PRESS COMMUNIQUE

CP/SPK#034/2015

MINUSCA REITERATES ITS DETERMINATION TO ENFORCE THE ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY AGAINST SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION

Bangui, 13 August 2015 - The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) reiterates in the strongest terms its determination to enforce the United Nations’ zero tolerance policy against sexual exploitation and abuse by its personnel. All allegations of misconduct by United Nations staff in the Central African Republic are taken extremely seriously, and are the subject of thorough investigation.

On 2 to 3 August 2015, MINUSCA forces were reportedly involved in cases of sexual abuse and killings during operations in Bangui to execute an arrest warrant issued by the State Prosecutor. The investigation into these allegations is ongoing.

The United Nations expects all peacekeeping personnel to adhere to the highest standards of behavior and conduct. MINUSCA will work with troop contributing countries to ensure that any of its uniformed personnel found to be responsible for human rights violations in Central African Republic, including sexual exploitation and abuse, are held to account. In July, six peacekeepers were repatriated for excessive use of force against detainees.

Since its creation in April 2014, MINUSCA has investigated 57 cases of misconduct, of which 11 involve allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse.

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