

OSRSG CAAC Contribution to the Universal Periodic Review on Sudan, September 2015

1. Background

Sudan is one of the seven countries involved in the “Children, Not Soldiers” campaign that aims to end recruitment and use of children by Government forces by 2016. Sudan is however the only country which has yet to sign an Action Plan with the United Nations, as called for in UNSCR 1612 (2005). Government security forces, including Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), the Popular Defence Forces (PDF) and Sudan Police Forces are listed for recruitment and use of children in the most recent Secretary-General Annual Report Children and Armed Conflict (A/69/926-S/2015/409). SAF and Police Forces have been listed since 2006 and are therefore considered as persistent perpetrators. Restriction on access has prevented effective monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children and in providing essential humanitarian assistance for children affected by conflict in across Sudan, especially in areas controlled by armed groups in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

2. Recommendations

- Acknowledge the ongoing dialogue between the Government of Sudan and the United Nations towards the adoption of an action plan to end recruitment and use of children and call on the Government of Sudan to take the opportunity of the “Children, Not Soldiers” campaign ending in 2016, to sign the action plan. The action plan should provide the framework to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children in Government security forces and move the country towards delisting from the Secretary-General’s annexes to the annual report on children and armed conflict.
- Call on the Government to criminalize the recruitment and use of children.
- Call on the Government to promptly investigate any reports of recruitment and use of children by its security forces, take all measures to end such practice and ensure that child recruiters are brought to justice and adequately sanctioned, if convicted.
- Ensure that children released from Government security forces receive adequate reintegration support.
- Concerned by the killing and maiming of children due to indiscriminate aerial bombardment, crossfire and during military operations in civilian areas, call on the Government to take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of children during military operations in line with international law, including treating children associated with armed groups primarily as victims and not detain them.
- Express concern regarding reports of sexual violence committed against children by Government forces as well as by militias, and request the Government to prosecute and hold accountable perpetrators of sexual violence against children, and provide adequate assistance to the victims including medical and judicial, as well as reparations.
- Call on the Government to remove impediments to access to the conflict-affected areas, including areas controlled by armed groups, for the purpose of providing humanitarian assistance to the children affected by armed conflict.