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United Nations Multidimensional
Integrated Stabilization Mission in the
Central African Republic

HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION

Monthly Report: Human Rights Situation

February 2025

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 February 2025 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 persistent concerns regarding the protection of civilians (PoC), driven by the heightened movement and activity of armed groups and State actors, as well as security incidents linked to transhumance.
- 2. In the **Plateaux Region**, ¹ the security situation remained volatile, with transhumance and intercommunity-related incidents occurring around Boali (95 km of Bangui) and Bouboui (42 km of Bangui), on the Boali axis, close to transhumance corridors. On the night of 1 to 2 February, unidentified armed elements attacked the home of a Fulani man in the village of Bouboui, Ombella M'Poko Prefecture, and killed a two-year-old child. On 26 February, in Botembala (45 km of Boda), Lobaye Prefecture, elements of the *Retour, Réclamation, et Réhabilitation* (3R) armed group beat the village chief while they shot and killed his father who had come to his aid.
- 3. In the **Yadé Region**, ² the month was marked by a number of clashes between Fulani, farmers, and armed groups. On 25 February, in Nzoro (104 km of Paoua), Lim-Pendé Prefecture, an unspecified number of armed transhumant Fulani, supported by 3R elements, attacked the village during which 10 people were killed, including a woman. Additionally, over 760 houses were set on fire and around 5,000 residents fled into the bush, towards Ngaoundaye (20 km of Nzoro) and surrounding areas.
- 4. In the **Equateur Region**,³ activities by armed groups continued in the Nana-Mambéré Prefecture. On 22 February, near the Ybi River, close to the Nassoyan gold site (132 km of Bouar), 3R elements killed

¹ The Plateaux Region includes Ombella M'Poko and Lobaye Prefectures, as per the Gov. decree No. 21001, January 2021.

² The Yadé Region includes the Lim-Pendé, Ouham, and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001, January* 2021.

³ The Equateur Region includes the Mambéré, Mambéré-Kadeï, Nana-Mambéré, and Sangha Mbaéré Prefectures, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001, January* 2021.

three Fulani men, on allegations of their collaboration "with enemy forces". In the **Fertit Region**, ⁴ the presence of other security personnel (OSP), previously associated with human rights violations in the Vakaga and Haute-Kotto Prefectures, as well as activities of armed groups and the increased presence and movement of Sudanese Rapid Support Forces (RSF) continued to have implications for the human rights situation.

- 5. In the **Kaga Region**,⁵ on 22 and 23 February, in Yakayan (2 km of Ippy), Ouaka Prefecture, OSP disarmed and arrested two FACA soldiers and a gendarme officer because they were intoxicated. OSP took them to their base in Ippy, where they were tortured, resulting in the death of one FACA soldier. On 22 February, OSP also arrested and tortured two workers (aged 25 and 42) found with gold at the Ndassima mining site. They locked the workers in a container without appropriate ventilation for 24 hours, before transferring them to the Bambari police station on 23 February. While they were kept in the container, the victims were kicked and beaten by the OSP and deprived of food for 24 hours. These incidents highlight OSP's increased role in arbitrary arrests and detention of persons particularly in the vicinity of mining sites. ⁶
- 6. In the **Haut-Oubangui Region**, ⁷ on 10 February, in Obo, Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, a peaceful demonstration bringing together around two thousand people from Obo and the surrounding areas, demanded the release of Wagner Ti Azande (WTA)⁸ members and Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (Azanikpigbe) leaders arrested in Bangui on 24 January. ⁹ They also accused MINUSCA of arming non-State armed groups and producing false reports, allegations made in a context of persistent misinformation and disinformation.
- 7. On 5 February, in Bangui, the *Autorité Nationale des Elections* (ANE) announced the second phase of voter registration to take place from 11 to 24 March. This phase will cover Operational Area 2, which includes the Prefectures of Bamingui-Bangoran, Basse-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Kemo, Mambéré, Mbomou, Ombella-M'Poko, Sangha-Mbaéré, and Vakaga. The Central African diaspora was also able to register abroad in some 15 countries.
- 8. On 6 February, H.E. President Faustin-Archange Touadéra chaired the commemoration ceremony of the sixth anniversary of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic (APPR-RCA). The ceremony featured, among others, statements by representatives of the signatory non-State armed groups, guarantors, and facilitators of the Political Agreement. President Touadéra noted that "peace has no price", highlighting the links between peace, security, and development, and reiterated

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⁴ The Fertit Region includes the Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, and Vakaga Prefectures, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001, January* 2021.

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

⁶ OSP do not have the legal authority to arrest or detain individuals, based on Article 11 of the *Code de procédure pénale centrafricain*, which reserves these powers to judicial police officers.

⁷ The Haut-Oubangui Region includes the Basse-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, and Mbomou Prefectures, 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 On 24 January, ten WTA members were arrested in Mboki by five OSP agents and transferred to Bangui on 25 January. Additionally, four WTA, including two leaders, were arrested in Bangui on the same day by the *Section de Recherche et d'Investigation* (SRI).

- that the APPR-RCA, revitalised by the Luanda Joint Roadmap, 10 remains the only framework for engagement on peace and reconciliation in the CAR.
- 9. On 15 February, the Coalition des Patriotes pour le Changement-Fondamentale (CPC-F) issued a statement denying their involvement in the 11 February attack against a MINUSCA patrol near Ndélé, Bamingui-Bangoran Prefecture, which resulted in the death of one military peacekeeper. The CPC-F also stated that their elements received strict instructions not to attack either humanitarian organizations or MINUSCA.

Significant human rights-related developments

- 10. On 7 February, the Minister of Justice, Promotion of Human Rights and Good Governance, Arnaud Djoubaye-Abazène and SRSG Valentine Rugwabiza visited Bouar, in the Nana-Mambéré Prefecture, for the handover of the military court, newly rehabilitated and equipped through MINUSCA programmatic funds. The court will enhance the operationalization of the military justice system in Bouar which is critical to strengthening the rule of law and combatting impunity.
- 11. On 11 February, the Minister of Justice issued a press release on the findings of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry appointed on 27 August 2024 to investigate allegations of human rights violations and abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law committed in the Haut-Mbomou Prefecture. 11 The Minister stated that alleged perpetrators had already been identified and arrested, and that the Prosecutor of the Court of Appeal of Bambari had been instructed to coordinate the investigations, prosecutions and trials. The Minister added that a Court of First Instance would be established in Zémio to guarantee access to justice for victims of human rights violations and abuses.
- 12. From 16 to 26 February, the United Nations Independent Expert (IE) on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic, Yao Agbetse, visited CAR, where he met with the Prime Minister, Government ministers, the President of the National Assembly, heads of national institutions and civil society. He also organized seminars with key entities and undertook a three-day field mission to the Haut-Mbomou Prefecture. During his visit, M. Agbetse highlighted the ongoing commitment to improving human rights in CAR while emphasizing the need for national capacity building and local governance reforms. He noted the importance of local elections later in the year, with a focus on enabling the political participation of local communities. Additionally, the expert welcomed the adoption of the Law on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders in December 2024 and called for its promulgation.

¹⁰ The 'Luanda Joint Roadmap' outlines strategic priorities of the peace process in an effort to revitalize the APPR-RCA political agreement and was adopted in September 2021 by a summit of Heads of State of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

¹¹ Arreté n°029/MJPDHBG/DIRCAB/24 portant création d'une commission d'enquête judiciaire, 27 August 2024. The Judicial Commission of Inquiry was created to investigate grave human rights violations committed in the Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, particularly in Zémio, Mboki, and Obo. Most of these violations and abuses were linked to clashes between the non-State armed groups Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique (UPC) and Azanikpigbe.

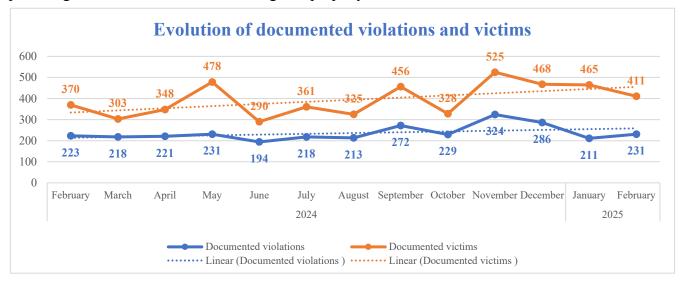
Human Rights Violations and Abuses and Breaches of International HumanitarianLaw

13. During the reporting period, MINUSCA verified 231 violations and abuses of international human rights law (IHRL) and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL), affecting 411 victims (including 239 men, 44 women, 33 girls, 65 boys, and 30 groups of collective victims). Out of the 411 victims, 138 suffered multiple violations. The highest number of documented violations/abuses occurred in February 2025, accounting for 54% of all recorded violations during the period. ¹² Compared to the month of January, there was an increase in the number of violations (+9%) and a

Main Trends

In total, 231 human rights violations and abuses as well as breaches of IHL affecting 411 victims (including 239 men, 44 women, 33 girls, 65 boys, and 30 groups of collective victims) were documented in February 2025. This constitutes an increase in the number of violations (+9%) and a decrease in the number of victims (-11%) compared to January 2025.

decrease in the number of victims (-11%). ¹³ Violations and abuses were related to the right to physical and mental integrity (28%), right to property (21%), arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards (14%). ¹⁴ In contrast to January, this represents a 54% decrease in violations related to arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards, and a 110% increase in the percentage for violations/abuses of the right to property.



14. **Men** were primarily victims of arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards (57%), violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity (34%) and the right to property (33%). Women were mostly victims of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) (46%), ¹⁶ violations/abuses to the right to physical and mental integrity (23%)

¹² The other violations/abuses documented occurred between January 2020 and January 2025.

¹³ In January 2025, MINUSCA documented 211 violations and abuses affecting 465 victims.

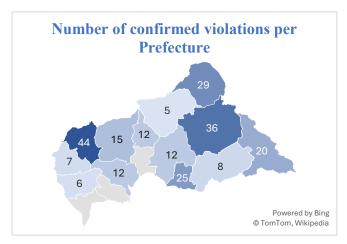
¹⁴ In January 2025, the most common types of violations and abuses were related to arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards (31%), the right to physical and mental integrity (22%) and the right to property (10%).

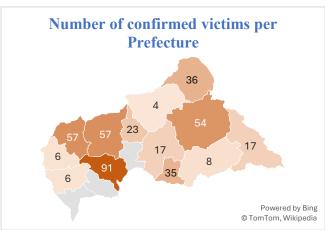
¹⁵ Multiple victims suffered multiple violations, explaining the percentage exceeding 100% in some instances.

¹⁶ The term "conflict-related sexual violence" refers to rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization, forced marriage and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity perpetrated

and the right to property (17%). **Girls** were primarily victims of CRSV (62%), recruitment and use (14%), and abduction (14%). **Boys** were primarily victims of recruitment and use (32%), abduction (29%) and arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards (10%). ¹⁷

15. The **Yadé** Region registered the highest number of victims (114), primarily due to the recruitment and use of children (48 victims) and abduction (32 victims). In the Ouham Prefecture, 41 victims of recruitment and use and 32 victims of abduction by the Anti-Balaka affiliated to the CPC were registered, including 26 victims of both violations. The **Fertit** Region registered the highest number of violations/abuses (70) with Haute-Kotto Prefecture being the most affected, registering 36 violations, mostly attributable to the UPC (13 abuses) and the FACA (10 violations).





Overview of violations by type of perpetrator

16. For the period under review, **State actors were responsible for 91 human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law affecting 205 victims** (154 men, 13 women, five girls, 16 boys, and 17 groups of collective victims). In comparison to January 2025, both the number of violations and the number of victims decreased, respectively by 35% and 24%. This is mainly due to the high number of violations and victims recorded in the Haut-Oubangui and Mambéré-Kadéï Prefectures in January, resulting from continued targeting of Fulani population by *Wagner Ti Azande* (WTA) in Haut-Oubangui, and violations committed by internal security forces (ISF) against civilians in Mambéré-Kadéï. 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 (36) – mostly attributable to the Police and the Gendarmerie; **the right to physical and mental integrity** (28); and **the right to property** (20). The main perpetrators among State actors include the FACA (27 violations affecting 23 victims), the WTA (20 violations affecting 17 victims), Gendarmerie, (17 violations affecting 121 victims) and the OSP (15 violations affecting 17 victims). Most of these violations occurred in the **Haut-Oubangui** (32 violations affecting 33 victims) and **Fertit** (23 violations affecting 23 victims) Regions and affected a majority of men (52% of the victims in the Haut-Oubangui Region and 61% in

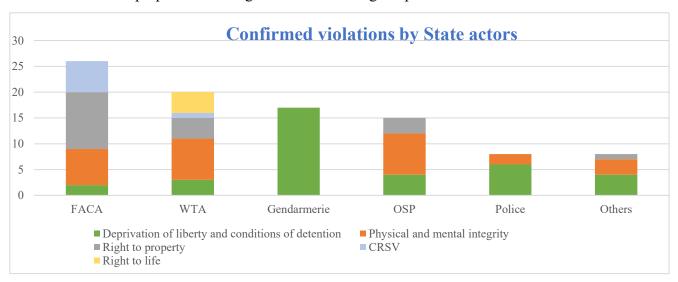
against women, men, girls, or boys that is directly or indirectly linked to a conflict. See the full definition in the Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Report of the United Nations Secretary-General (S/2019/280).

¹⁷ The high number of victims of recruitment and use of children is due to newly verified cases. For more information, refer to the "Children in Armed Conflict" section of the present report.

¹⁸ In January 2025, State actors committed 140 human rights violations and breaches of international law affecting 270 victims.

¹⁹ "Others" in the graph below refers to the Prison authorities (three violations), and the Internal Security Forces (ISF) (two violations).

the Fertit Region), notably due to the nature of the main violations documented, which, based on patterns observed, mostly affect men. Additionally, WTA is only present in the Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou Prefectures, which explains the higher figures in the Haut-Oubangui Region, as the WTA were the second most active perpetrator among State actors during the period under review.

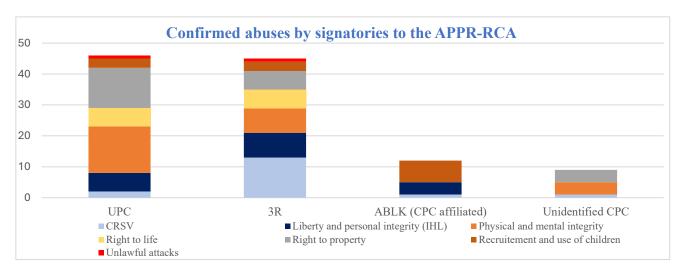


17. Armed groups signatories to the Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation en République Centrafricaine (APPR-RCA) were responsible for 112 human rights abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law affecting 153 victims (49 men, 20 women, 27 girls, 46 boys, and 11 groups of collective victims). In comparison to January 2025, this represents a 155% increase in abuses and a 34% increase in victims. ²⁰ This increase in abuses is driven by heightened activities, notably due to the transhumance season, of the 3R and the Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique (UPC) in Ouham-Pendé and Basse-Kotto Prefectures, respectively, with late-verified incidents from January 2025 reported in February 2025, as well as late-verified CTFMR²¹ information related to armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA.

Most of the abuses committed by armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA were related to physical and mental integrity (27 abuses), right to property (23 abuses) and liberty and personal integrity (18 abuses). Forty abuses affected 73 minors, while 63 abuses affected 69 adults, and nine abuses affected 11 collective victims. Concerning the abuses affecting minors, 13 incidents of recruitment and use of children affected 51 victims, and 10 incidents of abduction affected 34 victims. Among armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA, the UPC (46 abuses affecting 45 victims), the 3R (45 abuses affecting 53 victims), and Anti-Balaka affiliated to the Coalition des Patriotes pour le Changement (12 abuses affecting 42 victims) were the main perpetrators. Most abuses by APPR-RCA signatory armed groups took place in the Yadé (47%) and Fertit (20%) Regions.

²¹ 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.

²⁰ In January 2025, armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA committed 44 abuses affecting 114 victims.



18. Other actors were responsible for 28 abuses affecting 53 victims (36 men, 11 women, one girl, three boys and two groups of collective victims). In comparison to January 2025, this represents a 3% increase in abuses and a 34% decrease in victims. ²² Abuses were mainly related to the right to physical and mental integrity (11 abuses affecting 44 victims), the right to property (seven abuses affecting 40 victims), and CRSV (four abuses affecting 25 victims). Most of the perpetrators were unidentified armed men (22 abuses affecting 42 victims) and unidentified armed men from Sudan (five abuses affecting 10 victims). Additionally, the detonation of an explosive ordnance resulted in the death of one man.



Typology of human rights violations and abuses and violations of IHL

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV)

19. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **28 CRSV cases affecting 58 victims** (22 women, 20 men and 16 girls aged from 11 to 17 years old) including rape (including gang rape), forced nudity, attempted rape and forced marriage. All 20 male victims of forced nudity were affected by one single incident perpetrated by unidentified armed men in Sam-Ouandja, Haute-Kotto Prefecture, on 26 January. The perpetrators forced the victims to strip completely naked while searching for diamonds and gold, threatening them with firearms. The majority of CRSV cases were committed alongside other human

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²² In January 2025, other actors committed 27 abuses affecting 81 victims.

rights violations and abuses including ill-treatment, abduction, recruitment and use of children by armed groups and appropriation of property. In almost half of the cases, multiple perpetrators committed CRSV on one victim at the same time. Most CRSV cases documented in February 2025 occurred in January and February 2025. The primary perpetrators were **armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA**, with 3R committing 13 cases of CRSV against 21 victims (13 women and eight girls) in Lim-Pendé and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures, followed by the UPC involved in two CRSV cases affecting two victims in Basse-Kotto (one case affecting one girl) and Haute-Kotto (one case affecting one woman) Prefectures.

- 20. State actors, mainly FACA elements, committed CRSV on six victims (one woman, five girls) in the Prefectures of Haute-Kotto, Mbomou, Mambéré-Kadéi, and Ombella M'Poko, and WTA on one woman in the Haut-Mbomou Prefecture. Finally, other armed elements, non-signatories to the APPR-RCA also committed CRSV. Unidentified armed men perpetrated CRSV against 24 victims (20 men, three women, and one girl) in Bamingui-Bangoran and Haute-Kotto Prefectures, while armed men from Sudan committed CRSV against one woman in Vakaga Prefecture.
- 21. Trends and patterns²³ indicate that Yadé was the most affected Region, especially Lim-Pendé Prefecture, due to the presence and activities of 3R, armed Fulanis and other unidentified armed elements. The documented cases further suggest that 3R elements and armed Fulani groups operate with a similar *modus operandi*, targeting women and girls for attacks and rape, including gang rape, while they work in their fields or collect firewood in the bush. Additionally, 3R elements perpetrate CRSV in or near mining sites within their areas of control. Both groups primarily commit CRSV outside during daylight hours, particularly on roads, in fields, or near water sources.

Right to life

- 22. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented 18 violations/abuses of the right to life affecting 24 victims (15 men, three women, one girl, five boys), comprising summary or extrajudicial executions or killings (12 violations/abuses affecting 19 victims, consisting of 11 men, two women, one girl and five boys), and attempted killing (four violations/abuses affecting four victims) as well as death threats (two violations/abuses affecting two victims). Most of these violations/abuses were committed by armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA (12 violations affecting 14 victims). UPC was the main perpetrator with six abuses affecting nine victims, all in the Basse-Kotto Prefecture, including the killing of six victims. For instance, on 2 February, in Legba (50 km of Alindao), Basse-Kotto Prefecture, UPC elements stopped two men traveling on a motorcycle and seized their belongings. When one of the victims attempted to escape, he was shot dead, while the other was shot and wounded in the arm. He was subsequently transferred to the hospital for medical treatment. The 3R armed group was responsible for six abuses affecting five victims in Ombella M'Poko and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures, including the killing of four victims. WTA was the only State actor implicated in violations to the right to life in February 2025, with four violations affecting eights victims, of whom seven were victims of extrajudicial or other killings.
- 23. In line with its obligations 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.

²³ The analysis of CRSV trends and pattern includes information from confirmed and alleged CRSV cases. In February 2025, 40 confirmed victims and 10 alleged victims were taken into account, giving a total of 60 CRSV survivors being victims of CRSV perpetrated by 80 armed elements.

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Deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention

- 24. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **34 violations related to deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention affecting 162 victims** (136 men, five women, 14 boys, and seven groups of collective victims). Most violations were related to arbitrary arrest and/or detention (27 affecting 155 victims), largely due to detention beyond the legal time limit for custody. The majority of these violations were attributable to the Gendarmerie (17 affecting 121 victims) and the Police (six affecting 15 victims) with most victims being linked to a single incident committed by the *Section de Recherche et d'Investigation* (SRI), a subordinate entity within the Gendarmerie, which affected 69 victims. In addition, the two WTA leaders who had been arrested in Bangui in January following the Mboki killings remain unaccounted for, raising concerns of possible enforced disappearances. Meanwhile, MINUSCA has been unable to gain full access to 12 individuals detained at the *Office Central pour la Répression du Banditisme* (OCRB), who were arrested in connection with the 17 January arrest of armed group leader Armel Sayo in Cameroon. In February, Human Rights Officers were granted access to detainees, but only in the presence of OCRB officers which impacted their ability to engage with the detainees in line with established methodology.
- 25. The detention conditions in several facilities/centres continue to raise serious concerns due to both structural deficiencies and individual violations. During the reporting period, poor sanitary and hygiene conditions were reported at six detention centres and Gendarmeries. In Obo, Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, access to justice is severely limited due to the absence of a judge in the Court of First Instance, leading to delays in judicial processes and prolonged detention for detainees.
- 26. 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.²⁷

Right to liberty and personal integrity

27. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **21 abuses to the right to liberty and personal** integrity²⁸ affecting **53 victims**, including deprivation of liberty (10 abuses affecting 18 victims) and abductions (11 abuses affecting 35 victims). Most of these abuses were committed by the 3R (eight abuses affecting 17 victims) and CPC-affiliated Anti-Balaka (four abuses affecting 24 victims). Violations and abuses related to the right to liberty and personal integrity are often linked to other violations, such as the right to property. For instance, on 8 February, 3R elements intercepted a man in

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²⁴ Other violations included conditions of detention that lack separation between minors/adults and/or by gender (one), inhuman conditions (three) and lack of access to WASH (three).

²⁵ On 12 January, WTA elements arrested and physically assaulted four Muslim men in Kitessa and in Mboki. On 21 January, WTA elements attacked a Fulani camp located about 20 km SE of Mboki (75 km SW of Obo), killing 12 civilians, including six minors, and injuring four. WTA elements, including WTA leaders, were arrested in connection with the killings in Mboki and are presently detained in Bangui (see "Human Rights Division, Monthly Report: Human Rights Situation, January 2025")

²⁶ On 20 January, during the Government's weekly press conference, the Minister of Communication and Media, and Government spokesperson Maxime Balalou, confirmed the arrest of former Central African Minister Armel Sayo by Cameroonian authorities on 17 January. Armel Sayo is said to be the leader of a new armed group, *Coalition militaire pour le salut du peuple et de redressement* (see "Human Rights Division, Monthly Report: Human Rights Situation, January 2025")

²⁷ 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.

²⁸ The right to liberty and personal integrity includes protection against abduction, deprivation of liberty, and hostage-taking (violations and breaches of international humanitarian law).

Mbri (45 km from Paoua), Lim-Pendé Prefecture, tied him up, beat him, and seized his belongings. Following his release, the victim received medical care.

28. 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 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

- 29. During the period under review, MINUSCA documented **65 violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity**²⁹ **affecting 124 victims**, ³⁰ including cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment (35 violations/abuses affecting 77 victims), threats to physical and mental integrity (23 violations/abuses affecting 41 victims), maiming and injuries (five violations/abuses affecting six victims) and torture (two violations/abuses affecting five victims). Armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA were responsible for 27 abuses affecting 51 victims, with the UPC responsible for 15 abuses affecting 25 victims, and the 3R responsible for eight abuses affecting 13 victims. State actors were responsible for 27 violations affecting 29 victims, perpetrated mainly by OSP (eight violations affecting ten victims) and the WTA (eight violations affecting nine victims). For instance, on 22 February, OSP elements subjected two excombatants to arbitrary arrest, detention, and torture in Kaga-Bandoro, Nana-Gribizi Prefecture. The two men were tortured on the grounds of their past affiliation with an armed group. Targeting of excombatants may deter armed groups members from entering the DDR process. Therefore, MINUSCA continues to follow-up on their situation.
- 30. 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

- 31. MINUSCA documented **49 violations/abuses of the right to property**, ³¹ **affecting 110 victims**. The violations/abuses were mainly related to destruction or appropriation of property (41 affecting 93 victims). Armed group signatories to the APPR-RCA were responsible for 23 abuses affecting 50 victims, State actors were responsible for 19 violations affecting 20 victims and armed groups non-signatories to the APPR-RCA for seven abuses affecting 40 victims. The main perpetrators include the UPC (13 abuses affecting 26 victims), the FACA (11 violations affecting 12 victims) and unidentified armed men (six abuses affecting 31 victims).
- 32. Pursuant to Article 17 of the UDHR and Article 14 of the ACHPR, the CAR Government is expected to take 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 Articles 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute, prohibit the parties to the conflict from targeting civilian property and protected property.

²⁹ Violations related to the right to physical and mental integrity include ill-treatment, torture and maiming and injuries.

³⁰ This also includes seven victims of multiple violations, including five victims of violations/abuses of the same category.

³¹ The right to property includes protection from destruction or appropriation of property and illegal taxation.

Unlawful attacks

- 33. MINUSCA documented **three unlawful attacks** ³² affecting three groups of collective victims, consisting of one of illegal occupation of a school by UPC elements, one attack against a hospital by 3R elements and one case of denial of humanitarian access by unidentified armed men as they stole belongings from NGO personnel while on mission.
- 34. 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 parties to the conflict from carrying out indiscriminate attacks against protected persons and property.

Children in Armed Conflict

- 35. During the reporting period, the CTFMR verified 102 grave child rights violations affecting 68 children (41 boys and 27 girls), a decrease compared to the previous reporting period during which 236 violations affecting 162 children were documented. The decrease is due to the high number of child victims of multiple violations formerly associated to armed groups who had been identified and screened during the previous reporting period.
- 36. Eighty-four per cent of the violations (86) occurred outside the reporting period but were verified during the period under review. The

Act to Protect Campaign

Through the "Act to Protect" campaign, 530 peacekeepers (450 men and 80 women) were trained on the protection of children during armed conflict. Similar trainings and awareness sessions were delivered to 1351 local authorities (719 men and 632 women), including FACA and ISF, community members and leaders, youth leaders, members of local peace committees, and members of INGOs and NGOs, with a view to enabling them to engage in the protection of children.

- main perpetrators were armed groups, which accounted for 91% of the violations (93), predominantly recruitment and use and sexual violence. State actors were responsible for 6% of the violations (6), while unidentified armed men accounted for 3% (3). Thirty children (21 boys and nine girls) were victims of multiple violations: abduction and use (28); use and rape (2).
- 37. The violations documented included: recruitment and use (48), killing (4) maiming (6), rape and other forms of sexual violence (13), abduction (29), attacks against hospitals (1), and denial of humanitarian access (1). Armed groups committed (93) violations CPC factions (88): Anti-Balaka (67), 3R (19) and UPC (2); and CPC-F/UPC (5). Governmental and pro-governmental forces committed (6): FACA (3), OSP (2) and Internal Security Forces (ISF) (1); and unidentified armed individuals (3).
- 38. Ouham was the most affected Prefecture with (67) violations, followed by Ouham-Pendé with (14), Lim-Pendé with (8), Ouaka with (4), Basse-Kotto with (3), Mambéré-Kadéï with (2), Bangui, Mbomou, Ombella M'Poko and Vakaga with (1) each.
- 39. On 19 February, MINUSCA engaged in dialogue with WTA leadership in Obo and Zémio, Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, to advocate for the attendance of WTA elements in an awareness-raising session on the protection of children in armed conflict resulting in the participation of seven members.

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³² 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.

Human Rights Promotion and Capacity-Building

- 40. During the period under review, the **Human Rights Division (HRD) organised 81 activities** (awareness-raising, advocacy, trainings, and capacity-building workshops) across **16 Prefectures**, ³³ **benefitting 5,160 individuals (including 2,995 men, 1,824 women, 170 girls, and 171 boys)**. 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, among others. The activities focused on human rights and international humanitarian law, civil and political rights related to the electoral process, the protection of children, the peace process, MINUSCA's mandate, the prevention of CRSV/gender-based violence (GBV), hate speech, and human rights in detention.
- 41. The HRD conducted 32 monitoring visits to detention centres and facilities in 12 Prefectures,³⁴ and documented 142 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 for human rights.

Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP)

- 42. During the period under review, 44 risk assessments were conducted relating to MINUSCA's support to the Defence and Internal Security Forces (FACA, ISF, and other law enforcement officers). Human rights background checks were conducted for a total of 456 beneficiaries including 72 ISF (31 Police officers and 41 Gendarmes), 12 Prison officers, three agents from the Ministry of Water and Forestry, two customs agents and 367 FACA officers.
- 43. Beneficiaries were also provided with logistical support including air transportation and trainings. Among the risk assessments conducted, 40 were for logistical, financial, and technical support, including various missions to and from Bangui to different regions. MINUSCA equally transported non-UN security forces either on deployment, or on missions to and from Bangui and Am-Dafock, Bambari, Bangassou, Batangafo, Berbérati, Birao, Bossangoa, Bouar, Bria, Kaga-Bandoro, Ndélé, Paoua, Rafaï, Sam-Ouandja, and Zémio.
- 44. The risks identified in these assessments were deemed **low and medium**. Among the individuals screened, **five** were excluded for allegations of human rights violations. 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.
- 45. From 7 to 10 January, MINUSCA's HRDDP Secretariat conducted **four** training workshops involving 26 FACA personnel, 19 ISF members, and 20 civil society organizations (CSO) representatives in Ndélé. Eight women participated. The training covered essential aspects of the HRDDP, including its historical context, core principles, and operational scope, along with the obligations of non-UN security forces and risk mitigation strategies.

³⁴ Bangui, Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Lim-Pendé, Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ombella-

M'Poko, Ouaka, Ouham, and Sangha-Mbaéré.

³³ Bamingui-Bangoran, Bangui, Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Lim-Pendé, Mambéré-Kadéï, Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ombella M'Poko, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Fafa, Sangha-Mbaéré and Vakaga.