

as a measure of last resort. I am alarmed by the continued increase in the number of children detained by Israel and by reports of physical violence directed against them during detention. I call upon Israel to uphold international juvenile justice standards, and to end the administrative and other arbitrary detention of children.

108. I urge Israel to develop and sign an action plan with the United Nations to end and prevent the killing and maiming of children and attacks on schools and hospitals, on the basis of the letters addressed by my Special Representative to Israel in 2023 and 2024, including clear, time-bound commitments to end and prevent grave violations against children, as proposed by the United Nations.

109. I call upon Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades and other Palestinian armed groups to release unconditionally all hostages, alive or dead, in a dignified manner and to facilitate access for humanitarian actors. I am shocked by reports that children held hostage were subjected to violence. I call upon Palestinian armed groups to protect schools and hospitals, including protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals, and refrain from using them for military purposes.

110. I call upon all Palestinian armed groups to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, to respect the special protections afforded to children, to cease attacks that target civilians, including children, and to cease indiscriminate attacks from densely populated areas in the Gaza Strip towards Israeli civilian population centres. I further call upon Palestinian armed groups to facilitate access for humanitarian actors. I call upon Hamas and Hizbullah, as well as the Houthis, to cease their indiscriminate attacks on Israeli population centres. I call upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to abide by its obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law and to cease attacks that affect civilians, including children.

111. I urge Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades and affiliated factions, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad's Al-Quds Brigades to develop and sign action plans with the United Nations to end and prevent the killing and maiming and abduction of children, on the basis of the letters previously addressed by my Special Representative to Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad in 2024, including clear, time-bound commitments to end and prevent grave violations against children, as proposed by the United Nations.

112. I condemn attacks against humanitarian operations, premises and workers, including the killing of humanitarian personnel. I call upon Israel to ensure that assistance reaches those who need it, and to allow and facilitate full, rapid, safe and unhindered access for humanitarian aid and personnel into and within the Gaza Strip.

Lebanon

113. The United Nations verified 669 grave violations against 628 children (315 boys, 175 girls, 138 sex unknown).

114. The United Nations verified the recruitment and use of 76 boys by unidentified armed groups (18), Jund Ansar Allah (13), Fatah (10), Palestinian Islamic Jihad (9), Al-Shabab al-Muslim (8), Nusrah Front (7), Hizbullah (6) and Jund al-Sham (5).

115. Six boys were detained by national authorities for alleged association with armed groups. Four boys were released.

116. The United Nations verified the killing (234) and maiming (327) of 561 children (248 boys, 175 girls, 138 sex unknown) by the Israeli armed forces (541) and unidentified perpetrators (20), mostly through the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

117. Attacks on 32 schools (1) and hospitals (31) were attributed to the Israeli armed forces, killing or injuring health personnel.

118. The military use and closure of four United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) schools by Fatah and Jund al-Sham was ongoing at the time of writing.

Developments and concerns

119. I am alarmed by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, the increase in the number of children killed and maimed and the devastating impact on healthcare. I urge Israel to abide by its obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law and to cease attacks that affect civilians, including children, and attacks on hospitals and other medical facilities. I call upon Hizbullah and all other parties to the conflict to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law. I call upon all parties to refrain from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

120. I reiterate my call upon the Government to release children detained for alleged association with armed groups to civilian child protection actors and to treat them in line with international juvenile justice standards, and to provide access to reintegration programmes. I recommend that the Government develop a handover protocol for the transfer of these children to civilian child protection actors.

121. I call upon the armed groups to cease the recruitment and use of children, and to release all children. I reiterate my call to Fatah and Jund al-Sham to vacate schools in Palestine refugee camps.

122. I am concerned by the contamination caused by unexploded ordnance. I call upon the donor community to fund explosive ordnance risk education, clearance and victim assistance and to fund child protection programmes.

123. Furthermore, owing to the high number of children recruited and used and killed and maimed and the high number of attacks on schools and hospitals by parties to the conflict in Lebanon, I urge parties to the conflict to immediately implement measures to protect children. I will be particularly attentive to this situation in the preparation of my next report.

Libya

124. The United Nations verified 58 grave violations against 22 children (18 boys, 4 girls).

125. A total of 154 children were detained under the jurisdiction of the Judicial Police. Some 65 children of multiple nationalities were arrested by the Judicial Police and detained with their mothers, including 34 children who continue to be detained in Judaydah prison for their mothers' alleged association with Da'esh. The number does not include all children detained in official or unofficial detention facilities.

126. The killing (4) and maiming (18) of 22 children (18 boys, 4 girls) was attributed to explosive remnants of war (15) and crossfire (7).

127. Some 36 incidents of denial of humanitarian access were attributed to the Department for Combating Illegal Migration (10), the administrative department of the Government of National Unity (7), the Ministry of State for Illegal Migration in the House of Representatives-designated government (3), the Intelligence Service (2), the Intelligence Apparatus and an administrative entity in the East (2), the Libyan Coast Guard, the Ministry of Interior and an unidentified administrative entity of the Government of National Unity (2), the western branch of the Internal Security Agency