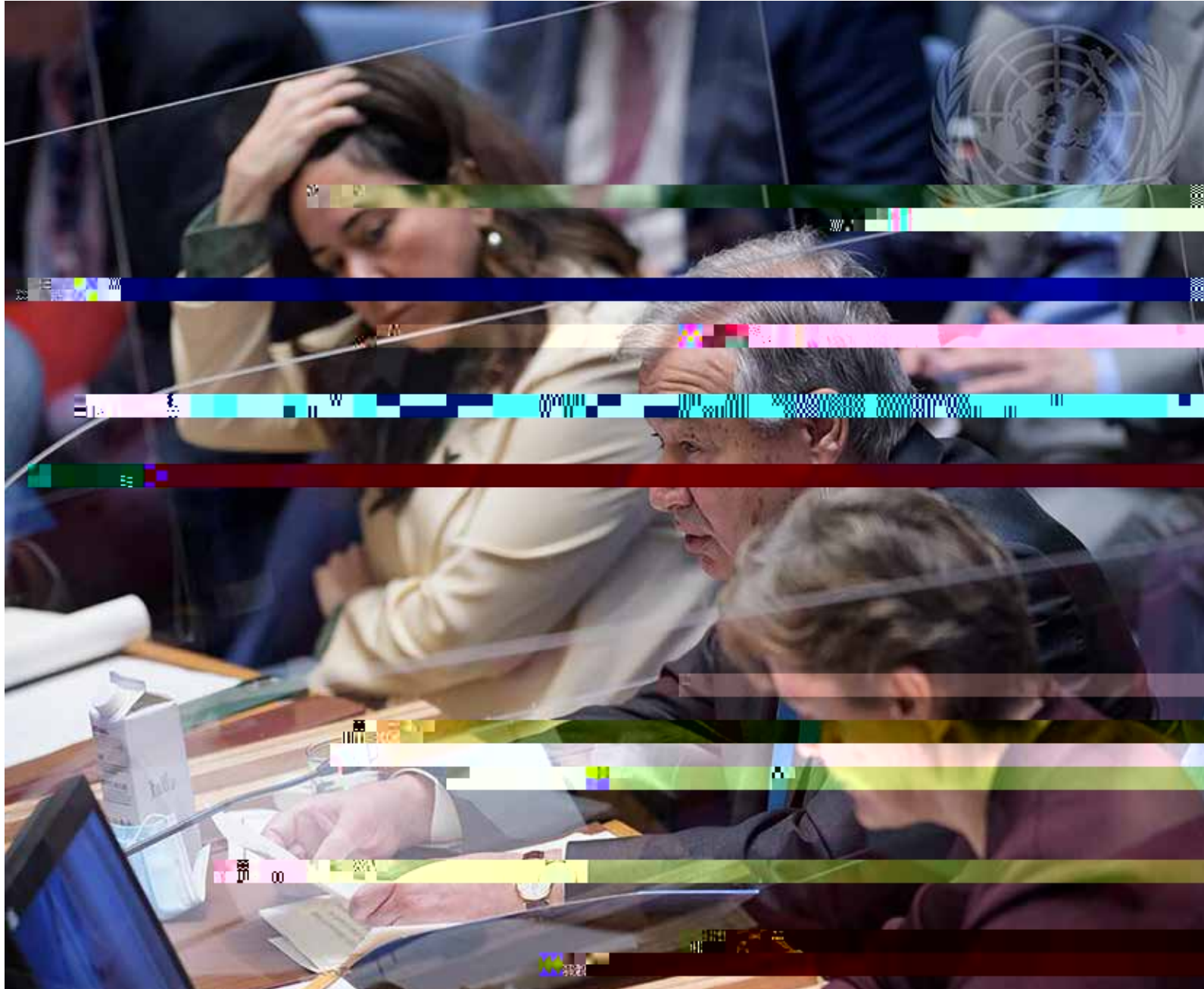




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I. INTRODUCTION



conflict and pandemic-related restrictions. These trends emerged at a time when the global public health crisis as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) had already diminished humanitarian access and diverted resources away from life-saving services to address gender-based violence and deeply affecting survivors, in particular displaced women and girls. Military spending outpaced investment in pandemic-related health care in fragile and conflict-affected countries (see [S/2021/827](#)).

3.

component of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) supported the Congolese National Police in implementing their action plan on fighting sexual violence and establishing 10 gender desks in police stations in the eastern provinces. Following the coup in Guinea, in September 2021, the Team continued to advocate for accountability regarding the events of 28 September 2009, specifically for trials to be expedited, perpetrators to be held accountable and victims to be able to obtain justice and reparations. In Iraq, the Team worked with partners to support the finalization of the Law on Support to Female Yazidi Survivors (2021) and associated by-laws by ensuring...

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II.

refugee and migrant survivors to further violence in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and elsewhere. In certain contexts, the diversion of resources to military efforts undermined health and social services. Migrant and refugee women and girls in conflict-affected areas, particularly those held in detention facilities, continued to face heightened risks of sexual violence in Libya and Yemen. Across diverse contexts, women and girls suffered ongoing attacks and threats of sexual violence in the course of livelihood activities. In the Central African Republic, women and girls engaged in agriculture, gathering firewood or returning home to retrieve essential items after displacement, were raped and in some cases abducted and held by armed groups. Localized armed violence also intensified at the subnational level in contexts such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan. In the Sudan, from July to October, there was an increase in reported incidents of sexual violence corresponding to the farming season, especially along transhumance routes. Economic hardship compounded by political instability and structural gender-based inequality deepened the risk of conflict-related sexual violence. In Afghanistan, the loss of livelihoods, in many cases owing to the Taliban takeover and ensuing inflation, caused many to resort to negative coping strategies, with reports indicating the sale or forced marriage

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sanctions on other grounds, in order to send a clear political signal. In an encouraging development, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1970 \(2011\)](#) concerning Libya listed Osama Al Kuni Ibrahim (LYi.029), the de facto manager of the Al Nasr detention centre in Zawiyah, for violations including sexual violence.

16. Concerted action and investment are urgently needed to prevent sexual violence in the first instance and to tackle the structural root causes that perpetuate these crimes. Inadequate attention has been paid to prevention in conflict and post-conflict settings, including to preventing the escalation of sexual violence, the revictimization of survivors and the transgenerational transmission of trauma. Despite these gaps, the road map for prevention is clear. Sustained investment in prevention is essential to address the root causes of sexual violence and to prevent its escalation. The road map for prevention is clear. Sustained investment in prevention is essential to address the root causes of sexual violence and to prevent its escalation.



III.



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disabilities. In 2021, the United Nations verified reports that at least three girls were victims of sexual violence during their association with armed groups. A case of sexual slavery was documented concerning a woman who was kidnapped and brought to the camp of an armed group. Conflict-related sexual violence was also

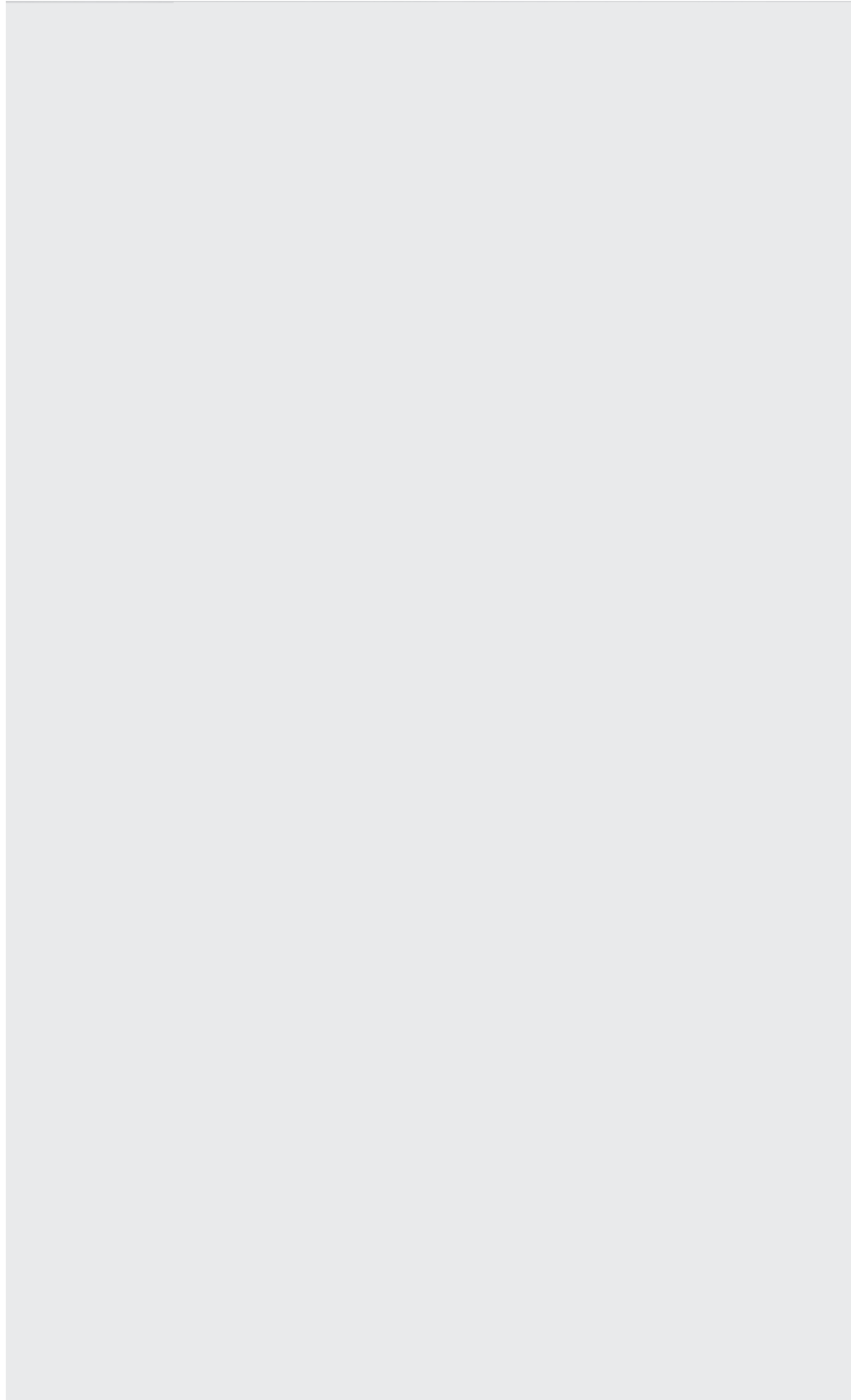
27. Insecurity and protection concerns, including conflict-related sexual violence, persisted in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, declared a state of siege in Ituri and North Kivu Provinces in May 2021 amid widespread violence, mass

population displacement and deaths. (b) (7) (F) -9.4 (e) -7 (n) - fo, seoctirei 09J0.101 Tw 0 -1.667 Td(c)-2.4 (o)-8245(e)-8.2 3eb-76 (mb)-16.7 (o)-5-0 (r)-25.2 (a)-8.7 (t)-25.3 (i)-3.4 (o)-3.4 43 (i--616 (i)-19.7 (t)- o-2.7 1(a)-8.7 (t)-25.3 (h))2.7 (-g-3.4 4e)rpp14.2 3eoi--616 (i)-19.7 (t)- Statoocspurni 411J0.101 Tw

32. The reporting period saw a volatile security environment related to sporadic attacks by Da'esh cells. Conflict-related sexual violence committed by Da'esh between 2014 and 2017 continued to negatively affect survivors, while thousands reportedly remain in captivity. According to the Directorate of Yazidi Affairs of the Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs of the Kurdistan Regional Government, of the estimated 6,417 Yazidis who were abducted, 3,550 (1,206 women, 1,049 girls, 956 boys and 339 men) have been rescued and 2,763 remain missing (1,470 men and 1,293 women). These figures, however, do not include other affected groups, such as the Turkmen. In 2021, the United Nations verified six cases of conflict-related sexual violence perpetrated against girls who were between the ages of 13 and 17 years old at the time of their abduction and subsequent sexual enslavement in 2014 by Da'esh elements; all returned to Iraq from the Syrian flee108 (s3331.667 R6 ())ep.5 (c)-6.4 (u)1b.5 (c)-l)0 (a)2.3(u)-5.9 (,)77(c)-6.4 (u)1r.9 (9)-1 i a,4.1 (t)-18.3 (h)0.9 (,rep.59b)-16.11Do0t i,p.59b9 nce o,Uud90t i ad



35. The postponement of the elections that were to have been held on 24 December 2021 has strained the political process in Libya. Pervasive insecurity and the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons have allowed transnational smugglers, traffickers and armed groups to continue to perpetrate rape and sexual slavery with impunity, amid a deepening migration crisis. The use of gender-based hate speech and incitement to violence, including sexual violence, against women active in public life is a serious concern.



38. The situation in Mali is characterized by a political transition, which was prolonged by a new military coup in May, and the subsequent decision to extend

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41. In February 2021, the military takeover resulted in an escalation of conflict and shrinking civic space. Disturbing reports of widespread and systematic sexual violence have since emerged. Moreover, armed conflict has persisted, exacerbating the risks of sexual violence, resulting in more than 441,500 people newly displaced

since February 2021, with many fleeing to neighbouring countries. This is in addition to the 370,400 people who remain in protracted displacement in Chin, Kachin, Rakhine and Shan States, and the more than 900,000 Rohingya refugees living in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

42. In response to protests and the emergence of the civil disobedience movement, the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police used excessive force, including sexual violence, against protesters and journalists. Women, including health-care professionals and teachers, who have played prominent leadership roles within the movement, were targeted. In detention settings, to which humanitarian access has been denied, the Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Police have reportedly used tactics including arbitrary arrest, torture, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings and sexual violence, including rape, gang rape, threats of rape and penetration with objects. Sexual harassment and violence against transgender individuals has also been reported. During armed clashes between the Tatmadaw and associated militias, ethnic armed organizations and the newly formed civilian people's defence forces, reports of sexual violence dramatically increased. The United Nations verified one incident of sexual violence by Tatmadaw soldiers against a child. Two other incidents disclosed by survivors involved multiple accounts of gang rape allegedly by Tatmadaw soldiers in Chin State, in front of family members, resulting in unwanted pregnancies in both cases.

43. Frontline service provision was disrupted as health-care facilities were raided and hospitals occupied by the military, leading to the collapse of the public health-care system and impeding access to post-rape care and sexual and reproductive services. Frequent telecommunications shutdowns have hindered access to helplines and other support services. Furthermore, while the Government disseminated a national action plan to

implement the 2018 joint communiqué to address conflict-related sexual violence, the plan does not adequately reflect a survivor-centred approach and was finalized without consultation with the United Nations since late 2019. Legal professionals faced increased constraints, as the de facto authorities amended the 2016 Legal Aid Law, thereby ending the provision of legal aid during pretrial detention. Owing to the erosion of the rule of law, traditional justice mechanisms have expanded to fill the vacuum, particularly in areas where ethnic armed organizations operate. Moreover, as part of an overall amnesty approach, a number of prisoners, including those convicted of sexual violence, were released.

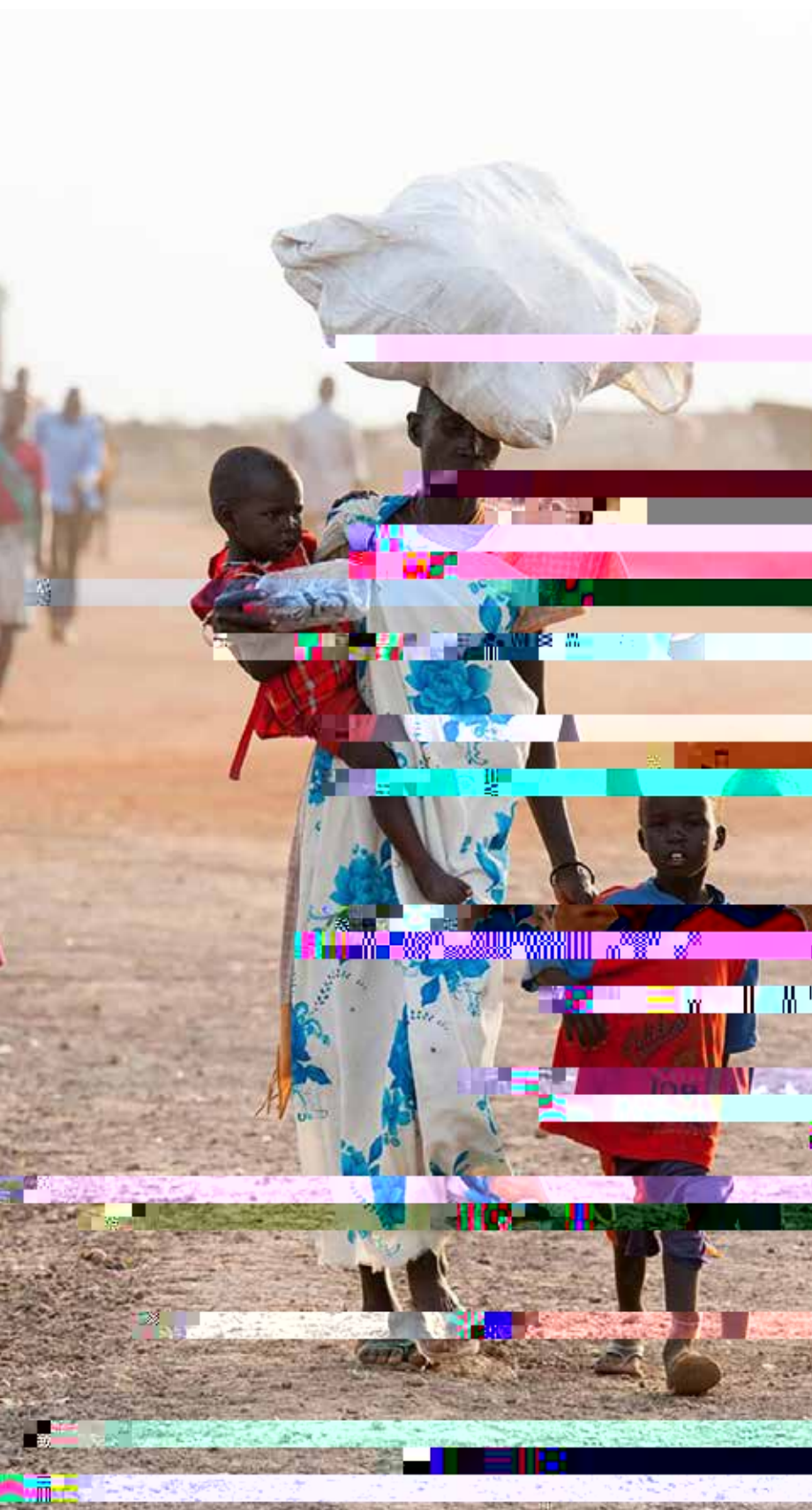
44. In Cox's Bazar, Rohingya refugees, who are unable to formally engage in employment opportunities, are vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation. Cases of sexual violence referred to male camp leaders are often handled through traditional mechanisms, with a high risk of victims being forced to marry perpetrators. While gaps in services have been identified for groups with diverse needs, including for persons with disabilities, male survivors and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex individuals, the United Nations has continued to provide multisectoral assistance in the camps.

Recommendation

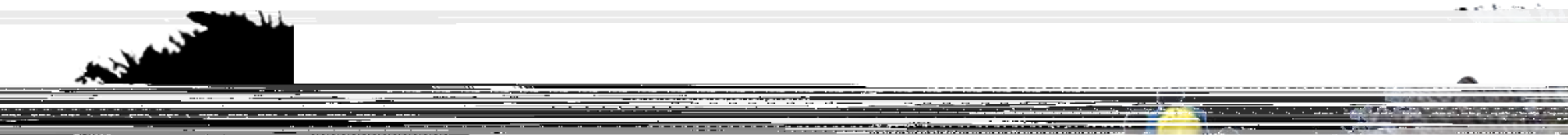
45. I call upon the parties to immediately cease all acts of sexual violence and reiterate my calls for immediate and unconstrained humanitarian access to affected populations.

46. Protracted conflict continued to expose civilians to heightened risks of sexual violence. Al-Shabaab continued to subjugate areas under its de facto control, with girls being abducted, raped and forcibly married to Al-Shabaab elements when their families were unable to meet extortion demands. Structural gender inequality, compounded by insecurity and limited access to justice, rendered displaced women and girls particularly vulnerable. Furthermore, weak State authority, clan protection for alleged perpetrators and victim-blaming contributed to severe underreporting. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) verified incidents of conflict-related sexual violence, most of





49. While the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities continued to hold in most of the country, clashes among parties to the conflict and splinter groups persisted, further exposing civilians to sexual violence and causing mass displacement. Ongoing clashes between the National Salvation Front and the South Sudan People's Defence Forces in Central Equatoria resulted in grave human rights violations, including conflict-related sexual violence. Subnational violence in Western Equatoria, Warrap, Jonglei and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area increased among factions; violence in Tambura County, Western Equatoria alone has provoked the displacement of 80,000 civilians since June. Furthermore, despite modest progress with respect to the Revitalized Agreeeche Rev2e26 (egn)-8 (d c)-26.2 (J)Fs-14.5 (l)38.4 0.86rd auighvgec kn Te 5nt an outn (t t) (l)rraia rtd.9 117.2219.1 ,d au,0 780-6i0



53. The coup of 25 October triggered mass demonstrations that were marked by the excessive use of force, including killings and the use of sexual violence by security forces. Widespread insecurity and intercommunal violence in Darfur, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile continued to generate mass population displacement, further exposing women and girls to conflict-related sexual violence. In 2021, the United Nations documented 61 cases of conflict-related sexual violence, affecting 30 women, 29 girls and 2 boys. Among the cases, 76 per cent were attributed to elements of the Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid (SLA/AW), the Sudan Liberation Army/Peace and Development (SLA/PD), which is a splinter group of SLA/AW, armed nomads and unknown armed men. The Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces were also involved. Between July and August, armed clashes between SLA/AW and government forces in Sortony, North Darfur, resulted in the killing of 12 civilians, mass displacement and the rape of eight women, presumably by the Sudanese Armed Forces and SLA/PD elements. In December, despite

the signing of "non-aggression" agreements by Arab, Misseriya Jebel and Masalit communities, localized violence resulted in the killing of 148 persons and the displacement of thousands of civilians. Three women were reportedly raped by armed men during these clashes in Jebel Moon and could not seek immediate medical or psychosocial support owing to the widespread violence in the area. In the Jebel Marra area, where incidents of conflict-related sexual violence were reported, humanitarian access was limited owing to the deteriorating security situation.

54. Following the military coup in October, mass protests erupted across the country, with numerous protesters injured and killed. On 19 December, serious allegations of rape and gang rape against women, girls and boys by elements of the security forces were documented by the United Nations. Most of the incidents occurred close to the Republican P-10.992(o)-12.(e) (n)-6.5 (s)-25 ()anohe Reehns tin3elhf1 (b)-1.8 (y c)s tce

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57. As the conflict reached its eleventh year, civilians continue to be disproportionately affected by insecurity, severe humanitarian needs and a deepening economic crisis. Parties have continued to perpetrate sexual violence, and in the case of Da'esh, violations were characterized by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic as having been meted out "with deliberate genocidal intent" (see [A/HRC/46/55](#)). The Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic also documented conflict-related sexual violence, including in detention settings. Former detainees often continue to experience violence after their release, as women and girls are often rejected by their families or targeted for "honour killings". Displaced women and girls faced heightened risks of sexual violence. Some remain in displacement camps owing to the fear of further exposure to sexual violence, by militias or armed groups, if they attempt to return to their communities of origin. Survivors of rape reported being detained while seeking assistance at a medical centre, in some instances together with their newborn babies. Reliable data on conflict-related sexual violence remain difficult to obtain owing to access constraints, prevailing insecurity, the fear of reprisals by perpetrators and the lack of services. The United Nations verified four cases of sexual violence against Yazidi girls kidnapped in

Recommendation

59. *I reiterate my calls upon all parties to end sexual violence, hold perpetrators accountable and facilitate humanitarian access throughout the country to ensure the provision of multisectoral services.*







IV. ADDRESSING CRIMES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN POST-CONFLICT SETTINGS

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that persons with disabilities and the elderly were among the victims. A female survivor with a physical disability was separated from her 8-year-old brother and her mother and was raped near her residence by a person she identified as a soldier of the Ethiopian National Defence Forces. An elderly, visually impaired woman was shot dead by soldiers of the Ethiopian National Defence Forces after being detained in a room for three days while her daughter was raped by three Ethiopian National Defence Forces soldiers in a room close by. The report noted that an adolescent boy was raped by nine Eritrean Defence Forces soldiers in Himora and later committed suicide. The joint investigation concluded that there are reasonable grounds to believe that violations of international humanitarian and human rights law related to sexual violence, including rape, have been committed by all parties to the conflict, requiring further investigation.

70. Since the start of the conflict, an increase in demand for services to address gender-based violence has been reported. Around Tigray, 1,324 visits to service centres by survivors were registered. Yet, the availability of services remains limited, owing to insecurity and restrictions. Survivors detailed the consequences of sexual violence, including trauma, unwanted pregnancies and HIV. With the support of the United Nations, six one-stop centres and three rehabilitation safe houses were opened in Tigray, as well as two in Afar and three in Amhara. The Government of Ethiopia acknowledged the joint investigation report as an important document that complements ongoing efforts to provide redress to victims, ensure accountability

and take preventive measures, and as a follow-up to its recommendations, established an Inter-Ministerial Task Force, with a subcommittee focusing on sexual and gender-based violence and an investigation and prosecution team to deploy to concerned regions to gather evidence. A total of 31 trials have been initiated to prosecute cases of sexual violence involving members of the Ethiopian National Defence Forces, with 10 individuals convicted and sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from 10 years to 25 years, and with one suspect acquitted. My Special Representative has engaged extensively with the Ethiopian authorities on a framework of cooperation as a structured basis for a comprehensive response to these violations, but regrettably this agreement has not yet been finalized.

Recommendation

71. *I urge the Government to adopt a framework of cooperation to address conflict-related sexual violence with my Special Representative in order to support the provision of services to survivors and facilitate the investigation and prosecution of crimes of sexual violence, as part of strengthening ongoing efforts to implement the recommendations of the joint investigation. I further urge all parties to immediately cease all forms of sexual violence, in compliance with international law and relevant Security Council resolutions.*

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72. Protracted conflict and entrenched gender-based inequality continued to drive sexual violence in north-east Nigeria, which continued to be a major protection concern for women and girls. During the reporting period, 601 incidents of sexual violence were documented, affecting 326 girls and 275 women. Of the reported cases, 80 per cent constituted rape and 5 per cent were sexual slavery. In 2021, large defections took place from Boko Haram-affiliated and splinter groups, attributed to ongoing counter-insurgency operations, as well as internal divisions within the groups. Among those escaping were women and children, including former abductees. In response, two transit centres, supported by the United Nations, were opened in Borno State, in addition to the Bulunkutu transit centre. The United Nations also facilitated access to medical care, psychosocial and livelihood support, and legal assistance for survivors through seven one-stop centres

and three shelters in the north-east. A specialized unit

74. The findings in the present report illustrate the urgent need for enhanced investment by the international community to break the vicious cycle of sexual violence and impunity. The work of the Security Council in enforcing compliance by State and non-State actors with the





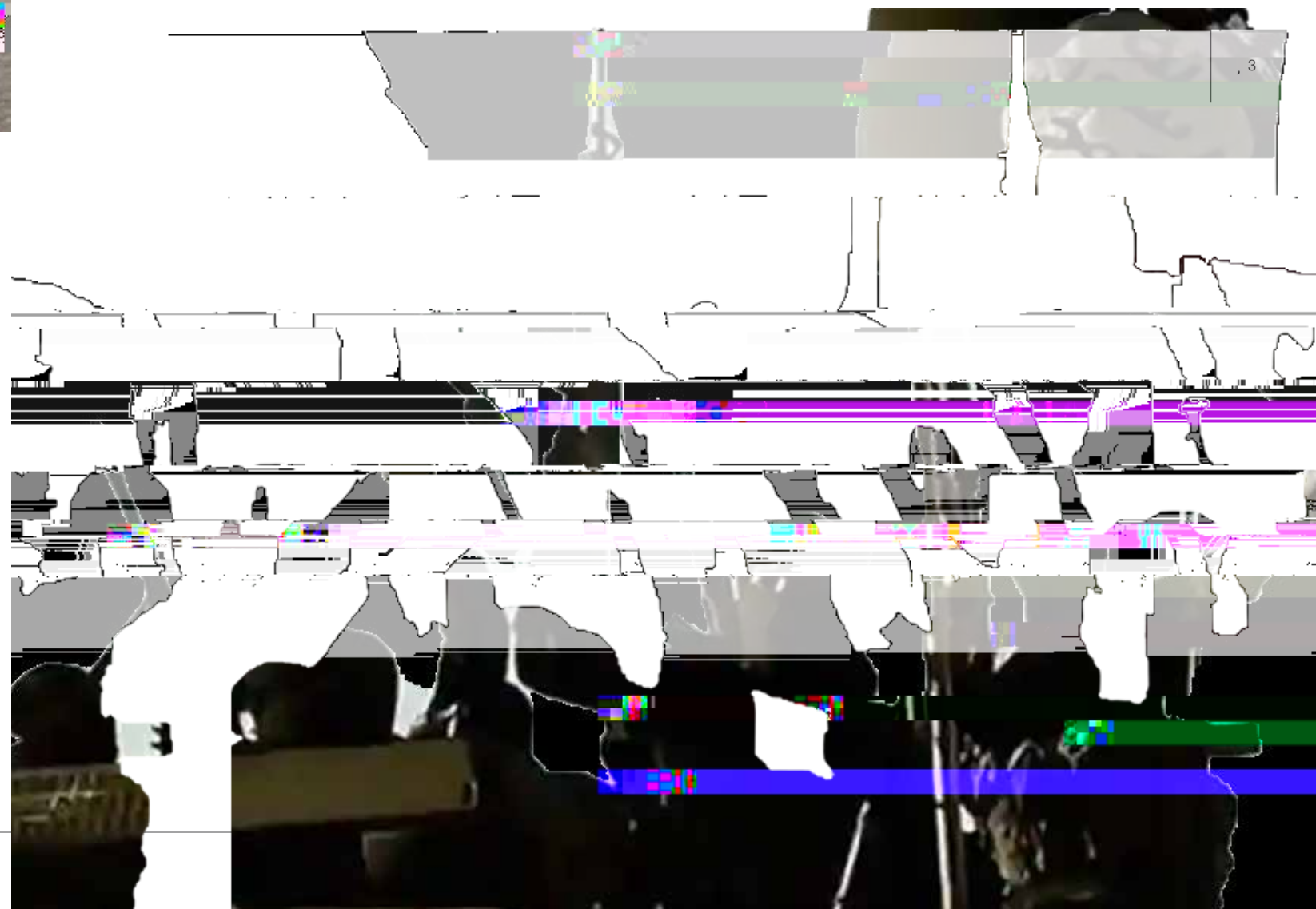
1. Non-State actors:

- (a) Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo libre et souverain-Janvier;
- (b) Allied Democratic Forces;
- (c) Bana Mura militias;
- (d) Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda;
- (e) Force de résistance patriotique de l'Ituri;
- (f) Lord's Resistance Army;
- (g) Nduma défense du Congo;
- (h) Nduma défense du Congo-Rénové faction led by "General" Guidon Shimiray Mwissa and faction led by Commander Gilbert Bwira Shuo and Deputy Commander Fidel Malik Mapenzi;
- (i) Mai-Mai Kifuafua;
- (j) Mai-Mai Raia Mutomboki;

- (k) Mai-Mai Apa Na Pale;
- (l) Mai-Mai Malaika;
- (m) Mai-Mai Yakutumba;
- (n) Nyatura;
- (o) Coopérative pour le développement du Congo;
- (p) Twa militias;
- (q) Union des patriotes pour la défense des citoyens;
- (r) Forces patriotiques populaires-armée du peuple.

2. State actors:

- (a) Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;*
- (b) Congolese National Police.*¹





1. Non-State actors:

- (a) Mouvement national de libération de l'Azawad, part of Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad;
- (b) Ansar Eddine;
- (c) Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, part of Jama'a Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin.

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- 1. Non-State actors:
 - (a) Justice and Equality Movement;
 - (b) Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid.
- 2. State actors:
 - (a) Sudanese Armed Forces;
 - (b) Rapid Support Forces.

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- 1. Non-State actors:
 - (a) Da'esh;
 - (b) Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham;
 - (c) Army of Islam;
 - (d) Ahrar al-Sham.
- 2. State actors:

Government forces, including the National Defence Forces, intelligence services and pro-government militias.

Non-State actors:

Boko Haram-affiliated and splinter groups, including Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad and Islamic State West Africa Province.W25 ()19MC 17 0 349.10 349.12.6W n(W2.4 484400(D)7 (I)



CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL