

UPDATE ON ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE IN UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS AND SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS

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UPDATE ON ALLEGATIONS REPORTED IN 2015

The total number of allegations recorded in 2015 was 69. Of these allegations, investigations have been concluded in 26 instances. 14 have been unsubstantiated. 12 allegations have been substantiated, with eight involving military personnel, three involving police personnel and one involving civilian personnel. The civilian staff member was dismissed from service by the United Nations, and the military and police personnel were repatriated on disciplinary grounds. Three military personnel have been sanctioned with jail sentences ranging from 45 to 60 days and one police officer received an administrative sanction. In the remaining matters, DFS is following up with the Member States to obtain information on what action has been taken against the subjects by the Member States.

Regarding the 22 allegations which were recorded in MINUSCA in 2015, seven investigations have been concluded. Three allegations were substantiated (2 military, 1 police) and four were unsubstantiated (military). 14 investigations are pending completion. One matter was marked "for information", indicating that there was not sufficient information to conduct an investigation.

Detailed information about the status and, as applicable, the outcome of each case can be found on the website of the Conduct and Discipline Unit.

OVERVIEW OF ALLEGATIONS REPORTED IN 2016

The number of allegations recorded thus far in all peacekeeping and special political missions in 2016 is 44. Of these, 29 have been reported in MINUSCA, seven in MONUSCO, two in MINUSTAH, and one allegation in each of the following: UNMISS, UNOCI, MINUSMA, UNISFA, UNSMIL and UNSCO.

39 of the 44 allegations involve uniformed personnel: 35 involve military personnel and 4 involve police personnel. Reports of sexual exploitation and abuse have been made against uniformed personnel from the following Member States:

- 11 Democratic Republic of the Congo (military)
- 6 Republic of the Congo (military)
- 4 Niger (2 military, 2 police)
- 3 Morocco (military)
- 3 South Africa (military)
- 2 Benin (1 military, 1 police)
- 2 Bangladesh (military)
- 2 Burundi (military)
- 2 Gabon (military)
- 1 Egypt (military)
- 1 Ethiopia (military)
- 1 Malawi (military)
- 1 Senegal (police)
- 1 Tanzania (military)

In two reported matters, uniformed personnel from two Member States were involved, and those matters have been counted above for both countries. In one matter the nationality of the uniformed personnel involved is unknown.

Three investigations have been completed, two involving military personnel and one involving civilian personnel. These allegations, which were reported in MINUSCA, were substantiated. In the case involving the civilian

personnel, the staff member has been put on administrative leave without pay pending a decision on action to be taken. In the two cases involving military personnel, the concerned TCCs investigated the matters swiftly and once allegations were substantiated, subjects received sentences of imprisonment (more information is found below under “Best practices by Member States”).

41 investigations are ongoing. 11 are being conducted by TCCs, and seven jointly by the TCC and OIOS. 23 matters are under investigation by the United Nations.

Regarding MINUSCA, of the 29 allegations reported in 2016, 26 involve military personnel, 2 involve police personnel and one involves civilian personnel. As mentioned above, three investigations have been concluded. Two investigations involving military personnel were conducted by Member States (Bangladesh and Egypt, respectively), and one investigation, involving civilian personnel, was conducted by the United Nations.

UPDATE ON KEY INITIATIVES

PREVENTION:

- In April 2016, the Secretariat has begun vetting all individuals being deployed as members of military contingents and formed police units for prior misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, while in the service of the United Nations. This marks a considerable expansion to the previously established vetting practices which covered all civilian personnel, individually deployed military and police officers, and individual consultants and contractors hired at mission level.

ENFORCEMENT:

- Member States have begun including national investigation officers in their units being deployed to missions, which will enable investigations to commence without delay as soon as allegations are received. Member States and United Nations investigative entities have been requested to complete investigations into allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse within six months.
- Immediate Response Teams (IRTs) have been established in the majority of peacekeeping missions to gather evidence following reports of sexual exploitation and abuse. A training programme, in coordination between OIOS, Interpol and the Standing Police Capacity of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, was organized

REMEDIAL ACTION:

- A community-based complaint reception mechanism has been developed so that victims can use confidential and trusted avenues for coming forward to make reports of sexual exploitation and abuse. These mechanisms are already in place in various forms in seven peacekeeping missions.
- In March 2016, the Trust Fund for victim assistance was established. The Trust Fund will be used to support service providers who assist victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. Services provided to victims include medical care, psychosocial support, legal services, and immediate material needs, such as food, clothing, and safe shelter. All Member States have been requested to consider making voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund. The first pledge to the Trust Fund has already been made by Norway in the amount of \$125,000.

BEST PRACTICES BY MEMBER STATES

- In January 2016, allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by two members of a military contingent (**Bangladesh**) deployed to MINUSCA were referred to the national authorities of the concerned Member State, who completed an investigation in just over three months. The allegations were substantiated against one subject, who was subsequently dismissed from service and received the sanction of one year imprisonment. In addition, the Member State has indicated that the action taken against the subject will be shared for awareness-raising with all the military contingents of the Member State that are deployed in United Nations missions. The case will also be incorporated as a case study in the pre-deployment training curriculum.

- In January 2016, allegations of sexual assault of an adult by a member of a military contingent (**Egypt**) deployed to MINUSCA were referred to the national authorities of the concerned Member State. The national authorities completed the investigation in less than one month, and the allegation of attempted sexual assault was substantiated. A court martial was conducted and the sanction of five years imprisonment was imposed.
- In response to allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse involving members of a military contingent (South Africa) deployed to MONUSCO, the South African has announced that would undertake a court martial proceedings on site in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This decision will permit the victims, and the affected communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to see justice at work.
- Several Member States have designated paternity focal points to facilitate paternity and child support claims brought forward by victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. (Benin, Ecuador, India, Uruguay)