

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

April 2024

The mandate of MINUSCA includes inter alia, assisting the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR) to promote and protect human rights. This report is based on information received by the Human Rights Division (HRD) and only includes human rights violations and abuses that were documented and verified during the month of April 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.

Main social, political, judicial and security developments

1. The social, political, judicial and security landscape was characterized by civil society protests, a statement by Members of Parliament (MPs) on the arrest and detention of MP Dominique Yandocka, progress in the fight against impunity, intercommunity tensions, and armed group activities with implications for the protection of civilians.
2. On 12 April in Bangui, civil society actors organized peaceful protests to address frequent power and water outages in Bangui and in the regions. During the parliamentary sessions on 17 and 24 April, the Minister for Energy and Water Resources and the Prime Minister explained the Government's ongoing efforts to improve electricity supply and control inflation.
3. At the parliamentary session of 24 April, a group of MPs submitted a statement, condemning the arrest and detention of MP Dominique Yandocka in violation of his parliamentary immunity and demanding his immediate release for health reasons. On the judicial front, on 30 April, the Special Criminal Court (SCC) made public an international arrest warrant against François Bozizé¹ for crimes against humanity committed between February 2009 and March 2013 by members of his presidential guard and Internal Security Forces (ISF) at the prison and military training centre in Bossembélé, **Ombella M'Poko** Prefecture. Meanwhile, since 15 April, the former Minister of Tourism and former Anti-Balaka leader (Ngaissona section), Dieudonné Ndomaté, has been detained in the Camp de Roux prison in Bangui after being arrested, on 12 April, by the police near Beloko (145 km west of Bouar), **Nana Mambéré** Prefecture. He is being prosecuted for allegedly undermining State security as well as criminal conspiracy and criminal association. According to the judicial authorities, these charges are distinct from those for which the suspect was acquitted in 2022.
4. Transhumance-related tensions, including frequent cattle theft from Fulani herders by the local population, continue to undermine the protection of civilians and social cohesion. The situation is exacerbated by clashes between the *Forces Armées Centrafricaines* (FACA), other security personnel (OSP) and armed groups, resulting in attacks against civilians. On 2 April, armed Fulani men killed 16

¹ Issued on 27 February 2024

men of Gbaya ethnicity, including two boys, in Limi village, **Ouham-Pendé** Prefecture, **Yadé** Region.² The attack increased tensions between Gbaya farmers and Fulani herders, resulting in the departure of almost the entire Fulani population. On 3 April, MINUSCA set up a temporary operating base in Bohong (76 km south-west from Bouar) close to Limi.

5. In **Mbomou** Prefecture, **Haut-Oubangui** Region³, between 14 and 17 April, the *Coalition des Patriotes pour le Changement* (CPC) attacked the villages of Kologbota (30 km south of Bakouma on Bangassou-Bakouma axis) and Fadama (3 km north-west of Bakouma) resulting in the deaths of 11 men, including two health workers, three men injured, and nine houses burned. Most of the inhabitants fled the villages following the attacks.
6. In **Haut-Mbomou** Prefecture, the military training of 100 elements of the armed group Azande Ani Kpi Gbe by the OSP and FACA, for their reported integration into the FACA under the name of “Wagner ti Azande”⁴, raised concerns over accountability and the impact of this recruitment on social cohesion. Of note, Azande Ani Kpi Gbe elements have been implicated in several human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law in **Haut-Mbomou** and no vetting of these elements was conducted.

Significant human rights related developments

7. In **Bangui**, on 11, 12 and 15 April, the Ministry of Justice and the Human Rights Division (HRD), organized two workshops, respectively on the implementation of the recommendations of the fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Central African Republic (CAR) and on the establishment of a national mechanism for the prevention of torture. Sixteen participants, including four women, from the Interministerial Committee in charge of drafting and validating government reports to the United Nations human rights treaty bodies, participated in the first workshop and drafted the action plan for the follow-up and implementation of the recommendations of the fourth UPR. Sixty-three State and non-State human rights actors (including 16 women) participated in the second workshop, organized jointly with the Regional Office for Central Africa of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Recommendations were issued for the establishment of an autonomous mechanism to prevent torture in accordance with the international standards of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) ratified by the CAR in 2016.
8. On 11, 12, 22 and 23 April, the HRD organized two workshops for 192 representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs) and the Network of Central African Parliamentarians for Human Rights. The first workshop focused on the transitional justice process, highlighting the role of civil society in monitoring the activities of the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission (CVJRR). The second workshop raised awareness among parliamentarians on their role in promoting and protecting human rights.
9. On 22 April, the *Tribunal de Grande Instance* of Bambari found guilty the *Régisseur de la Maison Centrale* of Bambari of illicit trafficking of psychotropic substances (tramadol) within the prison and sentenced him to a six-month suspended prison sentence. The public prosecutor appealed the decision for a review of the sentence given the seriousness of the offence.

² For the purpose of this report, the Yadé region includes the Lim-Pendé (reflected in the maps in the Ouham-Pendé), Ouham-Pendé and Ouham prefectures. Please note that due to software limitations, figures from the Ouham-Fafa, which is normally pertaining to the Kaga region are also included here (reflected in the maps in the Ouham).

³ For the purpose of this report, the Haut-Oubangui Region includes the Basse-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou prefectures.

⁴ Wagner for the Azande.

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

10. During the reporting period, the HRD, including the Office of the Senior Women Protection Advisor (OSWPA) and the Child Protection Unit (CPU), documented and verified **221 human rights violations and abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL), affecting 348 civilian victims** (including 42 women, 22 girls, 25 boys and 23 groups of collective victims). Of the 348 victims, 107 suffered multiple violations. Fifty-seven violations occurred in April 2024 while the rest occurred between January 2013 and March 2024, but were documented in April. The HRD was also informed of 31 allegations of human rights violations and abuses affecting at least 47 victims, which were still being verified at the end of April and were therefore not included in this report.

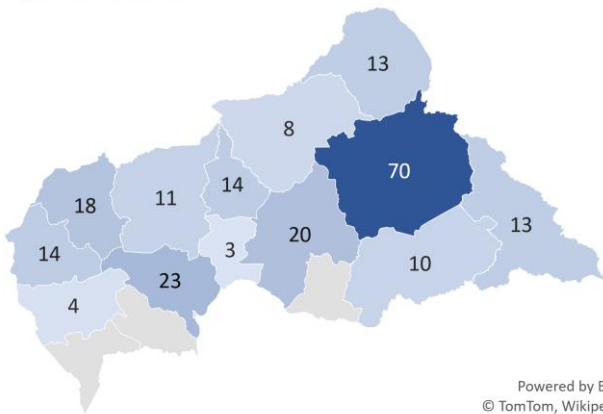
Main Trends

In total, **221 human rights violations and abuses** as well as breaches of IHL **affecting 348 victims (including 42 women, 22 girls, 25 boys, and 23 groups of collective victims)** were documented in April 2024. This constitutes an **increase** in the number of violations (1%) and in the number of victims (15%) compared to March 2024.

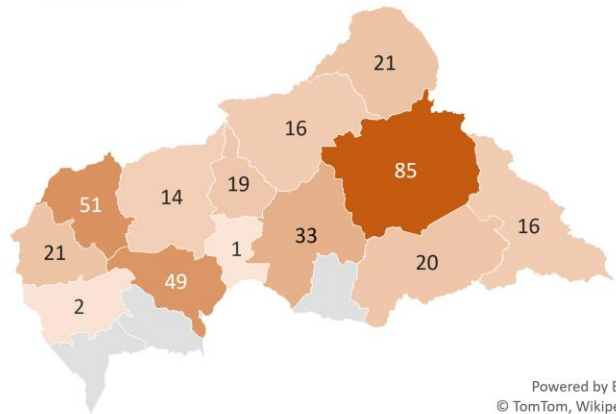
During the period covered by the report, **APPR-RCA armed groups** were responsible for the highest number of violations (41%) and of victims (47%).

11. Compared to March 2024, both the numbers of violations (1%) and victims (15%) increased.⁵ The **Fertit Region**⁶ was the most affected both in terms of violations (91) and victims (122), with **Haute-Kotto** being the most affected prefecture (70 violations and 85 victims).⁷ This is mainly due to the multiple attacks against civilians perpetrated by the *Front Populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique* (FPRC), the *Unité pour la Paix en Centrafrique* (UPC) and by armed Fulani, either to extort their property or in reprisal for their alleged collaboration with the armed forces.

Number of confirmed violations per prefecture



Number of confirmed victims per prefecture

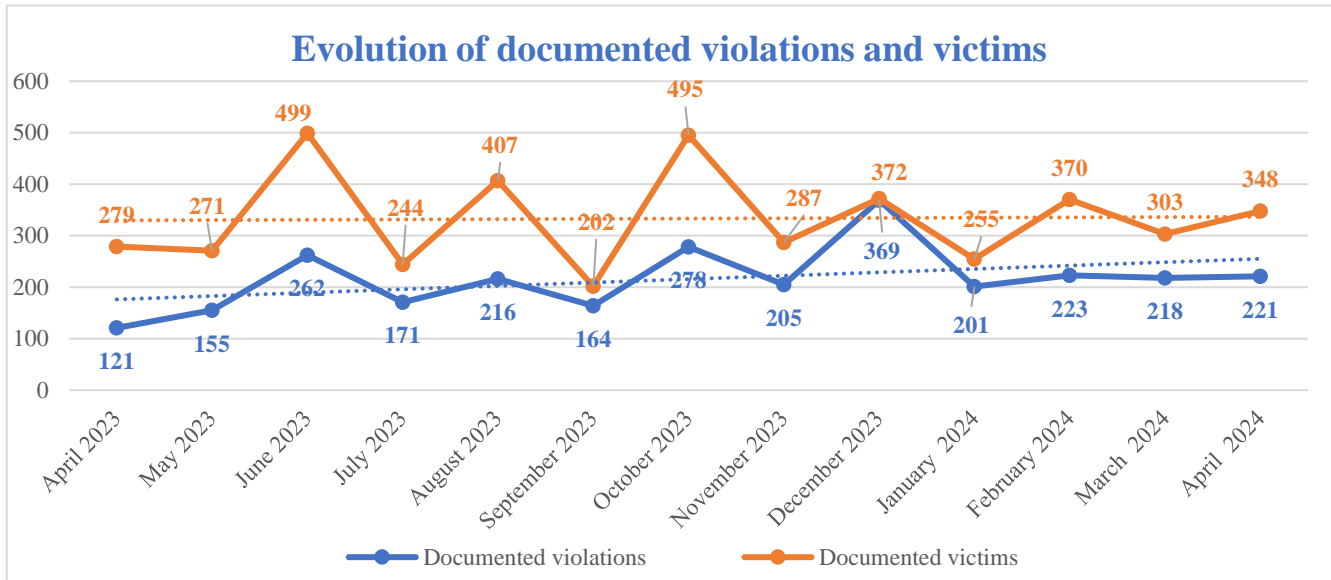


⁵ In March 2024, 218 violations and abuses affecting 303 victims were documented.

⁶ For the purpose of this report, the Yade Region includes the Lim-Pendé (reflected in the maps in Ouham-Pende), Ouham et Ouham-Pende. Due to software limitations, the figures for Ouham-Fafa are also included here and reflected in the maps in Ouham.

⁷ In March 2024, 12 violations and abuses were documented in the Haute-Kotto Prefecture.

12. The most common types of human rights violations and abuses were related to the rights to physical and mental integrity (21%), to property (19%) and to life (17%).⁸ Based on the total violations documented, men were mostly victims of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment (34%), destruction or appropriation of property (29%), and extrajudicial or summary executions and other types of killings (27%). Women were mostly victims of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment (20%), rape (14%), and attempted rape (11%). Girls were mostly victims of abduction (41%), rape (36%), and recruitment and use of children (32%). Lastly, boys were mostly victims of arbitrary detention and conditions of detention that failed to comply with the national and international standards for the treatment of detainees (44%), extrajudicial executions or summary executions and other types of killing (28%), and maiming and injuries (25%).



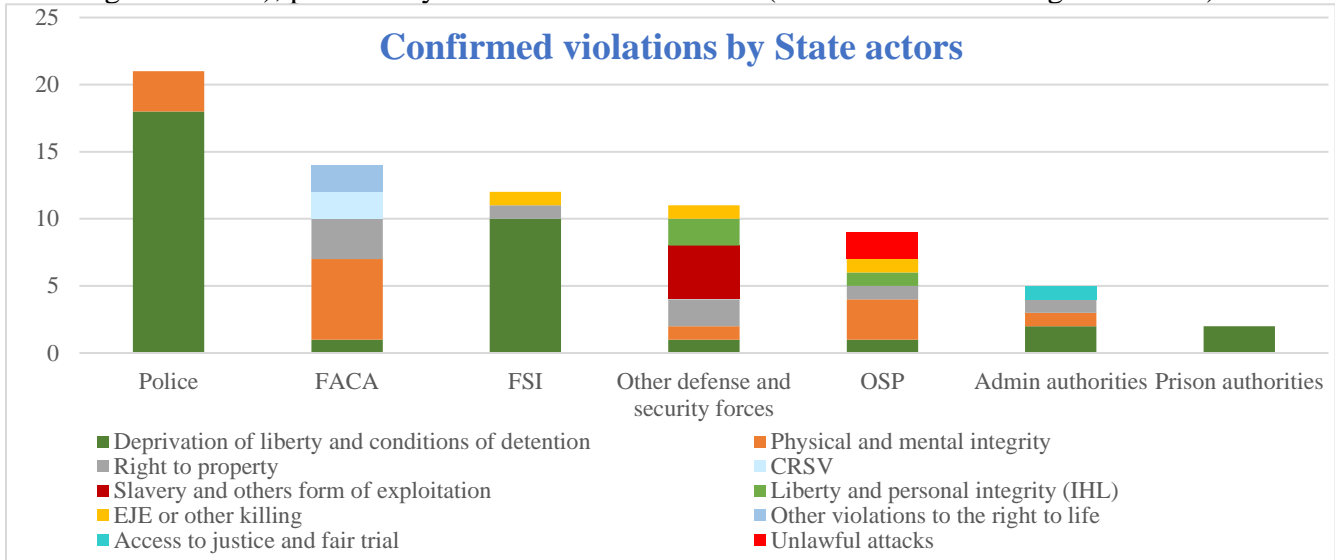
Overview of violations by type of perpetrator

13. **For the period under review, State actors committed 74 human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law affecting 118 victims** (including 13 women, one girl, nine boys and 10 groups of collective victims). In comparison to March 2024, the number of violations committed by State actors remained the same and the number of victims decreased by 13%.⁹
14. The **main violations committed by State actors included arbitrary detention and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international minimum standards** (45%) and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment (12%). Among the State actors, the **Police** (21 violations and 47 victims) were responsible for the most victims and violations followed by the OSP who were responsible for nine violations affecting 16 victims.

⁸ In the previous month, the most common types of violations and abuses were related to the right to physical and mental integrity (20%), the deprivation of liberty and the condition of detention (18%) and CRSV (17%).

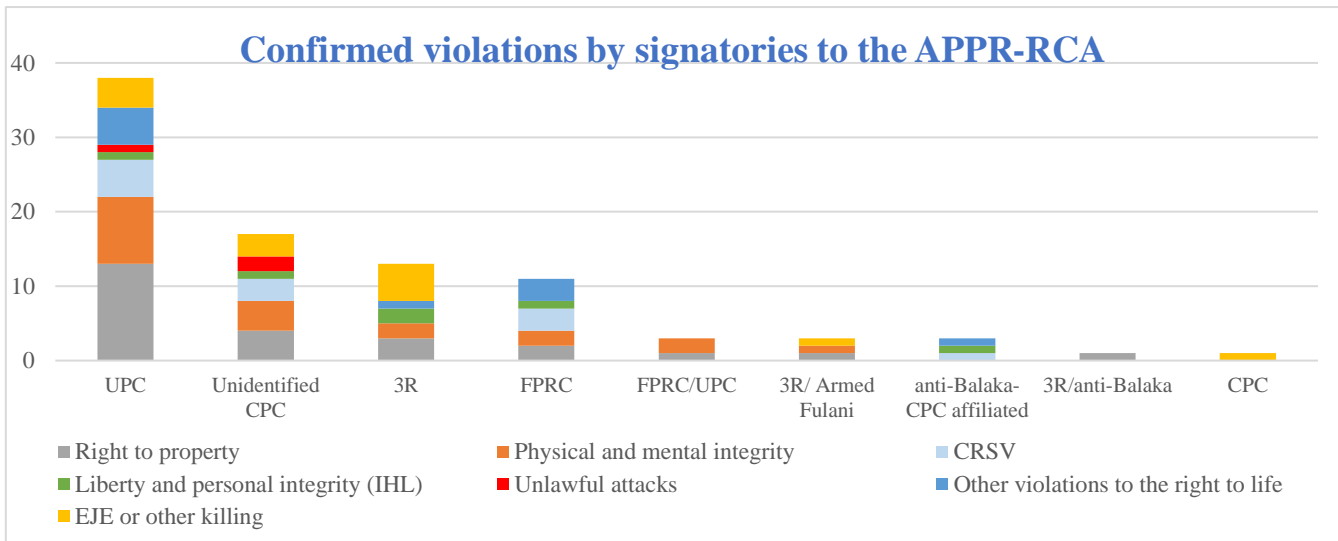
⁹ In March 2024, state actors committed 74 violations affecting 136 victims.

15. A majority of the violations committed by State actors took place in the **Kaga Region** (22 violations affecting 36 victims), particularly in the **Ouaka Prefecture** (17 violations affecting 31 victims).



16. **Armed groups signatories to the *Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation en République Centrafricaine* (APPR-RCA) were responsible for 90 human rights abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law affecting 165 victims** (including 24 women, six girls, seven boys and seven groups of collective victims). In comparison to March 2024, this constitutes a decrease in abuses (19%) and a significant increase in victims (33%).¹⁰

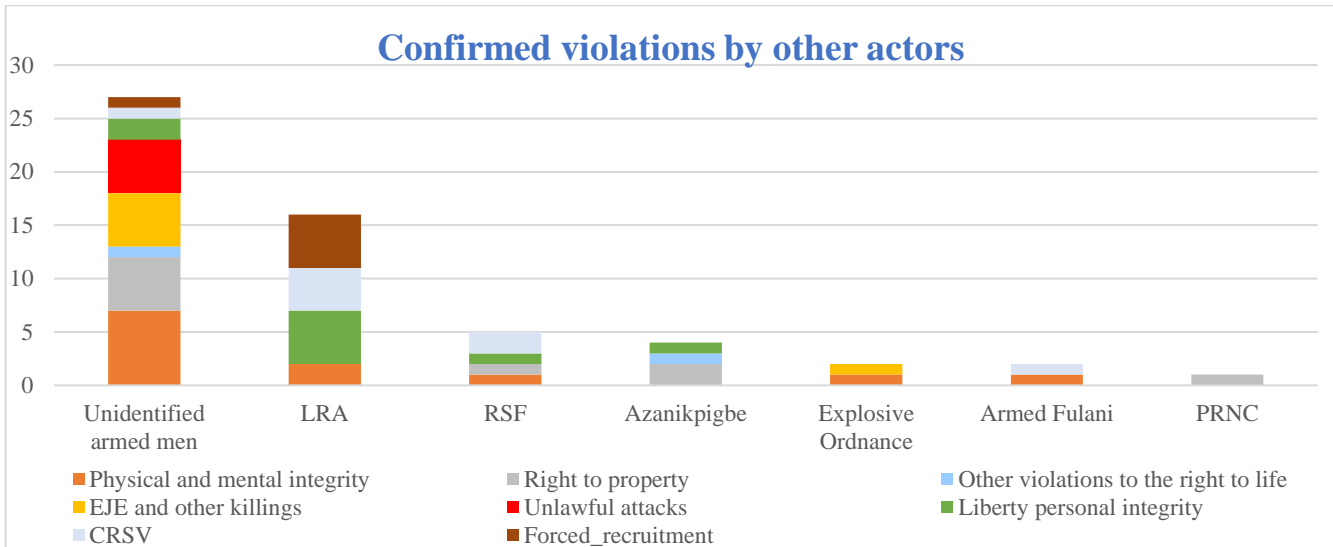
17. **The most common types of abuses committed by armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA were destruction or appropriation of property (25), extrajudicial and other types of killings (14) and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment (13).** Forty-five abuses affecting 71 victims were documented in the **Fertit Region**, all of which occurred in the **Haute-Kotto Prefecture** where the FPRC and UPC



perpetrated multiple attacks on civilians either to appropriate their property or in reprisal for their alleged collaboration with the armed forces.

¹⁰ In March 2024, the HRD documented 111 human rights abuses and breaches of IHL affecting 124 victims by armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA.

18. **Among armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA, the UPC were the main perpetrators** with 38 abuses affecting 65 victims including destruction or appropriation of property (13), cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment (seven) and extrajudicial killing or other forms of killing (four).
19. The increased presence and activities of the FPRC are exacerbating the already deteriorating human rights situation in the Fertit Region. While no abuses involving the armed group were documented in March, in April, the FPRC acting alone or jointly with UPC was responsible for 14 violations affecting 21 victims, including 13 violations in the **Haute-Kotto** Prefecture. In April, in Yalinga village, Haut-Kotto, nine community leaders, including two women, were abducted, ill-treated and extorted by FPRC who accused them of practising witchcraft.
20. **Other actors, including armed groups non-signatories to the APPR-RCA and self-defence groups, were responsible for 57 abuses affecting 65 victims** (including 5 women, 15 girls, 9 boys and 6 groups of collective victims). Compared to March 2024 when armed groups non-signatories to the APPR-RCA and self-defence groups were responsible for 32 abuses and breaches of IHL affecting 44 victims, this represents an increase in abuses (78%) and in victims (48%). The most common abuses committed by these groups included destruction and appropriation of property (nine), abductions (nine) and maiming and injuries (seven). Unidentified armed men were responsible for the most abuses (27) and victims (45), with most abuses being destruction or appropriation of property (six), extrajudicial killing or other forms of killing (five) and maiming and injuries (four). Most abuses by these actors took place in the **Fertit** Region (30 abuses affecting 28 victims).



Typology of human rights violations and abuses and violations of IHL

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV)

21. A total of 22 cases of CRSV affecting 23 victims (10 women and 13 girls) were documented.¹¹ The main types of CRSV were rape (12), attempted rape (five) and forced marriage (five) with about half committed alongside other human rights violations and abuses such as abduction, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, appropriation of property and death threats.
22. **Armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA** were responsible for 12 cases of CRSV affecting nine women and two girls, mostly rape (six) and attempted rape (five). Most abuses happened on an opportunistic basis while one was related to a girl who was repeatedly raped by an FPRC colonel over a

¹¹ In March, 38 cases of CRSV affecting 45 victims (34 women and 11 girls) were documented.

period of three months. **State actors** were involved in two violations of rape on one woman and one girl. In the case involving the minor, the FACA elements offered her gifts to lure and repeatedly rape her. For fear of reprisal, the parents did not want to file a complaint. Regarding the case involving the woman who was raped in her home, the HRD referred the case to the public prosecutor who promised to carry out the necessary investigations. Other **armed groups** non-signatories of the APPR-RCA were responsible for eight cases of CRSV involving ten victims. Of note, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) from Sudan were responsible for two rapes affecting four victims.

Violation and abuse of the right to life

23. Overall, the main violations documented were four killings involving seven victims, three death threats affecting three victims and two attempted killings affecting two victims. Most abuses of the right to life in April were committed by the UPC (nine abuses affecting 11 victims) while most victims (38) are attributed to the *Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation* (3R) with five killings affecting 35 victims and one attempted killing affecting three victims. In addition, unidentified armed men killed 15 people. On 27 March, eight bodies, including those of two 11-year-old children, were discovered in the bush around 25 km west of the village of Dombe 3, **Ombella M’Poko** Prefecture. The victims were from the same family and were killed between 25 and 27 March by unidentified armed men while hunting. It should be noted that Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) along with the Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) guarantees the right to life of every individual. The state also has the responsibility to ensure transparent investigations into all cases and hold perpetrators accountable.

Deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention

24. During the reporting period, the HRD documented 35 violations related to the deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention affecting 72 victims (51 men, eight women, eight boys, and 5 groups of collective victims). Most violations linked to arbitrary detention involved detention beyond the legal time limits for custody (19 violations affecting 57 victims) with main perpetrators being the police (10 violations and 38 victims) and the gendarmerie (five violations and 10 victims). As in the previous month, the **Kaga** Region was the most affected with 13 violations and 29 victims.
25. The situation in detention centres remains a challenge. In **Bangui**, the Bimbo women prison’s water supply system has not been functional for over a month with implications for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and cooking. While waiting for the water system to be repaired, MINUSCA is supplying water to detainees twice a week. At the *Section de recherche et d’Investigation* (SRI) in Bangui, the scabies outbreak, which started at the beginning of the year, continues to spread. On 24 April, 18 of the 126 suspects in police custody were suffering from the disease including two in a critical condition. The HRD is advocating and reaching out to partners for medical care. At the Berbérati police station, **Mambéré-Kadéï** Prefecture, on 24 April, nine inmates were being held in a narrow cell and were sleeping on the floor. At the gendarmerie's territorial brigade, the cells do not respect the minimum hygiene conditions. In Bocaranga, **Ouham-Pendé** Prefecture, custody cells of the Gendarmerie and Police stations are used to house both detainees and inmates, due to the absence of the public prosecutor for nearly two years coupled with the lack of a prison building. This situation has a negative impact on the detainee’s right to health and access to justice and calls for urgent measures in line with national¹² and international minimum

¹² Human rights of persons in custody and detainees are protected by various national texts, including the Constitution adopted on 30 August 2023, the *code penal* (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

standards (Mandela Rules) for detention and relevant provisions of the ICCPR, and the UDHR.¹³ The HRD continues to advocate and engage with authorities for the improvement of detentions conditions.

Violation and abuse of the right to liberty and personal integrity

26. During the period under review, the HRD documented 18 violations of the right to liberty and personal integrity¹⁴ involving 37 victims¹⁵ including 17 incidents of abductions (36 victims) and one incident of deprivation of liberty (one victim). The **Fertit Region** was the most affected both in number of violations (eight) and number of victims (16) with the **Haute-Kotto** Prefecture being the most affected in terms of violations (seven) and victims (15).
27. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was responsible for most abuses (five abuses affecting five victims) in the **Fertit Region**. These abuses involved the abduction, forced labour and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of a 16-year-old boy, as well as the forced marriages of three women and a 15-year-old girl between 2014 and 2017 which were documented in April 2024. **Unidentified armed men** were responsible for most victims (10), all of whom were abducted.
28. The right to liberty and security of person is protected pursuant to Article 3 of the UDHR, Article 9 of the ICCPR and Article 6 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) which are applicable to the CAR. In this regard, CAR authorities through decentralized structures have the responsibility to take necessary steps to prevent violations/abuses while also taking concrete actions to hold perpetrators including State and non-State actors accountable.

Violation and abuse of the right to physical and mental integrity

29. During the period under review, the HRD documented 46 violations of right to physical and mental integrity¹⁶ affecting 126 victims¹⁷ including, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment (26 violations affecting 90 victims), maiming and injuries (14 violations involving 31 victims) and torture (three violations affecting six victims). The **Fertit Region** recorded most violations (21) and victims (72).
30. State actors committed 14 violations affecting 21 victims. The FACA were responsible for six violations affecting seven victims including cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, torture, maiming and injuries and threats to physical and mental integrity. OSP perpetrated three violations affecting 10 victims who were subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and torture. Between 25 and 27 April, OSP elements arrested, detained, and tortured three men, aged 23, 32 and 33 whom they accused of stealing gold, in Ndjoubissi, **Ouaka** Prefecture. The victims, who worked for the OSP at the Ndassima mining site, were arrested on 25 April and kept in a container for three days during which time the OSP beat them with truncheons, put their head in water and immobilized their legs. They were transferred by OSP to Bambari on 28 April. One of the victims sustained knee injuries and had yet to receive medical care at the time of reporting.

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.

¹³ The UDHR of 10 December 1948 recognizes 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, which came into force in CAR on 8 August 1981, 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).

¹⁴ Violation of the right to liberty and personal integrity includes abduction, deprivation of liberty, and hostage-taking (violations and breaches of international humanitarian law).

¹⁵ In March, 24 violations of the right to liberty and personal integrity affecting 60 were documented.

¹⁶ Violations related to the right of physical and mental integrity include cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment, torture and maiming and injuries.

¹⁷ In March, 43 violations affecting 74 victims were documented.

31. **Armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA** were responsible for 20 abuses affecting 79 victims, the UPC being the main perpetrator with nine violations affecting 39 victims. **Other armed groups** were responsible for 12 abuses affecting 26 victims with unidentified armed men committing seven of these violations affecting 18 victims.
32. The right to physical integrity and the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment are guaranteed by the UDHR (Article 5), the ICCPR (Article 7), and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Articles 2 and 16), while the ACHPR, provides protection for the right to physical and moral integrity of the person (Articles 4 and 5).¹⁸

Violations and abuse of the right to property

33. Forty-two (42) violations of the right to property¹⁹ were documented affecting 87 victims including destruction or appropriation of property (41 violations involving 86 victims) and illegal taxation (one violation affecting one victim)²⁰. While illegal taxation decreased compared to last month²¹, the destruction or appropriation of property increased (56%), mainly due to the abuses committed by the UPC in the **Haute-Kotto** Prefecture. The **Fertit** Region was the most impacted (21 violations affecting 55 victims) with 17 violations affecting 50 victims in the **Haute-Kotto** Prefecture.
34. **State actors** were responsible for eight violations affecting 17 victims. **FACA**, acting independently, perpetrated three violations affecting three victims. Jointly with ISF, FACA committed three violations affecting 10 victims.
35. **Armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA** were responsible for 25 abuses affecting 60 victims, with the UPC being the main perpetrator (13 violations affecting 40 victims). The **other armed groups** were responsible for nine abuses affecting 10 victims. On 13 April, the Azande Ani Kpi Gbe elements threatened a 40-year-old woman and robbed her. Two Azande Ani Kpi Gbe elements arrested the 40-year-old woman, took her close to their base where they threatened to kill her and stole 40,000 XAF (approximately 65 USD) before she was released.

¹⁸ As a party to these international and regional standards, the CAR and its deconcentrated and decentralized structures has a responsibility to exercise the necessary diligence to prevent and respond to violations/abuses of these rights committed by either State or non-State actors.

¹⁹ The right of property includes destruction or appropriation of property and illegal taxation.

²⁰ In March, the HRD documented 27 violations of the right to property affecting 63 victims.

²¹ In March, the HRD documented four incidents of illegal taxations affecting six victims.

Unlawful attacks

36. As in the previous month, the HRD documented 10 incidents of unlawful attacks²² affecting 14 victims.²³ The **Haut-Oubangui** and **Plateaux/Bas-Oubangui**²⁴ regions recorded the most victims (four).
37. Among States actors, OSP was involved in two unlawful attacks including illegal occupation of schools in the **Haute-Kotto** and **Nana-Gribizi** Prefectures, which were subsequently vacated. **Armed groups signatories to APPR-RCA** were responsible for three abuses affecting five victims while **other armed groups** were responsible for five abuses affecting seven victims.
38. Human rights and international humanitarian law prohibits intentional attacks against civilians and civilian objects, as well as indiscriminate attacks that fail to distinguish between civilians and combatants.

Children in Armed Conflict

39. The Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) verified 24 grave child rights violations affecting 19 children (nine boys and ten girls). There was an increase in grave violations (100%) and in the number victims directly affected (171%) compared to the previous reporting period during which 12 violations affecting seven children were documented. The increase in grave violations is the result of the deteriorating situation in the **Yadé region** due to armed groups' activities linked to transhumance, explosive ordnance and clashes between the CPC and the FACA. It is also worth noting the increase in abuses by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on children in the **Vakaga** Prefecture (four violations affecting five victims)²⁵ and continuing attacks by unidentified armed men on humanitarian workers in the **Ombella M'Poko, Bamingui-Bangoran, Haut-Mbomou and Ouaka** Prefectures (four violations)²⁶. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the violations (18) occurred outside the reporting period but were only verified during the period under review. Armed groups were responsible for four violations (17%), defence and security forces for one (4%) and unidentified armed individuals for 18 (75%). One girl was victim of two violations including abduction and rape.
40. Violations documented included: killing (five), maiming (six), rape and other forms of sexual violence (seven), abduction (two), and denial of humanitarian access (four). Armed groups committed four violations: CPC/3R (three) and CPC/Anti-balaka (one). FACA committed one violation and unidentified armed individuals 19 violations, including five by explosive ordnance. **Vakaga** Prefecture was the most affected with six violations, followed by **Ouham-Fafa** Prefecture with five violations, **Ombella M'Poko** Prefecture with three violations, **Lim-Pendé, Ouham** and **Ouham-Pendé** Prefectures with two violations

Act to Protect Campaign

Through the “**Act to Protect**” campaign, **675 peacekeepers** (566 men and 109 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 **1594 (900 men and 694 women) community members and leaders, youth leaders, members of local peace committees, INGOs, NGOs, FACA, ISF and local authorities.**

²² 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.

²³ In March, 28 victims were affected.

²⁴ The Plateaux/Bas-Oubangui Region includes the Ombella M'Poko and Lobaye prefectures, and Bangui.

²⁵ In March, no violations were attributed to RSF.

²⁶ In March, three denials of humanitarian relief were documented.

each, and **Bamingui-Bangoran, Basse-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou** and **Nana-Gribizi** Prefectures with one each.

41. 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 civilian children affected by armed conflict.

Human Rights Promotion and Capacity-Building

42. During the period under review, the HRD organised 80 activities (awareness-raising and capacity-building workshops) in 12 Prefectures²⁷, benefitting 6,414 individuals (around 2,146 women, 543 girls and 538 boys), including CSO representatives, internally displaced persons (IDPs), State actors including FACA, ISF, and prison authorities, as well as detainees, members of local human rights fora, and community and religious leaders. They focused on human rights and international humanitarian law including CRSV and grave child rights violations.
43. The HRD conducted 26 monitoring visits to detention centres in 12 Prefectures²⁸ and documented 61 victims of illegal 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.
44. MINUSCA continues to support the National Commission for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in its efforts to strengthen its collaboration with civil society and its capacity to monitor and report on human rights. On 18, 19 and 21 April, the HRD supported the Commission in training 112 civil society representatives and community leaders (including 33 women) in Bambari, Bouar and Bria on national, regional and international human rights protection mechanisms.
45. On 22 and 23 April, the HRD in collaboration with Justice and Corrections and Civil Affairs sections, the *Tribunal de Grand Instance* of Bria, the regional Social Affairs Director from Bria and the Sam-Ouandja doctor, conducted a two-day awareness workshop on CRSV in Sam-Ouandja, **Haute-Kotto** Prefecture, for 40 community leaders and CSO representatives (including 19 women). Participants were educated about national and international mechanisms for preventing CRSV, and the referral pathway in Sam-Ouandja. The HRD also distributed solar-powered radios to encourage participants to organize community radio programmes on CRSV and to enable people living in remote areas to listen to awareness-raising messages.

Human Rights Due Diligence Policy

46. During the period under review, MINUSCA conducted 40 risk assessments related to MINUSCA's support to the Defence and Internal 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 391 beneficiaries including 313 ISF (161 Police officers and 152 Gendarmes), 46 FACA, 24 Members of Parliament including support staff, four Prison officers from the Ministry of Justice, three agents from the ministry of water and forestry and one Custom officer. Among risk assessments conducted, three were for the progressive and coordinated deployment of 60 ISF elements to Bangassou, Birao, Bria, Ndélé, Obo and Paoua to facilitate DDR operations in Bossangoa, Bossembélé, Kouki and Nana Bakassa as well as the redeployment of 16 FACA elements from Sam-Ouandja to Bangui and Bria.

²⁷ The prefectures are as follows: Bangui; Bamingui-Bangoran; Haute-Kotto; Haut-Mbomou; Mambéré-Kadei; Mbomou; Nana-Gribizi; Nana-Mambéré; Ouaka; Ouham; Ouham-Pendé and Vakaga.

²⁸ The prefectures are as follows: Bamingui-Bangoran; Bangui; Haute-Kotto; Haut-Mbomou; Mbomou; Nana-Grébizi; Nana-Mambéré; Ouaka; Ouham; Ouham-Pendé; Ombella M'Poko; Vakaga.

47. The risk identified in these assessments was deemed low and medium. Based on these assessments, MINUSCA support was approved with a set of recommendations and mitigation measures. These verifications allowed United Nations Police (UNPOL) and United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) components to organize 10 training sessions for officers from the Defense and Internal Security Forces. These trainings were on awareness raising on the risks of explosive devices for FACA and ISF, judicial policing, technical and scientific policing level 2, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), fight against drugs and drug trafficking, road traffic management, document fraud, protection of senior officials, fight against corruption, improved discipline among the ISF and weapons and ammunition management (WAM). The trainings were held for officers stationed in Bambari, Bangui, Bouar, Bria, Damara, and Paoua. MINUSCA equally transported non-UN security forces either on deployment or on missions to 20 locations²⁹.

²⁹ Bakouma, Bambari, Bangassou, Bangui, Batangafo, Berberati, Birao, Bossangoa, Bossembélé, Bouar, Bozoum, Bria, Kaga-Bandoro, Kouki, Mboki, Nana Bakassa, Ndélé, Obo, Paoua, Sam-Ouandja.