

NATIONS UNIES

Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en Centrafrique



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

Human Rights Division

Monthly Report: Human Rights Situation

January 2022

The Human Rights Division's (HRD) mandate includes assisting the government of the Central-African Republic (CAR) to promote and protect human rights through its field offices and headquarters in Bangui. This report is based on information received by the HRD and only includes human rights violations and abuses that occurred, were documented, and verified during the month of January 2021. Incidents for which the alleged perpetrators could not be identified are not included. Ordinary crimes are also excluded from this report.

This information is shared locally as well as nationally with CAR's authorities, for their action.

Security context in January 2022

1. The security situation in the Centre and East of the country deteriorated throughout the whole of January 2022. In the Haute-Kotto Prefecture, clashes between State actors and the *Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique* (FPRC) led to human rights violations and abuses. On 8 January, an indiscriminate attack by the other security personnel (OSP) in the mining village of Yanga, in the Haute-Kotto Prefecture, killed five civilians and wounded 15 others. From 16 to 18 January, FACA and OSP attacked Aigbando, Haute-Kotto, where at least 17 civilians were killed, and 100 houses and shops were looted and burned. The HRD's efforts to investigate these incidents were impeded by the OSP as they continued to deny access in areas where human rights violations took place. Over 700 people have been displaced by these incidents.
2. In addition, the State actors and OSP operations in the Ouaka Prefecture as well as armed groups movements in the Basse-Kotto Prefecture and on the axes to and around Ippy created fear and panic among the local population, in particular the Muslim community. Displacements of population have been reported. In the Ouaka as well as in the Haute-Kotto Prefectures, the HRD documented incidents of arbitrary arrests and detention by OSP, as well as cases of enforced disappearances and forced labour of detained individuals.
3. In the Western sector, the security situation remained precarious. Clashes between armed groups and State actors resulted in serious human rights abuses and violations. As a result of the clashes, at least 11 civilians were killed, and 14 others were wounded in January 2022.

Human Rights Violations and Abuses and Breaches of International Humanitarian Law

Main Trends

42 verified incidents, representing 57 human rights violations and abuses and breaches of IHL **affecting 131 victims**, took place in January 2022; a noticeable decrease compared to December 2021.

State actors were responsible for **over 65 percent of the civilians killed** and 60 percent of the victims of violations of the right to physical and mental integrity.

4. During the month of January, the HRD, including the Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Section (CRSVS) and the Child Protection Section (CPS), documented and verified 56 incidents,¹ representing 72 human rights violations and abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL) and affecting 150 victims. In addition, it also recorded 48 alleged incidents, representing 66 violations and abuses and 195 victims, which at the end of the month are still being verified.

5. Out of the 56 incidents documented by the HRD during the month of January, 42 of the verified incidents, representing 57 abuses and violations and affecting 131 victims, effectively took place in January 2022. This marks a 57.57 percent decrease in the number of confirmed incidents and a 41.77 percent decrease in the number of victims compared to

December 2021, during which 99 verified incidents that affected 225 victims were documented.

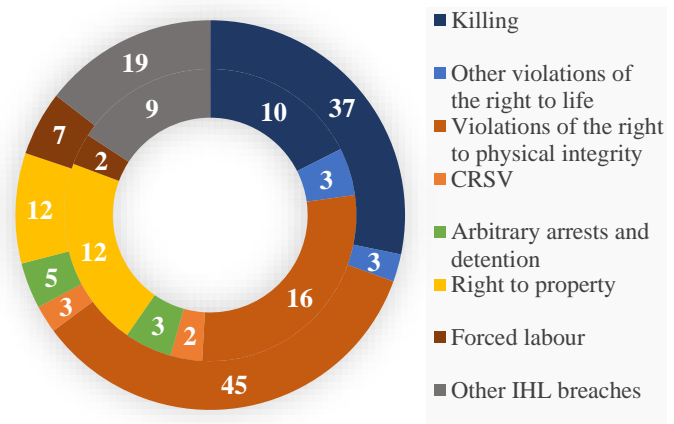
6. The majority of victims were men (78), however, the HRD documented 16 women and 22 children (12 boys, seven girls, three unidentified children), one unidentified victim and 14 groups of collective victims.

7. Killings remain one of the most common documented human rights abuses and violations: the HRD documented and verified eight incidents during which ten violations of the right to life by killing occurred, for a total of 37 victims. However, these figures show a decrease of victims compared to December 2021 (72 killed victims). State actors were responsible for most of the killings (67.56 percent of the victims) and the violations of the right to physical and mental integrity (60 percent of the victims).

8. Over half of the incidents, violations and victims were attributable to State actors (26 incidents, representing 34 violations and affecting 77 victims). The numbers are stable compared to December 2021, during which 27 verified incidents affecting 63 victims were attributable to State actors – and this despite an overall decrease of cases.

9. Armed groups signatories to the APPR-CAR were responsible for 13 incidents, representing 19 violations and affecting 43 victims. This represents an 81.94 percent decrease of the number of incidents and a 73.45 percent decrease of the number of victims, compared to December 2021 during they were responsible for 72 incidents and

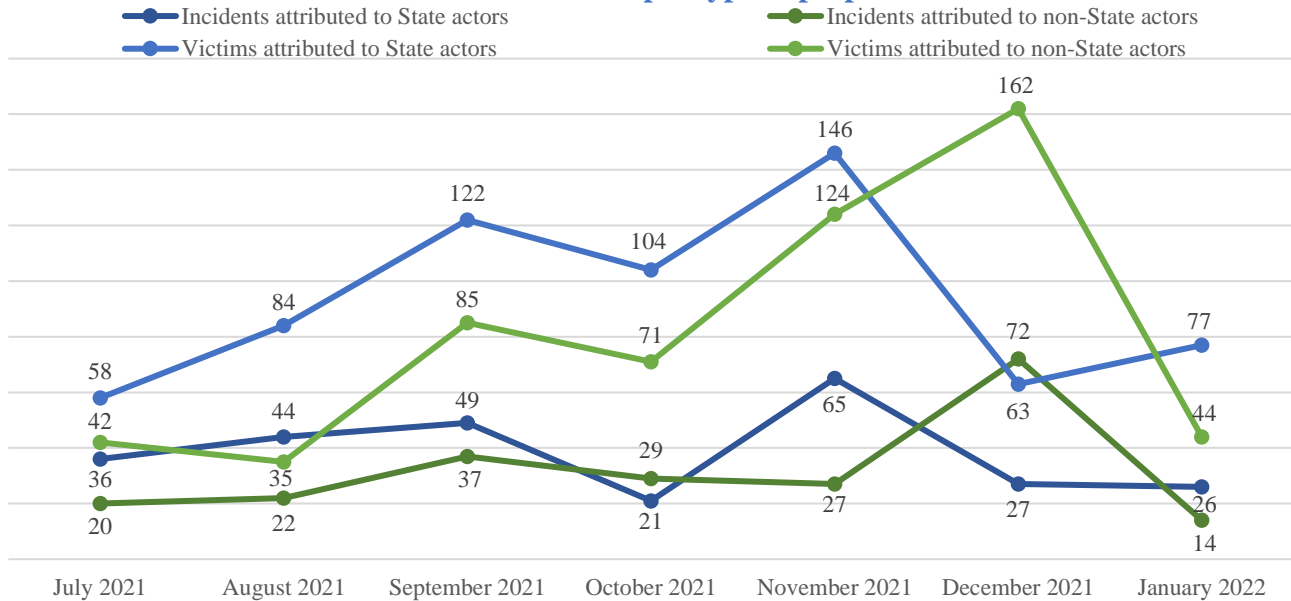
Number of violations (inner circle) and victims (outer circle)



¹ Several types of human rights violations and abuses may be recorded during a single incident, against different victims. The following data is based on the most serious type of violation per incident and the most serious type of violation per victim.

162 victims. This decreasing trend is more pronounced than that decrease of the total number incidents and victims for this month.

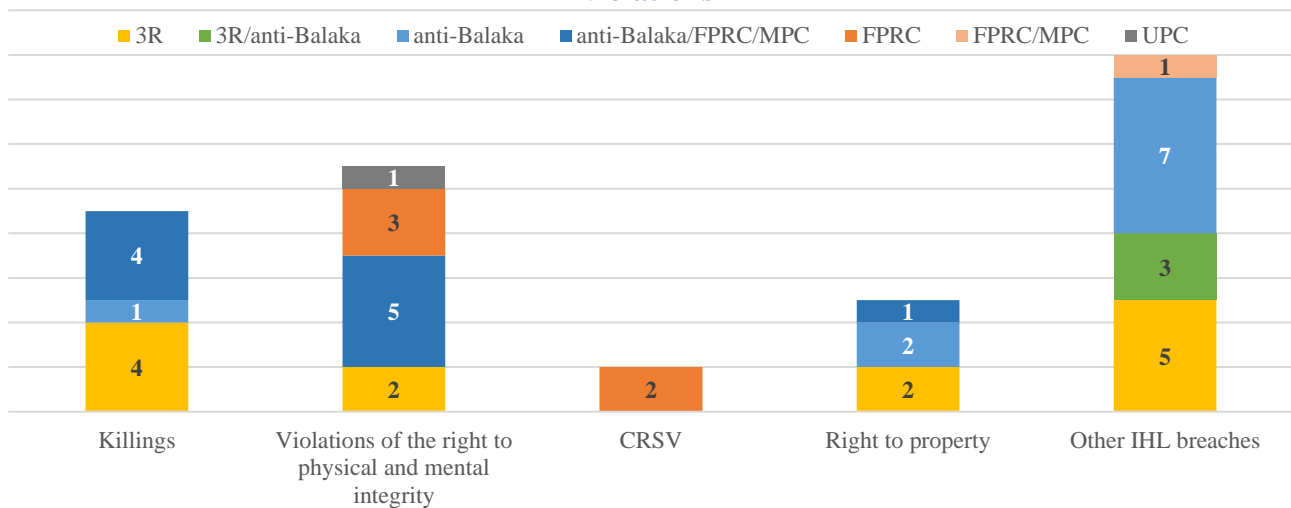
Incidents and victims per type of perpetrator



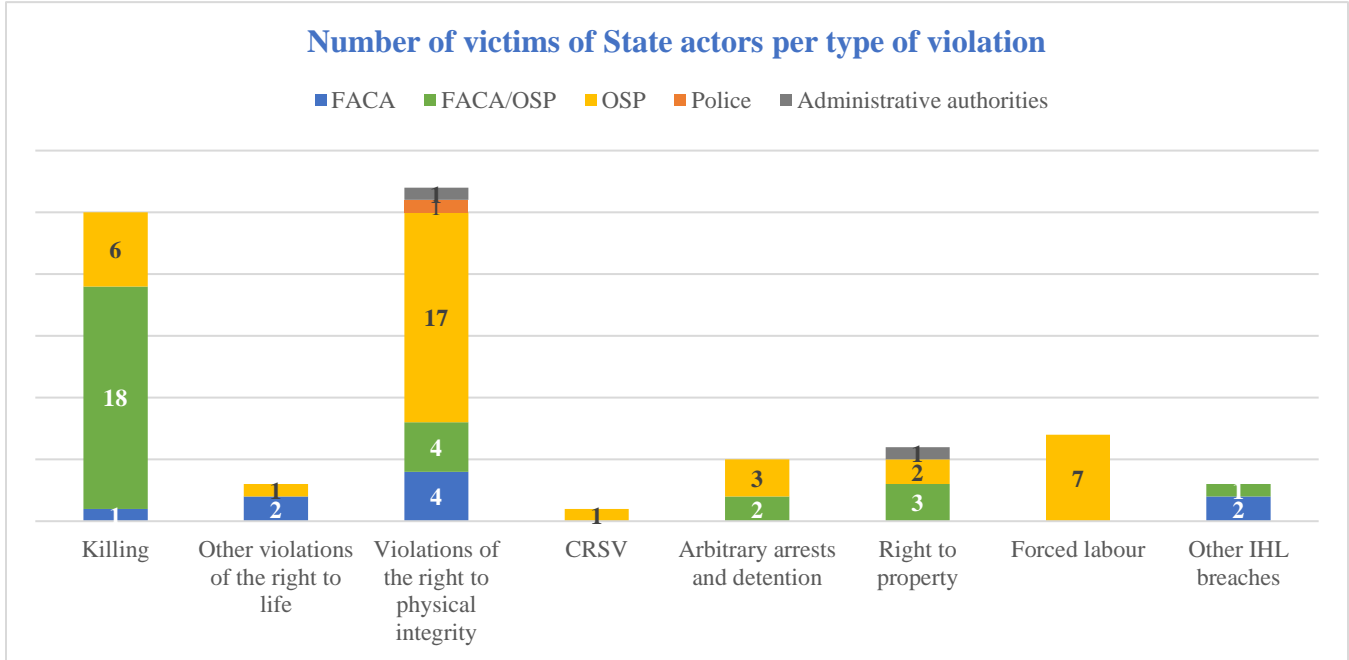
10. In addition, two incidents, representing three violations and affecting ten victims, were caused by stray bullets. Those incidents occurred during clashes between armed groups and/or State actors and thus could not be attributable to a perpetrator. The Misserya Arabs were also responsible for one incident affecting one collective victim in the Vakaga Prefecture.

11. Among the armed groups signatories to the APPR-CAR, the 3R and the anti-Balaka were the perpetrators with the most victims, with respectively 13 and ten victims each. The most common types of violation were abductions: the HRD documented five cases affecting 15 victims (including one woman and 11 children), attributed to the 3R alone, a 3R/anti-Balaka coalition, and the anti-Balaka alone.

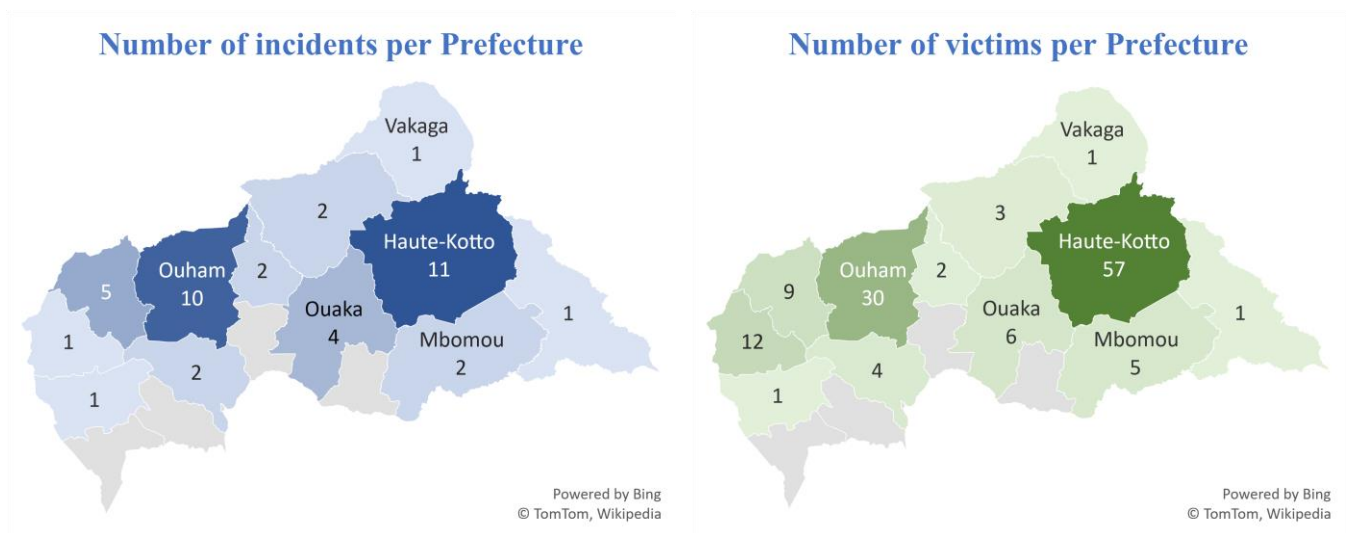
Number of victims of armed groups signatories of the APPR-CAR per type of violations



12. Among State actors, the OSP were the perpetrators with the most victims, with 37 victims attributed to them alone, and 28 in cooperation with FACA. Most of the victims were killed or wounded during indiscriminate attacks conducted by the OSP with or without FACA. The HRD also documented cases of forced labour attributed to the OSP.



13. In line with the trend documented the previous months, the Haute-Kotto was the most affected Prefecture of the country, accounting for nearly half of all victims documented in January 2022 (11 incidents representing 17 violations and affecting 57 victims). The HRD documented 19 incidents affecting 56 victims in the Western sector of the country. In the Ouham Prefecture, now one of the most affected Prefectures, HRD documented an increase in incidents compared to December 2021, during which it was the least affected Prefecture.



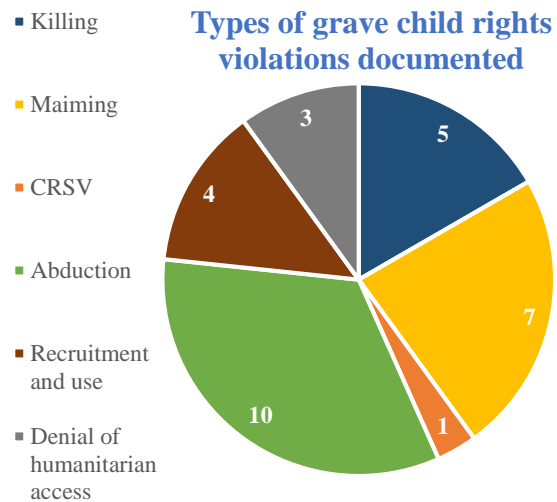
Children in Armed Conflict²

14. During the reporting period, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) verified 89 grave child rights violations directly affecting 68 children (38 boys and 30 girls) – a slight decrease, compared to the previous reporting period in which 106 violations affecting 67 children were recorded. Sixty-five violations occurred outside the reporting period but were only verified during the period under review.

15. Unlike for the rest of human rights violations and abuses, armed groups were responsible for 90 percent of the violations, with the rest being attributed to explosive ordinances and State actors. However, the Haute-Kotto Prefecture was also the most affected with 56 grave child rights violations, followed by the Western sector of the country.

16. HRD continued its efforts to engage with the national security and defence forces to address child protection concerns with regular meetings with the FACA Etat-Major on the training of focal points within the army. A General was nominated as the focal point for the development of the training.

17. The Mission also briefed the UEPNDDR Coordinator and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) on an LRA faction’s request to start demobilization in Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, ahead of a Government mission to the area to address the PNDDR with parties to the conflict. In addition, a partner also profiled 20 children associated to a UPC



faction in that same prefecture for reintegration purposes. Given that the children are in a remote location, MINUSCA and UNICEF are working with partners to transport the children for reintegration.

18. On 31 January, the Secretary-General’s Report on Children and Armed Conflict in the Central African Republic (S/2021/882) covering July 2019 – June 2022 was examined by the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict which will produce its Observations for action. The report was drafted by the CPS as Secretariat for the Country Task Force

Launch of 2022 *ACT to Protect!* Campaign

MINUSCA launched its activities for the *ACT to protect!* Campaign, a global campaign addressing prevention and protection from all six grave child rights violations. The campaign targets over 4000 persons from the national security and defense forces, national and local authorities, members of the APPR-RCA and local peace arrangements, armed groups, civil society, and community alert networks. Joint activities are to be carried out with UNICEF and the government of CAR. Training and sensitizations were also conducted for 659 (501 men/158 women) members of the community, local authorities; CTS, CMOP and CLPR members; FACA, FSI, judicial authorities and community leaders.

on Monitoring and Reporting.

² The Child Protection (CPS) and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSVS) Sections apply a different methodology. They include incidents that are attributed to unidentified armed individuals, as well as some incidents that may have occurred before the month under consideration but were documented during the reporting period. The CPS also includes incidents that affected the civilian population as a whole (not only children), such as denial of humanitarian access.

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

19. During the period under review, the HRD documented a total of 28 cases of CRSV, affecting 41 victims (including 16 women, ten girls and 15 unidentified victims). Nine of these incidents, affecting ten victims, were verified. Only two cases, affecting three victims, took place during the month of January 2022.

20. Five of the verified cases and seven of the allegations documented were related to the attack on Boyo (Ouaka) from 6 to 13 December 2021 by anti-Balaka combatants trained and supported by State actors. According to the information gathered, the incidents were committed as an act of revenge – the victims being accused of being spouses of Seleka combatants. The victims have not received medical or psychosocial assistance, as the Boyo health centre was looted and not operational at the time of the events.

Launch of a Strategic Committee on the Fight against Conflict-Related Gender-Based Violence

On 21 January, the government of CAR, represented by President Touadéra, Prime Minister Henri-Marie Dondra and the National Assembly Speaker, Honorable Simplicie Sarandji, officially launched a Strategic Committee on the Fight against Conflict-Related Gender-Based Violence in CAR. This Committee will provide a strategic orientation to the President's office regarding the prevention and fight against GBVs. It held its first meeting on 28 January, bringing together financial and technical partners victims' organisations and representatives of the Ministries of Justice and Gender, while the Minister focal point for sexual violence at the Presidency chaired. Terms of reference are being drafted for the Committee.

Human Rights Promotion and Capacity Building

Support to the National Human Rights Institution

Throughout January 2022, CAR's NHRI, the *Commission nationale des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales* (CNDHLF), conducted activities to introduce its mandate and work to civil society representatives, workers' unions, and youth organisations across the country. This month, at least 91 people (including 21 women) representing civil society organizations, workers' unions and youth organizations benefited from the activities.

With the HRD's financial and technical support, the Commission organized in January 2022 capacity building activities in the Haute-Kotto, Mbomou and Ouham Prefectures.

21. On 19 January, the *Réseau des journalistes sensibles aux conflits et à la prévention des messages de haine* (RJSCPMH)³ started a series of activities to raise the awareness of youth and women on hate speech during electoral periods ahead of the local elections scheduled for the end of late 2022. The HRD provided technical and financial support to the RJSCPMH to facilitate the organization of the activities.

22. On 30 January, the HRD and the Support Platform on the Penitentiary Sector's Reform (*Plateforme d'appui à la réforme du secteur pénitentiaire*, PARS/RCA) held a working session to reinforce the work of the Platform. The PARS/RCA is planning on documenting

³ In English, it would be *Network of Conflict-Sensitive Journalists interested in Preventing Hate-Speech*

and analysing the conditions of detention in CAR.

23. In January 2022, the HRD provided training and capacity building to at least 100 civil society representatives, including members of local Human Rights Fora, during seven activities in the Nana-Grébizi, Nana-Mambéré and Ombella M’Poko Prefectures. These workshops focused on techniques of human rights monitoring and documentation, to strengthen the capacity of local civil society organizations capacity to report on the human rights situation in their area.

24. The HRD also conducted 14 visits to detention centres and prisons to monitor and document the conditions of detention in the Bamingui-Bangoran, Mbomou, Ouaka, Ouham-Pendé and Vakaga Prefectures. In Bangui, after a cluster of Covid-positive cases was discovered at the Camp de Roux prison, the HRD advocated for the inmates that tested positive to Covid-19 to receive medical treatment.