







IIJ - UNAFEI

**JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING
CHILDREN SUSPECTED OF TERRORISM**

**I. WHY ACT DIFFERENTLY IN FAVOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
ASSOCIATED WITH TERRORIST GROUPS? BREAKING THE CHAIN OF
RADICALISATION**



- Children and young people ~ inherently vulnerable and susceptible to exploitation
- The situation in the Sahel and the need to break the chain of radicalisation

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II. WHY ACT DIFFERENTLY IN THE CASE OF YOUNG PEOPLE SUSPECTED OF TERRORIST OFFENCES: Fundamental principles and norms setting out the specificity in the field of juvenile justice

- Prioritising the best interests of the child
- Maintaining family ties

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III. PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RULES ENACTED IN FAVOUR OF CHILDREN

- Preliminary Investigations
- Interviewing child suspects
 - Importance of the child's interview
 - Mechanisms for hearings involving children
 - What use is an admission or other information collected from the juvenile during the hearing?

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The Prosecution stage

- Directorate of investigation: Monitoring compliance with procedures and respect for the child's rights
- Verification of the regularity and reliability of the confessions and information provided by the child
- The prosecutor: Between prosecution and reintegration measures based on the child 's statements and other elements of investigations

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Investigation of cases involving child suspects

- Investigation for the prosecution and for the defence
- The juvenile judge, an indissoluble link between the child, his family and society
- Juvenile Judge, Protection Judge

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Adjudication of cases involving children

1. Creating an enabling environment that allows juvenile to express themselves freely and confidently
2. Analysis of the facts subject to the proceedings
3. Then decide whether the child acted with discernment to find him guilty of these acts. The question of discernment as the basis of judicial decision-making
4. Finally, to decide on the appropriate measure against the child in the event of a conviction

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THE SPECIAL CASE OF CHILDREN RETURNING FROM COMBAT ZONES OF TERRORIST GROUPS

1. A vulnerable public
2. Implementation of protocols: The need for an appropriate normative framework
3. Some legal situations require psychological or psychiatric expertise
4. Establishing civil status: a real challenge
5. Prevention of radical commitment and disengagement

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V. About the process of reintegration of children: challenges and prospects



Reception and
reintegration centers



Legal support for
reintegration



Involving the juvenile's
community for
successful reintegration



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