I. KEY DEVELOPMENTS

During the month of December, unlike the previous months, the security and human rights situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) was less precarious and was characterized by a significant decrease in clashes between rival armed groups and in the number of attacks on the civilian population. Despite this relative calm, the human rights situation was still cause for concern in specific regions of the country due to the individual actions of members of armed groups or armed men affiliated to them, who were involved particularly in incidents of rape, cruel and inhuman treatment as well as arbitrary deprivation of liberty. In addition, the Unité pour la Paix en Centrafrique (UPC), the Front Patriotique pour la Renaissance de la Centrafrique (FPRC) and the anti-Balaka.

MINUSCA Human Rights Division (HRD), including Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Child Protection Sections, recorded 111 new incidents of violations/abuses of international human rights as well as breaches of international humanitarian law during their attack on and subsequent occupation of the village of Bakouma, Mbomou prefecture, on 31 December.

The prefectures of Mbomou, Nana Grébizi, Haute Kotto, Ouaka and Haut-Mbomou were identified as the hotspots for the reporting period due to the number of incidents recorded, mainly killings and conflict-related sexual violence. The armed groups most active were the UPC, the FPRC and the anti-Balaka.

HRD continued its advocacy activities aimed at strengthening national capacities and enhancing a protective environment, mainly through the holding of and/or participation in seminars/awareness-raising or sensitization sessions, particularly in relation to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. With the support and advices of HRD, MINUSCA Senior Leadership initiated high-level engagement with national authorities on the recent appointment of the former Head of Office central pour la Répression du Banditisme (OCRB) as Director General of the National Police.

As was the case in November, December recorded a significant development in the fight against impunity. On 12 December, the authorities of the French Republic arrested former anti-Balaka leader, Mr. Patrice-Edouard Ngaissona, pursuant to an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC). He was arrested for his alleged criminal responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the Western part of CAR between December 2013 and December 2014.

HRD continued to provide technical assistance to the Steering Committee of the future Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission in its preparation for the holding of national consultations as well as to the National Commission on Human Rights and Basic Freedoms in its sensitization campaign related to its complaint procedure. HRD completed eight Risk Assessments as part of its support to the HRDDP process.

REPORTED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CAR_OCTOBER 2018

[Diagram showing reported violations by state actors and armed groups]
Armed groups 98%  

VICTIMS PER PREFECTURE BY ARMED GROUPS

CASUALTIES PER PREFECTURE BY ARMED GROUPS

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS BY ARMED GROUPS AND STATE ACTORS
The figures mentioned in this fact sheet do not reflect a complete overview of the human rights violations and abuses in December 2018, but only relate to cases documented by the HRD, through OHCHR methodology and standards. It is worth noting that these figures may include human rights violations committed during previous months but brought to the attention of the MINUSCA’s HRD in December 2018. Statistics on the number of violations/abuses reported may increase or decrease over a given period due to numerous factors outside the control and/or knowledge of the HRD and must therefore be used with caution.