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United Nations Multidimensional
Integrated Stabilization Mission in
the Central African Republic

Human Rights Division

Monthly Report: Human Rights Situation

January 2024

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 January 2024. 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.

Political and security context in January 2024

1. During the reporting period, the political and security context was marked by a government reshuffle, efforts to address hate speech and incitement to violence, military operations to counter the activities of armed groups and increased concerns over transhumance and its implications for social cohesion and security.
2. In **Bangui** on 4 January, the President reshuffled his government. On 11 January, at the first session of the Council of Ministers, President Faustin-Archange Touadéra set out the five priorities for 2024, namely: (1) improving governance and fighting corruption, (2) meeting basic social needs, (3) securing the entire national territory with military presence, (4) implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation (APPR) and the Luanda Roadmap, and (5) the organization of local and regional elections. The President also stressed that, in the absence of foreign budget support, the government would have to focus on increasing domestic revenues and encouraging foreign direct investment.
3. From 30 to 31 January, a Forum of Ministers of Communication, Information Technology and Media of Member States of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), was organised in Bangui by the Government of Central African Republic (GoCAR) to review and validate a regional strategy and action plan on the prevention of hate speech and incitement to violence. This Forum was organized with the technical and financial support of MINUSCA, ECCAS, the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa and the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA).
4. As in previous months, the movements and activities of armed groups impacted the protection of civilians with implications for the respect of human rights. In the **Fertit**¹ region, particularly **Bamingui-Bangoran** prefecture, on 6 and 10 January, unidentified armed men respectively attacked Kotissako (45 km from Ndélé on the Bamingui-Ndélé axis) and Tiri (90 km from Ndélé), villages on the Ndélé-Golongosso axis, killing one man and burning down houses.

¹ For the purpose of this report, the Fertit region includes the prefectures of Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto and Vakaga.

5. In the **Kaga** region², mainly **Ouham-Fafa** prefecture, armed elements of the *Coalition des patriotes pour le changement* (CPC) attacked the town of Kabo on 8 January killing an eight-year-old child and wounding eight civilians. The presence of armed elements affiliated to the CPC, notably elements of the *Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation* (3R) and the *Front Patriotique pour la Renaissance de la Centrafrique* (FPRC), was also reported on the Ouandago-Batangafo and Batangafo-Ouogo axes. These elements were involved in abuses of the right to property and cases of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV).
6. In the **Haut-Oubangui** region³, particularly **Haut-Mbomou** prefecture, the presence of armed elements affiliated to the *Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique* (UPC) in the vicinity of Zémio and Obo raises protection risks, especially following reports of extortion and theft against the local population by UPC and Anti-Balaka elements moving into **Ouaka** and **Basse-Kotto** prefectures. Furthermore, the creation of a self-defence group in the commune of Ngandou, south of Gambo, **Mbomou** prefecture was reported. This new group purports to protect the locality against cattle theft by armed elements. It raises serious concerns given systematic human rights abuses perpetrated by the Azandé Ani Kpi Gbé group which was previously formed as a self-defence group but has now become one of the most active groups in the area.
7. In response to the activities of armed groups, military operations were carried out by FACA and other security personnel (OSP) which have been consequential for the protection of civilians. On 27 December 2023, in the **Haut-Oubangui** region, in Kengué (47 km from Alindao on the Alindao-Minguala axis), **Basse-Kotto** prefecture, clashes between the UPC and OSP resulted in civilian casualties, with around 400 homes burnt. In the **Kaga** region, following the CPC attack on the town of Kabo (57 km of Batangafo, **Ouham-Fafa** prefecture) on 8 January, FACA and OSP carried out a military operation against the CPC base on 13 January. As a result, the population was displaced towards Maitikoulou (100 km from Markounda, east of Bossangoa), **Ouham** prefecture, **Yadé** region.⁴
8. Intercommunal tensions stemming from transhumance remain a persistent threat to civilian populations in regions like **Bas-Oubangui/Plateaux**⁵ and **Yadé**, highlighting the need for long-term solutions. In the **Bas-Oubangui/Plateaux** areas, conflicts between farmers and Fulani erupted on 2 January in the villages of Trangué and Ngouaka due to damage caused by transhumant cattle to the farmers' fields. Similar tensions are seen in **Yadé**, particularly in the **Ouham-Pendé** and **Lim-Pendé** prefectures, where cattle thefts are leading to human rights abuses. For example, in Ndjondom (55 km southwest of Paoua), on 5 January, a Fulani herder sought assistance from the 3R group to recover his stolen oxen, causing villagers to flee fearing reprisals. In retaliation, six 3R members ill-treated and raped a 40-year-old woman on 10 January.

Significant human rights related developments

9. The extraordinary criminal session of the Court of Appeal of Bangui began on 4 December 2023 and ended on 17 January 2024 with the Court rendering decisions on 37 of the 51 cases. The other cases were adjourned to the next criminal session due to procedural errors, including the absence of the accused. In total, 38 defendants were convicted receiving sentences from 3 years to life imprisonment, and 13 people were acquitted. The regular holding of criminal sessions is critical for the fight against impunity and in building popular trust in the justice sector.

² For the purpose of this report, the Kaga region includes the prefectures of Kémo, Nana-Gribizi, and Ouaka (figures of the Ouham-Fafa are included in the Yadé region under the Ouham prefecture).

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

⁴ For the purpose of this report, the Yadé region includes the prefectures of Lim-Pendé, Ouham, Ouham-Fafa and Ouham-Pendé.

⁵ For the purpose of this report, the Bas-Oubangui/Plateaux region includes the Ombella M'Poko and Lobaye prefectures.

10. As part of its cooperation with the Human Rights Council and treaty bodies, the Central African Republic, with the support of MINUSCA participated in its fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process on 26 January 2024. MINUSCA engaged with the Ministry of Justice to enhance a shared understanding of the process and facilitated the broadcast of the event by video conference to key stakeholders including civil society, national institutions, and the government. During this review, CAR outlined its progress in the protection of human rights, notably the adoption of a law abolishing the death penalty, the fight against the human trafficking, child protection, the fight against corruption and the adoption of the National Human Rights Policy (PNDH). CAR is currently reviewing the 244 recommendations made by the UPR process.
11. In the meantime, continued collaboration between MINUSCA and authorities in charge of detention facilities and/or centres is creating opportunities to address some of the challenges in detention. In Bangui, Bangassou (**Haut-Mbomou**) and Kaga-Bandoro (**Nana-Gribizi**), six people (four men, one woman and a minor) illegally detained in police custody were released following advocacy from MINUSCA Human Rights Division (HRD). In addition, following an outbreak of scabies in the holding cells of the Gendarmerie in Kaga-Bandoro, the commander took steps to clean and disinfect the cells.

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

12. Despite some positive steps, human rights challenges remain. During the reporting period, the MINUSCA HRD, including the Office of the Senior Women Protection Advisor (OSWPA) and the Child Protection Unit (CPU), documented and verified **199 human rights violations and abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL), affecting 253 civilian victims** (with 24 women, 11 girls, 20 boys, one minor of undetermined gender and 28 groups of collective victims). Out of 253 victims, 65 suffered multiple violations. Of the 199 violations documented, 166 occurred in January 2024. The other violations occurred between July 2023 and December 2023.
13. The HRD also recorded 39 allegations of human rights violations and abuses affecting at least 46 victims (including five women, two girls, one boy and eight groups of collective victims), which were yet to be verified at the end of January and were therefore not included in this report.
14. Compared to December 2023, in January 2024 the violations decreased by 46% while the number of victims decreased by 32%.⁶ The **Yadé** region was the most affected both in terms of violations (56) and victims (78) while **Ouham** prefecture was the most affected within the region (34 violations affecting 49 victims).

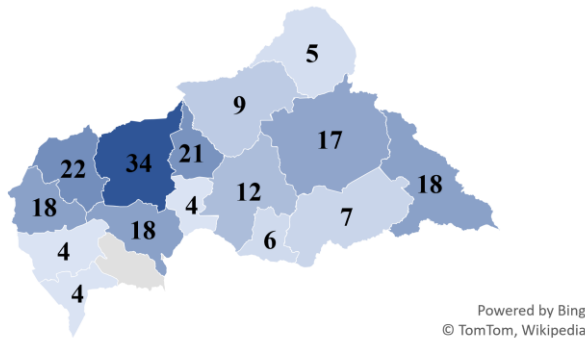
Main Trends

In total, **199 human rights violations and abuses** as well as breaches of IHL **affecting 253 victims (including 24 women, 11 girls, 20 boys, one minor of undetermined gender and 28 groups of collective victims)** were documented in January 2024. This constitutes a **46% decrease** in the number of violations and a **32% decrease** in the number of victims compared to December 2023.

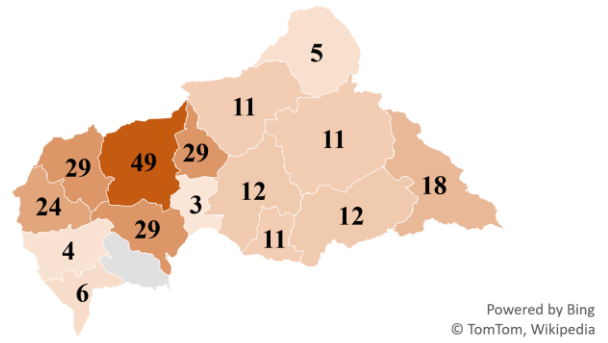
During the reporting period, State actors were responsible for 53% of all violations and 54% of the victims.

⁶ In December 2023, 369 violations and abuses affecting 372 victims were documented.

Number of confirmed violations per prefecture

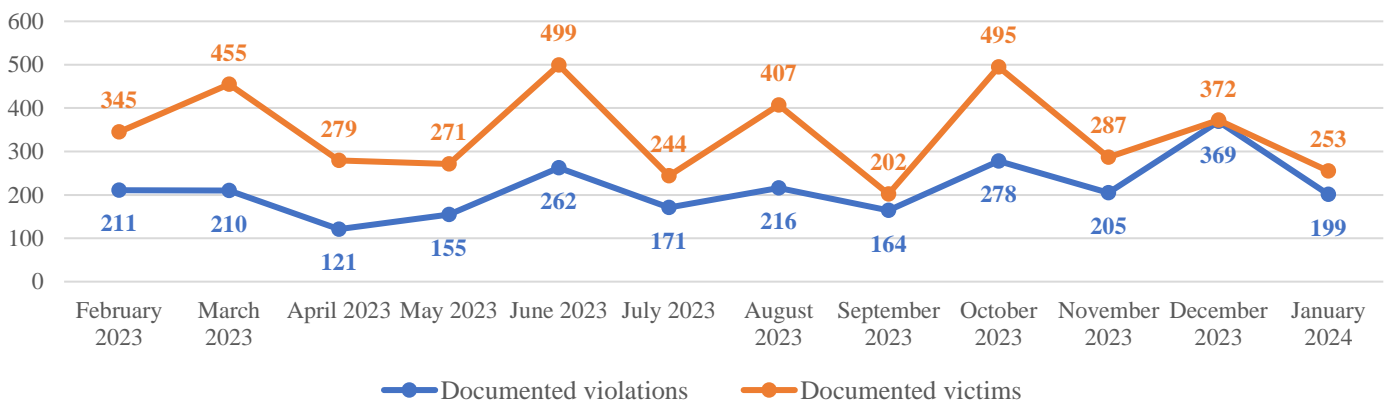


Number of confirmed victims per prefecture



15. Consistent with previous months, the most common types of violations and abuses were arbitrary arrest and detention (22%), destruction and appropriation of property (13%), and ill-treatment (11%). Men were the main victims of arbitrary arrest and/or detention (49%), destruction or appropriation of property (26%) and ill-treatment (17%). Women were victims of rape (54%), destruction and appropriation of property (21%), and ill-treatment (17%); girls were victims of rape (56%), and abduction (27%) while boys were victims of killing (30%), arbitrary arrest and detention (25%) and conditions of detention that do not respect national and international standards including the separation of minors from adults (25%).

Evolution of documented violations and victims



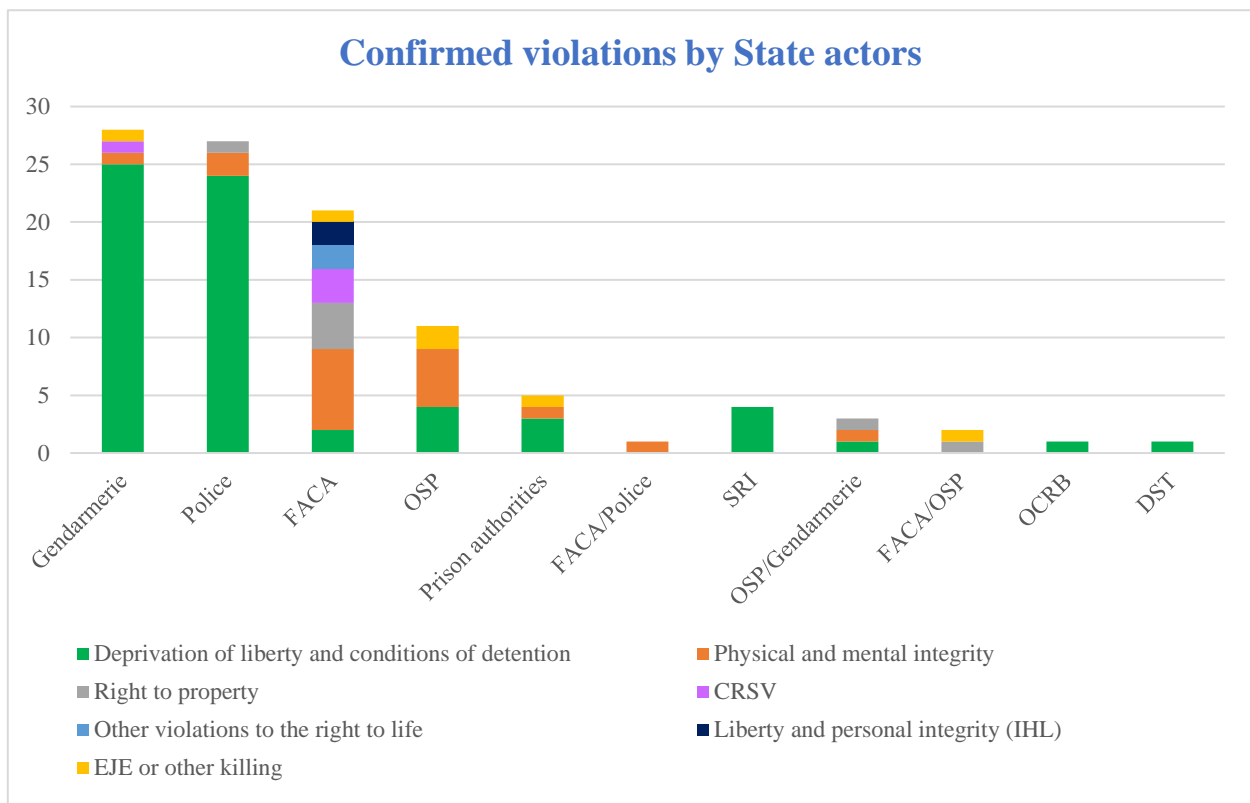
Overview of violations by type of perpetrator

16. **For the period under review, State actors committed 104 human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law affecting 136 victims** (including four women, four girls, 13 boys and 12 groups of collective victims). In comparison to December 2023, the number of violations committed by state actors increased by 28% but the number of victims increased by 1%.⁷
17. The **main violations committed by State actors included arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention** that do not comply with national and international standards (63% of all violations committed by state actors) and violations of the **right of physical and mental integrity**⁸ (17% of all violations). The Gendarmerie (28 violations and 51 victims) and Police (27 violations and 44 victims) were the actors who committed the most violations affecting the most victims.

⁷ In December, State actors committed 81 violations affecting 135 victims.

⁸ Violations related to the right of physical and mental integrity include ill-treatment, torture and maiming and injuries.

18. Most of the violations took place in the **Kaga**⁹ (particularly in **Nana-Gribizi** and **Ouaka** prefectures) and the **Yadé**¹⁰ (**Ouham-Pendé** and **Ouham** prefectures) regions.



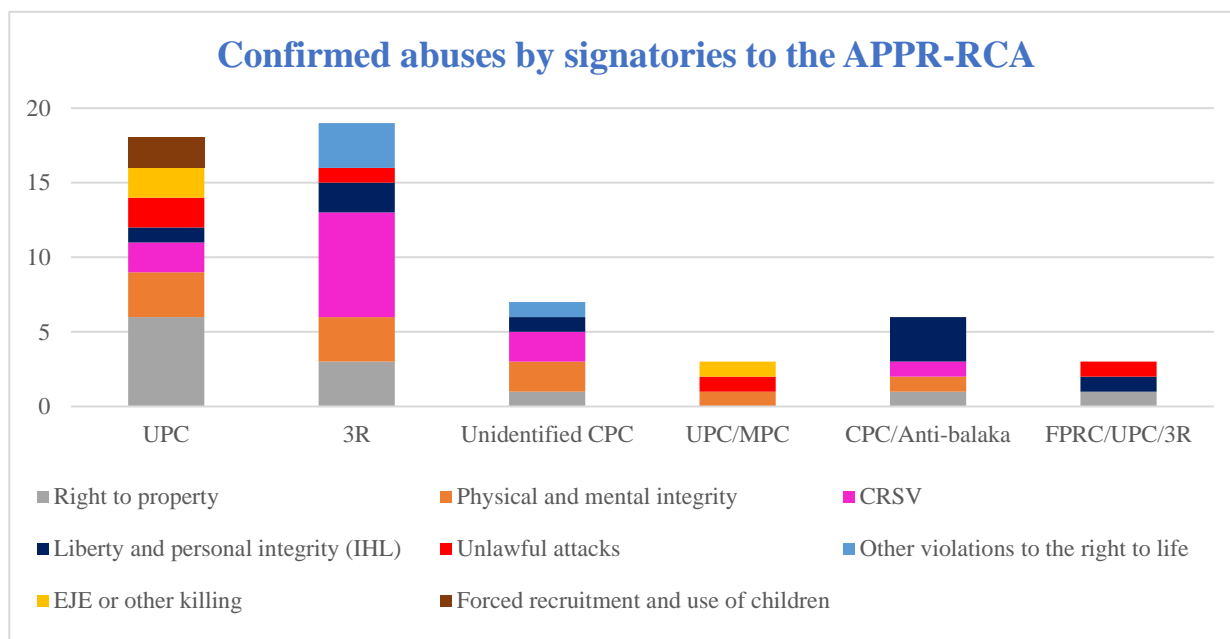
19. **Armed groups signatories to the *Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation en République Centrafricaine* (APPR-RCA) were responsible for 56 human rights abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law affecting 82 victims** (including 20 women, four girls, four boys, one minor of undetermined gender and eight groups of collective victims). This reflects a 43% decrease in abuses and a 19% decrease in victims compared to December 2023.¹¹
20. **The most common types of abuses committed by armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA were destruction or appropriation of property (12), rape (10), and abduction (five).** Fifty-seven per cent (57%) of these abuses took place in the **Yadé** region (39% in **Ouham** and 18% in **Ouham-Pendé** prefectures).
21. **Among armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA, the UPC was the main perpetrator.** The UPC committed 24 abuses affecting 30 victims – 18 of these abuses were perpetrated by the UPC acting alone while six of these abuses occurred while acting jointly with the *Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique* (MPC), and with the *Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique* (FPRC) and the 3R. The UPC was primarily responsible for destruction or appropriation of property

⁹ The Kaga region registered 24 violations (14 violations in Nana-Gribizi and 10 violations in Ouaka prefectures affecting respectively 23 and 10 victims).

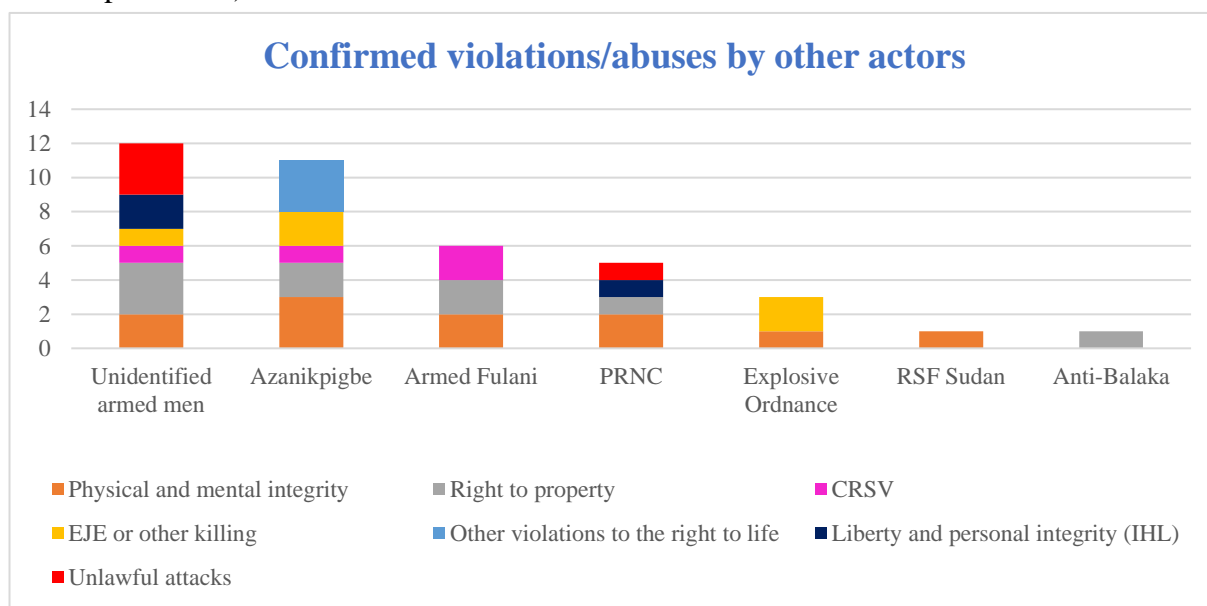
¹⁰ The Yadé region registered 24 violations (Ouham-Pendé and Ouham prefectures 12 violations each affecting respectively 18 and 11 victims).

¹¹ In December, armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA were responsible for 99 human rights abuses and breaches of IHL affecting 101 victims.

(six), killings, rape, recruitment and use of children, illegal occupation, and attacks on a school (two abuses each).



22. **Other actors, including armed groups non-signatories to the APPR-RCA and self-defence groups, were responsible for 39 abuses affecting 35 victims** (including three women, two girls, three boys and eight groups of collective victims). This represents a decrease of 79% in abuses and a 75% decrease in victims compared to December 2023.¹² The common types of violations committed by these groups were destruction or appropriation of property (nine), ill-treatment (six), and killings (five). Unidentified armed men were responsible for 12 of these abuses (affecting 10 victims) including, among others, killing, abduction, attacks against protected persons, and denial of humanitarian relief. Additionally, the Azande Ani Kpi Gbe were responsible for 11 abuses (eight victims) including killings, ill-treatment, and destruction or appropriation of property. Most abuses took place in the regions of **Fertit**¹³ (18 abuses affecting 18 victims) and of **Haut-Oubangui** (11 abuses affecting eight victims, including victims of multiple violations, all committed in Haut-Mbomou prefecture).



¹² In December 2023, armed groups non-signatories to the APPR-RCA and self-defence groups, were responsible for 189 abuses and breaches of IHL affecting 141 victims.

¹³ Bamingui-Bangoran (nine abuses), Haute-Kotto (five abuses), and Vakaga (four abuses).

Analysis of the main types of violations/abuses documented in January

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV)

23. In January, the HRD documented a total of 23 cases of CRSV,¹⁴ affecting 27 victims (17 women, nine girls, and one group of collective victims) with most incidents happening in December 2023 and January 2024. The **Yadé** region remains the most affected with 11 violations affecting 16 victims (seven violations affecting nine victims in **Ouham-Pendé** and four violations affecting seven victims in **Ouham** prefectures). The 3R are the main perpetrators of CRSV (eight abuses), executing a pattern of rape or attempted rape of women and girls on the road, in the field, or in the bush. For instance, on 10 January, in Ndjondjom, **Ouham-Pendé** prefecture, six 3R elements ill-treated and raped a 40-year-old woman in retaliation for a cattle theft targeting a Fulani herder by inhabitants of this locality. This happened during an attack by 3R on the said village.
24. In addition, **armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA** were responsible for 12 CRSV abuses affecting 13 women and four girls. Other armed groups were responsible for four abuses affecting three victims.
25. **State actors** were involved in four violations of CRSV affecting four girls with FACA elements being responsible for three of them. Unlike the 3R who will frequently commit CRSV abuses in open fields, FACA soldiers will often commit these types of violations in closed spaces, such as within or around their barracks or within the victims' homes.

Violation/abuse of the right to life

26. During the reporting period, the HRD documented 23 violations/abuses of the right to life¹⁵ affecting 37 victims, including the killing of 15 persons (11 men and four boys), the death of three children (two boys and one girl) due to explosive ordnance and the death in custody of one inmate. The **Yadé** region was the most affected (eight violations and 20 victims), in particular **Ouham** and **Ouham-Pendé** prefectures.
27. The **Azandé Ani Kpi Gbé** was responsible for most of the abuses, perpetrated exclusively in the **Haut-Mbomou** prefecture of the **Haut-Oubangui** region (five abuses affecting five victims). These abuses included two extrajudicial executions, two attempted extrajudicial executions, and one death threat. However, 3R were responsible for most of the victims (12, 11 of which were victims of death threats). Of note, **FACA** elements and **OSP**, accounted for three victims each, and four additional victims when acting jointly, altogether resulting in the killing of eight men. For instance, on 11 January, OSP and FACA arrived in Bossa and Bodala (50 km from Bozoum, 170 km from Paoua, Ouham-Pendé), firing gunshots and causing panic among the population. They killed four men, all civilians, looted houses and took away 13 motorcycles belonging to the inhabitants. Following a negotiation with the Prefect of Ouham, the motorcycles were returned on 24 January against payment of 13,000 XAF (around 22 USD). They also extorted the inhabitants of the villages of a sum of 5,000,000 XAF (around 8,333 USD).

Deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention

28. During the reporting period, the HRD documented 65 violations related to the deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention¹⁶ affecting 108 victims (involving 86 men, three women, nine boys, and 10 groups of collective victims). Most of these violations are linked to detention beyond the legal time limits for police custody namely arbitrary detention (34 violations affecting 79 victims). The

¹⁴ The CRSV violations/abuses include rape, attempted rape, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy, forced marriage, attempted forced marriage, forced nudity, and sexual assault and harassment.

¹⁵ The violations of right to life comprises extrajudicial or summary execution and other killings, attempted killings, enforced disappearances, deaths in custody, and death threats.

¹⁶ Deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention include Arbitrary arrest and detention, and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international minimum standards (food shortage, non-separation: adults/minors - by gender - sentenced/indicted, access to WASH, and inhuman conditions of detention.

main perpetrators include the gendarmerie (29 violations and 51 victims) and the police (25 violations and 43 victims).

29. The **Plateaux/Bas-Oubangui** regions¹⁷ were the most affected in terms of violations and victims (14 violations and 23 victims). This can be explained by a higher number of detention facilities in this area (47, including five prisons), and by the fact that some people arrested in other prefectures are transferred to Bangui. In some prefectures, extended police custody beyond legal time limits is due to the prolonged absence of judicial authorities. In Paoua, **Lim-Pendé** prefecture, the absence of the public prosecutor and the president of the Tribunal de Grande Instance and in Bambari, Ouaka prefecture, the absence of the public prosecutor constitute some of the challenges in addressing prolonged detention.
30. Meanwhile, detention conditions continue to need attention. Overcrowding in prisons (192% in *Maison centrale* of Bambari, **Ouaka** prefecture, 498% in Ngaragba, Bangui¹⁸) and low budget allocations for feeding and healthcare are leading to severe malnutrition and the spread of contagious diseases. For instance, a scabies epidemic was observed in the gendarmerie in Kaga-Bandoro, **Nana-Gribizi** prefecture, and the *Section des Recherches et d'Investigation* (SRI) in Bangui. These poor conditions of detention led to the death of one inmate in the *Maison centrale* of Bambari on 26 January. MINUSCA continues to engage relevant authorities for remedial action.

Violation/abuse of the right to liberty and personal integrity

31. During the period under review, the HRD documented 12 violations and abuses of the right to liberty and personal integrity¹⁹ affecting 37 victims including incidents of abduction (nine affecting 18 victims). The **Yadé** region (five violations affecting 22 victims) was the most affected in terms of both numbers of violations and victims.
32. The **3R** and **Anti-Balaka** affiliated to the CPC were the main perpetrators (two abuses). On 15 January, armed elements of the 3R abducted five artisanal miners during an attack on a gold mining site near the Mambéré river (125 km of Bouar) on the Bouar-Baboua road, **Nana-Mambéré** prefecture. They requested the payment of a ransom for their release. **Armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA** committed nine abuses affecting 35 victims while the **armed groups non signatories of the APPR-RCA** were responsible for three abuses affecting four victims.

Violation/abuse of the right to physical and mental integrity

33. During the period under review, the HRD documented 40 violations and abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity,²⁰ affecting 61 victims. These include ill-treatment (22 violations affecting 36 victims), maiming and injuries (nine violations affecting 16 victims), and torture (five violations affecting six victims). Of note, 25 victims of ill-treatment were also subjected to other violations, including death threat, appropriation of property, abduction or deprivation of liberty. The **Fertit** region was the most affected in terms of violations (11 violations, including seven in **Haute-Kotto** prefecture) while the **Yadé** region was the most affected with regards to the number of victims (22 victims, including 20 in **Ouham** prefecture). State actors were responsible for 18 violations affecting 21 victims. On 18 January, two FACA elements physically assaulted a man leading to his death in Léré (36 km north of Bossangoa). They were later arrested and detained at the gendarmerie.
34. **Armed groups altogether and explosive ordnance** caused 22 abuses and 40 victims (including 11 abuses and 29 victims for AAPP-RCA signatories). Main perpetrators include the **3R** (four exactions

¹⁷ The Plateaux/Bas-Oubangui regions includes the Ombella M'Poko and Lobaye prefectures, and Bangui.

¹⁸ Statistics provided by Justice & Correction Section as of 17 January 2024.

¹⁹ The right to liberty and personal integrity includes abduction, Deprivation of liberty, and hostage-taking (violations and breaches of international humanitarian law).

²⁰ The right to physical and mental integrity includes torture, ill-treatment, maiming and injuries, and threats on physical and mental integrity.

affecting 10 victims) for the signatories of the APPR-RCA, the **Azandé Ani Kpi Gbé** (three exactions affecting two victims) for the other actors and the **FACA** (seven violations affecting seven victims).

Violation/abuse of the right to property and unlawful attacks

35. The HRD documented 28 violations of the right to property²¹ affecting 60 victims. The destruction or appropriation of property was the main violation with 27 cases affecting 59 victims. In most cases, violations to the right to property are coupled with other violations, including abduction, arbitrary arrest and detention and other deprivations of liberty, ill-treatment and threats to physical and mental integrity. **Yadé** and **Fertit** were the most affected regions, both in terms of violations (seven) and victims (23 and 10 victims respectively).
36. The **UPC** was the main perpetrator, being responsible for six abuses, affecting 10 victims. On 24 January, in Ouanda-Djallé (160 km south of Birao), in the **Vakaga** prefecture, armed UPC elements threatened the population of Soulemaka (17 km of Ouanda-Djallé) before stealing around 117 oxen. On 25 January, other UPC elements ambushed four men in the same locality and stole their motorcycles.
37. The **armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA** were responsible 12 abuses affecting 41 victims while other **armed groups non signatories of the APPR-RCA** were involved in nine abuses affecting 12 victims. Of the seven violations (affecting seven victims) attributed to state actors, FACA was responsible four violations affecting four victims).

Children in Armed Conflict

38. The CTFMR verified 20 grave child rights violations affecting 14 children (seven boys and seven girls). There was an 86% decrease in grave violations and an 80% decrease in victims directly affected, compared to the previous reporting period, during which 143 violations affecting 71 children were documented. The decrease in grave violations could be explained by increased movement of armed groups, particularly in **Haut-Mbomou, Ouham** and **Vakaga** Prefectures, which is negatively affecting the CTFMR's ability to monitor and report on grave child rights violations. Moreover, the increased use of explosive ordinances and ongoing military operations by governmental forces and OSP create additional access challenges. Also, there was a high number of late-verified cases of violations and children victims of multiple violations during the previous reporting period.
39. Sixty percent (60%) of the violations (12) occurred outside the reporting period but were only verified during the period under review. Armed groups were responsible for 45% of the violations (nine), governmental forces for 25% (five), and unidentified armed individuals for 30% (six). Two girls were victims of abduction and rape.
40. Violations documented included: recruitment and use (two), killing (six), maiming (two), rape and other forms of sexual violence (four), abduction (two), attacks against schools (three), and denial of humanitarian access (one). Armed groups committed (nine) violations: CPC factions (nine): UPC (six), and 3R (three). FACA committed (five); and unidentified armed individuals (six). **Ouham-Fafa** was the most affected prefecture with five violations, followed by **Lim-Pende** with four, **Haut-**

Act to Protect Campaign

Through the “**Act to Protect**” campaign, **360 peacekeepers** (306 men and 54 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 **2,059 (1,361 men and 698 women) community members and leaders, youth leaders, members of local peace committees, INGOs, NGOs, FACA, ISF and local authorities.**

²¹ The right of property includes destruction or appropriation of property and illegal taxation.

Mbomou and **Ombella-M’Poko** with three each, **Ouaka** two, **Nana-Gribizi**, **Nana-Mambéré**, and **Vakaga** with one each.

Human Rights Promotion and Capacity-Building

41. During the period under review, the HRD organised 84 activities (awareness raising and capacity building workshops), jointly with partners in some instances. The sessions were organised in 13 prefectures²², benefitting 3,976 individuals (of whom about 1,441 were women and girls), including representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs), IDPs, state actors (FACA, Internal Security Forces – ISF –, prison authorities, etc.), detainees, local human rights forum, community, and religious leaders. They focused on human rights and international humanitarian law including CRSV and grave child rights violations.
42. The HRD conducted 57 monitoring visits to detention centres in 11 prefectures²³ and documented 94 victims of illegal detention.
43. On 12 January, with the aim of supporting CAR in its collaboration with Treaty body mechanisms and the Human Rights Council as well as in preparation for the UPR process and examination of CAR’s report by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the HRD held an information session for the CAR delegation including the Minister of Justice, Minister of Gender and the President of the National Commission for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. In addition, on 19 January, jointly with the regional office for Central Africa of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR-CARO) and UN Women, the HRD participated in another information session aimed at presenting the procedure for submitting and reviewing periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). CAR’s submission to this Committee is scheduled for 8 February 2024, during the 87th session.

Human Rights Due Diligence Policy

44. During the period under consideration, MINUSCA conducted **30** risk assessments related to MINUSCA’s support to the 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 **138** beneficiaries including **113** ISF (**30** Police officers and **83** Gendarmes), **seven** FACA, **eight** prison officers from the Ministry of Justice, and **10** Members of Parliament. Among the risk assessments conducted, **two** were for logistical, financial, and technical support to the Inspector General of the National Army (IGAN) and the donation of equipment to the regional gendarmerie of Kaga-Bandoro. Beneficiaries were also provided with logistical, operational, and technical support including air transportation and trainings.
45. The risk identified in these assessments were deemed **low**. Based on these assessments, MINUSCA support was approved with a set of recommendations and mitigation measures. These verifications allowed MINUSCA’s UNPOL and the Security Sector Reform Service to organize two training sessions for ISF officers focusing on community Policing and National Security Sector Reform Strategy, National Security Policy, Gender, and sexual gender-based violence. These trainings are set to increase the awareness of officers stationed in Kaga-Bandoro and Ndélé.
46. MINUSCA transported non-UN security forces either on redeployment or on missions to Bangassou, Bangui, Batangafo, Berberati, Birao, Boda, Bossangoa, Bouar, Bouca, Bria, Kaba, Kaga-Bandoro, Markounda, Moyenne-Sido, Nanga-Boguila, Ndélé, Obo, Ouadda, Sam-Ouandja, Sibut, Zemio. Finally, MINUSCA UNPOL component is conducting pre-deployment trainings for ISF benefiting from MINUSCA’s support.

²² The prefectures are as follows: Bamingui-Bangoran; Bangui; Haute-Kotto; Haut-Mbomou; Mambéré-Kadéï; Mbomou; Nana-Gribizi; Nana-Mambéré; Ombella M’Poko; Ouham; Ouaka; Ouham-Pendé; and Vakaga.

²³ The prefectures are as follows: Basse-Kotto; Haut-Mbomou; Mambéré-Kadéï; Mbomou; Nana-Gribizi; Nana-Mambéré; Ombella M’Poko; Ouham; Ouaka; Ouham-Pendé; and Sangha-Mbaéré.