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United Nations Multidimensional
Integrated Stabilization Mission in the
Central African Republic

Human Rights Division

Monthly Report: Human Rights Situation

August 2024

The mandate of MINUSCA includes, inter alia, assisting the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR) to promote and protect human rights. This report is based on information received by the Human Rights Division (HRD) and only includes human rights violations and abuses that were documented and verified during the month of August 2024 in line with established methodology of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Information that could not be verified are not included. Ordinary crimes are also excluded from this report. This report is shared with the CAR authorities and partners.

Main political and security developments

1. On 4 August, former President and General Coordinator of the *Coalition des Patriotes pour le Changement* (CPC) François Bozizé, publicly rejected the ceasefire announced by CPC Military Coordinator Ali Darassa, stating that the latter lacked the capacity to take such a decision on behalf of the CPC. On 30 August, four entities of the CPC, namely the *Unité pour la Paix en Centrafrique* (UPC), the *Front Patriotique pour la Renaissance de Centrafrique* (FPRC), the *Mouvement de la Révolution Populaire Anti Balaka* (AB) and the *Front de Défense pour les Libertés Publiques* (FDPC) met and announced their decision to split from the CPC to form a new bloc, *CPC-Fondamentale* (CPC-F), with Ali Darassa as its Chief of Staff. During the meeting, it was stated that an *ad hoc* committee would be established to redefine the objectives of the CPC-F and manage current affairs before the general assembly. It is important to note that the *Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation* (3R) and FDPC movements did not attend the CPC-F's inaugural meeting, indicating that they did not join the new movement. Observers are closely watching what implications these developments would have for the implementation of the APPR-RCA and the human rights situation.
2. On 22 August, the Strategic Committee for Elections chaired by Prime Minister Felix Moloua released the revised electoral calendar with combined municipal and regional elections scheduled for 6 April 2025. The voter registration process, which will also update the voter roll used for the 2025 Presidential elections, was anticipated to take place between 16 September and 2 November 2024.
3. On 20 August in Zemio (212km from Obo), **Haut-Mbomou** Prefecture, **Haut-Oubangui** Region, a training of elements from the *Azandé Ani Kpi Gbé* (Azanikpigbe) armed group by newly formed group *Wagner Ti Azande* (WTA)¹ was brought to a halt by the *Forces armées centrafricaines* (FACA) following

¹ Since 1 May, at least 200 Azande Ani Kpi Gbe elements, trained by OSP and now identify as Wagner Ti Azande (WTA), have been recruited into the FACA on a non-regulatory basis without proper vetting and are reportedly paid from the State budget. Given these facts, they are now categorized under State actors.

disagreements between FACA and WTA. The same situation was observed in Obo on 17 August. The recruitment of Azanikpigbe elements would continue to have implications for social cohesion in the **Haut-Mbomou** Prefecture, where tensions are high due to human rights violations committed by the WTA in July 2024.² There are concerns that the current climate of conflict could exacerbate the situation and further undermine efforts to fight against impunity for alleged crimes committed by WTA elements.

4. On 23 August, the former Minister of Youth and Sports, Lionel Régis Dounda, imprisoned in Bangui since April 2021 announced in a letter to the Minister of Justice his intent to start a hunger strike from 24 August to denounce his detention conditions. In May 2022, during the criminal sessions of the Court of Appeal of Bangui, he was found guilty of embezzlement and forgery and sentenced to a 10-year prison term.

Significant human rights related developments

5. On 15 August, MINUSCA and the *Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme et des Libertés fondamentales* (CNDHLF) held a strategic meeting to enhance cooperation and define key strategies for implementing the CNDHLF's mandate. The meeting, which was co-chaired by the President of the CNDHLF and the Director of the Human Rights Division, focused on implementing the recommendations of the needs assessment mission conducted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) from 3 to 7 June 2024. In this regard, the CNDHLF presented its proposed options and action plan to align with the standards set out in the Principles Relating to the Status of National Human Rights Institutions (Paris Principles).
6. On 27 August, the Minister of Justice signed a decree creating a Judicial Commission of Inquiry to investigate the allegations of human rights violations and abuses perpetrated in the **Haut-Mbomou** Prefecture, notably in Zémio, Mboki and Obo³. Presided by the General Prosecutor of Bambari and composed of eight members from the Judiciary, Ministry of Justice, police and gendarmerie, the Commission is placed under the direct authority of the Minister of Justice and has 45 days to submit its report. It is worth noting that the Commission was established in response to MINUSCA's advocacy with the Minister for urgent action by the government on human rights concerns in the Haut-Mbomou Prefecture.
7. MINUSCA continued to provide strategic support to the development of the National Development Plan (PND) 2024-28, including through technical assistance, in order to mainstream human rights in the process.

² Torture, conflict-related sexual violence, arbitrary arrest and detention, and destruction of property documented in the Haut-Mbomou Prefecture in July 2024. Additionally, on 14 July, the Fulani and Muslim communities in Zémio protested against these abuses by closing their shops and demonstrated against the WTA.

³ *Arrêté n° 029/MJPDHBG/DIRCAB/24 portant création d'une commission d'enquête judiciaire*, 27 August 2024.

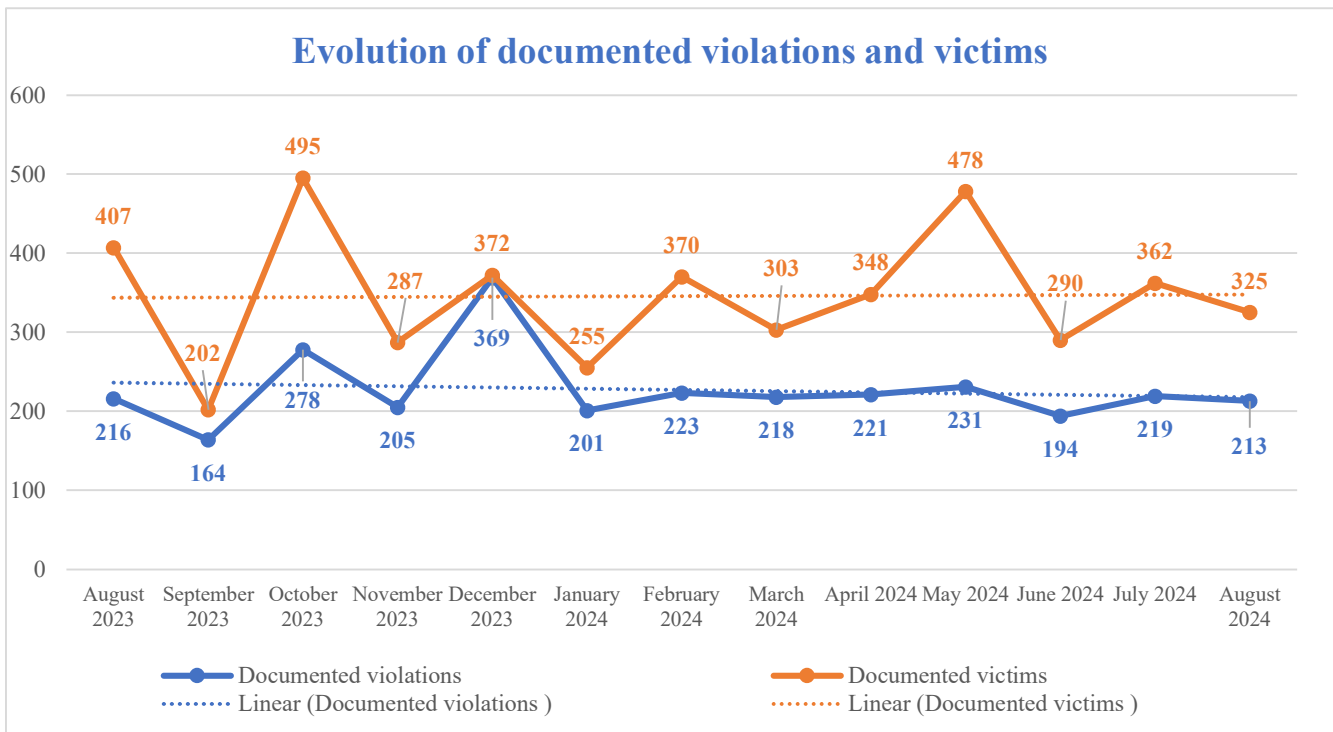
Human Rights Violations and Abuses and Breaches of International Humanitarian Law

8. Despite the aforementioned positive developments, human rights challenges remain. During the reporting period, MINUSCA verified **213 human rights violations and abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL), affecting 325 victims** (including 199 men, 25 women, 20 girls, 52 boys and 29 groups of collective victims). Out of the 325 victims, 124 suffered multiple violations, with most of the violations occurring in August 2024.⁴ Compared to July 2024, both the number of violations (-3%) and the number of victims (-10%) decreased.⁵ Similar to previous months, the most common types of violations and abuses were related to the right to physical and mental integrity (27%), arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not meet national and international standards (22%), and the right to property (20%).

Main Trends

In total, **213 human rights violations and abuses** as well as breaches of IHL **affecting 325 victims (including 199 men, 25 women, 20 girls, 52 boys and 29 groups of collective victims)** were documented in August 2024. This constitutes a **decrease** in the number of violations (3%) and in the number of victims (10%) compared to July 2024.

9. Men were primarily victims of violations/abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity (31%), property (24%) and arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not meet national and international standards (22%). Women were mostly victims of violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity (41%), conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) (18%) and the right to life (12%). Out of the 15 girl victims, a majority were victims of CRSV (60%) and victims of violations/abuses

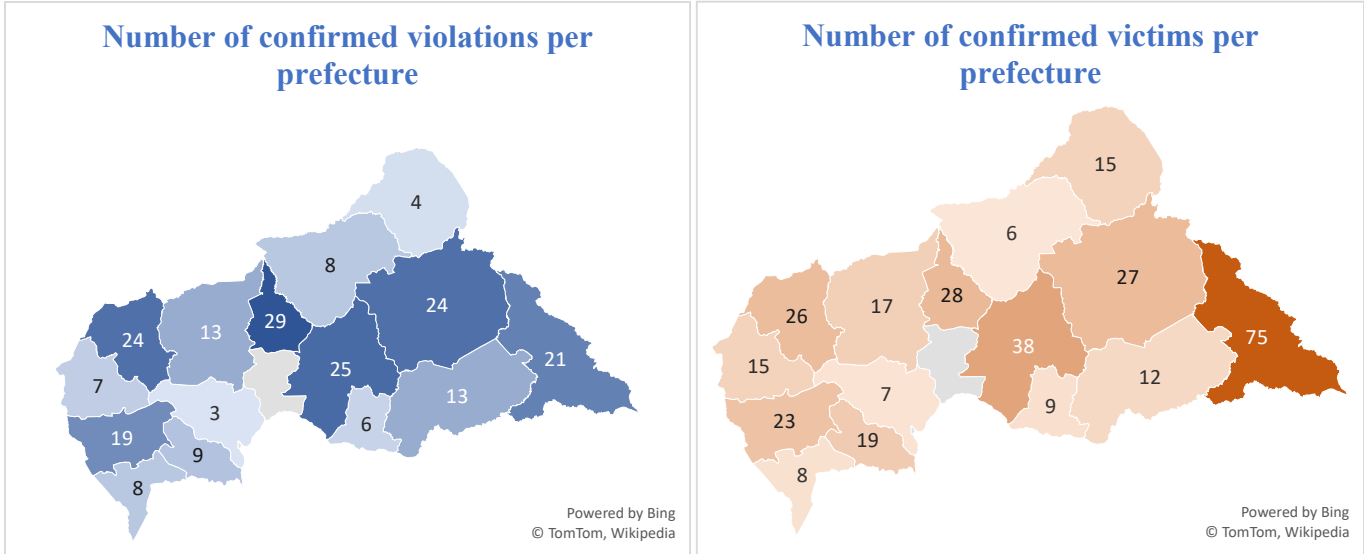


⁴ The other violations/abuses documented occurred between January and July 2024.

⁵ In July 2024, HRD documented 219 violations affecting 362 victims.

to the right to physical and mental integrity (13%). Boys suffered mostly from violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity (27%) and of recruitment (27%).

10. The **Kaga** Region registered the most violations and abuses (54) while most victims (96) were registered in the **Haut-Oubangui** Region⁶. In the Kaga Region, violations/abuses were mostly committed by the OSP (10) in the **Nana-Gribizi** Prefecture and by Gendarmerie (11) in the **Ouaka** Prefecture. In the **Haut-Oubangui** Region, it is worth noting that Azanikpigbe (39), and the WTA (35), were responsible for almost all the victims in the **Haut-Mbomou** Prefecture.

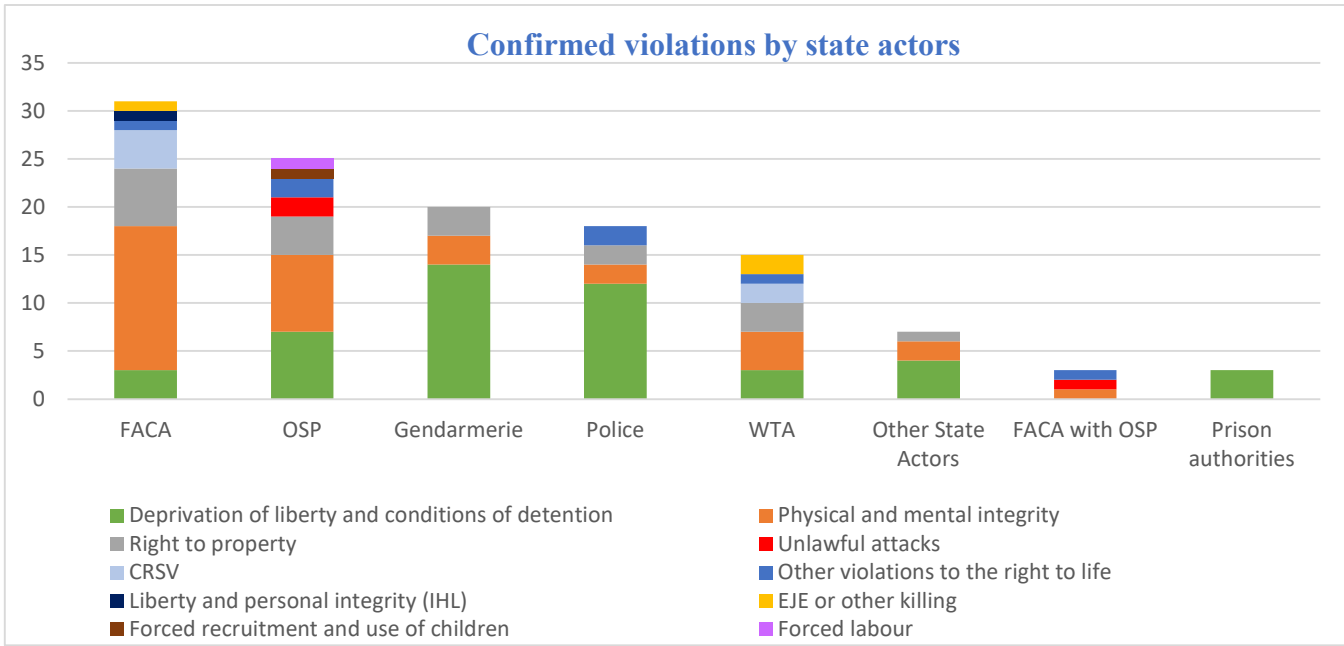


Overview of violations by type of perpetrator

11. For the period under review, state actors committed 122 human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law affecting 169 victims (including 13 women, five girls, 10 boys and 17 groups of collective victims). In comparison to July 2024, both the number of violations and victims attributable to state actors increased by 18 % and 8% respectively⁷. The main violations included **arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention** that do not comply with national and international standards (46); the **right to physical and mental integrity** (35); and the **right to property** (19). Among state actors, the FACA (31 violations affecting 32 victims), the OSP (25 violations affecting 15 victims), the Gendarmerie (20 violations affecting 37 victims), the Police (18 violations affecting 26 victims) and the WTA (15 violations and 35 victims) committed the most violations. Most violations by state actors were committed in **Kaga** (36 violations affecting 50 victims) and **Haut-Oubangui** (25 violations affecting 45 victims) Regions.

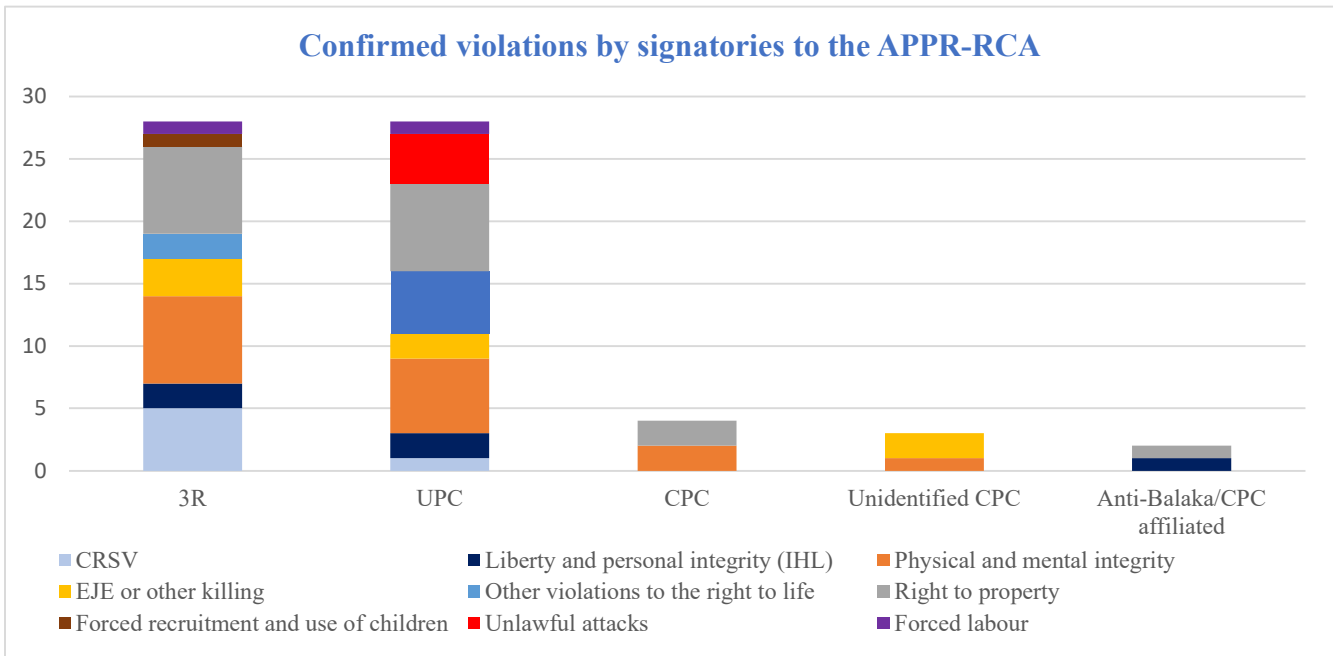
⁶ The Haut-Oubangui Region includes the Prefectures of Basse-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou.

⁷ In July 2024, State actors committed 103 human rights violations and breaches of international law affecting 156 victims.



12. **Armed groups signatories to the *Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation en République Centrafricaine* (APPR-RCA) were responsible for 65 human rights abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law affecting 91 victims** (including 12 women, five girls, two boys and eight groups of collective victims). In comparison to July 2024, this reflects an -11% decrease both for abuses and victims⁸. Most of the abuses committed by armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA were related to the rights **to property** (17 abuses affecting 47 victims), **physical and mental integrity** (16 abuses affecting 41 victims) and **life** (14 abuses affecting 23 victims).

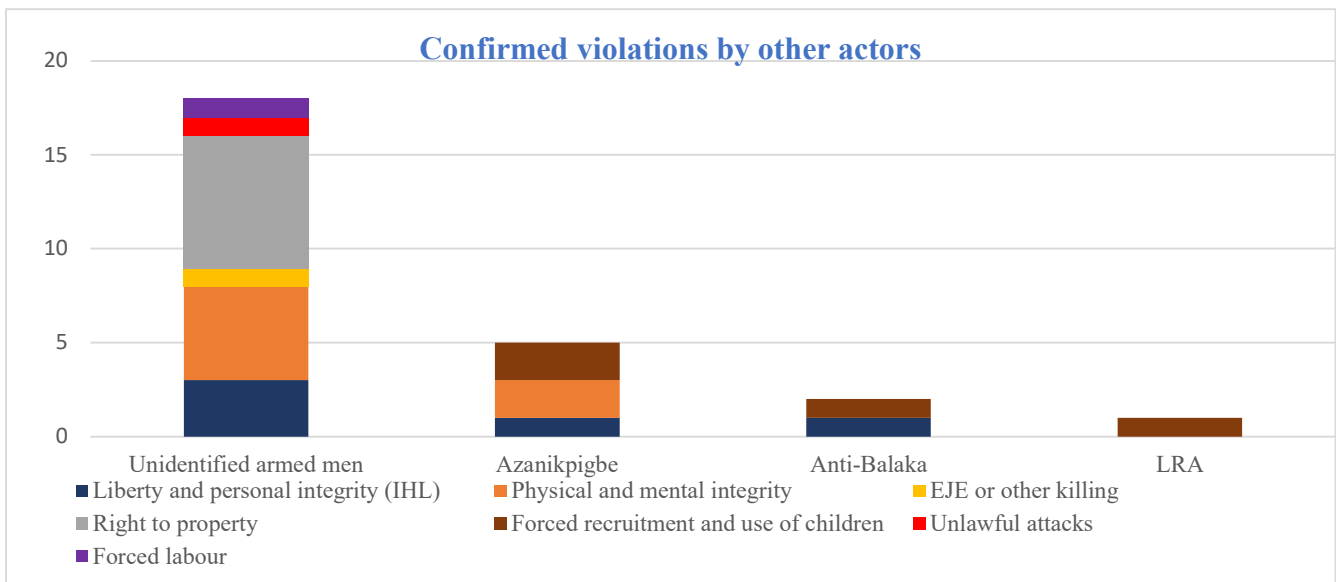
13. **Among armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA, the *Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation* (3R) (28 abuses affecting 39 victims) and the **UPC** (28 abuses affecting 27 victims) were the main**



⁸ In July 2024, armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA committed 73 abuses affecting 102 victims.

perpetrators. Yadé⁹ was the most affected Region by armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA (23 abuses affecting 29 victims), which represents 35% of all the abuses attributable to armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA in the country.

14. **Other actors, including armed groups non-signatories to the APPR-RCA, were responsible for 26 abuses affecting 65 victims** (including 10 girls, 40 boys and four groups of collective victims). In comparison to July 2024, this represents a decrease in abuses (-40%) and victims (-38%)¹⁰. This decrease was mainly due to reduced activities of unidentified armed individuals. Most abuses were related to the right to property (seven), the right to physical and mental integrity (seven), the right to personal integrity (five) and recruitment (four). Most of these abuses were committed by unidentified armed men (18 affecting 18 victims), the Azanikpigbe (five affecting 39 victims) and the *Lord's Resistance Army* (LRA) (late-verified abuses) (one affecting seven victims) especially in the **Haute-Kotto** and **Haut-Mbomou** Prefectures. To note, the four cases of recruitment affected 47 victims, representing 72% of all the victims by other actors during the period under review.



Typology of human right violations and abuses and violations of IHL

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV)

15. In August 2024, MINUSCA documented 12 CRSV¹¹ cases affecting 16 victims (seven women and nine girls), including rape (11 cases affecting 15 victims) and attempted rape (one case affecting one victim). It is worth noting that CRSV is often committed alongside other human rights violations/abuses, such as abduction, ill-treatment, and recruitment and use of children. The main perpetrators included 3R (five cases affecting nine victims) in the **Ouham-Pendé** and **Lobaye** Prefectures and, FACA (four cases affecting four victims) in the **Ouham**, **Haute-Kotto**, and **Mambéré-Kadéï** Prefectures. Of note, in **Haut-Mbomou**, two cases affecting two victims were committed by the WTA acting alone. The UPC was

⁹ The Yadé Region includes the Lim-Pendé (reflected in the maps in the Ouham-Pendé), Ouham-Pendé and Ouham Prefectures. Please note that due to software limitations, figures from the Ouham-Fafa, which is normally pertaining to the Kaga Region are also included here (reflected in the maps in the Ouham).

¹⁰ In July 2024, armed groups non-signatories to the APPR-RCA and self-defence groups were responsible for 43 abuses affecting 104 victims.

¹¹ The CRSV violations/abuses include rape, attempted rape, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy, forced marriage, attempted forced marriage, forced nudity, and sexual assault and harassment.

implicated in one abuse affecting one victim on 11 August in **Ouaka** Prefecture during which three elements gang-raped a 14-year-old girl while she was alone on her way to the weekly market.

16. In line with efforts to enhance FACA’s response to CRSV, on 28 August, General Betibangui was appointed by FACA Chief of Staff as President of the Committee¹² for the fight against sexual violence committed by FACA elements. He will lead the Committee’s efforts to implement the National Action Plan to prevent and respond to CRSV committed by FACA.

Right to life

17. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **25 violations/abuses of the right to life affecting 39 victims**, including summary or extrajudicial executions or killings (11 violations/abuses), death threats (nine violations/abuses), attempted extrajudicial executions or killings (four violations/abuses), and enforced disappearance (one violation/abuse). Most of these violations/abuses were committed by armed groups signatories to APPR-RCA (14 violations/abuses), in particular UPC (seven abuses affecting 12 victims). On 8 August, UPC elements killed three men and seriously injured another in Yabongo (45 km east of Zangba in **Ouaka** Prefecture). The four men were returning from the market when they came across a group of UPC elements who ordered them to hand over their belongings. When they refused to comply, three of them were killed while the fourth escaped with injuries.
18. In line with its obligation under Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the State guarantees the right to life of every individual, including the responsibility to ensure transparent investigations into actions by state and non-state actors, to determine the cause of death and to ensure accountability.

Deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention

19. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **46 violations related to the deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention affecting 102 victims** (80 men, four women, six boys, and 12 groups of collective victims). Most violations were related to arbitrary arrest and/or detention (31 affecting 88 victims), largely due to detention beyond the legal time limits for custody¹³. Most of these violations are attributable to the Gendarmerie (14 violations affecting 33 victims) and the Police (12 violations affecting 24 victims).
20. **Poor detention conditions remain a significant challenge due to various logistical and funding issues, as well as a lack of judicial oversight in some areas.** For instance, food allocation problems persist in Ngaragba Prison in Bangui, leading to malnutrition. On 21 August, MINUSCA was informed that the food allotment for the Bangui-area prisons was yet to be received from the relevant authorities. As a temporary solution, the Bangui and Bimbo prisons had to rely on credit from regular suppliers to provide rations. Additionally, overcrowding remains severe: documentation for August shows that there was 541% overcrowding in Ngaragba Prison in Bangui while Mbaiki Prison in **Lobaye** Prefecture and Bambari Prison in **Ouaka** Prefecture recorded 45% and 43% overcrowding, respectively.

¹² N°286/MDNRA/EMA/CAB : *Création d'un comité de lutte contre les violences sexuelles dans les Forces Armées Centrafricaine (FACA)* and N°287/MDNRA/EMA/CAB : *Nomination d'un Haut Responsable du comité de lutte contre les violences sexuelles dans les Forces Armées Centrafricaine (FACA)*.

¹³ Other violations included conditions of detention that do not meet minimum national and international standards (15), including inhuman conditions (seven), lack of access to WASH (five) and lack of separation between minors/adults and/or by gender (three).

21. Human rights of persons in custody and detainees are protected by various national texts, including the Constitution adopted on 30 August 2023, the *code pénal* (Criminal Code) and the *code de procédure pénale* (Criminal Procedure Code) adopted by laws n°10.001 and 10.002.¹⁴

Right to liberty and personal integrity

22. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **11 violations/abuses of the right to liberty and personal integrity**¹⁵ affecting **27 victims**, including abductions (seven violations/abuses affecting 17 victims), deprivation of liberty (three affecting nine victims) and hostage-taking (one affecting one victim). Unidentified armed men were responsible for most abuses/violations (three abuses affecting nine victims). On 2 August, Anti-Balaka elements affiliated to the CPC abducted seven workers from the timber exploitation company SEBC near Zotoua-Banguerem (25 km from Bouar), in the **Nana-Mambéré** Prefecture. The victims were released on 24 August following the payment of a ransom of 12,000,000 XFA (approximately 20,000 USD) by the CEO of the company, which covered the total liberation of the seven victims.
23. In line with their responsibilities under Article 3 of the UDHR, Article 9 of the ICCPR, and Article 6 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the CAR government is under an obligation to take measures to prevent and investigate violations and abuses of the right to liberty and personal integrity.

Right to physical and mental integrity

24. During the period under review, MINUSCA documented **58 violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity**¹⁶ affecting **131 victims**, including cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (33 affecting 66 victims), maiming and injuries (12 affecting 53 victims), threats to physical and mental integrity (nine affecting 10 victims) and torture (four affecting four victims). Notably, two victims experienced violations of their physical and mental integrity twice, which explains the discrepancy in the total number of victims.¹⁷ State actors were responsible for most violations (35) and victims (46). Cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and/or torture are often committed alongside other human rights violations/abuses, like deprivation of liberty and/or appropriation of property. For instance, on 5 August, OSP elements arbitrarily arrested, detained, tortured, and seized the property of a 34-year-old man suspected of selling drugs in Batangafo, **Nana-Gribizi** Prefecture. After arresting him, the OSP took the victim to their base where his hands and feet were tied while he was suspended upside down to a tree for one hour. They also confiscated his mobile phone and 200,000 XAF (approximately 335 USD), detained him in their base for two days before transferring him to the Batangafo gendarmerie on 7 August. He was later taken back to the OSP base on 16 August from where he escaped on 31 August. Since his escape, the victim's family has also gone into hiding due to fear of reprisals by OSP. Instances of interference by OSP in the justice chain continue to raise concerns particularly with regards to arrests, detention and interrogation of individuals and their overall impact on the respect of the rule of law.

¹⁴ Other laws and decrees protecting the rights of detainees include law n°12.003 on fundamental principles of the prison system, decree n°160090 on standard internal regulations applicable to prisons in the Central African Republic, decree n°160087 on the organization and operation of prisons in the Central African Republic and determining their internal regulations, as well as decree n°160088 redefining the framework of the prison administration.

¹⁵ The right to liberty and personal integrity includes protection against abduction, deprivation of liberty, and hostage-taking (violations and breaches of international humanitarian law).

¹⁶ Violations related to the right of physical and mental integrity include ill-treatment, torture, maiming, and injuries.

¹⁷ One victim was tortured and subsequently ill-treated during the same incident. Another victim was ill-treated and subsequently received threats to his physical and mental integrity during the same incident.

25. In line with their obligations under Article 5 of the UDHR, Article 7 of ICCPR, Articles 2 and 16 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and Articles 4 and 5 of the ACHPR, state authorities are expected to take concrete steps to prevent and investigate cases relating to torture and ill-treatment.

Right to property

26. MINUSCA documented **43 violations/abuses of the right to property**,¹⁸ affecting **83 victims**, including destruction or appropriation of property (39 violations/abuses affecting 77 victims) and illegal taxation (four violations/abuses affecting six victims). State actors were responsible for most of the violations/abuses (19) while armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA were responsible for most of the victims (47). On 22 August, a senior officer of the Gendarmerie of Lidjombo (32 km from Bayanga), **Sangha-Mbaéré** Prefecture, imposed illegal taxes on two men at a checkpoint as passage fees. The Prosecutor of Nola was informed and took steps to meet with security authorities to address the situation.

Unlawful attacks

27. MINUSCA documented **eight unlawful attacks**,¹⁹ affecting **one woman, and seven groups of collective victims**, including denial of humanitarian relief (three), attacks against protected persons (two), illegal occupation and attacks on protected objects (two), and attacks against civilians (one) committed by UPC (four), OSP (two), unidentified armed men and FACA/OSP jointly (one each). On 25 August, in Bondo, **Basse-Kotto** Prefecture, UPC elements shot at a humanitarian convoy, injuring three humanitarian workers. The convoy, which was part of a government project and protected by FACA elements, was heading to Mobaye when the incident happened. During the exchange of fire between the UPC and FACA, three humanitarian workers were injured by the UPC elements.

Children in Armed Conflict

28. The Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) verified **95** grave child rights violations affecting **58** children (**38** boys/**20** girls). There was a 64% increase in grave violations and a 18% increase in victims directly affected compared to the previous reporting period during which 58 violations affecting 49 children were documented. The increase in grave violations could be explained by the identification of 37 children verified to have been associated with the Azanikpigbe, 27 of whom were victims of two violations (recruitment/use and maiming). The presence of explosive ordnance and ongoing military operations by Governmental forces and OSP continue to negatively affect the CTFMR’s ability to monitor and report on grave child rights violations. Eighty-six percent (86%) of the violations (82) occurred outside the reporting period but were only verified in August. Armed groups were responsible for 87% of the violations (83 violations), Governmental and Pro-Governmental Forces for 9% (eight violations), and

Act to Protect Campaign

Through the “**Act to Protect**” campaign, **165 peacekeepers** (116 men and 49 women) were trained on the protection of children during armed conflict, with a focus on monitoring and reporting of the six grave violations. Similar trainings and awareness-raising sessions were delivered to **660 (400 men and 260 women) community members and leaders, youth leaders, local authorities as well as members of local peace committees, INGOs, NGOs, FACA (19) and ISF (two)**.

¹⁸ The right to property includes protection from destruction or appropriation of property and illegal taxation.

¹⁹ Unlawful attacks include attacks against civilians, attacks against other protected persons, the failure of precautions to protect the civilian population or objects under a party’s control against the effects of attacks, and denial of humanitarian relief.

unidentified armed individuals for 4% (four violations). Three children (two boys/one girl) were victims of three violations: abduction, recruitment/use, and maiming (two boys); and abduction, recruitment/use, and rape (one girl). Twenty-eight (28) children (24 boys/four girls) were victims of two violations: recruitment/use and maiming (23 boys/four girls); abduction and recruitment/use (one boy). Two girls were gang raped.

29. Documented violations included: recruitment and use (44), killing (three), maiming (33), rape and other forms of sexual violence (eight), abduction (four), attacks against hospitals (one) and denial of humanitarian access (two). Armed groups committed (83) violations: Azanikpigbe militia (70); CPC factions (11): 3R (six), Anti-Balaka (three), and UPC (two); and LRA (two). Governmental and pro-governmental forces (eight): FACA (five), OSP (two) and FACA/OSP (one); and unidentified armed individuals (four). **Haut-Mbomou** was the most affected Prefecture (71 violations), followed by **Lim-Pende** and **Ouham-Pende** (four each), **Haute-Kotto**, **Nana-Mambéré** and **Ouham-Fafa** (three each), **Ouaka** and **Ouham** (two each), and **Bangui**, **Bamingui-Bangoran**, and **Lobaye** (one each).
30. Under the Convention on the rights of the child and international humanitarian law, parties to the conflict are required to protect children from direct participation in hostilities, refrain from recruiting children and protect civilians including children affected by armed conflict.
31. During the reporting period, MINUSCA met with the FACA leadership in **Nana-Gribizi** and **Ouaka** Prefectures to continue advocating for FACA elements to end and prevent grave child rights violations. Advocacy focused on denouncing grave child rights violations in relation to the National Child Protection Code (2020) which prohibits all grave violations and focused also on highlighting the importance of respecting the Ministry of Defence Circular prohibiting the presence of children in and around FACA and MINUSCA military camps (2022). MINUSCA met the Human Rights Focal Point (HRFP) at the Ministry of Defence to advocate for schools occupied by FACA and OSP to be vacated and provided him with a list of schools currently occupied and used by the army. As a follow-up to the dialogue initiated in July with the Azanikpigbe representative in Bambouti (**Haut-Mbomou** Prefecture) to immediately stop grave violations, MINUSCA, through its CPU conducted an awareness-raising session for 10 Azanikpigbe elements. A copy of the Child Protection Code (2020) was shared with the Azanikpigbe local Commander.

Human Rights Promotion and Capacity-Building

32. During the period under review, **the Human Rights Division (HRD) organised 77 activities (awareness-raising, trainings, and capacity-building workshops)** in 12 prefectures,²⁰ benefitting 1,589 individuals (of whom about 531 were women, 11 girls and 33 boys). Participants included representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs), internally displaced persons (IDPs), Armed Forces (FACA), Internal Security Forces (ISF), prison authorities, detainees, local NGOs, local human rights forum as well as community and religious leaders. They focused on human rights and international humanitarian law including the prevention of CRSV, grave child rights violations and prevention of hate speech.
33. **The HRD conducted 37 monitoring visits to detention centres and facilities in 10 prefectures,²¹ and documented 86 victims of arbitrary detention.** The HRD continues to be granted access to detention centres and facilities to monitor the situation and engage with relevant authorities to advocate and support efforts to enhance the respect of human rights. As a result, the HRD observed some positive developments concerning detention conditions. For instance, during the last week of August, in Bria, standards of

²⁰ The Prefectures are as follows: Bangui; Bamingui-Bangoran; Haute-Kotto; Haut-Mbomou; Mambéré-Kadéï; Mbomou; Nana-Gribizi; Nana-Mambéré; Ouaka; Ouham; Ouham-Pende and Vakaga.

²¹ The Prefectures are as follows: Bangui; Haute-Kotto; Haut-Mbomou; Mambéré-Kadéï; Mbomou; Nana-Gribizi; Nana-Mambéré; Ouaka; Ouham-Pende and Vakaga.

detention conditions were upheld, with detainees kept in clean cells with new mats, minors being separated from adults, and women being separated from men. There were no instances of arbitrary detention, and detainees in both Gendarmerie and Police cells were allowed visits from their relatives.

34. Based on the release of the revised electoral calendar, MINUSCA intensified its awareness-raising and civic education activities in preparation for the upcoming voter registration process. Targeting local authorities, civil society, and the broader population, these efforts focused on the new Electoral Code and the opportunities and procedures for voter registration, with particular emphasis on promoting women's involvement as both voters and candidates to contribute to a more inclusive electoral process. These activities reached a total of 850 participants, including 324 women.
35. On 8 August, alongside the launch of the joint project between OHCHR and the European Union on the protection of human rights defenders, MINUSCA met with 12 representatives, including one woman, from local human rights fora. The project, which will be implemented over a period of two years, aims to enhance the protection of the population by strengthening the protection of human rights defenders through three defined outcomes: improving the technical and operational capacities of human rights organizations and the CNDHLF; operationalizing a protection framework for human rights defenders; and establishing advocacy channels between human rights defenders and the government, including through the adoption of legislative measures for their protection.

Human Rights Due Diligence Policy

36. During the period under review, MINUSCA conducted **40 risk assessments** related to MINUSCA's support to internal defence and security forces (FACA, ISF and other law enforcement officers). The Secretariat of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) conducted human rights background checks for **258 beneficiaries** including **178 ISF** (91 Police officers and 87 Gendarmes), **58 FACA**, and **22 prison officers** from the Ministry of Justice.
37. Beneficiaries were also provided with logistical, financial, and technical support including air transportation, fuel, and training. Among the risk assessments, 35 were for logistical support in order to assist the missions and the deployment of 18 Prison officers from Bangui to regions²² as well as the rotation of 34 FACA elements from Birao to Am-Dafock.
38. The risk identified in these assessments were deemed **low and medium**. Based on these assessments, MINUSCA support was approved with a set of recommendations and mitigation measures including the need to continuously train and raise the capacity of non-UN security forces on international human rights and humanitarian law. These verifications allowed MINUSCA's UNPOL and UNMAS to organize five training sessions for officers from the defence and security forces. These trainings addressed technical and scientific policing, judicial policing, and maintaining and restoring public order (MROP). MINUSCA equally transported non-UN security forces either on deployment or on missions to and from Am-Dafock, Bangui, Bangassou, Bambari, Birao, Berberati, Bossangoa, Bouar, Bria, Kaga-Bandoro, Nola, Obo, Paoua and Rafai.

²² Bambari, Bangassou, Berberati, Bria, Kaga-Bandoro, Nola and Paoua.