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Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée
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en Centrafrique



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Multidimensional
Integrated Stabilization Mission in the
Central African Republic

HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION

Monthly Report: Human Rights Situation

December 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 December 2024 in line with the established methodology of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Information that could not be verified is 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. During the reporting period, the political and security context was marked by persisting concerns for protection of civilians (PoC) and challenges related to voter registration for the upcoming local elections, driven by the heightened movement and activity of armed groups, counter military operations, and security incidents linked to electoral preparations and transhumance, exacerbated by the onset of the dry season.
2. On the political front, significant developments included the celebration of the 66th anniversary of the proclamation of the CAR, President Faustin Archange Touadéra's State of the Nation address to the National Assembly, and the closing of the second ordinary session of the National Assembly, which passed key legislation such as the 2025 Budget and a law on human rights defenders. While the President highlighted progress in governance reforms, security, and disarmament efforts in his address, opposition leaders continued to raise concerns over shrinking political and civic space as well as pressing socio-economic challenges.¹ The period also saw several judicial proceedings, including the conclusion of trials for crimes against humanity and politically charged cases.
3. With regards to the security situation, the movement and activities of armed groups, along with military operations, continued to undermine the protection of civilians and human rights situation across multiple regions. In the **Plateau Region**², several transhumance-related security incidents involving *Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation* (3R) were observed in Ombella M'poko Prefecture, including the shooting of a Fulani herdsman by 3R in Gomoko (5km SE of Djabarouna) on 21 December, and abduction of

¹ In response to President Touadéra's address to the National Assembly on the State of Nation of 28 December, Anicet-George Dologué, Crépin Mbolli-Goumba, and Martin Ziguélé, respectively, leaders of opposition parties the *Union pour le renouveau de la Centrafrique*, the *Parti africain pour la transformation radicale et l'intégration des Etats*, and the *Mouvement de libération du peuple centrafricain*, issued separate statements on 31 December 2024, expressing concerns about the shrinking political and civic space and deploring the country's pressing socio-economic challenges.

² The Plateau Region includes Ombella M'Poko and Lobaye Prefectures, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001, January 2021*.

another herdsman by 3R in Djabarouna (102km E of Bossembélé) on 31 December. In the **Yadé Region**³, The 3R continued their criminal activity against civilians in Ouham, Ouham-Pendé and Lim-Pendé Prefectures. On 1 December, 3R attacked a FACA base near Kouï (22km SW of Bocaranga), Lim-Pendé Prefecture, resulting in the death of a civilian, displacement of population and burning of several houses. On 25 December, 3R attacked villages around Ngoutere (35km SE of Bocaranga), Ouham-Pendé Prefecture, killing at least seven civilians and forcing villagers to flee to Bocaranga and nearby villages.

4. In the **Equateur Region**⁴, a heavy presence of 3R elements was observed in Botto (58km NW of Berberati), Mambéré-Kadéï Prefecture as well as movement of armed elements, including presumed Anti-Balaka elements around the Garafa mining site near Nguaï-Bouar (180km W of Bouar), Ngaidoua (30km E of Bouar), Beloko and Fambele (75km W of Bouar), Nana-Mambéré Prefecture. In the **Kaga Region**⁵, increased movement of armed elements on transhumance corridors, along with the arrival of transhumance herders in early December, was observed, including of presumed elements of the *Coalition des patriotes pour le changement-Fondamentale* (CPC-F)⁶ in Kémo Prefecture and of the *Unité pour la Paix en Centrafrique* (UPC) in Ouaka Prefecture.
5. In the **Haut-Oubangui Region**⁷, ongoing UPC and *Wagner Ti Azande* (WTA)⁸/*Azande Ani Kpi Gbe* (Azanikpigbe) activities on major axes of Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou Prefectures continued to pose serious concerns. From 9 to 12 December, UPC elements committed a series of abductions of Zandé civilians on the Djamah-Derbissaka axis. On 15 December, UPC elements abducted seven people in Rafai, including the Mayor of the Ouarra commune (which includes Dembia, 195km E of Bangassou), who managed to escape.⁹ In neighbouring Basse-Kotto Prefecture, the reports indicate an increased movement and criminal activity by UPC armed elements, intensifying fears of further attacks and operations. The **Fertit Region** also remains highly volatile, with armed groups such as the UPC, the *Parti du rassemblement de la nation Centrafricaine* (PRNC), the *Front Patriotique pour la Renaissance de Centrafrique* (FPRC), and Sudanese Rapid Support Forces (RSF) exploiting dry season for their mobility, leading to insecurity in mining sites in Vakaga Prefecture. From 11 to 16 December, the HRD conducted an investigation mission into the killing of 10 civilians which took place on 24 November between Kopia (40km NE of Ippy and 53km SW of Bria), Ouaka Prefecture and Djamangoundji (3km from Kopia), Haute-Kotto Prefecture, along the Bria-Ippy axis.¹⁰ The investigation confirmed that these killings were committed under the direct or indirect command of “General” Hassen Abdoulahi, the leader of the UPC operating in the Ippy area.

³ The Yadé Region includes Lim-Pendé, Ouham-Pendé, and Ouham Prefectures, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001, January 2021*.

⁴ The Equateur Region includes Nana-Mambéré, Mambéré, and Mambéré-Kadéï and Sangha Mbaéré Prefectures, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001, January 2021*.

⁵ The Kaga Region includes Nana-Grébizi, Kémo, and Ouaka Prefectures, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001, January 2021*.

⁶ 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. See *HRD Monthly Report: Main political and security developments, August 2024*, p.1.

⁷ The Haut-Oubangui Region includes Basse-Kotto, Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001, January 2021*.

⁸ Since 1 May, at least 200 *Azande Ani Kpi Gbe* elements were trained by Other Security Personnel (OSP). Reports indicate that they have been integrated into the security apparatus without proper vetting and are reportedly paid from the State budget. Given these facts, they are now categorized under State actors.

⁹ The abducted mayor is newly appointed Mayor following the WTA attack in Dembia. See *HRD Monthly Report: Significant human rights-related developments, November 2024*, p.2.

¹⁰ The perpetrator of the case was initially reported as unidentified armed men until further verification following the communiqué by CPC-F condemning and attributing the attack to affiliates of OSP. See *HRD Monthly Report: Right to life, November 2024*, p.7.

6. The active movement and activities of armed elements have significantly disrupted the ongoing **voter registration process**. The presence of armed groups temporarily disrupted voter registration in Ouaka Prefecture and in Ouham-Fafa Prefecture. Security incidents targeting National Elections Authority (ANE) officials were reported in several areas, further complicating the process and raising concerns about the safety of electoral personnel. On 20 December, the National Authority concluded voter registration in Operational Area 1, achieving 99% opening rate in 11 Prefectures.¹¹

Significant human rights-related developments

7. Despite these security developments negatively impacting human rights, some positive developments are noteworthy, along with the observance of the International Human Rights Day (10 December) and the continued campaign of 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence. In follow up to the first Steering Committee meeting for the National Human Rights Policy (PNDH)¹², various awareness-raising activities and workshops were conducted across the country. Notably, on 23-24 December, a two-day roundtable in Bangui, organized by the National Commission for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (CNDHLF) and the Ministry of Justice, brought together multiple stakeholders to discuss the operationalization of the PNDH, emphasizing community ownership.
8. On 27 December, the National Assembly adopted the Law on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. This adoption, which is a first in the CAR, marks a milestone in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. The adoption of this law also stems from advocacy efforts by the HRD under the project for protecting human rights defenders.
9. On 30 December, President Touadéra officially appointed members of the Selection Committee for the Truth, Justice, Reparation, and Reconciliation Commission (CVJRR) through presidential decree.¹³ The committee includes representatives from the National Assembly, the Government, civil society, and the African Union, reflecting a broad and inclusive approach to the selection process. This decree follows earlier efforts to ensure transparency and compliance with the 2020 law governing the CVJRR's creation, organization, and functioning.¹⁴
10. Significant judicial proceedings also marked this period, including the referral of six individuals, including Edmond Beina, to trial in the “Guen Case” for crimes against humanity;¹⁵ Conviction of four defendants for crimes against humanity “Ndélé 1” case; and the opening and suspension of “Ndélé 2” case for resumption in February 2025 by the Special Criminal Court (SCC).¹⁶ During the criminal session of Bangui Court of Appeal from 3 to 27 December, several high-profile cases were addressed.

¹¹ Operational Area 1 for voter registration includes: Bangui, Mambéré-Kadéi, Nana-Mambéré, Lobaye, Ouham, Nana-Grébizi, Haute-Kotto, Ouaka, Lim-Pendé, Ouham-Pendé, Ouham-Fafa and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures.

¹² See *HRD Monthly Report: Significant human rights-related developments, November 2024*, p.2.

¹³ *Décret n° 24-325 du 30 Décembre 2024, entérinant la désignation des membres du comité de sélection des candidats pour la commission vérité, justice, réparation et réconciliation (CVJRR)*.

¹⁴ *Loi organique n° 20.009 du 07 avril 2020, portant création, organisation et fonctionnement de la Commission vérité, justice, réparation et réconciliation (CVJRR)*. See *HRD Monthly Report: Main political and security developments, October 2024*, p.2 para 3.

¹⁵ Edmond Beina, a former Anti-Balaka Commander, was arrested and formally charged in June 2024 for crimes against humanity and war crimes allegedly committed in Guen, Gadzi and Djomo in February and March 2014. See *HRD Monthly Report: Significant human rights-related developments, June 2024*, p.3.

¹⁶ “Ndélé 1” and “Ndélé 2” cases concern alleged crimes against humanity committed in Ndélé and surrounding areas in March 2020 during clashes between two ethnic groups, Rongas and Goulas, within the FPRC. See *HRD Monthly Report: March 2020*, p.2.

Dieudonné Ndomaté¹⁷ was released following a jurisdictional ruling, while Dominique Yandocka¹⁸ was released after the reclassification of charges. Olivier Arsène Feissona was acquitted due to insufficient evidence.¹⁹ The session concluded with 40 out of 54 cases tried, resulting in 45 convictions, six acquittals, and one release due to jurisdictional issues.

11. Moreover, continued collaboration between MINUSCA and authorities in charge of detention facilities and/or centres is creating opportunities to address some of the challenges in detention. Advocacy by the HRD has led to the release of several arbitrarily detained individuals, improved sanitary conditions, and strengthened awareness among prison staff on international detention standards, including the Mandela Rules. This was bolstered through the project for the dissemination of the joint MINUSCA-OHCHR report “*Analysis of Detention in the Central African Republic: current situation, challenges and responses*”, published in July 2024.
12. Additionally, on 31 December, the President issued a decree granting a pardon to several categories of prisoners.²⁰ The announcement, made in the President’s New Year’s message, addressed severe overcrowding and health issues in detention facilities. The presidential pardon follows a sustained advocacy and good offices from MINUSCA, including the recent publication of the MINUSCA-OHCHR report on detention conditions.

Human Rights Violations and Abuses and Breaches of International Humanitarian Law

13. During the reporting period, MINUSCA verified **298 human rights violations and abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL), affecting 467 victims** (including 234 men, 46 women, 48 girls, 111 boys and 29 groups of collective victims). Out of the 467 victims, 203 suffered multiple violations. Out of 298 violations with most of the violations occurring in December 2024 (48% of the total number of violations/abuses).²¹ Compared to November 2024, both the number of violations (8%) and the number of victims (11%) decreased.²² Similar to previous months, the most common types of violations and abuses were related to arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards (24%), the right to physical and mental integrity (22%), and the right to property (17%).²³

Main Trends

In total, **298 human rights violations and abuses** as well as breaches of IHL **affecting 467 victims** (including **234 men, 46 women, 48 girls, 111 boys and 29 groups of collective victims**) were documented in December 2024. This constitutes a **decrease** in the number of violations (8%) and in the number of victims (11%) compared to November 2024.

¹⁷ Dieudonné Ndomaté, the former Minister of Tourism and former Anti-Balaka leader (Ngaïssona faction), was arrested in April 2024 for criminal association and undermining State security. *HRD Monthly Report: Significant human rights-related developments, April 2024*, p.1.

¹⁸ Dominique Yandocka, a Member of Parliament (MP), was arrested in December 2023 for undermining State security. *HRD Monthly Report: Security and Political context, December 2023* p.2.

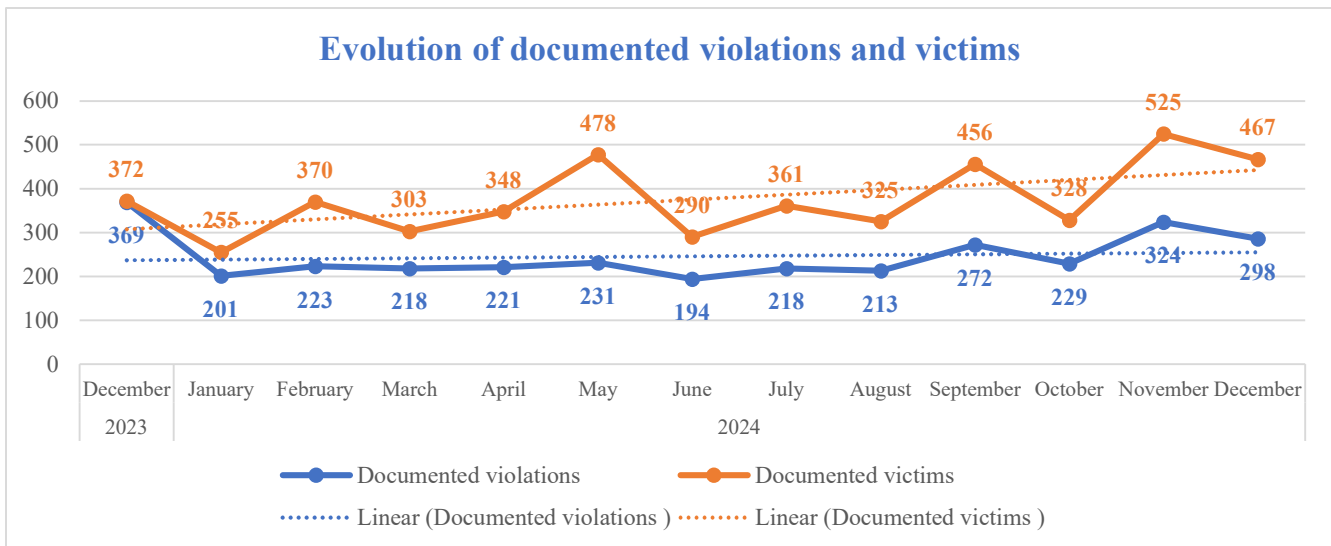
¹⁹ Olivier Feissona was arrested on 29 October 2023 criminal association and complicity to undermine the internal security of the State.

²⁰ *Décret n° 24-326 du 31 December 2024 portant remise gracieuse des peines.*

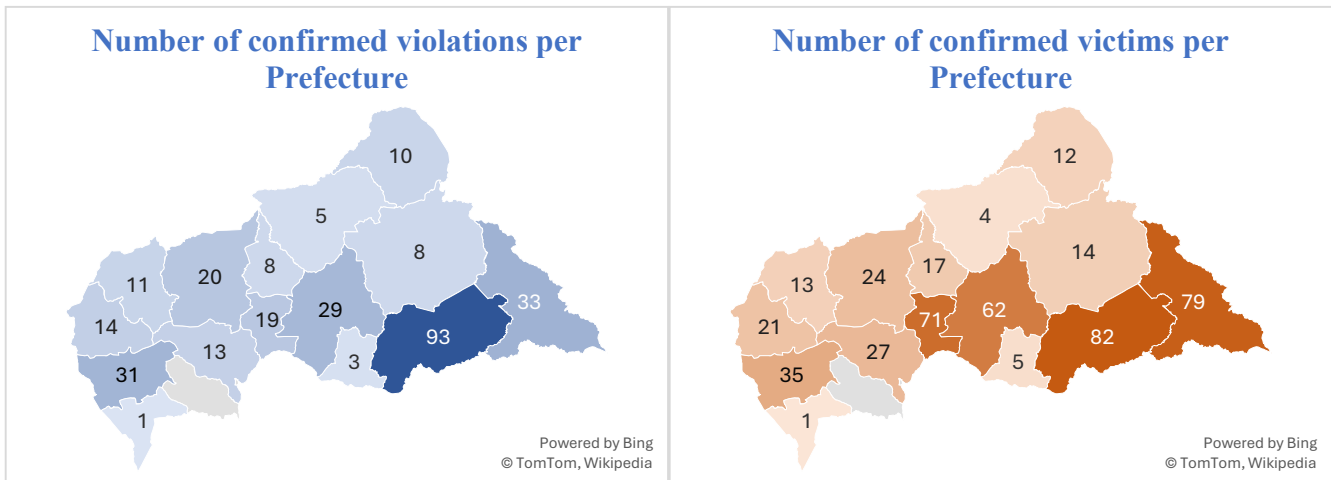
²¹ The other violations/abuses documented occurred between January 2012 to November 2024.

²² In November 2024, MINUSCA documented 324 violations and abuses affecting 525 victims.

²³ In November 2024, the most common types of violations and abuses were related to the right to physical and mental integrity (25%), arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards (20%) and the right to property (17%).



14. Men were primarily victims of arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards (53%), violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity (30%) and right to property (19%). Women were mostly victims of violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity (41%), conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) (37%),²⁴ and right to property (35%). Girls were primarily victims of recruitment and use of children (90%), abduction (73%) and CRSV (40%), while boys were victims of recruitment and use of children (81%), abduction (58%), arbitrary arrest and/or detention, and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards (23%).²⁵
15. The **Haut-Oubangui** Region registered both the highest number of violations/abuses (129) and victims (166). As in October and November, this is primarily attributed to the additional human rights violations by WTA acting jointly with Azanikpigbe (84 violations affecting 46 victims) documented during the follow-up investigation mission on the WTA/Azanikpigbe attack from 1 to 7 October in Dembia from 3 to 17 December to Dembia, Rafai and Derbissaka.²⁶ Additionally, WTA were responsible for 20 violations affecting 14 victims, all occurring in Haut-Mbomou Prefecture.



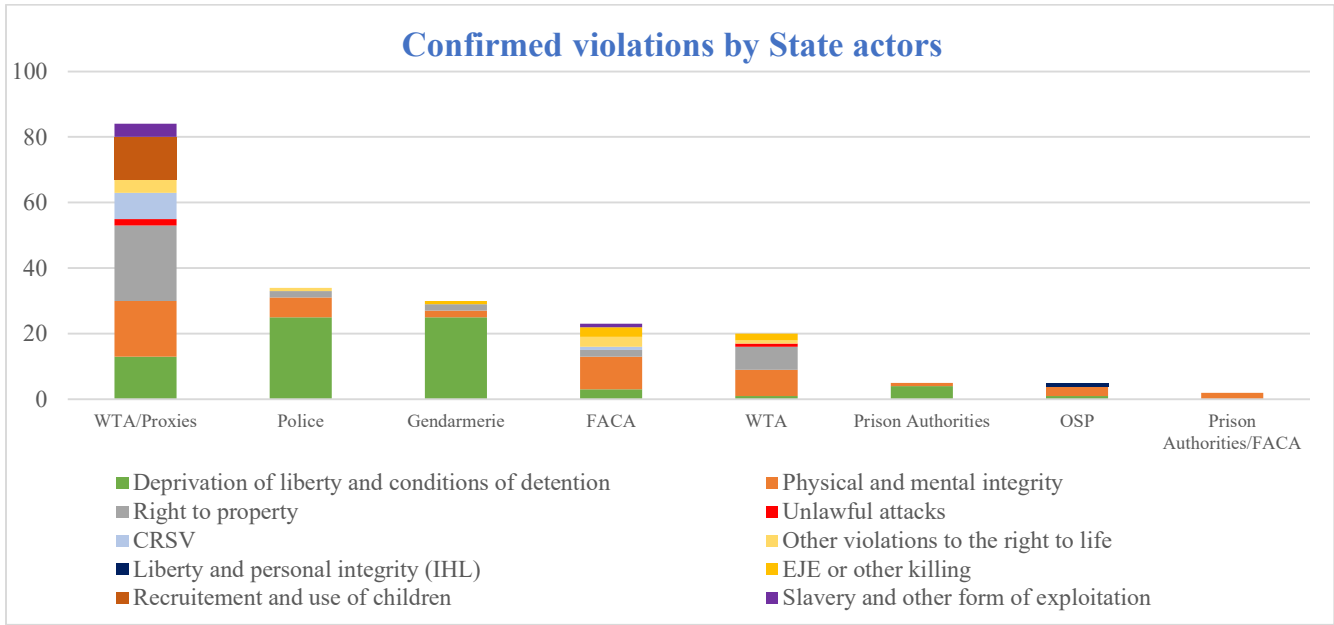
²⁴ CRSV cases include rape, attempted rape, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy, forced marriage, attempted forced marriage, forced nudity, and sexual assault and harassment.

²⁵ High number of victims of recruitment and use of children is due to newly verified cases by CTFMR (120 victims)

²⁶ See *HRD – Monthly report – October 2024*, p. 4, para.10

Overview of violations by type of perpetrator

16. For the period under review, State actors were involved in 203 human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law affecting 252 victims (including 29 women, five girls, 27 boys and 21 groups of collective victims). In comparison to November 2024, the number of violations increased by 5% and the number of victims decreased by 15%.²⁷
17. The main violations by State actors included **arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention** that do not comply with national and international standards (72); **the right to physical and mental integrity** (49); and **the right to property** (36). Among State actors, the **WTA and proxies** (84 violations affecting 46 victims), the **Police** (34 violations affecting 83 victims) and the **Gendarmerie** (24 violations affecting 45 victims), committed the most violations. Most of the violations by State actors occurred in **Haut-Oubangui** (112 violations affecting 90 victims) and **Equateur** (39 violations affecting 53 victims) Regions.

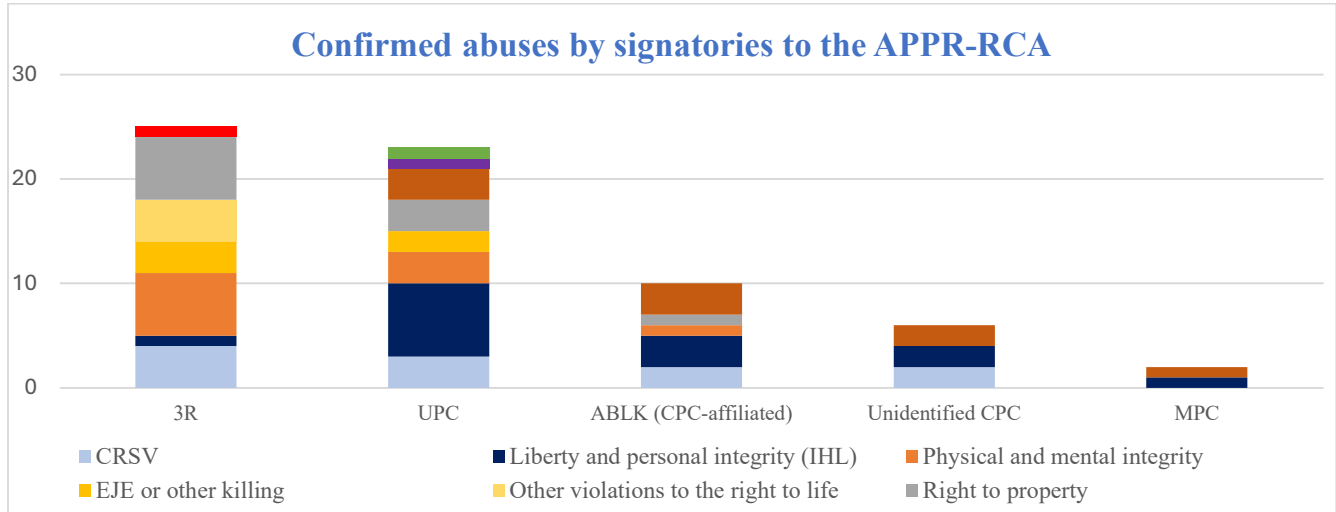


18. **Armed groups signatories to the *Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation en République Centrafricaine (APPR-RCA)* were responsible for 66 human rights abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law affecting 172 victims** (including 15 women, 34 girls, 77 boys and five groups of collective victims). In comparison to November 2024, this represents an 46% decrease in abuses and a 17% decrease in victims.²⁸
19. **Most of the abuses committed by armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA** were related to the right to liberty and personal integrity (14 abuses), CRSV (11 abuses), the right to physical and mental integrity (10 abuses) and the right to property (10 abuses). It should be also noted that armed groups signatories were responsible for nine cases of recruitment and use of children affecting 33 girls and 75 boys, many of whom were also victims of abduction and of CRSV.
20. **Among armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA, the *Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation (3R)* (25 abuses affecting 23 victims) and the UPC (23 abuses affecting 96 victims) were the main**

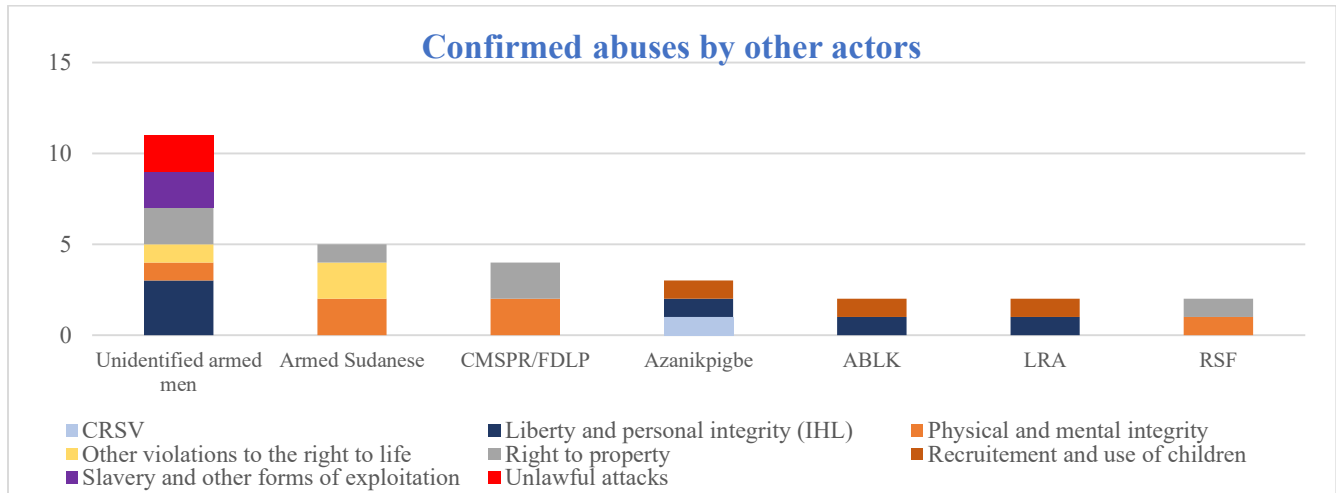
²⁷ In November 2024, State actors committed 193 human rights violations and breaches of international law affecting 295 victims.

²⁸ In November 2024, armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA committed 122 abuses affecting 207 victims.

perpetrators. Most abuses by APPR-RCA signatory armed groups took place in the **Kaga** (39%) and **Yadé** (26%) Regions.



21. **Other actors were responsible for nine abuses affecting 43 victims** (including two women, nine girls, seven boys and three groups of collective victims). In comparison to November 2024, this represents a 79% increase in victims.²⁹ Abuses were mainly related to the right to liberty and personal integrity (six abuses affecting 21 victims), the right to physical and mental integrity (six abuses affecting 13 victims), the right to property (six abuses affecting 13 victims) and the recruitment and use of children (three abuses affecting 12 victims). The primary perpetrators were unidentified armed men (11 abuses affecting 15 victims), followed by armed Sudanese (five abuses affecting seven victims), CMSPR/FDLP³⁰ (four abuses affecting seven victims), Azanikpigbe (three abuses affecting nine victims), Anti-Balaka (two abuses affecting two victims), Sudanese Rapid Support Forces (RSF) (two abuses affecting two victims) and Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) (two abuses affecting one victim).



²⁹ In November 2024, other actors committed nine abuses affecting 24 victims.

³⁰ According to the local media and social media, the *Coalition Militaire de Salut du Peuple et de Redressement* (CMSPR) was reportedly founded on 25 May 2024 and led by Armel Sayo, a former Parliamentarian and leader of *Revolution Justice* (RJ) until its disarmament in 2019. The members include the *Coalition Des Mouvements Non-Signataires des Accords de Paix* (CMNSP) and *Front de Défense et des Libertés Publiques* (FDLP). On 30 October 2024, it appointed Florent Kema, former Anti-Balaka leader in Bossangoa, as *Chef d’Etat Major*.

Typology of human rights violations and abuses and violations of IHL

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV)

22. In December 2024, MINUSCA documented 21 CRSV cases, affecting 36 victims (17 women and 19 girls). The main forms of CRSV were rape, including gang rape, followed by sexual slavery, attempted rape and a case where the victim was filmed by the perpetrator during the rape. The majority of the CRSV cases were committed alongside other human rights violations/abuses, such as abduction, ill-treatment, appropriation of property, recruitment and use of children and forced labour. The number of perpetrators that committed CRSV was at least 48%³¹ higher than the number of victims of CRSV, underlining that CRSV is often perpetrated by several armed elements on the same victim at the same time. The majority of CRSV cases documented in December were perpetrated in October 2024 whilst a few other cases were perpetrated from 2020 to 2023 without knowing the exact incident dates. **Armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA** were the main perpetrators (11 cases affecting 22 victims), including the 3R (four cases affecting four women) in Ouham, Ouham-Pendé and Nana-Mambéré Prefectures and the UPC (three cases affecting three women and four girls) in Bamingui-Bangoran, Haut-Mbomou and Ouaka Prefectures. CPC affiliated Anti-Balaka and unidentified CPC elements were responsible for two cases each.
23. **State actors were responsible** for nine cases affecting 11 victims (10 women and one girl). Most of them perpetrated by the WTA in Dembia, **Mbomou** Prefecture (eight cases affecting nine women and one girl) acting with Azanikpigbe, followed by FACA elements (one case affecting one woman) in the Ouham prefecture. Finally, other armed groups non-signatories to the APPR-RCA, namely Azanikpigbe, perpetrated CRSV in the Haut-Mbomou Prefecture (one cases affecting three girls).
24. Regarding the CRSV trends and patterns during the reporting month, it was observed that WTA and their proxies perpetrated CRSV often in their military base or by breaking into the victim's house.³² This *modus operandi* to perpetrate CRSV in closed spaces rather than outside was observed by WTA/proxies in the month of November, and previously, it was a *modus operandi* associated with other State actors, namely FACA elements. In December 2024, two-thirds of the reported victims did not receive any form of support, whilst the remaining third received medical support or medical and legal support together.³³

Right to life

25. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **27 violations/abuses of the right to life affecting 45 victims**, comprising death threats (12 violations/abuses affecting 18 victims), summary or extrajudicial executions or killings (11 violations/abuses affecting 18 victims) and attempted killings (four violations/abuses affecting nine victims). Most of these violations/abuses were committed by State actors (15 violations affecting 20 victims). FACA was the main perpetrator with six violations affecting seven victims in Mambéré-Kadéï, Nana-Mambéré, Ombella M'Poko, Ouham and Vakaga Prefectures. WTA were also responsible for three violations affecting seven victims in Haut-Mbomou Prefecture and four violations affecting four victims in Mbomou Prefecture, acting jointly with Azanikpigbe. APPR-RCA signatory armed groups were responsible for the nine abuses affecting 14 victims, of which eight were victims of extrajudicial killings. The primary perpetrators were the 3R (seven abuses affecting 10 victims) followed by the UPC (two abuses affecting four victims). While other actors were responsible

³¹ Calculated based on the number of 26 victims (confirmed cases) and 38 perpetrators (confirmed cases).

³² For the CRSV trends and pattern analysis the information from confirmed and alleged CRSV cases are being taken into account. In December 2024, five alleged victims in addition to 26 confirmed victims were reported. In total 31 victims were considered in the trends and pattern analysis.

³³ Out of 31 confirmed and alleged victims, eight received medical support, one received legal support, and two received medical and legal support. 11 victims did not receive any type of support, and nine cases were unknown but likely to not have received support.

for three abuses affecting 11 victims. For instance, on 5 December, armed WTA elements attacked a Fulani camp in Djema, Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, shooting and killing five individuals (two women and three men). The Sub-Prefect of Djema fled into the bush as the WTA elements attempted to force him to witness the executions.

26. 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

27. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **72 violations related to the deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention affecting 169 victims** (125 men, four women, 25 boys, two girls, and 14 groups of collective victims). Most violations were related to arbitrary arrest and/or detention (50 affecting 146 victims), largely due to detention beyond the legal time limit for custody.³⁴ A majority of these violations was attributable to the Police (25 affecting 77 victims) and the Gendarmerie (25 affecting 52 victims).
28. The detention conditions in several facilities continue to raise serious concerns due to both structural deficiencies and individual cases of violations. At the Birao Police Station, a case was documented involving the detention of a newborn baby alongside the mother in conditions inadequate for the care and well-being of an infant. Furthermore, the child was born as a result of repeated sexual assault by a police officer at the same facility. During the reporting period, unsanitary conditions were documented in detention facilities of Bambari Gendarmerie and Police station, Sibut Gendarmerie, Bouar Gendarmerie and Police station, and Kaga Bandoro Police station as well as food shortage in Bangassou prison, Bambari Gendarmerie and Police Station, and Ndélé Gendarmerie and Police.
29. It is worth highlighting that persons in custody and detainees are protected by various national laws, including the Constitution, the *Code pénal* (Criminal Code) and the *Code de procédure pénale* (Criminal Procedure Code) adopted by laws n°10.001, n°10.002 and the law n°12.003 on fundamental principles of the prison system.³⁵

Right to liberty and personal integrity

30. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **21 violations/abuses of the right to liberty and personal integrity**³⁶ affecting **125 victims**, including abductions (16 abuses affecting 107 victims). Most of these abuses were committed by the UPC (seven abuses affecting 60 victims) and Anti-Balaka affiliated with CPC (three abuses affecting 29 victims). For instance, on 15 December, UPC ambushed the mayor of Ouarra and his six associates, held them captive and stole their belongings on the Dembia-Derbissaka axis.
31. In line with its 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

³⁴ Other violations included conditions of detention that do not meet minimum national and international standards (22), including lack of separation between minors/adults and/or by gender (six), and inhuman conditions (two), lack of access to WASH (seven) and food shortage (seven).

³⁵ Additional national texts protecting persons in custody and detainees: 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.

³⁶ The right to liberty and personal integrity includes protection against abduction, deprivation of liberty, and hostage-taking (violations and breaches of international humanitarian law).

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

32. During the period under review, MINUSCA documented **65 violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity**³⁷ affecting **94 victims**, including cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (40 violations/abuses affecting 46 victims), maiming and injuries (13 violations/abuses affecting 18 victims), threats to physical and mental integrity (nine violations/abuses affecting 31 victims), and torture (two violations/abuses affecting three victims). State actors were responsible for 49 violations affecting 55 victims with the WTA (25 violations affecting 24 victims), of which 17 violations were committed along with Azanikpigbe, and FACA (10 violations affecting 14 victims) being the main perpetrators. The APPR-RCA signatory armed groups were responsible for 10 abuses affecting 26 victims, mostly committed by the 3R (six abuses affecting eight victims) and the UPC (three abuses affecting 14 victims). It is worth noting that four abuses affecting 23 victims documented were related to ongoing voter registration. For instance, on 8 December, the UPC elements threatened the 12 agents of the National Elections Authority (ANE) responsible for voter registration in Koutchou (25km NE of Tagbara) and Komaye (28km NE of Tagbara), Ouaka Prefecture. The perpetrators seized the charger for the recording tablet at the Komaye centre to disrupt the registration process and threatened the agents to suspend their operations. Additionally, on the evening of 30 November, Anti-Balaka elements affiliated with the CPC ambushed a convoy of four ANE vehicles transporting 32 electoral agents. During the attack, four agents sustained injuries, and the perpetrators robbed them of their belongings and vehicle fuels.
33. In line with its obligations under Article 5 of the UDHR, Article 7 of ICCPR and 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, the CAR Government is expected to take concrete steps to prevent and investigate cases relating to torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Right to property

34. MINUSCA documented **52 violations/abuses of the right to property**,³⁸ affecting **72 victims**. The violations/abuses were mainly related to destruction or appropriation of property. State actors were responsible for 36 violations affecting 36 victims, while the armed group signatories to the APPR-RCA accounted for 10 abuses affecting 23 victims. The unidentified armed men and non-signatory armed groups were responsible for six abuses affecting 13 victims. Among the main perpetrators, WTA (30 violations affecting 30 victims), UPC (three abuses affecting 12 victims) and 3R (six abuses affecting 6 victims) were identified. It is also worth noting that five violations/abuses involving destruction and appropriation of property affecting 13 victims affected ANE agents. These incidents include an ambush by UPC targeting an ANE convoy with 32 agents near Bokoté (44km NE of Bossangoa), Ouham Prefecture, on 30 December; an ambush of one ANE agent by FDLP near Léré (30km N of Bossangoa), Ouham Prefecture, on 30 December; an ambush of five ANE agents by FDLP near Oussem (43km NE of Bossangoa), Ouham Prefecture, on 2 December; and the threat and rape of one ANE agent by 3R in Yangaye (180km N of Bouar), Nana-Mambéré Prefecture, on 1 December, during which electoral items and personal belongings were also seized from the victims.
35. Article 17 of the UDHR and Article 14 of the ACHPR oblige the CAR Government to take the necessary measures to protect the right to property of all individuals living on its territory. Furthermore, Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions, the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II), as well as

³⁷ Violations related to the right of physical and mental integrity include ill-treatment, torture and maiming and injuries.

³⁸ The right to property includes protection from destruction or appropriation of property and illegal taxation.

Articles 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute, prohibit the parties to the conflict from targeting civilian property and protected property.

Unlawful attacks

36. MINUSCA documented **six unlawful attacks**,³⁹ affecting five groups of collective victims, consisting of two attacks against civilians, two cases of denial of humanitarian relief, and two cases of attacks on protected objects (a mosque and a medical facility). Three violations were attributed to WTA, of which the burning of a mosque and the looting of a medical facility were committed jointly with Azanikpigbe during the attack in Dembia from 1 to 7 October. The other unlawful attacks were committed by unidentified armed men (two cases of denial of humanitarian relief) and the 3R (one case of attack against civilian).
37. Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions, the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II), as well as Articles 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute, prohibit the parties to the conflict from carrying out indiscriminate attacks against protected persons and property.

Children in Armed Conflict

38. The CTFMR verified 253 grave child rights violations affecting 130 children (92 boys and 38 girls) - an increase compared to the previous reporting period during which 196 violations affecting 135 children were documented. The increase is due to the high number of children formerly associated with armed groups identified and screened during the reporting period, as well as the high number of children who were victims of multiple violations.
39. Ninety-nine percent (99%) of the violations (251) occurred outside the reporting period but were verified during the period under review. The main perpetrators were armed groups, which accounted for 88% of the violations (223) (predominantly recruitment and use and abduction). **Governmental** forces were responsible for 11% (27) of the violations, and unidentified armed men accounted for 1% (3) of the violations. One hundred and seven (107) children (74 boys and 33 girls) were victims of multiple violations, including: abduction and use (92); abduction, use and rape (12); use and rape (2); and abduction, use and maiming (1).
40. The violations documented included: recruitment and use (128), killing (1), maiming (2), rape and other forms of sexual violence (14), abduction (105), attacks against hospitals (1) and denial of humanitarian access (2). **Armed groups** committed 223 violations, including CPC factions (173) — UPC (107), Anti-Balaka (44), unidentified CPC (16), *Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique* (MPC) (5) and 3R (1) — as well as Azanikpigbe (20), Anti-Balaka (19), UPC (9), and LRA/Achaye (2).⁴⁰ **Governmental**

Act to Protect Campaign

Through the “**Act to Protect**” campaign, **127 peacekeepers** (92 men and 35 women) were trained on the protection of children during armed conflict. Similar trainings and sensitizations were delivered to **466 local authorities** (263 men and 203 women), including FACA and ISF, community members and leaders, youth leaders, members of local peace committees, INGOs and NGOs, with a view to enabling them to take ownership of the protection of children.

³⁹ 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.

⁴⁰ The abuses attributed to Anti-Balaka and UPC, as non-CPC affiliated groups, are abuses that occurred prior to the creation of *Coalition des patriotes pour le changement* (CPC) in 2020.

forces were responsible for 27 violations, all attributed to WTA acting with Azanikpigbe (27). Lastly, unidentified armed men committed three abuses.

41. **Haut-Mbomou** was the most affected Prefecture with 121 violations, followed by Kémo with 99 violations, Mbomou with 29 violations. Bangui, Basse-Kotto, Ouaka and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures documented one violation each.

Human Rights Promotion and Capacity-Building

42. During the period under review, the **Human Rights Division (HRD) organised 110 activities** (awareness-raising, training, and capacity-building workshop) across **16 Prefectures**,⁴¹ **benefitting 19,016 individuals (including 6,979 women, 648 girls and 826 boys)**.⁴² Participants included national and local authorities, representatives and members of civil society, human rights defenders, youth and women’s organisations, justice and correctional actors, detainees, FACA, ISF, students, community and religious leaders, and the general public. The activities focused on human rights and international humanitarian law, prevention of CRSV/GBV, grave violations of children’s rights, hate speech, civil and political rights related to the electoral process, human rights in detention and the Nelson Mandela rules.
43. **The HRD conducted 45 monitoring visits to detention centres and facilities in 14 Prefectures**,⁴³ **and documented 169 victims of arbitrary detention**. MINUSCA 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.

Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP)

44. During the period under consideration, MINUSCA conducted 27 risk assessments related to its support to the defence and security forces (FACA, ISF and other law enforcement officers). The Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) Secretariat conducted human rights background checks for **190 beneficiaries**, including **175 ISF** (46 Police officers and 129 Gendarmes), **12 Prison officers** and **three FACA**.
45. Beneficiaries were provided with air transportation and training support among others. Among the risk assessments conducted, 25 were for logistical and technical support, including various missions to or from Bangui to regions, as well as training sessions on the management of the mixed border post and on National Security Sector Reform.
46. The risks identified in these assessments were deemed low. Based on these assessments, MINUSCA support was approved with a set of recommendations and mitigation measures, including the need to continuously build the capacity of the non-UN security forces on International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law and the necessary skills and techniques in maintaining and restoring law and order. These verifications allowed MINUSCA’s Security Sector Reform (SSR) Unit and UNPOL to organize two training sessions for Defence and Internal Security Forces officers in Bangassou and Paoua.
47. From 9 to 11 December, the MINUSCA HRDDP Secretariat conducted three training sessions on International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law, International Refugee Law and HRDDP, benefiting 90 FACA senior officers in Bangui, including nine women. Additionally, the

⁴¹ The Prefectures are as follows: Bangui, Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Lim-Pendé, Lobaye, Mambéré, Mambéré-Kadéï, Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ombella M’Poko, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Fafa, and Vakaga.

⁴² The number of beneficiaries during the reporting period significantly increased due to observation of International Human Rights Day and 16 Days of Activism against the Gender-Based violence, as well as project to disseminate the OHCHR-MINUSCA report on deprivation of liberty, notably the radio emission targeting large groups of population.

⁴³ The Prefectures are as follows: Bangui, Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Kémo, Lim-Pendé, Mambéré, Mambéré-Kadéï, Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ouaka, Ouham, and Ouham-Fafa.

President of the National Commission for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (CNDH) facilitated a session on the collaboration between the Commission and the FACA.