

## Recommendations to the Security Council

### AFGHANISTAN

The Afghan National Police (ANP), including the Afghan Local Police (ALP), and four armed groups (Haqqani Network, Hizb-I Islami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, ISIL-Khorasan Province (ISIL-KP), and Taliban forces and affiliated groups) are listed for recruitment and use. All are listed for killing and maiming, while the Taliban is further listed for attacks on schools and/or hospitals and abduction. The Secretary-General (SG) is due to report to the Council on UNAMA by September 8, pursuant to SCR 2405 (2018). In his June report (S/2018/538, para. 62), covering the first quarter of 2018, the SG cited a three-fold rise in recruitment and use compared to the previous reporting period and an increase in attacks on health care and denials of humanitarian assistance (paras. 30-31). Children comprised more than half of civilian casualties documented by UNAMA in aerial strikes and 25 percent of all civilian casualties during the reporting period (para 28); children comprised 89 percent of victims of explosive remnants of war (para. 49). Attacks on schools and mosques accounted for 75 percent of election-related security incidents; and the UN documented military use of two schools by the Afghan National Army (para. 30). ISIL-KP claimed the recent suicide bomb attack that killed at least 34 students studying for university entrance exams. In August more than 200 civilians died during the battle for the city of Ghazni. OCHA reports that humanitarian assistance could not reach the city due to the known presence of IEDs and mines placed along the key access roads. **The Security Council 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*;
- **Urge all parties to immediately cease recruitment and use and remind parties that children associated with armed groups should be considered primarily as victims and treated in accordance with applicable international justice standards and ensure appropriate programs are established for adequate rehabilitation and reintegration of children;**
- **Call on all parties to immediately cease attacks on medical facilities and personnel, and further facilitate the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance**, including the removal by the Government of IEDs and mines placed around the city of Ghazni to allow aid workers and food to access populations in need;
- With parliamentary elections scheduled for October, **call on the Government to avoid using school premises as polling stations, which can heighten their vulnerability to attacks and disrupt 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.

### MALI

Three armed groups are listed for recruitment and use and sexual violence, and the Platform, including affiliated groups, is listed for recruitment and use. The Coordination des Mouvements de l'Azawad (CMA) signed an action plan with the UN to end and prevent recruitment and use and sexual violence in March 2017. In September the Council will receive the SG's first quarterly report on MINUSMA, pursuant to SCR 2423 (2018), passed in June. France will coordinate reporting with the SG on its forces' role in implementation of the mandate. In his last report from June (S/2018/541 para. 42), the SG reported 49 verified cases of grave violations, including the killing of 10 children and maiming of nine, 10 cases of denial of humanitarian access, and 13 cases of attacks and threats against schools and hospitals. As of May, 750 schools remained closed due to insecurity in six regions, including threats and attacks (para. 48),

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

[Afghanistan](#)  
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[Colombia](#)  
[Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)  
[Iraq](#)  
[Mali](#)  
[Myanmar \(Burma\)](#)  
[Nigeria](#)  
[Philippines](#)  
[Somalia](#)  
[South Sudan](#)  
[Sudan](#)  
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## MALI cont'd

denying 225,000 children access to education. In its final report (S/2018/581\*), the Panel of Experts highlighted ongoing recruitment and use, attacks on schools, and sexual violence, among other grave violations. **Council members should:**

- **Urge the Mali Sanctions Committee to designate individuals and entities it determines to be responsible for grave violations against children pursuant to its designation criteria**, and encourage the SRS-CAAC to share information with the Committee and the Panel of Experts;
- **Urge the CMA to fully and swiftly implement its action plan with the UN** to end recruitment and use and sexual violence, with engagement from the Country Task Force, and furthermore, **allow the UN to monitor its progress toward implementation**;
- 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*;
- Call on all parties to allow the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance.

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

## SYRIA

Six armed groups and the Government forces and pro-Government militias are listed for grave violations. In September, the Council will receive regular briefings on the implementation of Resolutions 2118 (2013), 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2268 (2016), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018). Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, [Virginia Gamba](#), reported to the Council on July 27 the verification of over 1,200 violations against children in 2018 thus far, with more than 600 children killed or maimed; over 180 recruited and used; at least 60 schools attacked; and over 100 attacks on medical facilities or personnel, largely a result of military escalation during the last six months by various parties in the areas of Afrin, Hama, Idlib, Eastern Ghouta, and Dara'a, which displaced hundreds of thousands of civilians. In August, the Special Advisor to the UN Special Envoy for Syria, [Jan Egeland](#), expressed significant concern for the civilian population, emphasizing it is not too late for parties to conflict to reach agreements that protect civilians in Idlib. On August 29 the [SG warned](#) of the growing risk of a humanitarian catastrophe in the event of a full-scale military operation in Idlib. **The Council should:**

- **Urgently address the escalation in Idlib and urge parties to come to an agreement prioritizing the protection of the civilian population, particularly children**;
- **Call on the Government to allow sustained and unimpeded humanitarian access to hard-to-reach and retaken areas, and displaced populations**, including by lifting any impediments that could delay, reduce, or prevent the delivery of humanitarian assistance to persons in need, without discrimination; and further, allow for freedom of movement of the civilian population;
- **Call for the immediate release of all children associated with parties to conflict and urge all listed parties to enter into action plans** with the UN to end and prevent recruitment and use of children;
- **Urge all parties to fully comply with international law by ending attacks and threats of attacks on schools and hospitals and protected persons, as well as to immediately end the military use of schools and hospitals and other civilian infrastructures**;
- **Call for the acceleration of humanitarian mine action programming**, to reverse the growing number of child victims;

**KUWAIT AND SWEDEN ARE LEADING ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES IN SYRIA.**

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

On August 7, the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict adopted its sixth [conclusions](#) on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Presently, the Working Group has no country reports to consider and is awaiting the update to the Myanmar report, requested at the beginning of the year.

## Presidency of the Security Council for September: United States

- Party to the Geneva Convention IV, Optional Protocol to the CRC, and ILO Convention 182; Not a party to the Additional Protocol I or II of the Geneva Convention, Rome Statute of the ICC, and is the only UN Member State not to have ratified the CRC; Has not endorsed the Paris Principles and the Paris Commitments, the Vancouver Principles, nor the Safe Schools Declaration.

## NGO resources

- Fortify Rights, [“They Gave Them Long Swords,” Preparations for Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity Against Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine State, Myanmar](#), July 2018
- Physicians for Human Rights, [“Please Tell the World What They Have Done to Us,” The Chut Pyin Massacre: Forensic Evidence of Violence against the Rohingya in Myanmar](#), July 2018
- Save the Children, [Alarming Number of Rohingya Children Orphaned by Brutal Violence – Save the Children Study](#), August 2018
- Human Rights Watch, [Hiding Behind the Coalition: Failure to Credibly Investigate and Provide Redress for Unlawful Attacks in Yemen](#), August 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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