

28. 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, adopted two resolutions and issued two presidential statements, as detailed in table 1.

Among 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 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 on 29 August 2014 adopted resolution 2175 (2014), having earlier held a meeting to mark World Humanitarian Day, 19 August. 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 to include provisions relating to the protection of civilians in armed conflict in its country- or region-specific decisions and in decisions relating to

thematic issues.⁸⁹ As shown in table 2, the Council, inter alia, (a) condemned all forms of violence against civilians, particularly against women and girls; (b) 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; (c) demanded that all parties ensure 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; (d) emphasized 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; (e) 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 (f) adopted targeted measures against perpetrators or expressed its strong intention to adopt such measures. In addition, the practice of strengthening the mandates of United Nations peace operations with a view to protecting civilians continued to evolve.

⁸⁹ For more information on other cross-cutting issues before the Council, see part I, sect. 27, “Children and armed conflict”, and sect. 31, “Women and peace and security”.

Table 1
Meetings: protection of civilians in armed conflict

<i>Meeting record 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, ^b 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), ^b Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of	All Council members, all invitees ^c	S/PRST/2014/3

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<i>Meeting record 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>
				the State of Palestine to the United Nations		
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 ICRC, ^d Director and co-founder of the Liaison Office	Deputy Secretary-General, all Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.7256 29 August 2014		Draft resolution submitted by 12 Member States ^e (S/2014/640)				Resolution 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-General (S/2015/32)		48 Member States ^f	Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Director for International Law and Policy at ICRC; representative of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees ^g	
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	Draft resolution submitted by 49 Member States ^h (S/2015/375)	58 Member States ⁱ	Director-General of Reporters without Borders, Ms. Mariane Pearl, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union, Permanent Observer of the African Union to	Deputy Secretary-General, all Council members, ^j 48 invitees under rule 37, ^k all	Resolution 2222 (2015) (15-0-0)

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international peace and security**

<i>Meeting record 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>
	Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2015/307)			the United Nations, Permanent Observer of the Holy See	invitees under rule 39	

S/PV.7568
25 November
2015

S/PRST/2015/23

- ^a Afghanistan, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine and Uruguay.
- ^b The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Director General of ICRC participated in the meeting via videoconference from Geneva.
- ^c Estonia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs. The representative of Ethiopia participated in his capacity as Chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. The representative of Slovenia spoke on behalf of the Human Security Network; the representative of Sweden spoke on behalf of the Nordic countries; and the representative of Switzerland spoke on behalf of the Group of Friends on the protection of civilians in armed conflict.
- ^d The President of ICRC participated in the meeting via videoconference from Geneva.
- ^e Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, United Kingdom and United States.
- ^f Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay and Zimbabwe.
- ^g Sweden was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, who spoke on behalf of the Nordic countries. The representative of Austria spoke on behalf of the Human Security Network; the representative of Switzerland spoke on behalf of the Group of Friends on the protection of civilians in armed conflict; and the representative of Zimbabwe spoke on behalf of the Southern African Development Community.
- ^h 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.
- ⁱ Albania, 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.
- ^j Lithuania was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; and Spain by its Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs.
- ^k Latvia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Georgia by its First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs; and Azerbaijan by the Special Envoy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Iceland, Lebanon, Palau, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia did not make statements.

Table 2

Provisions relevant to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, by theme and agenda item

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

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<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>	
The situation in the Middle East	Resolution 2140 (2014)	27	
	Resolution 2191 (2014)	1	
	Resolution 2254 (2015)	13	
	Resolution 2258 (2015)	1	
The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2232 (2015)	29	
Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2138 (2014)	sixth preambular	
	Resolution 2155 (2014)	18 19	
	Resolution 2228 (2015)	16	
	Resolution 2252 (2015)	sixteenth preambular 24 30	
Thematic	Maintenance of international peace and security	Resolution 2250 (2015) 4 6	
	Protection of civilians in armed conflict	Resolution 2222 (2015) 7 9 13	
	Small arms	Resolution 2220 (2015) 2	
Unhindered humanitarian access and protection of humanitarian personnel			
Country- and region-specific	The situation in Afghanistan	Resolution 2145 (2014) 29	
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2134 (2014)	26
		Resolution 2149 (2014)	45
		Resolution 2217 (2015)	48
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2147 (2014)	34
	The situation concerning Iraq	Resolution 2233 (2015)	seventeenth preambular
	The situation in Mali	Resolution 2164 (2014)	28
		Resolution 2227 (2015)	32
	The situation in the Middle East	Resolution 2140 (2014)	28
		Resolution 2216 (2015)	9
Resolution 2254 (2015)		12	
Resolution 2258 (2015)		5	

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>	
The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2158 (2014)	10	
	Resolution 2182 (2014)	29	
		40	
		41	
	Resolution 2232 (2015)	31	
	Resolution 2244 (2015)	22	
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2155 (2014)	17
		Resolution 2156 (2014)	20
		Resolution 2187 (2014)	sixth preambular
			18
Resolution 2223 (2015)		20	
Resolution 2228 (2015)		17	
Resolution 2230 (2015)		23	
Thematic Small arms	Resolution 2251 (2015)	23	
	Resolution 2252 (2015)	22	
	Resolution 2220 (2015)	3	
Primary responsibility of States to protect civilians			
Country- and region-specific	Resolution 2248 (2015)	2	
	Central African region	S/PRST/2014/8	eighth
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2134 (2014)	ninth preambular
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2147 (2014)	fourth preambular
	The situation in Guinea-Bissau	Resolution 2157 (2014)	3
		Resolution 2186 (2014)	3
	The situation in Libya	Resolution 2144 (2014)	2
			4
		Resolution 2238 (2015)	8
	The situation in Liberia	Resolution 2190 (2014)	1
		Resolution 2239 (2015)	1
	The situation in Mali	Resolution 2227 (2015)	33
	The situation in the Middle East	Resolution 2254 (2015)	fourth preambular

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<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>	
Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2228 (2015)	eighth preambular 23	
	Resolution 2252 (2015)	22 29	
Thematic	Maintenance of international peace and security	Resolution 2250 (2015)	8
	Promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security	S/PRST/2014/5	eleventh
	Threats to international peace and security	Resolution 2150 (2014)	1
Monitoring and analysis of and reporting on protection of civilians			
Country- and region-specific	The situation in Burundi	Resolution 2248 (2015)	8
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2134 (2014)	19
	The situation in Libya	Resolution 2213 (2015)	9 (a)
	The situation in Mali	Resolution 2164 (2014)	29
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2158 (2014)	1 (e) 14
		Resolution 2182 (2014)	42
		Resolution 2244 (2015)	24
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2138 (2014)	19
		Resolution 2155 (2014)	12 16
		Resolution 2206 (2015)	18 (c)
		Resolution 2223 (2015)	12
		Resolution 2228 (2015)	19 28 (i) (ii)
		Resolution 2230 (2015)	25
		Resolution 2241 (2015)	24
		Resolution 2252 (2015)	15
Thematic	Protection of civilians in armed conflict	Resolution 2222 (2015)	19
	Small arms	Resolution 2220 (2015)	2
	Threats to international peace and security: prevention of and fight against genocide	Resolution 2150 (2014)	4
Targeted measures against perpetrators of crimes against civilians in armed conflict			
Country- and region-specific	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2134 (2014)	37 (b) (c) 38

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>
	Resolution 2149 (2014)	fifteenth preambular
The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2136 (2014)	4 (f)
The situation in Libya	Resolution 2213 (2015)	11 (a)
The situation in the Middle East	Resolution 2140 (2014)	18 (c) 29
The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2244 (2015)	23
Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2138 (2014)	13
	Resolution 2200 (2015)	15
	Resolution 2206 (2015)	21
	Resolution 2223 (2015)	17
	Resolution 2241 (2015)	22
	Resolution 2252 (2015)	20
Thematic Women and peace and security	Resolution 2242 (2015)	6
Mission-specific protection of civilians mandates^a		
Country- and region-specific The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2134 (2014)	2 (b) (e) 11
	Resolution 2149 (2014)	eighth preambular twentieth preambular 30 42
	Resolution 2217 (2015)	32 (a) (c) (e) 44
The situation in Côte d'Ivoire	Resolution 2162 (2014)	19 (a) (g) (h) 21
	Resolution 2226 (2015)	19 (a) (g) (h) 20 21 22
The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2147 (2014)	2 4 (a) 31

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

^a For additional information on mandates and decisions relevant to peacekeeping and political missions, see part X.

29. Small arms

During the period under review, the Security Council held two meetings in connection with small arms and adopted one resolution. Resolution 2220 (2015) focused on strengthening international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and

misuse of small arms and light weapons, particularly through the effective implementation of Council-mandated arms embargoes and through information-sharing mechanisms, with the assistance of peacekeeping missions and other relevant United Nations entities.

Meetings: small arms

<i>Meeting record 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.7442 13 May 2015	The human cost of the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons Report of the Secretary-General on small arms and light weapons (S/2015/289) Letter dated 1 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2015/306)		44 Member States ^a	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, President of the Côte d'Ivoire chapter of the West African Action Network on Small Arms, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	Secretary-General, all Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.7447 22 May 2015	Report of the Secretary-General on small arms and light weapons (S/2015/289)	Draft resolution submitted by 57 Member States ^b (S/2015/333)	50 Member States ^c		13 Council members ^d	Resolution 2220 (2015) 9-0-6 ^e

^a Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Colombia, Croatia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, Pakistan, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine.

^b Albania, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States.

^c Albania, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago and Ukraine.