

Human Rights Now



Oral statement on agenda Item 3

ID with SRSG for children & armed conflict

UN Human Rights Council 24th Session,

Geneva, 9-27 September Speaker: Ms Yuriko Moto

Thank you President,

Human Rights Now expresses its grave concern over the devastating situation of children in Syria. We strongly condemn the use of chemical weapons against innocent civilian, especially children as well as all grave violation of human rights during the conflict in Syria.

However, we strongly oppose military intervention to Syria, which is not a solution to end the conflict at all, rather causing further widespread death and grave human rights violation of children in Syria.

10 years ago, the US and allies invaded Iraq without authorization of UN Security Council, and consequence of the conflict was devastating for children.

How many children were killed, displaced, detained, exposed to violence, become orphan and still suffering physical harm? We must learn the lesson from Iraq.

We urge the international community to accelerate united diplomatic effort to achieve a peaceful resolution of this conflict. We urge international community to immediately agree on cessation of all form of support to the both side of the conflict.

We also call for independent and impartial investigation of the all crimes committed during the conflict in Syria including the use of chemical weapons, and urge that the situation to be referred to the ICC without further delay.

Mr. President,

In Iraq, the alarming increase in birth defects has been observed ever since the 2003 Iraq War. This year, Human Rights Now conducted a fact finding mission with a focus on congenital birth defects in Fallujah, a city heavily bombed by the US military during the occupation.

The result of the fact-finding mission indicates that the rights to health and life of children have been seriously violated in Fallujah, Iraq, and that the epidemic of congenital birth defects in Iraq needs immediate international attention.

A scientific study on the effects of uranium and heavy metals associated with munitions used in the war against Iraq that started in 2003 and the subsequent occupation strongly suggests that environmental contamination caused by the use of such munitions has been playing a significant role in the observed unusually high rate of birth defects in Iraq.

We call on the US and UK governments to disclose all the information regarding the types and the quantities of the weapons used during the bombardment and subsequent occupation, and exact firing points, and to take all necessary measures to protect the right to health and life of children in Iraq.

Mr. President, To this end, we call the Council and the SRSG to take concrete action to prevent further victimization of children in Syria as well as Iraq.

Thank you.