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United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

Human Rights Division

Monthly Report: Human Rights Situation

December 2022

The Human Rights Division's (HRD) mandate includes assisting the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR) to promote and protect human rights and prevent violations and abuses through its field offices and headquarters in Bangui. This report is based on information received by the HRD and only includes human rights violations and abuses that were documented and verified during the month of December 2022. Incidents that could not be verified are not included. Ordinary crimes are also excluded from this report.

This information is shared locally as well as nationally with the CAR's authorities and partners.

Human Rights Violations and Abuses, and Breaches of International Humanitarian Law

1. During the month of December, the HRD, including the Office of the Senior Women Protection Advisor (OSWPA) and the Child Protection Section (CPS), documented and verified 135 human rights violations and abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL), affecting 232 civilian victims 88 of whom (including seven women, two boys, and three girls) suffered multiple violations. Out of the total 232 victims, most were men (182), followed by women (18), boys (16), and girls (six) and 10 groups of collective victims. Out of the total number of documented violations, 115 occurred in December 2022. The HRD also recorded 30 allegations of human rights violations and abuses affecting at least 39 victims (including nine women, four girls and one boy), which were still being verified at the end of December and were therefore not included in this report.

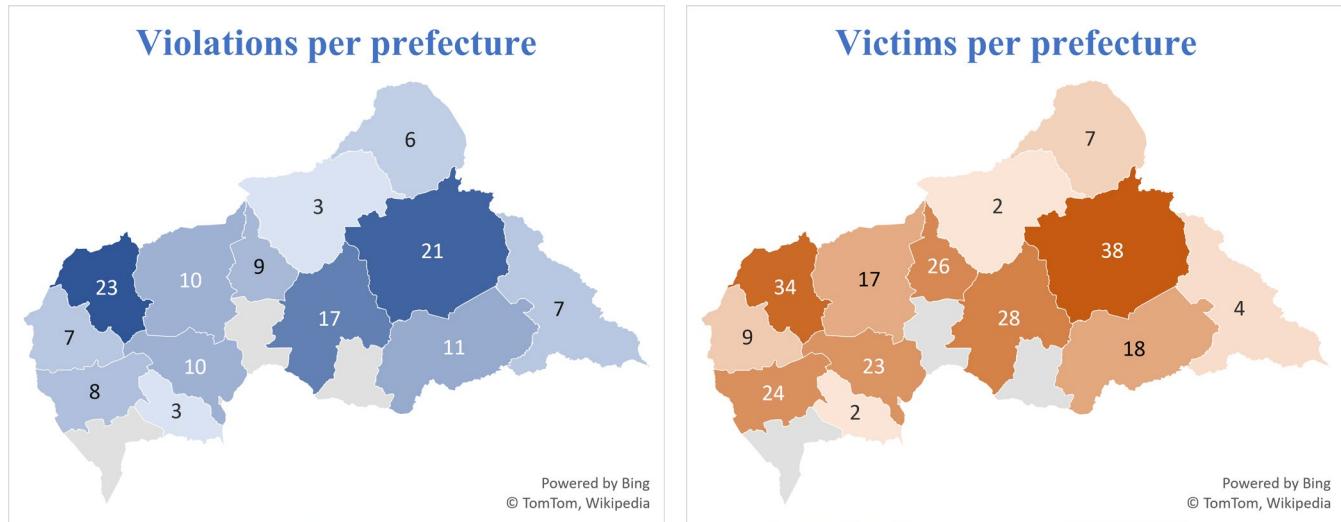
Main Trends

In total, **135 human rights violations and abuses** as well as breaches of IHL **affecting 232 victims (18 women, six girls and 16 boys)** were documented in December 2022. This constitutes a **decrease** in the number of victims compared to November 2022.

During the reporting period, State actors were responsible for 56% of all violations and breaches and 55% of the victims.

2. In December, the number of victims decreased by 38% compared to November 2022, during which time 377 victims were documented. The number of violations as well decreased over the same period, from 188 to 135. However, the total numbers remain in line with the previous months.

3. The **Ouham-Pendé** prefecture was the most affected in terms of human rights violations and abuses (23 violations and 34 victims) while the **Haute-Kotto** prefecture documented most victims (21 violations and 38 victims). This can be attributed largely to a case of ill-treatment and appropriation of property of 12 civilians by *Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation* (3R) combatants in Kpare (Ouham-Pendé prefecture), as well as the ill-treatment and death threats against eight civilians by *Front Populaire pour la Renaissance de la Centrafricaine* (FPRC) in the Haute-Kotto prefecture.



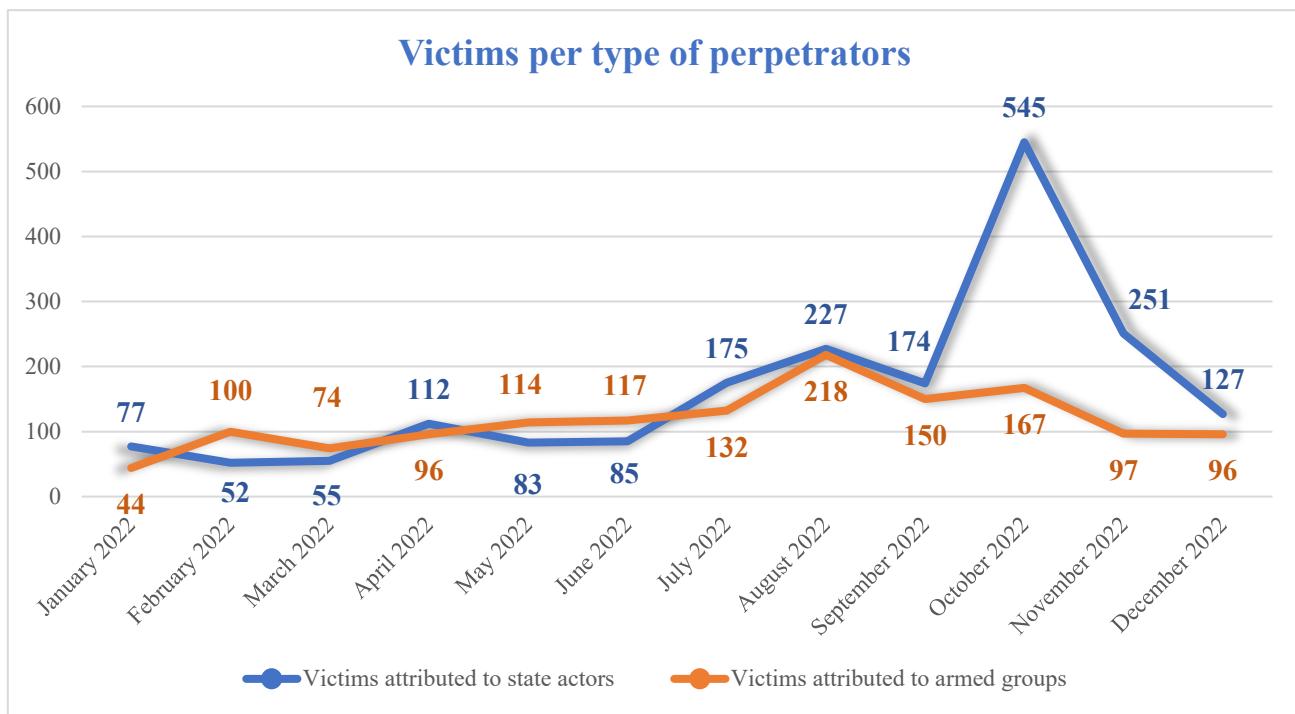
4. This month, the most common types of violations and abuses were arbitrary arrest and/or detention (26%), threats to physical and mental integrity (23%), destruction or appropriation of property (13%), and conflict-related sexual violence (rape, attempted rape, forced nudity and sexual slavery) (8%). Men were mostly victims of extrajudicial execution or other killing (nine), arbitrary arrest and/or detention (76), deprivation of liberty (28) and ill-treatment (29). Meanwhile, women suffered mostly from rape (three), attempted rape (two) and ill-treatment (five). Boys were mainly victims of arbitrary arrest and/or detention (eight), and girls of CRSV (five rapes and one case of sexual slavery). In terms of documented cases of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), women and girls accounted for most of the cases (five women and six girls) with the case of one man also documented.

Perpetrators: State actors, armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA, and others

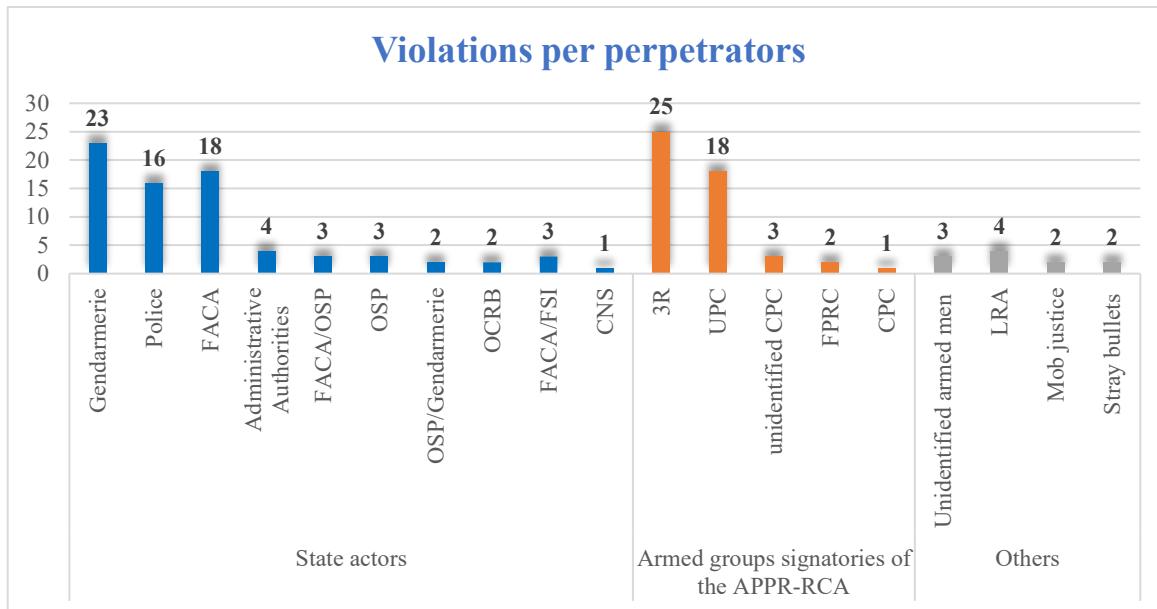
5. For the period under review, State actors committed 56% of the violations, abuses, and breaches of international law, compared to 36% for armed groups signatories of the *Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation en République Centrafricaine* (APPR-RCA). State actors also were responsible for 55% of the victims and armed groups for 41%. The remaining 11 violations were committed by other actors, including unidentified armed men (three violations), the Lord's Resistance Army (four violations), two mob justice cases and two cases caused by stray bullets.

6. **State actors were responsible for 75 violations affecting 127 victims (nine women, three girls and 13 boys)**, with 31% of the total number of violations committed by the Gendarmerie. In the month of December, members of the Gendarmerie committed 23 violations affecting 50 victims (including four women, four boys, three girls), 21% of the total number of victims. After the Gendarmerie, the *Forces armées centrafricaines* (FACA) alone were involved in committing 18 violations affecting 15 victims (including four women and one boy), while the Police committed 16 violations affecting 36 victims (including one woman and four boys). However, jointly with *Forces de Sécurité Intérieures* (FSI) and other security personnel (OSP), FACA elements were responsible for an additional six violations affecting five victims.

- The most common type of violations committed by State actors were those associated with detention, including arbitrary arrest and/or detention (36), inhumane conditions of detention (six) and forced labour (one), as well as torture and ill-treatment (16), the destruction or appropriation of property (six) and rape (six). The violations perpetrated by FACA were most likely to be committed alongside other violations: out of the 16 cases with multiple violations documented amongst State actors, seven were committed by FACA elements (one of which was committed in concert with elements of OSP). Of these seven cases, six involved torture or ill-treatment combined with some other violation, including arbitrary arrest and/or detention, the destruction or appropriation of property, or maiming and injury. Thirteen of the 16 cases documented involved violations associated with detention (arbitrary arrest and/or detention or inhuman conditions of detention).
- Armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA were responsible for 49 human rights abuses and breaches of IHL affecting 96 victims (including seven women, two boys and two girls).** The 3R armed group committed 25 human rights abuses affecting 55 victims (including two women, one boy and two girls), while combatants from the UPC committed 18 abuses affecting 23 victims (including four women and one boy).



- The most common types of abuses committed by armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA were the extrajudicial execution or other killing or their attempts (ten), abduction and deprivation of liberty (11), cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (13), destruction or appropriation of property (nine), and unlawful attacks (three). Among armed groups, the 3R committed six cases of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment affecting 19 victims (including 2 women) and eight cases of deprivation of liberty affecting 37 victims (including one boy). The UPC combatants committed five cases of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment affecting 10 victims (including one woman) and five cases of extrajudicial execution or other killing or their attempts affecting 14 victims (all men). As in previous months, armed groups committed multiple human rights abuses in single incidents, committing two or more abuses in 14 of the 21 incidents perpetrated by the armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA and documented this month by the HRD.



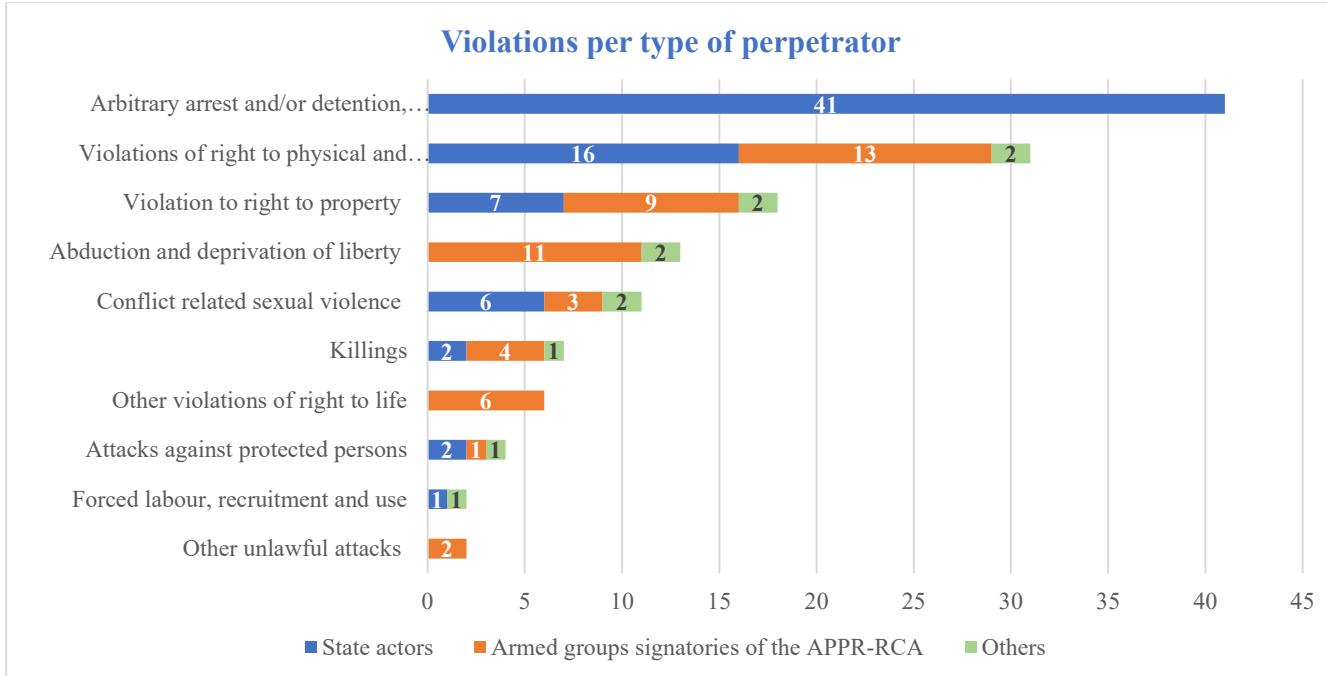
Sectoral Analysis

10. The **Sector West** was the most affected in December with 61 violations and abuses affecting 109 victims. The high number of victims is largely due to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (14) and violations documented in places of detention (twelve). In the **Ombella M’Poko** prefecture for example, the HRD documented six violations related to arbitrary arrest and/or detention and inhuman and degrading conditions of detention affecting 19 victims (including one boy). In the **Ouham-Pendé** prefecture, the HRD documented eight violations of ill-treatment affecting 21 victims (including three women and one girl). Furthermore, on 12 December, the HRD documented the abduction and the extorsion of a group of collective victims by armed men assimilated to 3R combatants in a village on Bossempte-Bozoum axis. According to sources, the victims were stopped on their way to the market, held for three hours and robbed of their belongings and money before being released. On 13 December, the HRD was also informed that a 35-year-old man on his way to Bouar to purchase supplies was ambushed on Bozoum-Bouar axis, by three armed men also affiliated to 3R combatants. They took the victim to the bush where he was tied up, mistreated and robbed of his belongings (600,000 XFA, around 1,000 USD). The victim was injured and is receiving medical care in a medical facility.

11. The **Sector Centre** was also affected during the month of December, with 29 violations and abuses affecting 56 victims. Thirteen violations of rights related to detention affected 44 victims (including two boys), including arbitrary arrest and detention. In **Ouaka** prefecture, nine cases of arbitrary arrest and detention affected 21 victims (including one boy) and four violations of the right of physical and mental integrity affected five victims (including one woman and one group of collective victims). Furthermore, the **Nana-Grébizi** and **Ouaka** prefectures registered serious cases of CRSV in December including the sexual abuse of a 23-year-old internally displaced man. A FACA element drugged the victim before beating and injuring him and forcing him to undress publicly. The FACA element then proceeded to sexually assault him with the barrel of his gun in front of the local residents. A resident’s intervention saved the victim as the soldier was threatening to execute him. In addition, the HRD documented the rape of a 13-year-old girl by a Gendarme stationed in Ippy during the night of 20 to 21 December. According to the information received, the victim was returning home from an errand when a Gendarme intercepted her in front of the Gendarmerie brigade and raped her in the vicinity of the building. The brigade commander was informed of the case, but no action has yet been taken against the alleged perpetrator. Both victims received medical treatment.

12. The **Sector East** was the second most affected sector, with 45 violations and abuses affecting 67 victims. The **Haute-Kotto** prefecture was the most affected by violations and victims (21 violations affecting 38 victims including five women and three boys), followed by the **Mbomou** prefecture (eleven violations affecting 18

victims including one woman and three boys). The **Vakaga** and **Haut-Mbomou** prefectures had similar numbers of violations and victims (six violations affecting seven victims in the **Vakaga** prefecture, and seven violations affecting four victims in the **Haut-Mbomou** prefecture including two women and one girl). The **Mbomou** prefecture registered two cases of violations of the right to life (extrajudicial execution or other attempted killing), affecting ten victims, committed by elements of UPC.



Security and political context in December 2022

13. Armed groups activities continued to be reported this month from simple movements to robbery of trade and humanitarian convoys or attack against FSI or FACA positions. Subsequently, FACA, OSP and FSI led different operations. FSI and FACA multiplied identity checks in different regions of the Central African Republic (CAR) and reports highlighted that these controls targeted members of the Fulani and Muslim communities, who authorities continue to suspect of being members or colluding with rebel groups. In Bangui, checkpoints were opened last month specifically at all four access points of PK5, an area known for being mostly inhabited by Muslims. The HRD also documented cases of arbitrary arrests of members of these two communities the rest of the country. In addition, the number of human rights violations caused by State Actors such as robberies or civilian casualties can be explained by the lack of trainings and human rights knowledge of newly deployed FACA elements.
14. In **Sector West**, movements of armed men believed to be 3R combatants in the sub-prefecture of Baboua, in the **Nana-Mambéré** prefecture, were observed. These elements were reportedly ordered to take control of the towns of Baboua, Abba and Bouar following the *Coalition des patriotes pour le changement* (CPC) announcement of the resumption of their offensive to regain certain areas of the country. In addition, armed men assimilated to 3R and Anti-Balaka combatants reportedly attacked FACA elements on 23 December in the vicinity of the village of Zoungbé on the Bouar-Beloko axis (65km of Bouar). They reportedly killed two FACA soldiers and injured several others. Combatants assimilated to 3R and Anti-Balaka have also been reported on 28 and 29 December in Sabéwa and Besson (195 and 165 km of Bouar). In the **Ouham-Pendé** prefecture, on 12 and 13 December the HRD was informed of the presence of armed men assimilated to 3R combatants around the town of Bozoum and of an attack in the village of Bonangui (16km of Bossemptele-Bozoum axis), during which several civilians were allegedly robbed of their goods and money. Movements of a hundred armed men assimilated to the 3R around the villages of Lia and Bambara (60 and 23 km of Paoua)

were also reported. The situation in the village of Benerme (70km of Paoua) could deteriorate given the continued presence of the new Chadian armed group called “*Mouvement des Révolutionnaires Tchadiens Sudistes*” and of the recent arrival of new recruits increasing their numbers to at least 600 elements. The HRD also received reports of a higher number of elements in the area that still needs to be confirmed. In the **Ouham** Prefecture, the HRD was informed of an attack on four mining sites (Bowara, Kadanga, Poro and Poussière) by the OSP from 9 to 12 December in Kouki (80km of Bossangoa) and recorded several allegations of violations of human rights. Furthermore, there were reports of heavily armed combatants around Batangafo, in Moyenne Sido as well as alleged killings of civilians respectively in the village of Marze (74km of Bouca) by unidentified armed men, and in Bouca (92 km of Bossangoa) by anti-Balaka combatants. On 27 December, the HRD was informed of the movement of FACA and OSP to Markounda (145 km of Bossangoa) following reports of the regrouping of CPC combatants in several localities in the vicinity of Markounda (between 70 to 100km) who were pushed back by the FACA and OSP. In the **Mambéré-Kadeï** prefecture, on 17 December, the HRD was informed of movement of unidentified armed men in the Nandobo area (Carnot-Berberati axis). In the **Ombella-M'Poko** prefecture, numerous armed men assimilated to the 3R and CPC were reportedly present in the sub-prefecture of Boganda (195 km of Mbaiki) and in the village of Danga (25 km on the Boda-Mbaki axis).

15. In **Sector Centre**, in the **Nana-Grébizi** prefecture, the HRD was informed during the month of the alleged presence of armed men hiding among Fulani herders in the Lazaret camp for internally displaced persons (IDP) and of multiple human rights violations perpetrated by FACA soldiers and police officers in two IDP sites in the prefecture including the Lazaret camp. The HRD was also informed that Muslim traders went on strike in Dekoa on 19 December to protest against taxes imposed by FACA soldiers on the delivery of their goods. The FACA are targeting or arresting Muslim traders on the suspicion that they are collaborating with armed groups. Muslims traders are then obliged to pay large sums of money for their release. The local population also voiced their concern regarding the arbitrary arrests and disproportionate use of force by FACA and gendarmes at the Ndometé checkpoint (10km of Kaga-Bandoro). In the **Ouaka** prefecture, the HRD was informed throughout the month of an increase in the activity of UPC elements on several roads leading to Alindao, and of an alleged clash between the latter and Anti-Balaka elements on 7 December near the village of Bangui-Banda (112km of Bambari), without any civilian casualties. On 10 December, the HRD was informed that presumed UPC combatants attacked a FACA position in Boyo (90km of Bambari), another FACA position in Lioto (76km of Bambari) the following day and a FACA post in Ngakobo (63km of Bambari) on 17 December. Moreover, the HRD was informed that, on 12 December, about a hundred UPC combatants surrounded the village of Bokolobo (50km of Bambari) and attacked FACA elements. It was the second time this year that the UPC attacked FACA positions in Bokolobo.
16. In **Sector East**, in the **Haut-Mbomou** prefecture, the HRD was informed on 20 December that UPC leaders organized a meeting to call for a resumption of fighting and tried to recruit the youth of Bambouti village. The local youth refused to join the call and civil society organizations advocated for joint action by local authorities and MINUSCA to prevent this attempt at remobilizing former combatants. In the **Haute-Kotto** prefecture, the situation remained worrying as armed elements, mostly affiliated to the CPC, continued to exert influence and control in areas such as Aigbando. On 6 December, the HRD was informed of movement of UPC elements from the Aigbando mine site to the village of Ngouaboudou (45km of Bria). In Yangoungbia village (10km of Bria), CPC affiliated armed elements allegedly threatened the population receiving food distribution to share it with them or risk being attacked in the following days. Finally, the work of humanitarians was impeded in the region due to the presence of armed groups. In addition, following reported presence of UPC armed elements in Ouadda, humanitarian actors in Sam-Ouandja voiced their concerns regarding accusations by armed groups that they were reporting their positions to FACA and the OSP. The OSP reportedly conducted an operation against armed groups in Ouadda, forcing them to flee, and are planning an additional operation in Sam-Ouandja, which increases the risk of civilian causalities. In the **Mbomou** prefecture, on 9 December, the HRD reported that humanitarians were asked to pay illegal taxes at FACA-FSI checkpoints at PK7 of Rafai and PK17 of Gambo. In addition, movement of UPC elements were reported on the Gambo-Bakouma and Gambo-Bangassou axes, on the Dembia-Zemio and Bangassou-Rafai axes (50km of Bangassou), as well as the

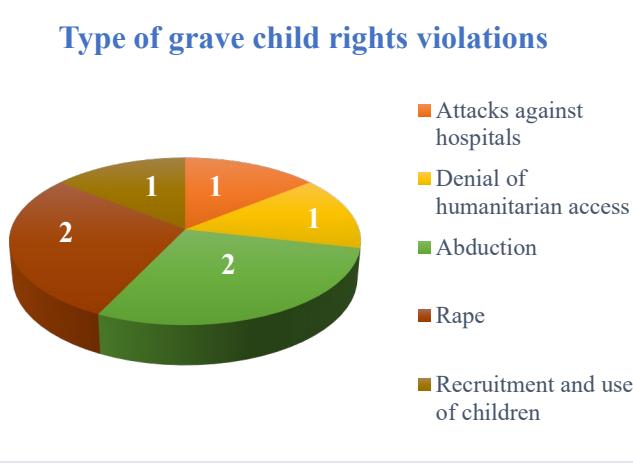
reinforcement of these elements in Pombolo. In the **Vakaga** prefecture, on 6 December, the HRD was informed of a clash which occurred at an illegal checkpoint on the Ayfa-Sikikede axis (180km of Birao) between armed men assimilated to Misseriya Arabs and those of UPC and the FPRC affiliated to the CPC, led by the General Mahamat Sallet Adam Kettethat, threatening civilians. Moreover, the CPC leader, Noureddine Adam, reportedly chaired a meeting in Sudan, in a locality near the CAR border on 8 December. Reportedly the meeting was to discuss the launching of attacks on locations in Vakaga Prefecture, allegedly to reinforce their presence after their expulsion by the MINUSCA Force from Ouanda-Djallé (150 km of Birao) in June 2022. On 29 December, the HRD received information of the movement of 35 pick-up trucks armed with heavy weapons carrying more than 600 armed men in Sikikédé. The HRD is closely monitoring the situation.

Civic Space

17. Regarding tensions around the constitutional reform which continues to pose a potential security risk in Bangui, the *Bloc républicain pour la défense de la Constitution* announced a meeting for 3 December in Bangui which was then banned by the Minister of Interior and Public Security on the grounds that the city centre (PK0) is not a meeting place. This situation contributes to concerns about a trend of erosion of civic and political space in the Central African Republic. Furthermore, on 3 December, the Central African Constitutional Court ratified the departure of its former president Daniele Darlan, while ruling that her retirement was unconstitutional.
18. Following a “Message Porté” circulating on social media containing an order from the CAR Minister of Justice to suspend the pension of Ferdinand Alexandre Nguendet as former President of the Republic on 21 November, a letter dated 12 December, jointly signed by the former President’s legal counsel Nicolas Tiangaye and Crepin Mboli-Goumba, also circulated on social media shortly thereafter. The letter was directly addressed to the Minister of Justice requesting evidence justifying the forfeiture of their client’s status as former Head of State for the purpose of a pension, recalling that the initial request addressed to the Office of the Public Prosecutor remained unanswered to date. The two counsels asserted that their client “has never been criminally prosecuted or convicted”, referring to legal provisions governing the allocation of a pension to former president of the Republic.
19. On 23 December, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sylvie Baipo Temon, issued a statement, in response to the 21 December statement of Central African armed group leader and former Chadian intelligence director Baba Ladde alleging that, in addition to a planned attack on the French Embassy, agents from the Coordinator of the *Plateforme de la Galaxie Nationale Centrafricaine* (GNC) and OSPs currently in the CAR were planning to attack the US Embassy. The Minister expressed the government’s concerns over *“destabilizing propaganda, attempts to exploit the security situation for political and geopolitical purposes, [and] biased statements by Didacien Kossimatchi and Baba Ladde”*. She reaffirmed the government’s desire to work with all its partners in a spirit of cordiality.
20. On 28 December, the mandate of the Special Criminal Court (SCC), established eight years earlier to try individuals accused of crimes against humanity, was extended for five years by the CAR National Assembly. As stated by the Minister of Justice, Arnaud Djoubaye Abazene, this decision marks the will of the Central African people to continue the fight against impunity and issue a warning *“to those who are plotting against the institutions of the Republic, perpetrating violence and atrocities on peaceful citizens [who] must know that justice will catch up with them”*.

Children in Armed Conflict

21. During the reporting period, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) verified seven grave child rights violations¹ affecting three children (one boy and two girls). This represents a significant decrease of 87% in the total number of grave violations and a decrease of 91% in affected victims from the previous reporting period (55 violations affecting 33 children). Seventy-two percent (72%) of the violations were committed by armed groups, 14% by unidentified armed individuals, and 14% by governmental forces. The marked decrease in grave violations during the reporting period might be due to ongoing pro-governmental military offensives to push back armed groups which negatively impacts the CTFMR's ability to monitor and report on grave violations. One girl was a victim of three grave violations – rape, abduction and recruitment and use.



23. During the reporting period, on 14 December, the Child Protection Unit (CPU), on behalf of the CTFMR, held a meeting with a FACA Commander in Paoua and briefed him on the Children and Armed Conflict mandate, the Child protection Code, and advocated that their elements be trained on the protection of children during armed conflict. Between 12 and 14 December, the CPU, the Director General of Technical Training in the Ministry of National Education and the Inspector General of the Minister of Gender, Family and Child Protection went on mission to Bambari to strengthen efforts to operationalise the local Professional Training Centre which would benefit vulnerable children and youths of the area. The mission also worked with UNICEF and child protection actors to identify vulnerable children at risk of recruitment and use or other grave violations. On 14 December, the CPU also met with UNICEF in Bambari and Bria to discuss child protection concerns and the challenges faced in Sector East. The CPU highlighted the ongoing dialogue with the LRA /Achaye faction to seek the separation of abducted women and children. The CPU advocated for protection

22. Violations documented included recruitment and use (one), rape (two), abduction (two), attack against hospitals (one), and denial of humanitarian access (one). The Lords' Resistance Army (LRA)/ Zaiko Langa-Langa faction was responsible for 43% of the total violations (three), followed by the CPC factions (two), the 3R (one), the UPC (one); unidentified armed individuals (one) and FACA (one). The **Haut-Mbomou** prefecture was the most affected Prefecture with three violations, followed by the prefectures of **Bamingui-Bangoran, Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Mambéré** and **Ouaka**, with one each.

Act to Protect Campaign

Through the “**Act to Protect**” campaign, 350 peacekeepers (291 men and 59 women) were trained on the protection of children during armed conflict including on monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children. Similar trainings and sensitizations were conducted for **2,535 community members and leaders, NGOs, national defense, and security forces** (FACA, police and gendarmerie), **local authorities and members of civil society** (1,326 men and 1,209 women).

¹ The information in this section has been collected by the MINUSCA Child Protection Unit. The Security Council has created mechanisms and tools to implement the mandate on the protection of children in armed conflict, including through Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), which establishes the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) to collect reliable and up-to-date information on violations committed against children by the parties to the conflict, as well as the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict. At MINUSCA, a task force monitors and reports on the six serious violations covered by the MRM, namely the recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, sexual violence, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access.

actors to provide support to the children associated with armed forces and armed groups. UNICEF informed the CPU that some child protection partners have received Humanitarian Funds to cover gaps in child protection in Haut Mbomou Prefecture.

24. Following advocacy led by the Minister Advisor to the President on Child Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration and the Task Force on Juvenile Justice, on 2 December, the President of the Republic signed a Presidential decree granting clemency to 30 children, including seven for alleged association to armed groups. The Task Force provided support for the reunification of the children with their families.

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

25. During the month of December, the HRD documented a total of nine cases of CRSV (seven cases of rape, one case of attempted rape and one case of sexual slavery) affecting 10 victims (five women, one man and four girls). One of the cases of rape occurred in **Bangui**, in the beginning of the month. A group of three women were collectively raped by FACA elements on patrol. One of the victims died the next day as the result of the rape.

26. On 9 December, Women Protection Section (WPS) and the Force Gender Focal Point (FP) met the sous-Chef d'Etat Major of the FACA, General Sakama, and discussed CRSV perpetrated by FACA. The WPS informed on the 26 verified CRSV cases perpetrated by state forces, mainly FACA, during 2022 and advocated for the need for FACA hierarchy to act on CRSV perpetrated by its personnel. The WPS also offered MINUSCA's technical assistance in this regard. On 23 December, the WPS was informed that the Chef d'Etat Major of the FACA had given his permission to initiate this work on CRSV perpetrated by the FACA. A two-day training has been planned for March 2023.

27. On 20 and 23 December, the WPS participated in a workshop organised by the Ministry of Justice and UNFPA for Magistrates and Judicial Police Officers on Investigation and Prosecution of CRSV. The WPS made two presentations regarding the *Women, Peace and Security Agenda* and the specific challenges faced by the justice system in CAR due to conflict.

28. As part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign, the WPS, along with SCPI, UNPOL, Gender Unit and the MINUSCA Cameroonian Battalion conducted an awareness session on CRSV for 55 students, including 33 girls, from the 5th to the 12th grade of the modern high school in Paoua. On 9 December 2022, on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the WPS participated in a workshop organised by Human Rights Forum and the Human Rights Division in the Paoua prison. The WPS raised awareness of 29 male detainees on the specificities of CRSV perpetrated within prisons.

Human Rights Promotion and Capacity-Building

29. In December 2022, the HRD organised 193 activities, in some instances with partners, on human rights and international humanitarian law in 12 prefectures,² benefitting 10,142 individuals (of whom 4,296 were women and girls), including community-members, representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs), state actors and members of the media. During the month under review, the HRD celebrated the 16 days of activism on the elimination of violence against women, which concluded on 10 December with the International Human Rights Day. This year's theme, which begins the long road to the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), includes the promotion of equality but also the need to defend the rights of the most vulnerable through community engagement. National and local authorities, human rights forums and civil society actors were all involved in the activities organized.

² The prefectures are as follows: Bamingui-Bangoran; Bangui; Haute-Kotto; Haute-Mbomou; Mambéré-Kadéï; Mbomou; Nana-Grébizi; Nana-Mambéré; Ouaka; Ouham; Ouham-Pendé; and Vakaga.

30. These activities included 92 awareness campaigns, which reached 8,158 beneficiaries (including 3,596 women and girls), including internally displaced persons, civil society organisations, community leaders, authorities, local human rights fora, students and the civilian population. In addition, 17 capacity-building workshops were organised benefitting 669 individuals (including 288 women and girls) from civil society organizations, local human rights fora, women's organizations, students, community-leaders and civilian population. The HRD also conducted nine trainings for civil society organizations, community leaders, local human rights fora and State actors, including 50 individuals (two women) from FACA and FSI. In December, the HRD conducted 24 monitoring visits of detention centres in ten prefectures.³ During these visits, the HRD documented 38 victims of unlawful detention, including cases in which the detainees were being held past the legal limits for custody. The HRD also documented inhuman conditions of

Transitional Justice

On 30 December, the **Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission (CVJRR)**, presented its annual report to the President of the Republic which outlines its activities and advocates for support for the implementation of its mandate. In his speech in response to the concerns of the CVJRR, the President of the Republic emphasized the political support that the institution should receive, following the example of the Special Criminal Court, to contribute effectively to the fight against impunity and the rehabilitation of victims. He also made a commitment to involve the departments concerned, particularly the Department of Reconciliation and Humanitarian Action, to effectively support the implementation of the CVJRR's mandate. The President's support is an important element of advocacy and communication granting the CVJRR legitimacy as it currently lacks the means to effectively implement its mandate.

detention, including overcrowded and unsanitary cells, absence of separation between minors and adult and/or between genders, and limited access to healthcare, leading to an increasing number of detainees falling sick. Among the cases documented by the HRD involving detainees whose detention has exceeded the legal time limit for police custody, in some cases for considerable amounts of time. In one case in **Ombella-M'Poko** prefecture ten men were being detained for more than a year without a trial. Furthermore, the HRD noted in the **Haut-Mbomou** prefecture, a case of one man being detained for a month for acts of witchcraft without any proceedings being initiated against him.

31. The HRD provided support to eight civil society consortiums for the protection of human rights in nine districts of Bangui, in Bimbo and in Begoua as part of a series of activities for the 16 days of activism. Their activities ended with a peaceful march on 10 December and the submission of a memorandum to the Ministry of Justice on 30 December, highlighting the worrying state of gender-based violence (GBV) and related impunity. In addition, as part of the support to the consortium, on 14 December, the HRD organized an advocacy activity to request the involvement of the civil society consortiums in elaborating alternative reports for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the submission of the periodic report to the Committee of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The HRD made the commitment to accompany this consortium in the mobilization of related information.

Human Rights Due Diligence

32. During the month of November, the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP), Vetting and Profiling (HVP) Unit conducted 24 risk assessments for MINUSCA's support to the National Defence and Security Forces and seven Members of Parliament, one member of the Economic and Social Council and an operating Agent at the Ministry of Justice for transportation to the localities of Bangassou, Bria, Birao, Obo, Zémio and

³ The prefectures are as follows: Bamingui-Bangoran; Haute-Kotto; Haut-Mbomou; Kaga-Bandoro; Lobaye; Mbomou; Nana-Mambéré; Nana-Grébizi; Ombella-M'Poko; Ouham-Pendé; Ouaka.

Satéma. The HRDDP Secretariat proceeded to screen and verify 188 FSI (92 Police and 96 Gendarmes), and two FACA. Among the 199 persons verified in total, two were excluded by the Secretariat for having been implicated in committing human rights violations. The rest of the risk assessments were evaluated to have low risk and the support was approved with a set of recommendations and mitigation measures to be implemented.

33. The risk assessments enabled UNPOL to organize six training sessions for the FSI on international law and the protection of civilians during elections, information technology, judicial police, the maintenance and restoration of public order (MROP) as well as technical and scientific police techniques. During the same period, the HRDDP Task Force meeting was held in person and online, co-chaired by the DSRSG and the DSRSG-RC/HC (OIC), in particular to review the ongoing co-location activity undertaken jointly with the OCRB Unit and MINUSCA and to reassess the support provided to the OCRB Unit.
34. The HRDDP Unit also finalized the vetting report of 27 ex-combatants from the Anti-Balaka (14), FPRC (eleven), and UPC (two) who were demobilized and disarmed in Bria and Sam-Ouandja, and who were candidates for socio-economic reintegration.
35. Finally, during the period under review, MINUSCA reviewed and recorded one file related to a political figure using his status to spread messages of hate, disinformation, and incitement to violence. This individual has targeted a MINUSCA contingent from a particular religious affiliation and continues to accuse the administrative authorities and MINUSCA of colluding with armed groups.