



**Convention on the  
Rights of the Child**

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COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD  
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Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict: Questions for the State party to be taken up in connection with the consideration of the report of **Switzerland** (CRC/C/OPAC/CHE/1)

Regarding the exercise of universal jurisdiction over anyone suspected or accused of grave crimes under international law, the Committee notes the amendment of the Military Penal Code of 23 December 2003, which entered into force on 1 June 2004, and the requirement of the so called “perpetrator’s close link to Switzerland” for the prosecution of war crimes.

Please provide information on this law amendment, particularly on the requirement of the “close link to Switzerland”. Please also clarify whether this amendment restricts the exercise of universal jurisdiction over war crimes, such as conscripting or enlisting children under the age of fifteen into the national armed forces or using them to participate actively in hostilities.

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