

HRD documented 266 new incidents of violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law affecting 365 victims including 274 men, 55 women, 19 boys, 12 girls, and five unknown children. These figures represent a 31.9 percent decrease in the total number of incidents and a 25.8 percent decrease in the total number of victims compared to the previous month, which documented 391 incidents and 492 victims

# MONTHLY REPORT- FEBRUARY 2018

**MINUSCA HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION**

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**Human Rights Division**

**Monthly Report**

**February 2018**

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## I. Executive Summary

During the month of February, the human rights situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) continued to be cause for concern due to the activities of the different armed groups in several parts of the country and their negative impact on the civilian population. Although the HRD observed a decrease in the number of violations and abuses during the reporting period, targeted civilian attacks and tensions have been mounting in several parts of CAR namely in Mbomou, Haut-Mbomou, Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, and Haute-Kotto prefectures. In addition to the anti-Balaka armed groups whose activities seem to be expanding all over CAR, as they attack the local population for economic gains, or target the Muslim or Fulani communities, the *Unité pour la Paix en Centrafrique* (UPC) is also gaining new grounds and extending its grip to Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou prefecture in order to defend its Fulani population. The Fulani (Mbarara/Mbororo) who mostly operate on the transhumance corridor in the western part of CAR, are now observed to be continuously mobilising and spreading toward the eastern part of CAR.

Armed groups committed 159 abuses (59.8 % of the total number of violations/abuses recorded in February) affecting 235 victims (64.4 %). This represents a 10.7 percent decrease in the total number of incidents and 13.6 percent decrease in the total number of victims, compared to the previous month, which recorded 178 abuses with 272 victims. Armed groups perpetrated mainly killings, cruel and inhuman treatment, rape and other forms of conflict related sexual violence, arbitrary deprivation of liberty, abductions, extortion, pillaging, appropriation and destruction of property, and attacks on peacekeepers.

State agents were responsible for 107 violations (40.2 % of the total number of violations/abuses) of international human rights law affecting 130 victims (35.6 %). This represents a 49.9 percent decrease in the total number of incidents and 40.9 percent decrease in the total number of victims as compared to the previous month, which recorded 213 violations with 220 victims. Violations by State agents, as in previous months, were mainly cases of arbitrary detention, caused by the failure to respect the 72 hour (renewable once) legal limit for holding suspects before presenting them before a judicial authority. Such cases were recorded mainly in the western part of the country, where the Police and Gendarmerie are present.

Through HRD advocacy, technical assistance and dialogue efforts, GoCAR endorsed the National Human Rights Commission's Executive Board and rule of procedures. Other advocacy efforts led to the transfer of 38 detainees and the release of eleven persons. The HRD continues to provide support efforts to the national authorities to address transitional justice as part of the peace and reconciliation process. The HRD urges the GoCAR to cooperate fully with MINUSCA, Humanitarian actors and international partners to find comprehensive, adequate, and concerted responses to persistent protection of civilian concerns in PK5 Bangui, the North-east and the South-east. The HRD has urged armed groups to cease actions that pose threats to the lives of civilians under their areas of influence.

## II. Major human rights developments along security and political context

1. In February, the security and human rights situation in CAR remained volatile particularly in Haute-Kotto, Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, Ouaka, Nana-Grébizi and Haut-Mbomou prefectures. With the peak of the transhumance period, HRD observed the growing strength of the armed Fulani elements who, on some occasions, were supported by the *Unité pour la Paix en Centrafrique* (UPC), to either defend the theft of their cattle or defend the Fulani population who seem to be targeted by mainly anti-Balaka elements. On 16 February for example, approximately 40 armed Fulani men attacked Bedobake<sup>1</sup> village where they killed two civilians, wounded another and pillaged 48 cattle. On 22 February, panic ensued in Bangassou (Mbomou) which resulted in the Prefect and seven members of his administration seeking refuge at the MINUSCA base.
2. As well, Bangui continues to face mounting tensions in 3<sup>rd</sup> District-PK5 where criminal gangs exposed civilians including traders to persecutions, extortions criminal tensions and physical assault causing a general insecurity and terror with civilians under continuous threats. Consequently, MINUSCA and GoCAR reached agreement for the neutralization of Militia in PK-5 through a joint operation which is phased in a manner that accommodates a comprehensive contingency planning alongside projected security, social, judicial and political measures.
3. HRD, also initiated investigations over the discovery of dead bodies of six civilians – four men and two women – local NGO and one consultant for UNICEF, allegedly killed by MPC elements in an area about 250 meters from the road and 500 meters from Defei village<sup>2</sup>.

## III. Human rights violations related to the conflict and trends constituting threats to the protection of civilians

### A. Human rights violations

4. As demonstrated in the annex of this report, HRD in February documented **266** new incidents<sup>3</sup> of violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law affecting **365** victims including **274** men, **55** women, **19** boys, **12** girls, and **five** unknown children. These figures represent a **31.9** percent decrease in the total number of incidents and a **25.8** percent decrease in the total number of victims compared to the previous month, which documented 391 incidents and 492 victims. It is worth noting that of the 266 new incidents recorded, 10 affected groups of collective victims<sup>4</sup> characterized mainly by attacks by armed groups on villages during which they pillaged and/or destroyed the houses. In such situations, it was not possible for the HRD to determine the exact number of victims nor their age or sex.
5. The most recurrent human rights violations and abuses committed during the reporting period were: (a) violations of the right to life with **32 incidents (eight death threats)** affecting **42** victims and **one** group of collective victims; (b) physical and mental integrity with **40 incidents** causing **60** victims; (c) conflict related sexual violence with **18 incidents** (15 rape cases, one attempted rape, one sexual assault and one forced marriage) affecting **20** victims (two men, 13 women, and five girls); (d) **94 cases** of arbitrary detention affecting **94** victims<sup>5</sup>; (e) exploitation through forced recruitment and forced labour by the armed groups, **two incidents**

<sup>1</sup> Located approximately 52 kilometers north east of Paoua

<sup>2</sup> Located approximately 19 kilometres from Markounda on Nangha Boguilla axis

<sup>3</sup> Figures mentioned in the report do not reflect the complete overview of the human rights violations in CAR. The figures relate to cases documented and verified by the HRD, though it may be possible that these figures include human rights violations committed during previous months but brought to the attention of the HRD during the month of February 2018. Statistics regarding the number of violations reported may increase or decrease over a given period of time due to numerous factors outside the control and/or knowledge of the HRD and must therefore be used with caution.

<sup>4</sup> The term collective victims for the purpose of this report refers to cases of violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law received by HRD where the number of victims and their disaggregated data are unknown. The term refers to cases where a group of people are affected by the same incident and due to security restrictions, HRD could not immediately conduct a monitoring field mission to ascertain the disaggregated data.

<sup>5</sup> HRD also documented one case of poor detention conditions affecting 16 men and five cases where five boys were not separated from adults in detention facilities.

affecting **four** men and **seven** women and (f) two cases of denial of voluntary return for refugees and IDPs affecting six victims. The reporting period also saw some flagrant breaches to international humanitarian law (IHL). HRD recorded: (g) **28 incidents** of deprivation of liberty affecting **30** victims; (h) abductions, **24 incidents** with **58** victims; (i) destruction or pillaging/extortion of property, **19 incidents** affecting **23** victims and **eight** groups of collective victims; and (j) **one incident** of unlawful attack on peacekeeping personnel which affected **one** group of collective victims.

## B. Breaches to International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law by armed groups

6. The FPRC (21), MPC (17), UPC (14), armed Fulani (12), FPRC/MPC Coalition (11), FPRC AH faction (7), and FPRC/Arab (6) as per previous months, were the main perpetrators of the human rights abuses documented in February<sup>6</sup>. These different groups committed a total 93 abuses affecting 141 victims and three groups of collective victims, representing **35** percent of the total number of incidents and **38.6** percent of the total number of victims documented during the month. There was a decrease of 4.1 percent in the number of incidents as compared to the previous month (97 abuses by in January) and a slight decrease of 3.4 percent in the number of victims (146 victims in January).
7. Armed groups perpetrated (i) **17** incidents of killing [UPC (4), MPC (4), FPRC (3), FPRC/ Arab (3), FPRC AH faction (2), and armed Fulani (1) affecting **20** men, **one** woman, **five** boys, and **two** unknown minors with another **four** incidents of death threats affecting **four** men; (ii) **16** incidents of violations of the right to physical and mental integrity [FPRC (4), armed Fulani (3), FPRC/MPC Coalition (3), UPC (2), FPRC AH faction (2), and MPC (2)] affecting **19** men, **four** women, and **one** girl; (iii) **12** conflict related sexual violence incidents including **10** rape incidents, **one** sexual assault and **one** incident of forced marriage [MPC (6), armed Fulani (3) FPRC/AH faction (1)], affecting **two** men, **11** women and **two** girls; (iv) **23** incidents of deprivation of liberty [FPRC (14), FPRC/MPC Coalition (4), FPRC/Arab (2), UPC (1), FPRC AH faction (1) and armed Fulani (1)] affecting **22** men and **one** boy as well as **12** incidents where **18** men, **eight** women, **four** boys, and **two** girls were abducted by MPC (4), FPRC (3), armed Fulani (3), and FPRC/MPC Coalition (2); (v) **eight** incidents of appropriation and pillaging of property [UPC (3), FPRC/MPC Coalition (3), and MPC (2)] and affecting **eight** men, **two** women and **three** groups of collective victims and **one** incident in which the UPC denied **one** man, **one** woman and **three** unknown children their right to voluntary return. Of the 93 abuses, 75 of them, namely 80.7 percent, occurred in –Haute-Kotto, Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, Haut-Mbomou, Ouaka Bassa-Kotto and Nana-Grébizi prefectures.
8. The anti-Balaka accounted for **33** abuses affecting **36** victims and **three** collective victims which represent **12.4** percent of the total number of incidents and **9.9** percent of the total number of victims recorded during the month. These figures represent a 34 percent decrease in the number of incidents compared to the previous month (50 abuses in January) and a 47.8 percent decrease in the number of victims (69 victims in January). The most documented abuses by the anti-Balaka were violations of the right to physical and mental integrity with **16** incidents of where **11** men, **six** women, **one** girl and **one** group of collective victims were either subjected to cruel and inhuman treatments resulting in injuries or received threats to their physical and mental integrity. The anti-Balaka recorded three incidents of the right to life which included **one** incident where **one** man got killed and **two** incidents where **two** men received death threats.
9. Other abuses committed by the anti-Balaka included: (i) **two** incidents of rape affecting **two** women; (ii) **nine** incidents of the right to liberty where they deprived **four** men and **one** woman of their liberty and abducted **seven** men; (iii) **two** incidents of unlawful attacks, extortion and pillaging affecting **two** men, and (iv) **one** incident where a group of peacekeepers (**one** group of collective victims) was attacked by the anti-Balaka. Of the 33 abuses committed by the anti-Balaka, 21 of them or 63.6 percent occurred in the main hotspots identified

<sup>6</sup> Other armed groups who committed human rights abuses included the MNLC (seven abuses with 19 victims); LRA (six abuses with 18 victims and one group of collective victims); 3R (four abuses affecting three men and one group of collective victims), RJ (three abuses with six victims); SIRIRI (two abuses affecting three victims) and other armed groups (11 abuses with eight victims and three groups of collective victims). These armed groups represented **12.4** percent (33 incidents) of the total number of incidents and **15.6** percent (57 victims) of the total number of victims.

during the month in review: Haute-Kotto, Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, Ouaka, Nana-Grébizi and Haute-Mbomou prefectures.

10. During the reporting period the situation of civilians and humanitarian workers continued to be marred by the conflict. Armed groups were responsible for 71 incidents (10%) of breaches of international humanitarian law which affected **104** victims (80 men, 14 women, five boys, and five girls) and nine groups of collective victims. There was an increase of 69 percent in the number of incidents and 147.6 percent in the number of victims compared to the month of January (42 incidents and 42 victims) due to the many cases of violations of civilians' right to liberty and personal integrity. These cases included **28 incidents** of arbitrary deprivation of liberty affecting **30** victims (28 men, one woman and one boy); **24 incidents** of abductions with **58** victims (40 men, 11 women, and four boys); **15 incidents** of attacks, extortion, destruction, appropriation or pillaging of property affecting **12** men, **two** women, and **eight** groups of collective victims; **one incident** of an attack against Peacekeepers and their equipment where **one** group of collective victims was affected. In general, the incidents were perpetrated by the different armed groups particularly the anti-Balaka, UPC, FPRC, MPC, FPRC/MPC, armed Fulani, 3R, LRA and MLNC and in mainly the conflict-affected areas. Continuous attacks on humanitarian workers and peacekeepers impact negatively on the delivery of humanitarian services to civilians in need, particularly the IDPs.

#### a. Human Rights Violations attributable to state agents

11. State agents<sup>7</sup> were responsible for **107** violations (40.2 %) of international human rights law affecting **130** victims (35.6 %) with 114 men, seven women, eight boys and one girl. This represents a 49.8 percent decrease in the total number of incidents and 40.9 percent decrease in the total number of victims compared to the previous month, which recorded 213 violations with 220 victims. Armed groups committed **159** abuses (59.8 %) affecting **235** victims (64.4 %) of whom 160 were men, 48 women, 11 boys, 11 girls, and five unknown children. This represents a 10.7 percent decrease in the total number of incidents and 13.6 percent decrease in the total number of victims, compared to the previous month, which recorded 178 abuses with 272 victims. An additional 10 groups of collective victims were attributed to the anti-Balaka (3), other armed groups (2), UPC (2) FPRC/MPC (1), 3R (1) and LRA (1).
12. It is worth noting that the vast majority of the violations by State agents consist of violations of the right to liberty with mainly cases of arbitrary detention<sup>8</sup> (94 cases – Police (8), OCRB (15), Gendarmerie (52) and SRI (19), affecting 90 men, one woman and three boys). This is due to the failure of State internal security forces to respect the 72 hour (renewable once) legal limit for holding suspects before presenting them before a judicial authority. In all cases of arbitrary detention, HRD met with the relevant authorities and advocated for the respect of the legal procedures.
13. Through the intervention of the HRD, out of 94 victims arbitrarily detained, 38 detainees, all men, had their files completed and transferred to the Public Prosecutor's office; eight men and two boys were released for lack of evidence and one man who was unjustifiably retrained (handcuffed while in detention) at the gendarmerie had the handcuffs removed. It is worth noting that for detainees in detention facilities in Bouar and Obo for example, some detainees' files have been completed but the detainees cannot be presented before the judicial authorities because the Public Prosecutors have been away on mission in Bangui and have not returned to their duty post in months.

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<sup>7</sup> State authorities include the Gendarmerie and its different specialized units (*Section des Recherches et d'Investigation*' (SRI), *Direction de la Surveillance Territoriale* (DST), *Compagnie Nationale de Sécurité* (CNS)), the Police with its different specialised units (*Direction des Services de la Police Judiciaire* (DSPJ), the '*Office Central pour la Répression du Grand Banditisme*' (OCRB)), administrative authorities as well as the military - '*Forces Armées Centrafricaines* (FACA)

<sup>8</sup> Other violations by state authorities included failure to separate children from adults in detention facilities (five cases) by the Gendarmerie and OCRB; one case of poor detention conditions by the gendarmerie; one death threat by a gendarme officer; and three rights to physical and mental integrity by the Gendarmes and other state actors; one rape on a girl by a FACA soldier; one case of expropriation of the property of seven men by the FACA and one case of denial to voluntary return on one man by the FACA.

## D. Observations on trends and patterns

14. Over the past two months, HRD has observed a steady shift in the alleged perpetrators of human rights abuses. The anti-Balaka have been growing in strength all over CAR and their increased activities have impacted negatively on the protection of civilians and the respect for their human rights. Moreover, because of the lack of a well-established chain of command and the facility with which elements of this group intermingle within the population, particularly within some IDP camps, it becomes difficult to associate blame to a particular anti-Balaka faction or chain of command. Again, the armed Fulani or Mbarara or Mbororo also seem to be growing in strength with the Transhumance period and are expanding even as far as Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou prefecture where they search to protect their 'own' (Fulani) from further targeted attacks particularly from the anti-Balaka and they sometimes have the support of the UPC. To the east, the UPC are expanding their activities in Basse-Kotto and Haut-Mbomou prefectures with further protection of civilian concerns and human rights abuses. To the west, in addition to the continuous activities of the armed Fulani, the MNLC of General Bahar seems to be also growing in strength particularly in Ouham-Pendé, and Ouham prefectures. Again, with the ongoing transhumance period, continuous rustling of the cattle of Fulani herders has seen some activities of the SIRIRI armed group in Mambéré-Kadéï prefecture. HRD will continue to monitor their activities and report on its activities and abuses.
15. HRD notes noted that in Bangassou, there are continuous alerts of an imminent attack by the UPC in the city. The anti-Balaka under the leadership of Yvon ZELETE, PINO PINO, and LARMA Giscard, have been regrouping and their elements are constantly threatening to attack the Cathedral IDP camp<sup>9</sup> as well as Fulani based civilians. Consequently, the fear of an attack by the UPC to defend the Fulani population is causing a lot of panic within the community.
16. Regarding the rule of law and the administration of justice, HRD has observed that the frequent absence of judicial authorities in some parts of the country has resulted in increased cases of arbitrary detention caused by the non-respect of the legal delay for holding suspects. Through the constant monitoring of the different security forces holding cells, HRD has observed that files are sometimes unaccounted for by either the Public Prosecutor or the Gendarmerie. In other cases, the Prosecutor has been away for their duty stations for more than three months without any interim or temporary measures put in place by the government to oversee judicial matters.
17. The weak presence and/or absence of State authorities including judicial, security and defense institutions in most of the conflict affected areas combined with hostilities transpiring from community leaders supporting new 'self-defense' groups who operate under the instigation of identified or unidentified prominent figures, increased the vulnerability of protected groups (civilians and IDPs). In such context humanitarian space is still narrow with humanitarian actors facing threats and targeted attacks that hindered the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

## IV. Advocacy and strengthening of national capacities to provide protective environment

18. HRD continued to engage with the relevant national authorities to support the operationalization of the National Commission for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (NCHRFF). During the period under review, the decrees confirming the results of the elections of the members of the Executive Board and the Secretary General of the National Commission for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms were signed and promulgated on 9 February by the President of the Republic. Again, the decree ratifying the rules of procedure of the commission was also signed and promulgated by the President of the Republic, on 12 February.

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<sup>9</sup> On 19, 20, 21 and 22 January, a group of anti-Balaka elements opened fire on the Cathedral IDP camp though MINUSCA Forces returned fire causing the attackers to flee

19. On 13 February, HRD held a working session with the Bangui Court of Appeal to discuss aspects of witness protection particularly during the holding of criminal sessions. HRD decided to work together with the Court on a technical cooperation for the protection of witnesses, on the training of judicial police officers and magistrates.
20. In order to address concerns related to the incitement of hatred and violence, on 1 February, HRD met with members of Parliament, members of the National Committee on the Prevention of Genocide, members of the High Council of Communication and members of Civil Society Organizations together with MINUSCA's PIO Unit to share and discuss the implementation of activities on the "campaign to prevent incitement to hatred and violence". The meeting aimed at collecting contributions from the different institutional and civil society partners against this campaign; to share Security Council Resolution 2399 (2018) on sanctions against hate speech and incitement to violence in CAR; and to share strategies aimed at putting an end to such practices including behavioral change within the society. During discussions, HRD and its local partners understood that the causes of acts which incite hate and violence were deeply rooted and linked to the crises in CAR. HRD suggested to its partners to work together to find a means to eradicate this behavior which is peculiar amongst the youths.
21. HRD also held two sensitization sessions which benefitted 512 participants (208 men and 304 women) from the local community in Batangafo (Ouham) and 12 local authorities (two prefects and 10 sub-prefects) from Mambéré-Kadéï and Sangha-Mbaéré prefectures on human rights and the protection of civilians, and encouraging the denunciation of human rights abuses/violations. Again, HRD conducted three awareness-raising workshops for 261 participants (94 men, 17 women, 85 boys and 65 girls) from Civil Society Monitors in Bangui, traditional authorities, representatives from the Union of Cattle herders and traders, women and youth organizations in Birao (Vakaga) and Nana-Bakassa sub-prefecture (Ouham). Internally, HRD conducted two induction trainings and five refresher training for 181 participants including 173 men and eight women from MINUSCA's civilian, military and police components in Bangui and Bria (Haute-Kotto), Obo (Haut-Mbomou), Bouar (Nana-Mambéré) and Bambari (Ouaka).
22. In February, HRD conducted three external trainings on human rights definitions, concepts and principles; on human rights and policing; on State obligations; on international standards related to arrest and detention; on non-derogable rights; on criminal responsibility and command responsibility; on human rights violations perpetrated by police officers and gendarmes, on Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, on the protection of women against gender-based violence and the minimum standards of child protection in humanitarian action. Four hundred and twenty-eight (428) participants (322 men and 106 women) were trained from the CAR internal security forces, humanitarian INGO, and the local community in Bangui, Bambari (Ouaka) and Batangafo (Ouham).

## V. Support efforts to the national authorities to address transitional justice as part of the peace and reconciliation process

23. On 8 February, HRD met with the Representative of the Working Group on Transitional Justice to discuss means of collaboration between HRD and the Anthropological Center of Bangui University (CERA). The Center will work on the mapping of traditional mechanisms. Discussions focused on mapping out the role of the Central African traditional justice mechanism, the outcome of which will be shared with the CAR Government and Parliament, the African Initiative Group, and the diplomatic community in CAR. HRD, the Working Group and CERA also agreed to cooperate initiate the mapping of victims' association with a view to support partnership among them through a victim community network.
24. On 13 February, HRD held a working session with the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff during which both parties agreed on centralizing the strategic focus of the transitional justice process in CAR at the level of a ministerial structure with a holistic view. HRD updated the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff, on the status of transitional



justice in CAR and requested him to support the articulation of TJ efforts around a sequenced and comprehensive strategy with resourced program.

25. In the month of February, in line with the mandate of technical assistance and capacity building in the field of human rights, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic (CAR), Marie-Thérèse Keita Bocoum, conducted her 10th visit from 6 to 16 February to assess the impact of peace and reconciliation actions on human rights and to identify all human rights challenges on the ground. During this visit, she held working sessions with local authorities, civil society groups, some armed group leaders, humanitarian and international actors in Bangui, Paoua, Bossangoa and Bria. The initiated constructive dialogue on critical issues including, inter alia, the impact of the peace process on the human rights situation, the restoration of state authority, comprehensive transitional justice strategy, return of IDPs and refugees as well as regional cooperation on transhumance and human rights violations in connection with sorcery in CAR.
26. For the armed groups, on 24 February in Batangfo (Ouham), a non-aggression pact was signed between the *Front Populaire pour la Renaissance de la Centrafrique* (FPRC) and anti-Balaka leaders where both parties called for an immediate cease fire, the return of IDPs and the restoration of free movement in and around Batangfo, while calling for peace and forgiveness amongst the people.

## VI. Support to fight against impunity, HRDDP and accountability mechanisms

### A. Implementation of HRDDP

27. The HRDDP Secretariat received four (**4**) requests from MINUSCA components intending to support CAR national security forces. These included two for support to three FACA and one gendarme, **one** request for training of 10 internal security forces and **one** request for programmatic support for five police women. The Secretariat completed the **four** risk assessments with recommendations approved by co-chairs of HRDDP Task Force.
28. During the period of reporting the national authorities took action to implement mitigating measures for the exclusion from a unit of a FACA element deployed to Obo for misconduct. New allegations of human rights violations documented by the field office have been shared with authorities for further actions.

### B. Support to the fight against impunity

29. On a positive note, on 15 February, an anti-Balaka leader known as Herve Wassima accused of the 4 December 2017 attack against Mauritanian FPU, was arrested by MINUSCA's. Again, on 22 February, anti-Balaka leader Romaric Madango and two of his elements who were arrested in the Democratic Republic of Congo on 30 December 2017 were extradited to CAR and detained at the Camp de Roux prison in Bangui. They were all charged of criminal conspiracy, illegal possession of firearms and murder. It is worth noting that Romaric seemed to have co-lead the attacks on MINUSCA's convoy in Yongofongo on 8 May 2017.
30. As part of the MINUSCA Working Group on Major Judicial Proceedings (WGMJP), HRD assisted in the analysis of the reconstitution of a list of 294 alleged perpetrators in CAR in order to have a prioritized short list of those who are active perpetrators to facilitate the implementation of arrest plan in direct support of the Mission political strategy. The HRD has created profiles of 55 alleged perpetrators on the Human Rights Case database, these profiles have been linked to cases on allegations of breaches to IHL or violation of IHRL committed by them. HRD also supported UNPOL with the profiling of some prominent PK5 Militia leaders accused of atrocity crimes and human rights violations. Subsequently, 38 witnesses were heard by UNPOL who shared their formal complaint with General Prosecutors.

## C. Support to vetting Process

31. HRD received informal reports that four DDR candidates with records of human rights violations documented by MINUSCA, were screened out from the DDR pilot project. While awaiting formal notification of this decision, HRD is about completing the verification of 3254 Internal Security Forces to be transmitted to the Ministry of Interior competent verification sub-Committee for consideration.

## VII. Recommendations

32. In light of the foregoing, HRD reiterates and recommends the following:

### ***To GoCAR:***

- Cooperate fully with MINUSCA, Humanitarian actors and international partners to find comprehensive, adequate, and concerted responses to persistent protection of civilian concerns in PK5 Bangui, the North-east and the South-east;
- Expedite the restoration of State authority throughout CAR taking into account the need to assess the vulnerability of civilian population as well as the safe and voluntary return of IDPs and refugees;
- Initiate concrete and significant steps towards investigating documented violations of human rights and reported breaches to International Humanitarian Law and with a view to prosecuting alleged perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses;
- Engage with Chad to explore agreements over transhumance and security thereon including joint border monitoring strategy to prevent insecurity and curb human rights violations in connection with the phenomenon;
- To domesticate the optional protocol to the Convention Against Torture in order to adopt a national strategy to prevent cruel and inhuman treatments or punishments, address detention conditions in a structural manner, and establish a national prevention mechanism as set forth in the same protocol.

### ***To the armed groups:***

- All armed groups should ensure the full cessation of indiscriminate attacks on civilians and take positive measures, as may be required, to ensure full respect for international human rights, and humanitarian law, including the establishment of neutralized zones including hospital and safety zones and localities, as well as demilitarized zones particularly in Ippy, Bossangoa periphery and around Paoua;
- Armed groups signatories should explore Memorandum of understanding for the immediate implementation of their obligations under IHL where applicable to protect civilians and refrain from human rights violations.

### ***To the International Community:***

- Continue to engage in dialogue with all parties to the conflict on their obligation to respect international human rights and humanitarian laws, as well as UN Security Council Resolutions;
- Continue to encourage the Government of CAR to put an end to impunity by investigating past and recently documented human rights and humanitarian law violations and abuses with the aim of bringing perpetrators to justice;

- Initiate concerted and multi-layered engagements with signatories of the different peace accords, communities including through the ongoing mediation efforts for the adoption of transitional security arrangements needed for the protection of civilians.

\*\*\*\*\***END**\*\*\*\*\*