Warsaw, 17th of September 2012

Mr Jean Zermatten
Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Sadly, armed conflicts are a daily reality for millions of children around the world. A number of them are killed, become orphans or handicapped for life. Very often they are separated from parents and they seek asylum or are deported. They all remain traumatised by the daily repeated horrors and terrors that such conflicts cause.

Already in the past, ENOC drew the attention of the international community on the occasion of dramatic circumstances, those that have been underestimated or not taken into consideration by countries that are signatories of the CRC. While the situation of children in Syria is aggravating from day to day and the chances for an agreement to ensure sufficient humanitarian conditions to guarantee a minimum protection of children are decreasing, ENOC strongly reminds the terms of its position statement on the situation of children in armed conflicts, adopted by the General Assembly in Paris back in September 2009 (enclosed).

We as Ombudspersons for Children gathered within ENOC can not remain indifferent towards the harm that is caused to Syrian children.

Therefore, taking into consideration that the UN Committee of the Rights of the Child is a body monitoring respect of the provisions of the CRC by its signatories, we would like to turn to you as a Chair of the Committee to undertake all necessary actions within your competencies aiming at enforcement of the respect by Syria of basic children’s rights guaranteed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

ENOC also appeals to all countries around the world and to their competent authorities to take action for the redress of massive violations of the rights of children affected by armed conflicts across the world.

Marek MICHALAK
ENOC Chair
Ombudsman for Children of the Republic of Poland

Encl: ENOC statement on children and armed conflicts