

## Recommendations to the Security Council

### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

The ex-Séléka coalition and associated armed groups, the anti-Balaka local defence militias, and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) are listed for recruitment and use, killing and maiming, and sexual violence against children. The ex-Séléka are listed for attacks on schools and/or hospitals, and the LRA is listed for abduction. In January, the Council is expected to renew the CAR Sanctions Committee pursuant to SCR 2262 (2016). Since October, education in CAR has taken another heavy hit from renewed violence, as [reported](#) by UN agencies. The last SG's report (S/2016/824, para 33) documented use of schools and hospitals by armed groups in 15 separate incidents. The Government's 5-year rehabilitation and reconstruction plan, which [received](#) \$2.28 billion USD in donor pledges at the November 17 Brussels Conference, includes provision of education, as well as a clear DDR strategy. **The Security Council should:**

- Call upon armed groups to release all children present in their ranks and urge the parties to conflict, the Government, and relevant stakeholders to **agree upon and fully implement a child DDR process as a matter of priority**;
- **Condemn attacks on educational institutions and personnel and call on all parties to the conflict to cease such attacks**, reminding that attacks against schools are a serious violation of international humanitarian law which they are obligated to uphold;
- Given recent donor pledges for its reconstruction plan, **urge the Government to prioritize rebuilding its education system in order to ensure safe return of students and teachers to schools**, and to honor its commitment to protect schools from military use by implementing the Safe Schools Declaration;
- **Retain MINUSCA's dedicated child protection capacities and Child Protection Advisors (CPAs)** and ensure that the 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)**; to this end, **retain distinct budget lines for child protection**.

**FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON CAR. UKRAINE CHAIRS THE 2127 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.**

### SOMALIA

Somali National Army (SNA) and Al-Shabaab are both listed for the recruitment and use and killing and maiming of children. Ahlus Sunnah wal Jamaah (ASWJ) is also listed for recruitment and use. In 2012, the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) signed two action plans with the UN, one to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by the SNA, and one to end killing and maiming. In January, the SG's progress report on UNSOM is due per SCR 2275 (2016). The last report (S/2016/763, para 55) notes that 66 children were detained in Puntland for their association with Al-Shabaab, 12 of whom were issued death sentences. In meetings with regional authorities during her visit to Puntland in July 2016, the Special Representative to the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict [expressed](#) deep alarm that children faced the death penalty, and that others continued to be held in detention for their association with Al-Shabaab. **Council Members should:**

- Stress that federal and regional authorities must **swiftly resolve existing legal ambiguities related to the age of majority and should domesticicate Somalia's international obligations** under the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Stress to the TFG and regional authorities that **children captured for their alleged association with armed groups should be treated primarily as victims and handed over to child protection actors** in accordance with the SOPs signed in 2014; and furthermore, encourage UNSOM to support the TFG on the implementation of the SOPs, with support from other child protection actors;
- **Express concern about the lack of transparency and oversight** in the classification of children held on national security charges, the plight of children classified as high risk, the absence of a clear legal framework for children detained on security charges, and of international juvenile justice standards;
- **Maintain the promotion of child protection as one of UNSOM's key priorities**, and to that end, continue to ask for the deployment of CPAs, ensure that all mandatory pre-deployment training on child protection is undertaken, and call upon UNSOM to **continue to coordinate with AMISOM's Child Protection Adviser** appointed in January 2015.

**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:

[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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## SYRIA

Six parties are listed for grave violations against children. In January, the Council will receive its regular briefings on the implementation of SCR 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), and 2258 (2015), as well as the two Resolutions adopted in December 2016, SCR 2328 (2016) and 2332 (2016). The last report (S/2016/1057, para 3) on implementation noted continued attacks on hospitals and schools, and severe limitations on UN agencies' and partners' delivery of humanitarian assistance due to continued insecurity. In December, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights reported the killing of civilians in Aleppo, including 13 children by pro-Government forces. **The Security Council should:**

- **Call for an immediate cessation of hostilities and demand that all parties to the conflict comply fully with international human rights and humanitarian law;**
- Demand immediate and full implementation of all relevant resolutions, **particularly SCR 2328 (2016) concerning international observers for evacuation in Aleppo and the fate of remaining civilians in the city**, and demand that all parties **take effective measures to prevent and end all grave violations against children in conflict**, including by ending the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas;
- **Call on parties to conflict to take all measures to protect civilians and facilitate rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access to all civilians in need, in compliance with international humanitarian law**, and to this end, **immediately lift all sieges on populated areas;**
- Noting the particularly severe impact on children, **condemn all attacks on medical facilities and personnel and call for full and prompt implementation of SCR 2286 (2016)**, and furthermore consider additional measures, such as targeted sanctions, to address noncompliance, by any party, with all relevant resolutions to end attacks on civilians, including health professionals, and medical facilities.

**EGYPT AND SWEDEN ARE LEADING ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES ON SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC.**

## YEMEN

In Yemen, four parties are listed for grave violations against children. The Saudi Arabia-led coalition was listed for killing and maiming and attacks on schools and hospitals, but later removed pending review. Escalating conflict has stalled implementation of the Government's 2014 Action Plan to end and prevent recruitment and use. In November 2016, a World Health Organization survey revealed that 274 health facilities have been damaged – 69 completely and 205 partially - as result of the conflict. In addition, the UN has recorded 1,219 child deaths as result of airstrikes and ground fighting, and hundreds more have been injured. Given their monthly briefings on Yemen, **Council Members should:**

- **Condemn all violations and abuses against children and demand that all parties to the conflict comply fully with their obligations to respect international humanitarian and human rights law**, urge them to cease all violations and abuses against children, including killing and maiming, and attacks on schools and hospitals, and call for an end to the use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas;
- Consider **supporting the establishment of an international commission of inquiry to investigate alleged violations of international law, including grave violations against children**, by all parties to the conflict, and to identify perpetrators of such violations with a view to ensuring accountability;
- **Call for the resumption of the cessation of hostilities agreement**, and ensure that child protection, including the release and reintegration of children associated with armed forces and armed groups and preventing and ending attacks on hospitals and schools, is on the agenda for ongoing peace negotiations;
- Noting the particularly severe impact on children, **condemn all attacks on medical facilities and personnel and call for full and prompt implementation of SCR 2286 (2016)**, and consider additional measures, such as targeted sanctions, to address noncompliance, by any party, with all relevant resolutions to end attacks on civilians, including health professionals, and medical facilities.

**THE UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON YEMEN. JAPAN CHAIRS THE 2140 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.**

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

### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

On December 14, the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict adopted its conclusions on CAR (document forthcoming) based on the SG's report on children and armed conflict in CAR. Negotiations began on May 31, 2016.

Presently, the Working Group has no country reports to negotiate. The new Chair, Sweden, assumed its role on January 1, 2017.

### Presidency of the Security Council for January: Sweden

- Party to Geneva Convention IV, Additional Protocols I and II, Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol, ILO Convention 182, and the Rome Statue of the ICC. Has endorsed the Paris Principles and the Paris Commitments, and the Safe Schools Declaration.

## NGO resources

- ➔ Human Rights Watch, Why Are Children Suffering in Aleppo?, November 2016
- ➔ Human Rights Watch, Children of the Caliphate, What to Do About Children Born Under ISIS, November 2016
- ➔ Human Rights Watch, Yemen: Abusive Detention Rife Under Houthis, November 2016
- ➔ Amnesty International, Yemen: Hospitals and Medical Workers Under Attack by Anti-Huthi Forces in Ta'iz, November 2016
- ➔ Norwegian Refugee Council and Norwegian Centre for Conflict Resolution, Building the Peace: Rural Education and Conflict in Colombia, December 2016
- ➔ Human Rights Watch, Central African Republic: Civilians Killed During Clashes, December 2016

## 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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