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Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en Centrafrique



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

Human Rights Division

Monthly Report: Human Rights Situation

January 2023

The Human Rights Division's (HRD) mandate includes assisting the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR) to promote and protect human rights and prevent violations and abuses through its field offices and headquarters in Bangui. This report is based on information received by the HRD and only includes human rights violations and abuses that were documented and verified during the month of January 2023. Violations and abuses that could not be verified are not included. Ordinary crimes are also excluded from this report.

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

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

1. During the month of January, the Human Rights Division (HRD), including the Office of the Senior Women Protection Advisor (OSWPA) and the Child Protection Section (CPS), documented and verified **172** human rights violations and abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL), affecting **356** civilian victims (including 25 women, three girls and 31 boys), **76** of which (including eight women and five boys)

Main Trends

In total, **172 human rights violations and abuses** as well as breaches of IHL affecting **356 victims (25 women, three girls and 31 boys)** were documented in January 2023. This constitutes an **increase** in the number of victims compared to December 2022.

During the reporting period, State actors were responsible for **47%** of all violations and breaches and **58%** of the victims.

suffered multiple violations. Out of the total number of documented violations, **103** occurred in January 2023. The HRD also recorded **34** allegations of human rights violations and abuses affecting at least **31** victims (including two women, one girl and one boy), which were still being verified at the end of January and were therefore not included in this report.

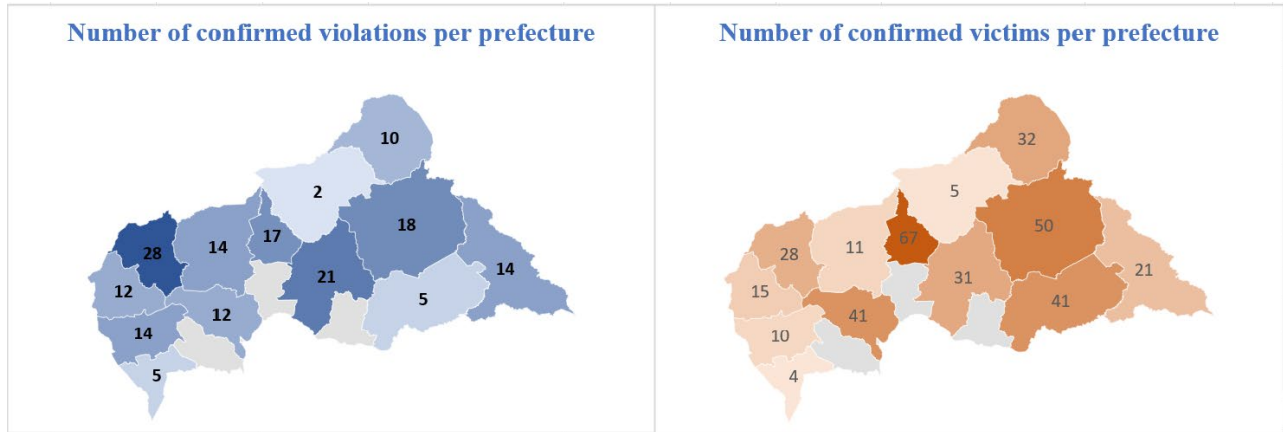
2. In January, the number of victims increased by **10%** compared to December 2022 (323 victims), and the number of violations increased (131 violations were documented in December 2022).

3. Out of the total 356 victims, most were men (283), followed by boys (31), women (25), and girls (three). In addition, there were 14 groups of collective victims.

4. The **Ouham-Pendé prefecture**, as the previous month, was the most affected in terms of human rights violations and abuses, (28 violations affecting 28 victims) followed by the **Ouaka prefecture** (21 violations affecting 31 victims). In terms of victims, the **Nana-Grébizi prefecture** was the most affected this month (17 violations affecting 67 victims) followed by the **Haute-Kotto prefecture** (18 violations affecting 50 victims). This can be attributed in part to one violation of the right of liberty and personal integrity perpetrated by unidentified armed men affiliated to the *Coalition pour les Patriotes pour le Changement* (CPC) who abducted 24 victims (22 men and two women) civilians in **Ouham-Pendé prefecture**. The HRD also documented the

arbitrary arrest and arbitrary detention of 15 Muslim civilians by Other Security Personnel (OSP) in the **Nana-Grébizi prefecture**.

- In January 2023, the most common types of violations and abuses documented were the destruction or appropriation of property (20%), arbitrary arrest and/or detention (18%), cruel, inhuman or degrading

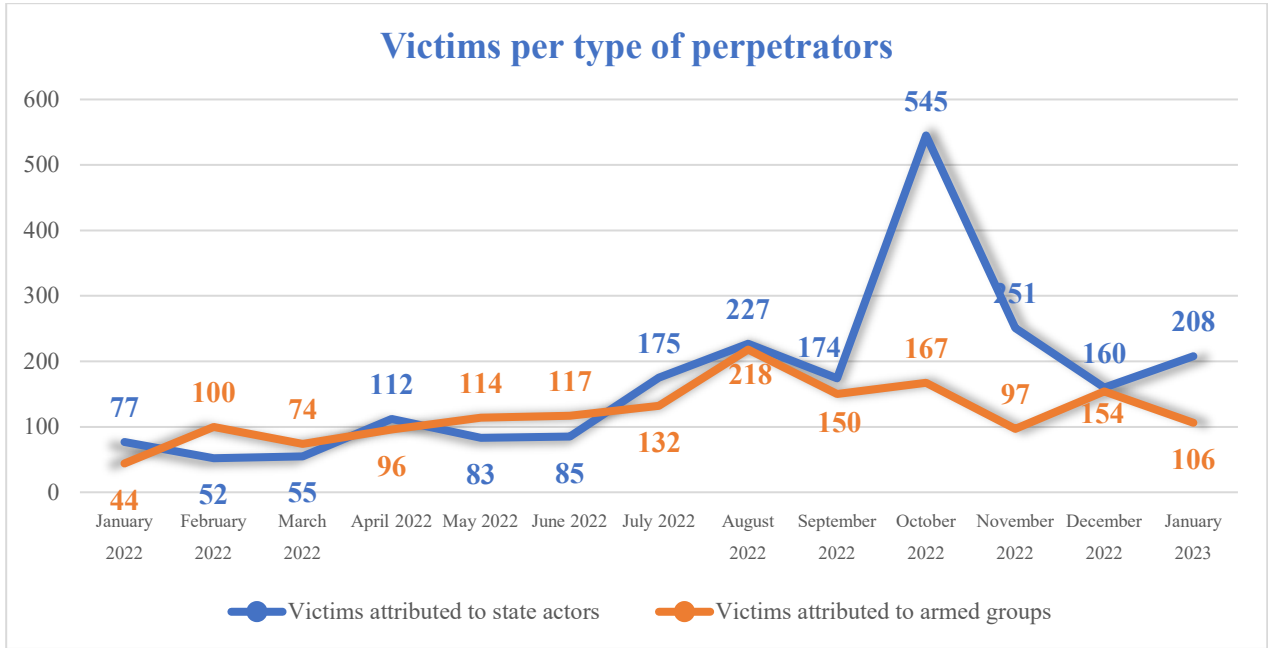


treatment (referred to as ill-treatment) (13%), and extrajudicial executions and other killings (9%). **Men** were most likely to be victims of arbitrary arrest and/or detention (135), destruction or appropriation of property (43), abduction (28) and ill-treatment (19). **Women** suffered mostly from destruction or appropriation of property (seven) and ill-treatment (four). Women and girls accounted for all documented cases of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) (one woman and three girls). **Boys** were mainly victims of arbitrary arrest and/or detention (13), and **girls** of rape (three). The HRD is worried by the high number of boys affected by violations and abuses documented this month (31 boys, including 25 victims of violations perpetrated by State actors).

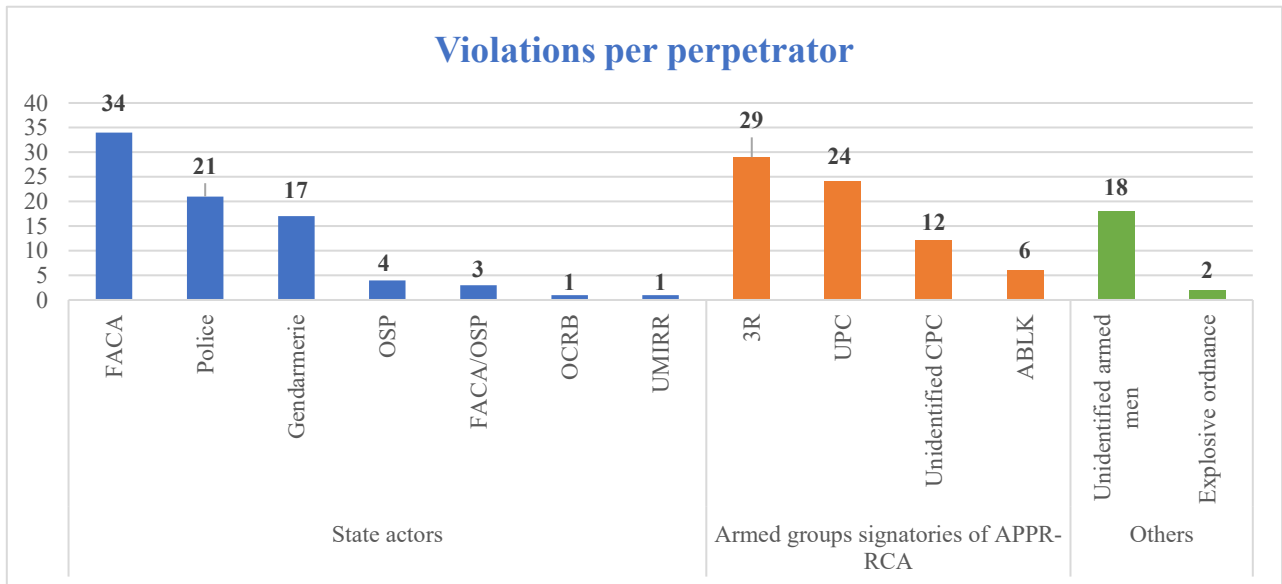
Perpetrators: State actors, armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA, and others

- For the period under review, State actors committed 47% of the violations, abuses, and breaches of international law, compared to 41% for armed groups signatories of the *Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation en République Centrafricaine* (APPR-RCA). State actors were also responsible for 58% of the victims and armed groups for 30% of them. Unidentified armed men and abandoned explosive ordnances were responsible for the 20 remaining violations.
- State actors were responsible for 81 violations affecting 208 victims (nine women, 25 boys and two girls),** with 20% of the total number of violations committed by the *Forces armées centrafricaines* (FACA). In January, members of the FACA alone committed 34 violations affecting 28 victims (including three women, three boys, one girl). This represents 8% of the total number of victims. The Police committed 21 violations affecting 88 victims (including five women, 14 boys), while the Gendarmerie was involved in committing 17 violations affecting 47 victims (including one woman, five boys and one girl).
- The most common type of violation committed by State actors were those associated with detention, including arbitrary arrest and/or detention (28), ill-treatment (13), extrajudicial execution or other killing and their attempts (nine), and death threats (nine). The violations perpetrated by FACA were most likely to be committed alongside other violations: out of 12 cases with multiple violations documented amongst State actors, 10 were committed by FACA elements (one of which was committed with OSP). Of these 10 cases, five involved torture or ill-treatment combined with some other violations, including arbitrary arrest and/or detention or the destruction or appropriation of property.
- Armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA were responsible for 71 human rights abuses and breaches of IHL affecting 106 victims (including nine women and three boys).** Armed group *Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation* (3R) committed 29 human rights abuses affecting 30 victims (including three women and two boys), while combatants from the UPC committed 24 abuses affecting 28 victims (including one woman).

In addition, unidentified armed men affiliated to the CPC committed 12 abuses affecting 41 victims (including three women).

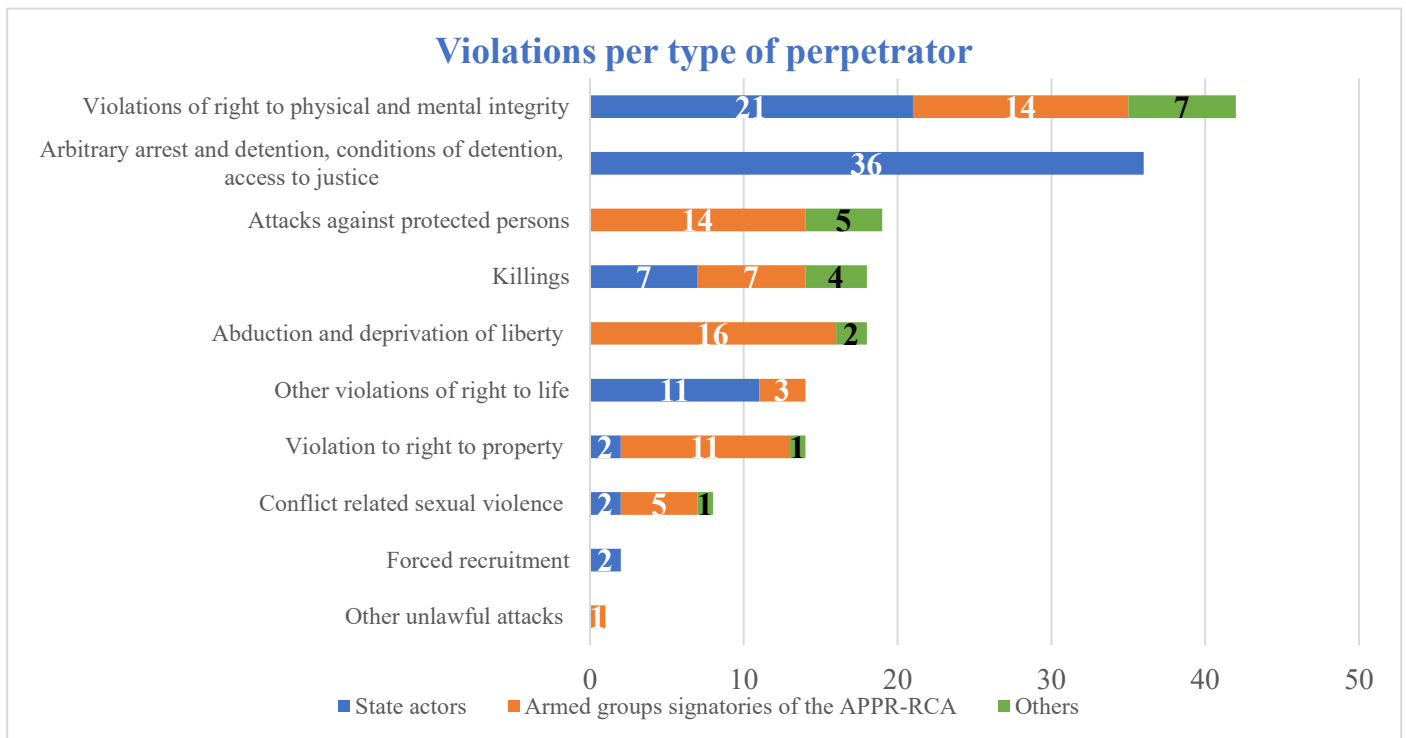


10. The most common types of abuses committed by armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA were abduction and deprivation of liberty (16), unlawful attacks, such as attacks against protected persons or objects and illegal occupation (hospitals or schools for instance) (15), cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (12), destruction or appropriation of property (10) and extrajudicial execution or other killing or their attempts (eight). Among armed groups, the 3R committed 10 abuses related to abduction and deprivation of liberty affecting 11 victims (including one woman and two boys) and six killings affecting seven victims (including one woman). The UPC combatants committed nine unlawful attacks affecting five victims (all men and three groups of collective victims), six cruel, inhuman or degrading treatments affecting three victims (including one woman) and three abuses of the right to property affecting 12 victims (all men). As in previous months, armed groups committed multiple human rights abuses in a single event, perpetrating two or more abuses in 17 of the 27 cases. Most of the time, it involved the destruction or appropriation of property.



Sectoral Analysis

11. The **Sector West** was the most affected in terms of violations in January with 85 violations and abuses affecting 109 victims. The high number of victims is largely due to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatments (38) and violations documented in places of detention (eight). In Bangui for example, the HRD documented six violations related to arbitrary arrest and/or detention and inhuman and degrading conditions of detention affecting 34 victims (including four boys). The HRD remains particularly concerned about the violations and abuses targeting the Fulani community, in particular in the **Mambéré-Kadéï** and the **Nana-Mambéré prefectures**, where the HRD documented the extrajudicial executions of two Fulani men (two violations), the killing affecting one Fulani man (one abuse) and the abduction of three male Fulani, including two boys (one abuse). It is worth mentioning that the Sector West has the highest number of boys victims of violations and abuses (14).
12. The **Sector Centre** was also affected during the month of January, with 40 violations and abuses affecting 103 victims. Twelve violations and 47 victims (including seven boys) are related to detention, including arbitrary arrest and detention. In the **Nana-Grébizi** prefecture, OSP elements arbitrarily arrested and detained 15 Muslim men. In addition, in the same prefecture, unidentified armed men affiliated to the CPC abducted 24 victims (including two boys).
13. The **Sector East** recorded the largest number of the victims, with 47 violations and abuses affecting 144 victims. As the previous months, the **Haute-Kotto** was the most affected prefecture, both in terms of violations (18 violations) and victims (50 victims, including one woman and four boys), followed by the **Mbomou** prefecture (five violations and 41 victims, including four women and five boys). In sector East, 14 of the documented violations are related to detention, including arbitrary arrest and detention, inhuman conditions of detention and access to justice, and have affected 81 victims (including nine boys who were not separated from adults in detentions facilities). While the **Vakaga** prefecture was mostly affected by violation of the right to property, including one affecting 23 victims (of whom five women), committed by unidentified armed men in the area of Birao.



Security and political context in January 2023

14. Tensions were heightened this month both in Sector West and East with increased armed groups activities, movements, regrouping, clashes with the State agents and attacks. This is posing a threat to the protection of civilians across the country. Illegal barriers set-up by armed groups, reportedly seeking economic sustenance, were impeding the movements of the civilians. Additionally, the government of Sudan has closed its land borders with the Central African Republic (CAR) as of 3 January, in order to better protect its territory ‘to prevent incitement to rebellion and maintain good neighbourly relations’ according to the Vice-President of the Sovereign Council, Mohammed Hamdan Daglo (referred to as Hemetti). The increase in fuel prices combined with an absence of increased civil servants’ salaries continued to fuel debates on local radio stations and on social networks.
15. Regarding the **Sector West**, in particular in the **Nana-Mambéré prefecture**, the security situation has deteriorated this month with an increase of armed attacks and troops movements. A dozen 3R elements broke into Ngbiti mining site (140 km of Bouar) in the morning of 2 January, intimidating inhabitants and searching the houses. They looted goods, merchandises and gold. Two attacks by armed combatants likely affiliated with the 3R took place respectively on 7 and 12 January on two positions of the *Forces Armées Centrafricaines* (FACA) in Yenga (20 km of Bouar) and in Abba (140 km south of Bouar). This security situation led to displacements of populations. In the Baboua sub-prefecture, (100 km of Bouar), the presence of armed elements likely affiliated with the 3R were reported between 16 and 17 January on the Kounde-Mabali axis, along with a recurrence of abductions and ransom calls by 3R elements affecting Fulani herders. Moreover, 3R combatants attacked a FACA and OSP detachment based in Beloko on 21 January, as well as the customs office, which was burnt down and during which two FACA soldiers and one customs agent were reportedly killed. Also, a FACA position in Besson (160 km of Bouar) was attacked on 24 January, forcing State agents to withdraw to a village in Cameroon near the border with the CAR. Besson is currently under the control of the armed groups. In addition, Anti-Balaka combatants reportedly arrived in Yoro (135 km of Bouar) on 25 January and tried to abduct a local authority before heading to Mboula and Sanda villages. The following day, the arrival of unidentified CPC combatants in those villages and in Losso (around 70 km of Bouar) has caused movements of population. The MINUSCA Force increased its patrols near Bouar, following persistent rumours of the presence of armed combatants in the Hassoua neighbourhood. In the **Mambéré-Kadéï prefecture**, movements of heavily armed of 3R combatants, allegedly responsible for the attack of the Beloko customs office on 21 January, were reported from Beloko to Gamboula (86 km away from Berberati). The combatants were suspected of preparing an attack on Gamboula, causing the population to flee the town towards the city centre and MINUSCA TOB. In the **Ouham prefecture**, about 50 armed combatants of the *Coalition des patriotes pour le changement* (CPC) returned to Ngbada (34 km Batangafo) to occupy the village, where they had been dislodged by FACA elements on 20 December 2022. The CPC elements accused the municipal authorities and the population of disclosing their position to the FACA. The combatants’ return caused the population to flee the village. In the **Ombella-M’Poko prefecture**, an upsurge in armed robberies in Damara and its surroundings was reported. The perpetrators are likely to be former anti-Balaka combatants recently incorporated in the army. There were also persistent rumours of infiltration of CPC combatants in areas of Bangui. In Zoukogban, the Aka pygmy community reported to be victim of physical assault and persecution by the villagers of Kpaketo I, due to tensions around a well providing access to drinkable water to the Aka community. The Aka chief refuses to grant access to other communities. Finally, in the **Sangha prefecture**, children are working in a new mining site and reportedly out-of-school. The HRD is closely monitoring the situation.
16. In **Sector Centre**, the security situation in the **Ouaka prefecture** was concerning, particularly in the vicinity of Bakala and Bambari as several UPC combatants erected an illegal barrier on Mbrés’ axis (47 km of Bakala) near the village of Yakandja. On 17 January, the same combatants attacked a convoy of local authorities on their return from a mission in Bakala. Additionally, frequent movements of UPC combatants were reported in villages nearby transhumance corridors around Bambari, in particular on a specific road section where the HRD already documented human rights abuses by UPC combatants in November 2022. Moreover, a local authority in a nearby village was allegedly threatened in his home by four UPC elements, who then fled in the bush.

17. In **Sector East**, the **Haute-Kotto prefecture**, there were reports of massive regroupings of armed groups near Aigbando, Ouanda-Djallé, Birao, Yalinga and Ouadda. Reportedly, CPC combatants had regrouped in the outskirts of the Sam-Ouandja to attack the town, targeting the FACA. On 9 January, CPC combatants erected a barrier, blocking movements between Sam-Ouandja and Ouadda-Djallé. Additional barriers erected by armed groups were also reported on almost all the exit roads of Ouandja-Kotto to collect taxes from the population. Additionally, illegal taxations were also documented on Irabanda axis by Water and Forestry agents from Bria, impacting local residents and travellers to Bria. Moreover, on 29 and 31 January, UPC combatants under so-called ‘general’ Ali Darassa arrived at PK 12 in Sam-Ouandja, as well as 23 unidentified armed who were reportedly harboured after an attack on Gordil (145 km of Birao). The increase in armed groups’ activities, as well as increasing tensions in the prefecture pose a threat to the protection of civilians. In **Vakaga prefecture**, the situation remained worrying, in particular in the localities of Sikikédé, Ouanda-Djallé, Ouandja and Gordil, due to the movements of combatants from different armed groups in these areas. The *Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique* (FPRC), UPC, MPC and unidentified CPC combatants located in the border area, in Sikikédé (180 km of Birao) were reportedly moving toward the interior of the country. They have allegedly set up a base in Gounda, a natural park area located 45 km west of Gordil and in the vicinity of the villages of Aeffa and Ndifa **in the Bamingui-Bangoran prefecture**. In addition, armed combatants of Chadian and Sudanese origins affiliated with the CPC, under the command of "Colonel" Mahamat Salle Adoum Kette and “General” Faris, erected barriers at the entrance and exit of the village of Manou (5 km from Gordil) and the village of Ndongolo (45 km south of Gordil on the Ndélé axis), in order to collect illegal passage fees from users. On 25 January, in Gordil a clash was reported between the State forces and the OSP on one end, and FPRC, the UPC, Misseriya Arabs and Salamate combatants on the other end. The civilian population might be used as human shields in the escalation of the conflict as both sides are being reinforced with new combatants and are reportedly threatened by FACA and OSP for their alleged collaboration with armed groups. In the **Mbomou prefecture**, movement of armed elements affiliated with the CPC were reported in the sub-prefecture of Bakouma, specifically in Nzacko (177 km of Bangassou). They are allegedly seeking economic sustenance. Additionally, illegal taxes and extortion of the civilian population by FACA and FSI were reported in the town of Bakouma, while in Pombolo, CPC combatants are responsible for extortion. Also, the situation remained precarious in the sub-prefecture of Gambo, as the area is under the control of armed groups and the civilian population is afraid to report human rights abuses to MINUSCA as they fear a possible retaliation from the combatants.

Civic Space

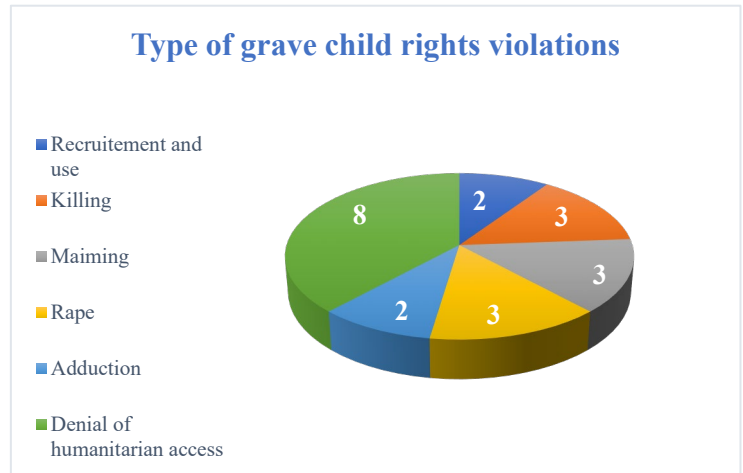
18. On 3 January, the Constitutional Court of the Central African Republic handed down its decision on the constitutionality of the presidential decree issued on 3 October 2022 on the age of retirement in higher education, which removed Danièle Darlan from her position as President of the Constitutional Court. The Constitutional Court declared the decree as unconstitutional. However, the Court rejected the three separate petitions submitted by political and civil society opposition members to declare as unconstitutional the decree issued on 24 October on the appointment of the members of the Bureau of the Constitutional Court. The Court justified its decision based on the constitutional provision of continuity for public service as well as the public declaration of Ms. Darlan that she would not return to the Court. Jean Pierre Waboé was maintained as the president of the Constitutional Court. This situation can have serious implications for the independence of the judiciary, and tensions arising from the constitutional reform can limit the enjoyment of civil and political rights, as well as further restrict the civic space in the country.
19. During the reporting period, on 3 January, an administrative act was issued regarding a near 50% increase of fuel prices due to a suspension of the governmental fuel subsidies. This increase has caused discontent amongst the population, particularly bus drivers in Bangui, who suspended work without notice on 5 January to demand that the government increase the price of transportation. Other corporations and trade unions were reportedly preparing to go on strike to call for increased wages. In this regard, on 8 January, the *Réseau des ONG de Promotion et de Défense des Droits de l’Homme* called on the government of CAR to retract the administrative act as it is deemed to further exacerbates the food, transport and fuel shortage price crisis. They cautioned that the increase could usher in grave human rights violations. On 9 January, leaders of Central African civil society organizations met to discuss the issue, warning that they may organize public demonstrations against the

increase in price, raising concerns about potential clashes between protesters and the Government. This situation still has the potential to impact negatively the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights in the short and long-term, but also to undermine peace and security in the country.

20. In Bangui, the *Coordination Générale de la Plateforme de la Galaxie Panafricaine* announced the organization of raids in some of Bangui and Bimbo’s neighbourhoods from 28 to 29 January. The HRD is monitoring the situation as this takes place in a context of civic space restrictions, with a potential risk of increased hate speech and incitement to violence.

Children in Armed Conflict

21. During the reporting period, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) verified 21 grave child rights violations¹ affecting 12 children (nine boys and three girls). This represents a significant increase of 200% in the total number of grave violations and an increase of 300% in victims affected from the previous reporting period (seven violations affecting three children). Thirty-three percent (33%) of the violations were committed by armed groups, 48% by unidentified armed individuals, including five cases involving explosive ordinances, and 19% by governmental forces and OSP. The increase in grave violations during the reporting period is related to the use of explosive ordinances, representing 24% of the violations.



22. Violations documented included recruitment and use (two), killing (three), maiming (three), rape (three), abduction (two) and denial of humanitarian access (8). The CPC factions were responsible for 33% of the total violations (seven), respectively the anti-Balaka (three), 3R (two) and the UPC (two), then, by governmental forces and OSP (four), respectively FACA (two), FSI (one) and OSP (one) and unidentified armed individuals (ten). The **Nana-Mambéré** prefecture was the most affected prefecture with eight violations, followed by the prefecture of **Ouham-Fafa** (five).

23. During the reporting period, the Child Protection Unit (CPU) held separate meetings with different CPC factions, respectively with the FPRC and UPC, then with the *Parti du rassemblement de la nation centrafricaine* (PRNC) in the Haute-Kotto prefecture. The CPU raised awareness on the Children and Armed Conflict mandate, and their

Act to Protect Campaign

Through the “**Act to Protect**” campaign, 287 peacekeepers (238 men and 49 women) were trained on the protection of children during armed conflict including on monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children. Similar trainings and awareness raising sessions were conducted for **1,368 community members and leaders, local authorities, national defense, and security forces (FACA, FSI), IOs, and NGOs, members of Community Alert Network, and members of civil society** (650 men and 718 women). In addition, the CPU organized a four-day training for MINUSCA Child Protection Officers and Child Protection Focal Points (CPFP) to reinforce their capacity to address child protection concerns.

¹ The information in this section has been collected by the MINUSCA Child Protection Unit. The Security Council has created mechanisms and tools to implement the mandate on the protection of children in armed conflict, including through Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), which establishes the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) to collect reliable and up-to-date information on violations committed against children by the parties to the conflict, as well as the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict. At MINUSCA, a task force monitors and reports on the six serious violations covered by the MRM, namely the recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, sexual violence, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access.

responsibility to prevent their element from committing grave violations. CPU reminded the FPRC and UPC factions of their commitments towards their respective Action Plans (2019), the necessity to release associated children and appoint Child Protection Focal Points to address child protection concerns.

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

24. During the month of January, the HRD documented a total of seven cases of CRSV (four cases of rape, two cases of forced nudity and one case of sexual assault and harassment) affecting five victims (one women, three girls and one group of collective victims). State actors were responsible for the same number of CRSV cases than armed groups (three CRSV cases each). Unidentified armed men were also responsible for one case of rape of a 16-year-old girl. The most affected prefecture in terms of CRSV cases was the Ouham-Pendé prefecture.
25. Among the most emblematic cases committed by State agents are the rape of a 14-year-old girl by a FACA element in the **Sangha-Mambéré** prefecture and the rape of a 17-year-old girl by a gendarme in the **Ouaka** prefecture. Both victims received medical attention. Meanwhile, all the CRSV cases committed by armed groups can be attributed to the 3R. For instance, 3R combatants committed a rape of a 30-year-old woman, as well as appropriation of property followed by sexual assault of merchants; both cases occurred in the **Ouham-Pendé** prefecture.
26. Following the trends of the previous month, the HRD has documented an overall decrease of CRSV cases. However, it is worth noting that CRSV, including those suffered by men and boys, tends to be underreported due to the fear of retaliation or backlash from armed groups and State actors, as well as the stigmatization suffered by the victims.

Human Rights Promotion and Capacity-Building

27. This month, the HRD organised **184** activities, in some instances with partners, on human rights and international humanitarian law in **12** prefectures,² benefitting **5,016** individuals (of whom **1,648** were women and **258** girls), including community-members, representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs), state actors and members of the media.
28. These activities included **67 awareness campaigns**, which reached **3,341** beneficiaries (including **1,310** women and **257** girls), including internally displaced persons, civil society organisations, community leaders, authorities, local human rights, local non-governmental organizations, students, detainees, and the civilian population. These campaigns included awareness on religious and ethnic minorities rights and people with disabilities. In addition, **24 capacity-building workshops** were organised benefitting **631** individuals (including 226 women and girls) from civil society organizations, authorities, local human rights forum, youth's organizations, students, community-leaders and civilian population. These workshops partly focused on the Truth, Justice, Reconciliation and Reparation Commission, children rights, and gender-based violence. The HRD also conducted **13 trainings** for civil society organizations, community leaders, local human rights forum and State actors, including 175 individuals (two women) from FACA and FSI. These trainings included education rights in the context of elections.
29. As part of these activities, the HRD continues to strengthen the knowledge of defence and security forces in human rights and to support national institutions. For instance, on 4 and 5 January, the HRD organized two capacity-building sessions on human rights and international humanitarian law for the benefit of 30 ISF from the police, and the gendarmerie of Ndélé, with a special emphasis on gender-based violence, as well as the instruments and mechanisms of human rights protection. In Berberati, Mambéré-Kadéï prefecture, on 16 January, the HRD participated in a joint mission with UNPOL aimed at raising awareness on human rights and the responsibilities of the gendarmerie and the police in protecting civilians. During this engagement, the 29 elements of the police and gendarmerie from the Mambéré-Kadéï and Mambéré prefectures, including two

² The prefectures are as follows: Bamingui-Bangoran; Bangui; Haute-Kotto; Haute-Mbomou; Mambéré-Kadéï; Mbomou; Nana-Grébizi; Nana-Mambéré; Ouaka; Ouham; Ouham-Pendé; and Vakaga.

women, exchanges on the identified difficulties in implementing international rules, notably due to the lack of logistical means and qualified personnel on the ground, took place, and how to cope them.

30. In order to support the national institutions in fighting discrimination, the HRD organized 25 to 27 January, an awareness raising activity with the *Haute Autorite chargée de la bonne gouvernance* (HACBG) for 50 members local civil society organizations and 50 members of state institutions on protection of minorities. The aim was to mainstream human rights concerns and protection issues of minorities in public policies and in activities pertaining to improve governance.
31. In January, the HRD conducted 58 monitoring visits of detention centres in nine prefectures.³ During these visits, the HRD documented 170 victims of unlawful detention, including cases in which the detainees were being held past the legal limits for custody. The HRD also documented inhuman conditions of detention, including unsanitary cells, absence of separation between minors and adults and/or between genders, and limited access to healthcare, leading to detainees falling sick. Additionally, the HRD documented the presence of detainees whose detention has exceeded the legal time limit, in some cases for considerable amounts of time, notably in the **Vakaga** prefecture, with a case of one man being detained for more than a year, placed under detention order but kept in the premises of the gendarmerie.

Human Rights Due Diligence Policy

32. During the month of January, the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP), Vetting and Profiling (HVP) Unit conducted 28 risk assessments for MINUSCA's support to the National Defense and Security Forces (FACA and FSI) and 14 members of Parliament, seven officials, members of the Ministry of Mines and Geology and of a Prefectorial Office. The HRDDP Secretariat conducted human rights background checks on 305 FSI (178 police officers and 127 gendarmes), 39 FACA and 18 members of Taxation unit and Water and Forestry. Out of the 362 persons screened, six were excluded by the Secretariat for their implications in human rights violations. The risk assessments were evaluated to be low and medium, and the support was approved with a set of recommendations and mitigation measures for further implementation, including: to monitor the behaviour of recipients during the support period, report any incidents, provide training on international human rights law and international humanitarian law, conduct technical coordination activities with FSI and *Forces de défense et de sécurité* (FDS), and report to the HRDDP secretariat the implementation of the mitigation measures on a monthly basis.
33. Following risk assessments conducted by the Vetting and Profiling Unit, UNPOL organized nine training sessions for the FSI (116 Police and 110 Gendarmes) and FACA (26) on criminal database documentation, the use of criminal statistics and analysis, sexual and gender-based violence, the conduct of officers at Police/Gendarmerie stations, the collection and exploitation of information, the Maintenance and Restoration of Public Order (MROP), fraud and money laundering, technical and scientific policing, as well as explosive ordnance disposal (EOD).
34. On 30 January, a Joint Team, composed of OHCHR Peace Mission Support Service (PMSS) and the Division of Policy, Evaluation and Training (DPET) of the Department of Peace Operation's (DPO) started its HRDDP support mission aimed at reviewing the HRDDP mechanisms and practices and gather lessons learned, including to reinforce ongoing efforts by MINUSCA on the HRDDP. The mission will end on 4 February.

³ The prefectures are as follows: Bamingui-Bangoran; Haute-Kotto; Haut-Mbomou; Mbomou; Mambéré-Kadéï; Nana-Grébizi; Ombella-M'Poko; Ouaka; Vakaga.