



2015 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT



Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for
CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT



SUMMARY

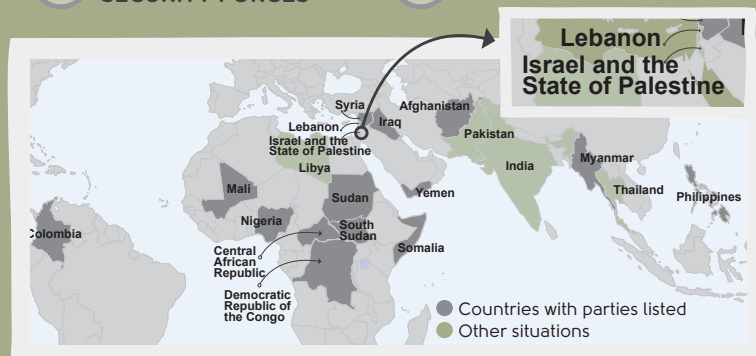


20 SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT WITH PARTIES LISTED IN 14 COUNTRIES

59 PARTIES TO CONFLICT LISTED PARTIES TO CONFLICT LISTED FOR GRAVE VIOLATIONS AGAINST CHILDREN

8 GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES

51 ARMED GROUPS



THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL HAS IDENTIFIED 5 TRIGGERS FOR LISTING PARTIES TO CONFLICT:

RECRUITMENT AND USE OF CHILDREN

resolution 1379 adopted in 2001, first listings in 2002

58

PARTIES TO CONFLICT

7 government security forces
51 Armed groups

KILLING AND MAIMING CHILDREN

resolution 1881, adopted in 2009, first listings in 2010

18

PARTIES TO CONFLICT

3 government security forces
15 Armed groups

RAPE AND OTHER FORMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

resolution 1881, adopted in 2009, first listings in 2010

14

PARTIES TO CONFLICT

2 government security forces
12 Armed groups

ATTACKS ON SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS

resolution 1998, adopted in 2011, first listings in 2012

9

PARTIES TO CONFLICT

1 government security forces
8 Armed groups

FIRST LISTINGS FOR ABDUCTION

resolution 2225, adopted in 2015, first listings in 2016

6

PARTIES TO CONFLICT

1 Government security forces
5 Armed groups

OF FORMER CHILD SOLDIERS RELEASED IN 2015: OVER 8000

THE IMPACT OF ARMED CONFLICT ON CHILDREN

2015 TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

In 2015, the intensity of grave violations against children increased in several situations of conflict. In **SYRIA**, thousands of children have been killed during over five years of war. **AFGHANISTAN** recorded the **HIGHEST NUMBER OF CHILD DEATHS AND INJURIES** since the UN started systematically documenting civilian casualties in 2009. In **SOMALIA**, there was a **50% INCREASE** in the number of recorded violations against children. In **SOUTH SUDAN**, children were victims of gruesome violations, particularly during brutal military offensives against opposition forces.

In **YEMEN**, the situation was particularly worrisome in 2015 with a **FIVE-FOLD INCREASE** of the number of children recruited and used and **SIX TIMES MORE CHILDREN KILLED AND MAIMED**. Violations committed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) continued to have a devastating impact on children, including persistent child recruitment and use and boys featured as child soldiers in social media and in some cases as executioners. In **NIGERIA**, Boko Haram increased suicide attacks, including by using **21 GIRLS AS SUICIDE BOMBERS** in crowded public spaces. The armed group spread its activities from northeastern Nigeria to neighboring countries, causing a significant number of casualties among civilians and large-scale displacements.

The proliferation of actors involved in armed conflict became a particular concern. International coalitions, or individual Member States conducting cross-border aerial operations, particularly in populated areas, resulted in highly complex environments for the protection of children.

ATTACKS ON SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS AND PROTECTED PERSONS



Attacks on schools and hospitals were **PREVALENT** in 2015 and documented in **19 OUT OF 20** situations of conflict. The **INCREASING USE** of **AIRSTRIKES** and **EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS** in populated areas had a detrimental impact on schools and hospitals. Medical and education personnel continued to be threatened or attacked.

ABDUCTION



With the adoption of **RESOLUTION 2225** in June 2015, the UN Security Council requested the Secretary-General to list **PARTIES THAT ENGAGE IN PATTERNS OF ABDUCTION OF CHILDREN**. Boko Haram, the Lord's Resistance Army, ISIL, Al-Shabaab, the Taliban and the Sudan People's Liberation Army are named in the report for this violation.

REDUCING THE IMPACT OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM



Children have been significantly affected by violent extremism and were often the **DIRECT TARGETS** of acts intended to cause **MAXIMUM CIVILIAN CASUALTIES** and **TERRORIZE COMMUNITIES**. Efforts to counter extreme violence must be carried out in full compliance with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law. In addition, **CHILDREN ALLEGEDLY ASSOCIATED WITH ARMED GROUPS** have been considered **SECURITY THREATS** and **DETAINED** for extended periods of time without due process in conflict situations such as Afghanistan, Somalia and Iraq.

CHILDREN DISPLACED BY ARMED CONFLICT



An ever-growing number of people are being displaced by armed conflict, including **MILLIONS OF CHILDREN**, many of whom are **UNACCOMPANIED** or **SEPARATED FROM THEIR FAMILIES** during displacement. These children are at a **HIGH RISK OF GRAVE VIOLATIONS** in and around camps, and other areas of refuge. Action is urgently required to alleviate the plight of children displaced by armed conflict and the Secretary-General encourages Member States to respect the rights of displaced and refugee children and to provide them with necessary support services.

CHILDREN, NOT SOLDIERS



In 2015, the campaign Children, Not Soldiers continued to gather momentum. The **GLOBAL CONSENSUS** that **CHILDREN DO NOT BELONG IN SECURITY FORCES IN CONFLICT** was consolidated in March 2016 with the signature by the Government of Sudan of an Action Plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by its security forces. **ALL GOVERNMENTS** identified

by the Secretary-General for recruitment and use of children in their security forces are now **ENGAGED IN AN ACTION PLAN PROCESS** and there was **NOTABLE PROGRESS IN AFGHANISTAN, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO AND MYANMAR**. Despite prior commitments by their Governments, children in Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen faced challenging conflict situations.

ENGAGEMENT WITH NON-STATE ARMED GROUPS



In 2015, there was **STRONG ENGAGEMENT WITH NON-STATE ARMED GROUPS**, within or outside the framework of peace processes, in the **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, COLOMBIA, MALI, MYANMAR, THE PHILIPPINES, SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN**. This engagement led to the **RELEASE OF OVER 8,000 CHILDREN**.

EXCERPTS FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

I urge Member States to ensure that their engagement in hostilities and responses to all threats to peace and security, including in efforts to counter violent extremism, are conducted in full compliance with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law.

I urge Member States to handover children encountered during military operations to civilian child protection actors as soon as possible in accordance with their international obligations and the best interests

of the child. It is crucial that there are appropriate resources for the reintegration of the children separated from parties to conflict, with attention given to psycho-social support and the needs of girls.

I call upon Member States to treat children associated with armed groups, including those engaged in violent extremism, as victims entitled to full protection of their human rights and to urgently put in place alternatives to detention and prosecution of children.

ACTION PLANS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

AFGHANISTAN



Afghan National Police,
including the Afghan
Local Police
(*Recruitment and use*)

SOUTH SUDAN



Sudan People's Liberation Army
(*Recruitment and use, all grave
violations against children*)

Sudan People's Liberation
Movement/Army in Opposition
(*Recruitment and use, killing and maiming*)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



Forces armées
de la République
démocratique du Congo
(*Recruitment and
use, sexual violence*)

SUDAN



Government security forces,
including the Sudanese Armed
Forces, the Popular Defense
Forces and the Sudan Police Forces
(*Recruitment and use*)

MYANMAR



Tatmadaw Kyi,
including integrated
border guard forces
(*Recruitment and use*)

YEMEN



Government forces, including the
Yemeni Armed Forces, the First
Armoured Division, the military
Police, the special security forces
and Republican Guards
(*Recruitment and use*)

SOMALIA



Somali National Army
(*Recruitment and use,
killing and maiming*)

PHILIPPINES



Moro Islamic Liberation Front
(*Recruitment and use*)