

29. Protection of civilians in armed conflict

During the period under review, the Security Council held six meetings to consider the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and adopted two resolutions and two presidential statements, as detailed in table 1 below.

Amongst the main issues discussed by the Council during the period were the responsibilities and capacities of peacekeeping operations with mandates concerning the protection of civilians; measures that were needed to ensure the implementation of those mandates in the increasing complexity of field situations; and the challenges faced by women and girls in armed conflict settings. Building on resolution [1502 \(2003\)](#) on the protection of United Nations and humanitarian personnel in conflict zones, the Council adopted resolution [2175 \(2014\)](#) following its meeting marking World Humanitarian Day. At a high-level meeting on 27 May 2015, the Council adopted resolution [2222 \(2015\)](#), its second decision dedicated exclusively to the protection of journalists in armed conflict.

Throughout 2014 and 2015, the Council continued including provisions relating to the protection of civilians in armed conflict in its country or region-specific decisions and in decisions relating to thematic issues.¹⁰⁶ As shown in table 2 below, the Council, *inter alia*, (i) condemned all forms of violence against civilians, particularly against women and girls; (ii) called upon all parties to a conflict to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law and for all perpetrators of such crimes to be held accountable; (iii) demanded that all parties ensured full, safe and unhindered access for delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in need, condemning attacks, threats, and acts of obstruction and violence perpetrated against humanitarian workers, including United Nations personnel; (iv) emphasised the primary responsibility of States to comply with their relevant obligations to protect civilians, including allowing the voluntary and safe return of refugees and internally displaced persons; (v) continued to include requests for additional monitoring mechanisms as well as reporting arrangements in order to improve the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and (vi) adopted targeted measures against perpetrators or expressed its strong intention to adopt such measures. In addition, the practice of

¹⁰⁶ For more information on other cross-cutting issues before the Council, see the present part, sects. 28 and 32, with regard to children and armed conflict and women and peace and security, respectively.

strengthening mandates of United Nations peace operations with a view to protecting civilians continued to evolve.

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Table 1
Meetings: Protection of civilians in armed conflict

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.7109 12 February 2014	Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/2013/689) Letter dated 3 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2014/74)		45 Member States ^a	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (via video teleconference), Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (via video teleconference), Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of Palestine	All Council members and all invitees	S/PRST/2014/3
S/PV.7244 19 August 2014	World Humanitarian Day Letter dated 5 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2014/571)			President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (via video teleconference), Director and co-founder of The Liaison Office	Deputy Secretary-General, all Council members and all invitees.	
S/PV.7256 29 August 2014		Draft resolution submitted by 12 Member States ^b (S/2014/640)				S/RES/2175 (2014) (15-0-0)
S/PV.7374 30 January 2015	Letter dated 16 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-		46 Member States ^c	Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Director for International Law and Policy at the ICRC; representative of	All Council members and all invitees ^d	

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<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
	General (S/2015/32)			the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Chargé d'affaires, ad interim of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See		
S/PV.7450 and S/PV.7450 (Resumption 1) 27 May 2015	The protection of journalists in conflict situations Letter dated 1 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2015/307)	Draft resolution submitted by 49 Member States ^e (S/2015/375)	58 Member States ^f	Director-General of Reporters Without Borders, Ms. Mariane Pearl, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of the Observer State of the Holy See	Deputy Secretary-General, all Council members ^g , 47 invitees under rule 37 ^h and all other invitees.	S/RES/2222 (2015) (15-0-0)
S/PV.7568 25 November 2015						S/PRST/2015/23

^a Afghanistan, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Egypt, Estonia (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Ethiopia (in his capacity as Chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)), Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Slovakia, Slovenia (on behalf of the Human Security Network), Spain, Sudan, Sweden (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Switzerland (on behalf of the Group of Friends on the Protection of Civilians), Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine and Uruguay.

^b Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, United Kingdom and United States.

^c Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria (speaking on behalf of the members of the Human Security Network), Azerbaijan, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Sudan, Sweden (Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Nordic countries), Switzerland (on behalf of the Group of Friends on the protection of civilians in armed conflict), Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay and Zimbabwe (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)).

^d In addition to the 46 Member States initially invited under rule 37, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia also made statements.

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^c Albania, Angola, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States.

^fAlbania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine.

^g Lithuania was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Spain was represented by its Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs.

^h Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan (Special Envoy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Georgia (First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs), Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine.

Table 2
Selection of provisions relevant to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, by theme and agenda item

Theme		(i) Condemnation of all forms of violence against civilians	
<i>Country and region-specific</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Provision</i>
Country and region-specific	The situation in Afghanistan	Resolution 2145 (2014)	para. 28
	The situation in Côte d'Ivoire	Resolution 2153 (2014)	sixteenth paragraph
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2136 (2014)	para. 6
		Resolution 2147 (2014)	eighteenth paragraph para. 17
	The situation concerning Iraq	Resolution 2233 (2015)	fourth paragraph
	The situation in Libya	Resolution 2213 (2015)	para. 4
		Resolution 2238 (2015)	para. 5
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2155 (2014)	fifth paragraph
		Resolution 2187 (2014)	fifth paragraph
		Resolution 2228 (2015)	para. 18
Resolution 2252 (2015)		thirteenth paragraph	
Thematic	Children and armed conflict	Resolution 2225 (2015)	para. 1
Theme		(ii) Compliance and accountability with international humanitarian law and human rights law	
<i>Country and region-specific</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Provision</i>
Country and region-specific	The situation in Afghanistan	Resolution 2145 (2014)	para. 42
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2149 (2014)	para. 12
		Resolution 2217 (2015)	para. 15
	The situation in Côte d'Ivoire	Resolution 2162 (2014)	para. 12
		Resolution 2226 (2015)	para. 12
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2136 (2014)	para. 12
		Resolution 2147 (2014)	twenty-seventh paragraph
		Resolution 2211 (2015)	para. 25
	The situation concerning Iraq	Resolution 2233 (2015)	fourteenth paragraph
	The situation in Libya	Resolution 2238 (2015)	para. 7
		Resolution 2259 (2015)	para. 14
	The situation in Mali	Resolution 2164 (2014)	para. 8
		Resolution 2227 (2015)	para. 5
	The situation in the Middle East	Resolution 2140 (2014)	para. 27
		Resolution 2191 (2014)	para. 1
		Resolution 2254 (2015)	para. 13
		Resolution 2258 (2015)	para. 1
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2232 (2015)	para. 29

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	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2138 (2014)	sixth paragraph
		Resolution 2155 (2014)	para. 18 para. 19
		Resolution 2228 (2015)	para. 16
		Resolution 2252 (2015)	sixteenth paragraph para. 24 para. 30
Thematic	Maintenance of international peace and security	Resolution 2250 (2015)	para. 4 para. 6
	Protection of civilians in armed conflict	Resolution 2222 (2015)	para. 7 para. 9 para. 13
	Small Arms	Resolution 2220 (2015)	para. 2
Theme		(iii) Unhindered humanitarian access and protection of humanitarian personnel	
	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Provision</i>
Country and region-specific	The situation in Afghanistan	Resolution 2145 (2014)	para. 29
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2134 (2014)	para. 26
		Resolution 2149 (2014)	para. 45
		Resolution 2217 (2015)	para. 48
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2147 (2014)	para. 34
	The situation concerning Iraq	Resolution 2233 (2015)	seventeenth paragraph
	The situation in Mali	Resolution 2164 (2014)	para. 28
		Resolution 2227 (2015)	para. 32
	The situation in the Middle East	Resolution 2140 (2014)	para. 28
		Resolution 2216 (2015)	para. 9
		Resolution 2254 (2015)	para. 12
		Resolution 2258 (2015)	para. 5
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2158 (2014)	para. 10
		Resolution 2182 (2014)	para. 29 para. 40 para. 41
		Resolution 2232 (2015)	para. 31
		Resolution 2244 (2015)	para. 22
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2155 (2014)	para. 17
Resolution 2156 (2014)		para. 20	
Resolution 2187 (2014)		sixth paragraph para. 18	
Resolution 2223 (2015)		para. 20	
Resolution 2228 (2015)		para. 17	
Resolution 2230 (2015)		para. 23	
		Resolution 2251 (2015)	para. 23

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		Resolution 2252 (2015)	para. 22
Thematic	Small Arms	Resolution 2220 (2015)	para. 3
	Theme	(iv) Primary responsibility of States to protect civilians	
	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Provision</i>
Country and region-specific	The situation in Burundi	Resolution 2248 (2015)	para. 2
	Central African region	S/PRST/2014/8	eighth paragraph
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2134 (2014)	ninth paragraph
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2147 (2014)	fourth paragraph
	The situation in Guinea-Bissau	Resolution 2157 (2014)	para. 3
		Resolution 2186 (2014)	para. 3
	The situation in Libya	Resolution 2144 (2014)	para. 2 para. 4
		Resolution 2238 (2015)	para. 8
	The situation in Liberia	Resolution 2190 (2014)	para. 1
		Resolution 2239 (2015)	para. 1
	The situation in Mali	Resolution 2227 (2015)	para. 33
	The situation in the Middle East	Resolution 2254 (2015)	fourth paragraph
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2228 (2015)	eighth paragraph para. 23
Resolution 2252 (2015)		para. 22 para. 29	
Thematic	Maintenance of international peace and security	Resolution 2250 (2015)	para. 8
	Promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security	S/PRST/2014/5	eleventh paragraph
	Threats to international peace and security	Resolution 2150 (2014)	para. 1
	Theme	(v) Monitoring, analysis and reporting on protection of civilians	
	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Provision</i>
Country and region-specific	The situation in Burundi	Resolution 2248 (2015)	para. 8
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2134 (2014)	para. 19
	The situation in Libya	Resolution 2213 (2015)	para. 9 (a)
	The situation in Mali	Resolution 2164 (2014)	para. 29
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2158 (2014)	para. 1(e) para. 14
		Resolution 2182 (2014)	para. 42
		Resolution 2244 (2015)	para. 24
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2138 (2014)	para. 19
		Resolution 2155 (2014)	para. 12 para. 16
		Resolution 2206 (2015)	para. 18 (c)

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		Resolution 2223 (2015)	para. 12
		Resolution 2228 (2015)	para. 19 para. 28 (i) (ii)
		Resolution 2230 (2015)	para. 25
		Resolution 2241 (2015)	para. 24
		Resolution 2252 (2015)	para. 15
Thematic	Protection of civilians in armed conflict	Resolution 2222 (2015)	para. 19
	Small Arms	Resolution 2220 (2015)	para. 2
	Threats to international peace and security: prevention and fight against genocide	Resolution 2150 (2014)	para. 4
Theme		(vi) Targeted measures against perpetrators of crimes against civilians in armed conflict	
<i>Agenda item</i>		<i>Decision</i>	<i>Provision</i>
Country and region-specific	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2134 (2014)	para. 37 (b) (c) para. 38
		Resolution 2149 (2014)	fifteenth paragraph
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2136 (2014)	para. 4 (f)
	The situation in Libya	Resolution 2213 (2015)	para. 11 (a)
	The situation in the Middle East	Resolution 2140 (2014)	para. 18 (c) para. 29
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2244 (2015)	para. 23
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2138 (2014)	para. 13
		Resolution 2200 (2015)	para. 15
		Resolution 2206 (2015)	para. 21
		Resolution 2223 (2015)	para. 17
		Resolution 2241 (2015)	para. 22
	Resolution 2252 (2015)	para. 20	
Thematic	Women and peace and security	Resolution 2242 (2015)	para. 6
Theme		(vii) Mission-specific protection of civilians mandates^a	
<i>Agenda item</i>		<i>Decision</i>	<i>Provision</i>
Country and region-specific	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2134 (2014)	para. 2 (b) (e) para. 11
		Resolution 2149 (2014)	eighth paragraph twentieth paragraph para. 30 para. 42
		Resolution 2217 (2015)	para.32 (a), (c), (e) para. 44
	The situation in Côte d'Ivoire	Resolution 2162 (2014)	para.19 (a), (g), (h) para. 21
		Resolution 2226 (2015)	para.19 (a), (g), (h) para. 20 para. 21 para. 22
	The situation concerning the Democratic	Resolution 2147 (2014)	para. 2

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	Republic of the Congo		para. 4 (a) para. 31
		Resolution 2211 (2015)	para. 4 para. 8 para. 9 (a)
	The situation in Liberia	Resolution 2190 (2014)	para. 10 (a), (b), (e), (f)
		Resolution 2239 (2015)	para. 10 (a) (c) (d) para. 12 para. 16
	The situation in Mali	Resolution 2164 (2014)	para. 13 (a) (ii), (a) (iv) para. 13 (c) para. 16
		Resolution 2227 (2015)	para. 14 (d), (e), (f)
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2148 (2014)	para. 4
		Resolution 2182 (2014)	para. 31
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2155 (2014)	para. 4 para. 5
		Resolution 2156 (2014)	para. 8
		Resolution 2223 (2015)	para. 4 (a), (b), (c) para. 5
		Resolution 2228 (2015)	para. 2 para. 4 para. 5
		Resolution 2230 (2015)	para. 10 para. 16
		Resolution 2241 (2015)	para. 4 (a), (b), (c) para. 6 para. 17
		Resolution 2251 (2015)	para. 9
		Resolution 2252 (2015)	para. 6 para. 8 (a), (b), (c) para. 10
Thematic	Children and armed conflict	Resolution 2225 (2015)	para. 15

^a For additional information on mandates and decisions relevant to peacekeeping and political missions, see Part X of the present Supplement.