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United Nations Multidimensional
Integrated Stabilization Mission in the
Central African Republic

Human Rights Division

Monthly Report: Human Rights Situation

October 2023

The Human Rights Division's (HRD) mandate includes assisting the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR) to promote and protect human rights and prevent violations and abuses 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 were documented and verified during the month of October 2023. Incidents that could not be verified are not included. Ordinary crimes are also excluded from this report.

This information is shared locally as well as nationally with the CAR's authorities and partners.

Security and political context in October 2023

1. During the reporting period, the security situation in Central African Republic (CAR) was largely marked by movements of armed groups as they attempt to reorganise and reconstitute alliances, particularly in the **Equateur**¹, **Fertit**², and **Yadé** regions³. These developments continue to have implications for the protection of civilians and the respect for human rights. In the **Fertit** region, movements and threats of attack by armed groups against the population in Bamingui-Bangoran, **Haute Kotto** and **Vakaga** Prefectures were documented. For instance, in Diki (140 km from Ndélé, Bamingui-Bangoran prefecture), and other neighbouring villages along the Chari axis, these threats led to population displacement. It is worth mentioning that Diki had twice been attacked by unidentified armed men on 31 July 2023 and 12 September 2023, leading to human rights abuses, including the killing of 13 civilians⁴. On 21 October, about 50 unidentified armed combatants attacked Miamani (30 km from Diki, Golongosso axis), setting fire to at least twenty houses used by the *Force armées centrafricaines* (FACA) as accommodation and causing the death of one FACA element and serious injury to another. Meanwhile in **Haute Kotto** Prefecture, concerns were raised following reports of imminent attacks by a coalition of Chadian and Sudanese armed groups as well as elements of the *Coalition des patriotes pour le changement* (CPC).
2. The activities of *Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation* (3R) in **Equateur region**, *Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique* (UPC) in **Nana-Gribizi** Prefecture, in **Kaga region**,⁵ and alliances to control gold mines in Ouham Prefecture between Rodrigue Bozize, a leader of an anti-Balaka faction of the CPC, and a zone commander (*Comzone*) known as "Jeudi-Jeudi", an Anti-Balaka leader, continued to pose security challenges. In the **Plateau region**⁶ armed robbery incidents were reported in Yaloké sub-

¹ The Equateur region includes the prefectures of Mambéré, Mambéré-Kadéï, Nana Mambéré and Sangha-Mbaéré.

² The Fertit region includes the prefectures of Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto and Vakaga.

³ The Yadé region includes the prefectures of Lim-Pendé, Ouham and Ouham-Pendé.

⁴ See HRD monthly report of August 2023.

⁵ The Kaga region includes the prefectures of Kémo, Nana-Gribizi, et Ouham-Fafa.

⁶ The Plateau region includes the prefectures of Ombella M'Poko, and Lobaye

prefecture (**Ombella M’Poko**) and in the 1st, 3rd, and 8th *arrondissements* of Bangui. Furthermore, farmer-herder clashes in Bonaguiro (20 km from Boganangone), **Lobaye** Prefecture on 22 October which led to the death of two farmers and 12 Fulani herders, highlighted the need to scale up social cohesion initiatives and enhance local dispute resolution mechanisms. Security concerns in Bouboui village (45 km from Bangui), **Ombella M’Poko** Prefecture led to frequent search and control operations by security forces leading to arrest of persons who could not produce identification documents. On 20-21 October in Begoua and in the 3rd *arrondissement* of Bangui, 115 civilians were arrested but 69 were later released. Concerns continue to be raised over possible extortions of civilians at check points set up by FACA including in Mbaïki-Boda axis, **Plateau** region.

Positive Developments

3. On 25 October in **Ouham-Fafa** prefecture, a Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) process for armed elements was initiated with the expectation of involving 700 people (322 in Batangafo, 153 in Bouca, 171 in Kabo and 54 in Sibut) and contributing to the enhancement of peace and security while reducing the potential of human rights abuses by former combatants.
4. In response to concerns over a pattern of illegal taxation of the population at checkpoints manned by FACA and ISF elements, on 12 October, authorities in the **Sangha-Mbaéré** prefecture removed 10 out of 15 illegal road checkpoints set up by some FACA and Internal Security Forces (ISF) elements. In addition, following advocacy by the HRD due to a high incidence of cases of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Ramadane, **Nana-Gribizi** prefecture, the gendarmerie, in collaboration with the local population, on 2 October in Sango (2km from Mbrès), arrested a woman who had performed the act on six girls, aged from five to eight years. Furthermore, in **Bangui**, the first session of the Military Court opened on 30 October. This session, the first since 2021, was expected to last one month and adjudicate 53 cases which ultimately would contribute to enhancing accountability for crimes committed by FACA elements and possible reparations for the victims.

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

5. During the month under review, the HRD, including the Office of the Senior Women Protection Advisor (OSWPA) and the Child Protection Unit (CPU), documented, and verified **290 human rights violations and abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL), affecting 518 civilian victims** (including 43 women, 126 boys, 57 girls and 35 collective victims).

Main Trends
<p>In total, 290 human rights violations and abuses as well as breaches of IHL, affecting 518 civilian victims (including 43 women, 126 boys, 57 girls and 35 collective victims) were documented in October 2023. This represents a 76% increase in the number of violations and a 158% increase in the number of victims compared with September 2023.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the armed groups were responsible for 53% of all human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian, and 56% of all victims.</p>

rights violations and abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL), affecting 518 civilian victims (including 43 women, 126 boys, 57 girls and 35 collective victims). Among these victims, 158 suffered multiple violations. Out of the total number of documented violations, 150 occurred in October 2023. The HRD also recorded 49 allegations of human rights violations and abuses affecting at least 91 victims (including nine women, two girls, five boys, an unknown minor and 12 groups of collective victims), which were under investigation at the end of October and were therefore not included in this report.

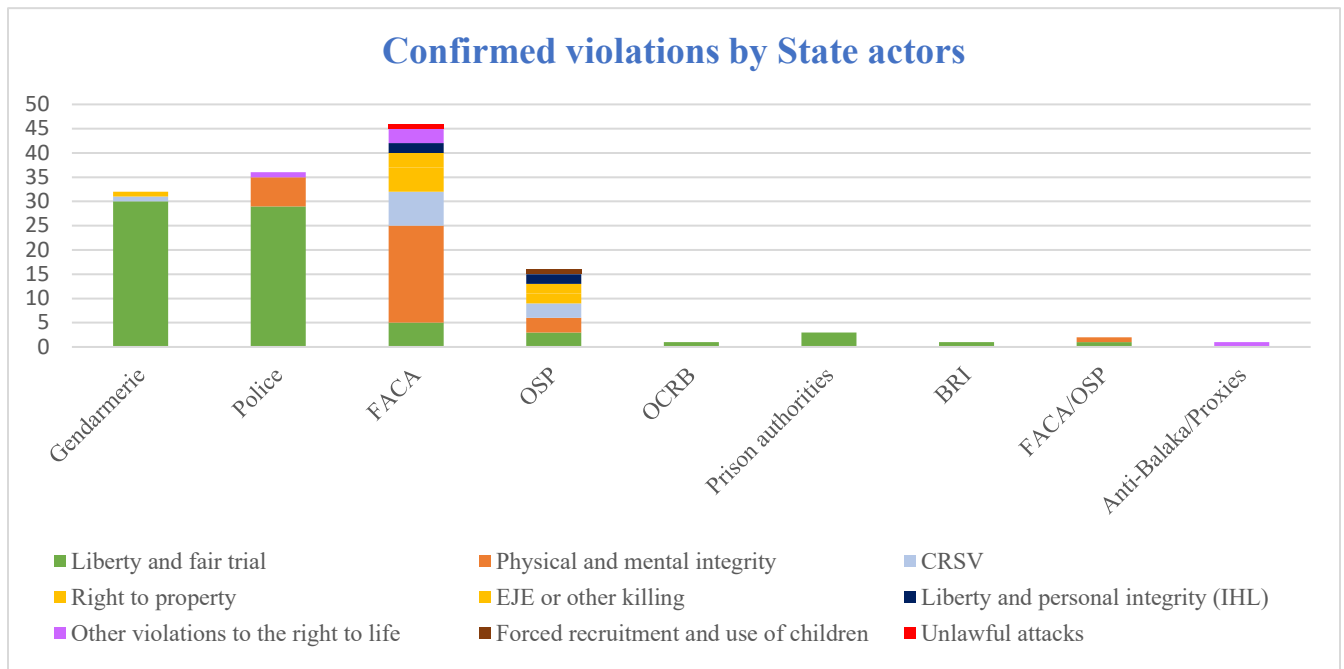
6. The number of violations and victims increased by 76% and 158% respectively compared with September 2023, largely due to the

documentation of increased numbers of grave child rights violations and the activities of armed groups in some areas. The most common violations and abuses documented included: arbitrary arrest and/or detention (18%), conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) (15%), destruction and appropriation of property (11%), and ill-treatment (11%). There were 18 summary or extrajudicial killings affecting 40 victims (including nine women and one boy) and the verification of 16 cases of recruitment and use of children, affecting 145 victims.

- Men were the main victims of arbitrary arrest and/or detention (141 victims), ill-treatment and torture (47), destruction or appropriation of property (37 victims), and summary or extrajudicial killings (30 victims). Women suffered mostly from rape and sexual slavery (26 victims), abduction (10), summary or extrajudicial killings (nine), ill-treatment (eight victims) and threats to physical and mental integrity (six victims). Girls were mostly victims of rape (38), recruitment and use of children (36), and abduction (28) while boys were victims of recruitment and use of children (108), abduction (17); and killing (1),

Perpetrators: State actors, armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA, and others

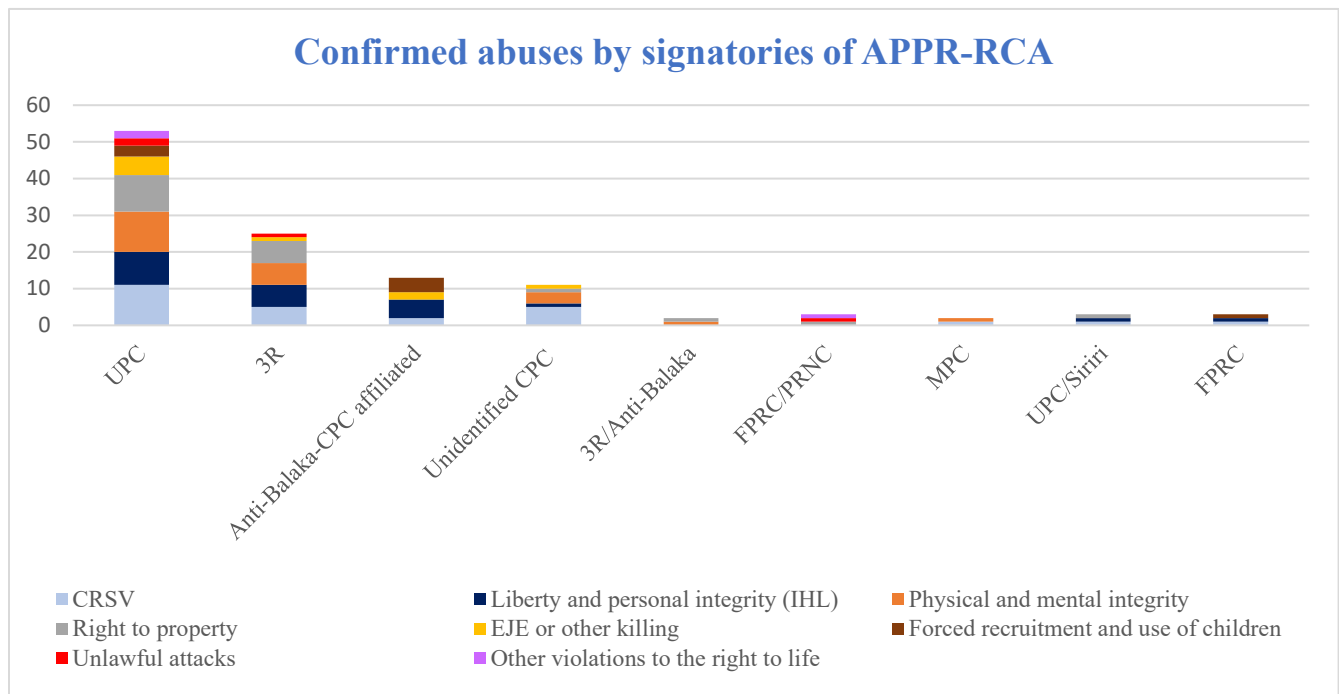
- During the reporting period, state actors were responsible for 138 violations affecting 228 victims (including 15 women, 15 boys, six girls and 17 groups of collective victims)** representing a 60% and 100% per cent increase respectively of violations and victims compared to September. This increase is mainly due to the lack of compliance with legal time limits for custody and conditions of detentions that do not respect the minimum standards for detention (63 violations affecting 162 victims). State actors were also responsible for violations of the right to physical and mental integrity (30), CRSV (12) and violations of the right to life (10) with six extra-judicial executions and other killings. Most of the violations committed by State actors took place in the **Nana-Gribizi** (28 violations affecting 37 victims) and the **Ouaka** Prefectures (18 violations affecting 19 victims).



- Elements of the *Forces armées centrafricaines* (FACA) alone were responsible for 45 violations affecting 40 victims (including seven women, four girls, and three groups of collective victims) which represents 16% of the total number of violations, making them the second main perpetrator. Of note,

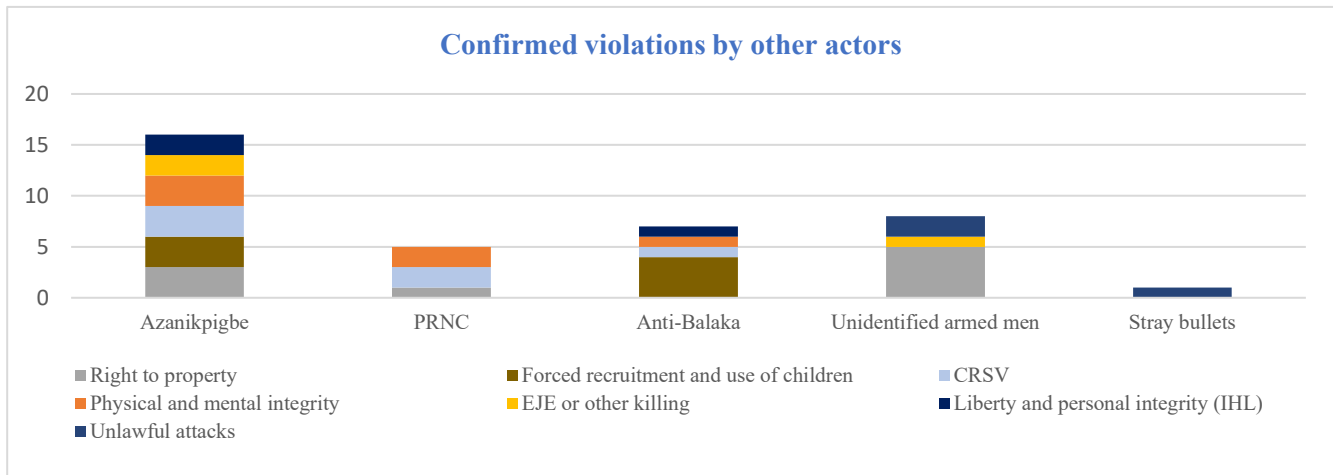
when acting jointly with the Other Security Personnel (OSP), FACA elements are responsible for two additional violations and victims. FACA elements were implicated in cases of ill-treatment (13) and rape (seven) with a majority occurring in the **Nana-Grébizi** Prefecture (12 violations and eight victims including five victims of multiple violations). For instance, on 30 August 2023 in **Nana-Grébizi** Prefecture, FACA elements arbitrarily detained and tortured a 44-year-old man accused by villagers of witchcraft which allegedly caused the death of a woman in her thirties. The man was taken by force by two village chiefs to the FACA base, detained in a cell for seven days and repeatedly beaten with sticks and belts by FACA elements. As a result, he suffered multiple injuries, did not receive medical care and was subsequently taken by the two village chiefs to the gendarmerie, upon order of the FACA elements, where he continued his detention.

10. The police and gendarmerie (respectively the third and fourth main perpetrators) were mostly involved in violations related to detention, the Police (36 violations, affecting 71 victims) and the Gendarmerie (32 violations affecting 76 victims). These abuses include arbitrary arrest and/or detention (22 violations for the Police and 20 for the Gendarmerie), violations of the minimum standards for conditions of detention, violations of the right to life, CRSV and ill-treatment, including torture. Of note, is the rape case of a 19-year-old female detainee in the Gendarmerie of Bangassou, **Mbomou** prefecture on 27 October. The officer on duty took the victim out of the cell on the pretext that he wanted her to execute a task, ordered her to take a shower, forced her into an office and raped her. The victim received medical treatment and lodged a complaint against the gendarme officer.
11. **Armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA were responsible for a majority of abuses and victims during the reporting period- 115 human rights abuses and breaches of IHL affecting 226 victims (including 25 women, 41 girls, 80 boys and nine groups of collective victims) representing, a 130% and 259% increase respectively of abuses and victims compared to September.** The increase can be partly explained by the high number of documented cases of recruitment and use of children (eight abuses affecting 102 victims), abduction (nine affecting 28 victims) and rape (10 affecting 24 victims). The armed groups were also involved in CRSV cases (26), abduction and deprivation of liberty (23), destruction or appropriation of property (21), ill-treatment (15), and



summary executions or other killings (eight). Most human rights abuses and violations of IHL occurred in the **Haute-Kotto Prefecture** (31 abuses affecting 34 victims), while **Mbomou Prefecture had the most victims** (92).

12. The UPC armed group was responsible for 18% of the total number of human rights abuses (53 abuses affecting 66 victims), making it the main perpetrator for the reporting month. In addition, jointly with the Siriri coalition, they are responsible for three additional abuses and 11 victims. The abuses include destruction or appropriation of property (11 affecting 31 victims), abduction and deprivation of liberty (10 affecting 41 victims), CRSV (12 affecting 19 victims) and ill-treatment (seven affecting 18 victims). It is worth noting that the UPC was the main perpetrator of civilian deaths including, five summary executions or other killings affecting 16 victims. Most of the abuses committed by the UPC took place in the **Haute-Kotto** (29 affecting 33 victims) and **Haut-Mbomou Prefectures** (14 affecting 26 victims). Of note was the incident on 29 September 2023, during which four elements affiliated to the UPC abducted and ill-treated 12 men and dispossessed them of their belongings near Ouanda-Djallé. The UPC elements forcibly took them to the bush and tied them up under the sun and the rain, with neither food nor water, for three days and later moved them to another location in the forest where they were held for three additional days. The 12 victims were release on 4 October 2023.
13. **Self-defence groups and other armed groups non-signatories to the APPR-RCA were responsible for 37 human rights abuses and breaches of IHL affecting 64 victims (including five women, 10 girls, 30 boys and nine groups of collective victims).** Compared with the previous month, this represents a 3% increase in the number of abuses and a 68% increase in the number of victims. This significant increase in the number of victims can be explained by the verification of the recruitment and use of children (seven abuses affecting 41 victims) perpetrated alongside abductions (two abuses affecting eight victims), and rape (one abuse affecting six victims). The abuses include destruction and appropriation of property (nine affecting 10 victims), recruitment and use of children (seven affecting 41 victims), rape (six affecting 11 victims), and abduction (three affecting nine victims) with most happening in **Haut-Mbomou Prefecture** (16 abuses affecting 17 victims) and attributable to the Azande Ani Kpi Gbe. The highest number of victims was documented in the **Mbomou** (eight abuses affecting 38 victims) due to activities of Anti-Balaka combatants.

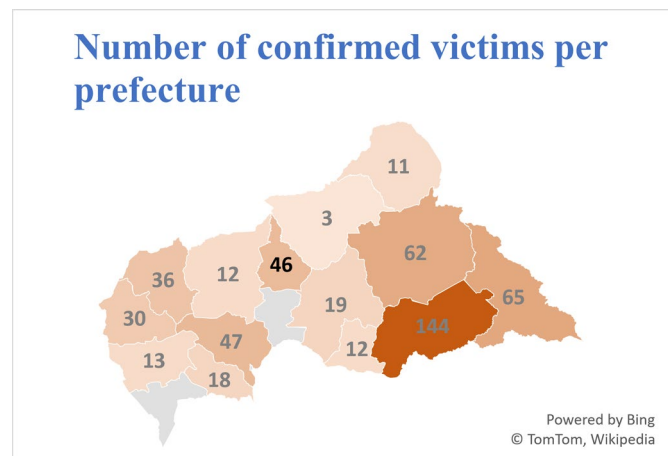
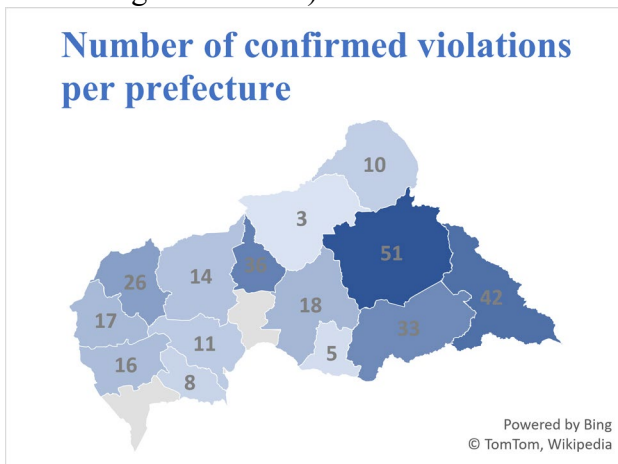


Geographical Analysis

14. About 34% of the violations and abuses and almost half of victims (46%) were documented in the **Oubangui region** (98 violations and abuses, and 240 victims). **Haut-Mbomou** and **Mbomou Prefectures** respectively recorded the most violations/abuses (42) and most victims (144) largely due

to increased attacks by UPC and verification of cases of recruitment and use of a significant number of children perpetrated between 2016 and 2023 (125 children, including 91 boys and 34 girls). A total of 142 victims of recruitment and use of children were documented in the **Mbomou** (125 victims), **Basse-Kotto** (12 victims) and **Haut-Mbomou** (five victims) Prefectures. These violations were committed alongside abduction and rape. Other violations include: CRSV (20 affecting 37 victims), abduction (15 affecting 49 victims), arbitrary arrest and/or detention and the violations of the minimum standards for conditions of detention (15 affecting 31 victims), recruitment and use of children (14 affecting 142 victims) and six extrajudicial execution or other killings affecting 18 victims. With regards to perpetrators, UPC, acting alone or jointly with the Siriri coalition was responsible for the most cases (25 affecting 42 victims) followed by Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (16 abuses affecting 17 victims). On the other hand, the Police and gendarmerie were mainly responsible for violations relating to the right to liberty and fair trial, respectively (10 violations and 18 victims) and (seven violations and 14 victims). OSP and FACA committed nine violations each, affecting four and eight victims, respectively. Of note, victims of violations perpetrated by the OSP suffered multiple violations, and FACA elements were responsible for CRSV (four affected victims).

15. About 22% of the violations and abuses and 15% of victims were documented in the **Fertit region** (64 violations and 76 victims), particularly in **Haute-Kotto** prefecture (51 violations affecting 62 victims). The violations include destruction or appropriation of property (12 affecting 32 victims), violation of the minimum standards of detention (12 affecting 18 victims), arbitrary arrest and/or detention (nine affecting 14 victims) and CRSV (nine affecting 10 victims). Two cases of forced labour committed by the OSP in **Haute-Kotto** affecting five victims were documented after OSP took detainees from Police or Gendarmerie cells and forced them to work in their base. UPC was also the main perpetrator in the Fertit Region (31 human rights abuses affecting 35 victims), mainly in **Haute-Kotto** prefecture (51 abuses affecting 62 victims). FACA elements were implicated in 10 violations and 10 victims with more than half perpetrated in the **Vakaga** Prefecture (six violations affecting five victims).



16. **Yadé region** registered 14% (40 violations) of the total violations documented during the period under review, affecting 48 victims with most violations and abuses occurring in **Ouham-Pendé** Prefecture (26 violations affecting 36 victims). Violations include: CRSV (eight affecting eight victims), arbitrary detention (seven affecting 20 victims), torture and ill-treatment (seven affecting 10 victims) and extrajudicial executions or other killings (four affecting six victims). The 3R group was responsible for most of the abuses (14 affecting 11 victims). While the Police and Gendarmerie were mostly responsible for arbitrary detention, on 19 September, in **Ouham-Pendé** Prefecture, the police were involved in a case of torture of a 10-year-old boy accused by his neighbours of stealing

about 100,000 XAF (about 165 USD). He was beaten by policemen to obtain a confession and sustained injuries to his back and right foot. Following advocacy by HRD, he received medical attention. At the time of reporting, the perpetrators had not been held accountable.

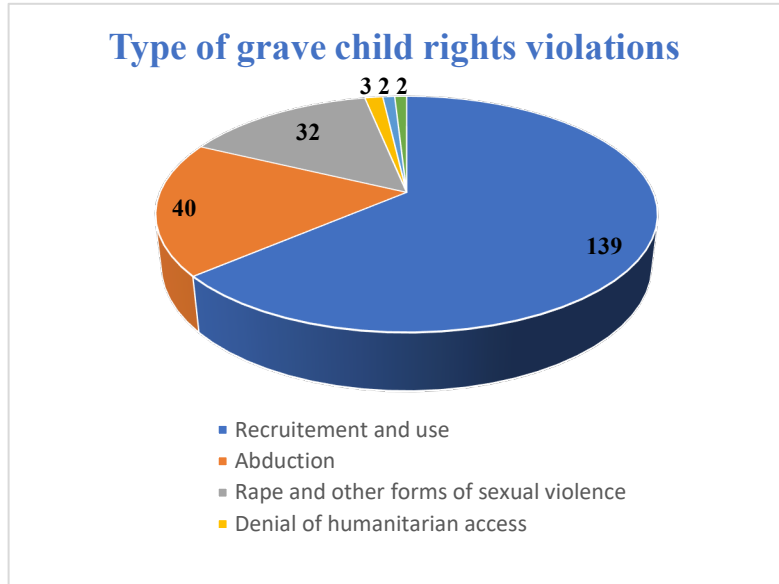
17. In **Kaga region**, 36 human rights violations and abuses affecting 46 victims, all in **Nana-Gribizi** prefecture were documented. Violations include arbitrary arrest and/or detention and the violation of the minimum standards on detention (14 affecting 30 victims), torture and ill-treatment (nine affecting 11 victims), rape (six affecting six victims) and extrajudicial execution or other killings (five affecting six victims). FACA elements acting jointly with OSP were responsible for the highest number of violations in the region (14 affecting 10 victims). While the Police and the Gendarmerie were mostly responsible for arbitrary arrest and/or detention and violations of the minimum standards on detention, they were also involved in violations of the right to life (one killing and one victim attributable to the Gendarmerie) and of the right to physical and mental integrity (notably the torture of a man by the Police on 27 September 2023). In addition, unidentified members of the CPC committed six violations (two rapes, two cases of ill-treatment, one killing and one abduction) affecting eight victims.
18. In **Equateur region**, 33 human rights violations and abuses affecting 43 victims were documented with most occurring in **Nana-Mambéré** prefecture (17 violations affecting 30 victims). Violations include arbitrary arrest and/or detention and the violation of the minimum standards on detention (15 violations affecting 29 victims), and ill-treatment (four violations affecting four victims). Most of the violations were attributable to the Gendarmerie (eight violations affecting 11 victims) and the Police (eight violations affecting 11 victims). With regards to armed groups, the 3R remained active in the area and acted jointly with Anti-Balaka elements in some cases, and perpetrated ill-treatment, appropriation of property, death threats and abduction.
19. In **Plateau region**, 19 human rights violations and abuses affecting 65 victims were documented with **Ombella-M’Poko** Prefecture being the most affected with 11 violations affecting 47 victims. Violations include arbitrary detention (six affecting 42 victims) and appropriation of property (three cases affecting three victims). The main perpetrator in the area was the 3R, implicated in cases of abduction, appropriation of property, and one summary killing affecting six victims in **Lobaye** Prefecture. On 22 October in Noukané, 12 armed combatants associated with the 3R killed six Fulani herders and wounded two others after they refused to pay the sum of 2,000,000 XAF (approximately 3,200USD). Meanwhile in **Bangui**, the Police, the Gendarmerie, and the *Office central de repression du banditisme* (OCRB) were responsible for six violations mostly linked to detention affecting 38 victims.

Children in Armed Conflict

20. The Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) verified 218 grave child rights violations affecting 154 children (105 boys/49 girls).⁷ There was a 603% increase in grave violations and an 806% increase in victims directly affected compared to the previous reporting period during which 31 violations affecting 17 children were verified. The marked increase in grave violations is due to the high number of verified self-demobilized children (137) who were formerly associated to

⁷ 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. The CTFMR monitors and reports on the six serious violations covered by the MRM, namely the recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, sexual violence, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access.

CPC factions (101) and Anti-Balaka faction (36). Also, increased armed group activity in **Haut-Mbomou** Prefecture could explain the increase in grave violations. Ninety-two percent of the violations (202) occurred outside the reporting period but were only verified during the period under review. Armed groups were responsible for 94% of the violations (206), defence and security forces 4% (eight) and unidentified armed individuals 2% (four). Sixteen girls were victims of three violations (abduction, recruitment and use and rape) and 28 children (16 boys/12 girls) were victims of two violations, namely: abduction and recruitment and use (14), abduction and rape (seven), recruitment and use and rape (four), and recruitment and use and maiming (two).



21. Violations documented include: recruitment and use (139), maiming (two), rape and other forms of sexual violence (32), abduction (40), attacks against schools (two) and denial of humanitarian access (three). Armed groups committed (206) violations: CPC factions (148): Anti-Balaka (119), UPC (12), *Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique* (FPRC) (nine), and 3R (eight); Anti-Balaka faction (53); SIRIRI/UPC (four) and FPRC/PRNC (*Parti du rassemblement de la nation centrafricaine*) (one); FACA and OSP committed (eight) violations: FACA (six) and OSP (two); and unidentified armed individuals committed (four), including (two) by explosive ordinance and (one) during armed clashes between FACA and 3R. **Mbomou** was the most affected prefecture (169 violations), followed by **Basse-Kotto** (21), **Haut-Mbomou** (eight), **Nana-Mambere** (four), **Lim-Pende** and **Ouham-Pende** (three each), **Haute-Kotto**, **Lobaye**, **Nana-Gribizi** and **Ouaka** (two each), and **Ouham** and **Ouham-Fafa** (with one each). Following advocacy by MINUSCA, the UPC vacated a school they had been occupying in Mbomou prefecture since 9 August 2023.
22. CPU also met with protection partners to follow-up on 119 children formerly associated with the UPC and Anti-Balaka who were screened by the CTFMR in August 2022 in the **Haute-Kotto** Prefecture. Partners informed that 95 children have been entrusted to a protection partner and 24 will be reunified with their families. Also, CPU met with protection partners in the **Ouaka** prefecture to follow up on the situation of 16 self-demobilized children, formerly associated with UPC in the **Ouaka**, who were screened by the CTFMR and the Government’s Social Affairs Department in February 2023. The

Act to Protect Campaign

As part of the “**Act to Protect Children affected by Armed Conflict**” campaign, **271 peacekeepers** (234 men/37 women) were trained on the protection of children during armed conflict, with a focus on monitoring and reporting of the six grave violations. Similar trainings and awareness-raising were delivered to 651 (308 men/343 women) community members and leaders, youth leaders, INGOs, NGOs, FACA, FSI and local authorities.

partners informed that 12 children have been reunified with their families and family tracing is still ongoing for the remaining four children.

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

23. During the reporting period, 42 cases of CRSV affecting 64 victims (25 women, 38 girls, one man) were documented.⁸ This increase in the number of CRSV cases and victims compared with the previous month is due in part to the documentation in the **Haut-Mbomou** and **Mbomou** Prefectures of cases of abduction, child recruitment and use, and rape.⁹ The main perpetrator was the UPC with 10 abuses affecting 14 victims (eight minor, five women and one man), followed by FACA elements (seven violations affecting six victims, including two women and four girls) and the 3R (five CRSV abuses affecting six victims, including three women and three girls).
24. **Yadé** region (**Ouham-Pendé** and **Lim-Pendé**) was particularly affected with five rape cases affecting six victims perpetrated by the 3R. Meanwhile, the HRD is investigating allegations of rape on the Paoua-Bilakare axis by persons believed to be Fulani herders operating on a transhumance route who may be affiliated with 3R.

Human Rights Promotion and Capacity-Building

25. During the period under review, HRD organised 182 activities (awareness raising and capacity building workshops), in some instances jointly with partners. The sessions organised in 12 prefectures,¹⁰ benefitted 3,086 individuals (of whom about 1,000 were women and girls), including representatives of civil society organizations, IDPs, State actors (FACA, ISF, prison authorities, etc.), detainees, local human rights fora, community and religious leaders. They focused on human rights and international humanitarian law including CRSV and grave child rights violations.
26. The HRD conducted 47 monitoring visits to detention centres in 15 Prefectures¹¹ and documented 146 victims of unlawful detention. In **Bangui**, following the advocacy efforts of the HRD, the Gendarmerie Company Commander released 11 Fulani men who had been arrested in Bouboui for lack of identity documents and held in custody at the Gendarmerie from 2 to 12 October 2023. At the time of reporting, in Camp de Roux, six persons, including a minor, were still illegally detained for periods ranging from six months to over a year. In addition, a 65-year-old detainee in the Berberati prison, **Mambéré-Kadéï** Prefecture, died on 21 October after he was transferred to a hospital due to anaemia and severe malnutrition. This incident raises the need for sustained concerted efforts to improve detention conditions and the treatment of detainees.
27. In line with its strategic support to national institutions, the HRD supported the participation of the government of the Central African Republic in the 54th session of the Human Rights Council from 9 to 13 October 2023 in Geneva (Switzerland). On 10 October 2023, the United Nations Independent Expert on the human rights situation in CAR (IE) presented his annual report, highlighting the persistent challenges and the government's efforts to improve the human rights situation. In response, the Minister of State for Justice, Human Rights and Good Governance acknowledged the main challenges, while insisting on the government's good faith in tackling human rights issues, and calling for donors' support, particularly in implementing the National Human Rights Policy (PNDH). A round table organised as a side event to present the PNDH was attended by the Minister of Justice,

⁸ The man was victim of forced nudity committed by the UPC.

⁹ See *supra.*, paragraph 22.

¹⁰ The prefectures are as follows: Bamingui-Bangoran; Bangui; Haute-Kotto; Haut-Mbomou; Mambéré-Kadéï; Mbomou; Nana-Grébizi; Nana-Mambéré; Ombella M'Poko; Ouaka; Ouham-Pendé; and Vakaga.

¹¹ The prefectures are as follows: Bamingui-Bangoran; Bangui; Basse-Kotto; Haute-Kotto; Kémo; Lim-Pendé; Mambéré-Kadéï; Mbomou; Nana-Grébizi; Nana-Mambéré; Ombella M'Poko; Ouaka; Ouham; Ouham-Pendé; and Vakaga.

the IE, the Director of the Human Rights Division and an NGO representative. The HRD also supported the broadcasting in Bangui of these two events for 24 people including 18 men and six women from civil society organizations and four from the Ministry of Justice.

28. From 16 to 18 October 2023, the HRD, in collaboration with MINUSCA Justice and Corrections Section facilitated a workshop on the role of focal points in protecting victims and witnesses in criminal proceedings. The event followed the appointment of 32 judges, prosecutors, court clerks and secretaries of the public prosecutor's office of the Bangui Court of Appeal and the District Courts of Bangui and Bimbo, as focal points for sexual violence and victim and witness protection within these jurisdictions. The discussions highlighted the need to equip courtrooms with audio-visual equipment to improve victim and witness protection. The HRD made substantive contributions to the identification of actions to be carried out by the focal points. The meeting ended with the drafting of an annual work plan for the coordination of focal points on the protection of victims and witnesses of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Human Rights Due Diligence

29. During the reporting period, 44 risk assessments were conducted relating to MINUSCA's support to the internal defence and security forces (FACA, ISF and other law enforcement officers). The HRDDP Secretariat carried out human rights background checks for a total of 574 beneficiaries including 292 ISF (163 police officers and 129 gendarmes), 264 FACA, 10 prison officers, three staff from the Ministry of Justice, and five agents from the Ministry of Energy, Water and Forestry.
30. Among the risk assessments conducted, beneficiaries were provided with logistical, financial, operational, and technical support including air and road transportation and trainings. The risk identified in these assessments were deemed low and medium. Out of the 574 individuals screened, 15 elements from the internal defence and security forces (15 FACA elements and three ISF) were excluded by the HRDDP Secretariat for allegations of human rights violations. Based on these assessments, MINUSCA support was approved with a set of recommendations and mitigation measures.
31. These verifications allowed UNMAS, and UNPOL to organize 13 training sessions for officers from the internal defence and security forces on public security; role of first responders on crime scenes; training of trainers in the prevention and mitigation of hate speech; maintaining and restoring public law and order; combating drugs and drug trafficking; weapons and ammunition management; criminal database documentation; basic skills in computer science and information technology; professional procedures and techniques for intervention; SGBV; the proper public reception at police stations; road safety, and judicial policing. These trainings have increased the awareness of officers stationed in Bangui, Bria, Kaga-Bandoro, Bouar and Damara.
32. MINUSCA equally transported non-UN security forces either on redeployment, rotation or on mission to Bangui, Berberati, Bambari, Kaga-Bandoro, Obo, Sam-Ouandja, Bangassou, Bria, Paoua, Bouar, Birao, and Mobaye. UNPOL is conducting pre-deployment trainings for ISF benefiting from MINUSCA's support.