



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

OCT 10 2019

Dear Senator Durbin:

Thank you for your July 2 letter regarding press reporting on the child soldier component of the Department of State's 2019 Trafficking in Persons Report (the CSPA list). The Department of State strongly agrees that the U.S. government has a responsibility to ensure that U.S. assistance does not support the unlawful recruitment or use of child soldiers.

The Department takes all allegations of the unlawful recruitment or use of child soldiers very seriously and places great importance on ending the practice wherever it occurs. Across the globe, U.S. diplomats raise this issue through both military and civilian channels and work with the United Nations, concerned individuals, and non-governmental organizations to combat the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

Any decision whether to list a country on the CSPA list draws upon expertise across the Department and is made only after careful consideration of the relevant facts under the statute. The Department would be pleased to provide you with a briefing regarding your specific concerns related to Saudi Arabia on this matter.

We hope this information is helpful to you. Please let us know if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Mary Elizabeth Taylor
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Legislative Affairs