



NEWSLETTER JUNE-JULY-AUGUST 2019



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND THE PARTICIPATION OF THE IOLDCS

41st SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

24 June – 12 July 2019

STATEMENT: General Debate Item 4

Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development (including thematic reports of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/22jORuLcdkg?rel=0>

Mrs. President,

The International Organization for the Least Developed Countries expresses its concern about the ongoing war and humanitarian crisis faced by the Yemenis and believes that the reports of the High Commissioner should give priority to the crises of the least developed countries, including Yemen.

Last week, the quart members authorized by the Security Council on Yemen expressed concern that the World Food Program had been forced to suspend food shipments to Sana'a because of the Huthis' interference in delivering aid, and called on the Huthis to immediately end all restrictions to aid agencies to ensure the delivery of life-saving assistance to Yemenis most in need and reiterated their commitment to the Yemeni peace process.

The war in Yemen came as a result of two extremist groups, the Houthis who claim a divine leader Abdul - Malik al - Houthi should take power as a descendant of the Prophet and under its shadow Tenth of thousands of children pushed to the fighting fronts

On the other hand, the Islahparty which represents Muslim Brotherhood and a decision maker of the Yemeni government is struggling for establishing the Islamic Caliphate.

Mrs. President,

To pave the way for a comprehensive solution, the starting point should be to focus on identifying the "Lords of war" between these two groups and refer them to the ICC.

Thank you, Mr. President.



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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention



Democracy, development and human rights against terrorism



The VDPA also draws a direct connection between respect for human rights, [democracy](#) and [international development](#), stating in Part I, para 8: "8. Democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives. In the context of the above, the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels should be universal and conducted without conditions attached. The international community should support the strengthening and promoting of democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the entire world." In Part I, para 17: "The act, methods and practices of [terrorism](#) in all its form" as well as [drug trafficking](#) "are activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedom and democracy" and that "the international community should take necessary steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism"



https://www.youtube.com/embed/Mr3_rXLxkkc?rel=0

Mr. President,

Vienna Declaration adopted Paragraph 17 on methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and the steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism.

In Yemen as an example, after the terrorist acts overwhelmed on the South in 2015 and went to roam the streets raising the slogan of al-Qaeda and ISIS.

Then, the UAE Armed Forces launched a military campaign to cleanse the South from al-Qaeda and ISIS, with the participation of counterterrorism, Security Belt forces and Shabwani Elite, which resulted eradicating al-Qaeda and ISIS.

The UAE's support, rehabilitation of the security services, formation of the anti-terrorism forces support has had a great impact on achieving security, stability in the South and continuing to pursue the terrorist hotbeds.

OIPMA, recommends the Council to call upon other states in the region to do the same, and to refrain providing safe havens and to refrain from hosting any person who supports, facilitates, participates or attempts to participate in financing, planning, perpetration of terrorist acts.

Thank you, Mr. President

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IOLDCS Focuses, among other issues, on the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict in the crisis-affected Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Children continue to be disproportionately affected by armed conflict in many country situations including in Yemen.

As child soldiers are deemed “cheap” and “expendable” tools, they are vulnerable to manipulation and are often rendered active perpetrators of violence. The social fragmentation and underdevelopment of poorer countries has created a pool of children exposed to abduction and voluntary participation in armed groups.

The use of *child soldiers* is one of the most distressing consequences of these devastating wars. The internal anger and resentment that the children are unable to dispel is exploited by terrorist groups. This makes it easier for children to be abused as spies, scouts, sexual slaves, human shields and so on.

Deriving from the resolution 1612 of 2015 which established the mandate of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, our organisation OIPMA suggest that, thematical issues such as recruitment children be considered and urge the Human rights Councils to review and monitor the recruitment of children in Yemen, which has escalated in recent years.



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

Friday, 23 August 2019

Increasing Collaboration to Break Cycles of Vulnerability and Better Protect Children in Armed Conflict

Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict to the General Assembly

The previous year was marked by persistently high levels of grave violations against boys and girls in armed conflict, a call to urgently enhance joint advocacy and international cooperation to better protect millions of children affected by conflict, highlights the new report of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict to the General Assembly. The report presents progress and issues of concern for conflict affected children between August 2018 and July 2019, as well as recommendations to the General Assembly.

“The protection of children is a cross-cutting issue and the international community has a collective responsibility to act to end and prevent grave violations against children, which can be early indicators of conflict escalation, as per Security Council Resolution 2427 (2018). Child protection strategies are at the center of security, human rights, humanitarian and development issues, and can serve as tools for conflict resolution and peace building,” Special Representative Gamba said.

Through advocacy, awareness-raising and engagement with parties to conflict, the Special Representative and partners like UNICEF, DPO and DPPA, have consistently promoted the prevention agenda, the report shows. Preventative measures should be given the same level of attention and resources as restorative measures in efforts towards sustainable peace, the report shows. The Special Representative also stressed the importance of dedicated specialized child protection actors in UN peacekeeping and special political missions, as well as in regional and international organizations.

In her recommendations to Member States, the Special Representative emphasized the importance of protecting humanitarian space and allowing unimpeded access for humanitarian and protection actors. “Child protection actors have a leading role, whether in peace operations, political missions or other settings, and they often put their lives at risk to reach the most vulnerable; I urge all Member States to ensure that these actors can operate safely in conflict situations and I call on Member States to provide political and financial support to their crucial work,” she added.



Protracted and new crises, intensification of combat situations and new conflict dynamics continued to have a devastating impact on children, with a spike in killing and maiming in 2018. “Ensuring adequate application of international law, including the principles of distinction, proportionality and military necessity, as well as other relevant principles and commitments, is fundamental in the protection of children to curb the worrying trend,” she said.

Among the challenges facing conflict-affected children, the Special Representative highlighted the detention of children for security-related charges, including children of foreign origin. She called on Governments and concerned Member States to facilitate the reintegration and return of boys and girls in line with international law, bearing in mind the best interest of the child. She further urged Member States to treat children accused of actual or alleged association with parties to conflict primarily as victims and reiterated that detention should only be used as a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible time.

While boys and girls around the world continued to be victims of grave violations, engagement with parties to conflict, partners and supporters of the Children and Armed Conflict mandate has produced tangible progress for the protection of children, including three new Action Plans signed in 2018 in the Central African Republic (2) and Syria (1). In addition, other important preventive and protective measures have been taken by some of the parties to conflict, including a Memorandum of Understanding with the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen, a roadmap to revive the implementation of the action plan signed in 2014 with the Government of Yemen as well as eight unilateral declarations by armed groups commanders in the Democratic Republic of Congo to end and prevent grave violations against children, to cite some examples.

Engagement with UN entities, international, regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as civil society, has amplified advocacy efforts for stronger child protection mechanisms at all levels. The Special Representative launched the campaign ACT to Protect Children Affected by Conflict in April 2019 to generate more support and action to protect children affected by war. She also launched the Global Coalition for Reintegration of Former Child Soldiers, co-chaired by UNICEF, to generate innovative ways to sustainably address support for child reintegration programmes, in collaboration with partners from the UN, World Bank, civil society and Member States.

Learning from more than 20 years of action for children, the Special Representative and her Office have started compiling and analyzing lessons learned and best practices on CAAC, as encouraged and welcomed by the Security Council (S/PRST/2017/21 and SCR 2427); this initiative includes the development of a practical guidance on the integration of child protection issues in peace processes in collaboration with DPPA, DPO and UNICEF.

“The 30th anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child and the upcoming 20th anniversary of its Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC) must be seen as opportunities for Member States to renew their commitment to protect boys and girls and place the best interest of the child at the heart of their international efforts,” Special Representative Gamba said. “Engagement should be ongoing, including through the campaign ACT to protect children affected by conflict; my office will continue to strengthen and expand partnerships with States, regional and international organizations”

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STATEMENT - General Debate: Item 6

Universal Periodic Review -



Mr. President,

The war in Yemen is due to the spread of extremism, terrorism growing hatred and lack of tolerance, which has been the product of countless economic, political and social causes. Likewise, illiteracy has paved the way for political Islam to provide the basis for the spread of conflict and terrorism which pose a major threat to security and stability.

Conflict intensifies in Yemen caused by brainwashing activities among young generation through spreading extremist religious views in curriculum, public and private schools, mosques, social media and charities to create chaos, spread terrorism, erupt civil and sectarian strife in Yemen.

The devastating effect of war has been caused by spread of extremism and intolerance motivated by political Islam which has been used from both sides (the Houthis and the Muslim Brotherhood represented by Islah party in Yemen).

OIPMA, therefore, recommends the Council to encourage the UN security Council to identify the Lords of War in Yemen among both sides, the Houthis militias and the Islah party leaders to be presented to the Security Council for a referral to the International Criminal Court.

That should be starting point to achieve Peace Agreement.

Thank you, Mr. President

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/wjG1Par4O9A?rel=0>



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WRITTEN STATEMENT

Submitted by our Organization

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=https%3A%2F%2Fioldcs.org%2Fengine%2Fdownload.php%3Fid%3D32%26area%3Dstatic%26viewonline%3D1>

Written statement Agenda item 6

SITUATION IN YEMEN



Pope Francis and Ahmed el-Tayeb sign the Document on Human Fraternity (Vatican Media)

Human Fraternity for world peace and living together

STATEMENT:General Debate: Item 5

Human rights bodies and mechanisms

Mr. President,

Least developed countries show that conflicts and poverty is a great obstacles to the enjoyment of all human rights. Poverty breeds conflicts and violence that endanger human rights, and development is necessary in order to eliminate poverty.

Poverty can breed conflict, and too many individuals are locked in cycles of meaningless violence, too many lives are being lost

For that reason, OIPMA, emphasise on the following:

- Conflicts in the crises LDCs should be eradicated to pave the way for sustainable development.
- Human rights-based approach should sets out the duties of the international community in order to create a social and international order in which all human rights can be fully realized, which is closely related to Sustainable Development Goal 17 on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development.
- To underline the general lack of knowledge of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals among the general public, and sometimes among governmental officials.

Thankyou Mr. President.



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/JPGwkWmoqU?rel=0>



New Action Plan to Protect Children Signed in the Central African Republic

L'Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique (UPC) signed an Action Plan with the United Nations to end and prevent grave violations against children, a commitment welcomed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Ms. Virginia Gamba. This new Action Plan, the third to be signed by an armed group part of the ex-Seleka coalition in the Central African Republic (CAR), covers the four violations for which the UPC is listed, namely the recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence and attacks on schools and hospitals.

“Ending and preventing grave violations in the Central African Republic and around the world is of utmost importance and as such, action plans are strong tools with concrete and time-bound steps to better protect children. The United Nations and its partners will support the implementation of this new Action Plan in the Central African Republic”, said Special Representative Gamba.

As part of the Action Plan, the UPC is expected to take a series of measures to end and prevent grave violations such as releasing all associated children, issuing directives prohibiting grave child rights violations, and facilitating handover to justice of commanders and elements responsible for committing grave violations against children.

The Special Representative is encouraged to see that the peace process of February 2019 in the Central African Republic is bringing more opportunities of engagement and commitments between the UN and signatory armed groups. She encourages armed groups to continue to take steps to end and prevent grave child rights violations, such as issuing command orders prohibiting the recruitment and use of children and engaging in Action Plans.

“Peace processes present opportunities for real progress for the safety and well-being of boys and girls and we must seize these occasions. In several contexts, including in the Central African Republic, commitments to increase the protection of children is linked to peace processes efforts,” she said, adding that the integration of child protection measures in peace processes can act as a trust building measure between negotiating parties.

Nevertheless, hundreds of children continue to be affected by the armed conflict in the Central African Republic and the Special Representative calls on all parties to swiftly implement the 6 February peace agreement’s cessation of hostilities provisions, which address all 6 grave violations against children. She calls on the international community to continue to support politically and financially the reintegration of former child soldiers, as part of peacebuilding and development efforts.



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

Statement: General debate: Item 3

Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights

Mr President,

The crimes committed against the Rohingyas from the outbreak of violent confrontations between the Tathmadaw and the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army can amount to the gravest crimes under international law, including genocide.

For that reason, OIPMA is deeply concerned about the political instability of the country, the atrocities committed against minorities and the high risk of impunity for such acts. We therefore call upon the government of Myanmar to:

Reverse its decision to impose the mobile internet ban, the restrictions on the media and humanitarian organisations must be lifted immediately.”

Allow humanitarian access; put an immediate end to the fighting and the targeting of civilians

Fully cooperate with international mechanisms and organizations with a view to facilitating the documentation of crimes committed against Rohingyas and other ethnic minorities;

Eliminate every form of discrimination – in law and in practice – against Muslims and ethnic minorities, and effectively sanction hate speech and anti-Rohingya propaganda;

Create adequate conditions for the safe return of Rohingyas, grant them full citizenship, full enjoyment of fundamental rights and liberties, in particular freedom of religion, freedom of movement, access to education and healthcare.

Thank you Mr. President



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/7FtwClovWeM?rel=0>