

2017

**FREDMUN**  **N**  
**CYPRUS**

**FREDMUN 2017**

**2<sup>ND</sup> – 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

**DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL  
SECURITY COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE STUDY GUIDE**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>WELCOMING MESSAGE BY THE BOARD .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMITTEE .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>HISTORY OF THE TOPIC.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>LEGAL FRAMEWORK .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>BLOC POSITIONS.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED – POINTS A RESOLUTION SHOULD ADDRESS.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>CONCLUSION.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY.....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>FURTHER READING.....</b>	<b>32</b>

## WELCOMING MESSAGE BY THE BOARD



Dear delegates,

It is an honour and great pleasure to officially welcome you to FREDMUN 2017, which is going to be held on Cyprus from 2nd to 5th of November, and more specifically to the 1st Committee of the General Assembly. It is our utmost pleasure and privilege to serve you as your Board and we are looking forward to our interaction, communication and cooperation, prior and during the debates of our Committee. Our task can be characterized as challenging, since we are going to elaborate on two important contemporary issues that have to be efficiently and comprehensively dealt.

The first Topic is dealing with the challenging task of “Strengthening actions to end recruitment of child soldiers”. Preventing the recruitment of children is the only possible way to limit their exploitation in war. It is also the sole way to protect them from the dangers of premature involvement in battlefields. Being exposed to military life is indisputable harmful to children and adolescents, and violates many of their fundamental rights, regardless of whether they are ever deployed in conflict. Our response should be unanimous and our work should exceed all expectations. The second Topic Area under discussion involves “Combating cyber warfare in the context of international security”. Cybercrime has evolved from an emerging threat to a visible enemy posing direct impediments to all walks of life, whether it is about everyday financial transactions, or even hacking national databases for the purpose of political influence or espionage. Despite the different perspectives of international actors on the matter, an holistic approach towards the problem is deemed more urgent than ever before. As a result, the upcoming conference is going to give all of us a unique opportunity; the opportunity to combat the world’s important issues, always contemplating that diplomacy, cooperation, respect for everyone, accurate information and honest dialogue are the keys to success. Our Committee is faced with the challenging task of comprehensively dealing with two crucial and contemporary

issues placed at the top of the international agenda. A decent start, shall be the review of your study guide as a stepping stone from where you can expand your research, as we urge you to thoroughly research on the Topics, study your country's policy, start brainstorming on possible solutions and proposals, as well as passionately raise your voice. Do not hesitate to contact us for your possible queries!

The Board of the DISEC Committee

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE**

The First Committee of the General Assembly (GA) of the United Nations (UN), also known as the Disarmament and International Security (DISEC) is a committee of paramount importance for the function of the Organization. Its resolutions, in respect to the Charter of the United Nations, aim to defend “the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security”, to promote “disarmament and the regulation of armaments” and to help with the “promotion of cooperative arrangements and measures aimed at strengthening stability through lower levels of armaments”.

These decisions are not binding for the member states in a legal sense, but serve as a common basis of understanding for cooperation among member states on the issues regarding disarmament and international security.

DISEC also convenes frequently and closely with the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY - FIRST COMMITTEE - DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, In-text: (Un.org, 2017), Your Bibliography: Un.org. (2017). UN General Assembly - First Committee - Disarmament and International Security. [online] Available at: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/> [Accessed 10 Sep. 2017].

## Topic A: Strengthening actions to end recruitment of child soldiers



*A Chadian child soldier stands in front of a machine gun at De Roux camp in Bengul, Central African Republic, in 2003. Credit: Drumbl/CNN (2015)*  
Available at <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/03/19/opinions/drumbl-child-soldiers-challenges/index.html>

## INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

The recruitment of child soldiers, especially during periods of armed conflict, turns out to be one of the most crucial issues that international organizations shall deal with, as it affects the lives of millions of people globally. Nevertheless, despite the considerable progress that has been made through international law, treaties, and provisions, there is still much to do.

As armed conflicts continue to grow, increasing numbers of young children are exposed to the brutalities of war every day. These children are recruited to become child soldiers, either forcibly or voluntarily. They are often abducted at school, in the streets, in their villages and towns, or even at their homes<sup>2</sup>.

Generally speaking, governments and military groups recruit children because they are considered cheaper to feed and equip than adults. They are also more vulnerable to being exploited and manipulated by false promises, easier to abduct, and easier to recruit<sup>3</sup>. Moreover, they are versatile enough to serve many roles in the military, as they are taken to the front lines of battle, and can also serve as spies, messengers, or decoys<sup>4</sup>. Not only that, children are used for acts of terror, as young suicide bombers are becoming a common phenomenon of modern asymmetric warfare. This can be easily explained, as children tend to be naïve and are easily manipulated to do the jobs their recruiters would otherwise not to do.<sup>5</sup> On the other hand, girls are at a high risk of rape or other sexual abuse and are assigned to “domestic” tasks, like cooking and midwifery<sup>6</sup>.

Children can be recruited for various reasons. In countries previously suffering from poverty and war, economic and social conditions tend to worsen, thereby forcing families into further misfortune. Therefore, children are being forced to join in order to provide for their families<sup>7</sup>. Moreover, armed conflicts disrupt children’s education. When schools are shut and children do not have other alternatives, they are being

---

<sup>2</sup> Unicef.org. (2017). Children as soldiers. [online] Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/sowc96/2csoldrs.htm> [Accessed 23 Jul. 2017].

<sup>3</sup> ADULT WARS, CHILD SOLDIERS (Voices of Children Involved in Armed Conflict in the East Asia and Pacific Region). (2002). [ebook] UNICEF. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/eapro/AdultWarsChildSoldiers.pdf> [Accessed 8 Sep. 2017].

<sup>4</sup> Child Soldiers International. (2017). Who are child soldiers?. [online] Available at: <https://www.child-soldiers.org/who-are-child-soldiers> [Accessed 23 Jul. 2017].

<sup>5</sup> Osborne, S. (2017). Boko Haram increasingly using drugged children as suicide bombers, warns Unicef. [online] The Independent. Available at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/boko-haram-children-suicide-bombers-drugged-children-unicef-warn-nigeria-cameroon-niger-chad-a7680366.html> [Accessed 23 Jul. 2017].

<sup>6</sup> KATZ, B. (2015). Female child soldiers can be victims of abuse, perpetrators of violence. [online] Women in the World in Association with The New York Times - WITW. Available at: <http://nytlive.nytimes.com/womenintheworld/2015/08/04/female-child-soldiers-can-be-victims-of-abuse-perpetrators-of-violence/> [Accessed 23 Jul. 2017].

<sup>7</sup> Human Rights Watch. (2008). Facts About Child Soldiers. [online] Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2008/12/03/facts-about-child-soldiers> [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].

persuaded to join the army<sup>8</sup>.

According to researchers, the prime reason for the presence of children on the battlefield is the combination of two variables: “changes in weapons technology (particularly the proliferation of light, simple, and cheap small arms, such as the AK-47), and the breakdown of global order, especially with the spread of failed states. This new dynamic has made possible a new mode of war, where immoral leaders seek to convert vulnerable, disconnected children into low-cost and expendable troops, who fight and die for their own causes”<sup>9</sup>.

In the direction of properly conceptualizing, addressing and comprehending the issue of recruiting child soldiers, the present guide has been divided as follows: firstly, one can find definitions of specific terms for the effective understanding of the topic. Thereafter, there is an analysis on the legal-historical background of the topic, followed by a brief citation of notable treaties and conventions. Lastly, we address some issues regarding the topic under discussion by incorporating some of the most noted regions being affected by the matter under discussion. Finally, we will conclude on some specific ideas and underline the general dilemmas that remain to be resolved by the 1<sup>st</sup> Committee of the GA.

## **DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS**

### *Child*

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child defines “child” broadly as “every human being below the age of 18 years.” (Article 1)<sup>10</sup> The 2007 Paris Principles interpret “a child associated with an armed force or armed group” as “any person below 18 years of age who is or who has been recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity, including but not limited to children, boys, and girls used as fighters, cooks, porters, messengers, spies or for sexual purposes. It does not only refer to a child who is taking or has taken a direct part in hostilities.”<sup>11</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup> Educateachild.org. (2017). Child Soldiers | Educate a Child. [online] Available at: <http://educateachild.org/explore/barriers-to-education/fragile-and-conflict-affected-situations/child-soldiers> [Accessed 23 Jul. 2017].

<sup>9</sup> Singer, P. (2002). Children at War. [online] Brookings. Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/children-at-war/> [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].

<sup>10</sup> "OHCHR (2017)| Convention On The Rights Of The Child." Ohchr.org. Available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx> [Accessed. 12 Sept. 2017].

<sup>11</sup> THE PARIS PRINCIPLES PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES ON CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH ARMED FORCES OR ARMED GROUPS. UNICEF, 2007. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/emerg/files/ParisPrinciples310107English.pdf> [Accessed 10 Sept. 2017].

## *Child Soldier*

According to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, “a child soldier is defined as any person below 18 years of age who is, or who has been, recruited or used by an armed force or an armed group in any capacity, including but not limited to children (boys and girls) used as fighters, cooks, porters, spies or for sexual purposes”<sup>12</sup>.

## *Reintegration of child soldiers*

Reintegration has been defined in many different ways. Nevertheless, attention should be paid to the definition provided by the international human rights organization Child Soldiers International; “Reintegration is the process through which children formerly associated with armed forces/groups are supported to return to civilian life and play a valued role in their families and communities”<sup>13</sup>.

## *Terrorism*

Until today the United Nations have not managed to agree on a modern definition of terrorism. Their failure is mainly due to two causes. The first one supports the idea that any definition must include States’ use of armed forces against civilians. The second objection is that people under foreign occupation have a right to resistance and a definition of terrorism should not override this right (self-determination)<sup>14</sup>. The most recent attempt to define terrorism came from UN Security Council Resolution 1566 (2004)<sup>15</sup>: “criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act”<sup>16</sup>.

---

<sup>12</sup> United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund: Topic: Child Soldiers. (2016). [ebook] UNA-MN Child Soldiers High School Conference at Humphrey School of Public Affairs, p.2. Available at: [http://www.unamn.org/uploads/2/8/2/8/28287267/topic\\_guide\\_2\\_unicef\\_childsoldiers.pdf](http://www.unamn.org/uploads/2/8/2/8/28287267/topic_guide_2_unicef_childsoldiers.pdf) [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].

<sup>13</sup> Child Soldiers International. (2017). Reintegration. [online] Available at: <https://www.child-soldiers.org/reintegration> [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].

<sup>14</sup> Human rights voices, “There is no UN definition of terrorism” Available at: [http://www.humanrightsvoices.org/eyeontheun/un\\_101/facts/?p=61](http://www.humanrightsvoices.org/eyeontheun/un_101/facts/?p=61) (Accessed Sep 11, 2017).

<sup>15</sup> For a UN report on terrorism you can see: <http://www.un.org/News/dh/infocus/terrorism/sg%20high-level%20panel%20report-terrorism.htm> (Accessed Sep 11, 2017).

<sup>16</sup> S/RES/1566 (2004)

## *Armed Conflict*

According to International Humanitarian Law (IHL), there are two main types of armed conflict; firstly, international armed conflict, opposing two, or more, States; secondly, non-international armed conflict, which may occur between governmental powers and non-governmental actors<sup>17</sup>.

*A) International armed conflict:* The classical type of an international armed conflict is the waging of hostilities between two or more States. According to Common Article 2 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949<sup>18</sup>, such a conflict exists, when two or more of the High Contracting Parties of the Conventions are using their legal armed forces and use of power, regardless of their specific intensity, reasoning and justifications.

*B) Non-international armed conflict:* Two instruments apply to non-international armed conflict: Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, and the 1977 Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions<sup>19</sup>. In order to sufficiently address what a non-international armed conflict is, Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions must be first examined, particularly where it is stated that “armed conflicts that are non-international in nature occurring in one of the High contracting parties”.<sup>20</sup> This phrase refers to the presence of a non-state actor. Additionally, Common Article 3 does not apply to less serious forms of violence, such as internal tensions or riots. In order to properly distinguish them, it has set two variables. Firstly, the hostilities must reach a certain minimum level of intensity and form in a collective character. Secondly, there has to be a specific level of organization of the non-governmental groups to the conflict, meaning that they have a specific structure and capacity to run and maintain military operations. The latter case, which is derived from Article 1 of Additional Protocol II, constitutes a more detailed definition of such conflict, despite its narrower scope of application.<sup>21</sup> Firstly, it introduces a requirement for territorial control over an area by non-governmental parties. This enables them to maintain military actions. Secondly, it can occur only between governmental and non-governmental armed

---

<sup>17</sup> “How Is The Term “Armed Conflict” Defined In International Humanitarian Law?”, Opinion Paper. International Committee of the Red Cross, 2008. Available at; <https://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/opinion-paper-armed-conflict.pdf>. 10 Sept. 2017.

<sup>18</sup> [ihl-databases.icrc.org](https://ihl-databases.icrc.org). (2017). Treaties, States parties, and Commentaries - Geneva Convention (I) on Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, 1949 - 2 - Application of the Convention. [online] Available at: <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/ihl/WebART/365-570005?OpenDocument> [Accessed 8 Sep. 2017].

<sup>19</sup> Natasha Balendra, “DEFINING ARMED CONFLICT”. pp 41-42. Available at; <http://cardozolawreview.com/Joomla1.5/content/29-6/BALENDRA.29.6.pdf> (Accessed September 13, 2017).

<sup>20</sup> “How Is The Term “Armed Conflict” Defined In International Humanitarian Law?”, Opinion Paper. International Committee of the Red Cross, 2008. Available at; <https://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/opinion-paper-armed-conflict.pdf>. [Accessed 10 Sept. 2017].

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

forces or other organized armed groups.

### *Failed State*

Britannica defines a failed state as “a state that is unable to perform the two fundamental functions of the sovereign nation-state in the modern world system: it cannot project authority over its territory and peoples, and it cannot protect its national boundaries. The governing capacity of a failed state is attenuated such that it is unable to fulfill the administrative and organizational tasks required to control people and resources and can provide only minimal public services. Its citizens no longer believe that their government is legitimate, and the state becomes illegitimate in the eyes of the international community”<sup>22</sup>.

## **HISTORY OF THE TOPIC**

***“In peace, children bury their parents; war violates the order of nature and causes parents to bury their children.”<sup>23</sup>***

These are the quoted words of the eminent Greek historian Herodotus, highlighting the worst part of war. Herodotus was aiming for parents to bury their relatively older children who fought as soldiers. It would be interesting to witness his reaction regarding the idea of a war fought by young children.

Although the use of child soldiers tends to be viewed as a contemporary problem, the practice has, in fact, been a common practice throughout much of human history. The earliest known use of child soldiers can be traced back to ancient Greece, specifically in Sparta<sup>24</sup>. The Spartan State ordered all male children to initiate their military training at seven years old. Once their training began, young Spartan boys were incorporated in the Spartan army, expected to spend the majority of their lives in military service<sup>25</sup>.

Another notable example derives from the Ottoman Empire during the Middle Ages.

---

<sup>22</sup> Encyclopedia Britannica. (2017). failed state | government. [online] Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/failed-state> [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].

<sup>23</sup> Lib Quotes. (n.d.). Herodotus Quotes about peace. [online] Available at: <https://libquotes.com/herodotus/quotes/peace> [Accessed 21 Jul. 2017].

<sup>24</sup> HISTORY.com." "Sparta - Ancient History Available at; <http://www.history.com/topics/ancient-history/sparta> 2017. [Accessed 10 Sept. 2017].

<sup>25</sup> Andrews, E. (2013). 8 Reasons It Wasn't Easy Being Spartan - History Lists. [online] HISTORY.com. Available at: <http://www.history.com/news/history-lists/8-reasons-it-wasnt-easy-being-spartan> [Accessed 19 Jul. 2017].

As the empire grew steadily bigger, Ottoman forces conscripted children into an elite military unit known as the Janissaries. Since Islamic law prohibited the Ottomans from enslaving young Muslims, they conscripted only Jews and Christians. Most of the children drafted into the Janissaries are thought to have been around fourteen, but there are examples of children as young as eight<sup>26</sup>. The recruitment of child soldiers was also common in Europe during the Middle Ages, boys were enlisted to serve alongside knights in battle as squires or soldiers.

Furthermore child soldiers played a major role in the American Civil War. Both the Union and Confederate armies enlisted minors to improve their chances. While parental consent was required for their recruitment, many minors simply chose to voluntarily join the service<sup>27</sup>.

Due to the high demand for manpower, the use of child soldiers became a frequent tool during both World War I and II. Almost every country involved in these conflicts, used child soldiers, with the notable exception of the United States, which had a generally strict enlistment age of seventeen. Perhaps the most notorious example is the Hitler Jugend (Hitler Youth) in the closing days of World War II<sup>28</sup>. Additionally, countless young Russian boys volunteered for service after the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union, which resulted in many casualties<sup>29</sup>. Undeniably, the use of child soldiers during World War II was not only limited to the European battlefields.

Despite a distinct lessening in the military use of children after World War II, the practice prevailed for specific strategic purposes. As early as the 1970s, terrorist organizations began to recruit children in order to help carry out attacks. Moreover, some national militaries continued to use child soldiers as well. During the Vietnam War, the Viet Kong used children and other civilians against American forces<sup>30</sup>. The use of child soldiers was also employed as part of the psychological warfare strategy in the Iran-Iraq War during the 1980s. While both sides used child soldiers, Iran's methods were particularly atrocious. They sent child soldiers into minefields to clear the path for adult soldiers. They also used to send, during the battles, brigades of women and children into frontline ahead of their main forces to absorb the initial Iraqi

---

<sup>26</sup> Encyclopedia.com. (2017). Janissaries facts, information, pictures | Encyclopedia.com articles about Janissaries. [online] Available at: <http://www.encyclopedia.com/history/modern-europe/turkish-and-ottoman-history/janissaries> [Accessed 21 Jul. 2017].

<sup>27</sup> Griffiths, J. (2015). Child soldiers of the US Civil War | All About History. [online] Historyanswers.co.uk. Available at: <https://www.historyanswers.co.uk/history-of-war/child-soldiers-of-the-us-civil-war/> [Accessed 21 Jul. 2017].

<sup>28</sup> History Learning Site. (2017). Hitler Youth Movement - History Learning Site. [online] Available at: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/nazi-germany/hitler-youth-movement/> [Accessed 21 Jul. 2017].

<sup>29</sup> Peck, M. (2016). The Battle for Moscow: How Russia Stopped Hitler's Military During World War II. [online] The National Interest. Available at: <http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/the-battle-moscow-how-russia-stopped-hitlers-nazi-germany-17641> [Accessed 21 Jul. 2017].

<sup>30</sup> Singer, P. (2002). Children at War. [online] Brookings. Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/children-at-war/> [Accessed 21 Jul. 2017].

attack<sup>31</sup>.

Since then, the use of child soldiers as a strategic tool has persisted in many parts of the world. The practice has generally is mostly associated with terrorist and revolutionary forces around the globe. Today, the practice of child soldiers continues to constitute a grave threat to international security and on the contrary to old practices, is far more widespread. There are as many as 300,000 children under the age of 18 serving as combatants around the globe with their average age being just over 12 years old. <sup>32</sup>

Although a couple of conventions and initiatives have been adopted in the direction of tackling the aforementioned problem, the obstacles in implementing them are due to the fact that, in most cases, child soldiers are in the context of failed states, of internal conflicts, non-state actors, paramilitary organizations, organized crime, minorities and displaced populations.<sup>33</sup>

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK

<b>Date</b>	<b>Timeline of Events</b>
1924	The first declaration of children's rights was adapted in Geneva by the League of Nations.
1949	Protocols I and II of the Geneva Convention set the age for involvement to 15 years, under the assumption of being an acceptable and reasonable age.
1974	The Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict was adopted by the United Nations
1984	UNICEF conducted studies on child soldiers in Uganda and South America. This studies aimed to find out how war affects children.
1985	UN reaches a conclusion that child soldiers are a form of exploitative labor. UNICEF published "Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances", which includes a section explaining why child soldiers should not be used. The UN believes that children under the age of 18 should not be required to attend in combat.
1990	The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child is adopted

<sup>31</sup> Al-Monitor. (2015). Iraq's child soldiers. [online] Available at: <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/08/iraq-iran-child-soldiers.html> [Accessed 21 Jul. 2017].

<sup>32</sup> Singer, Peter. (2006)"Young Soldiers Used In Conflicts Around The World." Brookings. Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/on-the-record/young-soldiers-used-in-conflicts-around-the-world/> [Accessed 12 Sept. 2017].

<sup>33</sup> Alexandre J. Vautravers. WHY CHILD SOLDIERS ARE SUCH A COMPLEX ISSUE..Available at: <http://doc.rero.ch/record/293780/files/hdp002.pdf> [Accessed 12 Sept. 2017].

	by the Organization of African Unity (OAU).
1994	The Human Rights Watch begins publishing articles regarding special reports on child soldiers in Africa.
1996	The General Assembly's Resolution 51/77 is adopted, with the idea of creating the mandate and recommended that the Secretary General appoints a special representative on the impact of armed conflict on children.
1998	The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court rules that any child under the age of 15 that is forced into conflict of war is considered as crime.
1999	Resolution 1261 is passed, which identifies the child soldiers problem as grave one, affecting international peace and security.
2000	The UN Security Council Resolution 1314 is adopted, which reaffirmed that the deliberate targeting of civilians, including children, may constitute a threat of peace and security.
2001	The UN Security Council Resolution 1379 is adopted, urging UN member states to prosecute nations that recruit children in war.
2003	The UN Security Council Resolution 1460 is adopted, calling on offending parties to present information on their progress towards the ban of child enlistment.
2005	The UN Security Council Resolution 1612 is adopted, implementing a monitoring and reporting mechanism regarding the use of child soldiers.
2007	The Paris commitments to protect children from unlawful recruitment or use by armed forces or armed groups, and the Paris principles and guidelines on children associated with armed forces or armed groups were adopted at the international conference 'Free children from war' in Paris.
2014	UNICEF and the Special Representative launched the campaign "Children, Not Soldiers", to bring about a global consensus that child soldiers should not be used in conflict.

#### *A) Declaration on the Protection of Children and Women in Emergency and Armed Conflict*

The United Nations Economic and Social Council proposed this Declaration in 1974 for the protection of women and children during emergency or wartime, as they are often the target groups most victimized by such occurrences, and consequently suffer serious harm. The Declaration calls all Member States for the strict observance on the following (United Nations, 1974):

“Attacks and bombings on the civilian population, inflicting incalculable suffering, especially on women and children, who are the most vulnerable members of the population, shall be prohibited, and such acts shall be condemned.

The use of chemical and bacteriological weapons in the course of military operations constitutes one of the most flagrant violations of the Geneva Protocol of 1925, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the principles of international humanitarian law and inflicts heavy losses on civilian populations, including defenseless women and children, and shall be severely condemned.

All States shall abide fully by their obligations under the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949, as well as other instruments of international law relative to respect for human rights in armed conflicts, which offer important guarantees for the protection of women and children.

All efforts shall be made by States involved in armed conflicts, military operations in foreign territories or military operations in territories still under colonial domination to spare women and children from the ravages of war. All the necessary steps shall be taken to ensure the prohibition of measures such as persecution, torture, punitive measures, degrading treatment and violence, particularly against that part of the civilian population that consists of women and children.

All forms of repression and cruel and inhuman treatment of women and children, including imprisonment, torture, shooting, mass arrests, collective punishment, destruction of dwellings and forcible eviction, committed by belligerents in the course of military operations or in occupied territories shall be considered criminal.

Women and children belonging to the civilian population and finding themselves in circumstances of emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence, or who live in occupied territories, shall not be deprived of shelter, food, medical aid or other inalienable rights, in accordance with the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child or other instruments of international law.”<sup>34</sup>

### *B) Convention on the Rights of the Child*

The Convention was adopted by the General Assembly in 1989. The preamble states that the “recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world”.<sup>35</sup>

---

<sup>34</sup> Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict. (1974). [ebook] Available at: [http://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.19\\_declaration%20protection%20women%20armed%20conflict.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.19_declaration%20protection%20women%20armed%20conflict.pdf) [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].

<sup>35</sup> Ohchr.org. (1989). OHCHR | Convention on the Rights of the Child. [online] Available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx> [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].

This document points out statements from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, where the child is entitled to special care and assistance. It also recognizes that the family is the natural environment for the growth of children in particular, thus it should be provided with protection and assistance, so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community, providing children with an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.

This paper also emphasizes that there are children living in exceptionally difficult conditions (for instance, emergencies, armed conflicts, and developing countries' living standards), and that such children need special consideration through international co-operation. Such is stated in the Declaration on Social and Legal Principles, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules), and the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict.

This document contains, as of today, 54 articles. The following will be taken into consideration, as special emphasis needs to be given to:

#### Article 6

1. States Parties recognize that every child has the inherent right to life.
2. States Parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child.

#### Article 19

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.
2. Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programs to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.

#### Article 24

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and

rehabilitation of health. States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services.

2. States Parties shall pursue full implementation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures:

- (a) To diminish infant and child mortality;
- (b) To ensure the provision of necessary medical assistance and health care to all children with emphasis on the development of primary health care;
- (c) To combat disease and malnutrition, including within the framework of primary health care, through, inter alia, the application of readily available technology and through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking-water, taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution;
- (d) To ensure appropriate pre-natal and post-natal health care for mothers;
- (e) To ensure that all segments of society, in particular parents and children, are informed, have access to education and are supported in the use of basic knowledge of child health and nutrition, the advantages of breastfeeding, hygiene and environmental sanitation and the prevention of accidents;
- (f) To develop preventive health care, guidance for parents and family planning education and services.

3. States Parties shall take all effective and appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children.

4. States Parties undertake to promote and encourage international co-operation with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the right recognized in the present article. In this regard, particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.

#### Article 28

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to education, and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity, they shall, in particular:

- (a) Make primary education compulsory and available free to all;
- (b) Encourage the development of different forms of secondary education, including general and vocational education, make them available and accessible to every child, and take appropriate measures such as the introduction of free education and offering financial assistance in case of need;
- (c) Make higher education accessible to all on the basis of capacity by every appropriate means;

(d) Make educational and vocational information and guidance available and accessible to all children;

(e) Take measures to encourage regular attendance at schools and the reduction of drop-out rates.

2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that school discipline is administered in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity and in conformity with the present Convention.

3. States Parties shall promote and encourage international cooperation in matters relating to education, in particular with a view to contributing to the elimination of ignorance and illiteracy throughout the world and facilitating access to scientific and technical knowledge and modern teaching methods. In this regard, particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.

### Article 38

1. States Parties undertake to respect and to ensure respect for rules of international humanitarian law applicable to them in armed conflicts which are relevant to the child.

2. States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that persons who have not attained the age of fifteen years do not take a direct part in hostilities.

3. States Parties shall refrain from recruiting any person who has not attained the age of fifteen years into their armed forces. In recruiting among those persons who have attained the age of fifteen years but who have not attained the age of eighteen years, States Parties shall endeavor to give priority to those who are oldest.

4. In accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population in armed conflicts, States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.<sup>36</sup>

### *C) Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict*

The Optional Protocol arises because, despite of the progress achieved in the global campaign to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers, large numbers of children continue to this day to be exploited for militaristic purposes. Therefore, extra effort is ought to be made in order to deal effectively with this circumstance.

The Optional Protocol raised the minimum age for direct participation in hostilities to 18 years of age, compared to the previous minimum specified in the Convention on the

---

<sup>36</sup> Ohchr.org. (1989). OHCHR | Convention on the Rights of the Child. [online] Available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx> [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].

Rights of the Child and the Geneva Convention, being 15 years old. It also prohibits compulsory recruitment by government forces of anyone under 18 years of age, and raises the minimum age above 15 for voluntary recruitment, in which case strict safeguards and protection should be implemented. For non-governmental forces, the minimum age for both voluntary and compulsory forces is 18. Additionally, due to the greater awareness over the subject, the UN's Secretary General also established a new policy that would require that civilian police and military observers in United Nations peacekeeping operations be at least 25 years of age.

Once ratified, the Optional Protocol will bind the signee country to its contents. It is mandatory that these States report regularly to the Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding the measures taken to bring their legislation and practice in line with the requirements of the Optional Protocol. The Committee may also enquire for further proof and information. States are, therefore, accountable to the international community for any violations and follow-ups to their commitments. In addition to the State Party's report, the Committee may also receive reports from other sources, such as civil societies and non-governmental organizations. These parallel reports give other organizations the opportunity to raise issues that they believe were not acknowledged in the State report<sup>37</sup>.

#### *D) Resolution 1261 / 1999*

Adopted by the UN Security Council in 1999, the resolution 1261 seeks to identify and reinforce any efforts in bringing to an end the use of children as soldiers in violation of international law. This includes the ILO's Convention No. 182, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

This document expresses concern at the impact of armed conflict on children and the long-term consequences to durable peace, security and development. It condemns the targeting of children in situations of armed conflict, including the following: killing, maiming, sexual violence, abduction, forced displacement and the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict altogether. It further censures all attacks on places that usually have a significant presence of children such as schools and hospitals.

All parties are called-upon to comply with their obligations under international law, particularly with the Geneva Convention and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is their responsibility to end impunity and to prosecute those responsible for grave breaches.

---

<sup>37</sup> Guide to the Optional Protocol On the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. Retrieved from Coalition To Stop the Use of Child Soldiers:. (2003). [ebook] UNICEF. Available at: [https://www.unicef.org/sowco6/pdfs/option\\_protocol\\_conflict.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/sowco6/pdfs/option_protocol_conflict.pdf) [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].

This resolution supports the ongoing work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and any other relevant international organizations dealing with children affected by armed conflict. Furthermore, it encourages all relevant actors at national and international level to tackle the issue of children and armed conflict, ensuring that the protection, welfare and rights of children are taken into account during peace negotiations. When peace is not yet at hand, all involved parties should undertake measures to minimize the harm suffered by children, allowing the delivery of basic necessary services, and to promote, implement and respect such measures.

All parties involved in armed conflict should ensure the safe access for the provision of humanitarian personnel and the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all children affected by armed conflict. They should grant passage to all personnel seeking to alleviate the impact of armed conflict on children and respect their status. All peacekeeping personnel must have appropriate training on the protection, rights and welfare of children. All Member States in tandem with the relevant international and regional organizations must ensure the appropriate training for the personnel involved in similar activities.

All Member States must intensify their efforts to ensure an end to the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict through political and other efforts; restrict arms transfers, which could provoke or prolong armed conflicts, and illegal arms flows; and finally, facilitate the disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration of children used as soldiers.<sup>38</sup>

#### *E) International Labor Organization*

The International Labor Organization is a tripartite UN agency. Active since 1919, the ILO brings together governments, employers and worker representatives of 187 member States to set international labor standards, policies, and programs promoting equal opportunities and rights for all women and men.

Through the ratification of conventions, the ILO creates a binding situation for all participants, who in turn are obliged to apply the ratified provisions and to comply with the obligations stated in the conventions, lest they are penalized. However, if a member nation does not ratify the convention, its contents will only work as a recommendation.

One of the ILO conventions that has been ratified by all member States (India being the last one and will begin enforcement in 2018) is Convention Number 182: Worst

---

<sup>38</sup> RESOLUTION 1261. (1999). [ebook] Security Council. Available at: <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/CAC%20SRES%201261.pdf> [Accessed 24 Jul. 2017].

Forms of Child Labor Convention. This Convention commits ratifying members to taking immediate and effective measures so as to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor as a matter of urgency.

For the purposes of this Convention, the term of “worst forms of child labor” comprises<sup>39</sup>:

- i) All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labor, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- ii) The use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
- iii) The use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;
- iv) Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

One of ILO’s primary functions is to help standardize countries in conceptual terms applied for legal purposes in an international framework. Around 204 possible status of children and varieties of statistical terms have been identified. This list includes the worst forms of child labor and the definition for child soldiers, which refers to “children engaged in various activities related to armed conflict whether or not they are paid. These activities could include attending military training in the camps of rebel groups, food preparation and related activities for the benefit of the older members of the armed force where the child is a member, being part of the group's elements as members of the foot patrol, sentry group, blocking force, armed escorts of older officials etc., or participating as part of the para-medical team, propaganda unit or member of the urban hit squad of the armed group. This definition also includes the activities of children who are used as decoys, spies or couriers of older rebels”<sup>40</sup>.

Despite the standardization of concepts, the ILO acknowledges the different definitions each country may give to the concept of “child” and “labor,” both together and separately. For example, the ILO defines a child as any human being under the age of 18, unless a country’s law recognizes an earlier age of maturity. These conceptual

---

<sup>39</sup> Ilo.org. (1999). Convention C182 - Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). [online] Available at: [http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:C182](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C182) [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].

<sup>40</sup> Ilo.org. (2007). Towards an internationally accepted statistical definition of child labor: children’s activities and their definitions. [online] Available at: <http://www.ilo.org/ipeinfo/product/viewProduct.do?productId=7871> [Accessed 24 Jul. 2017].

differences are often found, and subsequently overlooked as exemptions in developing countries. The ILO leaves certain criteria to the discretion of each Member State, as different definitions only reflect a diverse economic, cultural and social reality amongst countries. However, it establishes conditions and limits to these exemptions. For example, Article 7 of Convention 138 establishes that work should not be harmful to a child's health and development<sup>41</sup>.

#### *F) The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)*

In the past two decades, the international community has taken a number of crucial initiatives to end impunity for grave violations against children. The Rome Statute of 1998, which established the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2002, recognized "conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 and using them to participate actively in hostilities" as a war crime<sup>42</sup>.

Crimes committed against children during armed conflict have figured prominently in accusations issued by the ICC, particularly standing out in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Uganda, and the Central African Republic. One particular case against a former warlord from eastern DRC is notable. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, was found guilty on charges of war crimes, the enlistment and conscription of children under the age of 15 years and subsequently their active participation as "child soldiers" in the Ituri conflict from 2002 to 2003.

The defense in Lubanga's case argued that the children had voluntarily enlisted, as there was no proof of the contrary. In addition, not all recruited children had been active in hostile operations and therefore not every act should be considered as a war crime. However, as part of the trial, an amicus curiae (an outside volunteer who helps the court by expounding the law impartially) argued to the ICC that<sup>43</sup>:

- i) The distinction between voluntary enlistment and forced recruitment is a distinction without meaning in the context of armed conflict because even the most voluntary of acts can be a desperate attempt to survive by children with a limited number of options in the context of war;
- ii) Using children to participate actively should be interpreted broadly since children are required to play multiple support roles including as spies, messengers, porters, scouts, and cooks, that place them in danger

---

<sup>41</sup> Ilo.org. (2007). Towards an internationally accepted statistical definition of child labor: children's activities and their definitions. [online] Available at: <http://www.ilo.org/ippecinfo/product/viewProduct.do?productId=7871> [Accessed 24 Jul. 2017].

<sup>42</sup> Childrenandarmedconflict.un.org. (2017). Role of the International Criminal Court | United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. [online] Available at: <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/our-work/role-of-the-icc/> [Accessed 26 Jul. 2017].

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

iii) The ICC then judged that “the distinction between voluntary and forced recruitment is artificial and recognized the broader interpretation of the definition of child soldiers to include girls and boys who serve in support roles<sup>44</sup>.

Lubanga was the first person convicted by the ICC and was sentenced to 14 years in prison for his crimes since 2012. Although there are only few closed cases and sentences handed out by the ICC, the closure in Lubanga’s case has helped not only as a warning signal and as a deterrent against child recruitment in armed conflicts, but also as proof that international justice can be served. The case also settled important international jurisprudence on the crime of recruiting child soldiers and precedent for future cases and prosecutions in courts.

### *G) The Paris Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (Free Children from War)*

In 1992, the UN Commission on Human Rights endorsed a list of globally perceived standards concerning the status, powers and working of national human rights institutions. The UN Standards identifying with the Status of National Institutions, known as the Paris Principles (which were in this way embraced by the UN General Assembly in 1993), set out the essential rules prescribed by the U.N. in the foundation of a national human rights organization. The UN characterizes a national human rights foundation as an administration body set up under the constitution or by law, whose capacities are particularly intended to advance and secure human rights. The UN extensively bunches national human rights establishments into three classifications: human rights commissions, ombudsmen, and special national institutions intended to ensure the rights of those groups that are as a rule constantly discriminated against and left helpless, (e.g., ethnic minorities, indigenous people, displaced people, women or children).

The Paris Principles reflect involvement and learning from over the globe with the solemn intention to both cultivate "programmatic coherence" and bolster and advance "good practice". Consistence with the Paris Principles is the prerequisite of the accreditation procedure that directs NHRI access to the United Nations Human Rights Council and different bodies. They are a list of various obligations regarding national organizations, which fall under five headings:

- i) First, the organization should screen any circumstance of infringement of human rights which it chooses to take up;

---

<sup>44</sup> Childrenandarmedconflict.un.org. (2017). Role of the International Criminal Court | United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. [online] Available at: <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/our-work/role-of-the-icc/> [Accessed 26 Jul. 2017].

- ii) Second, the establishment might have the capacity to exhort the Government, the Parliament and whatever other equipped body on particular infringements, on issues identified with enactment and general consistence and usage with universal human rights instruments;
- iii) Third, the foundation should identify with provincial and universal associations;
- iv) Fourth, the establishment might have an order to teach and advice in the field of human rights;
- v) Fifth, a few establishments are given a semi legal skill.<sup>45</sup>

## **BLOC POSITIONS**

### *Asia*

When examining armed forces in Asia, one can find that children are engaged in couple of countries, with the most noted ones being India<sup>46</sup> and Myanmar. Myanmar's internal armed conflicts have been marked by severe human rights violations, with children being used by both state armed forces, and other armed groups.<sup>47</sup>

### *The Middle East*

The Iran-Iraq war in 1980 was the first modern example of using child soldiers in the region. Thousands of children were pulled from schools and sent to the front lines of the battlefield. Recently, the most involved country in this area is Iraq, where under Saddam Hussein, it enrolled child soldiers to the conflict by building up an entire apparatus designed to pull children into conflict<sup>48</sup>. Another example is the Syrian Arab Republic, where since 2014, warring sides have been recruiting children. According to UNICEF, more than half of children recruited in 2015 were under 15<sup>49</sup>. Moreover,

---

<sup>45</sup> THE PARIS PRINCIPLES PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES ON CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH ARMED FORCES OR ARMED GROUPS. UNICEF, 2007. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/emerg/files/ParisPrinciples310107English.pdf> [Accessed 10 Sept. 2017].

<sup>46</sup> HuffPost. (2013). World's Largest Democracy Has 3,000 Child Soldiers. [online] Available at: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/16/india-child-soldiers\\_n\\_3288016.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/16/india-child-soldiers_n_3288016.html) [Accessed 21 Jul. 2017].

<sup>47</sup> Child Soldiers International. (2017). Myanmar. [online] Available at: <https://www.child-soldiers.org/myanmar> [Accessed 24 Jul. 2017].

<sup>48</sup> Singer, P. (2003). Facing Saddam's Child Soldiers. [online] Brookings. Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/research/facing-saddams-child-soldiers/> [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].

<sup>49</sup> Unicef.org. (2016). UNICEF CEE/CIS - Media centre - 1 in 3 Syrian children has grown up knowing only crisis as conflict reaches 5 year point. [online] Available at: [https://www.unicef.org/ceecis/media\\_28736.html](https://www.unicef.org/ceecis/media_28736.html) [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].

children have been used as propaganda tools in videos by the Islamic State<sup>50</sup>.

## *Africa*

This region is often considered to be at the epicenter of the child recruitment issue. Children are used by armed groups all over the continent. Most of the countries with children soldiers are; Angola, , Uganda, Rwanda, Central African Republic, Tanzania, Congo, Core d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and DR Congo<sup>51</sup>.

More specifically, in 2011, it was estimated there were 30,000 child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo<sup>52</sup>. Nowadays, children continue to be recruited, with girls often abused and used as “wives”. In another example in Nigeria, the terrorist group Boko Haram recruited 2000 child soldiers in 2016<sup>53</sup>. Additionally, in Somalia, the UN reported that 903 children had been recruited<sup>54</sup> by paramilitary groups. In Yemen, the Huthi armed group is actively recruiting boys as young as 15 to fight on the front lines of the civil war<sup>55</sup>. The last two aforementioned cases constitute the perfect example of a failed state.

## *Europe*

Europe constitutes no exception, as thousands of child soldiers fought during the Balkan wars between 1991 and 1995<sup>56</sup>. Moreover, a large number of child soldiers fought in opposition groups in the east, for instance, in Chechnya.<sup>57</sup>

---

<sup>50</sup> Economist.com. (2017). What to do with Islamic State's child soldiers. [online] Available at: <https://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21723416-cubs-caliphate-are-growing-up-what-do-islamic-states-child> [Accessed 23 Jul. 2017].

<sup>51</sup> "Understanding The Recruitment Of Child Soldiers In Africa - ACCORD." ACCORD. N.p., 2017. Available at: <http://www.accord.org.za/conflict-trends/understanding-recruitment-child-soldiers-africa/> [Accessed 10 Sept. 2017].

<sup>52</sup> "Rehabilitating Child Soldiers In The DRC." Soschildrensvillages.ca. N.p., 2017. Available at: <https://www.soschildrensvillages.ca/rehabilitating-child-soldiers-drc> [Accessed 10 Sept. 2017].

<sup>53</sup> ADAMCZYK, ED. "Boko Haram Recruited 2,000 Child Soldiers In 2016: UNICEF." UPI 2017. Available at: [https://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/World-News/2017/02/21/Boko-Haram-recruited-2000-child-soldiers-in-2016-UNICEF/8831487689926/](https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2017/02/21/Boko-Haram-recruited-2000-child-soldiers-in-2016-UNICEF/8831487689926/) [Accessed 10 Sept. 2017].

<sup>54</sup> Childrenandarmedconflict.un.org. (2017). Somalia | United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. [online] Available at: <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/countries-caac/somalia/> [Accessed 22 Jul. 2017].

<sup>55</sup> Amnesty.org. (2017). Yemen: Huthi forces recruiting child soldiers for front-line combat. [online] Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/02/yemen-huthi-forces-recruiting-child-soldiers-for-front-line-combat/> [Accessed 24 Jul. 2017].

<sup>56</sup> RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty. (2008). Child Soldiers Of The Balkans. [online] Available at: [https://www.rferl.org/a/Child\\_Soldiers\\_Of\\_The\\_Balkans/1349516.html](https://www.rferl.org/a/Child_Soldiers_Of_The_Balkans/1349516.html) [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].

<sup>57</sup> Refugees, U. (2001). Refworld | Child Soldiers Global Report 2001 - Russian Federation. [online] Refworld. Available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/498805d4c.html> [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].

## *The Americas*

Child soldiers have fought in the Americas since 1990 in Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru<sup>58</sup>. Especially in Mexico, the use of children by numerous drug cartels is a commonplace phenomenon, as the country is facing high numbers of narcotic related crime. Children that are recruited to serve in gangs are typically known as “narco juniors”, who are used to smuggle drugs, or as child assassins and are used particularly by paramilitary organizations.<sup>59</sup> On the other hand, since 1999, Colombia’s family welfare agency has taken in at least 6,000 child soldiers who were captured from illegal armed groups or were deserted. Sixty per cent had belonged to the Farc, according to official numbers<sup>60</sup>. Farc stands for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc, after the initials in Spanish) and is currently Colombia's largest rebel group<sup>61</sup>.

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

In the long pursuit of addressing the issue of children in armed conflict, we need to concentrate our efforts around the acronym DDR, which stands for Disarmament, Demobilization, and Re-Integration<sup>62</sup>.

*Disarmament*<sup>63</sup> is practically is the “collection, documentation, control and disposal of small arms, ammunition, explosives and light and heavy weapons” from the child soldiers.

*Demobilization*<sup>64</sup> means disbanding armed groups so that the children no longer have the chance to join them.

Finally, *re-integration*<sup>65</sup> is the process of transitioning these children back into civil society. Governments should cooperate with both public/private and nongovernmental organizations to help reintegrate those children back into the civil

---

<sup>58</sup> Coha.org. (2012). From Cradle to Conflict: Child Soldiers' Growing Role in Latin America's Drug Wars. [online] Available at: <http://www.coha.org/from-cradle-to-conflict-latin-americas-child-soldiers-new-direction-to-drug-wars/> [Accessed 22 Jul. 2017].

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> Brodzinsky, S. (2016). Farc's child soldiers start new life after peace deal. [online] the Guardian. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/11/farcs-child-soldiers-start-new-life-after-peace-deal> [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].

<sup>61</sup> BBC News. (2016). Who are the Farc? - BBC News. [online] Available at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-36605769> [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].

<sup>62</sup> Un.org. (2017). Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration. United Nations Peacekeeping. [online] Available at: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/ddr.shtml> [Accessed 26 Jul. 2017].

<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

society. This includes not only access to basic needs such as shelter, protection, food and water, but also physical and psychological treatment to counter the physical injuries, sexual abuse, and psychological damage that armed conflict may have caused.

Apart from the DDR acronym, socio-political factors such as poverty and poor quality of education must be properly tackled and improved, so that children in the future are not forced to join armed groups or gangs in order to provide for their families and societies. Moreover, it is imperative that governments allocate funds to create preventative programs and awareness campaigns targeting at educating children.

More practically, other prevention methods could involve rapid reactionary forces or peacekeepers sent in by the United Nations or regional organizations in the event of an outbreak of conflict. These forces can assist in trying to counter or disarm child soldiers during such a conflict.

Last but not least, alternative ideas should be examined. This could mean increasing the minimum age allowed for children to join an army. Undeniably, not all governments would agree on a minimum age, and would cite national sovereignty over this issue instead. It should also be considered that armed groups are not compelled to follow any international treaties<sup>66</sup>.

## **QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED – POINTS A RESOLUTION SHOULD ADDRESS**

- How can national legal frameworks be connected with an international one?
- Do already existing measures address all the aspects of the issue under discussion?
- What is the role of national governments in tackling the problem efficiently?
- What is the role of the Disarmament and International Security Committee in the field of combating the recruitment of child soldiers?
- Which direction shall we take in order to create a more comprehensive framework and a holistic response for the prevention of the recruitment of child soldiers?

---

<sup>66</sup> Coha.org. (2012). From Cradle to Conflict: Child Soldiers' Growing Role in Latin America's Drug Wars. [online] Available at: <http://www.coha.org/from-cradle-to-conflict-latin-americas-child-soldiers-new-direction-to-drug-wars/> [Accessed 26 Jul. 2017].

- How can children be better protected from the physical and psychological effects of armed conflict, including being recruited as child soldiers?
- Which measures should be taken in order to address adequately the issue of child soldiers in countries characterized by weak institutions and the problems deriving from them (for instance, political upheaval, economic deprivation, etc)?
- What actions should be taken by the international community in order to properly raise public awareness regarding our topic?
- What measures should be adopted in order to achieve full rehabilitation of child soldiers?
- Since ending the conflict constitutes a complicated, challenging, and time consuming approach, what can be done in other fields such as controlling light arms and demobilizing armed groups?

## **CONCLUSION**

The use of children in violent wars, apart from battlefields, is now taking place in the urban streets and local communities at an increasing rate, causing more international implications. The use of minors in armed conflict and organized groups not only violates local, national, regional, and international laws, but is also a grave violation of human rights and ethics. Children are often lured into armies for numerous factors such as: poverty, security, lack of education and employment, as well as the deterioration of other systematic institutions. Children are used in the pursuit of power, money and territory, by utilizing their vigor, vulnerability, innocence, and age to others' benefit. Unless government authorities on both a local and international dimensions pay attention to the growing number of children joining the militia, this problem will continue to perish, and will inevitably spill over into other surrounding regions. Through the works of our committee, delegates shall forge and implement solutions to properly address the real nature, scale, and scope of the problem. At the same time, they should include all different national perspectives in a coherent manner. It is a great opportunity to decide upon an adequate legal framework that could constitute a beacon of hope, lighting up the path that Member States need to follow, in order to ensure a better future for the generations to come.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- UN General Assembly - First Committee - Disarmament And International Security." Un.org. Available at: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/> [Accessed 12 Sept. 2017].
- Unicef.org. (2017). Children as soldiers. [online] Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/sowc96/2csoldrs.htm> [Accessed 23 Jul. 2017].
- ADULT WARS, CHILD SOLDIERS (Voices of Children Involved in Armed Conflict in the East Asia and Pacific Region). (2002). [ebook] UNICEF. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/eapro/AdultWarsChildSoldiers.pdf> [Accessed 8 Sep. 2017].
- Child Soldiers International. (2017). Who are child soldiers?. [online] Available at: <https://www.child-soldiers.org/who-are-child-soldiers> [Accessed 23 Jul. 2017].
- Osborne, S. (2017). Boko Haram increasingly using drugged children as suicide bombers, warns Unicef. [online] The Independent. Available at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/boko-haram-children-suicide-bombers-drugged-children-unicef-warn-nigeria-cameroon-niger-chad-a7680366.html> [Accessed 23 Jul. 2017].
- KATZ, B. (2015). Female child soldiers can be victims of abuse, perpetrators of violence. [online] Women in the World in Association with The New York Times - WITW. Available at: <http://nytlive.nytimes.com/womenintheworld/2015/08/04/female-child-soldiers-can-be-victims-of-abuse-perpetrators-of-violence/> [Accessed 23 Jul. 2017].
- Human Rights Watch. (2008). Facts About Child Soldiers. [online] Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2008/12/03/facts-about-child-soldiers> [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].
- Educateachild.org. (2017). Child Soldiers | Educate a Child. [online] Available at: <http://educateachild.org/explore/barriers-to-education/fragile-and-conflict-affected-situations/child-soldiers> [Accessed 23 Jul. 2017].
- Singer, P. (2002). Children at War. [online] Brookings. Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/children-at-war/> [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].
- "OHCHR (2017)| Convention On The Rights Of The Child." Ohchr.org. Available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx> [Accessed. 12 Sept. 2017].
- THE PARIS PRINCIPLES PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES ON CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH ARMED FORCES OR ARMED GROUPS. UNICEF, 2007. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/emerg/files/ParisPrinciples310107English.pdf> [Accessed 10 Sept. 2017].
- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund: Topic: Child

Soldiers. (2016). [ebook] UNA-MN Child Soldiers High School Conference at Humphrey School of Public Affairs, p.2. Available at: [http://www.unamn.org/uploads/2/8/2/8/28287267/topic\\_guide\\_2\\_unicef\\_childsoldiers.pdf](http://www.unamn.org/uploads/2/8/2/8/28287267/topic_guide_2_unicef_childsoldiers.pdf) [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].

- Child Soldiers International. (2017). Reintegration. [online] Available at: <https://www.child-soldiers.org/reintegration> [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].
- Human rights voices, “There is no UN definition of terrorism” Available at: [http://www.humanrightsvoices.org/eyeontheun/un\\_101/facts/?p=61](http://www.humanrightsvoices.org/eyeontheun/un_101/facts/?p=61) (Accessed Sep 11, 2017).
- For a UN report on terrorism you can see; <http://www.un.org/News/dh/infocus/terrorism/sg%20high-level%20panel%20report-terrorism.htm> (Accessed Sep 11, 2017).
- International Committee of the Red Cross, “How is the Term "Armed Conflict" Defined in International Humanitarian Law?”, Opinion Paper, March 2008, Available at; <https://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/opinion-paper-armed-conflict.pdf> (Accessed January 13, 2017).
- [ihl-databases.icrc.org](http://ihl-databases.icrc.org). (2017). Treaties, States parties, and Commentaries - Geneva Convention (I) on Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, 1949 - 2 - Application of the Convention. [online] Available at: <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/ihl/WebART/365-570005?OpenDocument> [Accessed 8 Sep. 2017].
- Natasha Balendra, “DEFINING ARMED CONFLICT”. pp 41-42. Available at: <http://cardozolawreview.com/Joomla1.5/content/29-6/BALENDRA.29.6.pdf> (Accessed January 13, 2017).
- “How Is The Term "Armed Conflict" Defined In International Humanitarian Law?”, Opinion Paper. International Committee of the Red Cross, 2008. Available at; <https://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/opinion-paper-armed-conflict.pdf>. [Accessed 10 Sept. 2017].
- Encyclopedia Britannica. (2017). failed state | government. [online] Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/failed-state> [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].
- Lib Quotes. (n.d.). Herodotus Quotes about peace. [online] Available at: <https://libquotes.com/herodotus/quotes/peace> [Accessed 21 Jul. 2017].
- HISTORY.com." "Sparta - Ancient History Available at; <http://www.history.com/topics/ancient-history/sparta> 2017. [Accessed 10 Sept. 2017].
- Andrews, E. (2013). 8 Reasons It Wasn't Easy Being Spartan - History Lists. [online] HISTORY.com. Available at: <http://www.history.com/news/history-lists/8-reasons-it-wasnt-easy-being-spartan> [Accessed 19 Jul. 2017].
- Encyclopedia.com. (2017). Janissaries facts, information, pictures | Encyclopedia.com articles about Janissaries. [online] Available at: <http://www.encyclopedia.com/history/modern-europe/turkish-and-ottoman-history/janissaries> [Accessed 21 Jul. 2017].

- Griffiths, J. (2015). Child soldiers of the US Civil War | All About History. [online] Historyanswers.co.uk. Available at: <https://www.historyanswers.co.uk/history-of-war/child-soldiers-of-the-us-civil-war/> [Accessed 21 Jul. 2017].
- History Learning Site. (2017). Hitler Youth Movement - History Learning Site. [online] Available at: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/nazi-germany/hitler-youth-movement/> [Accessed 21 Jul. 2017].
- Peck, M. (2016). The Battle for Moscow: How Russia Stopped Hitler's Military During World War II. [online] The National Interest. Available at: <http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/the-battle-moscow-how-russia-stopped-hitlers-nazi-germany-17641> [Accessed 21 Jul. 2017].
- Singer, P. (2002). Children at War. [online] Brookings. Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/children-at-war/> [Accessed 21 Jul. 2017].
- Al-Monitor. (2015). Iraq's child soldiers. [online] Available at: <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/08/iraq-iran-child-soldiers.html> [Accessed 21 Jul. 2017].
- Singer, Peter. (2006)"Young Soldiers Used In Conflicts Around The World." Brookings. Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/on-the-record/young-soldiers-used-in-conflicts-around-the-world/> [Accessed 12 Sept. 2017].
- Alexandre J. Vautravers. WHY CHILD SOLDIERS ARE SUCH A COMPLEX ISSUE..Available at: <http://doc.rero.ch/record/293780/files/hdp002.pdf> [Accessed 12 Sept. 2017].
- Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict. (1974). [ebook] Available at: [http://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocity-crimes/Doc.19\\_declaration%20protection%20women%20armed%20conflict.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocity-crimes/Doc.19_declaration%20protection%20women%20armed%20conflict.pdf) [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].
- Ohchr.org. (1989). OHCHR | Convention on the Rights of the Child. [online] Available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx> [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].
- Guide to the Optional Protocol On the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. Retrieved from Coalition To Stop the Use of Child Soldiers:. (2003). [ebook] UNICEF. Available at: [https://www.unicef.org/sowco6/pdfs/option\\_protocol\\_conflict.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/sowco6/pdfs/option_protocol_conflict.pdf) [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].
- RESOLUTION 1261. (1999). [ebook] Security Council. Available at: <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/CAC%20SRES%201261.pdf> [Accessed 24 Jul. 2017].
- Ilo.org. (1999). Convention C182 - Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). [online] Available at: <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P121>

oo\_ILO\_CODE:C182 [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].

- Ilo.org. (2007). Towards an internationally accepted statistical definition of child labor: children's activities and their definitions. [online] Available at: <http://www.ilo.org/ipeinfo/product/viewProduct.do?productId=7871> [Accessed 24 Jul. 2017].
- Childrenandarmedconflict.un.org. (2017). Role of the International Criminal Court | United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. [online] Available at: <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/our-work/role-of-the-icc/> [Accessed 26 Jul. 2017].
- THE PARIS PRINCIPLES PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES ON CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH ARMED FORCES OR ARMED GROUPS. UNICEF, 2007. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/emerg/files/ParisPrinciples310107English.pdf> [Accessed 10 Sept. 2017].
- HuffPost. (2013). World's Largest Democracy Has 3,000 Child Soldiers. [online] Available at: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/16/india-child-soldiers\\_n\\_3288016.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/16/india-child-soldiers_n_3288016.html) [Accessed 21 Jul. 2017].
- Child Soldiers International. (2017). Myanmar. [online] Available at: <https://www.child-soldiers.org/myanmar> [Accessed 24 Jul. 2017].
- Singer, P. (2003). Facing Saddam's Child Soldiers. [online] Brookings. Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/research/facing-saddams-child-soldiers/> [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].
- Unicef.org. (2016). UNICEF CEE/CIS - Media centre - 1 in 3 Syrian children has grown up knowing only crisis as conflict reaches 5 year point. [online] Available at: [https://www.unicef.org/ceecis/media\\_28736.html](https://www.unicef.org/ceecis/media_28736.html) [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].
- Economist.com. (2017). What to do with Islamic State's child soldiers. [online] Available at: <https://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21723416-cubs-caliphate-are-growing-up-what-do-islamic-states-child> [Accessed 23 Jul. 2017].
- "Understanding The Recruitment Of Child Soldiers In Africa - ACCORD." ACCORD. N.p., 2017. Available at: <http://www.accord.org.za/conflict-trends/understanding-recruitment-child-soldiers-africa/> [Accessed 10 Sept. 2017].
- "Rehabilitating Child Soldiers In The DRC." Soschildrensvillages.ca. N.p., 2017. Available at: <https://www.soschildrensvillages.ca/rehabilitating-child-soldiers-drc> [Accessed 10 Sept. 2017].
- ADAMCZYK, ED. "Boko Haram Recruited 2,000 Child Soldiers In 2016: UNICEF." UPI 2017. Available at: [https://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/World-News/2017/02/21/Boko-Haram-recruited-2000-child-soldiers-in-2016-UNICEF/8831487689926/](https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2017/02/21/Boko-Haram-recruited-2000-child-soldiers-in-2016-UNICEF/8831487689926/) [Accessed 10 Sept. 2017].

- Childrenandarmedconflict.un.org. (2017). Somalia | United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. [online] Available at: <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/countries-caac/somalia/> [Accessed 22 Jul. 2017].
- Amnesty.org. (2017). Yemen: Huthi forces recruiting child soldiers for front-line combat. [online] Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/02/yemen-huthi-forces-recruiting-child-soldiers-for-front-line-combat/> [Accessed 24 Jul. 2017].
- RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty. (2008). Child Soldiers Of The Balkans. [online] Available at: [https://www.rferl.org/a/Child\\_Soldiers\\_Of\\_The\\_Balkans/1349516.html](https://www.rferl.org/a/Child_Soldiers_Of_The_Balkans/1349516.html) [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].
- Refugees, U. (2001). Refworld | Child Soldiers Global Report 2001 - Russian Federation. [online] Refworld. Available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/498805d4c.html> [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].
- Coha.org. (2012). From Cradle to Conflict: Child Soldiers' Growing Role in Latin America's Drug Wars. [online] Available at: <http://www.coha.org/from-cradle-to-conflict-latin-americas-child-soldiers-new-direction-to-drug-wars/> [Accessed 22 Jul. 2017].
- Brodzinsky, S. (2016). Farc's child soldiers start new life after peace deal. [online] the Guardian. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/11/farcs-child-soldiers-start-new-life-after-peace-deal> [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].
- BBC News. (2016). Who are the Farc? - BBC News. [online] Available at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-36605769> [Accessed 25 Jul. 2017].
- Un.org. (2017). Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration. United Nations Peacekeeping. [online] Available at: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/ddr.shtml> [Accessed 26 Jul. 2017].
- Coha.org. (2012). From Cradle to Conflict: Child Soldiers' Growing Role in Latin America's Drug Wars. [online] Available at: <http://www.coha.org/from-cradle-to-conflict-latin-americas-child-soldiers-new-direction-to-drug-wars/> [Accessed 26 Jul. 2017].

## FURTHER READING

- Child Soldiers International. (2017). Reintegration. [online] Available at: <https://www.child-soldiers.org/reintegration> [Accessed 26 Jul. 2017].
- Tynes, R. (n.d.). Child Soldier Use: The Diffusion of a Tactical Innovation. [ebook] Available at: <http://www.usma.edu/nsc/SiteAssets/SitePages/5th%20Annual%20Network%20Science%20Workshop/The%20Diffusion%20of%20a%20Tactical%20Innovation.pdf> [Accessed 26 Jul. 2017].
- Human Rights Watch. (2004). Children as Weapons of War. [online] Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2004/01/25/children-weapons-war> [Accessed 26 Jul. 2017].
- Singer, P. (2002). Children at War. [online] Brookings. Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/children-at-war/> [Accessed 26 Jul. 2017].
- Kaplan, E. (2005). Child Soldiers Around the World. [online] Council on Foreign Relations. Available at: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/child-soldiers-around-world> [Accessed 26 Jul. 2017].
- Buchanan, Rose. (2015) "US Gives Military Aid To Foreign Governments Using Child Soldiers." The Independent. Available at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-gives-military-aid-to-foreign-governments-using-child-soldiers-a6674421.html>. [Accessed 10 Sept. 2017].