During the month of November, the security and human rights situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) became quite precarious due to targeted attacks and violent acts against civilians by armed groups and armed men affiliated with them, resulting in several incidents of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses.

The prefectures of Ouaka and Basse-Kotto were of major concern due to the significant increase in the number of human rights abuses perpetrated by the Unité pour la Paix en Centrafrique (UPC), particularly in Alindao and Bambari.

MINUSCA Human Rights Division (HRD) recorded 130 new incidents of violations/abuses of international human rights as well as breaches to international humanitarian law affecting 296 victims, including 142 men, 55 women, 54 children and 45 unidentified victims. These figures represent an 18.8 percent decrease in the number of incidents and a 11.7 percent increase in the number of victims compared to the previous reporting period during which HRD documented 160 incidents of violations/abuses affecting 265 victims. Targeted attacks and fighting among rival armed groups continued to negatively impact on the protection of civilians, resulting in 113 civilians killed and 124 injured/maimed in November.

Armed groups were responsible for 122 incidents which affected 285 victims while State actors, including members of the Armed Forces (FACA), Police and Gendarmerie, were responsible for eight incidents affecting 11 victims with cases of violations of the right to life and violations of the right to physical and mental integrity.

The most recurrent violations recorded during the month of November were killings, death threats, cruel and inhuman treatment, conflict-related sexual violence, arbitrary deprivation of liberty, abductions, appropriation, destruction/pillaging of property, attacks on internally displaced persons (IDPs), extortion, humanitarian workers including their equipment, denial of humanitarian access, and occupation of schools.

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 on human rights with civil society representatives, local authorities and members of the Internal Security Forces (ISF) and les Forces Armées Centrafricaines (FACA).

On 17 November, the Central African authorities extradited Alfred Yekatom aka “Rambo”, a member of the National Assembly and former anti-Balaka leader to the International Criminal Court (ICC). Yekatom is alleged to be criminally responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in western CAR between December 2013 and August 2014 when he was allegedly commanding a group of around 3,000 anti-Balaka elements. HRD continued to provide technical assistance to the Steering Committee of the future Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission. HRD also completed 13 Risk Assessments as part of its support to the HRDDP process.
The figures mentioned in this fact sheet do not reflect a complete overview of the human rights violations and abuses in November 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 November 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.