



DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL (DCI)

Contribution to the report of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on protecting the rights of the child in humanitarian situations – Human Rights Council resolution 34/16

In countries affected by conflict, when children are prosecuted and detained for alleged security issues, they generally face a military court that does not apply fundamental procedural rights. In the same context, the detention centers are held by militaries or security forces who never received adequate training. States are to make use of all available tools to promote alternatives to the prosecution and detention of children for their alleged association with armed groups. Detention is to be the last resort and used only for the shortest period of time, and all the basic necessities, services, conditions, etc. are to be guaranteed¹.

In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/157 (para.52.d), agreed to commission in-depth global study on children deprived of liberty. This Study is to address deprivation of liberty in all its forms (criminal, migration, military detention and institutionalization), englobing those situations where children are most vulnerable and at risk of violence. We call on all stakeholders to support the effective advancement of this important initiative through voluntary contributions and to actively be involved throughout its effective realization, in collaboration with other stakeholders².

Defence for Children International (DCI) is an international grassroots non-governmental organization that has been promoting and protecting children's rights since 1979, and was involved in the drafting of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), as well as other UN instruments and initiatives in the field of justice for children³ and possesses special consultative ECOSOC status since 1991. DCI works in a coordinated manner through its National Sections in over forty countries worldwide, its Regional Desks, its World Service Foundation based in Brussels and its International Secretariat based in Geneva.

¹ A/HRC/28/54

² A/GA/Res/169/57 para.52.d.

³ The UN Havana Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty adopted in 1990; the UN Beijing Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice adopted in 1985; the UN Riyadh Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile delinquency adopted in 1990; the UN Bangkok Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders adopted in 2010; the Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on child friendly justice adopted in 2010. DCI launched the call for a Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty in March 2014, obtaining a formal request for the Study to be carried out in December 2014 through UNGA resolution 69/157 para.51.d.