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United Nations Multidimensional  
Integrated Stabilization Mission in the  
Central African Republic

## Human Rights Division

### Monthly Report: Human Rights Situation

June 2024

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*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 June 2024 in line with established methodology of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Information that could not be verified are not included. Ordinary crimes are also excluded from this report. This report is shared with CAR's authorities and partners.*

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## Main political and security developments

1. Armed group activities continued in June, negatively impacting the protection of civilians and respect for human rights. Armed groups restricted freedom of movement and caused population displacement as well as expropriation of property and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of civilians. In the **Fertit**<sup>1</sup> Region, armed groups elements including *Coalition des Patriotes pour le Changement* (CPC) and the *Parti du Rassemblement de la nation centrafricaine* (PRNC) were active in **Haute-Kotto** Prefecture in the beginning of June, reportedly burning down 56 houses and extorting property in Abaya (13 km south-west of Ouadda) on 2 June. Apparently, this attack, which led to the displacement of about 500 persons from neighbouring villages towards the town of Ouadda, was in retaliation to a military operation conducted by *Forces Armées Centrafricaines* (FACA) on 26 May. In **Mbomou** Prefecture, **Haut-Oubangui**<sup>2</sup> Region, *Unité pour la Paix en Centrafrique* (UPC) and CPC members attacked a FACA position in Nzacko (48 km from Bakouma) leading to the displacement of the population. In **Lim-Pende** Prefecture, **Yadé**<sup>3</sup> Region, clashes between two factions of the UPC armed group on 9 June in Bélé and Bozamère (31 km south-west of Paoua, Banh Commune) also led to population displacement. In **Ouham** and **Lim-Pende** Prefectures, 3R elements continued to perpetrate human rights abuses, including of the rights to physical and mental integrity, and to property, as well as carrying out attacks on protected persons<sup>4</sup> with implications for humanitarian access and delivery of humanitarian assistance.
2. Following training provided by other security personnel (OSP) to Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (AAKG) elements on 1 May (See *HRD Monthly Report of May 2024, para. 3*) and the transition of trained elements from AAKG to *Wagner Ti Azandé* (WTA), joint deployment of OSP and WTA was noted in **Haut-Mbomou** Prefecture, **Haut-Oubangui** Region, which forced UPC elements to flee. This deployment reinforced concerns related to social cohesion as members of the Muslim community in Zémio reportedly moved

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<sup>1</sup> The Fertit Region includes the Prefectures of Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto and Vakaga.

<sup>2</sup> The Haut-Oubangui region includes the Basse-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou Prefectures.

<sup>3</sup> The Yadé region includes the Lim-Pende, Ouham-Pende, and Ouham Prefectures.

<sup>4</sup> Refers to medical, religious, humanitarian, and peacekeeping staff and journalists, in the conduct of their activities.

towards Rafai and the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo due to fears of being targeted by OSP and WTA. On 21 June, they addressed a letter to the local authorities, including the Prefect, MINUSCA and the Defence and Security Forces, denouncing the abuses committed against Muslims and Fulani by WTA elements. In a related development, about 130 former Anti-Balaka elements from Kouango sub-Prefecture (**Ouaka** Prefecture, **Kaga** Region) were selected by the OSP to undergo military training at the Berengo training centre (**Lobaye** Prefecture). Reports indicate that once the training is completed, they will benefit from non-regulatory recruitment into the FACA or the ISF. It is worth recalling that in 2021 former Anti-Balaka elements and youths including some recruited and trained by OSP and FACA perpetrated serious human rights abuses in Boyo (Ouaka Prefecture).<sup>5</sup> The process of non-regulatory recruitment of former armed group elements into the defence and security forces without proper vetting mechanisms remains of concern given the increased likelihood of including perpetrators of human rights abuses, implications for social cohesion and the need to build and sustain popular confidence in the defence and security forces.

3. On the political front, the *Bloc républicain pour la défense de la constitution* (BRDC) and the *Parti centrafricain pour l'unité* (PCU) announced that they would not participate in the forthcoming local elections. In a press briefing held in Bangui on 13 June, the BRDC reiterated that it does not recognize the 2023 Constitution and accused the National Elections Authority and the Constitutional Council of partiality favoring the ruling party. On 24 June, the PCU stated that the local elections are a “political scam to perpetually keep President Touadéra in power.” Meanwhile, on 19 June, the chairperson of the *Mouvement démocratique pour la renaissance et l'évolution de Centrafrique* political party called for the postponement of the local elections to 2025, noting the prevailing difficult economic situation, and cautioned against any attempts to postpone the legislative and presidential elections scheduled for 2025. These grievances continue to highlight the need for constructive consultations among the major political actors to ensure an inclusive, transparent, credible and peaceful electoral process.

### Significant human rights related developments

4. On a positive note, this month was marked by a significant number of armed group elements who voluntarily surrendered. In Mboki (around 70 km west of Obo) and Zemio (around 212 km west of Obo), **Haut-Mbomou** Prefecture, **Haut-Oubangui** Region, several UPC/Siriri leaders and armed elements voluntarily laid down their arms. Similarly, in **Vakaga** Prefecture, **Fertit** Region, elements of the *Parti du Rassemblement de la Nation Centrafricaine* (PRNC) and *Front Populaire pour la Renaissance en Centrafrique* (FPRC) handed over their weapons in Tala (96 km south of Birao).
5. On 25 June, the finalized revised National Action Plan of the Strategic Committee to address Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV)<sup>6</sup> was presented to H. E. President Faustin-Archange Touadéra in the presence of technical and financial partners, including MINUSCA, represented by the DSRSG/RC/HC. The President reiterated the political will of the government to implement the Action Plan while urging CAR’s partners to support the government in this regard. The UN and other stakeholders pledged continuing support.
6. From 4 to 7 June, the investigating judge of the *Tribunal de grande instance* of Bria held mobile hearings at Ngaragba Central Prison in Bangui for 37 defendants held in pre-trial detention. As of 7 June, the judge closed five investigations and referred the cases to the Prosecutor General for their inclusion on the docket

<sup>5</sup> In 2022, OHCHR issued a public report on human rights violations and abuses perpetrated in Boyo (Ouaka), mainly by former Anti-Balaka militiamen, and youth, including some recruited and trained by OSP and FACA.

<sup>6</sup> 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 against women, men, girls, or boys that is directly or indirectly linked to a conflict.

of the next criminal session and also ordered the release of a 75-year-old man who was ill. These mobile hearings are expected to significantly contribute to addressing a pattern of prolonged/illegal detention and reduce overcrowding in penitentiary facilities.

7. On 21 June, the Special Criminal Court (SCC) reported the arrest of former Anti-Balaka Commander Edmond Beïna. On 17 June, he was formally charged by the SCC’s Investigating Chamber for various crimes against humanity and war crimes allegedly committed in Guen, Gadzi and Djomo in February and March 2014. He is currently in pre-trial detention along with four other individuals already arrested and charged by the SCC in the same case.
8. The government continues to take steps as part of its reform of the penitentiary sector. On 18 June, a ceremony was held to inaugurate the resumption of operations at Bossangoa Prison, which had been non-operational since 2020. The resumption of activities follows a rehabilitation project financed by MINUSCA in collaboration with local NGOs and in close partnership with local authorities and the Director General of Prison Services. Prior to the site’s rehabilitation, individuals in custody and prisoners were all held in the holding cells of the police and gendarmerie which were often overcrowded and posed a security risk. In a related development, on 13 June, the infirmary of the Kaga-Bandoro prison reopened and is expected to contribute towards alleviating some of the health concerns in the facility.
9. As part of efforts to fulfil CAR’s reporting obligations before human rights treaty body mechanisms, from 12 to 14 June in Bangui, MINUSCA supported an expert workshop for the National Interministerial Committee in charge of drafting reports and following up recommendations to United Nations human rights treaty bodies on the elaboration of the government’s response to the list of issues transmitted by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances. Twenty-four participants, including six women, and representatives of ministerial departments, national institutions and civil society organizations as well as university students attended the workshop, which enabled participants to draft a consolidated report. The draft report will be submitted to the Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Good Governance.
10. The process to recruit Commissioners of the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission (CVJRR) continued during the reporting period. The Selection Committee after engagement with relevant stakeholders published the vacant positions for which potential candidates were invited to apply no later than 26 June. MINUSCA continues to support the work of the Selection Committee.

## Human Rights Violations and Abuses and Breaches of International Humanitarian Law

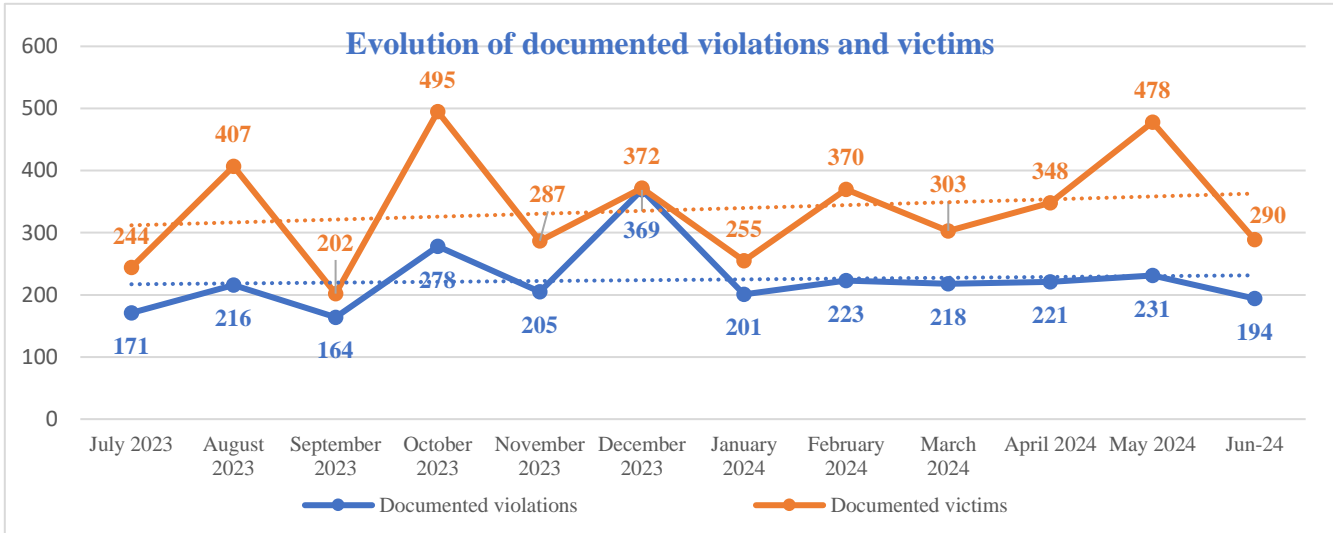
11. Despite the aforementioned positive developments, human rights challenges persist. During the reporting period, MINUSCA verified **194 human rights violations and abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL), affecting 290 civilian victims** (including 30 women, 21 girls, 39 boys and 35 groups of collective victims). Of the 290 victims, 101 suffered multiple violations with most of the violations occurring in June 2024 and the rest between 2017 and May 2024. Compared to May 2024, both the number of violations (-16%) and the number of victims (-40%) decreased. Overall and similar to previous months, the most common types of violations and abuses were related to the right to

### Main Trends

In total, **194 human rights violations and abuses** as well as breaches of IHL **affecting 290 victims (including 30 women, 21 girls, 39 boys and 35 groups of collective victims)** were documented in June 2024. This constitutes a **decrease** in the number of violations (16%) and in the number of victims (40%) compared to May 2024.

physical and mental integrity (26%), arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not meet national and international standards (20%) as well as the right to property (18%).

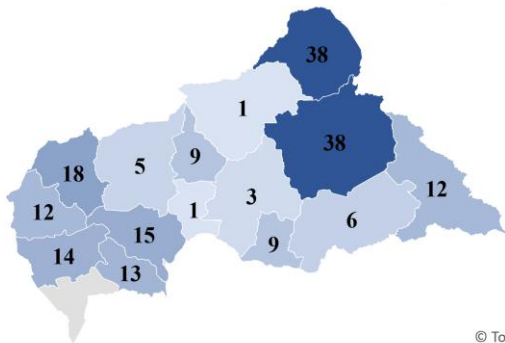
12. Men were primarily victims of violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity (37%), arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not meet national and international



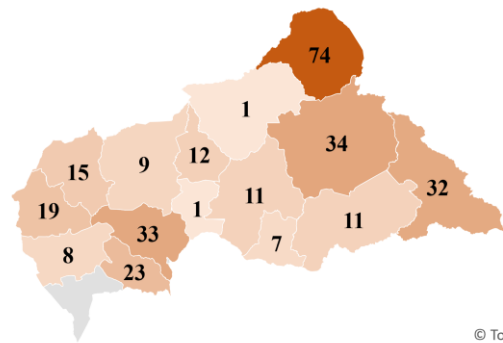
standards (35%), and of the right to property (30%). Women were mostly victims of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) (53%) and violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity (53%). Out of the 21 girl victims, the majority (86%) were victims of CRSV, while boy victims suffered from violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity (62%), forced recruitment (59%) and arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not meet national and international standards (21%).

13. Most violations and abuses (77) occurred in the **Fertit Region**<sup>7</sup>, mainly attributable to the CPC and to *Rapid Support Forces* (RSF) from Sudan (respectively 19 and 15 abuses) which are active in the **Haute-Kotto** and **Vakaga** Prefectures. The highest number of victims (109) also occurred in the **Fertit Region** with 27 victims attributable to RSF in the **Vakaga** Prefecture.

Number of confirmed violations per prefecture



Number of confirmed victims per prefecture



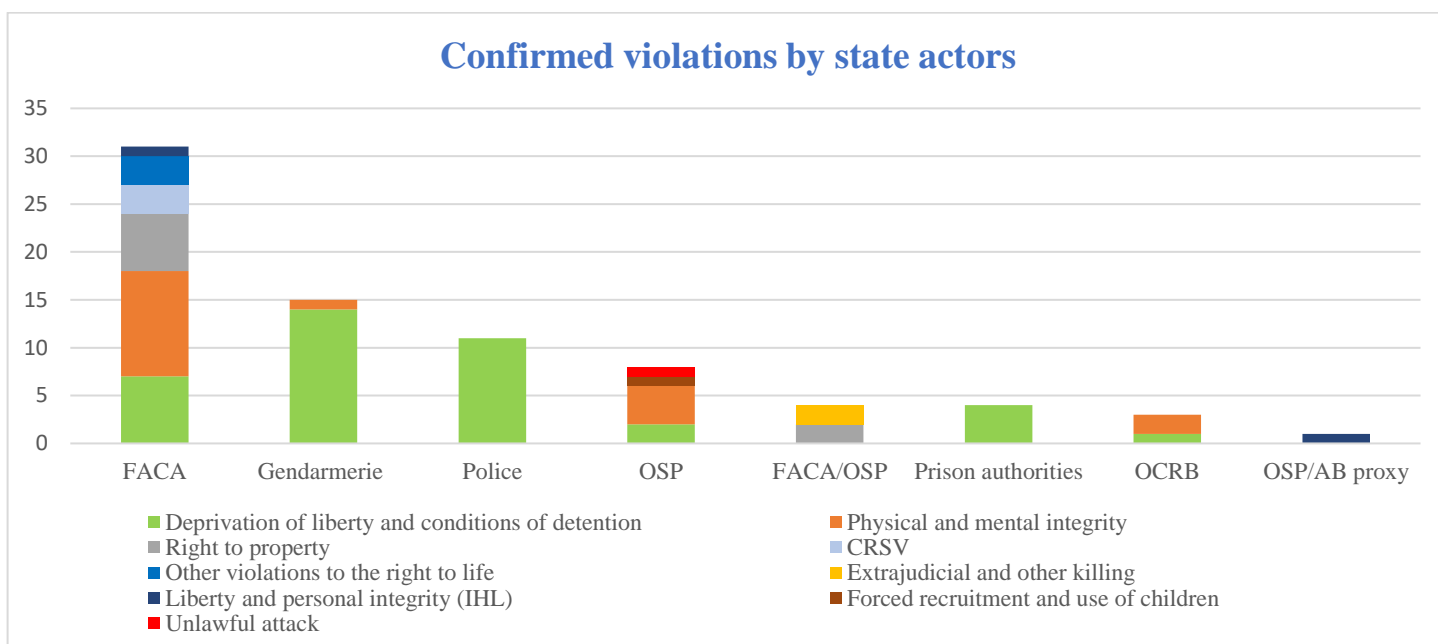
### Overview of violations by type of perpetrator

14. For the period under review, state actors committed 77 human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law affecting 108 victims (including seven women, three girls, 10 boys and 13 groups of collective victims). In comparison to May 2024, the number of violations committed by state

<sup>7</sup> The Fertit Region includes the Prefectures of Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto and Vakaga.

actors and the number of victims decreased by 28% and 58% respectively and affected fewer women and girls than in May<sup>8</sup>. The main violations included **arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention** that do not comply with national and international standards (39); the **right to physical and mental integrity** (18); and the **right to property** (eight).

15. **Among state actors**, the **FACA** (31 violations affecting 33 victims) committed the most violations, while the **Gendarmerie** (15 violations affecting 34 victims) were responsible for the most victims. The most violations were committed in the **Plateaux**<sup>9</sup> (21 violations affecting 42 victims), **Equateur**<sup>10</sup> (17 violations affecting 14 victims), and **Haut-Oubangui** (16 violations affecting 23 victims) regions.



16. **Armed groups signatories to the *Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation en République Centrafricaine (APPR-RCA)* were responsible for 70 human rights abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law affecting 106 victims** (including 14 women, four girls, nine boys and 15 groups of collective victims). In comparison to May 2024, this reflects a decrease in abuses (-21%) and in victims (-40%).<sup>11</sup> Most of the abuses committed by armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA were related to the **right to physical and mental integrity** (20 affecting 55 victims), **right to property** (18 affecting 35 victims), and **conflict CRSV** (11 affecting 10 victims). It should be underlined that these three violations are often committed together.

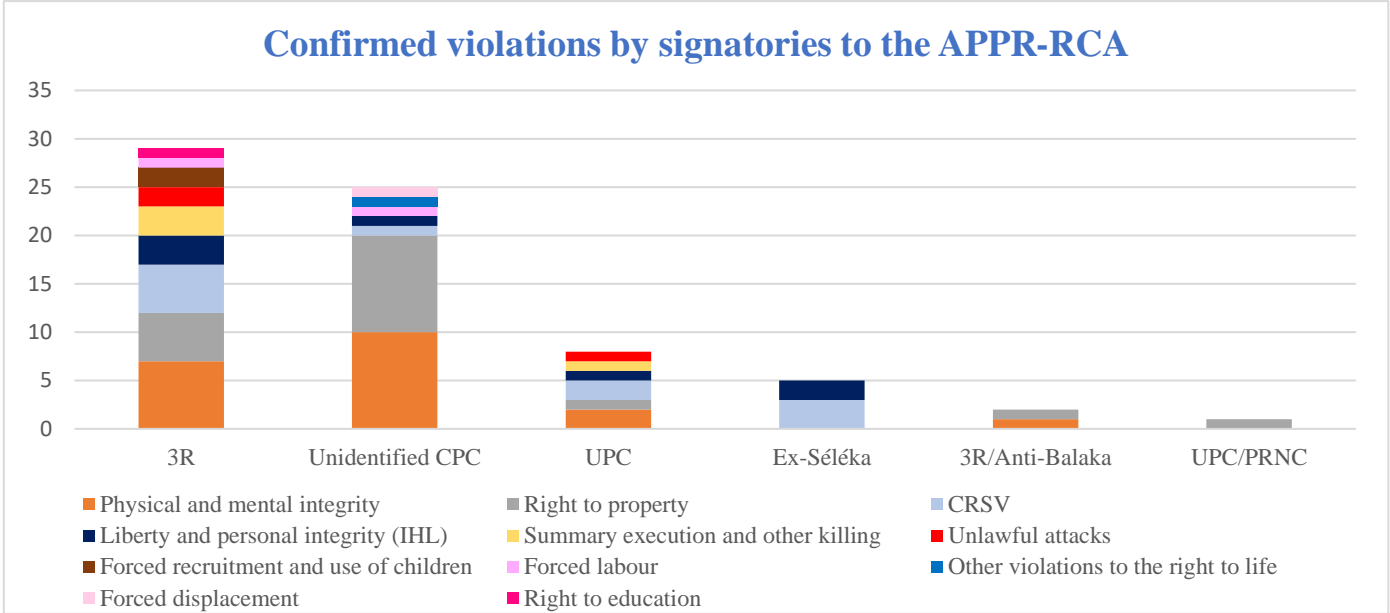
<sup>8</sup> In May 2024, human rights violations attributable to state actors affected 15 women and 12 girls.

<sup>9</sup> The Plateaux Region includes the Prefectures of Lobaye and Ombella-M’Poko.

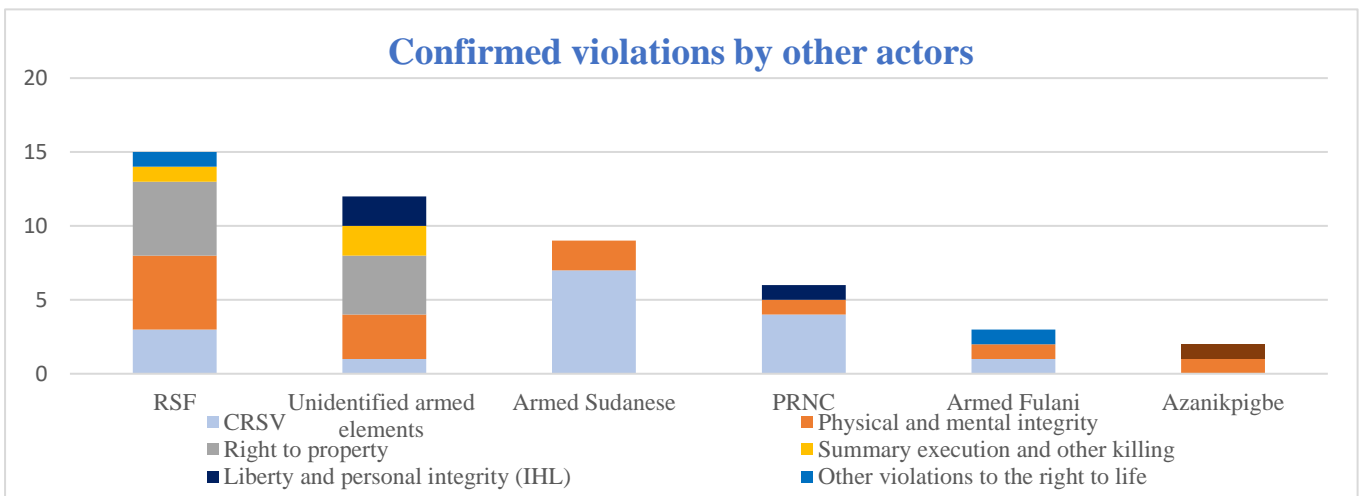
<sup>10</sup> The Equateur Region includes the Prefectures of Mambéré-Kadéï and Nana-Mambéré.

<sup>11</sup> In May 2024, armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA committed 89 abuses affecting 176 victims.

17. Among armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA, the *Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation* (3R) (29 abuses affecting 36 victims) and other CPC elements (25 abuses affecting 48 victims) were the main perpetrators. The most affected Regions by armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA were Haut-Oubangui (22 abuses and 46 victims) and Yadé (22 abuses affecting 22 victims) due to abuses committed respectively by UPC and 3R.



18. Other actors, including armed groups non-signatories to the APPR-RCA, were responsible for 47 abuses affecting 76 victims (including nine women, 14 girls, 20 boys and seven groups of collective victims). In comparison to May 2024, this represents an increase in abuses (34%) and in victims (65%)<sup>12</sup> with most related to CRSV (16 cases affecting 21 victims), the right to physical and mental integrity (13 abuses affecting 36 victims) and the right to property (nine abuses affecting 20 victims). The RSF (15 abuses affecting 27 victims), unidentified armed elements (12 abuses affecting 14 victims), and armed Sudanese (nine abuses affecting 10 victims), some of whom could be affiliated to the RSF, committed the most abuses. A majority of these cases occurred in Am-Dafock, Vakaga



<sup>12</sup> In May 2024, armed groups non-signatories to the APPR-RCA and self-defence groups were responsible for 35 abuses affecting 46 victims.

Prefecture. Most abuses and victims by other actors occurred in the **Fertit** (40 abuses affecting 51 victims) and **Haut-Oubangui** (two abuses affecting 19 victims) regions.

## Typology of human right violations and abuses and violations of IHL

### Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV)

19. A total of 30 cases of CRSV affecting 34 victims (16 women and 18 girls) were documented, all of which occurred between January 2022 and June 2024, including rape (25), attempted rape (three), forced marriage (one), and sexual slavery (one).
20. It is worth highlighting that the majority of CRSV cases were seemingly perpetrated on an opportunistic basis with a few linked to pillaging. Most of the victims were attacked on the road, in or near mining sites, or in their farms or on the way to or from their farms. CRSV cases, notably rape, remain underreported due to fear of reprisals, stigmatization, sociocultural and economic factors, the overall climate of impunity, the lack of service providers and lack of awareness regarding available service providers.
21. **Armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA** were responsible for 11 CRSV cases affecting eight women and two girls, including 10 rape cases (eight women and two girls) and one case of sexual slavery (one girl). The 3R (five cases of rape affecting six women) and Ex-Seleka (three cases affecting one girl) were the main perpetrators. **State actors** were responsible for three rape cases affecting one woman and two girls.
22. Contrary to previous months, where FACA were responsible for the majority of CRSV cases, **in June, most of the CRSV cases were attributed to other actors**, non-signatories to the APPR-RCA, mostly **RSF and armed Sudanese elements** (10 cases affecting 15 victims, including seven women and eight girls) in the **Vakaga Prefecture (Fertit Region)**. In total, **other actors were responsible for 16 cases of CRSV cases affecting 21 victims** (seven women and 14 girls), including 12 rapes (affecting four women and 13 girls), three attempted rape (affecting three women and one girl) and one case of forced marriage (affecting one girl). The presence of armed Sudanese men, including the RSF in Am-Dafock and their involvement in sexual violence, particularly affecting minor girls, pose a serious protection concern to the population while raising the need for concerted action by the government at national and local levels to address the situation. Perpetrators exploited the volatile security situation and increased vulnerability of the population to target victims while they were engaged in their daily activities or while they were on the road. As a result, women were reported to have restricted their movements for fear of being subjected to sexual violence. For example, in December 2023 (reported in June 2024 following an investigative mission), two girls, aged 12 and 13 were attacked by armed Sudanese men, while in the field between Am-Dafock and the Sudanese border. It should be mentioned that with the start of the rainy season, the area is likely to be inaccessible for months which may impede the documentation of potential CRSV cases and other human rights violations/abuses in the area.
23. Overall, in June, CRSV was still prevalent in the regions of **Fertit (Haute-Kotto and Vakaga prefectures)** and **Yadé (Lim-Pende Prefecture)**.

### Right to life

24. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **15 violations/ abuses of the right to life affecting 25 victims**, including summary or extrajudicial executions or killings (nine), death threats (three) and attempted summary or extrajudicial execution or killing (three). **Most of the abuses were committed by the 3R (three abuses affecting 11 victims)**. For instance, on 22 June, 3R elements attacked Kadanga mining site (56 km from Markounda on the Kouki axis), **Ouham** Prefecture, killing five adult men, working on the mining site. Investigations are ongoing to establish the motive behind the attack.

Regarding **State actors (five violations affecting six victims)**, FACA alone committed three violations (two attempted killings and one death threat) affecting three victims. Meanwhile, jointly with OSP, FACA were responsible for two violations of extrajudicial executions affecting three victims.

25. 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

26. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **39 violations related to the deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention affecting 78 victims** (58 men, three women, eight boys, and nine groups of collective victims). Most violations were related to arbitrary arrest and/or detention (31 cases affecting 68 victims), largely due to detention beyond the legal time limits for custody<sup>13</sup> with the Gendarmerie and Police being the main perpetrators (10 and nine violations, respectively).
27. **Poor detention conditions remain a major challenge due to a variety of logistical and funding issues as well as the absence of judicial actors in some jurisdictions.** For instance, the absence of judges of the *Tribunal de Grande Instance* in Kaga-Bandoro (**Nana-Gribizi**) continues to impact on the administration of justice in the area. At the Bangassou (**Mbomou**) police station and the Gendarmerie of Bambari (**Ouaka**), while efforts are being made to keep the cells clean, authorities were urged to ensure separation of minors from the adult population. In addition, at the Bambari gendarmerie, the lack of bedding was noted with detainees sleeping on the floor. In the Central Prison of Ngaragba (**Bangui**), 90% of inmates suffer from dermatological issues, primarily due to poor detention conditions. In addition, overcrowding in the prison has led to the spread of tuberculosis, with 37 cases diagnosed at the time of reporting. The infirmary lacks appropriate medications for asthma, hypertension, abdominal infections, or diabetes while severe cases of malnutrition, resulting from inadequate quality and quantity of food and water, were also documented. The aforementioned examples illustrate challenges faced by most of the detention centres and facilities in the country. Addressing these challenges which impact the detainees' rights to health and access to justice<sup>14</sup> would require sustained and concerted efforts. In this regard, as the UN continues to back the government, other partners are encouraged to support the government towards finding medium- and long-term solutions to these challenges.

### Right to liberty and personal integrity

<sup>13</sup> Other violations included conditions of detention that do not meet minimum national and international standards (16), including food shortages (one), inhuman conditions (eight) and lack of separation between minors/adults and/or by gender (seven).

<sup>14</sup> Human rights of persons in custody and detainees are protected by various national laws and international instruments including the Constitution adopted on 30 August 2023, the *code pénal* (Criminal Code) and the *code de procédure pénale* (Criminal Procedure Code) adopted by laws n°10.001 and 10.002 of 6 January 2010, the law n°12.003 on fundamental principles of the prison system; decree n°160090 on standard internal regulations applicable to prisons in the Central African Republic; decree n°160087 on the organization and operation of prisons in the Central African Republic and determining their internal regulations; and decree n°160088 redefining the framework of the prison administration, all adopted on 16 February 2016 as well as law n°20.016 of 15 June 2020 on the Child Protection Code. The UDHR enshrines the right to liberty and security of person (Article 3), and the right to physical integrity and the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Article 5). The ICCPR guarantees the right to life (Article 6), the right to physical integrity and the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Article 7), the right to liberty and security of person (Article 9) and the right to be treated with humanity (Article 10).



28. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **12 violations/ abuses of the right to liberty and personal integrity<sup>15</sup> involving 44 victims**, including abductions (nine affecting 16 victims) and deprivation of liberty (three affecting 28 victims). Unidentified elements affiliated to the CPC were responsible for most victims (one abuse affecting 25 victims). In May 2024 (reported in June), armed Fulani affiliated to the CPC intercepted and subjected 25 people, including two women and five children, to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment as the victims could only pay a ransom of 25,500 XAF (around 40 USD) out of the 800,000 XAF (around 1,330 USD) requested. The armed elements tied them up with ropes, beat them, seized solar panels, clothes, mobile phones and around 50 grams of gold. Accountability is pending, but advocacy efforts continue with the authorities, in line with their responsibilities under Article 3 of the UDHR, Article 9 of the ICCPR, and Article 6 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR).

### Right to physical and mental integrity

29. During the period under review, MINUSCA documented **51 violations/ abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity<sup>16</sup> affecting 112 victims**, including ill-treatment (33 affecting 69 victims), maiming and injuries (eight affecting 35 victims), threats to physical and mental integrity (six affecting nine victims), and torture (four affecting four victims). FACA were involved in 11 violations affecting 15 victims. Regarding armed groups, the CPC were responsible for nine abuses affecting 13 victims and the 3R for seven abuses affecting 13 victims. For instance, on 9 June, two FACA soldiers subjected a 25-year-old man to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment at a checkpoint. The FACA elements arrested the victim at his home following a quarrel he had with his father and took him to their checkpoint in RCA village (95 km south of Bouar, **Nana-Mambéré** Prefecture), where he was held until the following morning. They forced the victim to fetch water, poured the water over him and beat him with belts for almost 30 minutes. The victim fainted and was rescued by passers-by who took him back to his father's home. In line with their obligations under Article 5 of the UDHR, Article 7 of ICCPR and Articles 2 and 16 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and Articles 4 and 5 of the ACHPR, state authorities are expected to take concrete steps to prevent and investigate cases relating to torture and ill-treatment.

### Right to property

30. MINUSCA documented **35 violations/abuses of the right to property<sup>17</sup> affecting 70 victims** (exclusively destruction or appropriation of property). FACA was implicated in six violations affecting 13 victims. Among armed groups, CPC were implicated in 10 abuses affecting 15 victims. Meanwhile, the RSF was involved in five abuses affecting 14 victims. On 25 June, armed elements of the 3R and Anti-Balaka affiliated to the CPC intercepted a convoy of motorbikes in Bosso village, on the Abba/Gallo axis (**Nana-Mambéré** Prefecture) and seized the belongings of at least ten men, including money, mobile phones, and other valuable goods. Two civilians on motorbikes who refused to stop were beaten with military belts and rifle butts.

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

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

<sup>17</sup> The right of property includes protection from destruction or appropriation of property and illegal taxation.

## Unlawful attacks

31. MINUSCA documented **four unlawful attacks**<sup>18</sup>, affecting **four groups of collective victims**, including attacks against civilians (two), illegal occupation and attacks on protected objects (one) and denial of humanitarian relief (one). These attacks were committed by the 3R (two), the UPC (one), and OSP (one). It is worth noting that deliberate attacks against civilians and indiscriminate attacks that fail to distinguish between civilians and combatants are prohibited and are considered violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law.

### Children in Armed Conflict

32. The Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) verified **67** grave child rights violations affecting **36** children (**25** boys and **11** girls). There was an increase in grave violations (**103%**) and in the number of victims directly affected (**56%**) compared to May during which 33 violations affecting 23 children were documented. The increase in grave violations is due to the high number of late-verified violations and children who were victims of multiple violations. However, the increased use of explosive ordnance and ongoing military operations by State forces and OSP limit the CTFMR’s ability to monitor and report on grave child rights violations. Eighty-three percent (83%) of the violations (56) occurred outside the reporting period but were only verified during the period under review. Armed groups were responsible for 85% of the violations (57), governmental and pro-governmental forces for 9% (six), and unidentified armed individuals for 6% (four). Twenty-seven children (20 boys and seven girl) were victims of two violations: recruitment/use of children and abduction (three boys and one girl), recruitment/use and maiming (17 boys), abduction and rape (two girls). Four girls were victim of gang rape: one girl was gang-raped by four individuals, and three girls by two individuals.

**Act to Protect Campaign**

Through the “**Act to Protect**” campaign, **247 peacekeepers** (171 men and 76 women) were trained on the protection of children during armed conflict, with a focus on monitoring and reporting of the six grave violations. Similar trainings and sensitizations were delivered to **2,132 (1,346 men and 786 women) community members and leaders, youth leaders, local authorities as well as members of local peace committees, INGOs, NGOs, FACA (76) and ISF (149).**

33. Violations documented included: recruitment and use (24), killing (one), maiming (18), rape and other forms of sexual violence (15), abduction (seven), attacks against hospitals (one), and denial of humanitarian access (one). Armed groups committed 57 violations: Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (36); CPC factions (13): 3R (10) and UPC (three); PRNC (six); Rapid Support Forces (two). Governmental and pro-governmental forces committed six violations: FACA (three); OSP (two); Anti-Balaka proxy (one); and unidentified armed individuals perpetrated four. **Haut-Mbomou** was the most affected prefecture with 39 violations, followed by **Lim-Pende** (12), **Haute-Kotto** (six), **Lobaye, Mbomou, Nana-Mambéré and Vakaga** (two each), and **Basse-Kotto and Ouham** (one each).

<sup>18</sup> 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.

34. Under the Convention on the rights of the child and international humanitarian law, parties to conflict are required to protect children from direct participation in hostilities, refrain from recruiting children and protect civilians including children affected by armed conflict.

### Human Rights Promotion and Capacity-Building

35. During the period under review, **the Human Rights Division (HRD) organised 103 activities (awareness-raising, trainings and capacity-building workshops) in 12 prefectures**<sup>19</sup>, benefitting 3,204 individuals (of whom about 1,289 were women, 93 girls and 109 boys). Participants include representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs), internally displaced persons (IDPs), Armed Forces (FACA), Internal Security Forces (ISF), prison authorities, detainees, local NGOs, local human rights fora as well as community and religious leaders. They focused on human rights and international humanitarian law including the prevention of CRSV and grave child rights violations.
36. **The HRD conducted 38 monitoring visits to detention centres and facilities in eight prefectures<sup>20</sup> and documented 68 victims of arbitrary detention.** The HRD continues to be granted access to detention centres and facilities to monitor the situation and engage with relevant authorities to advocate and support efforts to enhance the respect of human rights.
37. From 3 to 5 June, in Bossangoa (**Ouham**) the HRD, jointly with the *Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme et des Libertés Fondamentales* (CNDHLF), organized an awareness and capacity-building workshop on international human rights concepts and protection mechanisms for 30 participants, including three women, comprising local administrative authorities and defence and security forces. During the workshop, participants were trained on the basic concepts and principles of human rights, the procedures for referring cases to the CNDHLF as well as national, regional, and international human rights protection mechanisms. The aim was to strengthen national ownership in enhancing respect for human rights and ensure support to the CNDHLF in its monitoring and reporting mandate.

### Human Rights Due Diligence Policy

38. During the period under review, MINUSCA conducted **35 risk assessments** related to MINUSCA's support to internal defence and security forces (FACA, ISF and other law enforcement officers.) The Secretariat of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) conducted human rights background checks for **328 beneficiaries including 262 ISF (64 Police officers and 198 Gendarmes), 49 FACA**, a Commissioner of the National Commission for the fight against the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons and 16 prison officers from the Ministry of Justice.
39. Beneficiaries were also provided with logistical, financial<sup>21</sup>, and technical support including air transportation and trainings. Among the risk assessments, three were carried out for the progressive and coordinated deployment of 13 ISF elements to Bangassou and Obo as well as the redeployment of nine Prison officers from Bangui to Kaga-Bandoro and Bouar.
40. The risk levels identified in these assessments were deemed low and medium. Among the individuals screened, three were excluded by the HRDDP Secretariat for allegations of human rights violations and criminal charges. Based on these assessments, MINUSCA support was approved with a set of recommendations and mitigation measures. These verifications allowed United Nations Police (UNPOL)

<sup>19</sup> The Prefectures are as follows: Bangui; Bamingui-Bangoran; Haute-Kotto; Haut-Mbomou; Mambéré-Kadéï; Mbomou; Nana-Gribizi; Nana-Mambéré; Ouaka; Ouham; Ouham-Pende and Vakaga.

<sup>20</sup> The Prefectures are as follows: Bangui; Bamingui-Bangoran; Haute-Kotto; Haut-Mbomou; Nana-Gribizi; Ouaka; Ouham; and Ouham-Pende.

<sup>21</sup> To facilitate the organization of workshops on the validation of the National Defense Policy (NDP) and on good administrative practice & HR management.

and Security Sector Reform Unit (SSRU) components to organize eight training sessions for officers from the defence and internal security forces on international law and the protection of children, public safety, disciplinary procedures, prevention of SGBV, training planning services, international protection, good administrative practice and management. UNPOL and SSRU noted that there was a slight improvement in the conduct of trained personnel in the discharge of their daily duties. MINUSCA equally transported non-UN security forces either on deployment or on missions to various locations.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Bangassou, Bangui, Bakouma, Berberati, Birao, Bouar, Kaga-Bandoro, Ndele, Obo, and Ouanda-Djallé