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October – December 2024

HUMAN RIGHTS

QUARTERLY BRIEF ON THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Attacks by WTA, supported by the Azanikpigbe in Dembia and Rafai, Mbomou Prefecture with serious human rights implications.**
- **National Assembly adopts a law protecting human rights defenders.**
- **Presidential pardons granted by H.E President Faustin-Archange Touadéra contribute to addressing overcrowding in detention facilities.**
- **MINUSCA documents 833 human rights violations and abuses, affecting 1 269 civilians. Wagner Ti Azande elements (147) and 3R (117) were responsible for most human rights violations and abuses, and UPC for most victims (235). Mbomou was the most affected Prefecture in terms of human rights violations and abuses (172); Ouaka Prefecture registered the most victims (235).**
- **Human rights violations and abuses documented include inter alia: deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention (25%), right to physical and mental integrity (24%), right to property (18%), right to life (9%), and conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) (10%).**

Significant human rights-related developments

1. On 27 December, the National Assembly adopted the law on the protection of Human Rights Defenders which is expected to contribute to the respect of human rights in the country by creating a conducive environment for Human Rights Defenders to conduct their activities. It is worth recalling that the adoption of this law is the result of sustained advocacy and engagement by key national actors including inter alia, the Ministry of Justice, the Human Rights Network of Parliamentarians and civil society organisations with the support of the UN and the EU.
2. On 3 October, the Minister of Justice issued two ministerial directives instructing the submission of weekly reports to his office on prison statistics and the presence of judicial personnel in their duty stations. The key objectives of these directives were to address prolonged detentions and unjustified absences of judicial personnel identified as critical challenges in the joint report by MINUSCA and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) entitled “*Analysis of deprivation of liberty in the Central African Republic: current situation, challenges, and responses*” published in July 2024.¹ In a related development, on 31 December, H.E President Faustin-Archange Touadéra granted pardons to several categories of prisoners.² These pardons are expected to address the issue of overcrowding in detention facilities.
3. The Government continues to make progress in fulfilling its human rights reporting obligations. On 8 October, the second periodic report of the Central African Republic was submitted to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. With MINUSCA support, on 23 October, the Government finalised and submitted a request to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the implementation of recommendations of the 4th cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.
4. On 25 November, the Minister of Justice chaired the first meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Human Rights Policy (PNDH). This meeting, attended by representatives of the Government, the diplomatic corps, and the UN was an opportunity for participants to evaluate the implementation of the PNDH, agree on priority activities, and discuss the functioning of thematic working groups. Following the meeting, the thematic working groups were activated and started promoting an inclusive approach in the implementation of the PNDH.
5. On 30 December, President Touadéra appointed the members of the selection committee of the *Commission Vérité, Justice, Réparation et Réconciliation* (CVJRR), including representatives from the National Assembly, the Government, civil society, and the African Union³. It should be recalled that on 16 October 2024, the Government had cancelled the previous recruitment process on grounds of non-compliance with the provisions of the 2020 law governing the creation, organization, and functioning of the CVJRR.⁴

¹ https://minusca.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/minusca_ohchr_public_report_on_detention_in_car_eng_july2024_1.pdf

² Décret n° 24-326 du 31 décembre 2024 portant remise gracieuse des peines

³ Décret n° 24-325 du 30 Décembre 2024, entérinant la désignation des membres du comité de sélection des candidats pour la commission vérité, justice, réparation et réconciliation (CVJRR)

⁴ Loi organique n° 20.009 du 07 avril 2020, portant création, organisation et fonctionnement de la Commission vérité, justice, réparation et réconciliation (CVJRR. See HRD monthly report: Main political and security developments, October 2024, p.2 para 3.

SECURITY AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

6. The reporting period was marked by continued activities of the UPC, notably in Kopia, and the attack on Dembia from 1 to 7 October by Wagner Ti Azande (WTA) elements and members of the Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (Azanikpigbe).
7. In **Mbomou** Prefecture, the WTA, supported by members of the Azanikpigbe attacked Dembia (220 km east of Bangassou) and Rafai (150 km east of Bangassou) particularly targeting Muslim and Fulani populations and Sudanese asylum seekers. During these attacks, the perpetrators looted, destroyed, and burned houses. At least 14 people were killed, including two children, and other violations were documented, including conflict-related sexual violence, recruitment and use of children, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.
8. On 16 October, the National Assembly adopted the law on the organization and functioning of the *Autorité nationale des élections* (ANE). Pursuant to this law, the 11 Commissioners will serve a non-renewable nine-year term. In reaction to the law, on 5 November, the opposition coalition *Bloc républicain pour la défense de la Constitution* expressed deep concerns about the electoral process, citing repeated election delays, lack of transparency and allegations of corruption within the ANE, an allegation which was denied by the latter. Meanwhile, from 24 November to 20 December, the voters registration process for Operational Zone 1⁵ was conducted with some incidents reported, particularly in the **Ouaka** and **Ouham-Fafa** Prefectures where the process was disrupted by armed groups targeting both ANE agents and civilians wishing to register. In addition, the start of the voters' registration process in Operational Zones 2⁶ and 3⁷ experienced some delays.
9. On 25 October, the *Coalition des Patriotes pour le Changement-Fondamentale* (CPC-F)⁸ issued a statement declaring the resumption of hostilities, citing deliberate attacks by the Government and other security personnel (OSP) on its positions. This declaration was confirmed on 2 November by another statement from its military coordinator, Ali Darassa Mahamat.⁹ Additionally, on 7 November, *Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique* (MPC) also joined the CPC-F.
10. In the **Haut-Oubangui** Region,¹⁰ the *Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique* (UPC) intensified its activities in the **Basse-Kotto** Prefecture, particularly around Mobaye with serious implications for the respect of

⁵ Operational zone 1 for voter registration includes the Prefectures of Bangui, Mambéré-Kadéi, Nana-Mambéré, Lobaye, Ouham, Nana-Grébizi, Haute-Kotto, Ouaka, Lim-Pendé, Ouham-Pendé, Ouham-Fafa and Ouham-Pendé.

⁶ Operational zone 2 for voter registration includes the Prefectures Bamingui-Bangoran, Basse Kotto, Haut M'Bomo, Kémo, Mambéré, Mbomou, Ombella-M'Poko, Sangha-Mbaéré, Vakaga.

⁷ Operational zone 3 for voter registration concerns the diaspora with countries yet to be identified.

⁸ On 30 August, four armed groups from the CPC announced their decision to separate from the CPC to form a new bloc, the CPC-Fondamentale (CPC-F), with Ali Darassa as Chief of Staff. The CPC-F then consisted of the UPC, the *Front Populaire pour la Renaissance de Centrafrique* (FPRC), the Anti-Balaka (Mokom faction), and the *Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique* (MPC). The CPC is now composed of the *Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation* (3R) group, the Anti-Balaka (Ndale faction), and the MPC-Renouveau (MPC-R). See the monthly report of the DDH: Human Rights Situation, August 2024, p.1.

⁹ See letter, *Coalition des Patriotes République-Centrafricaine Pour le Changement – Fondamentale (CPC-F), Coordination-Générale Coordination-Militaire, Etat-Major-Général Secrétariat-Général N°003/CPC-F/CG/CM/EMG/S. G24, "Lettre d'information et clarification de la coalition des patriotes pour le changement fondamentale (CPC-F)".*

¹⁰ The Haut-Oubangui Region includes Basse-Kotto, Mbomou and the Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, in accordance with government decree no. 21001, January 2021.

human rights and the protection of civilians including displacement of the population to the Democratic Republic of Congo. For instance, on 18 November, UPC attacked the villages of Serenga (33 km from Mobaye) and Langangdji (21 km from Mobaye) during which they perpetrated acts of kidnapping and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment on local authorities. On 20 November, MINUSCA Force repelled UPC and on 22 November, mixed patrols of Internal Security Forces (ISF) and FACA were deployed around Mobaye. UPC elements were also active in **Mbomou** Prefecture, particularly on the Djamah-Derbissaka axis: on 15 December, they abducted seven people in Rafäi, including the Mayor of Ouara Commune. On 25 November, UPC elements intercepted motorcycle taxi drivers and their passengers, mainly Christian worshippers near Kopia (40 km northeast of Ippy and 53 km southwest of Bria), in the **Ouaka** Prefecture, and took 19 of them into a nearby bush where they killed 10 of them, including a 12-year-old boy, while nine others, including four women and two children, were released.

11. In the **Yadé** Region,¹¹ on 1 December, *Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation* (3R) attacked a FACA base near Kouï (22 km southwest of Bocaranga, **Lim-Pendé** Prefecture), causing the death of a man, population displacement, and arson of several houses. Additionally, on 25 December, they attacked villages around Ngoutéré (35 km southeast of Bocaranga, **Ouham-Pendé** Prefecture), killing at least seven civilians and forcing villagers to flee to Bocaranga and neighbouring villages. In the **Plateau** Region,¹² several security incidents related to transhumance involving the 3R were observed in the **Ombella-M'Poko** Prefecture, including the murder of a Fulani herder in Gomoko (5 km southeast of Djabarouna) on 21 December and the kidnapping of another herder in Djabarouna (102 km east of Bossembélé) on 31 December.

GENERAL TRENDS

12. Despite the aforementioned positive developments, human rights challenges remain. During the reporting period, MINUSCA verified **833 human rights violations and abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL) affecting 1 269 civilian victims** (including 138 women, 98 girls, 201 boys and 89 groups of collective victims). This represents an increase of 17% in violations/abuses and 13% in victims compared to the previous quarter (Q3). The most common violations and abuses were related to deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention (25%), right to physical and mental integrity (24%) and right to property (18%). The WTA alone or acting jointly with Azanikpigbe were responsible for most violations (205) and victims (169) occurring in **Haut-Mbomou** and **Mbomou** Prefectures, **Haut-Oubangui** Region.
13. **State actors** were responsible for 66% of the human rights violations (547) and for 63% of the victims (805). This represents an increase of 41% in the number of violations and an increase of 44% in the number of victims compared to Q3.¹³ The increase in the number of violations and victims is mostly due to the violations committed by WTA in Dembia (147 violations affecting 116 victims). The common types of violations committed by State actors were related to arbitrary arrest and detention, including detention beyond the legal time limit for police custody, as well as violations linked to conditions of

¹¹ The Yadé Region comprises the Prefectures of Lim-Pendé, Ouham-Pendé and Ouham, in accordance with *government decree no. 21001, January 2021*.

¹² The Plateau Region comprises the Prefectures of Ombella M'Poko and Lobaye, in accordance with *government decree no. 21001, January 2021*.

¹³ In Q3 2024, State actors were responsible for 389 violations, affecting 560 victims.

detention that do not comply with national and international standards (210 violations affecting 508 victims); the right to physical and mental integrity (128 violations affecting 198 victims) and the right to property (80 violations affecting 105 victims). Apart from the WTA, main perpetrators include the Police (123 violations affecting 258), the *Forces armées Centrafricaines* (FACA) (91 violations affecting 106 victims) and the Gendarmerie (79 violations affecting 152 victims).

14. **Armed groups signatories to the *Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation* (APPR-RCA)** were responsible for 29% of abuses (242) and for 32% of the victims (405). This represents an increase of 2% in the number of abuses and an increase of 10% in the number of victims compared to the Q3.¹⁴ The most common abuses included the right to physical and mental integrity (64 affecting 120 victims), right to property (59 affecting 131 victims), and conflict-related sexual violence (38 cases affecting 56 victims). The main perpetrators were the 3R (117 abuses affecting 98 victims), the UPC (87 abuses affecting 235 victims) and Anti-Balaka affiliated to CPC (21 abuses affecting 56 victims).
15. **Other actors**, including armed groups non-signatory to the APPR-RCA, were responsible for 44 abuses (5% of abuses) and 59 victims (5% of victims). The most common abuses included the right to property (14 affecting 30 victims), right to physical and mental integrity (seven affecting 14 victims), and right to liberty and personal integrity (seven affecting 29 victims). The main perpetrators were unidentified armed men (27 abuses affecting 32 victims), armed Sudanese (five abuses affecting seven victims) and *Coalition Militaire de Salut du Peuple et de Redressement* (CMSPR) jointly with *Fonds de Défense et des Libertés Publiques* (FDLP) (four abuses affecting seven victims) as well as Azanikpigbe (four abuses affecting 10 victims).
16. During the quarter under review, most violations/abuses and victims were documented in the **Haut-Oubangui** Region (282 violations/abuses affecting 400 victims) linked to activities of WTA and the Azanikpigbe (205 violations/abuses affecting 169 victims) and the UPC (26 abuses affecting 126 victims). Within the **Haut-Oubangui** Region, most violations/abuses and victims were documented in **Mbomou** Prefecture as result of the attack of Dembia and Rafaï by the WTA and the Azanikpigbe.
17. **CRSV** cases accounted for 10% of the total number of human rights violations and abuses and 9% of the victims documented during the period under review (85 cases affecting 59 women, 43 girls and seven men). The male victims were victims of forced nudity while women and girls were mainly victims of rape including gang rape. The most affected Prefectures were **Lim-Pendé** Prefecture in **Yadé** Region (23 cases affecting 29 victims) and **Mbomou** in **Haut-Oubangui** Region (22 cases affecting 24 victims). Rape (74 cases with 52 women and 36 girls affected) continued to be prevalent, while other CRSV cases included sexual slavery (five cases affecting three women and four girls), forced nudity (four cases affecting seven men, four women and two girls), attempted rape (one case affecting one girl), and attempted forced marriage (one case affecting one woman). It is worth highlighting that rape cases are underreported due to many reasons including fear of stigmatisation and reprisals as well as other socio-cultural stereotypes. CRSV perpetrators included **State actors** (53%), **armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA** (46%), and **other actors** (2%). The **WTA** acting with **Azanikpigbe** (25 cases affecting 28 victims) and the **3R** (25 cases affecting 31 victims) were the main perpetrators.

¹⁴ In Q3 2024, armed groups signatories to the *Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation* (APPR-RCA) were responsible for 237 abuses, affecting 369 victims.

18. Between October and December 2024, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) verified 478 grave child rights violations against 285 children (184 boys, 101 girls). These included **recruitment and use** of 220 children (171 boys/49 girls) – a 64% increase compared to the previous reporting period (July to September 2024) during which 134 (97 boys, 37 girls) were victims of recruitment and use. The **Haut-Oubangui** Region was the most affected with 135 cases of recruitment and use including 113 cases in **Haut-Mbomou** Prefecture and 22 in **Mbomou** Prefecture. The main perpetrators were armed groups implicated in 88% of the cases of recruitment and use (194), governmental and pro-governmental forces were accountable for 11% (25) and unidentified armed perpetrators were involved in 1% (one). Recruitment and use was the most common grave violation committed during the period under review, followed by abduction (167: 117 boys/50 girls) and rape and other forms of sexual violence (44; all girls).

MAIN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND ABUSES, AND VIOLATIONS OF IHL

19. In this report covering Q4 2024, emphasis is placed on the attack on Dembia and Rafai by WTA and Azanikpigbe, deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention, and right to physical and mental integrity¹⁵ which were the main violations/abuses documented during the reporting period.

ATTACK ON DEMBIA AND RAFAÏ BY THE WTA AND AZANIKPIGBE

20. From 1 to 7 October 2024, WTA elements, supported by members of the Azanikpigbe group, attacked Dembia (220 km east of Bangassou) and Rafai (150 km east of Bangassou) in **Haut-Mbomou** Prefecture. This attack, which specifically targeted the Fulanis, Muslims, and Sudanese asylum seekers, resulted in 147 human rights violations affecting 116 victims. Accordingly, MINUSCA documented 32 violations of the right to property¹⁶ affecting 38 victims, 31 violations of the right to physical and mental integrity¹⁷ affecting 39 victims, 22 cases of CRSV¹⁸ affecting 24 victims, including nine girls and 15 women, 20 cases of arbitrary arrest and detention involving 27 victims, 16 violations of the right to life¹⁹ affecting 30 victims (including seven extrajudicial executions or other killings affecting 14 victims), 16 cases of forced recruitment and use of children²⁰ affecting four girls and 17 boys, six cases of forced labor affecting six victims, and four unlawful attacks²¹ affecting four groups of collective victims.

DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY AND CONDITIONS OF DETENTION

21. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **210 violations related to the deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention affecting 509 victims** (including 386 men, 25 women, 50 boys, 11

¹⁵ For a thorough overview of the human rights violations and abuses that occurred during the reporting period, please refer to monthlies of October, November and December, available on the following webpage <https://minusca.unmissions.org/en/human-rights-division-reports-0>

¹⁶ The violation of the right to property here concerns the destruction or appropriation of property.

¹⁷ Violations related to the right of physical and mental integrity include ill-treatment, torture, and maiming and injuries.

¹⁸ The CRSV cases committed during the attack concern rape and sexual slavery.

¹⁹ Violations of the right to life included extrajudicial executions or other killings, death threats and attempted killings.

²⁰ The children recruited were used by the WTA and Azanikpigbe for various tasks such as drawing water, fetching wood and cooking.

²¹ Unlawful attacks include attacks against civilians and attacks against school, hospital, and places of worship.

girls and 37 groups of collective victims).²² This represents a 43% increase in the number of violations and a 53% increase in the number of victims in comparison to Q3 2024. This increase may be due to more identity checks being carried out by the *Forces de sécurité intérieure* (FSI) or other organizations. Most violations were related to arbitrary arrest and/or detention (150 affecting 453 victims), largely due to detention beyond the legal time limit for custody. The Police and Gendarmerie were the main perpetrators (81 and 65 violations, respectively).

22. Meanwhile detention conditions remain concerning. Overcrowding in prisons, partly due to preventive detention and the prolonged absence of judicial personnel needs urgent attention as it continues to have serious implications for the rights of persons in detention. For instance, the separation of detainees remains a challenge in police and gendarmerie holding cells. In 19 instances concerning 35 minors, authorities failed to ensure the separation of the minors from the adult population. Nonetheless, it is envisaged that the presidential pardons granted to 794 detainees (759 men, 29 women and six boys) and the directives of the Minister of Justice requiring the submission of weekly data on prisons and the presence of judicial personnel in their duty stations may reinforce ongoing efforts to address the challenges faced in detention facilities and centres in the country.
23. It is worth highlighting that persons in custody and detainees are protected by various national laws, including the Constitution, the *Code pénal* (Criminal Code) and the *Code de procédure pénale* (Criminal Procedure Code) adopted by laws n°10.001, n°10.002 and the law n°12.003 on fundamental principles of the prison system.²³

RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND MENTAL INTEGRITY

24. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **199 violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity**²⁴ affecting **332 victims** (225 men, 55 women, 27 girls, 16 boys and nine groups of collective victims). This represents a 5% increase in the number of violations/abuses, and a 6% decrease in the number of victims in comparison to Q3 2024.²⁵ The two most documented violations/abuses were cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (89 affecting 139 victims) and maiming and injuries (39 affecting 77 victims). Seven cases of torture affecting 24 victims were also documented. State actors were responsible for 128 violations affecting 198 victims. From 9 to 11 October, OSP arrested 49 civilians, including two women, at the Ndassima mining site (60 km from Bambari, **Ouaka** Prefecture), confined 15 men in an airtight container at the OSP base in Ndassima for four days, during which they regularly beat the victims and held them in inhumane conditions. One man died as a result of the injuries he sustained. The remaining 14 people were transferred to the *Brigade de recherche et investigation* of the gendarmerie in Bambari on 15 October. One of them who was seriously injured was

²² During Q3, there was 147 violations related to deprivation of liberty documented, affecting 332 victims.

²³ Additional national texts protecting persons in custody and detainees: Decree n°160090 on standard internal regulations applicable to prisons in the Central African Republic, decree n°160087 on the organization and operation of prisons in the Central African Republic and determining their internal regulations, as well as decree n°160088 redefining the framework of the prison administration.

²⁴ Violations related to the right of physical and mental integrity include ill-treatment, torture and maiming and injuries.

²⁵ In quarter 2024 there was documented 190 violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity affecting 353 victims.

transferred to the hospital where he died from his injuries on 16 October. He was buried by his family on 17 October.

25. **Armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA** were responsible for 64 abuses affecting 120 victims while **other actors** were responsible for seven abuses affecting 14 victims.
26. In line with its obligations under Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Articles 2 and 16 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and Articles 4 and 5 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the CAR Government is expected to take concrete steps to prevent and investigate cases relating to torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY

27. The Government of the CAR continues its efforts to combat impunity. From 3 to 10 October, the Judicial Commission of Inquiry tasked with investigating allegations of human rights violations and abuses committed in the **Haut-Mbomou** Prefecture, particularly in Zémio, Mboki, and Obo, conducted its investigations with the support of MINUSCA. The Commission was able to meet with victims, witnesses, and other stakeholders. The report of the Commission had not been published at the time of reporting.
28. On 12 November, the Government dismissed the Mayor of the Ouara Commune²⁶ and appointed a new local executive committee (sub-Prefecture of Rafäi, **Mbomou** Prefecture). This followed the attack perpetrated by WTA elements from 1 to 7 October in Dembia in which the said Mayor was alleged to have been involved in acts amounting to hate speech and incitement to violence against the Fulani population.
29. Furthermore, following an investigative mission by the Ministry of Justice, the Director and the Head of Security of the Kaga-Bandoro prison were placed in pre-trial detention at the Ngaragba prison on 12 November for their alleged involvement in the rape and sexual exploitation of two female inmates at the Kaga-Bandoro prison. Additionally, on 15 November, a presidential decree sanctioned several magistrates for various disciplinary offenses (four magistrates dismissed, three demoted, and two reprimanded), in accordance with the recommendations made in May by the High Magistracy Council. These magistrates were serving notably in Obo (**Haut-Mbomou**), Kaga-Bandoro (**Nana-Grébizi**), and Bambari (**Ouaka**).
30. With regards to judicial proceedings, there was the referral of six individuals, including Edmond Beina, to be tried in the "Guen case" for crimes against humanity;²⁷ conviction of four defendants for crimes

²⁶ See l'Arrêté n°09/MATDDL/DIRCAB/DGDEC.DCT24 rapportant l'arrêté 002/22MATDDL/DIRCAB/CMDDL du 1^{er} juillet 2022 portant nomination des membres de la délégation spéciale auprès de la Commune de Ouara dans la Sous-Préfecture de Rafäi du 12 novembre 2024 and Arrêté n°010/MATDDL/DIRCAB/DGDEC.DCT24 portant nomination des membres de la délégation spéciale auprès de la Commune de Ouara dans la Sous-Préfecture de Rafäi du 12 novembre 2024.

²⁷ Edmond Beina, former Anti-Balaka commander, was arrested and formally charged in June 2024 for crimes against humanity and war crimes allegedly committed in Guen, Gadzi and Djomo in February and March 2014. See the *HRD monthly report: Significant developments in human rights, June 2024*, p.3.

against humanity in the "Ndélé 1" case; and the opening and suspension of the "Ndélé 2" case, which will resume in February 2025 by the Special Criminal Court (CPS).²⁸

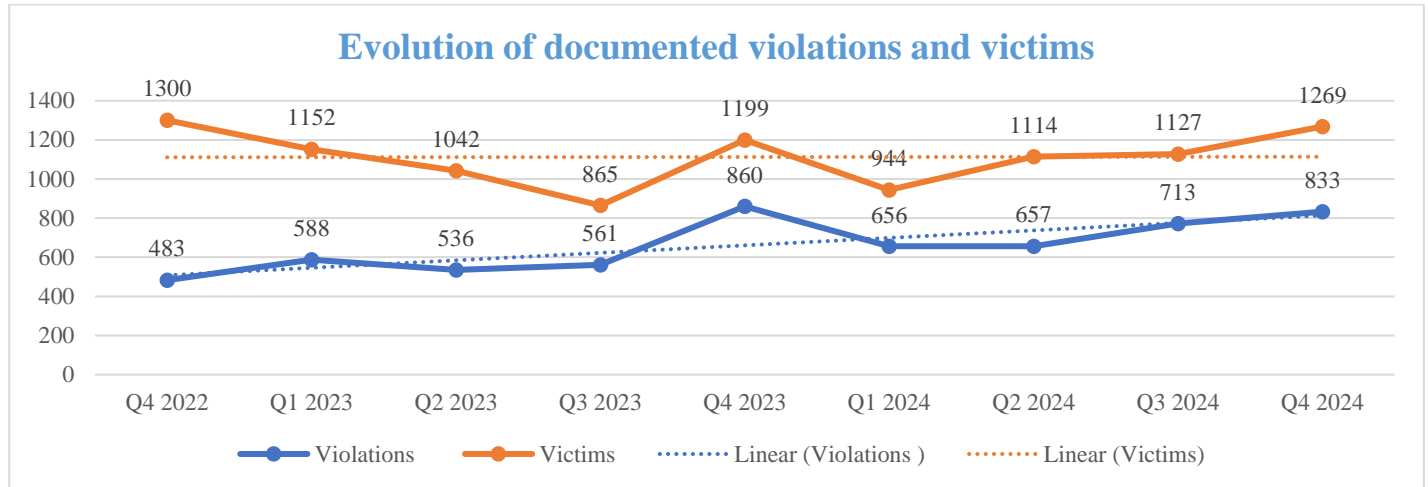
OBSERVATIONS

31. Following investigations of the Commission of Inquiry into allegations of human rights violations/abuses committed in **Haut-Mbomou** Prefecture particularly Zémio, Mboki, and Obo, it is important for steps to be taken to accelerate the finalisation and publication of the Commission's findings. Addressing the pattern of violations/abuses would require sustained political will and concrete measures to identify and prosecute perpetrators. The attacks on Dembia from 1-7 October 2024 further highlight the need for urgent steps in this regard.
32. Given the importance of inclusive, peaceful and credible elections in maintaining peace and stability in the country, efforts should be sustained to ensure that the voter registration process is peaceful and happens in an environment that will enable the most vulnerable segments of the population including women and IDPs to register and exercise their right to vote. In this regard, fostering civic space that allows the unhindered participation of all actors would be critical. It is hoped that the adoption of the law on the protection of Human Rights Defenders would provide additional opportunities for more collaboration among human rights civil society organisations and constructive engagements between them and the authorities to prevent and respond to human rights challenges within the electoral process while supporting Government's efforts to implement the National Human Rights Policy.
33. The dry season may exacerbate violence linked to transhumance which often seriously impacts respect for human rights. Concerted efforts would be required to enhance early warning and early response while reinforcing a holistic approach in addressing transhumance-related challenges.

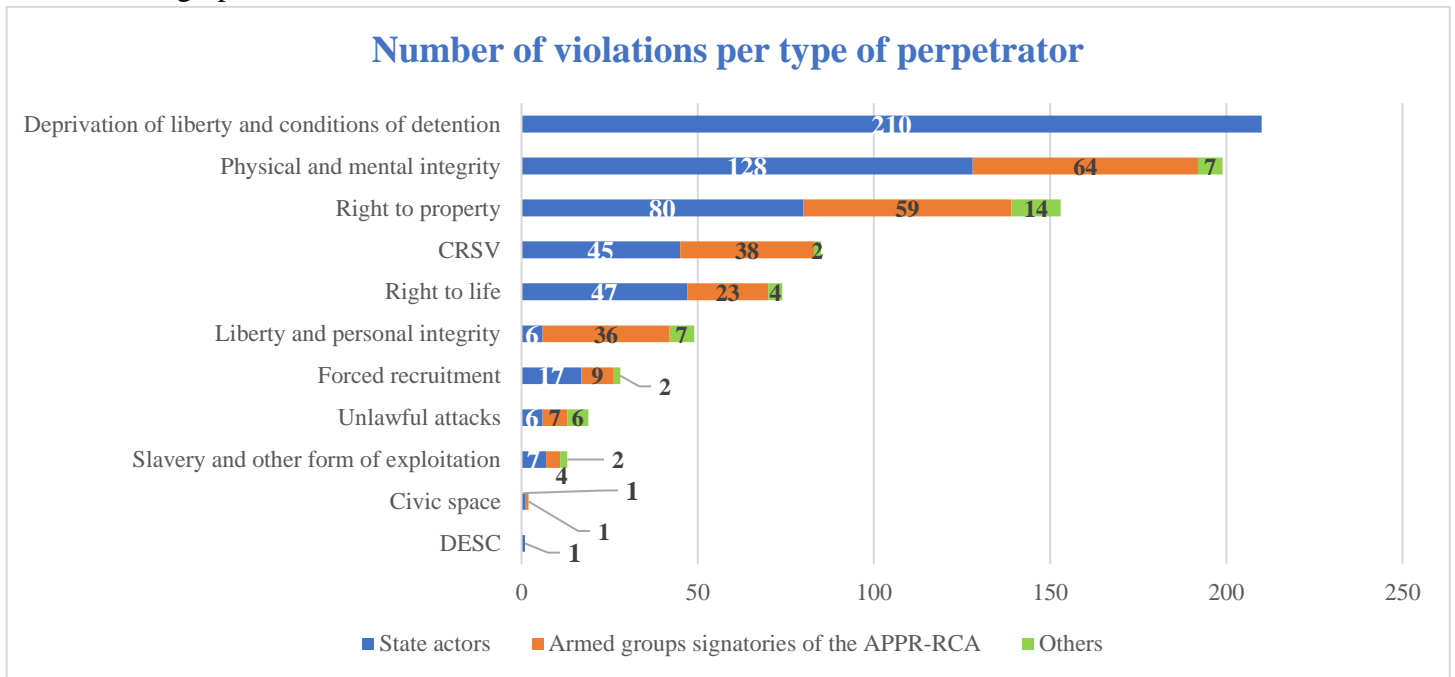
²⁸ The "Ndélé 1" and "Ndélé 2" cases concern alleged crimes against humanity committed in and around Ndélé in March 2020 during clashes between two ethnic groups, the Roungas and the Goulas, within the FPRC. See the *HRD monthly report: March 2020*, p.2.

ANNEXES

a. Infographic number 1

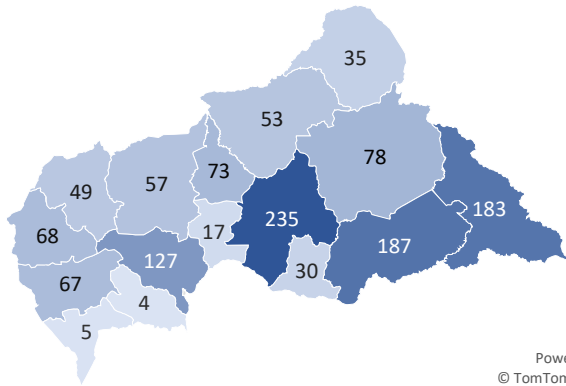


b. Infographic number 2



c. Infographic number 3

Number of confirmed violations per prefecture



Number of confirmed victims per prefecture

