely food insecure. He also warned that the Government's expanding restrictions on the import of essential commodities, including food and fuel, could be a death knell for countless civilians, including children. **The Council should:**

- **Strongly reiterate its call for an independent, transparent, and credible investigation into the August 9 school bus bombing** in Saada Province, for which the coalition admitted culpability and "mistakes," and urge the Saudi-led coalition to take clear and effective preventive and remedial measures to prevent future incidents and to **hold those responsible for the killing and maiming of children accountable;**
- **Request a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC), given the importance of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) in international accountability;**
- **Promptly adopt a resolution condemning violations of international law perpetrated by all parties to conflict in Yemen, especially the targeting of civilians and grave violations against children,** highlighting the principles of precaution, distinction, and proportionality in conducting military operations;
- **Urge for the immediate signing and implementation of an action plan between the UN and Saudi Arabia, on behalf of the coalition,** to end and prevent grave violations for which the coalition is listed, and to this end, urge the SG to transparently outline concrete measures it is taking to protect children;
- **Call upon the Saudi-led coalition and Government of Yemen to immediately and fully lift restrictions on essential commodities; for these and all parties, including the Houthis, to allow unimpeded humanitarian access and commercial imports to all regions, particularly fuel, food, and medical supplies; and to reopen the Sana'a airport to commercial flights, especially to allow medical evacuations;** furthermore, include in the sanctions regime those responsible for obstructing the delivery of humanitarian aid and crucial commercial imports to and within Yemen;
- **Call on parties to immediately put in place a humanitarian ceasefire,** a cessation of hostilities in and around all infrastructure and facilities on which aid operations and commercial importers rely, and agree on steps to a nationwide ceasefire;
- **Encourage all parties to fully and transparently cooperate with the Human Rights Council-mandated Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts;**
- **Call on Yemeni Government Forces to work closely with the UN to update and promptly implement their 2014 action plan to end and prevent child recruitment and use; and strongly urge all other parties to conflict to engage with the UN to develop and implement action plans to address grave violations for which they have been listed in the annexes of the SG's annual report on children and armed conflict.**

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

The SG's second report on children and armed conflict in South Sudan was published on September 25, and the Working Group is entering into conclusion negotiations. The Working Group has just received the update to the Myanmar country report, which was requested to cover the period from July 2017 onwards to fully capture the situation of children affected by armed conflict, especially in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan States. For recommendations on South Sudan and Myanmar, see Watchlist's October 2018 CAC Monthly Update.

Presidency of the Security Council for November: China

- 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. Has endorsed the Paris Principles and the Paris Commitments. Not yet a Party to the Rome Statute of the ICC. Has not endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration or the Vancouver Principles.

NGO resources

- Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, 'I Will Never Go Back to School,' The Impact of Attacks on Education for Nigerian Women and Girls, October 2018
- Child Soldiers International, Recruited but not 'child soldiers': Returning girls in South Sudan risk being left without support, October 2018
- Child Soldiers International/IRIN, No child soldiers: The next steps in Central African Republic, September 2018
- Stimson Center/The National Interest, The Trump Administration is Failing to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, October 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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