

## Recommendations to the Security Council

### COLOMBIA

The *Ejército de Liberación Nacional* (ELN) is listed in the Secretary-General's (SG's) annual report on children and armed conflict for recruitment and use. In January, the Council will receive a briefing on the SG's 90-day report (S/2018/1159) on the UN Verification Mission in Colombia. Several important developments marked the reporting period, including the first 100 days in office of President Iván Duque, the two-year anniversary of the signing of the comprehensive peace agreement between the Government and the *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército del Pueblo* (FARC-EP), and the inauguration of a truth and reconciliation commission. The Special Jurisdiction for Peace, established under the peace accord, continued its work during this time, despite threats to its impartiality and independence (S/2018/1159, para. 11). Dialogue between the Government and the ELN was suspended in August. The ELN has rejected any preconditions to peace talks, including the Duque government's demand for the release of all hostages and cessation of all criminal activity. In addition to continuing hostilities with the ELN, violence and insecurity caused by FARC-EP dissidents, the *Ejército Popular de Liberación* (EPL), post-demobilization armed groups, and criminal groups continue to put children and their communities at risk, disproportionately affecting Afrocolombian and indigenous communities. The Government continued to support the reintegration of 124 separated from the FARC-EP as children in 2016 and 2017 (most of whom are now over 18). The provision of preventive health, education, and cultural activities for children remains an urgent challenge. **Council Members should:**

- **Call upon all parties to take concrete and effective measures to avoid and prevent child casualties** during hostilities, including protecting schools, hospitals, and other civilian objects;
- Strongly encouraging the Government and the ELN to resume peace talks, **urge the ELN to immediately release all under 18s** from its ranks and end all child recruitment and abductions;
- Encourage the Government to **strengthen its efforts to protect children's rights**, including economic, social, and cultural rights;
- Remind the Government of its obligations under the peace accord and relevant national and international laws on child rights to ensure the effective rehabilitation and reintegration of children formerly associated with armed groups; in particular, **urge the National Reintegration Council to include newly identified cases of adolescents** formerly associated with the FARC-EP in the reintegration program as soon as possible.

**THE UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON COLOMBIA.**

### 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 in March 2017 to end and prevent recruitment and use and sexual violence. In January, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) will brief the Council on the situation in Mali and MINUSMA, followed by consultations. In the SG's first quarterly report on MINUSMA (S/2018/866), the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) verified 58 grave violations against children, including the killing of 17 children and the maiming of 14. Seven cases of attacks and threats against schools and hospitals were verified, as well as nine cases of denial of humanitarian access. MINUSMA documented conflict-related sexual violence against children during the reporting period, with cases involving rape and gang rape, and from January to June 2018, 1,115 cases of gender-based violence were recorded, including 758 cases of sexual violence. The SG reports that 68 percent of the victims were under 18. The Panel of Experts highlighted ongoing recruitment and use, attacks on schools, and sexual violence against children, among other grave violations. On December 20, the 2374 Sanctions Committee imposed a [travel ban](#) on three individuals associated with armed groups for their destabilizing activities. The implementation of the peace agreement stumbles along with little progress or demonstrated commitment by the parties. **Council Members should:**

- **Urge the Mali Sanctions Committee to implement sanctions, both travel bans and asset freezes, targeting parties who continue to hinder the timely implementation of the peace agreement, and designate individuals and entities it determines to be responsible for grave violations against**

### 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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## MALI cont'd

**children pursuant to its designation criteria**, and encourage the SG's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-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** 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](#);
- **Call on all parties to allow the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance.**

**FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON MALI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CHAIRS THE SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.**

## SOMALIA

The Somali National Army (SNA) and Al-Shabaab are both listed for recruitment and use and killing and maiming of children. Al-Shabaab is additionally listed for rape and sexual violence, attacks on schools and hospitals, and abductions. Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama'a (ASWJ) is listed for recruitment and use. The Federal Government signed action plans on recruitment/use and on killing/maiming, respectively, in 2012. In his latest report to the Council (S/2018/1149), covering August to December 2018, the SG states that the CTFMR documented and verified 1,020 grave violations affecting 995 children, including 581 boys and 214 girls. These include all six grave violations against children. The SG further reports that after the UN's sustained advocacy, the President of Puntland signed a degree to pardon 34 children who had been sentenced to various prison terms in Garowe since 2016 for their association with Al-Shabaab. These children are now in a rehabilitation center in Mogadishu awaiting family reunification. On November 11, an Al-Shabaab car bomb attack in Mogadishu killed at least 53 civilians and injured over 100, and on January 1, the UN compound in Mogadishu was attacked with mortars. On December 30, the SG's Special Representative Nicholas Haysom sent a letter to the interior security minister regarding the arrest of Mukhtar Robow, a former Al-Shabaab leader and potential candidate for the regional presidency of Somalia's South West state, and the subsequent killing by UN-supported Somali security forces of at least 15 civilians and the detention of around 300, mostly children, during protests in Baidoa over the arrest. On January 2, the Government ordered Haysom to leave the country, accusing him of meddling in internal affairs. **The Security Council should:**

- **Demand that all parties take effective measures to prevent and end all grave violations against children in conflict**, including the immediate cessation of child abduction and recruitment and use;
- **Urge Somali authorities to cease the detention of children for alleged association with armed groups**, and to that end, urge the Government to comply with its standard operating procedures for the reception and handover of children separated from armed groups, ensuring their handover to child protection actors within 72 hours and prioritization of their rehabilitation and reintegration; furthermore, allow UN human rights and other relevant civilian monitors full access to detention facilities. **Additionally, call for the release of all children detained during the December Baidoa protest**;
- **Call for the swift implementation of the Government's action plans to end and prevent grave violations** with support of the UN CTFMR;
- Welcoming the African Union and UN's continued commitment to assist Somali security forces to address all rights violations, including conflict-related sexual violence, **request the SG, in his regular updates on the Somali security forces, to report on measures taken to address and prevent grave violations against children, including sexual violence, by national forces**;
- Call upon all parties to **cease attacks on hospitals and schools.**

**THE UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SOMALIA, AND BELGIUM CHAIRS THE SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.**

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

The Working Group is in the process of negotiating conclusions on Myanmar, having started in December after receiving the SG's update report. For recommendations on Myanmar, see Watchlist's [December](#) CAC Monthly Update.

## Presidency of the Security Council for January: Dominican Republic

- Party to the Geneva Convention IV, Additional Protocols I and II, Optional Protocol to the CRC, and ILO Convention 182, and the Rome Statute. Has endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration and the Vancouver Principles. Has not endorsed the Paris Principles and the Paris Commitments.

## NGO resources

- Geneva Call, "[Geneva Call launches an innovative new Deed of Commitment on protecting health care in armed conflict](#)," November 2018
- Human Rights Watch, "[Iraq/Kurdistan Region: Risk of Double Trials for ISIS Ties](#)," December 2018
- Human Rights Watch, "[Ten Good News Stories for Kids in 2018](#)," December 2018
- MSF, "[Whether it be from the sky or on the ground, medical care is a target in Yemen](#)," December 2018
- Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition, "[Urgent Action Needed to Avert Humanitarian and Health Catastrophe in Yemen](#)," December 2018
- Theirworld, [Safe Schools: The Hidden Crisis](#), December 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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