

Hizb, Jaish used kids during Kashmir clashes: UN report

United Nations: Pakistan-based banned terror outfits Jaish-e-Mohammed and Hizbul Mujahideen recruited and used children in Jammu & Kashmir during clashes with security forces last year, according to a UN report released on Thursday.

The report of the UN secretary general on Children and Armed Conflict for last year said globally, over 10,000 children were killed or maimed in conflict in 2017 while more than 8,000 were recruited or used as combatants.

The report covers 20 coun-

tries, including Syria, Afghanistan and Yemen.

Noting "grave violations", the report of UNSG Antonio Guterres said three incidents of recruitment and use of children by the two terror outfits

GRAVE VIOLATIONS

were reported in J&K. "One case was attributed to Jaish-e-Mohammed and two to Hizbul Mujahideen," the report said, adding that "unverified" reports also indicate use of children as informants and spies by the security forces.

The UN said it received re-

ports of recruitment and use of children by the Naxalites, particularly in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. "Naxalites reportedly resorted to the use of a lottery system to conscript children in Jharkhand," it said, adding children continued to be killed and injured during operations of security forces.

Guterres asked the Indian government to put in place measures to hold perpetrators of child recruitment and use to account and engage with the UN to end and prevent violations against children. P71