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#### UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

### **Human Rights Division**

**Monthly Report: Human Rights Situation** 

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

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

## Security and political context in November 2023

- 1. The security landscape was largely characterized by: (1) the beginning of the transhumance season throughout the country, with discernible security and human rights related implications especially in the regions bordering Sudan; (2) persistent power struggles to control mining sites in the western part of the country, particularly as *Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation* (3R) elements seek to seize gold mines in **Nana-Mambéré** Prefecture; and (3) increased activities of *Unité pour la Paix en Centrafrique* (UPC) in the central area of the country, including a series of confrontations between UPC and *Forces armées centrafricaines* (FACA) elements with implications for the protection of civilians.
- 2. With the start of the dry season and transhumance related activities, tensions between farmers and herders are expected to increase with the potential for violent clashes. In the West, on the Boda-Yaloke axis, Kpama village, **Ombella M'Poko** prefecture, **Plateaux** region, farmers who are former Anti-Balaka militiamen reportedly killed three Fulani herders, wounded three others, and killed more than 80 cattle on 27 November. Similarly, in the East, in Am-Dafock, **Vakaga** prefecture, **Fertit** region, on 26 November, a Sudanese armed herder killed a farmer who prevented his herd of oxen from crossing a "zone reserved for agriculture". Following the farmer's death, his brother killed a herder in retaliation. In the Centre, in the **Kaga** region, transhumance herders allegedly killed three local hunters on the transhumance route southwest of Dekoa on 13 November. The aforementioned incidents continue to highlight the importance of scaling up activities to promote social cohesion and enhance the capacities of local dispute resolution mechanisms especially during the dry season. The latter aim at preventing and /or reducing the occurrence of clashes between farmers and herders which often lead to human rights abuses. In this regard a positive development was observed in Zobossinda village, **Bamingui-Bangoran** Prefecture, **Fertit** region where herders and farmers are promoting

peaceful coexistence by reinforcing mutual economic interests: the herders sell milk and animals to the local community which in return sells agricultural produce to the herders.

- 3. In the western part of the country, in Nana-Mambéré prefecture, Equateur region, 3R continue to fight over control of gold mines. On 14 November, 3R elements reportedly seized the Nassoya gold mine (155 km west of Bouar) and attacked a FACA position in Niem (60 km north of Bouar) the following day resulting in the death of a civilian. Furthermore, on 18 November, 3R elements, aided by unidentified armed men affiliated to the *Coalition des patriotes pour le changement* (CPC), attacked a gold mining site near the locality of Lamy-Pong (170 km of Bouar) and abducted five Chinese nationals. Reports suggest that the perpetrators demanded an undisclosed ransom for the release of the hostages. In response, FACA deployed forces to conduct search operations for the abducted victims who were released as of 13 December. In the Mambéré-Kadeï prefecture, on 19 November, reports indicated that unidentified armed men entered a mining site in Beina (55 km from Dilapoko) where they looted and subjected civilians to ill-treatment before departing. The limited presence of state security forces in this region raises concerns over the potential of further attacks by these armed groups. Moreover, the anticipated response from FACA and other security personnel (OSP) could have additional human rights consequences including population displacement due to the likelihood of clashes.
- 4. In the central part of the country, in Nana-Gribizi prefecture, Kaga region, confrontations between UPC elements and FACA soldiers led to various human rights concerns. On 2 November, at approximately 5 a.m., about 100 UPC armed elements reportedly coming from Chad attacked the FACA position in the town of Moyenne-Sido (114 km NE of Batangafo) targeting several stores and the homes and bases of the gendarmes and soldiers. Two civilians (a man and a woman) were killed during the attack. Later in the month, on 24 November, CPC/UPC armed elements carried out simultaneous attacks on FACA positions in Moyenne-Sido and Mbo (16 km SW of Moyenne-Sido, 104 km NE of Batangafo), temporarily gaining control of both locations. These attacks resulted in the death of a child, who was hit by a stray bullet. Subsequently, CPC/UPC elements disrupted the telephone communication network, prompting the local population to seek refuge in the bush or in Chad. The next day, on 25 November, FACA and Internal Security Forces (ISF), with reinforcement of OSP, regained control of the two positions. At the time of reporting, some segments of the population and FACA and ISF elements, have returned to Moyenne-Sido. However, individuals who crossed the border into Chad have yet to return.

## **Positive Developments**

- 5. During the reporting month, the national authorities undertook various positive initiatives to enhance the respect of human rights. On 3 November, the Minister of Justice, Human Rights, and Good Governance during a press conference reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring respect for human rights in the country. The Minister presented an overview of the human rights situation in CAR, the government's plan to address violations, particularly those committed by national security forces, and measures to implement the National Human Rights Policy.
- 6. On 28 November in Bangui, the Minister-Adviser in charge of Human Rights at the Presidency of the Republic with the support of MINUSCA organized a three-day workshop to discuss and explore solutions to challenges relating to detention conditions and the rights of detainees. Participants drawn

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The HRD is still investigating this allegation.

from national institutions, civil society organisations and bilateral partners recommended inter alia; the allocation of sufficient resources to the justice system, stronger and effective cooperation mechanisms between criminal justice institutions; and adequate monitoring and evaluation throughout the justice chain.

- 7. From 15 to 17 November 2023, the Minister-Adviser of the Presidency of the Republic in charge of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) with support of the Office of SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict and MINUSCA, organised a high-level roundtable on accountability on CRSV, aiming to establish a national roadmap to strengthen the judiciary in enhancing accountability for CRSV. Some of the recommendations include the reinforcement of cooperation between the national jurisdiction and the Special Criminal Court; the creation of local branches of the *Unité Mixte d'Intervention Rapide et de Répression des violences sexuelles faites aux femmes et aux enfants* (UMIRR) across the country; and the allocation of sufficient resources to allow UMIRR to investigate CRSV cases and hold perpetrators accountable.
- 8. During the month under review, the HRD continued to have access to detention centres and relevant authorities to conduct monitoring visits and advocacy. The HRD positively notes the improvement of the conditions of detention at the *Office central de répression du banditisme* (OCRB) in Bangui, with regards to the respect of legal time-limit for custody as well as the detention conditions. Additionally, the HRD positively notes the return of the Prosecutor and President of the *Tribunal de Grande Instance* of Ndélé which is expected to significantly contribute to ongoing efforts to fight against impunity and enhance respect for human rights, especially regarding arbitrary detention.

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

9. Despite some positive steps, human rights challenges remain. During the reporting period, 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 205 human rights violations and abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL), affecting 287

#### **Main Trends**

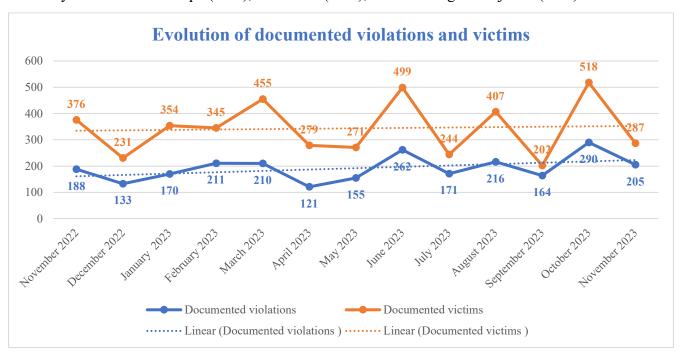
In total, 205 human rights violations and abuses as well as breaches of IHL affecting 287 victims (including 17 women, six girls, 16 boys and 24 groups of collective victims) were documented in November 2023. This constitutes a 29% decrease in the number of violations and a 45% decrease in the number of victims compared to October 2023.

During the reporting period, State actors were responsible for 46% of all violations and breaches and 54% of the victims.

civilian victims (with at least 17 women, six girls, 16 boys and 24 groups of collective victims), including, 69 victims who suffered multiple violations. Of the 205 violations documented, 154 occurred in November 2023. The other violations occurred between May 2021 and October 2023.

10. The HRD also recorded 31 allegations of human rights violations and abuses affecting at least 25 victims (including four women, six girls, and three groups of collective victims), which were still being verified at the end of November and were therefore not included in this report.

- 11. Compared to October, the violations in November decreased by 29% while the number of victims decreased by 45%.<sup>2</sup>
- 12. Overall and consistent with previous months, the most common types of violations and abuses included arbitrary arrest and detention (20%), destruction and appropriation of property (18%), and ill-treatment (14%). While men were most likely to be victims of these violations, women were most likely to be victims of rape (34%), abduction (22%), and maining and injuries (17%).



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

- 13. For the period under review, State actors committed 95 violations and breaches of international human rights and humanitarian law affecting 156 victims (including two women, one girl, and seven boys). In comparison to October, the number of violations committed by state actors decreased by 31% with a corresponding 32% decrease in the number of victims.<sup>3</sup>
- 14. Most of the violations committed by State actors relate to arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international minimum standards. Consistent with previous months, violations related to liberty and fair trial<sup>4</sup> accounted for 57% of all violations by state actors. The Gendarmerie (22 violations and 59 victims) and Police (22 violations and 47 victims) were the actors with the most violations and victims. Nearly all the violations committed by these two actors relate to arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention.<sup>5</sup>

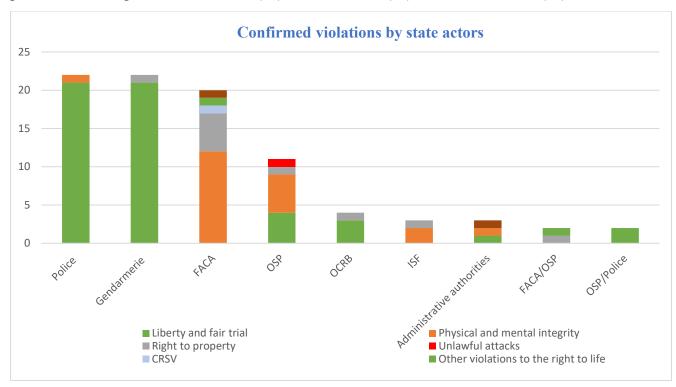
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In October, there were 290 violations and abuses affecting 518 victims recorded.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> In October, State actors committed 138 violations affecting 228 victims.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Violations related to liberty and fair trial include access to justice; arbitrary arrest and detention; conditions of detention that do not meet international and national standards; and forced labour.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Out of the 22 violations committed by the Gendarmerie, 21 relate to arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention. The remaining violation relates to the destruction or appropriation of property. Similarly, out of the 22 violations committed by the Police, 21 relate to arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention. The remaining violation relates to ill-treatment.

- 15. As the above figures illustrate, significant challenges in upholding procedural and substantive liberty and fair trial standards persist. On 17 November, a 31-year-old man, arrested in Bossangoa and later transferred to *Camp de Roux* in Bangui, died in detention, due to a combination of several factors, including malnutrition and lack of appropriate health care. In addition, and in line with recent trends, state actors also committed five violations of forced labour affecting 13 detainees. These violations occurred when OSP took detainees from the police and the gendarmerie cells in Kaga Bandoro and Bria to their base and forced them to clean and perform other tasks. Meanwhile, poor conditions of detention continue to have both human rights and security implications: on 25 November at the Bria Central Prison, **Haute-Kotto** prefecture, detainee unrest over lack of food rations and mistreatment by the prison delegate <sup>7</sup> led to the jailbreak of several detainees.
- 16. In addition to liberty and fair trial, State actors were also responsible for violations of the rights to physical and mental integrity (22); property (11); and life (four); amongst others. Most violations by state actors occurred around the centre of the country in prefectures where there is a strong state presence including Ombella M'Poko (17), Nana-Gribizi (12), and Haute-Kotto (11).



- 17. 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 IHL affecting 110 victims (amongst them 12 women, five girls, and eight boys). This reflects a 21% decrease in abuses and a 51% decrease in victims compared to October. 9
- 18. The most common types of abuses committed by armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA were destruction or appropriation of property (20); abduction (15); and ill-treatment (13). The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See October HRD monthly recording three violations of forced labour affecting 10 victims.

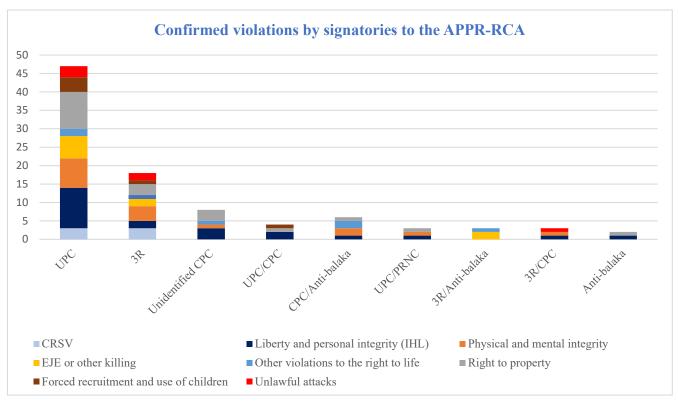
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> An inmate appointed by the registrar to help maintain order in the facility due to personnel shortage.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Other violations include conflict related sexual violence (1); abduction (2); and unlawful attacks (1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> In October, armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA were responsible for 115 human rights abuses and breaches of IHL affecting 226 victims.

Mbomou (23), Haute-Kotto (22), and Nana-Gribizi (11) prefectures with a strong presence and influence of UPC and 3R were the most affected.

19. Among armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA, more than half of the abuses documented were attributed to the UPC. The UPC, acting alone, committed 47 abuses impacting 46 victims, comprising five women, four girls, five boys, and eight groups of collective victims. <sup>10</sup> Consistent with abuses committed by armed groups signatories to the ARPR-RCA, the UPC primarily engaged in destruction or appropriation of property (10), abduction (nine), and ill-treatment (seven). Furthermore, the UPC was involved in the recruitment and use of children, denial of humanitarian relief, and rape (three abuses each). During the reporting period, the UPC maintained a significant presence in the eastern part of the country <sup>11</sup>, while increasing its activities in the centre. <sup>12</sup>



20. The 3R, acting alone, was the armed group signatory to the APPR-RCA with the second highest record of documented abuses (16 abuses affecting 14 victims). Operating exclusively in the western part of the country, the 3R continued to be implicated in ill-treatment (four), destruction or appropriation of property (three), and abduction (two). Mirroring patterns observed in previous months, the 3R was also involved in three CRSV cases affecting three victims. For example, on 2 November, seven 3R armed elements raped an 18-year-old woman in a locality near Paoua, Lim-Pendé while she was working in the fields.

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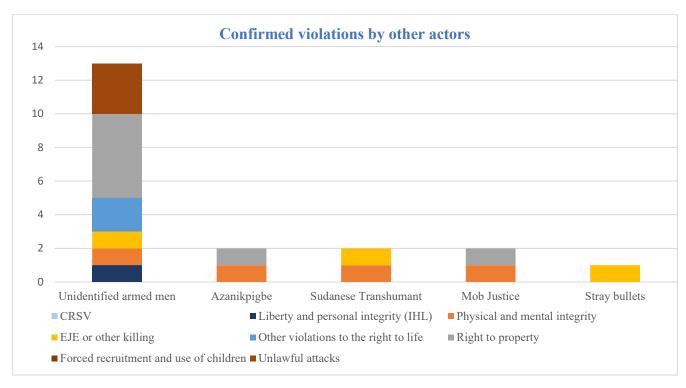
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> The UPC acting jointly with the CPC was responsible for four abuses. Additionally, the UPC acting jointly with the PRNC was responsible for three abuses.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> See October HRD monthly recording 56 abuses committed by the UPC affecting 77 victims, all in the eastern area of the country.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> In November, the UPC committed 10 abuses affecting 19 victims in the central area of the country whereas, in October, in the same area, the UPC committed no abuses.

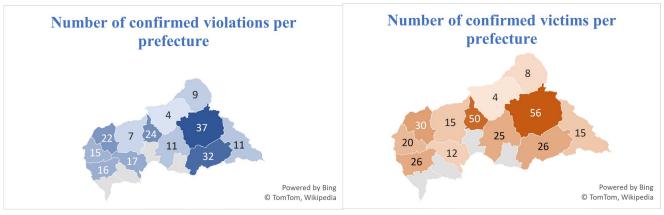
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Acting in conjunction with anti-balaka elements, the 3R was also responsible for three abuses. Additionally, acting jointly with the CPC, the 3R was responsible for three more abuses.

21. Other actors, including armed groups non-signatories to the APPR-RCA and self-defence groups, were responsible for 20 abuses affecting 21 victims. Unidentified armed men were responsible for 13 of these abuses ranging from abduction, attacks against protected persons, and denial of humanitarian relief, among others. Additionally, the Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (also called Azanikpigbe) self-defence group and Sudanese transhumance herders were each responsible for two abuses.



## **Geographical Analysis**

22. Almost half of the violations and abuses documented in November occurred in the east of the country, more specifically in the regions of **Haut-Oubangui**<sup>14</sup> and **Fertit**<sup>15</sup>, with 93 violations and abuses affecting 109 victims. <sup>16</sup> Haute-Kotto and Mbomou were particularly affected, both in terms of human rights violations and victims, due largely to the activities of the UPC. Most of the violations and abuses are related to destruction or appropriation of property (17), arbitrary detention (16), ill-



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> The Haut-Oubangui region includes the Basse-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou prefectures.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> The Fertit region includes the Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, and Vakaga prefectures.

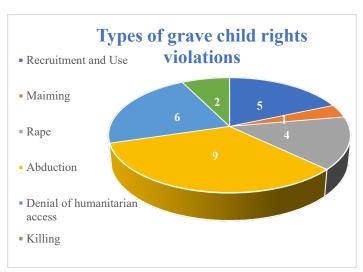
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> In October, 47% of all violations and abuses documented occurred in the Haut-Oubangui and Fertit region.

treatment (12), abduction (10), and forced labour (5). Notably, the UPC, acting independently and with the *Parti du rassemblement de la nation centrafricaine* (PRNC) or the CPC, was responsible for 47% of all abuses including: abduction, rape, recruitment and use of children, and extrajudicial executions.

- 23. In **Equateur**<sup>17</sup> and **Yadé**<sup>18</sup> regions, most of the violations were related to destruction and appropriation of property (10), arbitrary detention (nine), ill-treatment (nine), and extrajudicial executions (nine). Within these regions, the 3R, acting alone, was the primary perpetrator, accounting for the highest number of violations or abuses (16 abuses affecting 14 victims). <sup>19</sup> Abuses committed by the 3R included rape (three), extrajudicial executions (two), and recruitment and use of children (one).
- 24. In **Kaga<sup>20</sup> and Plateaux<sup>21</sup> regions**, a total of 52 violations and abuses affecting 87 victims were documented. Owing to a stronger state presence, many of the violations and abuses in these regions relate to arbitrary arrest and/or detention (14), as well as conditions of detention (two). Notably, the central part of the country had the most recorded abuses related to the denial of humanitarian relief (three). Here, the UPC was responsible for three abuses of denial of humanitarian relief, intercepting non-governmental organizations' (NGOs) vehicles on separate occasions and robbing the individuals inside.

### **Children in Armed Conflict**

25. During the reporting period, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR)<sup>22</sup> verified 25 grave child rights violations affecting 10 children (five boys/five girls). There was an 89% decrease in grave violations and a 93% decrease in victims directly affected compared to October during which 218 violations affecting 154 children were documented, which was due to a high number of late verified cases of recruitment and use documented in the previous month. In addition, these decreases can also be explained by movement of armed increased particularly in Haut-Mbomou, Ouham and Vakaga Prefectures, which is negatively affecting



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> The Equateur region includes the Mambéré, Mambéré-Kadeï, Nana-Mambéré and Sangha-Mbaéré prefectures.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> 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).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> The 3R also committed three additional violations in conjunction with CPC and anti-balaka elements each for a total of six additional violations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> The Kaga region includes the Kemo, Nana-Gribizi, Ouaka prefectures.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> The Plateaux region includes the Ombella M'Poko and Lobaye prefectures.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> The information in this section has been collected by the MINUSCA Child Protection Unit. The Security Council has created mechanisms and tools to implement the mandate on the protection of children in armed conflict, including through Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), which establishes the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) to collect reliable and up-to-date information on violations committed against children by the parties to the conflict, as well as the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict. The CTFMR monitors and reports on the six serious violations covered by the MRM, namely the recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, sexual violence, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access.

the CTFMR's ability to monitor and report on grave child rights violations. Moreover, the increased use of explosive ordnance and ongoing military operations by national defence and security forces and OSP creates additional access challenges. Fourty-four (44%) of the violations (11) occurred outside the reporting period but were only verified during the period under review.

- 26. Armed groups were responsible for 80% of the violations (20), governmental forces 4% (one), and unidentified armed individuals 16% (four). Of the armed groups, UPC committed 18 abuses and the 3R committed two. Of state actors, OSP committed the sole violation
- 27. Violations documented included: recruitment and use (four), killing (two), rape and other forms of sexual violence (four), abduction (eight) and denial of humanitarian access (six). Nine children (four boys/five girls) were victims of two violations: abduction and recruitment and use (five), abduction and rape (four).
- 28. The **Mbomou** Prefecture was the most affected Prefecture with 12 violations, followed by **Haute-Kotto** (three), **Basse-Kotto**, **Lim-Pende**, **Ouaka and Ouham-Fafa** (two each), and **Ouham-Pende** and **Vakaga** (one each).
- 29. During the period under review, in collaboration with the Ministry for National Education and the Director General for Professional and Training Centres, CPU started the distribution of vocational training kits in Bambari. This is part of the broader strategy of MINUSCA to prevent children from joining armed groups and criminal gangs by providing them with practical opportunities.

# **Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV)**

- 30. In November, the HRD documented a total of seven cases of CRSV, affecting eight victims (three women and five girls). State actors were responsible for one violation of CRSV affecting a 16-year-old girl while armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA were responsible for six abuses affecting seven women and girls. Among state actors, the FACA was responsible for the sole violation of CRSV. Among armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA, the 3R and the UPC were each responsible for three violations. The HRD is still investigating seven allegations of CRSV affecting eight victims. Given that these cases are still being verified, they are not included in this report.
- 31. In comparison to October, November was marked by a decrease in reported CRSV violations. 23 However, this decrease is likely due to the inherent difficulties associated with collecting and documenting CRSV violations, as opposed to an actual decrease in violations. Reporting on CRSV violations is hindered by factors such as stigma, fears of reprisals, and lack of awareness among victims. Alongside these concerns, an abnormally prolonged rainy season is exacerbating difficulties of access, which is further complicating the collection and documentation process.

Through the "Act to Protect" campaign, 219 peacekeepers (194 men and 25 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 749 community members and leaders as well as other stakeholders including NGOs, members of local peace committees, religious leaders, national defense, and security forces (FACA and ISF), judiciary and INGOs (544 men and 205 women).

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Act to Protect Campaign

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> In October, 44 CRSV violations were recorded affecting 66 victims.

32. From 13 to 17 November, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC) visited CAR and met with the President, the Prime Minister, the Ministers in charge of overseeing UMIRR, the Minister of Defense, the FACA Chief of staff, and the Minister-Adviser on CRSV and human trafficking. While acknowledging the measures taken by the government, the SRSG-SVC raised concerns over the persistence of CRSV committed by FACA and other armed elements within the country. The SRSG-SVC raised the issue of FACA's listing in the 2021 and 2022 Secretary-General's reports on CRSV while agreeing with the Minister of Defence and the Chief of Staff of FACA to deploy a team of experts in early 2024 to work with FACA towards the adoption of an action plan that will provide a structured framework to prevent and respond to CRSV.

## **Human Rights Promotion and Capacity-Building**

- 33. During the month under review, the HRD organised 94 activities, in some instances jointly with partners, on human rights and international humanitarian law in 12 Prefectures, <sup>24</sup> benefitting 8,004 individuals (of whom 3,414 were women), including representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organisation (NGOs); community and religious leader; local human rights fora; State actors and FACA/ISF.
- 34. These activities included 32 awareness campaigns, which targeted 6,611 beneficiaries (including 1,229 women) and events within the context of 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. Beneficiaries included displaced persons, CSOs, community leaders, students, and the civilian population. In addition, 23 capacity-building workshops were organised benefitting 1,385 individuals (including 95 women and 450 girls) including CSOs, local human rights fora, community leaders, State actors and the local population. The HRD also conducted five trainings for 138 FACA.
- 35. In November, the HRD conducted 84 monitoring visits of detention centres in all 12 Prefectures. The HRD was granted access to the detention centres and was able to engage the relevant authorities on their findings. As aforementioned, the conditions of detention in many of the centres were not compliant with national and international standards.
- 36. From 23 to 27 November, the HRD supported the government in preparing its submission to the treaty bodies, in particular the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Additionally, the HRD supported the visit of the Special Rapporteur on human trafficking, Ms. Siobhán Mullally, to CAR from 24 November to 2 December, during which she met with Government Ministers and officials, judicial authorities, police, FACA and gendarmerie representatives. At the end of her mission, the UN Special rapporteur commended important steps taken to strengthen accountability for human trafficking, including the adoption of a comprehensive law and action plan and prioritization of action to combat child trafficking. However, the expert observed that gender inequality and high risks of trafficking for purposes of child and forced marriage, sexual slavery and domestic servitude were particularly affecting women and girls.

## **Human Rights Due Diligence**

37. In November, the HRD, in the context of implementing the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP), conducted 50 risk assessments for MINUSCA's support to the internal defence and security forces (FACA and other law enforcement officers). The HRDDP Secretariat conducted

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> The Prefectures include: Bamingui-Bangoran; Haute-Kotto; Haut-Mbomou; Mambéré-Kadéï; Mbomou; Nana-Gribizi; Nana-Mambéré; Ombella M'Poko; Ouaka; Ouham; Ouham-Pendé; and Vakaga.

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human rights background checks for a total of 637 beneficiaries including 577 internal security forces (291 police officers and 286 gendarmes), 36 FACA, four prison officers, four European Union Training Mission (EUTM) officers, 11 Members of Parliament, one Member of Parliament Assistant, one Journalist, and three agents from the Ministry of Energy, Water and Forestry. Beneficiaries subjected to these risk assessments were provided financial, logistical, operational, and technical support including air transportation and trainings. All the risk assessments were evaluated to be low and medium. Out of 637 individuals screened, ten elements from the internal defence forces were excluded for being cited in allegations of human rights violations. Based on these assessments, MINUSCA support was approved with a set of recommendations and mitigation measures.

38. These verifications allowed UNMAS and UNPOL components to organize nineteen training sessions for officers from the internal defence and security forces. These trainings addressed disinformation and hate speech; weapons and ammunition management; policing; SGBV; protection of civilians during electoral periods; combatting drug trafficking; and fighting against corruption.