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United Nations Multidimensional
Integrated Stabilization Mission in the
Central African Republic

Monthly Report: Human Rights Situation

March 2024

The mandate of MINUSCA includes inter alia, assisting the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR) to promote and protect human rights. This report is based on information received by the Human Rights Division (HRD) and only includes human rights violations and abuses that were documented and verified during the month of March 2024 in line with established methodology of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Information that could not be verified are not included. Ordinary crimes are also excluded from this report. This report is shared with CAR's authorities and partners.

Main political and security developments

1. The political and security landscape was characterized by the signing of a decree organizing the CAR National Observatory on gender parity, violence related to the activities of armed groups, and transhumance, with consequences on the protection of civilians, respect for human rights, and social cohesion. On the political front, on 6 March, President Touadéra signed a decree on the organization and functioning of the CAR National Observatory on gender parity. The Observatory is housed under the Ministry for the Promotion of Gender and the Protection of Women, Family and Children. It is charged with promoting, monitoring, and evaluating gender equality in State institutions, through *inter alia* raising awareness on parity and non-discrimination; collaborating with relevant ministries and public institutions; disseminating data on the state of parity in the CAR; and establishing strategic relations with international partners. On 19 March, the *Union de journalistes de Centrafrique* published a communiqué regarding media repression in relation to the restructuring of the *Haut Conseil de la Communication* (HCC). The communiqué denounced incidence of threats and harassment of journalists with regard to the restructuring of the HCC, as well as challenges to the neutrality, independence, credibility and sustainability of the new HCC. On 27 March, Lawyer Crépin Mboli-Goumba, Coordinator of the *Bloc Républicain pour la Défense de la Constitution* (BRDC), and Chair of opposition party, *Parti africain pour la transformation radicale et l'intégration des États* (PATRIE), was handed a one-year suspended prison sentence for defamation and contempt of magistrate by the Court of First Instance in Bangui. The Court additionally ordered the payment of 80 million XAF (approximately 144.000 USD). Following his arrest, the Bar Association went on a nationwide strike which was suspended after his conviction. It is worth noting that Mr. Mboli-Goumba has appealed the Court's decision. In a similar case, on 11 March, Member of Parliament, Dominique Yandocka, detained since December 2023, started a hunger strike to demand better health care and the prompt processing of his case. On 15 March, he terminated his hunger strike but was transferred to the FACA headquarters infirmary situated inside the Camp de Roux for appropriate treatment. His health condition remains a concern.

2. With regards to the security situation, intercommunal clashes often linked to transhumance remain a major challenge. In Doula, **Lim-Pendé** Prefecture, two Fulani men were killed in a retaliatory attack following the killing of a man by another Fulani man. The incident led to population displacement. Clashes between farmers and herders were reported in Gbangayanga (45 km of Bossangoa), Ouham Prefecture while in Mambéré-Kadei Prefecture on 6 March, concerns were raised over the temporary closure of the CAR-Cameroon border by CAR authorities due to the scheduled return of 315 CAR refugees on 6 March with a majority of the refugees said to be Fulanis.
3. As in previous months, the movements and activities of armed groups impacted the protection of civilians and the human rights situation. In the **Yadé** region¹, notably in **Lim-Pendé** and **Ouham-Pendé** Prefectures, the 3R group continues to target the civilian population.
4. In the **Haut-Oubangui** region², the *Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique* (UPC) and *Azande Ani Kpi Gbe* (AAKG) armed groups bolstered their forces around Mboki and Zémio, **Haut-Mbomou** Prefecture. Consequently, approximately 80 Fulani individuals relocated from Zémio to Guerekindo (50 km of Rafai, in **Mbomou** Prefecture). In Rafai, **Mbomou** Prefecture, the presence of 150 Fulani families from the southern area of Sudan, including armed individuals, heightened the need for urgent security and humanitarian measures. Furthermore, in the **Mbomou** Prefecture, the security situation deteriorated in the Nzacko area (190 km from Bangassou), where clashes between UPC armed elements and defence and security forces, along with OSP, caused local residents to flee the area in search of protection.
5. In the **Fertit** region³, **Vakaga** Prefecture, a FACA base in Sikikédé (140 km South-West of Birao) was attacked by the *Front Populaire pour la Renaissance de la Centrafrique* (FPRC) on 7 March. The FPRC elements were reported to have arrived in Sikikédé aboard 18 vehicles and 64 motorbikes from Aouk (210 km South-West of Birao) and Tissifongoro (72 km North-East of Birao). The FACA succeeded in fending off the attack and in regaining control over the town. Furthermore, the movement of armed elements from the *Parti du Rassemblement de la Nation Centrafricaine* (PRNC) and the FPRC created panic among the civilian population of Tiringoulou, Gordil and Sikikédé villages during the night of 26 to 27 March amid fears of attack by the said armed group.

Significant human rights related developments

6. The High Court in Obo resumed its sessions on 27 March since the last one held on 17 May 2023 due to the prolonged absence of the judge. In a meeting with the newly appointed Prosecutor in Obo, **Haut-Mbomou** Prefecture, MINUSCA advocated for investigations into human rights violations and abuses with emphasis on persons in detention. In Dékoa (80 km of Kaga Bandoro), **Kémo** Prefecture, the HRD observed that during a monitoring activity, the cells were empty. The Brigade Commander highlighted the steps taken to ensure compliance with the 48 hours detention timeline including the systematic transfers of cases to the Prosecutor in Sibut. MINUSCA welcomes this development.
7. The *Haute Autorité chargée de la Bonne Gouvernance* (HABG) organized three awareness campaign sessions in **Bangui** on its mandate and mechanisms to protect against discrimination for minority groups, indigenous populations, and local communities. The sessions were aimed at establishing a national mechanism for monitoring and implementing the protection of minorities and indigenous people in CAR. In addition, from 21 to 26 March, the HABG organized three awareness workshops in Bangui for stakeholders on the prevention of mass crimes.

¹ For the purpose of this report, the Yade region includes the Lim-Pendé (reflected by the maps under Ouham-Pende), Ouham et 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).

² For the purpose of this report, the Haut-Oubangui region includes the Basse-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou prefectures.

³ For the purpose of this report, the Fertit region includes the prefectures of Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto and Vakaga.

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

8. Despite the aforementioned positive steps, human rights challenges remain. During the reporting period, the MINUSCA HRD, including the Office of the Senior Women Protection Advisor (OSWPA) and the Child Protection Unit (CPU), documented and verified **218 human rights violations and abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL), affecting 303 civilian victims** (with 51 women, 17 girls, 32 boys and 24 groups of collective victims). Of the 303 victims, 83 suffered multiple violations with a majority of violations occurring in March 2024 while the rest occurred between 2022 and 2023.

Main Trends

In total, **218 human rights violations and abuses** as well as breaches of IHL **affecting 303 victims (including 51 women, 17 girls, 32 boys, 24 groups of collective victims)** were documented in March 2024.

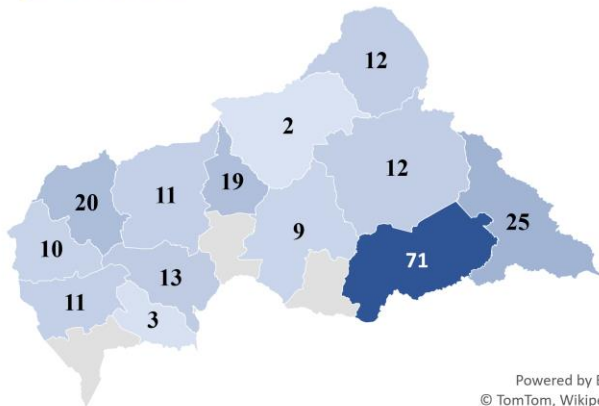
This constitutes a **2% decrease** in the number of violations and a **18% decrease** in the number of victims compared to February 2024.

During the period covered by the report, **APPR-RCA armed groups** were responsible for more than half of the violations (51%), while **State actors** were responsible for the highest number of victims (45%).

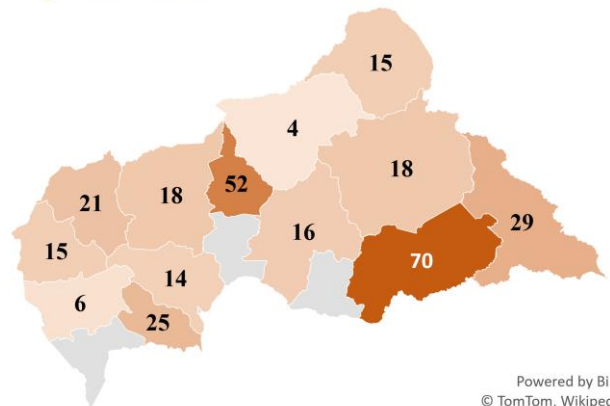
9. The HRD also recorded 41 allegations of human rights violations and abuses affecting at least 51 victims (including seven women, five girls, one boy and seven groups of collective victims), which were still being verified at the end of March and were therefore not included in this report.

10. Compared to February 2024, the violations stay approximately the same, with a slight decrease of 2% while the number of victims decreased more significantly by 18%.⁴ The **Haut-Oubangui** region was the most affected both in terms of violations (96) and victims (99). The **Mbomou** Prefecture in the said region was the most affected with 71 violations affecting 70 victims. The higher number of violations per victim can be attributed to the fact that some victims experienced multiple violations. The spike in numbers observed in the **Haut-Oubangui** region followed a mission in Bakouma.

Number of confirmed violations per prefecture

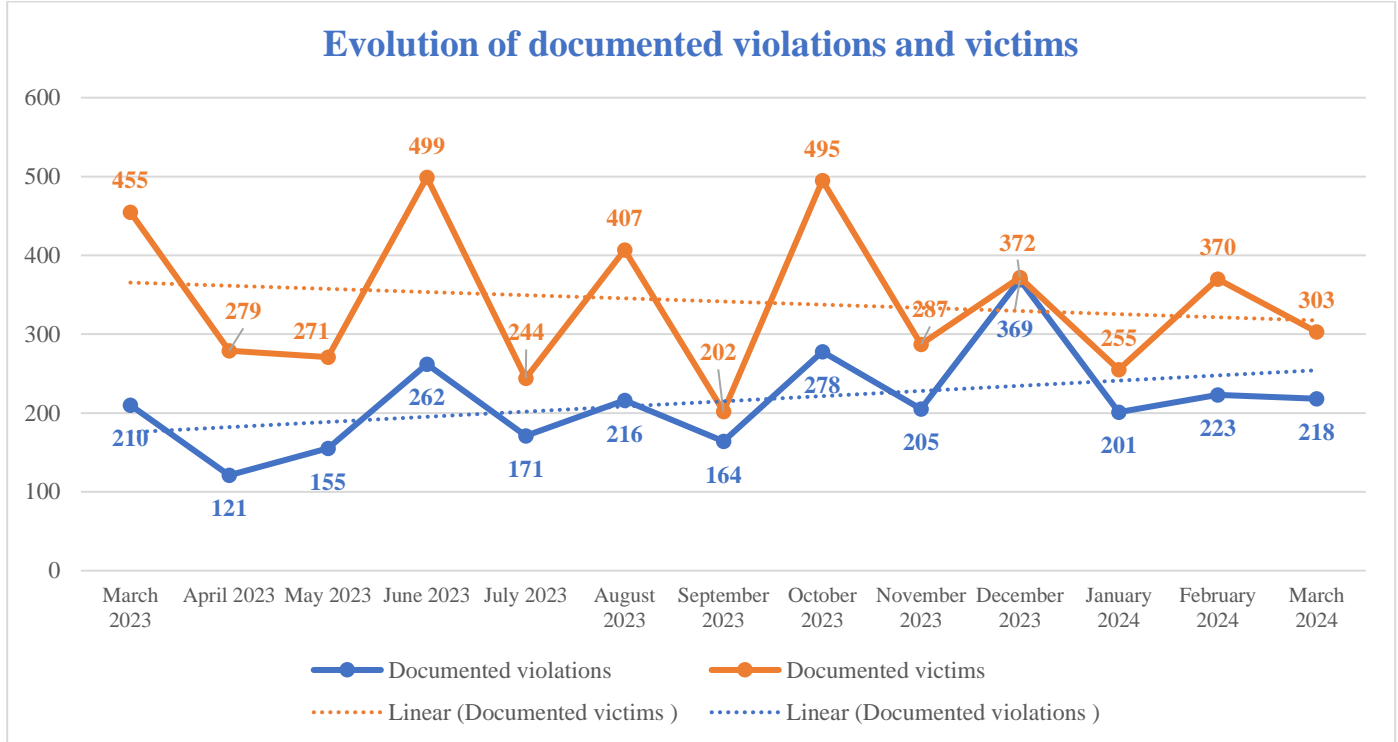


Number of confirmed victims per prefecture



⁴ In February 2024, 223 violations and abuses affecting 370 victims were documented.

11. Overall and similar to previous months⁵ the most common types of violations and abuses were related to the right to physical and mental integrity (20%), the deprivation of liberty and the condition of detention (18%) and CRSV (17%).
12. Based on the total violations documented, men suffered the most from arbitrary arrest and/or detention (41%), the right to property (26%), abduction (20%) and ill-treatment (13%). Women were mostly victims of rape (53%), ill-treatment (25%) and abduction (16%). Out of the 17 girl victims of violations, nine were victims of rape and five were victims of extrajudicial and other type of killing. Out of the 32 boy victims of violations, 23 were victims of ill-treatment and six were victims of extrajudicial and other types of killing.

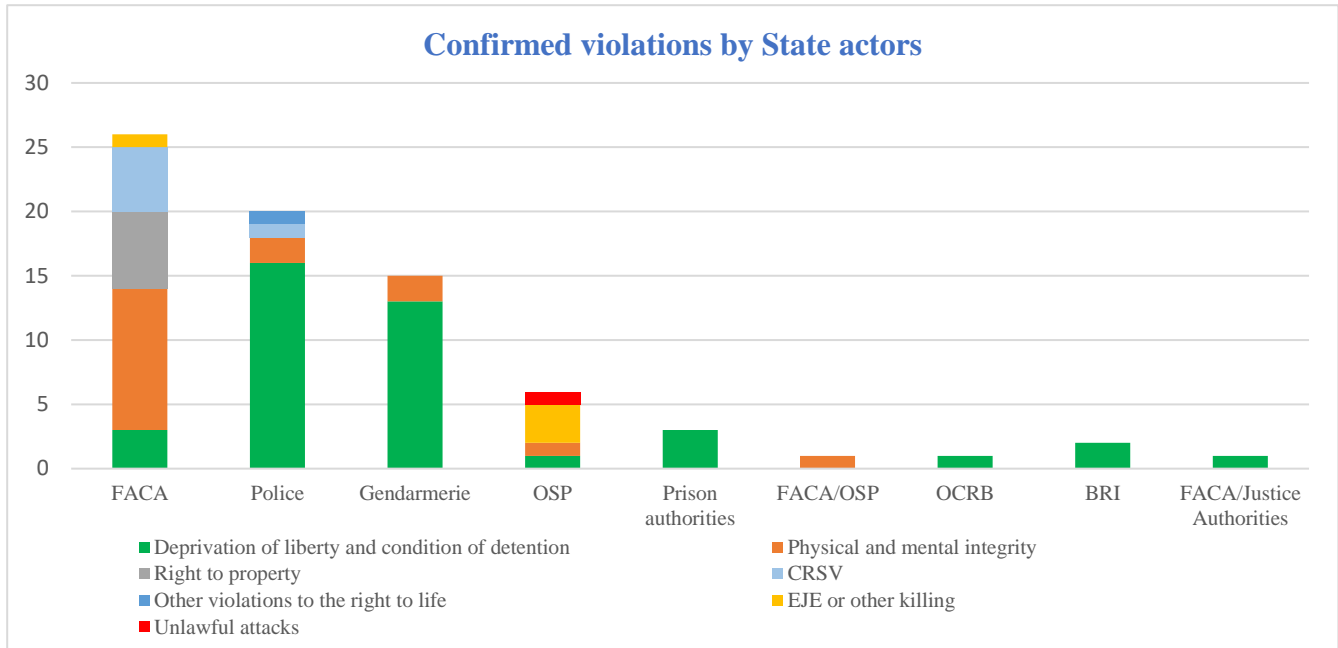


Overview of violations by type of perpetrator

13. **For the period under review, State actors committed 75 human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law affecting 136 victims** (including nine women, three girls, 24 boys and 11 groups of collective victims). In comparison to February 2024, where state actors committed 113 violations affecting 199 victims, the number of violations committed by state actors decreased (by 34%) as did the number of victims (by 32) %.
14. The **main violation committed by state actors** included arbitrary **arrest and/or detention and the conditions of detention** that do not comply with national and international minimum standards which constituted 53% of all violations committed by state actors. **The second most common type of violation** attributable to state actors was related to the right of **physical and mental integrity** (23% of all violations). The **FACA**, acting alone (26 violations and 19 victims) and the **Police** (20 violations and 32 victims) were the actors who committed the most violations and with the most victims.

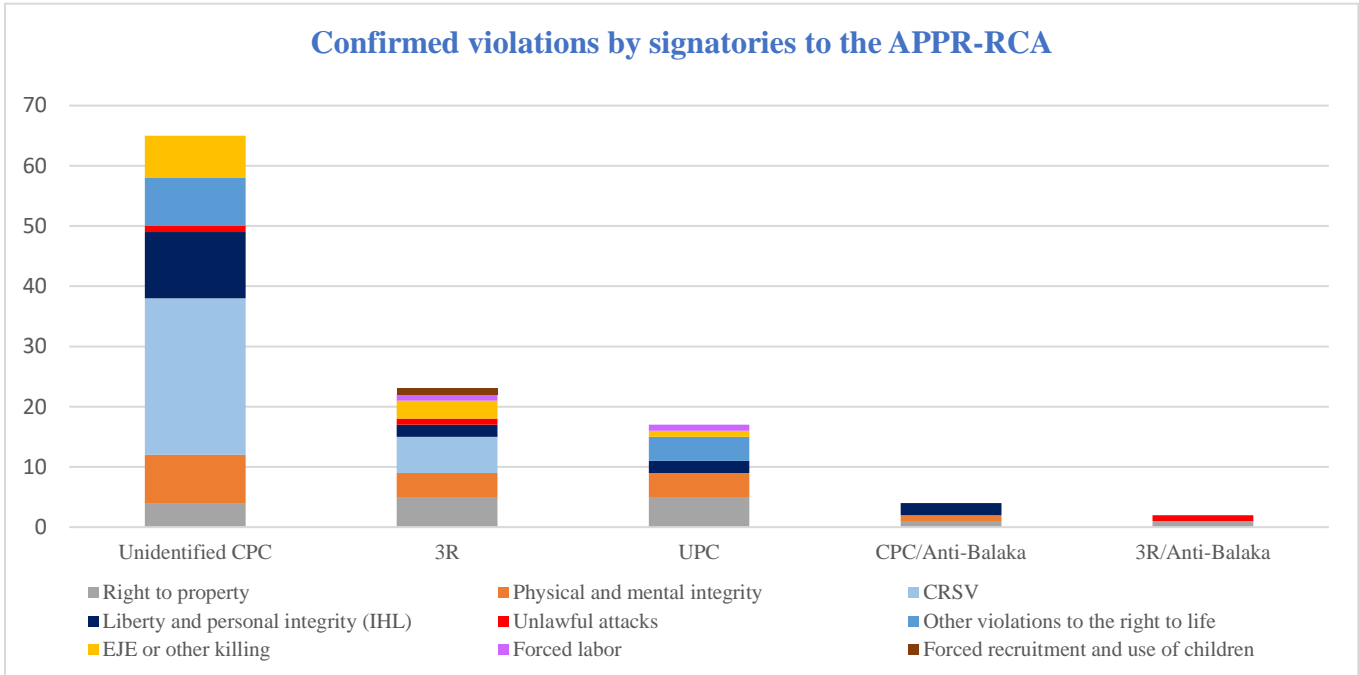
⁵ In February 2024, the most common types of violations and abuses were related to the deprivation of liberty and the conditions of detention (25%), the right to physical and mental integrity (23%) and the right to property (19%).

15. A majority of violations committed by state actors took place in the **Kaga** Region (19 violations affecting 45 victims) particularly in the **Nana-Gribizi** (12 violations affecting 31 victims) and the **Ouaka** (seven violations affecting 14 victims) Prefectures.

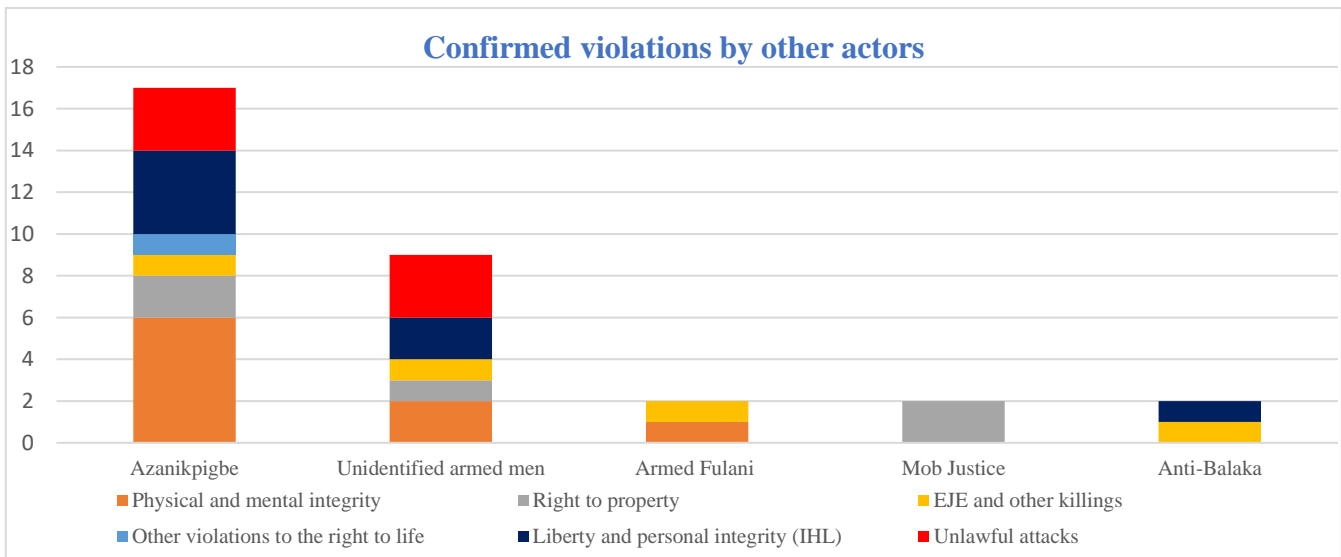


16. **Armed groups signatories to the *Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation en République Centrafricaine (APPR-RCA)* were responsible for 111 human rights abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law affecting 124 victims** (including 37 women, 13 girls, six boys and six groups of collective victims). In comparison to February 2024, where armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA were responsible for 86 human rights abuses and breaches of IHL affecting 121 victims, this reflects an increase in abuses (29%) and in victims (2%).
17. **The most common type of abuses committed by armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA were rape (27), destruction or appropriation of property (16) and abduction (14).** Fifty-seven per cent of these abuses took place in the **Haut-Oubangui** region. Of this, 94% in **Mbomou** and 6% in **Haut-Mbomou** Prefectures.

18. **Among armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA, unidentified armed men affiliated to CPC were the main perpetrators committing, 65 abuses affecting 67 victims including rape (22) abduction (10) and extrajudicial killing or other forms of killing (7).**



19. **Other actors, including armed groups non-signatories to the APPR-RCA and self-defence groups, were responsible for 32 abuses affecting 44 victims** (including six women, two boys and six groups of collective victims). Compared to February 2024, armed groups non-signatories to the APPR-RCA and self-defence groups were responsible for 45 abuses and breaches of IHL affecting 62 victims. This represents an increase in abuses (by 33%) and a decrease in victims (by 12%). The common violations committed by these groups included ill-treatment (eight), abduction (seven) and destruction or appropriation of property (five). The Azande Ani Kpi Gbe were responsible for the most abuses (17) and victims (17) with most of the abuses been ill-treatment (five) and abduction (four). Most of the abuses attributed to other actors, including armed groups non signatories to the APPR-RCA, took place in the **Haut-Oubangui** region (18 abuses affecting 18 victims).



Typology of violations/abuses

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV)

20. A total of 38 cases of CRSV affecting 45 victims (34 women and 11 girls) were documented. The fact that the number of perpetrators during the reporting period was at least 55% higher than the number of victims could indicate that many victims were sexually violated by several perpetrators at the same time.
21. Two-thirds of the CRSV cases reported during the reporting period occurred between 2021 and 2024, and one-third between January and March 2024. This includes cases verified in Bakouma, Mbomou Prefecture, **Haut-Oubangui** Region, that occurred between 2021 to 2024. The main types of CRSV were rape, attempted rape and sexual slavery with about half committed alongside other human rights violations and abuses such as abduction, ill-treatment, and extrajudicial killing.
22. **Armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA** were responsible for 32 cases of CRSV affecting 29 women and eight girls, representing the majority of the cases documented. Most cases happened on an opportunistic basis while a few were linked to sexual slavery, and one was targeted because her family members previously belonged to another armed group (anti-Balaka). **State actors** were involved in six cases of CRSV affecting five women and three girls. While in previous months it was observed that FACA mainly perpetrated CRSV in closed settings such as the victim's or perpetrator's house, the CRSV cases reported in March happened on the road, in the bush, in IDP or refugee camps, and only one case happened inside the victim's house thus indicating the opportunistic element with victims targeted in circumstances in which they could be considered most vulnerable. MINUSCA continues to deploy investigative missions to monitor and document CRSV cases given a recurrence in allegations.

Violation/abuse of the right to life

23. Most abuses to the right to life in March were committed by the unidentified CPC elements (15 abuses affecting 23 victims). These included seven killings involving 14 victims, six enforced disappearances affecting seven victims and two death threats affecting two victims. On the other hand, the OSP was involved in some violations. On 9 March, the OSP executed four victims in Boromata, located in the **Vakaga** Prefecture, due to their refusal to comply with OSP orders, prompting the personnel to open fire on the victims. It should be noted that article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) along with the article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) guarantees the right to life of every individual. The state also has the responsibility to ensure transparent investigations into all cases and hold perpetrators accountable.

Deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention

24. During the reporting period, the HRD documented 40 violations related to the deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention affecting 83 victims (74 men, one woman, one boy, and seven groups of collective victims). Most violations linked to arbitrary detention involved detention beyond the legal time limits for custody (22 violations affecting 64 victims) with main perpetrators being the police (10 violations and 20 victims) and the gendarmerie (nine violations and 34 victims). The **Kaga** Region was the most affected with 13 violations and 38 victims.
25. The situation in detention centres continues to remain a challenge. In Boda, **Lobaye** Prefecture, seven detainees - five accused individuals and two persons in police custody - escaped from the *Brigade Territoriale de Gendarmerie*, on the night of 16 to 17 March. The judicial authorities have initiated investigations while search is underway to arrest the escapees. Due to the absence of a prison in Boda

and the lack of transportation to transfer detainees to the Mbaïki prison, individuals under committal orders and those in police custody are all detained at the Gendarmerie. Those convicted in trials held in Boda are later transferred to Mbaïki to serve their sentences. Meanwhile, individuals suspected of committing crimes from the Boganda, Boganangone, and Ngotto sub-prefectures are all transferred to Boda for further proceedings often leading to overcrowding in cells and human rights violations, including insufficient access to food and healthcare, non-separation of detainees and prolonged detention periods.

26. Human rights of persons in custody and detainees are protected by various national texts, including the Constitution adopted on 30 August 2023; the *code penal* (Criminal Code) and the *code de procédure pénale* (Criminal Procedure Code) adopted by laws n°10.001 and 10.002 of 6 January 2010; the law n°12.003 on fundamental principles of the prison system; decree n°160090 on standard internal regulations applicable to prisons in the Central African Republic; decree n°160087 on the organization and operation of prisons in the Central African Republic and determining their internal regulations; and decree n°160088 redefining the framework of the prison administration, all adopted on 16 February 2016 as well as law n°20.016 of 15 June 2020 on the Child Protection Code.
27. Despite efforts to address the challenges facing the judicial and penitentiary systems, illegal and/or arbitrary detentions and poor conditions of detention require urgent and concrete action. Although the competent authorities (prosecutors, investigative magistrates and judicial police officers) issue warrants for most cases of arrest, failure to comply with the time limit laid down in article 40 of the Criminal Procedure Code amounts to illegal detention. It should be noted that, with the entry into force of the new constitution on 30 August 2023, which provides a shorter custody time of 24 hours, there is a need for the harmonisation of the Criminal Procedure Code with the Constitution. Nonetheless, to date, the Criminal Procedure Code remains widely applied. In addition, the poor conditions of detention in places of deprivation of liberty, notably the lack of hygiene and sanitation, insufficient food, non-segregation of categories of detainees, and cases of torture, remain a cause for concern due to their failure to comply with minimum standards (Mandela Rules) and relevant provisions of the ICCPR, and the UDHR⁶.

Violation/abuse of the right to liberty and personal integrity

28. During the period under review, the HRD documented 24 violations of the right to liberty and personal integrity⁷ involving 60 victims including 21 incidents of abduction (48 victims) and three incidents of deprivation of liberty (12 victims). The **Haut-Oubangui** Region was the most affected both in number of violations (15) and number of victims (24) with the **Mbomou** Prefecture being the most affected in terms of violations (10) and victims (12). Unidentified CPC elements were involved in most cases (11 abuses affecting 21 victims) in the **Haut-Oubangui** and **Kaga** Regions.
29. On 26 March, seven unidentified CPC elements abducted nine persons including a woman. Of the nine victims, three were abducted in Gbazara village while six others including a woman were abducted along the Gbazara-Vafio axis. Their assailants took them into the bush, tied their hands and seized their personal belongings including money and telephones.

⁶ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights 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 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which came into force for the Central African Republic State 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).

⁷ The right to liberty and personal integrity includes abduction, deprivation of liberty, and hostage-taking (violations and breaches of international humanitarian law).

30. Overall, the **armed groups signatories to APPR-RCA** were responsible for 17 abuses affecting 38 victims. Meanwhile, **other armed groups** perpetrated seven abuses affecting 22 victims with the *Azande Ani Kpi Gbe* being the main perpetrator with four abuses affecting nine victims.
31. The right to liberty and security of person is protected pursuant to Article 3 of the UDHR. Article 9 of the ICCPR recognizes the right to liberty and security of the person as does Article 6 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights which are applicable to the CAR. In this regard, CAR authorities through decentralised structures have the responsibility to take necessary steps to prevent violations/abuses while also taking concrete actions to hold perpetrators including state and non-state actors accountable.

Violation/abuse of the right to physical and mental integrity

32. During the period under review, the HRD documented 43 violations of right to physical and mental integrity⁸ affecting 74 victims including, ill-treatment (29 violations affecting 62 victims), maiming and injuries (seven violations involving eight victims), threat to physical and mental integrity (five violations affecting seven victims) and torture (two violations affecting two victims).
33. The **Haut-Oubangui** Region recorded the most violations (17) while the **Plateaux/Bas-Oubangui**⁹ Regions had the most victims (28).
34. The FACA, acting alone, was implicated in 11 violations affecting eight victims including ill-treatment and or maiming and injuries. However, in one incident, verified in March but which occurred on 26 February, the FACA, acting jointly with the OSP, were responsible for ill-treatment affecting 23 victims. During this incident, FACA elements erected a barricade on the road in front of the Berengo school (Centre de Formation de Berengo), in Berengo, **Lobaye** Prefecture, **Plateaux/Bas-Oubangui** Region, and subjected all boys passing by to ill-treatment by beating them with sticks. A total of 23 boys, aged from 12 to 13 years old, were injured, and eight of them were reportedly evacuated to Bangui for appropriate treatment. As a result of this incident, the students did not return for some time, out of fear.
35. Overall, **State actors** committed 17 violations affecting 40 victims while **armed groups non signatories of the APPR-RCA** were responsible for 17 abuses affecting 24 victims. **Other armed groups** committed nine abuses involving 10 victims.
36. Article 5 of the UDHR and article 7 of the ICCPR recognize the right to physical integrity and the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In addition, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment guarantees the prohibition of torture (Article 2) and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Article 16). On 11 October 2016, the Central African Republic also acceded to the Optional Protocol to the above-mentioned Convention. The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights provides for the right to physical and moral integrity of the person (articles 4 and 5). As a party to these international and regional standards, the Central African Republic and its deconcentrated and decentralized structures has a responsibility to exercise the necessary diligence to prevent and respond to violations/abuses of these rights committed by either State or non-State actors.

⁸ Violations related to the right of physical and mental integrity include ill-treatment, torture and maiming and injuries.

⁹ The Plateaux/Bas-Oubangui region includes the Ombella M'Poko and Lobaye prefectures, and Bangui.

Violations/abuses of the right to property

37. Twenty-seven (27) violations of the right to property¹⁰ were documented affecting 63 victims including destruction or appropriation of property (23 violations involving 57 victims) and illegal taxation (four violations affecting six victims). **FACA** was solely implicated in acts of illegal taxation, with four violations affecting six victims. The **Fertit** Region was the most impacted with six violations affecting 13 victims with UPC involved in five abuses affecting 10 victims.
38. On 7 March, three armed elements affiliated to the UPC entered the Damalango (5 km from Aigbando) artisanal mining site and fired gunshots to warn and intimidate miners and ordered miners and traders to pay the sum of 75,000 XAF (about 125 USD) each, as tax. They succeeded in collecting 200,000 XAF (about 333 USD) from four people (50,000 XAF each), seized a motorcycle and looted goods (sugar, rice, cigarettes, etc.) from a shop.
39. The **armed groups signatories to APPR-RCA** were responsible for 16 abuses affecting 44 victims while **other armed groups** were responsible for five abuses affecting 11 victims. State actors were implicated in two cases affecting two victims.

Unlawful attacks

40. The HRD documented 10 incidents of unlawful attacks¹¹ affecting 28 victims. The **Kaga** Region recorded the most victims including one specific incident that affected nine victims which occurred on 26 March in Gbazara, **Nana-Gribizi** Prefecture, following clashes between unidentified CPC elements and OSP.
41. **Armed groups signatories to APPR-RCA** were responsible for three abuses affecting 17 victims while **other armed groups** were responsible for six abuses affecting ten victims. State actors were involved in one case affecting a victim.
42. These incidents continue to underscore the need for concerted efforts to reinforce the protection of civilians and the respect of human rights and international humanitarian law which prohibit intentional attacks against civilians and civilian objects, as well as indiscriminate attacks that fail to distinguish between civilians and combatants.

Forced recruitment and slavery and other form of exploitation

43. A case of forced recruitment affecting one boy was attributed to the 3R armed group in the **Nana-Mambéré** Prefecture. Additionally, the 3R and UPC were implicated in two separate incidents related to slavery and other forms of exploitation¹² affecting two victims. It is worth noting that recruitment and use of children as well as slavery are prohibited under international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

¹⁰ The right of property includes destruction or appropriation of property and illegal taxation.

¹¹ Unlawful attacks include attacks against civilians, attacks against other protected persons, the failure of precautions to protect the civilian population or objects under a party's control against the effects of attacks, and denial of humanitarian relief.

¹² Slavery and other form of exploitation includes slavery and forced labour.

Children in Armed Conflict

44. The Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) verified 12 grave child rights violations affecting seven children (five boys and two girls). There was a 52% decrease in grave violations and a 42% decrease in victims directly affected compared to the previous reporting period during which 25 violations affecting 12 children were documented. The decrease in grave violations may be as a result of challenges faced by the CTFMR in engagement with parties to the conflict who have signed Action Plans (FPRC, UPC and MPC - members of the CPC) since most of the armed group leaders are in hiding and children are not being released by these groups. Also, the increased movement of armed groups, particularly in **Haut-Mbomou, Ouham** and **Vakaga** Prefectures as well as the increased use of explosive ordnance and ongoing military operations by defence and security forces and OSP continue to impact on the CTFMR’s ability to access certain areas to monitor and report on grave child rights violations. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the total of 12 violations occurred outside the reporting period and could only be verified during the period under review. Armed groups were responsible for 75% of the violations, OSP of 8%, and unidentified armed individuals 17%. Two girls were victims of abduction and rape.
45. Violations documented included: recruitment and use (1), killing (3), rape and other forms of sexual violence (1), abduction (3), attacks against schools (1), and denial of humanitarian access (3). Armed groups committed nine violations: CPC/3R (5) and Azande Ani Kpi Gbe militia (4). Other security personnel committed one violation and unidentified armed individuals, two. Haut-Mbomou and Lim-Pende were the most affected prefectures with four violations each, followed by Nana-Gribizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ouham-Pende and Vakaga with one each.

Act to Protect Campaign

Through the “**Act to Protect**” campaign, **675 peacekeepers** (566 men and 109 women) were trained on the protection of children during armed conflict, with a focus on monitoring and reporting of the six grave violations. Similar trainings and sensitizations were delivered to **1,594 (900 men and 694 women) community members and leaders, youth leaders, members of local peace committees, INGOs, NGOs, FACA, ISF and local authorities.**

Human Rights Promotion and Capacity-Building

46. During the period under review, the HRD in collaboration with partners organised 93 activities (awareness raising and capacity building workshops) in 14 prefectures¹³ benefitting 5,821 individuals (of whom about 2,989 were women, in addition to 122 girls and 83 boys), including representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs), IDPs, State actors (FACA, Internal Security Forces – ISF –, prison authorities, etc.), detainees, local human rights fora as well as community and religious leaders. The sessions focused on human rights and international humanitarian law including CRSV and grave child rights violations.
47. The HRD conducted 52 monitoring visits to detention centres in 12 prefectures¹⁴ and documented 75 victims of illegal detention. HRD continues to be granted access to detention centres and facilities to

¹³ The prefectures are as follows: Bangui; Bamingui-Bangoran; Haute-Kotto; Haut-Mbomou; Kemo; Mambéré-Kadei; Mbomou; Nana-Gribizi; Nana-Mambéré; Ouaka; Ouham; Ouham-Pendé; Sangha-Mbaéré and Vakaga.

¹⁴ The prefectures are as follows: Bamingui-Bangoran; Bangui; Haute-Kotto; Haut-Mbomou; Mbomou; Nana-Grébizi; Nana-Mambéré; Ouaka; Ouham; Ouham-Pendé; Ombella M’Poko; Vakaga.

monitor the situation and engage with relevant authorities to advocate and support efforts to enhance the respect of human rights.

48. The HRD supported national institutions and CSOs to organise a series of capacity building and awareness raising activities. On 21-26 March the *Haute Autorité chargée de la Bonne Gouvernance* (HABG) organised a session in Bangui on prevention of discrimination against minorities and vulnerable groups for 100 participants, including 35 women and girls. On 21-23 March in Bangui, the National Committee for the Prevention of Genocide organised a session on prevention of mass crimes and the establishment of Vigilance Committees for 60 participants, including 17 women, and prevention of hate speech and incitement to violence followed by the establishment of focal points for 350 participants, including 175 women in Bossembélé, Sibut, Mongoumba, Dékoa, and Boali. On 16-18 March in Bangui, the Consortium of Women and Girls organised a session on women's rights and protection against Gender-Based Violence for 120 participants, including 78 women from Bangui, Boali, and Pissa.
49. From 26 to 28 March, the HRD organised a training seminar for the 20 members (including four women) of the Network of Parliamentarians on Human Rights in CAR. The activity focused on the role of Parliament in promoting and protecting human rights, human rights principles and standards as well as the framework for collaboration between Parliament and other key national institutions including the *Commission nationale des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales* (CNDHLF).

Human Rights Due Diligence Policy

50. During the period under review, MINUSCA conducted **37** risk assessments related to MINUSCA's support to the Internal Defence and Security Forces (FACA, ISF and other law enforcement officers). The Secretariat of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) conducted human rights background checks for **424** beneficiaries including **207** ISF (**110** Police officers and **97** Gendarmes), **197** FACA, **seven** prison officers from the Ministry of Justice, **10** Members of Parliament and **three** agents from the ministry of water and forestry. Among risk assessments conducted, three were for the progressive and coordinated redeployment and rotation of three FACA Units in Mboki, Am-Dafock and Birao. Beneficiaries were also provided with logistical, financial, and technical support including air transportation and trainings.
51. The risk identified in these assessments were deemed **low** and **medium**. Based on these assessments, MINUSCA support was approved with a set of recommendations and mitigation measures. These verifications allowed MINUSCA's United Nations Police (UNPOL), Security Sector Reform Service (SSRS) and United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to organize eight training sessions for officers from the Internal Defense and Security Forces (IDSF) on different thematic areas, including: rights and protection of civilians during elections; professional gestures and techniques; use of intelligence during elections; technical and scientific policing; maintenance and restoration of public order; weapons and ammunition management; workshops for the military justice system; and raising awareness on the risks of explosive devices. The trainings targeted participants stationed in Bangui, Damara, Kaga-Bandoro and Paoua.
52. MINUSCA equally transported non-UN security forces either on redeployment or on missions to Bambari, Bangassou, Bangui, Batangafo, Berberati, Birao, Bossangoa, Bouar, Bria, Kaga-Bandoro, Ndélé, Obo and Paoua. MINUSCA UNPOL component is conducting pre-deployment trainings for ISF benefiting from MINUSCA's support.