

NATIONS UNIES

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

December 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 December 2023. Incidents 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.

Security and political context in December 2023

1. During the reporting period, the security and political context was characterised by: (1) the continued activities of armed groups signatories to the *Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation en République Centrafricaine* (APPR-RCA) and unidentified armed elements; (2) the activities of the Azandé Ani Kpi Gbé armed group in the Haut-Oubangui region; (3) the presence of armed groups from neighbouring countries, such as Chad and Sudan; and (4) the arrest of a Member of Parliament for criminal conspiracy.
2. On 21 December, in **Lim-Pende** prefecture, **Yadé** region¹, about 200 armed elements of the *Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation* (3R) attacked Nzakoundou village raising serious concerns over the protection of civilians and human rights as well as an increase in ethnic tensions in the area. (See *infra.*, para. 18). On 23-25 December in **Ouham** prefecture, elements of *Forces armées centrafricaines* (FACA) supported by Other Security Personnel (OSP), organized an armed operation on the Poro mining site during which, some elements of the *Coalition des patriotes pour le changement* (CPC) and civilians, were killed. Meanwhile, recurrent armed robbery incidents on the main axes in **Ouham-Fafa** prefecture including the Batangafo-Kabo axis continue to undermine the security situation with implications for the movement of individuals and the work of humanitarian agencies.

¹ The Yadé region includes the prefectures of Lim-Pendé, Ouham and Ouham-Pendé.

3. In the **Kaga** region², where transhumance movements were noted, armed elements were reported on the Batangafo-Ouandago, Batangafo-Ouogo, Dekoa-Bouca and Ndele-Diki axes. Reports indicate that elements of armed groups wore vests stolen from humanitarian NGOs during attacks to stock up supplies in the Nana-Gribizi prefecture hence posing a serious threat to NGOs, which could be mistakenly targeted by FACA and OSP during military operations. As a result of armed group activities and despite presence of a FACA post in Farazala village, civilians continued to be subjected to abuses by armed groups while some humanitarian agencies have suspended operations with consequences on the delivery of humanitarian assistance affecting critical social services. In addition, reports indicate that on the night of 18 December, several heavily armed elements from Chad arrived in Moyenne-Sido amid concerns over potential attacks to control Batangafo and neighbouring villages.
4. In the **Haut-Oubangui** region³, **Mbomou** prefecture, illegal checkpoints erected by FACA and Internal Security Forces (ISF) on the Dembia-Rafaï axis (143 km east of Bangassou) are a source of concern for the population of Rafaï, due to the illegal taxes levied on road users, particularly asylum seekers and internally displaced persons (IDPs). In **Haut-Mbomou**, the HRD conducted investigations and documented human rights abuses and violations of the international humanitarian law against civilians in the context of clashes between the Unite pour la Paix en Centrafrique (UPC) and the Azande Ani Kpi Gbe group, notably around Obo and Mboki.
5. In the **Fertit**⁴ region, on 18 December, around 50 UPC elements arrived in Boromata from Am-Dokoun, a Sudanese town 25 km north of Tissifongoro. In addition, about 20 suspected members of the *Sudanese Rapid Support Force* (RSF) were reported 35 km north of Birao. The presence of these armed groups and the risk of confrontation between them are a concern for the protection of civilians. Economic activities could be affected and impact Birao, as traders, particularly active in this drought period, are likely to avoid these areas. In addition, reports indicated that the leader of the UPC, “General” Ali Darassa, travelled to Chad to forge alliances with Chadian armed groups. In the **Vakaga** prefecture, 50 alleged UPC armed elements reportedly arrived in Aouk (210 km south-west of Birao) while around 20 fighters from the *Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique* (FPRC), led by their Commander

Fact-finding missions in Obo and Mboki

The HRD, is closely monitoring the escalating tensions between the UPC and the Azandé Ani Kpi Gbé in the Haut-Oubangui region. The HRD conducted a fact-finding mission in the Haut-Mbomou prefecture, specifically in Obo from the 20 November to the 7 December and in Mboki from the 13 December to the 18 December. The clashes between these armed groups, particularly in Obo from March to August 2023 and in Mboki during two attacks on 8 May and on 20 June 2023, have raised significant concerns with regards to the respect of human rights and protection of civilians. Human rights abuses including inter alia summary execution and sexual violence have been documented thus far. In addition to the 46 victims of summary executions already documented during previous missions, the HRD confirmed that 45 additional civilians were victims of summary killings, including in the context of targeted attacks against civilians on ethnic and/or religious grounds. Notably, members of the Azandé Ani Kpi Gbé armed group were responsible for several cases of CRSV and abduction.

² The Kagas region includes the prefectures of Kémo, Nana-Gribizi, et Ouham-Fafa.

³ The Haut-Oubangui region includes the Basse-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou prefectures.

⁴ The Fertit region includes the prefectures of Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto and Vakaga.

Nourredine Adam, arrived from Chad. Furthermore, elements of the UPC, *Parti du rassemblement de la nation centrafricaine* (PRNC), and FPRC continued their incursions into **Haute-Kotto** prefecture resulting in killings, attacks on physical integrity and appropriation of properties of civilians. In addition, armed elements of Sudanese origin have reportedly been spotted in Dafack, on the border with Southern Sudan, and in Am-Dafock, on the border with Sudan.

6. In the **Bas-Oubangui/Plateaux**⁵ region, on 15 December Member of Parliament (MP), Dominique Yandocka, was arrested in Bangui by elements of the *Groupement de Sécurité et d'Intervention de la Gendarmerie Nationale* (GSIGN) and is being detained at the *Section de Recherches et d'Investigation* (SRI). Following his arrest, the Public Prosecutor of the *Tribunal de Grande Instance* of Bangui issued a statement announcing a preliminary inquiry for criminal conspiracy. The MP arrested was opposed to the constitutional referendum of 30 July 2023 and was also one of three MPs whose allowances have been reduced by two-thirds, following an Order by the President of the National Assembly, due to prolonged absence from committee work and plenary sessions. Political actors, including other MPs, primarily from the political opposition released communiques protesting and condemning his arrest and detention of a MP, in contravention with his parliamentary immunity.

Significant human rights related developments

7. On 14 December, Prime Minister Felix Moloua attended the Second Global Refugee Forum in Geneva during which he highlighted government's efforts in ensuring coordination in the protection of refugees. He emphasized the importance of the *Yaoundé Declaration*, signed by CAR and neighbouring countries in April 2022, on solutions to forced displacement linked to the crisis in CAR. He further noted that in the next four years and with support from partners, the Government of CAR has committed to the full implementation of the Declaration including by ensuring suitable conditions for the sustainable return of refugees from CAR, consolidating peace, and improving social services in returnee zones. He highlighted ongoing efforts to promote peace, restore state authority and promote governance in line with recommendations from republican dialogues and the peace process while appealing for support from donors, support groups, and friends of CAR.
8. Following the first and second Bangui Court of Appeal criminal sessions of 2023, the HRD is monitoring the third criminal session of 2023 which commenced on 4 December and is expected to end on 17 January 2024. The organization of the session reflects the Court's commitment to addressing the issue of prolonged detention, and reduces the number of defendants awaiting trial, sometimes for years. Apart from the absence of witnesses and civil parties from certain trials, the HRD did not identify any serious irregularities likely to infringe the rights of the defense or affect the fairness of the trials.
9. On 11 December, as part of the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Central African Government committed to ensuring greater engagement with the human rights treaty-body and reporting mechanisms, to establishing a national mechanism on the prevention of torture and to using its national human rights policy to meet its obligations under international human rights treaties. The Ministry of Justice collaborated with MINUSCA to organize local human rights forums, while the University of Bangui and the National Commission on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms held capacity-building and awareness-raising sessions for 3,500 people (including about 30% of women) in 14 localities across the country.

⁵ The Plateaux region includes the Ombella M'Poko and Lobaye prefectures.

10. From December 12 to 15 December, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) deployed an expert from the Central Africa Regional Office based in Yaoundé to consult with national actors and support CAR in preparing its supplementary submission to the 6th periodic report on the *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women Convention* (CEDAW) and explore areas for additional support with regards to CAR’s treaty body obligations.

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

11. Despite some positive steps, human rights challenges remain. During the reporting period, the MINUSCA Human Rights Division (HRD), including the Office of the Senior Women Protection Advisor (OSWPA) and the Child Protection Unit (CPU), documented and verified **369 human rights violations and abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL), affecting 372 civilian victims** (at least 44 women, 46 girls, 64 boys and 28 groups of collective victims), including, 221 victims who suffered multiple violations. Of the 369 violations documented, 111 occurred in December 2023. The other violations occurred between January 2016 and November 2023.
12. The HRD also recorded 46 allegations of human rights violations and abuses affecting at least 92 victims (including 16 women, six girls, two boys and six groups of collective victims), which were still being verified at the end of December and were therefore not included in this report.
13. Compared to November, the violations in December increased by 80% and the number of victims by 30%.⁶ Notably, during the reporting period, the number of victims who suffered multiple violations increased by 220%.⁷ In addition, the number of girls and boys victims increased in December compared to November mostly due to 51 cases of conflict-related sexual violence affecting 42 girls, 13 cases of forced recruitment affecting 18 girls and 46 boys, and 18 cases of abductions affecting 21 girls and 44 boys (see *infra*, para. 26 et seq.).⁸ This increase is largely due to abuses perpetrated by Azande Ani Kpi Gbe armed group which alone was responsible for 163 abuses affecting 103 victims in the **Haut-Mbomou** prefecture. It is worth noting that a majority of these abuses occurred between February and November 2023 but were documented in December 2023.

Main Trends

In total, **369 human rights violations and abuses** as well as breaches of IHL **affecting 372 victims (including 44 women, 46 girls, 64 boys and 28 groups of collective victims)** were documented in December 2023. This constitutes an **80% increase** in the number of violations and a **30% increase** in the number of victims compared to November 2023 (See *infra*, para. 13 for further explanation on the increase.

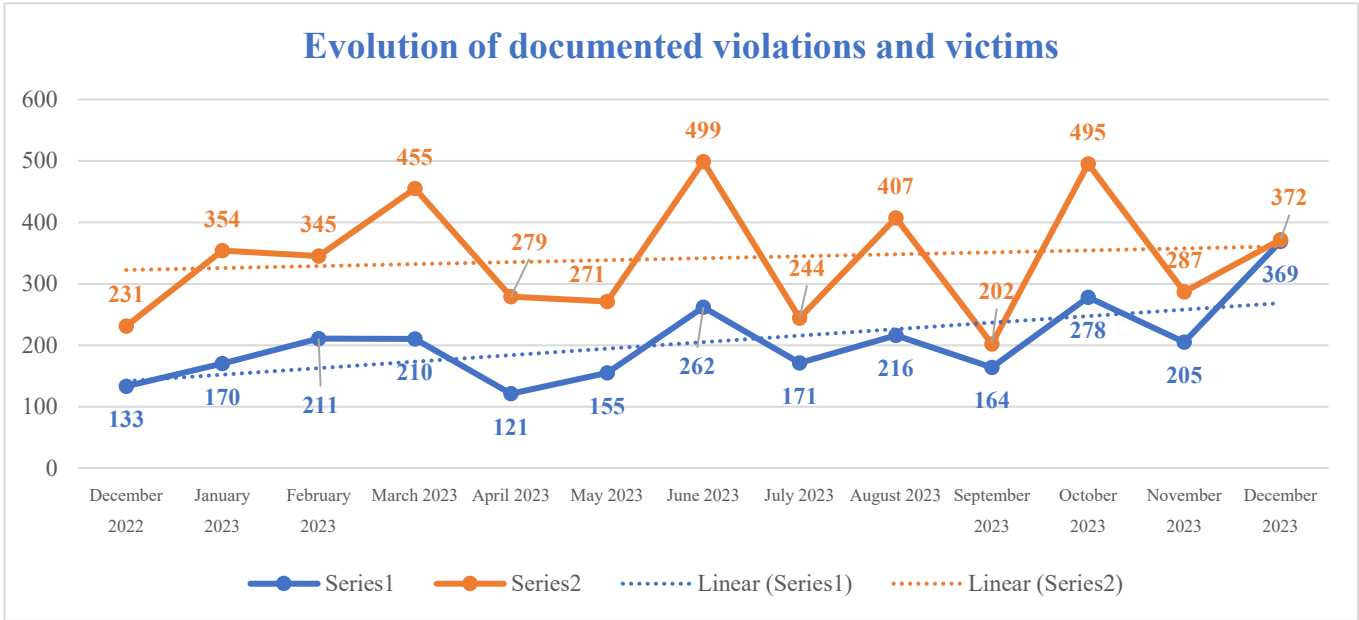
During the reporting period, State actors were responsible for **22%** of all violations and breaches and **36%** of the victims.

⁶ In November, there were 205 violations and abuses affecting 287 victims recorded.

⁷ In November, there were 69 victims who suffered multiple violations.

⁸ In November, there were six girls and 16 boys who suffered violations.

14. Overall, the most common types of violations and abuses included cases of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV - 18%), ill-treatment (15%), extrajudicial and summary execution (14%), destruction and appropriation of property (12%) and arbitrary arrest and detention (8%).



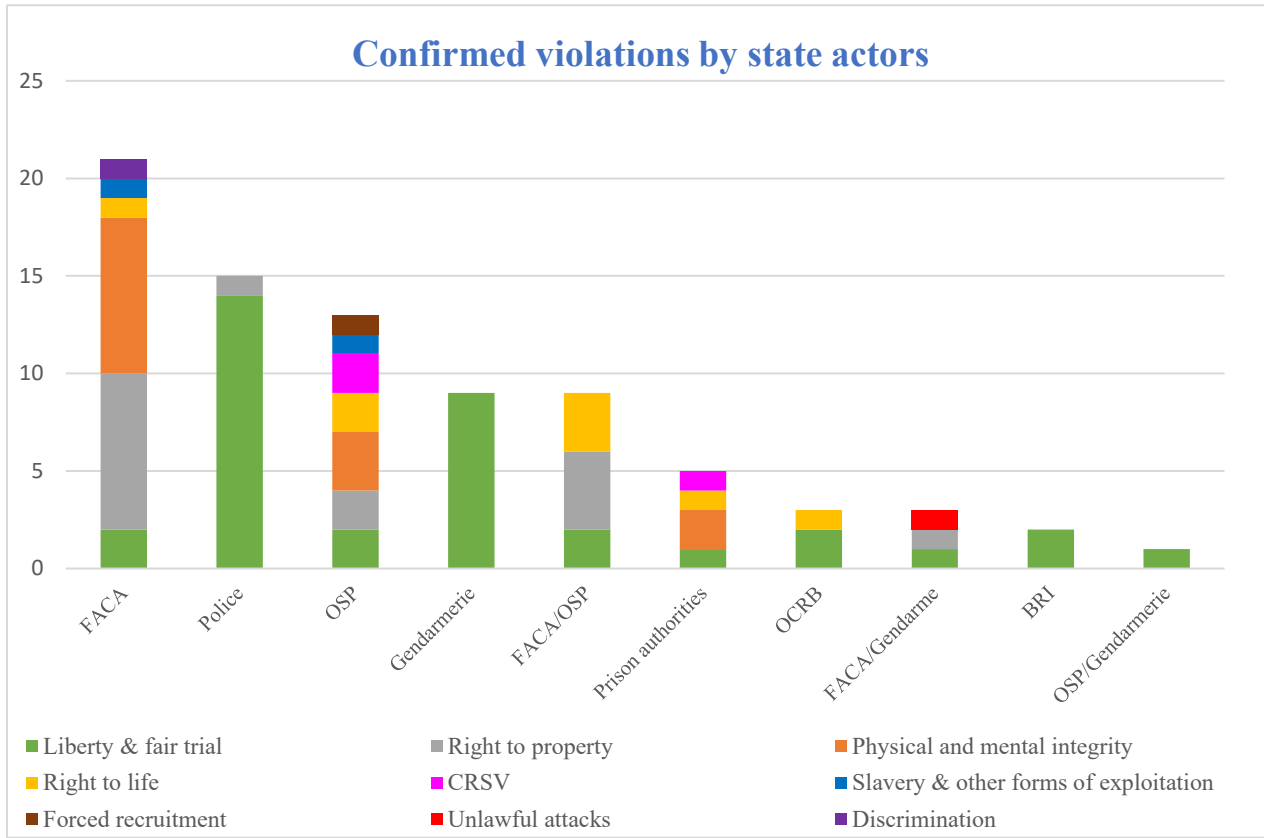
Perpetrators: State actors, armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA, and others

15. **For the period under review, State actors committed 81 violations and breaches of international human rights and humanitarian law affecting 135 victims (including seven women, four girls, seven boys and 13 groups of collective victims).** In comparison to November, violations committed by state actors decreased by 16%, with a corresponding 14% decrease in the number of victims.⁹
16. **Consistent with previous months, most violations committed by State actors relate to arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention** that do not comply with national and international standards with violations related to liberty and fair trial¹⁰ accounting for 44% of all violations by State actors. FACA and the Police were responsible for the most violations and victims by any state entity. **FACA alone were implicated in 21 violations involving 18 victims and along with the Gendarmerie and the Other Security Personal (OSP), 33 violations involving 34 victims. The Police were implicated in 15 violations involving 28 victims.** Nearly all the violations committed by FACA, and the Police relate to arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention, followed by violations to the right of property.¹¹ The **Nana-Mambéré** (19), **Mambéré-Kadéï** (16) and **Nana-Gribizi** (15) were the most affected prefectures.

⁹ In November, State actors committed 95 violations affecting 156 victims.

¹⁰ Violations related to liberty and fair trial include access to justice; arbitrary arrest and detention; conditions of detention that do not meet international and national standards; and forced labour.

¹¹ Out of the 33 violations committed by the FACA along with Gendarmerie and OSP, five relate to arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention and 13 violations relate to the destruction or appropriation of property. Similarly, out of the 15 violations committed by the Police, 14 relate to arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention. The remaining violation relates to the destruction or appropriation of property.

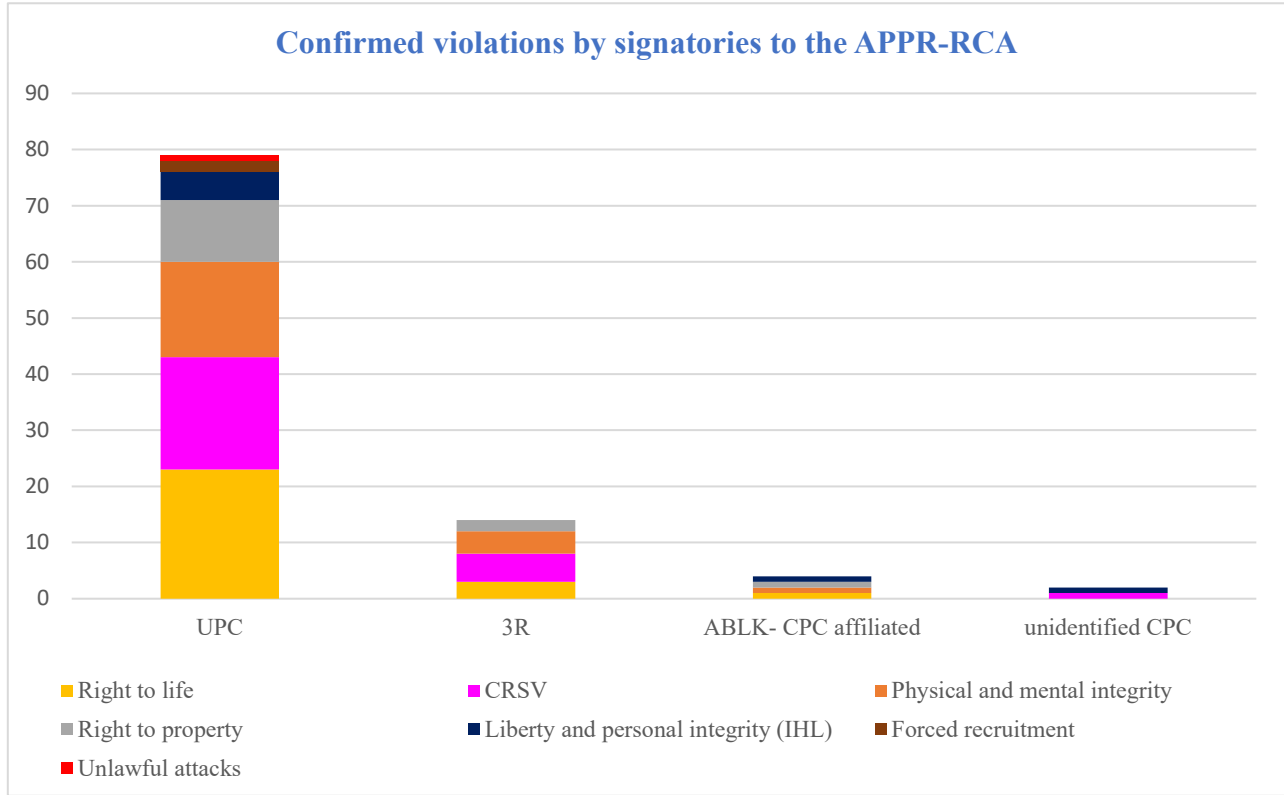


17. **Armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA were responsible for 99 human rights abuses and breaches of IHL affecting 101 victims (amongst them 26 women, 26 girls, 12 boys and four groups of collective victims).** This reflects a 10% increase in abuses and an 8% decrease in victims compared to November.¹²
18. **The most common types of abuses committed by armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA were CRSV (26); summary executions (23) and ill-treatment (17).** Prefectures of **Haut-Mbomou** (58), and **Ouham-Pendé** (13), with a strong presence and influence of UPC and 3R, were the most affected.
19. **Among armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA, most of the abuses documented were attributed to the UPC.** The UPC committed 79 abuses impacting 67 victims, comprising 11 women, 22 girls, 10 boys, and four groups of collective victims. Consistent with abuses committed by armed groups signatories to the ARPR-RCA, the UPC primarily engaged in CRSV (20), summary executions (20) and ill-treatment (13). During the reporting period, the UPC maintained a significant presence in **Haute-Kotto** and **Haut-Mbomou** prefectures.¹³
20. The 3R was the armed group signatory to the APPR-RCA with the second highest number of documented abuses (14 abuses affecting 23 victims). The 3R continued to be implicated in ill-treatment (four), rape (five), summary execution and death threats (three) and destruction or appropriation of property (two). On 21 December, in the Ouham-Pende prefecture, about 200 elements affiliated to the 3R and armed with AK47 and other weapons attacked the village of

¹² In November, armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA were responsible for 90 human rights abuses and breaches of IHL affecting 110 victims.

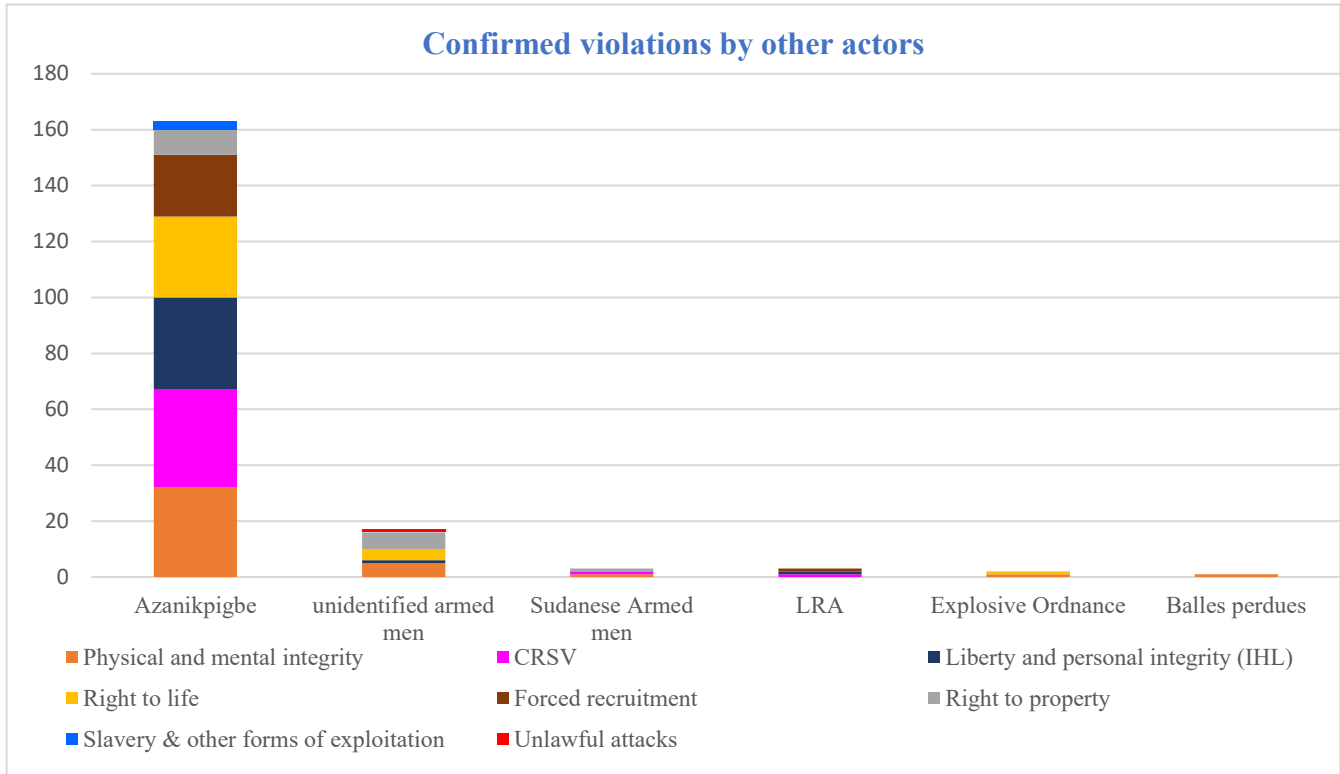
¹³ Out of the 79 abuses attributable to the UPC, 78 abuses (66 victims) were committed in Haute-Kotto and Haut-Mbomou prefectures.

Nzakoundou (75 km of Paoua). During the well-orchestrated attack, at least 18 civilians were killed including 14 men, two women, and two children, the village looted while approximately 900 houses, granaries, and the local health centre were burnt down. According to some sources, this attack was a retaliatory response to the looting of cattle of Fulani herders and unauthorized taxations in the area by FACA.



21. **Other actors, including armed groups non-signatories to the APPR-RCA and self-defence groups, were responsible for 189 abuses affecting 141 victims.** This reflects a large increase in abuses and victims compared to November.¹⁴ Overall, the **Haut-Mbomou** (166) and the **Vakaga** (10) were the most affected prefectures, mostly due to 163 abuses committed by the Azande Ani Kpi Gbe armed group (ranging from CRSV, abduction, ill-treatment, and recruitment and use of children) affecting 103 victims, including nine women, 15 girls, 41 boys, and seven groups of collective victims. With regards to documented cases, a *modus operandi* emerged from the abuses committed by the Azandé Ani Kpi Gbé armed group wherein armed elements of the said group would kidnap girls and boys on their way to school or at night from their homes with threats to either burn down their houses or shoot the occupants, tie up victims and take them to one of their bases. Victims were beaten with machetes or batons, young girls raped either individually or collectively and/or forced into marriage while boys were beaten and forced to work on the base and participate in military training.

¹⁴ In November, armed groups non signatories to the APPR-RCA were responsible for 20 human rights abuses and breaches of IHL affecting 21 victims.

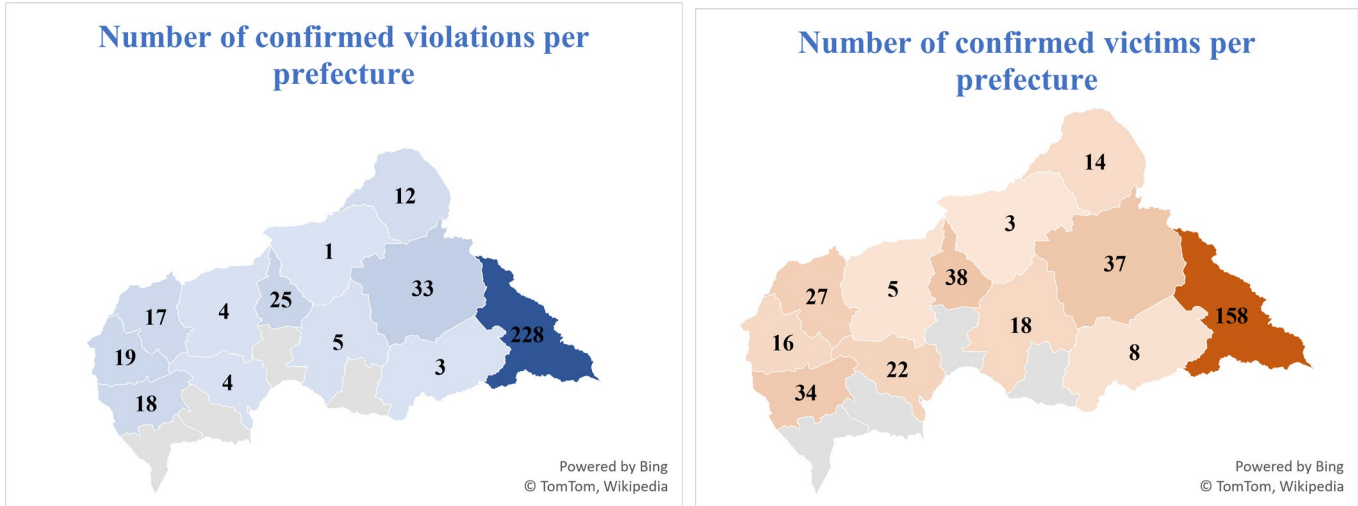


Geographical Analysis

22. Almost half of the violations and abuses documented in December occurred in the **Haut-Oubangui** region (236 violations and abuses) and more specifically in the **Haut-Mbomou** prefecture with 228 violations and abuses affecting 158 victims. This can be explained by the consolidated data reported in December from the fact-finding missions to Obo and Mboki which documented incidents that happened in Obo from March to August 2023 and in Mboki from the 8 May to the 20 June 2023.
23. The main human rights violations and abuses were CRSV (54), extrajudicial execution or other killings (41), ill-treatment and torture (41), abduction (36) and recruitment and use (25). The Azande Ani Kpi Gbe armed group was the main perpetrator with 164 abuses affecting 103 victims followed by the UPC involved in 58 abuses affecting 50 victims.
24. In the **Equateur**¹⁵, **Plateau** and **Yadé** regions, (western part of the country), the HRD documented 62 human rights violations and abuses affecting 104 victims with the Equateur being the most affected region (37 violations affecting 50 victims). The common types of violations were those linked to the detention (17), destruction or appropriation of property (10), ill-treatment and torture (10) and extrajudicial execution or other killings (six). The main perpetrators were the FACA elements acting alone or jointly with the OSP (18 violations affecting 18 victims) and the 3R (14 abuses affecting 23 victims).

¹⁵ The Equateur region includes the prefectures of Mambéré, Mambéré-Kadéï, Nana Mambéré and Sangha-Mbaéré.

25. The **Kaga** and the **Fertit** regions, registered 71 human rights violations and abuses with the **Haute-Kotto** being the most affected prefecture with 33 violations. The common types of violations and abuses were destruction or appropriation of property (24), arbitrary arrest and/or detention, including conditions of detention that do not comply with the relevant national and international standards (eight), rape (six), ill-treatment (six) and maiming and injuries (six). The UPC was the main perpetrator (21 abuses affecting 17 victims) and unidentified armed men (15 abuses affecting 19 victims).



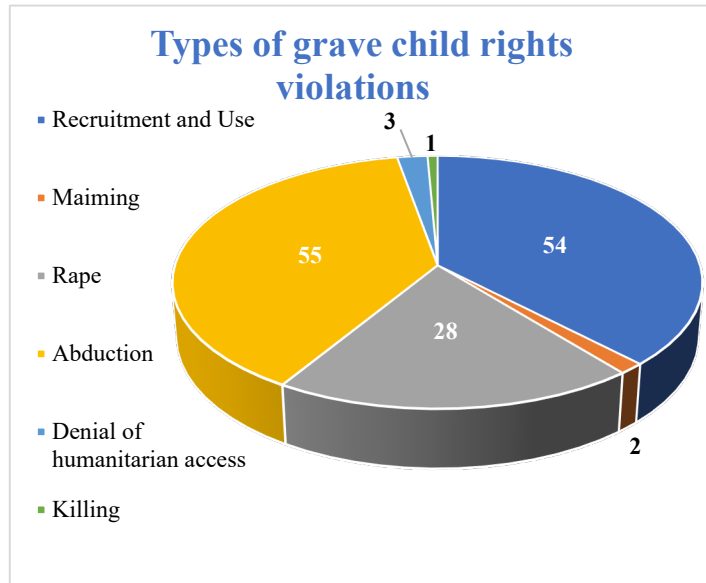
Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV)

26. In December, the HRD documented a total of 66 cases of CRSV, affecting 61 victims (19 women and 42 girls). The APPR-RCA signatories armed groups were responsible for 26 abuses affecting 35 victims. In the other armed groups category, as previously mentioned, the Azandé Ani Kpi Gbé alone was responsible for 164 abuses affecting 103 victims. The increased number of CRSV cases lends credence to concerns that it is part of the modus operandi of Azandé Ani Kpi Gbé armed group. On the other hand, state actors were responsible for three violations of CRSV affecting three victims.
27. As aforementioned, in comparison to November, December was marked by an increase in reported CRSV violations and abuses¹⁶ largely due to the activities of Azandé Ani Kpi Gbé and the CPC in Haut-Mbomou prefecture, Haut Oubangui region.
28. On 5 December, the WPS participated in the 18th meeting of the *ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus Expert’s Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations (ADMM+ EWG-PKO)* in Tokyo (Japan), which regroupes military experts of peacekeeping operations. The meeting focused on Women, Peace, and Security, and the WPS presented the CRSV situation in the CAR, as well as the roles and responsibilities of civilians, the forces and UNPOL in preventing and addressing CRSV. In addition, a panel discussion was held, in which the WPS further highlighted the need to use CRSV Early-Warning Indicators (EWI) and to link them to military concepts.

¹⁶ In November, seven CRSV violations were recorded affecting 38 victims.

Children in Armed Conflict

29. During the reporting period, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR)¹⁷ verified 143 grave child rights violations affecting 71 children (40 boys/31 girls). There was a 472% increase in grave violations and a 610% increase in victims directly affected compared to the previous reporting period during which 25 violations affecting 10 children were documented. The marked increase in grave violations is due to the high number of late-verified cases of violations and children who were victims of multiple violations. The increased movements of armed groups, particularly in **Haut-Mbomou** and **Vakaga** Prefectures, negatively affected the CTFMR’s ability to monitor and report on violations. Ninety-three (93%) of the violations (133) occurred outside the reporting period but were only verified during the period under review.



30. Armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA were responsible for 94% of the violations (134), pro-governmental forces for 3% (five), and unidentified armed individuals for 3% (four). Of the armed groups, the CPC committed abuses throughout the following factions: UPC (28), 3R (three), and unidentified CPC (one). The other abuses, committed by armed groups not related to the CPC, were committed by the Azandé Ani Kpi Gbé (95) and the LRA/Achaye (seven). Of state actors, OSP committed five violations. The four remaining abuses were committed by unidentified armed individuals.
31. Violations documented included: recruitment and use (54), killing (one), maiming (two), rape and other forms of sexual violence (28), abduction (55), and denial of humanitarian access (three). Nine children (four boys/five girls) were victims of two violations: abduction and recruitment and use (five), abduction and rape (four). Forty-one children (32 boys/nine girls) were victims of two violations: abduction and recruitment and use (36), and abduction and rape (four), and (one) girl was raped twice. Fourteen girls were victims of three violations: abduction, recruitment and use and rape.
32. The **Haut-Mbomou** prefecture was the most affected prefecture with (130) violations, followed by **Nana-Gribizi** (seven), **Lim-Pende** (three), **Haute-Kotto** (two), and **Ouham-Fafa** (one).

¹⁷ 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. The CTFMR 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.

33. During the reporting period, CPU met with FACA leaderships in **Haut-Mbomou** and **Nana-Mambéré** prefectures to continue advocating for FACA elements to end and prevent grave child rights violations, and for the implementation of the circular of the Ministry of Defence prohibiting the presence of children in and around military camps. In the meeting with the newly appointed Child Protection Focal Point in Nana-Mambéré prefecture, CPU advocated for the organization of trainings-sensitizations for elements on the protection of children affected by armed conflicts.

34. CPU participated in a protection dialogue with local UPC commanders in **Haut-Mbomou** prefecture and reminded them of UPC’s commitments *vis-à-vis* its signed Action Plan (2019) to end and prevent all grave child rights violations and to release children within their ranks. CPU also engaged with the spokesperson of the Azandé Ani Kpi Gbé group in the Haut-Mbomou prefecture to brief him on the six grave violations and on his role to end and prevent grave child rights violations.

Act to Protect Campaign

Through the “**Act to Protect**” campaign, **142 peacekeepers** (125 men and 17 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 sessions were conducted to **2,309 community members and leaders, youth leaders, INGOs, NGOs, FACA, FSI and local authorities** (1097 men and 1212 women).

Human Rights Promotion and Capacity-Building

35. During the month under review, the HRD organised 200 activities, in some instances jointly with partners, on human rights and international humanitarian law in 12 Prefectures,¹⁸ benefitting 11 897 individuals (of whom 3118 were women), including representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) and NGOs; community and religious leaders, local human rights fora, state actors including FACA/ISF.

36. These activities included 72 awareness campaigns, which targeted 8538 beneficiaries (including 2591 women) notably, CSOs, community leaders, students, and the civilian population. In addition, 29 capacity-building workshops were organised benefitting 1076 individuals (including 347 women) including civil society organizations, community leaders, local human rights forum, state authorities and CSOs, students, women organizations, and detainees/prisoners.

37. On 5 December, the HRD took part in the round table organized by the *Commission nationale des droits de l’homme et des libertés fondamentales* (CNDHLF) on the implementation of its roadmap. The activity, financed by the French Embassy, was part of a campaign to inform CNDHLF partners, including civil society, about the scope of its roadmap and measures to facilitate its implementation. The HRD committed to engage and seek support from its technical and financial partners to enhance the implementation of the CNDHLF roadmap and to continue providing technical and financial support to the Commission.

38. On and around the 10 December, the HRD organised various activities in CAR to commemorate the International Human Rights Day and the 75th anniversary of the UDHR. The activities included awareness campaigns in **Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, Mambéré-Kadéï, Ombella M’Poko, Ouaka, Ouham-Pendé** and **Vakaga** prefectures.

¹⁸ The Prefectures include: Bamingui-Bangoran; Haute-Kotto; Haut-Mbomou; Mambéré-Kadéï; Mbomou; Nana-Gribizi; Nana-Mambéré; Ombella M’Poko; Ouaka; Ouham; Ouham-Pendé; and Vakaga.

Human Rights Due Diligence

39. In December, the HRD, in the context of implementing the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP), conducted 35 risk assessments for MINUSCA's support to Internal Defence and Security Forces (FACA and other law enforcement officers). The HRDDP Secretariat conducted human rights background checks for a total of 423 beneficiaries including 412 ISF (202 police officers and 209 gendarmes), seven FACA, two Customs officers from the Ministry of Finance and Budget, two Prison officers from the Ministry of Justice, and one Member of Parliament. Beneficiaries subjected to these risk assessments were provided financial, logistical, operational, and technical support including air transportation and trainings. All the risk assessments were evaluated to be low or medium. Out of 423 individuals screened, four elements from the internal defence forces were excluded for being cited in allegations of human rights violations. Based on these assessments, MINUSCA support was approved with a set of recommendations and mitigation measures.
40. These verifications allowed MINUSCA's UNPOL component to organize 14 training sessions for officers from the Internal Defence and Security Forces on: International Law and the Protection of Children, Judicial Policing, Road Safety and Accident Recording, Maintenance & restoration of public Order, Public Security, Technical & Scientific Policing, POC during Electoral Period, Professional Intervention Techniques, Computer Science, Community Policing, Combating drugs and drug trafficking.