During the month of October, the security and human rights situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) continued to be fragile due to frequent attacks and violent acts against civilians committed by armed groups and armed elements affiliated with them, resulting in several incidents of killings, cruel and inhuman treatment, injuries and maiming, conflict-related sexual violence, arbitrary deprivation of liberty, abductions as well as cases of attacks on protected objects and humanitarian workers.

The hotspots for the month of October were the prefectures of Haute-Kotto, Ouaka, and Nana-Grébizi. Due to the steady increase in the activities of the SIRIRI armed group, Mambéré-Kadéï prefecture remains of concern with recorded cases of killings, cruel and inhuman treatment, abductions, exploitation and illegal taxations, as well as pillaging of civilians by this armed group.

Mounting tension between rival armed groups such as the UPC and the anti-Balaka in Ouaka and Haut-Mbomou prefectures, contributed to the continuous deterioration of the security situation in these prefectures leading to civilian displacements and an increased need for humanitarian assistance.

MINUSCA Human Rights Division (HRD) recorded 160 new incidents of violations/abuses of international human rights as well as breaches to international humanitarian law affecting 265 victims, including 165 men, 35 women, 52 children and 13 unidentified victims. These figures represent a 4.2 percent decrease in the number of incidents and a 7.9 percent decrease in the number of victims compared to the previous reporting period during which HRD documented 167 incidents of violations/abuses affecting 288 victims. Targeted attacks and fighting among rival armed groups continued to negatively impact on the protection of civilians, resulting in 47 civilians killed and 15 other either injured or maimed in October.

Armed groups were responsible for 154 incidents which affected 256 victims while State actors, including members of the Armed Forces (FACA) and the police, were responsible for six incidents affecting nine victims with cases of violations of the right to life, physical and mental integrity, arbitrary arrest and detention and expropriation of property.

The most recurrent violations recorded during the month of October were killings, death threats, cruel and inhuman treatment, conflict-related sexual violence, arbitrary deprivation of liberty, abductions, appropriation, destruction/pillaging of property, attacks on humanitarian workers including their equipment, and occupation of a school.

During the month, HRD continued to engage with the Central African authorities, notably the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights to advocate for judicial investigations on allegations of human rights violations and to ensure that the perpetrators are held accountable. HRD also completed nine Risk Assessments as part of its support to the HRDDP process.
Arbitrary detention remains a concern for the State Actors. In October, HRD considered only cases by state actors which were either directly related to the conflict or emblematic to the vetting process under HRDDP. HRD will continue its technical and advisory support with concerned state institutions to address this challenge.

The lack of recourse to justice in the regions where armed groups are active has amplified the number of abuses with impunity. HRD will persist in its engagement with armed group leaders and remind them of their obligations to respect IHRL/IHL.
The figures mentioned in this fact sheet do not reflect a complete overview of the human rights violations and abuses in October 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 October 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.