

# U.N. SAYS VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN CONFLICT REACHED EXTREME LEVELS IN 2023, INCLUDING IN GAZA

Violence against children in conflicts reached unprecedented levels in 2023, with a significant increase in grave violations across multiple regions, a UN report reveals. The UN report blacklists Israeli forces and Hamas for severe violations against children, highlighting escalating conflict impacts in Gaza, Sudan, and Ukraine.

Violence against children caught in multiplying and escalating conflicts reached "extreme levels" in 2023, with an unprecedented number of killings and injuries in crises, from Israel and the Palestinian territories to Sudan, Myanmar and Ukraine, according to a new U.N. report.

The annual report on Children in Armed Conflict, obtained on June 11 by The Associated Press, reported "a shocking 21% increase in grave violations" against children under the age of 18 in an array of conflicts, also citing Congo, Burkina Faso, Somalia and Syria.

For the first time, the U.N. report put Israeli forces on its blacklist of countries that violate children's rights for the killing and maiming of children and attacking schools and hospitals.

It listed Hamas and Palestinian militants for the first time as well for killing, injuring and abducting children.

Hamas' October 7 surprise attack in southern Israel and Israel's massive military retaliation in Gaza have led to a 155% increase in grave violations against children, especially from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas in Gaza, said the report by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

The United Nations kept the Russian armed forces and affiliated armed groups on its blacklist for a second year over their killing and maiming of children and attacking schools and hospitals in Ukraine.

The U.N. verified the killing of 80 Ukrainian children and maiming of 419 others by Russian forces and their affiliates last year, most from ex-



plosive weapons, the report said.

Violations Against Children Amid Escalating Conflicts in Sudan and Myanmar

Sudan, where a war between rival generals vying for power has been raging since 2023, witnessed "a staggering 480% increase in grave violations against children, the report said.

The Sudanese Armed Forces and the rival paramilitary Rapid Support Forces went on the blacklist for killing and injuring youngsters and attacking schools and hospitals — and the paramilitary also for recruiting and using children in military operations and for rape and sexual violence.

By the end of 2023, secretary-general Mr. Guterres said the U.N. had verified 1,721 grave violations against 1,526 children. "I am appalled by the dramatic increase in grave violations," he said, especially the recruitment, killing and maiming of children as well as sexual violence and attacks on schools and hospitals.

The growing civil war in Myanmar also saw a 123% increase in grave violations against children and the Myanmar armed forces and related

militias and seven armed groups are also on this year's blacklist.

The report said the U.N. verified 2,799 grave violations against 2,093 children — including 238 killings and 623 injuries attributed to the military and its allied militias.

The United Nations verified 30,705 violations against children in 2023 and 2,285 committed earlier, affecting over 15,800 boys and more than 6,250 girls. Some were subjected to multiple violations, the report said.

While armed groups were responsible for almost 50 per cent of the grave violations, it said, "government forces were the main perpetrator of the killing and maiming of children, attacks on schools and hospitals, and the denial of humanitarian access."

Mr. Guterres said the alarming increase in violations is due to "the changing nature, complexity, expansion and intensification of armed conflict, the use of explosive weapons in populated areas,

deliberate or indiscriminate attacks against civilians" and infrastructure and other essential build-

ings, as well as the emergence of new armed groups, acute humanitarian emergencies, and "blatant disregard" for international law.

The U.N. chief said he is "appalled by the dramatic increase and unprecedented scale and intensity of grave violations against children in the Gaza Strip, Israel and the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, despite my repeated calls for parties to implement measures to prevent grave violations."

Mr. Guterres said he was shocked by Hamas and Islamic Jihad's killing, maiming and abduction of children on October 7, 2023, saying nothing can justify these "brutal acts of terror." And he said he was appalled at reports of sexual violence during the attacks which must be investigated.

The magnitude of the Israeli military campaign against Hamas "and the scope of death and destruction in the Gaza Strip have been unprecedented," he said, reiterating calls for Israel to abide by international law and ensure civilians are not targeted, and that excessive force is not used during law enforcement operations.

In 2023, the report said, 5,698 grave violations against children were attributed to Israeli forces, 116 to Hamas, 58 to unidentified perpetrators, 51 to Israeli settlers, 21 to Islamic Jihad, 13 to Palestinian individuals, and 1 to Palestinian Authority Security Forces. It said the process of verifying the attribution of 2,051 other violations is ongoing.

Just in the Gaza Strip, the report said the U.N. verified the killing of 2,267 Palestinian children. It said some 9,100 children were reported killed in the territory "and verification is ongoing."

Overall in the Palestinian territories, it said, "some 19,887 Palestinian children were reported killed or maimed and "the reports are pending verification."

### Progress in Child Protection

On a positive note, the secretary-general reported progress in engaging with blacklisted governments and armed groups to protect children. He cited Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Congo, Iraq, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen.

"More than 10,600 children formerly associated with armed forces or groups received protection or reintegration support during 2023," Mr. Guterres said.

To get off the blacklist, government forces and armed groups must develop an "action plan" to address the violations with the office of the UN special representative for children in armed conflict, and then implement it.

Mr. Guterres welcomed an offer by the Israeli government on May 28 to engage with special representative Virginia Gamba to develop an action plan.

He also welcomed Russia's continued engagement with Mrs Gamba "to end and prevent grave violations against children," and urged its armed forces to develop and sign an action plan.

# BRITAIN'S SUMMER OF DISCONTENT

Instead of looking forward with hope, Britain is looking back in anger, as it gets ready to vote on July 4

In the end, Rishi Sunak called the much-anticipated general election six months early, announcing the decision in the pouring rain. The image of the soaking Prime Minister captured the sense of gloom that infects Britain today. The ruling Conservatives appear to have given up — to the extent that one quarter of Tory Members of Parliament, including serving cabinet Ministers, are not standing for re-election.

Labour, currently polling comfortably ahead, seems to both know the scale of the challenge it will face in inheriting a stalled economy, a creaking social contract and a fractured polity, and to know that it does not have any real solutions as yet to these problems. Neither party, nor any other groups, can offer any optimism. Instead of looking forward with hope, Britain is looking back, in anger.

Yes, Britain's economy is anaemic; and the international security landscape uncertain; and, yes, a global malaise of hopelessness (evident in elections from Russia, to India, to South Africa to the United States) has spread to the United Kingdom. Even so, the despair in Britain is largely self-inflicted.

The country is still coming to terms with its own goal of Brexit — a move that neither solved the 'problem' of growing net migration nor provided the promised economic bonanza of numerous trade deals

that would unleash its economy. There is no money to pay for a properly functioning National Health Service (NHS) and social care; a competitive and competent education sector; and also help mitigate a cost-of-living crisis that is causing almost three per cent of the population to rely to some extent on food banks (a statistic that has almost doubled in five years).

The Conservatives, having governed for 14 years, has only itself to blame for its current unpopularity. As the problems mounted, the party descended into chaos. In this Parliament alone (elected in 2019), it has been through three Prime Ministers, four Chancellors of the Exchequer, four Foreign Secretaries and five changes of Home Secretary. It is not hoping for another term.

In 1997, Labour swept the polls after 18 years in the wilderness with a campaign song that promised 'Things can only get better'. This time, there is no optimism — either in song, or logo, or campaign promises. 'Stop the [Tory] chaos' is unlikely to inspire much of anything, least of all hope. In contrast, Labour in 1997 offered change tinged with optimism. There was aspiration in the air. Tony Blair prepared the ground for the election by relentlessly focusing on 'education, education, education'.

The problems are domestic. Of course, Britain in the late 1990s was in a different place — the Cold War was over, the economy was strong and 'Cool Britannia' ruled the cultural waves. The

U.K. was outward looking and confident. In contrast, Keir Starmer's Labour Party is campaigning as the U.K. exits a shallow recession and is still bitterly divided over Brexit and immigration. Internationally, tensions with Russia and differences with China are privileging discussions on defence, but without any money to increase defence spending. And the war in Gaza is fuelling domestic tensions as Britain's support for Israel is deepening social rifts amid accusations and counter accusations of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, of hypocrisy and of disregarding international humanitarian obligations.

U.K.'s governing Conservatives suffer big losses in local elections as Labour appears headed for power

Yet, for all the international angst, the problems are domestic. People worry about the economy, an overburdened NHS, and public services, all of which are affected by migration and Brexit. On these issues, there is very little to distinguish Labour from Conservative. Both parties pledge to 'protect the NHS' but cannot find ways to fix it. The Conservatives insist the economic outlook is improving though household bills are yet to reflect this. Labour is wooing business but cannot reassure families. However, it is on Brexit that the greatest convergence lies — and not to Labour's benefit.

More people now regret Brexit than support it. Yet, Mr. Starmer, having campaigned (twice) to remain in the European

Union, has now categorically ruled out any return to a common market with Europe or free movement of people. Voting Labour will still return the hardest Conservative line on Brexit, despite the damage it is doing to the economy. And Mr. Starmer chooses this approach not because he cannot see the opportunity costs of Brexit, but because the rhetoric on migration has become so toxic that he will not risk sounding soft on it.

### The scandals

It is telling that as the election approaches, there are two scandals dominating the news: one on the miscarriage of justice at the Post Office where hundreds of sub-postmasters were wrongly convicted of theft despite the Post Office leadership knowing a new software might be causing the discrepancy in accounts. The second concerns infected blood that was given to thousands of patients even after the NHS and civil servants knew of the dangers. Both cases span Labour and Conservative governments. And, in both cases, there was obfuscation, denial and dismissal by the state, including politicians and the civil service.

Sunak and Starmer clash over tax and health in a debate as disruptor Farage roils the U.K. election

The new government will face a compensation bill of over £10 billion for these cases. But more than that, it will face an electorate that has seen how governments have played politics with their lives. On such rocky ground does hope wither.

### DOCUMENT MISSING

I, M. KUPPAN, S/o. Murugan, residing at No.45, Teacher Nagar, Saron, Tirukovilur Road, Tiruvanna malai Town and District, do hereby state that I lost my Original Registered Partition Deed Document No. 2929/1987, registered by Sub-Registrar Office, Chengam. The above said Original Registered Partition Deed Document missing near Tiruvanna malai Periyar Statue, Taluk Office Campus xerox shop on 31.05.2024. The Online Complaint Registered the Tamil Nadu Police Portal Reference No.CAM 24257494, dated on 12.06.2024. I request to contact the number given below who ever finds the Original Registered Partition Deed Document.  
M. KUPPAN, S/o. Murugan. Cell No.9994341533

### ORIGINAL LAND/PROPERTY DOCUMENTS LOST

I am P. PASUPATHY, (Aadhaar card No: 3874 7500 2863) son of Mr. Pachaiyappan, aged about 67 years, residing at No.65, Makthu Maraikkayar Street, Vandavasi Town, Tiruvannamalai district pincode number 604 408, do hereby inform to the General Publication that I have lost the original land document pertaining to our property registered in document No. 279/1993, date 24.02.1993 registered at Vandavasi sub Register office Vandavasi. If anyone finds the said document's, please contact me over phone number 9659935545 or at the following residential address No.65, Makthu Maraikkayar Street, Vandavasi Town, Tiruvannamalai district pincode number 604 408. He missed it in Vandavasi Town Kottai Mulai Junction to get Xerox copy from in Vandavasi, date 04.06.2024.  
P. PASUPATHY, S/o.Pachaiyappan. Cell : 9659935545

### IndoStar Home Finance Private Limited

Regd. Office: - Unit No. 305, 3rd Floor, Wing 2/E, Corporate Avenue, Andheri- Ghalkopar Link Road, Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400093  
CIN : U65900MH2016PTC271587 Tel: +91 22 45107701  
Email: connect@indostarhfc.com; Website: www.indostarhfc.com

### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in terms of paragraph 93 of the Master Direction - Non-Banking Financial Company - Housing Finance Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2021, that the branch office of the Company located at 153 F3D, Salem Road, Near Darling show room, Namakkal, Tamil Nadu - 637001 GST No.- 36AAECI0095E1ZS will be closed with effect from close of business hours of 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 as operations are being shifted to a nearby branch office located at INDOSTAR HOME FINANCE PVT LTD, 202/2, Salem Road, Namakkal, Tamil Nadu - 637001. In case any assistance is required, you may contact the nearest branch office as mentioned above or send an email to connect@indostarhfc.com.

This notice may be accessed on the Company's website (www.indostarhfc.com).

For IndoStar Home Finance Private Limited

Sd/-  
Nidhi Sadani

Company Secretary

Date : 13-06-2024