



## United Nations Security Council Arria-formula Meeting on: “Addressing the Abduction and Deportation of Children During Armed Conflict: Concrete Steps for Accountability and Prevention”.

28 April, 2023 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 4, United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY

The Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Albania, France, and the United States with co-sponsorship of the Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations will hold an Arria-formula meeting to draw attention to the increasingly prevalent problem of children abductions and deportations during armed conflicts, such as during Russia’s 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The abductions and deportations are often followed by subsequent violations or abuses against children and pose a significant threat to the safety and well-being of children. Urgent and consolidated action by various actors is required to address this pressing issue.

### **Background**

The abduction of children is a violation or abuse of their rights. It occurs in many regions of the world and often leads to physical and psychological harm that leaves long-lasting scars on communities and increases the potential for further conflict. The United Nations Security Council recognized the gravity of this abhorrent practice when it adopted Resolution 2225, which added patterns of abduction of children in contravention of applicable international law to the list of violations for parties to conflict to be included in the Secretary-General's annual report on children and armed conflict. According to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, there was “a 90% increase of verified incidents of abduction in 2020 and a sustained increase in 2021 at 20%...,” which demonstrates the urgency of this issue.

The abduction of children is a global problem that subjects children to brutal treatment. Children are reported to continue being abducted during the armed conflict in all regions of the world, including in Nigeria, Colombia, the Philippines, Yemen, and Ukraine.

In the context of the unprovoked and illegal war against Ukraine, credible reports from various sources point out that Russian forces have unlawfully transferred and deported thousands of Ukraine's children from Russia-controlled areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation. The Russian Federation has not provided access or information about the number or the whereabouts of these children either to the Government of Ukraine or to international organizations. Moreover, the Russian Federation continues its deliberate campaign to separate thousands of Ukrainian children from their parents and its appalling practice of removing Ukrainian children from orphanages or other institutions while also placing these children up for adoption within Russia.

The Russian Federation is also publicly conducting a large-scale campaign of indoctrination of Ukrainian children both in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and in the Russian Federation. Children are sent to re-education camps where it is reported that Ukraine's children are the targets of Russian nationalist propaganda in a blatant attempt to deny their cultural identity, as well as the history and cultural heritage of Ukraine.

Abduction of children during armed conflict is abhorrent conduct seen in other countries and regions in conflict and post-conflict settings. Terrorist groups, armed militias, and non-state armed groups have abducted children and used them as tools to carry out their violent and destructive activities, subjecting them to brutal treatment and forcing them to participate in violent acts against their will, causing immense suffering for them and their families.

Prolonged conflicts have created a situation where armed groups, terrorist groups, state and non-state groups have been able to operate with impunity and carry out abductions of children causing generational harm, which, if left unaddressed, will likely lead to the perpetuation of violence and instability in the affected countries and regions.

This Arria-formula meeting provides an opportunity to raise awareness of these issues and explore practical steps that can be taken to address them. It is crucial that the international community takes concrete actions to address the abduction and deportation of children by armed forces and groups, including through the provision of support to affected communities, the promotion of access to education, and the strengthening of accountability mechanisms.

### **Objectives**

The objective of this Arria-formula meeting is to raise awareness among Member States about the issue of abduction and deportation of children during armed conflict and to explore ways to address these violations and abuses.

The meeting aims to:

- Foster a better understanding of the extent and impact of abduction and deportation of children during armed conflict, including the role of state actors in such violations and abuses.
- Highlight the measures required to prevent the abduction and deportation of children and to ensure the safe release and return of these children, including the need to hold perpetrators accountable.

- Identify the challenges that the international community faces in responding to the abduction and deportation of children during armed conflict, including potential gaps in legal frameworks and the need for international cooperation.
- Share best practices and identify practical steps that can be taken to address these violations and abuses.

### **Briefers**

The Security Council will hear from several official and civil society briefers, to be announced shortly.

### **Format**

The meeting will be held on Friday, April 28, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the United Nations Headquarters in Conference Room 4. Pending UNSC Member concurrence, the meeting will be broadcast on UN Web TV. Interpretation will be provided in six UN official languages.

Co-sponsors and Member States, or Observer Offices, speaking on behalf of groups of two or more delegations, will be invited to deliver statements after the briefers and UN Security Council Members. We ask delegations to speak for no more than 3 minutes to allow more time to hear from the briefers and to let the briefers respond to comments from Member States. Please note that due to time constraints, we may not make it through the entire speakers list.

All Members States of the United Nations are invited to attend.

To co-sponsor or subscribe to the list of speakers, please email to Mr. Enian Lamce ([enian.lamce@mfa.gov.al](mailto:enian.lamce@mfa.gov.al)) and Mr. Ngoyi Ngoyi ([NgoyiN@state.gov](mailto:NgoyiN@state.gov)) no later than Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 5:00 p.m EDT.