



January – March 2024

HUMAN RIGHTS QUARTERLY BRIEF ON THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

HIGHLIGHTS

- In Q1 2024, the Central African Republic (CAR) is examined by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process of the Human Rights Council and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.
- UN Independent Expert on the human rights situation in CAR conducts an official visit to the CAR.
- Bangui Court of Appeal holds session and renders verdicts on 37 of the 51 scheduled cases.
- In Q1 2024, MINUSCA HRD documents 656 human rights violations and abuses, affecting 944 civilians: a 24% decrease in violations and 21% decrease in victims compared to Q4 2023.
- Among armed groups, CPC elements are responsible for most human rights abuses (89) and the 3R for the highest number of victims (118). Among State actors, FACA elements are responsible for the most violations (75) and the Gendarmerie for the most victims (161).
- Recurrent violations related to deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention (26%), the right to physical and mental integrity (21%), the right to property (16%), the right to life (12%), and conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) (12%).
- At least 73 civilians, including 46 men, six women, 14 boys and seven girls were killed (a 47% decrease compared to Q4 2023). The OSP and CPC elements were responsible for most of the victims (16 victims each).
- Haut-Mbomou was the most affected prefecture in terms of human rights violations and abuses (93) and victims (113).

SIGNIFICANT HUMAN RIGHTS RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

On 26 January 2024, under the aegis of the Human Rights Council, the human rights situation in the CAR underwent its fourth UPR process which highlighted progress in the protection of human rights, notably the adoption of a law abolishing the death penalty, the fight against human trafficking, the protection of children, the fight against corruption and the adoption of the National Human Rights Policy (PNDH). In addition, on 8 February, CAR was reviewed by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) which inter alia, noted the creation of the Special Criminal Court and highlighted the need for measures to enhance the economic empowerment of women and girls while inviting the CAR to develop a comprehensive national strategy to prevent gender-based violence.

From 11 to 23 February, Mr. Yao Agbetse, United Nations Independent Expert (IE) on the human rights situation in the CAR, visited the country at the official invitation of the government. At the end of his visit, Mr. Agbetse welcomed the Central African Government's efforts to secure the country while calling on authorities to ensure consistent training, strategic deployment and effective command within the defence and security across the country, and to ensure accountability for private military and security companies. Mr. Agbetse also stressed the

importance of the transitional justice process with emphasis on addressing the needs of victims.

With the aim of combating corruption and illegal taxation by public officials, on 20 February, Prime Minister Félix Moloua, signed a decree prescribing penalties for civil servants who extort money from road users. Sanctions include suspension from duty and a fine of one to three months' worth of salary. Civil servants would have to appear before a disciplinary board while military personnel may be arrested, demoted or forced into retirement.

Meanwhile, the extraordinary criminal session of the Court of Appeal of Bangui began on 4 December 2023 and ended on 17 January 2024. The Court rendered decisions in 37 of the 51 scheduled cases and postponed the others to the next criminal session due to procedural issues or absence of defendants. In total, 38 defendants were sentenced to terms ranging from three years to life imprisonment, and 13 people were acquitted. In addition, hearings resumed at the High Court of Obo on 27 March, after the last session was held on 17 May 2023, due to the judge's prolonged absence. Further, on 27 February, President Touadéra signed decree 240.049 appointing the members of the Constitutional Council. This decree instituted this body which replaced the former Constitutional Court.

CONTEXT

Despite the continued efforts of the government and its partners to enhance respect for human rights, challenges remain. As in the previous quarter, this quarter was marked by clashes between armed groups, military operations by defence and security forces and other security personnel (OSP) against

armed groups, and heightened ethnic tensions linked to transhumance.

Movements of armed groups and clashes between armed groups were recorded, mainly in the regions

of **Haut-Oubangui**¹, **Fertit**² and **Yadé**³. In **Haut-Oubangui**, the security situation deteriorated considerably with increased activities of the, **Azandé Ani Kpi Gbé** (AAKG)⁴ and the **Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique** (UPC) in Haut-Mbomou with implications for the protection of civilians. On 22-23 February, clashes between UPC and AAKG in Maboussou (95 km south-west of Obo), Manzan (101 km west of Obo), Kitessa (124 km south-west of Obo) and around Mboki (60 km south-west of Obo) resulted in civilian casualties. In addition, UPC and AAKG elements were involved in attacks against humanitarian convoys during which they seized good and personal belongings of passengers.

In the **Fertit** region, in **Bamingui-Bangoran** Prefecture, on 6 and 10 January respectively, unidentified armed men attacked Kotissako (45 km from Ndélé) and Tiri (90 km from Ndélé), both located on the Ndélé-Golongosso axis, killing one man, and setting houses on fire. In the **Vakaga** Prefecture, the **Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique** (FPRC) attacked a FACA base in Sikikédé (140 km southwest of Birao) but was repelled by the FACA.

In the **Yadé** region, violence and threats perpetrated by the **Coalition des patriotes pour le changement** (CPC), notably the **Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique** (MPC), the **FPRC** and Anti-Balaka elements, led to the displacement of around 900 people, including many children, from Maitikoulou village (283 km northeast of Bossangoa, Ouham Prefecture).

Meanwhile on 12 March, in a statement, Serge Simon Bozanga, former political spokesperson for the CPC announced the creation of a new armed group, the **Comité de redressement pour le salut public** (CRSP). In his statement, he inter alia said the group seeks to overthrow the government, foster reconciliation and provide security for all.

In response to the threats posed by armed groups, FACA and OSP carried out military operations which also had implications for the protection of civilians. On 27 December 2023, in Kengué (47 km from Alindao on the Alindao-Minguala axis), **Basse-Kotto** Prefecture, Haut-Oubangui Region, clashes between the UPC and the OSP resulted in civilian casualties and the burning down of around 400 houses. Similarly, clashes between the defence and security forces, the OSP and elements of the UPC armed group in Nzacko (60 km from Bakouma, 190 km from Bangassou), **Haut-Mbomou** Prefecture, led to displacement. In the **Kaga** region, following the attack on Kabo (57 km from Batangafo, Ouham-Fafa Prefecture) by the CPC on 8 January, the FACA and OSP carried out a military operation against the CPC base on 13 January. As a result, the population was displaced to Maitikoulou village (100 km from Markounda, east of Bossangoa), **Ouham** Prefecture, **Yadé** Region.

Inter-communal tensions linked to transhumance posed a persistent threat to the protection of civilians in **Bas-Oubangui/Plateaux**⁵, **Yadé**, **Kaga** and **Equateur**⁶ Regions. In the **Bas-Oubangui/ Plateaux** Region, farmers and Fulani herders clashed on 2 January in Trangué and

¹ For the purpose of this report, the Haut-Oubangui region includes the Basse-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou prefectures.

² For the purpose of this report, the Fertit region includes the prefectures of Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto and Vakaga.

³ For the purpose of this report, the Yade region includes the Lim-Pendé (reflected in the maps under Ouham-Pende), Ouham and Ouham-Pende. Note that due to limitations of the software being used, the figures for Ouham-Fafa, which normally concern the Kaga region, are also included here (reflected in the maps of Ouham).

⁴ The Azanikpigbé was initially a self-defence group established in March 2023 to assist the Armed Forces of the Central African Republic in operations against the *Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique*. Since 1 January 2024, it has been classified as a non-State armed group pursuant to article 1.1 of Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions of August 1949.

⁵ The Plateaux/Bas-Oubangui region includes the Ombella M'Poko and Lobaye prefectures and Bangui.

⁶ For the purpose of this report, the Equateur region includes the Mambéré, Mambéré-Kadéï, Nana-Mambéré et Sangha-Mbaéré.

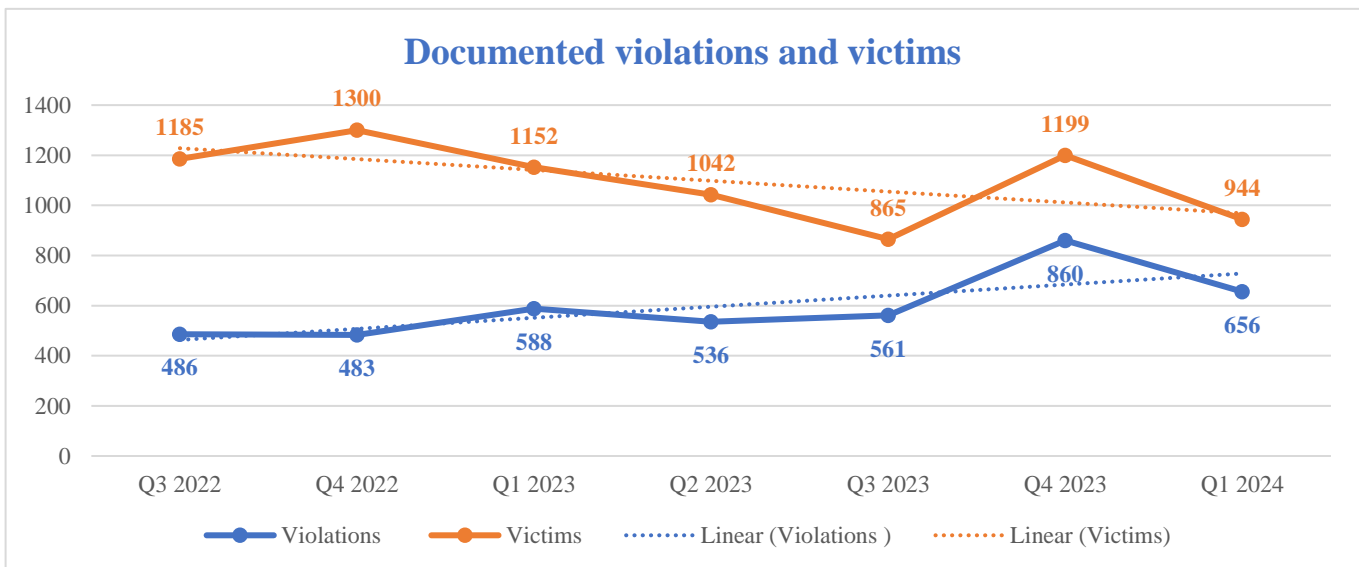
Ngouaka villages. Similar tensions were observed in the **Ouham-Pendé** and **Lim-Pendé** Prefectures (**Yadé** Region).

In the **Kaga** Region, in Batangafo in Ouham-Fafa Prefecture, the theft of cattle and destruction of farmland led to increased communal tensions.

Meanwhile, in political developments, on 27 March, the Bangui Court of First Instance sentenced Mr. Mboli-Goumba (coordinator of the *Bloc Républicain pour la Défense de la Constitution* (BRDC) and President of the opposition party *Parti africain pour la*

transformation radicale et l'intégration des Etats (PATRIE) to a one-year suspended sentence for defamation and contempt of court and ordered him to pay 80 million XAF (around 144,000 USD). Mr. Mboli-Goumba has appealed the decision. It is worth noting that the arrest of Mr. Mboli-Goumba on 4 March on charges including "injurious criticism" and "attacks on honour and dignity" following a complaint by four magistrates, prompted a strike by lawyers in all jurisdictions, including the Special Criminal Court, from 4 to 27 March.

GENERAL TRENDS



During the first quarter of 2024, the HRD documented 656 human rights violations and abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL) affecting 944 civilian victims, representing a **24% decrease** in violations and abuses and a **21% decrease** in victims, compared to the previous quarter. **State actors** were responsible for **45%** of the human rights violations (**292**) and for **50%** of the victims (**473**). Of note, most violations (**146 violations affecting 314 victims**) are related to arbitrary arrest and detention, including detention beyond the legal time limit for police custody and violations linked to conditions of detention that do

not comply with national and international standards. **Armed groups signatories to the *Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation* (APPR-RCA)** were responsible for **41%** of human rights abuses (**266**) and for **36%** of the victims (**340**).

Other actors, including armed groups non-signatories to the APPR-RCA, were responsible for **15%** of abuses (**98**) and **14%** of victims (**132**).

Despite the reduction observed in the number of violations and victims in Q1 of 2024 compared to Q3 of 2023, an increase of **94%** of unlawful attacks

was noted (33 with 55 victims), which represents an increase of 112% in terms of victims. The Fertit Region was the most affected (13 violations affecting 14 victims), with Vakaga the most affected prefecture (eight violations affecting nine victims). The UPC and unidentified armed men

were the main perpetrators with each of them committing eight violations affecting eight victims.

Most violations and victims of CRSV were documented in the Mbomou Prefecture (27 violations affecting 32 victims), mainly perpetrated by unidentified CPC elements (26 violations affecting 29 victims).

VIOLATIONS

During the period under review, most human rights violations and abuses included **deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention**⁷ that do not comply with national and international standards (161); the **right to physical and mental integrity**⁸ including torture, ill-treatment, maiming, and injuries (136); the **right to property**⁹ including appropriation of property and illegal taxation (104); the **right to life**¹⁰ including extrajudicial or summary executions or other killings (81); and **CRSV**¹¹ including rape and sexual slavery (81). As a party to international and regional treaties such as the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and in application of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the CAR and its deconcentrated and decentralized structures have a responsibility to exercise the necessary diligence to prevent and respond to violations/abuses of these rights committed by either by State or non-State actors.¹²

At least 334 persons (including 284 men, five women, 23 boys, and 22 groups of collective

victims) were victims of arbitrary arrest and/or detention, including conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards. With regards to police custody, the Criminal Procedure Code provides a maximum of 72 hours of custody renewable once while the newly adopted constitution has reduced the timeframe to 24 hours. While the Code is still widely applicable, there is a need to harmonize its provisions with those of the constitution. Violations of the right to liberty and conditions of detention account for 26% of all violations representing a slight 1% increase in the number of violations and a 14% decrease in the number of victims compared with the previous quarter. **Gendarmerie** (63 violations affecting 154 victims) and **police** (55 violations affecting 106 victims) were the main perpetrators. **Ombella M'Poko** was the most affected prefecture with the most violations (23) and victims (47).

Violations and abuses of the **right to physical and mental integrity** (136) including torture, ill-

⁷ Deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention include arbitrary arrest and detention, and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international minimum standards (food shortage, non-separation: adults/minors - by gender - sentenced/indicted, access to WASH, and inhuman conditions of detention.

⁸ Violations of the right to physical and mental integrity includes torture, ill-treatment, maiming and injuries, and threats on physical and mental integrity.

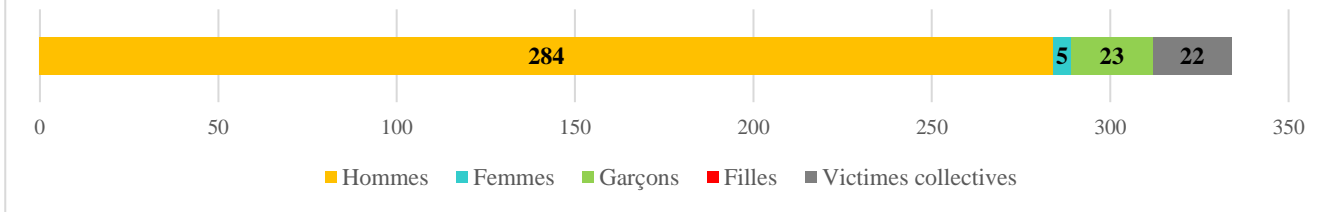
⁹ Violations of the right of property includes destruction or appropriation of property and illegal taxation.

¹⁰ The violations of right to life comprises extrajudicial or summary execution and other killings, attempted killings, enforced disappearances, deaths in custody, and death threats.

¹¹ The CRSV violations/abuses include rape, attempted rape, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy, forced marriage, attempted forced marriage, forced nudity, and sexual assault and harassment.

¹² The UDHR of 10 December 1948 recognizes the right to liberty and security of person (Article 3), and the right to physical integrity and the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Article 5). The ICCPR, which came into force in CAR on 8 August 1981, guarantees the right to life (Article 6), the right to physical integrity and the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Article 7), the right to liberty and security of person (Article 9) and the right to be treated with humanity (Article 10).

Number of victims per violations (deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention)



treatment, maiming and injuries, and threats to physical and mental integrity affected **220** victims (**142** men, **30** women, **35** boys, **10** girls and three groups of collective victims). This represents a **23%** decrease in the number of violations and **9%** decrease in the number of victims compared to the previous quarter. It is worth noting that violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity represent **21%** of total violations and abuses. **State actors** were responsible of **46%** of the violations (**62**) and **47%** of **victims (103)**. Most violations of the right to physical and mental integrity by state actors were committed as punishment at FACA checkpoints, in police or gendarmerie holding cells, or as part of the search of armed group elements or their alleged accomplices by the OSP and FACA. On 4 February, the Deputy Commissioner of Police of Yaloké, **Ombella M'Poko** Prefecture, arbitrarily detained and beat two women with a machete resulting in serious injury to one of them.

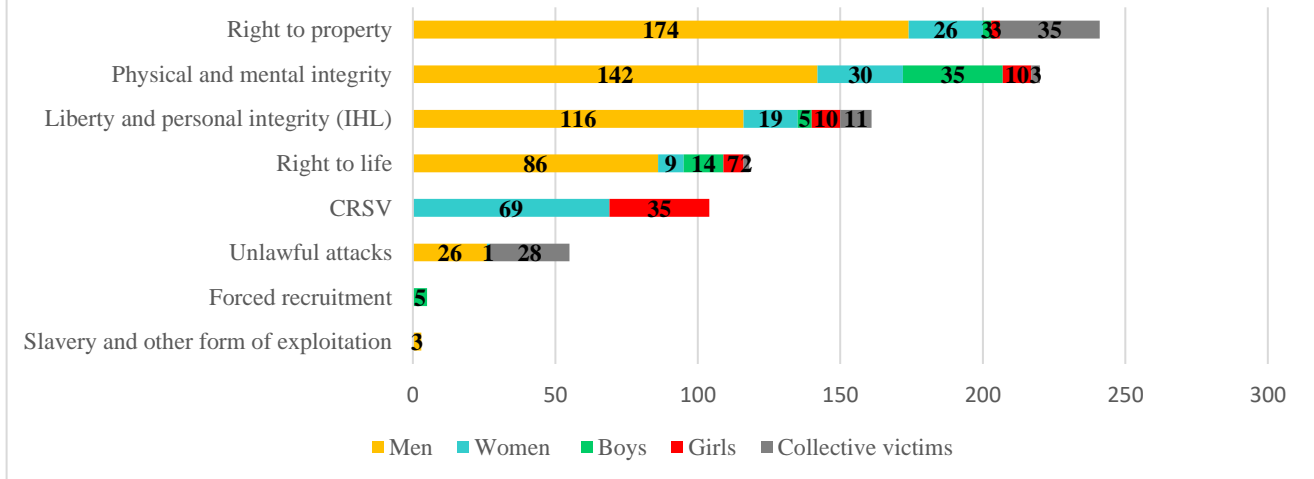
Armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA were responsible for **38%** of violations (**51 cases**) of the right to physical and mental integrity (including ill-treatment, maiming and injuries and threats to physical and mental integrity) and **41%** (**91**) of victims.

Other actors including armed groups non-signatory to the APPR-RCA as well as explosive ordnance were responsible for **17%** of abuses (**23**) of the right to physical and mental integrity affecting **12%** (**26**) of victims. Most of the violations of the right to physical and mental integrity committed by armed groups occurred in the context of sexual violence, including rape, and appropriation of

property. For example, on 5 January, in Bani, **Haute-Kotto** Prefecture, UPC elements raped a 51-year-old woman while holding her husband at gunpoint. The incident occurred after they arrived at the couple's house at about 9 p.m. in search of another woman who unbeknownst to them, was hiding in the house. When the couple failed to respond to their questions, an element held the husband at gunpoint and took him out of the house while another element raped his wife. The **Ouham** and **Haute-Kotto** Prefectures recorded the most violations and abuses, **18** each involving respectively **32** and **22** victims.

Violations/abuses of the right to property represented **16%** of the human rights violations and abuses (**104**) affecting a total of **241** victims (**174** men, **26** women, **three** boys, **three** girls and **35** groups of collective victims). **Armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA** were responsible for **53%** of these violations/abuses (**55**) affecting **59%** of victims (**143**) while **State actors** were accountable for **25%** (**26**) of violations affecting **16%** (**39**) of victims. **Other actors** were responsible for **22%** of abuses (**23**) affecting **59 victims**. Most of the violations or abuses of the right to property were perpetrated by the **UPC (20** abuses affecting **52** victims), **FACA (16** abuses affecting **29** victims) and the **3R (16** abuses affecting **38** victims). **Haute-Kotto** Prefecture saw the most violations (**16**) and **Ouham** Prefecture the most victims (**36**). On 13 February, UPC armed elements intercepted a vehicle carrying seven people in the vicinity of Tambia village (around 40 km from Alindao on the Alindao-Bambari axis, Ouaka Prefecture). They seized 500,000 XAF (around

Number of victims per violations (other than deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention)



833 US\$) conducted searches during which they collected an additional amount of 100,000 XAF (around 167 US\$) as well as medication. While the signing of the Prime ministerial decree prohibiting acts of extortion and illegal seizure and taxation by state agents is expected to provide an additional basis for accountability, similar actions by non-state actors often go unpunished and would require additional efforts by relevant authorities for remedial action.

During the first quarter of 2024, violations of the **right to life**, including extrajudicial or summary executions or other killings, enforced disappearances, death in custody and death threats, represented 12% of human rights violations and abuses (81 violations) affecting a total of 118 victims (86 men, nine women, 14 boys, seven girls and two groups of collective victims). **Armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA** were responsible for 49% of abuses (40) affecting 59 victims while State actors were responsible for 28% affecting 35 victims. **Other actors** were responsible for 22% of the abuses affecting 24 victims. The main perpetrators were **CPC elements** with 19 abuses affecting 27 victims including nine killings involving 16 victims. The **OSP** were implicated in 10 violations including nine killings affecting 17 victims. For instance, on 9 March, OSP shot and killed four civilians in

Boromata (125 km south-west of Birao), **Vakaga** Prefecture. The incident happened after the victims who were on a motorcycle failed to stop after being ordered by the OSP to do so. The most affected region was **Haut-Oubangui** (29 violations affecting 42 victims) with **Mbomou** being the most affected prefecture (16 violations affecting 26 victims).

In the meantime, CRSV cases documented during the period under review accounted for 12% of the total number of human rights violations and abuses and 11% of victims. At least 81 cases of **CRSV** affecting 104 victims (69 women and 35 girls) were documented indicating a 31% decrease in violations and a 23% decrease in victims compared to the previous quarter. The **Mbomou** (27 violations affecting 32 victims) and the **Ouham-Pendé** (21 violations affecting 32 victims) were the most affected prefectures. It is worth highlighting that rape (65 cases) accounted for 80% of CRSV violations and abuses involving 58 women and 30 girls. Most of the CRSV (50 cases) occurred between 2021 and 2023 but were verified and documented during the reporting period.

Armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA, other actors, and State actors were responsible respectively for 80%, 16% and 9% of CRSV cases

with **CPC elements** being the main perpetrators (**32** cases affecting **40** victims). The 3R was involved in **22** CRSV cases affecting **34** victims. In January 2022, in Nzacko, **Mbomou** Prefecture, two elements of the CPC armed with AK47 rifles and dressed in military uniforms surprised a minor and

her mother in the field. They beat the mother with a belt, chased her away and took turns in raping the minor leaving her unconscious. At the time of reporting, the victim was yet to receive the requisite medical care.

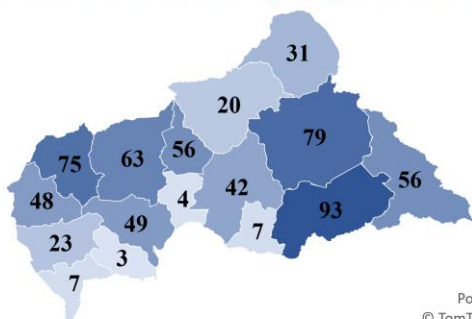
GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Most of the human rights violations/ abuses and victims in the first quarter of 2024 were documented in **Haut-Oubangui** Region (**156** violations affecting **202** victims). This is consistent with the trend established in Q4 of 2023. It represents a **56%** decrease in the number of violations and a **53%** decrease in the number of victims compared to Q4 of 2023. The high numbers of violations and victims in **Haut-Oubangui** Region is due to the abuses (**61**) perpetrated by **CPC** elements acting mainly in Nzacko, **Mbomou** Prefecture, affecting **58** victims and **Azande Ani Kpi Gbe** (**33**) affecting **32** victims. The violations and abuses documented in **Haut-Oubangui** included arbitrary arrest and/or detention including conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards (**31** violations affecting **70** victims), rape (**23** violations affecting **28** victims), destruction or appropriation of property (**17** violations affecting **43** victims), ill-treatment (**16**

violations affecting **22** victims), killings (**14** violations affecting **25** victims), and abductions (**14** violations affecting **22** victims).

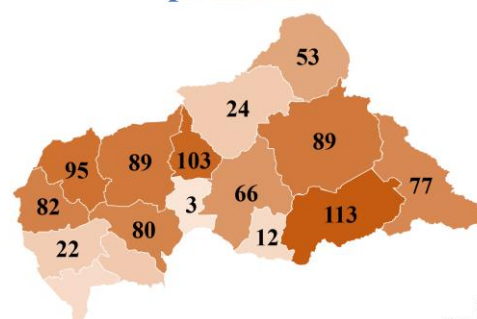
In the **Fertit** Region, a decrease in violations/abuses and victims (**130** violations affecting **166** victims) was noted compared to the previous quarter (**157** violations affecting **198** victims). Violations and abuses included, among others, appropriation of property (**25** violations affecting **60** victims), arbitrary arrest and/or detention including conditions of detention that do not comply with the national and international standards (**17** violations affecting **33** victims), ill-treatment (**13** violations affecting **18** victims), unlawful attacks (**13** violations affecting **14** victims), killings (**12** violations affecting **15** victims) and rape (**11** violations affecting **15** victims). **UPC** was involved in most abuses (**33**) affecting **38** victims followed by **unidentified armed men** (**18** abuses) affecting **36** victims. Within the region, **Haute-Kotto** Prefecture was

Number of confirmed violations/abuses per prefecture



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Number of confirmed victims per prefecture



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the most affected with **79** violations affecting **89** victims.

The **Yadé** Region witnessed an increase in number of violations (**138**) and victims (**184**) compared to the previous quarter during which **96** violations and **148** victims were documented. Violations and abuses included rape (**26** affecting **40** victims), arbitrary arrest and/or detention including conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards (**24** affecting **42** victims), ill-treatment (**23** affecting **36** victims), and destruction or appropriation of property (**21** affecting **46** victims). Similar to previous quarters, it is worth noting that a pattern of rape continues to be reported in **Ouham-Pendé** Prefecture, which recorded **32%** of documented incidents in the first quarter of 2024 with the **3R** being the main perpetrator (**20** abuses affecting **31** victims). For instance, on 7 February, **3R** elements abducted and raped four women as they were returning from their fields near the village of Nzaman (near Nzakoundou, around 80 km north-west of Paoua), **Ouham-Pende** Prefecture.

In **Kaga** Region, **102** violations and abuses affecting **172** victims were documented representing a decrease of **14%** and **11%**, respectively, compared with Q4 of 2023. Violations and abuses included, among others, arbitrary arrest and/or detention, including conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards for the treatment of detainees (**35** violations affecting **92** victims), ill-treatment (**14** violations affecting **19** victims), appropriation of property (**10** violations affecting **28** victims) and maiming and injuries (**eight** violations affecting **11** victims). Consistent with the previous quarter, the violations were mostly attributable to **FACA** (**28** violations affecting **20** victims) followed by the **gendarmerie** (**19** abuses affecting **58** victims) with **Nana-Gribizi**

Prefecture being the most affected, with **56** violations and abuses affecting **103** victims.

In the **Equateur** Region, a decrease was noted in terms of number of violations/abuses and victims (**78** violations affecting **115**) compared to the previous quarter (**98** violations affecting **138** victims). The most common violations included: deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention (**29** violations affecting **48** victims), ill-treatment (**13** violations affecting **34** victims) and appropriation of property (**10** violations affecting **32** victims). The **3R** was responsible for the highest number of abuses and victims (**19** affecting **36** victims). The **police** were involved in **18** violations affecting **24** victims. The **Nana-Mambéré** Prefecture was the most affected with **48** violations affecting **82** victims.

In the **Plateau/Bas-Oubangui** Region, **52** violations/abuses affecting **105** victims were documented representing an increase in the number of violations/abuses and a decrease in the number of victims compared to Q4 of 2023 (**40** violations and **114** victims). Most violations and abuses were related to deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention (**25** violations affecting **49** victims), ill-treatment (**six** violations affecting **34** victims), destruction or appropriation of property (**six** violations affecting **13** victims) and killings (**five** violations affecting **eight** victims). The violations were mostly attributable to **gendarmerie** (**11** violations affecting **25** victims) and abuses to **3R** (nine abuses affecting nine victims) with **Ombella M'Poko** Prefecture being the most affected with (**39** violations affecting **59** victims).

Of note, **Bangui** recorded **10** violations, all linked to deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention, affecting **21** victims with the **gendarmerie** being the main perpetrator (**five** violations affecting **14** victims).

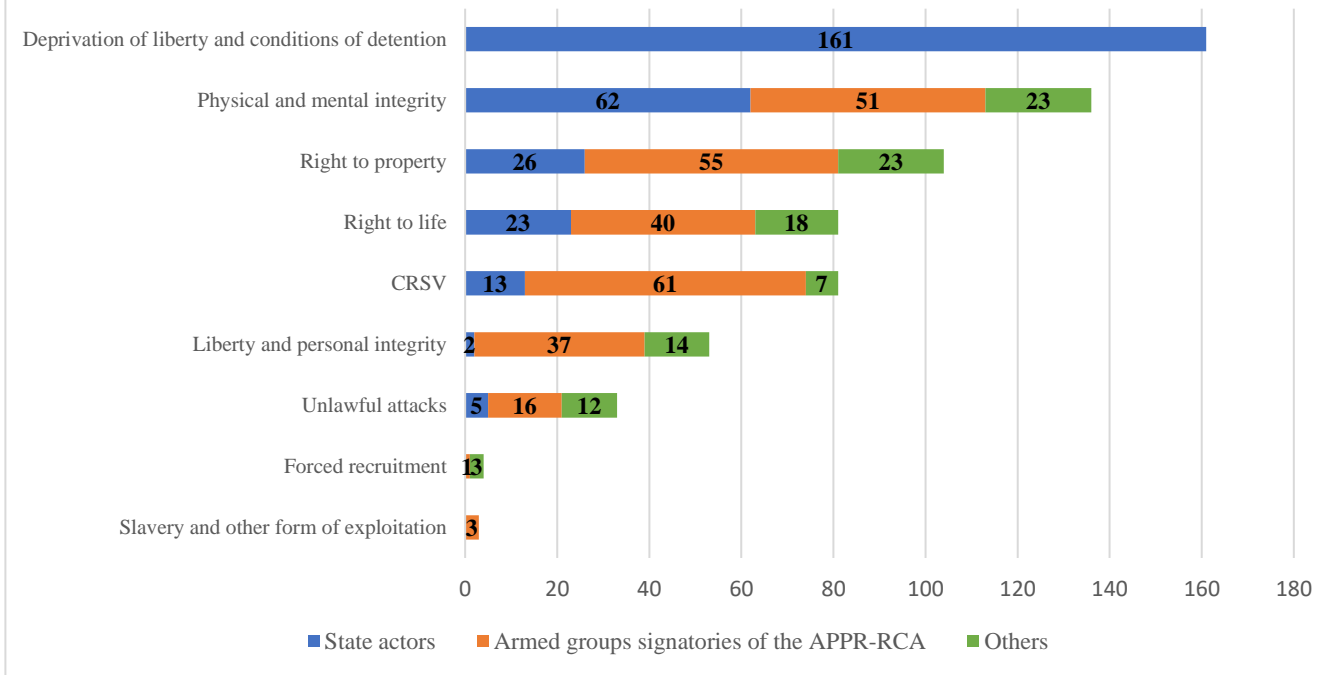
PERPETRATORS

In Q1 2024, **292** violations affecting **476** victims were attributable to **State actors** representing **45%** of total violations and **50%** of documented victims. Compared with Q4 of 2023, these figures represent a decrease of **6%** and **8%** respectively in the number of violations and victims. Violations linked to **deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention** account for 55% of the violations committed by state actors (**161**), affecting **334** victims, representing **71%** of all their victims. State actors were also implicated in cases of ill-treatment (**38** affecting **79** victims) and right to life (**23** violations affecting **35** victims) including death threats and the killing of **24** persons (**21** men, a woman and **two** boys), maiming and injuries (**13** violations affecting **17** victims), illegal taxation (**10** violations affecting **12** victims) and **rape** (**eight** violations affecting **eight** victims including **three** women and **five** girls). The main perpetrators among **State actors** were **FACA elements** with **75** violations affecting **62** victims. FACA elements were also implicated in violations of right to physical and mental integrity (**29** violations affecting **35** victims) including ill-treatment (**18** violations affecting **27** victims), maiming and injuries (**seven** violations affecting **seven** victims) and torture (**four** violations affecting **14** victims). Victims of FACA elements (**22**) generally suffered multiple violations such as ill-treatment, death threats and appropriation of property including illegal taxation. Acting jointly with other actors, like OSP, gendarmerie, police, *garde présidentielle* and judicial authorities, FACA elements were responsible for **14** additional violations (including ill-treatment, appropriation of property, illegal taxation, killing, arbitrary arrest) affecting **43** victims with the **Kaga** Region recording the most violations by FACA elements (**28** violations affecting **20** victims). In the Kaga Region, **Nana-Grébizi Prefecture** was the most affected with **20**

violations involving **14 victims**. On the other hand, the **gendarmerie** was involved in **70** violations affecting **161 victims** while the **police** committed **67** violations (affecting **115** victims), with the majority being cases related to deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention. Nonetheless, the gendarmerie was also involved in other violations such as extra-judicial killing, torture and ill-treatment of **five** men while police were involved in ill-treatment (**seven** violations affecting **eight** victims). It should be noted that **OSP** were responsible for **35** violations affecting **35** victims including killing (**nine** cases affecting **16** victims), arbitrary arrests and detention (**six** violations affecting **seven** victims), ill-treatment (**five** violations affecting **five** victims) torture (**four** violations affecting **five** victims) and maiming and injuries (**four** violations affecting **eight** victims). The **Yadé** Region recorded the most OSP cases (**13** violations affecting **10** victims) with **Ouham** Prefecture being the most affected (**10** violations by OSP affecting **seven** victims).

Meanwhile, **armed group signatories to the APPR-RCA** were responsible for **41%** of abuses (**266**) affecting **340** victims, representing a decrease of **13%** in terms of abuses and **27%** in terms of victims compared to Q4 of 2023. The most common abuses included CRSV (**61** affecting **81** victims) including rape (**54** cases affecting **50** women and **25** girls), destruction or appropriation of property (**53** abuses affecting **141** victims), ill-treatment (**32** abuses affecting **64** victims), abduction (**27** abuses affecting **62**) and killing (**21** abuses affecting **14** men, **three** women, **eight** boys and **four** girls). The main perpetrators among **armed group signatories to the APPR-RCA** were **CPC elements** (**89** abuses

Number of violations per type of perpetrator



affecting **98** victims).¹³ They were mostly responsible for **32** CRSV cases including rape (**28** cases affecting **28** women and **10** girls) and sexual slavery (**two** cases affecting **two** women); destruction or appropriation of property (**10** abuses affecting **28** victims), abductions (**10** abuses affecting **20** victims) and killing (**nine** affecting **six** men, **three** women, **four** boys and **three** girls). Most abuses by **CPC elements** occurred in **Mbomou** Prefecture, **Haut-Oubangui** Region. Furthermore, the **3R** was involved in **88** abuses affecting **118** victims including ill-treatment (**21** abuses affecting **40** victims), rape (**21** cases affecting **21** women and **11** girls), destruction or appropriation of property (**16** abuses affecting **38** victims) and abduction (**eight** violations affecting **24** victims). Of note, victims of destruction or appropriation of property were also victims of ill treatment. Most of the abuses of **3R** occurred in **Yadé** Region (**60** abuses affecting **73** victims) with the majority of cases in **Ouham-Pendé** Prefecture (**49** abuses affecting **57**

victims). The **UPC** was implicated in **57** abuses affecting **81** victims including destruction or appropriation of property (**20** violations affecting **52** victims), **six** cases of illegal occupation of schools (**four** in 2023 and **two** in February 2024) affecting **six** schools, killing, abduction, and rape (**four** abuses each involving respectively **four**, **nine** and **four** victims). The **Fertit** Region recorded the highest number of abuses and victims (**33** abuses involving **38** victims) by **UPC** with **Haute-Kotto** being the most affected Prefecture (**30** abuses affecting **35** victims).

Other actors were involved in **98** abuses affecting **132** victims representing a **60%** decrease in abuses and a **21%** decrease in victims compared to Q4 of 2023. These actors mainly committed destruction or appropriation of property (**20** abuses affecting **54** victims), ill-treatment (**15** abuses affecting **11** men, **two** women, **four** boys and **three** girls), killing (**14** abuses affecting **20** victims), and abduction (**11** abuses

¹³ The HRD carried out a fact-finding mission in Nzacko and Bakouma in February 2024 and documented new violations and abuses that took place between 2017 and 2024. The victims identified their perpetrators as belonging to the CPC but were unable to identify them as UPC or FPRC, which are the armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA present in the locality at the time of the incidents.

affecting **32** victims). Most victims of destruction or appropriation of property were also subjected to ill-treatment, deprivation of liberty or abduction. The **Fertit** Region was the most affected by the abuses of other actors (**38** abuses affecting **59** victims) with the **Vakaga** Prefecture recording the most cases (**17** abuses affecting **34** victims). With regards to the violations documented in the **Vakaga** Prefecture implicating other actors, an important element for consideration is its proximity to Sudan and its exposure to the effects of the conflict in Sudan as illustrated by incursions by unidentified armed groups, including the Sudanese Army and elements of the **Rapid Support Forces (RSF)**. Within the category of “other actors”, **unidentified armed men** were the main perpetrators involved in **35** abuses affecting **56** victims. They were mostly responsible for unlawful attacks (**eight** abuses affecting **eight** victims), destruction or appropriation of property (**seven** abuses affecting **29** victims), killing (**four** abuses affecting **five** men) and abduction (**four** abuses affecting **eight** victims). In December 2023, two women returning from the fields were intercepted by four unidentified armed men who abducted and raped them between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

in the vicinity of Am-Dafock, 65 km from Birao, **Vakaga** Prefecture. Several women were raped under similar circumstances by unidentified armed men. Most of the victims do not receive the requisite medical attention largely due to fear of stigmatization.

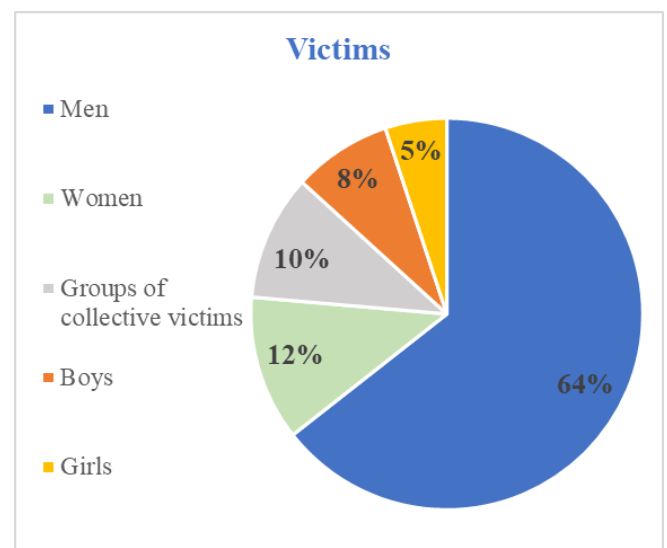
The **Azande Ani Kpi Gbe** armed group was involved in **33** abuses involving **32** victims in the **Haut-Mbomou** Prefecture, **Haut-Oubangui** Region. They were mainly responsible for ill-treatment (**seven** abuses involving **nine** victims), killing (**five** abuses involving **nine** victims), destruction or appropriation of property (**five** abuses involving **14** victims) and abduction (**five** abuses affecting **11** victims). In addition, the *Parti du rassemblement de la nation centrafricaine* (**PRNC**) was implicated in **10** abuses affecting **10** victims in **Haute-Kotto** Prefecture, **Fertit** Region. Some of the abuses perpetrated by PRNC included destruction or appropriation of property (**three** abuses affecting **four** victims) and threats to physical and mental integrity (**two** abuses affecting **two** victims).

VICTIMS

During the period under review, **944** civilian victims of human rights violations and abuses perpetrated by armed groups, State actors and other perpetrators were documented representing a 21% decrease in the number of victims compared to Q4 2023. Of these victims, **247** suffered multiple violations, including **three** groups of collective victims.

A majority of the victims were men (608), followed by women (113), boys (77), girls (48) and 98 groups of collective victims.

Men were the main victims of arbitrary arrest and/or detention including conditions of detention that do not comply with the national



and international standards (284), appropriation of property (170), ill-treatment (101), abduction (65), deprivation of liberty (50) and killing (46). **Women** were mainly victims of rape (58), ill-treatment (26), appropriation of property (25) and abduction (14). **Boys** were mostly subjected to ill-treatment (31) arbitrary arrest and/or detention including conditions of detention that do not comply with the national and international standards (23) and killing (14). **Girls** were mainly victims of rape (30), abduction (10) and killings (seven). Most of the groups of collective victims suffered from unlawful attacks (28), appropriation of property (23), conditions of detention that do not comply with the national and international standards for the treatment of detainees (23), and illegal taxation (12).