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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

June 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 June 2023. Incidents that could not be verified are not included. Ordinary crimes are also excluded from this report.*

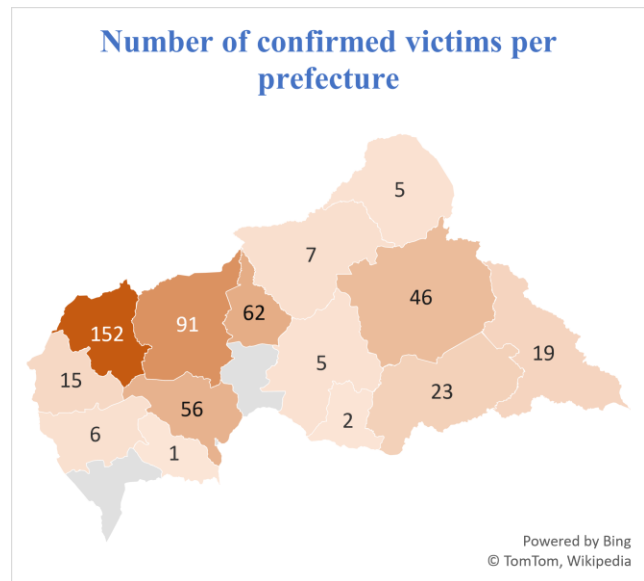
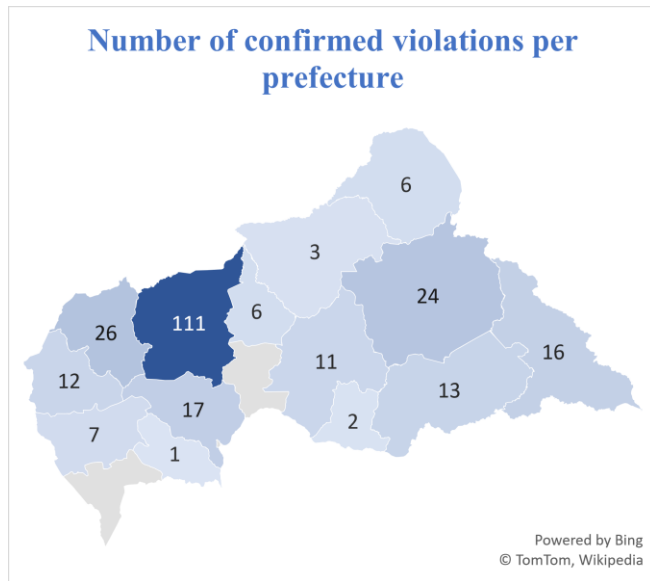
*This information is shared locally as well as nationally with the CAR's authorities and partners.*

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

1. During the month of June 2023, the MINUSCA Human Rights Division (HRD), including the Office of the Senior Women Protection Advisor (OSWPA) and the Child Protection Unit (CPU), documented and verified 255 human rights violations and abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL), affecting 490 civilian victims (with at least 64 women, 59 girls, 124 boys, and 20 groups of collective victims). This includes 63 victims who suffered multiple violations. Out of the 255 violations documented this month, 130 occurred in June 2023. The HRD also recorded 30 allegations of human rights violations and abuses affecting at least 36 victims (including 12 women, and two groups of collective victims), which were still being verified at the end of June and were therefore not included in this report.

Main Trends
In total, <b>255 human rights violations and abuses</b> as well as breaches of IHL <b>affecting 490 victims (with at least 64 women, 59 girls, 124 boys, and 20 groups of collective victims)</b> were documented in June 2023. This constitutes an <b>increase</b> in both the number of violations and in the number of victims compared to May 2023.
2. In June, the number of violations has increased by 70% compared to May 2023, which can be explained in part by the deterioration of the security situation throughout the country and the documentation of 107 violations affecting 85 victims during an investigation mission in Ouham prefecture, which also explains the 88% increase in the number of victims in comparison to May. In addition, a 13% increase in the number of victims of arbitrary arrest and detention and conditions of detention that don't meet the minimum standards, and the high number of children victims of recruitment and use by armed groups, also explain this increase.

3. Out of the total 490 victims, most were men (223), followed by boys (124), women (64) and girls (59). In addition, there were 20 groups of collective victims.
4. The **Ouham-Pendé** prefecture was the most affected in terms of victims (26 violations and 152 victims), which is partly due to the confirmation of recruitment and use of children and the increase in attacks perpetrated by the anti-Balaka, while **Ouham** prefecture registered the highest number of violations (111 violations and 91 victims), largely attributable to the confirmation of violations and abuses perpetrated from 2020 to 2023 in an area of that prefecture which was earlier not accessible due to the security situation.



5. In June, the most common types of violations and abuses documented, included arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that don't meet the minimum standards (21%), appropriation of property (17%), conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) (15%), summary and extrajudicial executions and other types of killings (13%) and violations and abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity (12%).
6. Men were most likely to be victims of arbitrary arrest and detention (159), extrajudicial and summary executions and other types of killings (33), appropriation of property (20) and torture (12). Women suffered from CRSV (26 victims including 19 victims of rape), as well as abduction (14) and ill-treatment (nine) while girls suffered mostly from recruitment and use of children (38), CRSV (14 victims including 12 victims of rape) and abduction (six). Boys suffered mostly from recruitment and use of children (81), arbitrary arrests and detention (20) and abduction (10).

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

7. **State actors were responsible for 128 violations affecting 302 victims (including 20 women, 22 girls, 59 boys and 15 groups of collective victims).** For the period under review, the number of human rights violations and breaches of international law committed by **State actors** increased by 27% compared to May 2023. A 42% increase in the number of victims attributable to State actors is also noted. Most of the violations committed by State actors took place in the **Ouham** prefecture (42 violations affecting 40 victims) followed by the **Nana-Grébizi** (seven violations affecting 59 victims). The most common type of violation committed by **State actors** were those associated with detention, including arbitrary arrest and/or detention (53 violations), appropriation of property (26

violations) as well as violations of the right to life with 18 cases of extrajudicial executions and other types of killings.

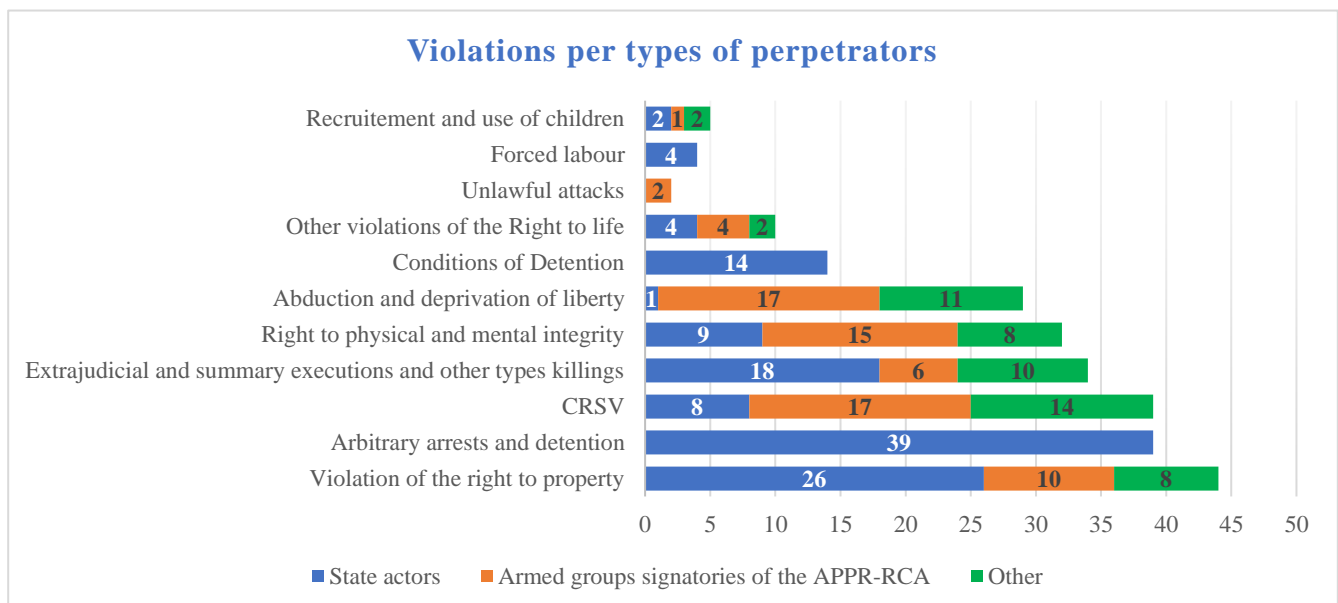
8. **Armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA were responsible for 72 human rights abuses and breaches of IHL affecting 139 victims (including 28 women, 27 girls, 58 boys and four groups of collective victims).** The number of human rights abuses and breaches of international law committed by armed groups signatories to the *Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation en République Centrafricaine* (APPR-RCA) increased by 125% while the number of victims increased by 415% compared to May (32 abuses affecting 27 victims then). The **Ouham** prefecture was the most affected by abuses of human rights committed by armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA (32 violations affecting 23 victim). The **Ouham-Pendé** prefecture registered the most victims due to a high number of victims documented in June in areas previously not accessible to MINUSCA due to the security situation (see above-mentioned investigation mission). The most common types of abuses committed by armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA were abduction and deprivation of liberty (17 abuses), abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity, including ill-treatment (12 abuses of the 15 documented), and cases of CRSV (17 abuses).
  
9. **Additional documented abuses include self-defence groups and other armed groups non-signatories of the APPR-RCA.** In this regard, 55 abuses were committed by other actors, affecting a total of 50 victims<sup>1</sup> (including 17 women, 10 girls, seven boys and one group of collective victims). Most cases committed by other actors were related to right to life (12 abuses affecting 16 victims), CRSV (14 abuses affecting 14 victims) and cases of deprivation of liberty and abduction (11 cases affecting 15 victims). Unidentified armed men were responsible for 39 abuses, affecting 31 victims.



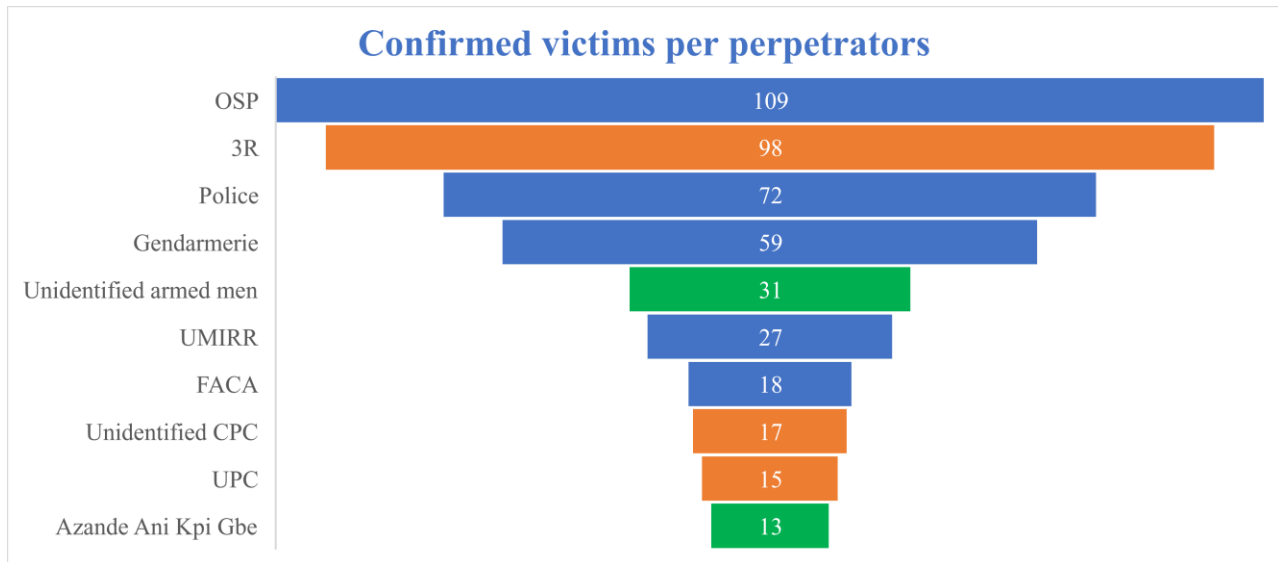
<sup>1</sup> The number of violations is higher than the number of victims because some of the victims were subject to multiple violations.

These cases were related to unlawful attacks against civilians and other protected persons, abduction, and appropriation of property.

10. Among the main perpetrators, the other security personnel (OSP) were responsible for 56 violations affecting 109 victims. They were mainly responsible for violations of human rights linked to the conditions of detention including cases of arbitrary arrests and detention. In addition, the HRD documented four cases of forced labour affecting 10 victims. They are also responsible of 14 extrajudicial executions and other types of killings (14 victims) and five cases of CRSV affecting five victims. During the period under review, the HRD documented during an investigation mission, 40 violations affecting 37 victims perpetrated by the OSP in 2021 and 2022 in the **Ouham** prefecture. Other types of violations such as violations of the right to physical and mental integrity were committed along with the cases of arbitrary arrests and detention. Also, in PK5 neighbourhood in Bangui, six men, including five Chadian nationals, were arrested without any apparent reasons by four OSP elements, and five of them were detained at the *Office Central pour la Répression du Banditisme* (OCRB). They were eventually released following the Chadian Embassy intervention. The sixth victim, a Central African national, was detained along with another Muslim citizen at the Camp de Roux in Bangui. They were both tortured by the OSP in order to obtain a confession on their supposed collaboration with armed groups and their location. Not having found evidence of collusion with the armed groups, the OSP requested the payment of the sum of 750 000 XAF (around 1,254 USD) in exchange for their release. After the family was able to negotiate the price, the OSP lowered the requested payment to 450 000 XAF (around 752 USD).
11. The second main perpetrator after the OSP was the *Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation* (3R) armed group with 26 abuses affecting 98 victims. They were mainly responsible for abduction and deprivation of liberty (seven abuses affecting 15 victims), abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity (eight abuses affecting 11 victims) and five cases of CRSV affecting nine victims. The HRD was also able to verify the recruitment and use of 68 children (48 boys and 20 girls). The cases of abduction were often committed along with abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity while the cases of CRSV were often perpetrated under death threat. In June, in the **Ouham-Pendé** prefecture, an 18-year-old woman and her six sisters, aged from 19 to 25 years old, were working in their field when seven 3R combatants stopped them, beat the 18-year-old woman, and abducted her six sisters. Until now, their whereabouts are unknown.



12. The Gendarmerie and the Police are the third and fourth main perpetrators. It should be noted that most of the violations they perpetrated are linked to the conditions of detention not respecting the minimum standards and to cases of prolonged detention beyond the legal time-limit for custody set by Central African law (72 hours). Out of the 46 violations affecting 131 victims documented for the gendarmerie and the police, 39 violations affecting 128 victims were linked to conditions of detention and arbitrary detention. During the month of June, the HRD documented the death of a detainee due to ill-treatment perpetrated by the Gendarmerie in the **Mbomou** prefecture. The Gendarmerie had arrested a 26-year-old man on suspicion of theft. The gendarme officers brought him back to the gendarmerie where they tied his hands and feet and beat him for four hours. The victim died from his injuries. The gendarme officers found him the next morning.



## Geographical Analysis

13. The **Western sector** was the most affected sector with 174 violations affecting 321 victims representing 68% of all the human rights violations and abuses documented in June 2023. The large number of violations and victims is not only due to the investigation mission led by HRD in the **Ouham** prefecture but can also be attributed to the verification and documentation of 119 victims of recruitment and use of children documented in the **Ouham-Pendé** prefecture and the number of arbitrary detention cases documented in Bangui, mostly perpetrated by the Gendarmerie (three violations for 13 victims) and with the larger number of victims due to the *Unité Mixte d'Intervention Rapide et de Répression des violences sexuelles faites aux femmes et aux enfants* (UMIRR) (one violation affecting 27 victims). The 3R were the main perpetrator of human rights abuses in the Western sector with 26 abuses affecting 98 victims. They were responsible mostly for recruitment and use of children, abduction, rape, and ill-treatment. In addition, the OSP were responsible for 49 violations of human rights affecting 92 victims mostly due to arbitrary arrest and detention (in Bangui, Mambéré-Kadeï and Nana-Mambéré prefectures). The HRD also documented cases of torture (3 victims) and confirmed the recruitment and use of 44 children (28 boys and 16 girls) by the OSP.

14. In the **Central sector**, the HRD documented 22 violations and abuses of human rights affecting 76 victims. The most affected prefecture is the **Nana-Grébizi** with six violations of human rights affecting 62 victims. This is mostly due to the cases of arbitrary arrests and detention and conditions of detention that do not meet the minimum standards perpetrated by the Police and the Gendarmerie,

the two main perpetrators in the area (respectively five violations affecting 47 victims and nine violations affecting 25 victims).

15. In the **Eastern sector**, the HRD documented 59 violations affecting 93 victims. It is the most affected sector after the West of the country. The most affected prefecture is the **Haute-Kotto** due among others to 10 victims of forced labour committed by the OSP, 19 victims of arbitrary arrest and detention committed by the gendarmerie, the police and the OSP, and eight victims of abduction committed by the *Union pour la Paix en Centrafrique* (UPC).

## Security and political context in June 2023

16. During the month of June, one of the most worrying trends documented by the HRD was the violations and abuses of power perpetrated by *Forces armées centrafricaines* (FACA). The HRD documented allegations of abuse of power and the impunity enjoyed by FACA across the country. In some areas, such as the **Nana-Grébizi** prefecture, they were taking over the *Internal Security Forces* (ISF) duties. The civilian population asked them and/or pay them to arrest and detain perpetrators of crime or offenses. The HRD also documented cases of ill-treatment committed by FACA on civilians. In response, the HRD raised awareness among the FACA in Kaga-Bandoro (Nana-Grébizi) on the limits of their prerogatives. The HRD documented reported allegations of human rights violations perpetrated by FACA in the **Western sector**, notably in the **Ouham-Pendé** prefecture, where for instance, two different battalions allegedly committed torture, extortion, ill-treatment and rape. During the month of June, the HRD documented cases of torture committed by a FACA officer in the **Ouham-Pendé** prefecture, who not only arbitrarily arrested, detained and tortured a 38-year-old man on suspicion of witchcraft but also arbitrarily arrested and detained a 45-year-old man and tortured him to death. FACA officers were also responsible for two cases of rape on girls. In the **Ombella M’Poko** prefecture, one FACA raped and transmitted HIV to a 15-year-old girl. He is now detained at the UMIRR.
17. The security situation was deteriorating in the **Western sector**, especially in the northern part of the **Mambéré-Kadeï** and southern part of the **Nana-Mambéré** prefectures, where the State forces are absent, leaving the civilian population vulnerable to human rights abuses by armed groups. In the **Ouham-Pendé** prefecture, following the joint operation of Chadian armed force and the FACA aimed at expulsing the *Mouvement des révolutionnaires sudistes Tchadiens* (MRST) from Bénermé, some combatants were reportedly suspected of being part of the MRST, after being seen in a few localities (including Koundé) and to be forming an alliance with the 3R. Reports indicated that MRST elements committed human rights abuses including the rape of a woman by multiple combatants. The HRD also documented the summary execution of a 14-year-old boy by the MRST combatants.
18. In the **Central sector**, the security situation was mostly stable this month. The HRD documented abuses of power by FACA in the **Nana-Grébizi** (*see para 16 hereabove*). The HRD documented transhumance-related incidents with a high number of abuses of the right to property perpetrated by armed groups on herders, especially in the **Kémo** prefecture. In addition, the UPC is active in the **Ouaka** and **Basse-Kotto** prefecture where they were restricting the freedom of movement of civilians by establishing illegal barriers on main axes.
19. In the **Eastern sector**, the security situation was still precarious, especially in the **Vakaga** prefecture where the Sudanese crisis continues to have an impact on the protection of civilians. The HRD documented attacks on humanitarian convoys on the Am-Dafock axis. In addition, on that same axis, unidentified armed men attacked a non-governmental organisations (NGO) humanitarian convoy and stole their vehicle. The HRD also documented attacks on mining sites by the *Coalition des Patriotes*



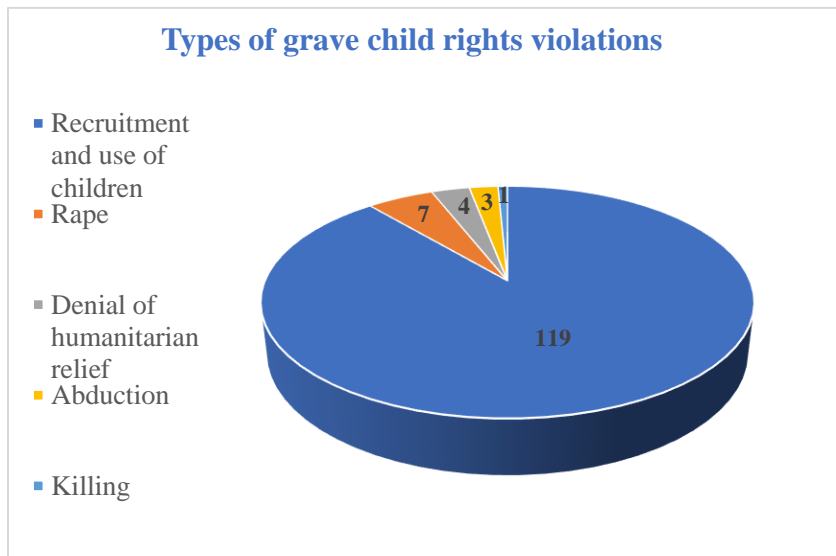
*pour le Changement* (CPC). In the **Haut-Mbomou** prefecture, the Azande Ani Kpi Gbe self-defence group continued to commit human rights abuses on the civilian population including abduction, rape, torture, and appropriation of property. The **Haute-Kotto** prefecture was the most affected prefecture in the Sector due to the activities of the UPC (mostly abduction and deprivation of liberty) and cases of illegal arrests and detention perpetrated by the police, the gendarmerie and the OSP.

### Civic Space

20. During the month of June, the HRD documented discrimination practices against the Fulani and Muslims populations. for a Fulani and Muslim experienced additional difficulties in obtaining identification documents as the authorities were asking them for additional documents, such as parents’ birth certificates, and payments. This posed challenges, especially for internally displaced persons. The HRD documented this practice across the country and the authorities in **Mambéré-Kadeï** and **Ombella M’Poko** prefectures confirmed this situation. The HRD met with the Police Commissioner in Berbérati (**Mambéré-Kadeï**) who reiterated that Muslims are required to present additional documents such as parents’ birth certificates, to have their identity cards issued. This trend has serious consequences on the civil and political rights of the Muslim and Fulani civilians, especially, in the light of the upcoming referendum at the date of this report. The Commissioner stated that the reason for this practice was that foreigners and CAR Muslims were at the origin of the conflict and hence were not to be trusted. In addition, in the **Mambéré-Kadeï** prefecture, the HRD documented hate speech against the Muslim and Fulani communities by authorities in Berbérati.
21. In terms of monitoring civic space in relation to hate speech and incitement to violence, the HRD observed disinformation campaigns focused mainly on the (then upcoming) referendum on constitutional change and the Sudanese refugee crisis. Political parties who continued their campaigns, either for or against the referendum, disseminated misinformation. Since the announcement of the Constitutional referendum, individuals, political parties and associations that are part of the opposition have been victims of threats, intimidation and police harassment.

### Children in Armed Conflict

22. The Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) verified 138 grave child rights violations affecting 134 children (86 boys and 48 girls). The marked increase in grave violations during the month of June compared to May 2023 (12 violations affecting six children then) is due to the high number of self-demobilized children (119), including those formerly associated to the 3R (86), and children (51) used by governmental forces and OSP (respectively 43 children used by OSP and eight by FACA). Ninety-one percent (91%) of the violations (126) occurred outside the reporting period and were confirmed during the period under review. Armed groups were responsible



for 59% of the violations (82), governmental forces and OSP 39% of the violations (54) and unidentified armed individuals for 2% of the violations (2).

23. Violations documented included: recruitment and use (119), killing (one), maiming (four), rape (seven), abduction (three) and denial of humanitarian access (four). Armed groups committed (82) violations: 3R/faction (68); CPC factions (10): 3R (four), UPC (two), unidentified CPC (two), 3R/AB (one) and FPRC/PRNC (one); Azande self-defence group (three) and the Révolutionnaires Sudistes du Tchad (one). Governmental forces and OSP committed (54) violations: OSP (43), FACA (10) and ISF (one); and unidentified armed individuals (two). **Ouham-Pendé** was the most affected prefecture with (121) violations, followed by **Basse-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Nana-Mambere** and **Vakaga** (three each), **Ouaka** (two), and **Bangui, Lim-Pende** and **Lobaye** (one each).

Act to Protect Campaign
Through the “ <b>Act to Protect</b> ” campaign, <b>215 peacekeepers</b> (184 men and 31 women) were trained on the protection of children during armed conflict including on monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children. Similar trainings and awareness sessions were conducted for <b>677 community members and leaders as well as other stakeholders including NGOs, members of local peace committees, religious leaders, national defence and security forces</b> (FACA and FSI), <b>judiciary and INGOS</b> (425 men and 252 women).

24. Following advocacy by MINUSCA, the FACA vacated a school they had been occupying in **Haut-Mbomou** prefecture since April 2023.

### Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

25. In June 2023, the HRD documented a total of 39 cases of CRSV, affecting 39 victims (26 women and 13 girls). This increase in CRSV compared to the previous month is due to the documentation of CRSV cases during an investigation mission in the **Ouham** prefecture (*see above*) during which the HRD documented 27 cases of CRSV affecting 22 women. In addition, the HRD documented 12 CRSV cases affecting 17 women.

26. The main perpetrator were unidentified armed men with 11 cases affecting 10 women followed by unidentified CPC combatants who perpetrated 10 cases of CRSV affecting eight victims. In addition, the HRD documented five cases perpetrated by the OSP affecting four women. Regarding the OSP, reports indicates that they have committed CRSV, however very little victims came forward as they fear retaliation. Without taking into account the cases documented during the investigation mission, 3R are still one of the main perpetrators of CRSV with five cases affecting nine victims.

27. During the investigation mission, the HRD documented cases of rape committed along other CRSV and human rights violations such as sexual slavery and abduction. This includes one victim, a woman, who was abducted and raped for three days by unidentified armed men in 2021 before escaping and being abducted again by unidentified CPC elements that reduced her to sexual slavery for a year. Another victim, a girl, was raped by multiple OSP elements in her mother’s field while another victim, a woman, was nearly raped by OSP elements before they noticed she was eight-months pregnant. Those cases took place when the OSP and State forces freed the town from armed groups’ control in early 2022.

28. In one of the separately documented cases perpetrated by the 3R, two combatants raped a 32-year-old woman. On 11 June 2023, the woman working as a restaurant owner, delivered food to the 3R.



Once there, one of the combatants took the victim by force to an unknown destination, threatened to kill her if she resisted and proceeded to raping her. She was eventually released on 12 June and received medical care at the hospital. Another woman, aged 20 years old, was also raped in the same circumstances. She received medical care at the hospital.

29. Finally, the HRD is still investigating four allegations of CRSV affecting six victims (all women) perpetrated by the 3R and the MRST. The areas where the MRST is operating are difficult to investigate for the HRD as the security situation is precarious and there is no cell phone coverage.

## Human Rights Promotion and Capacity-Building

30. This month, the HRD organised 171 activities, in some instances with partners, on human rights and international humanitarian law in 12 prefectures,<sup>2</sup> benefitting 2,265 individuals (of whom 800 were women and girls), including representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs), NGOs, community and religious leaders, local human rights fora, State actors and FACA/internal security forces (FSI).
31. These activities included 27 awareness campaigns, which reached 893 beneficiaries, including internally displaced persons, CSOs, community leaders, students and the civilian population. In addition, 18 capacity-building workshops were organised benefitting 339 individuals (including 131 women) from CSOs, local human rights forum, community leaders, State authorities, State actors and the local population. The HRD also conducted seven trainings for 168 FACA and FSI (including 11 women). The activities organized by the HRD aim at strengthening knowledge on human rights law and international humanitarian law, as well as on specific topics such as CRSV and child protection as a means of enhancing the protective environment in the CAR.
32. In June, the HRD conducted 40 monitoring visits of detention centres in 11 prefectures.<sup>3</sup> During these visits, the HRD documented 174 victims of unlawful detention (including one woman, 19 boys and 13 groups of collective victims), including cases in which the detainees were being held past the legal limits for police and gendarmerie custody. In several instance, the conditions of detention were not compliant with the minimum standards. During the period under review, four detainees died while in detention in the Ngaragba prison in Bangui following episodes of sickness and lack of adequate medical attention. According to health professionals, the inhumane conditions of detention greatly contributed to the deterioration of their medical condition. In some of the most emblematic cases, one detainee died from tuberculosis and severe malnutrition on 11 June, while another one died from Malaria after receiving treatment in the prison's medical care unit on 23 June. In addition, the overpopulation at Ngaragba, which is of approximately 500%, increases the propagations of infections. For instance, while on a monitoring visit to Ngaragba on 26 June, the HRD noticed that 27 detainees suffered from tuberculosis and were isolated in a security cell to receive treatment, showcasing the dangers of overcrowding.
33. The HRD supported the organization of a high-level dialogue on the National Human Rights Policy and the call to action in favour of human rights on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) from 22 to 23 June in Bangui. This activity was organized as part of the process of finalizing the National Human Rights Policy and was jointly organised by the Ministry of Justice and MINUSCA. A total of 196 persons participated (including 47 women) from republican

<sup>2</sup> The prefectures include: Bamingui-Bangoran; Haute-Kotto; Haut-Mbomou; Mambéré-Kadéï; Mbomou; Nana-Grébizi; Nana-Mambéré; Ombella M'Poko; Ouaka; Ouham-Pendé; and Vakaga.

<sup>3</sup> The prefectures are as follows: Bamingui-Bangoran; Haute-Kotto; Haut-Mbomou; Mambéré-Kadéï; Mbomou; Nana-Grébizi; Nana-Mambéré; Ombella M'Poko; Ouaka; Ouham-Pendé; and Vakaga.

institutions, ministerial departments, the National Assembly, prefects, CSOs, heads of UN agencies, and MINUSCA Senior Leadership. The goal was to initiate a constructive high-level dialogue on the issues and challenges involved in the effective implementation of human rights in the Central African Republic. The observations and comments arising from this dialogue helped to enrich the draft Policy and to adopt the Bangui Declaration, which will contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights.

34. As part of its support for the contribution of national partners to international and regional human rights protection mechanisms, the HRD organized four training workshops on the role of NGOs and civil society in the preparation and submission of alternative reports to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and treaty bodies. During the first workshop held from 6-8 June, the HRD trained 30 civil society actors (including 12 women) on UN and African human rights protection mechanism and the key contribution from civil society to these mechanisms through the drafting of alternative reports. The practical workshop was held from 14-29 June, which enabled the participants to organize themselves around priority areas. The drafting of such a report is linked to the recommendation that the Central African Republic accepted during the previous Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle in 2018. Thanks to this result, the HRD fostered national ownership of the reporting process to UN mechanisms and encouraged national partners to understand the value of improving the human rights situation by engaging with international mechanisms.
35. The HRD continued to support the National Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms Commission by organizing two capacity-building workshops for 30 members of the institutions, including commissioners and experts (of which 11 were women) from 1-2 and 9-10 June, respectively. The workshops focused on the roles and responsibilities of the Commission in accordance with the principles of vetting and the doctrine of the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI), as well as the key role that the Commission plays in the implementation of transitional justice mechanisms in CAR. In addition, the HRD organized five workshops to raise awareness of the Commission's mandate with external players. The training enabled the participants to have a deeper understanding of the standards applicable to the Commission's mandate and the development of its statutes and practices in line with international requirements.
36. On 12 June, as a means of improving the understanding of the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP), as well as international human rights law and international humanitarian law, the HRD organized a training session for 30 FACA of the 7th Territorial Infantry Battalion including 13 women at PK11 in Bangui. This session marked the end of a series of sessions on human rights for defence and security forces which began on 29 May.

## **Human Rights Due Diligence**

37. In June, in the context of implementing the UN HRDDP, the HRD conducted 18 risk assessments for MINUSCA's support to the national defence and security forces (FACA, ISF and other law enforcement officers) and for Members of Parliament. The HRDDP Secretariat conducted human rights background checks for a total of 89 beneficiaries including 58 FSI (32 Police officers and 26 Gendarmes), 22 FACA, seven agents from Water and Forestry/Fishing and Hunting Ministry and two Members of Parliament. Beneficiaries subjected to these risk assessments were provided financial, logistical, operational, and technical support including air transportation and trainings. The risk assessments were mostly evaluated to have low and medium risk. Out of the 89 individuals screened, one was excluded from receiving support, for allegations of human rights violations.

38. These verifications allowed MINUSCA’s Mine Action to organize two training sessions for the ISF, FACA and agents from the Mining, and Water, Forestry/Fishing and Hunting ministries. These two trainings focused on weapons and ammunition management and increased the awareness of officers stationed in Bangui. In addition, on 21 June, the HRDDP Secretariat delivered a briefing session on HRDDP benefiting the two FACA focal points co-located with the MINUSCA Force components to facilitate its support to non-UN security forces, in particular the FACA.
39. During the month of June, MINUSCA also extended its support to the FSI operating in the northern triangle of Sam Ouandja – Ouadda – Ouanda-Djallé through an umbrella clearance. The HRD continues to assess and ensure that no violations are committed by FSI benefiting from this support in this area characterized by a precarious security situation.
40. MINUSCA equally transported non-UN security forces either on redeployment or on mission to Bangui, Paoua, Bria, Kaga-Bandoro, Bangassou, Bossangoa, Birao, Berberati, Batangafo, and Obo.
41. During the period under review, the HRDDP Secretariat supported the national vetting process and conducted a screening for nine eligible ex-combatants for their integration into the FSI following the DDR process and none of the candidates were flagged for human rights violations.
42. Continuous support was also provided to the OCRB unit where on 17 June 2023 (for 10 days), and with the approval of the HRDDP co-Chairs, UNPOL financed the rehabilitation of OCRB cells which did not meet minimum standards for detention. This aimed at reducing the perpetration of human rights violation at the OCRB.
43. In the framework of the Constitutional referendum, MINUSCA continued to pay special attention to the rhetoric of the campaigns and how it may impact on the support being provided to non-UN Security forces and the risk of violations committed by them. In line with the implementation of mitigation measures, the HRD continues to work with beneficiaries to train them on IHRL and IHL.