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Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée  
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en Centrafrique



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Multidimensional  
Integrated Stabilization Mission in the  
Central African Republic

## HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION

### Monthly Report: Human Rights Situation

March 2025

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*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 2025 in line with the established methodology of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Information that could not be verified is not included. Ordinary crimes are also excluded from this report. This report is shared with the CAR authorities and partners.*

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## Main political and security developments

1. During the reporting period, the political and security context was marked by growing political tensions in the context of the upcoming elections, with persisting insecurity and protection of civilians (PoC) concerns, driven by the heightened movement and activity of both armed groups and State security forces.
2. On the political front, the period was characterised by an increased mobilisation of opposition parties denouncing shrinking civic space, poor governance and deepening socio-economic hardship, while supporters of the ruling party *Mouvement Cœurs Unis* (MCU) amplified calls for President Touadéra to seek a third term in the forthcoming presidential election. On 18 March, the *Bloc Républicain pour la défense de la Constitution* (BRDC) announced a peaceful march on 4 April to oppose President Touadéra's bid for a third term. Initially banned by the Government citing a 2022 decree prohibiting public gatherings, the decision was reversed on 26 March, following instructions from President Touadéra, with the Interior Minister authorising the march and placing responsibility on the BRDC to ensure public order. Tensions were further heightened by the arrest of two brothers of the former Prime Minister Henri-Marie Dondra during the night of 19 to 20 March by the Internal Security Forces (ISF) and the other security personnel (OSP) and their subsequent detention at the *Office Central pour la Répression du Banditisme* (OCRB). Their arrest was criticised by opposition actors citing concerns over the lack of due process, individual protection, and the possible instrumentalization of the justice system.
3. Regarding the electoral process, opposition leaders and civil society actors continued to call for dialogue to defuse pre-election tensions. The second phase of the voter registration which took place from 11 to 24 March was concluded and was successful with all tablet registration kits having been returned to the National Elections Authority's (ANE) Data Processing Centre, and data retrieved with technical support from MINUSCA. However, the period was impacted by security incidents including targeted attacks against electoral personnel by armed group members. Notably, on 17 March, *Unité pour la Paix en Centrafrique* (UPC) members threatened an agent from the ANE in Walago (70 km northwest of

Zangba), Basse-Kotto Prefecture, forcing him to withdraw for security reasons. On 18 March, unidentified armed groups members attacked a *Forces armées centrafricaines* (FACA)/OSP convoy escorting electoral materials near Ngarba (240 km northeast of Ndélé), Bamingui-Bangoran Prefecture. Despite these incidents, MINUSCA continued to support the Government in its plans to enhance security with regards to the electoral process.

4. The security situation remained volatile, driven by intercommunal violence linked to transhumance, activities by armed groups, operations by State actors with implications for protection of civilians, targeted attacks disrupting voter registration, and threats to UN personnel. The killing of a MINUSCA military observer in an ambush near Tabane (Haut-Mbomou Prefecture) raised additional security concerns which led to the temporary suspension of civilian activities, for instance on the Rafaï-Mboki axis, including humanitarian assistance in the area.
5. In the **Plateaux Region**,<sup>1</sup> the Government continued its outreach efforts to promote the Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration, and Repatriation (DDRR) process. Armed groups activities and transhumance-related violence continued to fuel insecurity. On 11 March, four men were abducted by members of the *Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation* (3R) armed group along the Boda–Pama axis near Boda (120 km west of Bangui), Lobaye Prefecture. On 15 March, 3R members killed four men in Boghoro (106 km northwest of Bangui), near the Pama mining site, Ombella M’Poko Prefecture.
6. In **Yadé Region**,<sup>2</sup> there were concerns resulting from sustained inter-communal violence linked to transhumance, involving 3R members and local self-defence groups as well as weak state presence in Lim-Pendé and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures. In Ouham Prefecture, on 5 March, suspected Anti-Balaka members of the *Coalition des Patriotes pour le Changement* (CPC) ambushed and looted seven national staff members of a national non-governmental organization (NGO) near Bossangoa, and on 20 March, members of the *Front de Défense et des Libertés Publiques* (FDLP) abducted a village chief in Kaboro (52 km north of Bossangoa).
7. In the **Equateur Region**,<sup>3</sup> several incidents raised concerns about the misconduct of defence and security forces in Nana-Mambéré and Mambéré-Kadéï Prefectures. In Nana-Mambéré, on 1 March, a 35-year-old Fulani man was physically assaulted by FACA elements during an identity check near the weekly market. In Mambéré-Kadéï, between 1 and 3 March, four men arrested for alleged theft were mistreated during their arrest and detention by three *Forces de sécurité intérieure* (interior security forces, ISF) officers in Bania (55 km southeast of Berberati). On 9 March, a Muslim man was subjected to ill-treatment following a home intrusion by gendarmes in Sosso-Nakombo (45 km south of Berberati).
8. In the **Kaga Region**,<sup>4</sup> the *Unité pour la Paix en Centrafrique* (UPC) remained active, transhumance-related tensions continued, and DSF and OSP were implicated in a number of incidents near the Ndassima mining site. In Ouaka Prefecture, on 1 March, three civilians were ambushed and looted by UPC members approximately 34 km from Bambari on the Ippy axis. On 11 March, seven OSP elements assaulted a man and seized money from him near Ndassima mining site. On 17 March, at the same mining site, OSP elements accompanied by ISF officers from Bambari arrested approximately 82 individuals who were collecting gold from mining site waste. While women and children were later released, 60 men were detained at the Gendarmerie and police station in Bambari and were released after paying money in exchange for their release. The incident highlighted concerns over abuses against miners and the local

<sup>1</sup> The Plateaux Region includes Ombella M’Poko and Lobaye Prefectures, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001, January 2021*.

<sup>2</sup> The Yadé Region includes the Lim-Pendé, Ouham, and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001, January 2021*.

<sup>3</sup> The Equateur Region includes the Mambéré, Mambéré-Kadéï, Nana-Mambéré, and Sangha-Mbaéré Prefectures, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001, January 2021*.

<sup>4</sup> The Kaga Region includes the Kémo, Nana-Grébizi, and Ouaka Prefectures, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001, January 2021*.

population in the vicinity of the Ndassima mining site—part of a recurring pattern observed since July 2024.<sup>5</sup>

9. In the **Fertit Region**,<sup>6</sup> the presence and activities of foreign armed groups, coupled with escalating violence in Sudan and its cross-border impact continued to be noted. In Vakaga Prefecture, on 18 March, a 40-year-old man was assaulted by six men including three Sudanese Rapid Support Forces (RSF) elements and 3 civilian men he identified as poachers in Tahal (95 km northeast of Birao), who shot him, injuring him because he had no money to give them. Meanwhile, on 24 March, four civilians were looted by RSF near Tiringoulou (108 km southwest of Birao). In Haute-Kotto Prefecture, on 4 March, a *Parti du Rassemblement de la Nation Centrafricaine* (PRNC) member suspected of involvement in the deadly 4 July 2023 attack on the Sam-Ouandja Gendarmerie brigade, was arrested and reportedly transferred to Bangui. On 22 March, a MINUSCA convoy exchanged fire with suspected PRNC members who were collecting illegal taxes at a checkpoint near Ouanda-Djallé. These incidents, along with the continued presence and activity of the PRNC continue to highlight the need for concerted efforts to ensure the effective presence of national defence and security forces as well as other key State actors responsible for the delivery of basic services.
10. In the **Haut-Oubangui Region**,<sup>7</sup> insecurity continued in Haut-Mbomou Prefecture despite efforts by national authorities with the support of MINUSCA to enhance peace and security. On 1 March, a high-level government delegation conducted a mission to Zémio (157 km southwest of Obo) in response to protests demanding the release of *Azande Ani Kpi Gbe* (Azanikpigbe) members and *Wagner Ti Azandé* (WTA) leaders detained in Bangui, who were arrested following the Mboki killings.<sup>8</sup> The two WTA leaders who had been arrested in Bangui remain unaccounted for following their extraction from cells by OSP on 24 January.<sup>9</sup> On 24 March, during a peaceful meeting, the Azanikpigbe reportedly issued an ultimatum banning Muslims from entering Zemio and demanded exclusive control of Zemio and other localities by the Zande community. In the neighbouring Mbomou Prefecture, from 1 to 2 March, 20 OSP elements were deployed to Rafaï and conducted patrols jointly with the FACA. However, extortion and violations by FACA and OSP elements were documented, including the re-establishment of illegal checkpoints in Rafaï and the confiscation of civilian motorcycles by OSP in Guérékindo.

## Significant human rights-related developments

11. On 21 March, President Faustin Archange Touadéra appointed 11 new Commissioners to the *Commission Vérité, Justice, Réparation et Réconciliation* (CVJRR),<sup>10</sup> following their nomination on 14 March by the Selection Committee created in accordance with Article 9 of the law on creation, organization and operation of CVJRR.<sup>11</sup> The newly appointed Commissioners include four women and seven men, representing civil society (2), professional organizations (1), Central African Bar Association (1), religious groups (1), academia (1), association of victims (2), women's organizations (1), youth (1)

<sup>5</sup> OSP do not have the legal authority to arrest or detain individuals, based on Article 11 of the *Code de procédure pénale centrafricain*, which reserves these powers to judicial police officers.

<sup>6</sup> The Fertit Region includes the Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, and Vakaga Prefectures, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001*, January 2021.

<sup>7</sup> The Haut-Oubangui Region includes the Basse-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, and Mbomou Prefectures, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001*, January 2021.

<sup>8</sup> On 24 January, ten WTA members were arrested in Mboki by five OSP agents and transferred to Bangui on 25 January. Additionally, four WTA, including two leaders, were arrested in Bangui on the same day by the *Section de Recherche et d'Investigation* (SRI). See *HRD Monthly Report: Human Rights Situation*, January 2025, p.3.

<sup>9</sup> See *HRD Monthly Report: Human Rights Situation*, February 2025, p.9.

<sup>10</sup> *Gov. decree No. 25-083 on the Appointment of the Members of the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission*, 21 March 2025.

<sup>11</sup> *Law no. 20.009 on the creation, organization, and functioning of the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission (CVJRR)*, 7 April 2020.

and the Magistracy (1). The CVJRR has not been operational since May 2024, following the dismissal of its former Commissioners.<sup>12</sup> The appointments mark a significant step forward in the transitional justice process, supporting the implementation of the APPR-RCA and contributing critically to national reconciliation and the fight against impunity.

12. During the reporting period, the MINUSCA Human Rights Division (HRD) supported the Central African Government through workshops, meetings, and technical assistance, to facilitate key reporting obligations to UN treaty bodies. This included the preparation and submission of CAR's second periodic report to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on 6 March; the constructive dialogue with the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances from 19 to 20 March; and the submission of the initial national report to the UN Committee Against Torture on 18 March.

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

13. During the reporting period, MINUSCA verified 378 violations and abuses of international human rights law (IHRL) and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL), affecting 414 victims (including 234 men, 90 women, 40 girls, 36 boys, and 14 groups of collective victims). More than half of the victims suffered multiple violations (212). Twenty-seven percent of the documented violations/abuses took place in March 2025, while the remaining violations/abuses occurred between January 2020 and February 2025. Compared to February 2025, both the number of violations/abuses (+63%) and victims (+1%) increased.<sup>13</sup> Violations and abuses were related to the right to physical and mental integrity (31%), conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV)<sup>14</sup> (28%), the right to life (13%), arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards (11%), and the right to property (10%).<sup>15</sup> Compared to February, this represents a 80% increase in violations related to the right to physical and mental integrity, a 279% increase in CRSV and a 161% increase in violations related to right to life. This notable increase is primarily due to a high number of CRSV attributed to 3R, documented during a Special Investigation Mission conducted in Ouham-Pendé

### Main Trends

In total, **378 human rights violations and abuses** as well as breaches of IHL affecting **414 victims** (including **234 men, 90 women, 40 girls, 36 boys, and 14 groups of collective victims**) were documented in March 2025. This constitutes an **increase** in both the number of violations (+63%) and the number of victims (+1%) compared to February 2025.

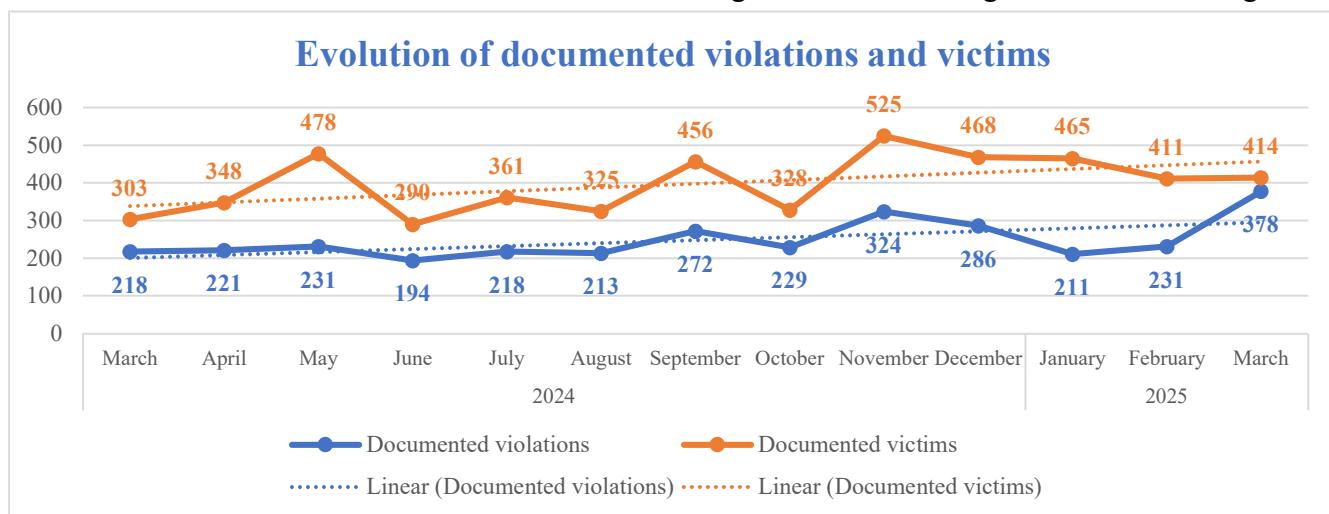
<sup>12</sup> See *HRD Monthly Report: Human Rights Situation*, May 2024, p.1.

<sup>13</sup> In February 2025, MINUSCA documented 231 violations and abuses affecting 411 victims.

<sup>14</sup> The term “conflict-related sexual violence” refers to rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization, forced marriage, and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity perpetrated against women, men, girls, or boys that is directly or indirectly linked to a conflict. See the full definition in the *Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Report of the United Nations Secretary-General* (S/2019/280)

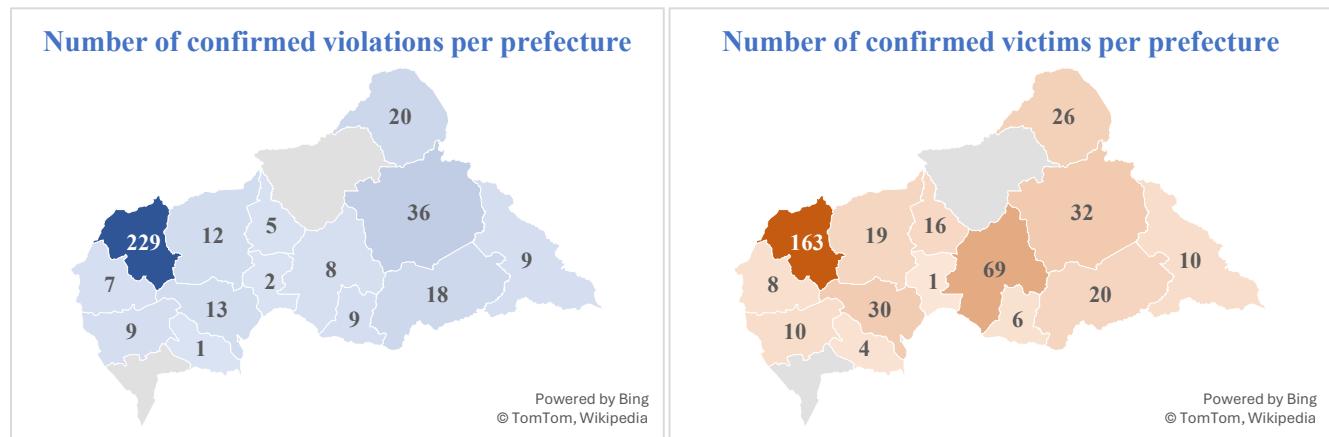
<sup>15</sup> In February 2025, the most common types of violations and abuses were related to the right to physical and mental integrity (28%), right to property (21%), arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards (14%).

Prefecture during the reporting period. Many of the CRSV victims were also subjected to other forms of abuses such as ill-treatment and death threat, contributing to the increased figures in several categories.



14. **Men** were mainly victims of arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards (49%), the right to property (44%), and violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity (25%). **Women** were mostly victims of CRSV (81%) violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity (66%) and the right to property (19%). **Girls** were primarily victims of CRSV (85%), violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity (40%), and right to life (25%). **Boys** were mainly victims of violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity (44%) and recruitment and use (33%).<sup>16</sup>

15. The **Yadé** Region registered the highest number of both violations/abuses (241) and victims (182) with the Lim-Pendé Prefecture being the most affected with 172 violations/abuses affecting 99 victims. The most common types of violations were CRSV (97 violations affecting 101 victims) and violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity (79 violations affecting 95 victims). This is due to newly verified cases following four investigative missions in the region, which documented multiple abuses by the 3R in Ouham-Pendé and Lim-Pendé. Likewise, most violations in the region were attributed to the 3R (208 abuses affecting 148 victims) and unidentified armed men (19 abuses affecting 11 victims).

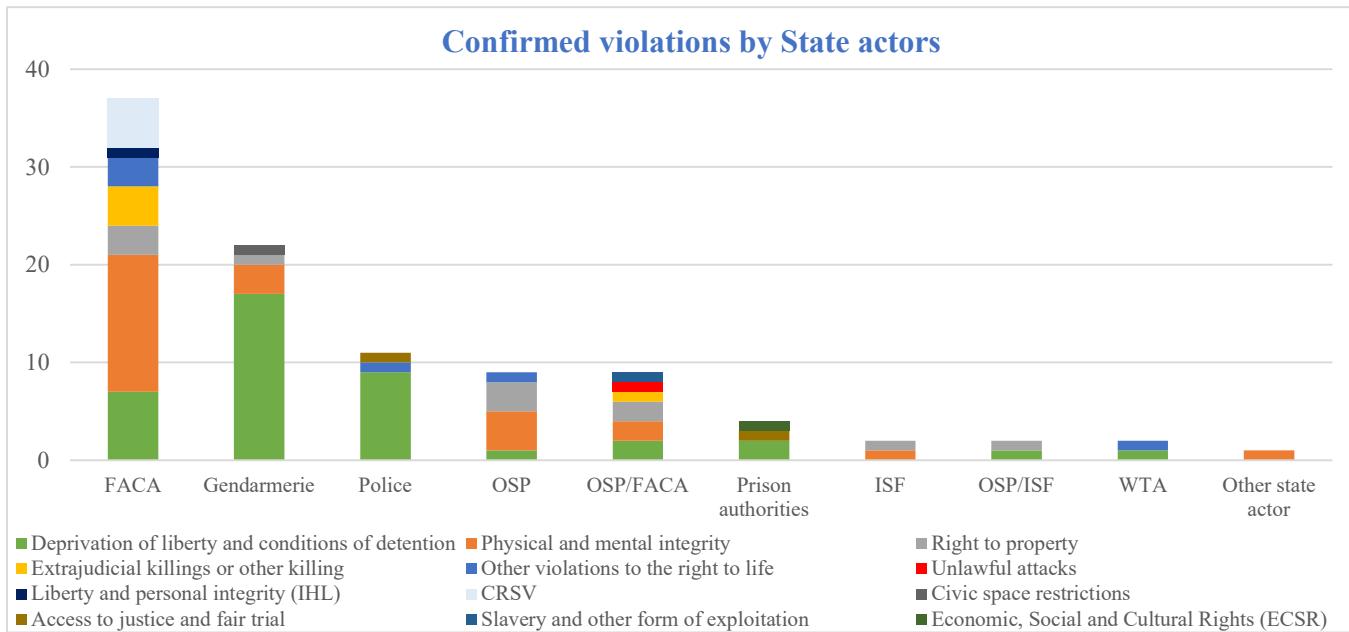


<sup>16</sup> The total compiled percentage exceeds 100% due to victims of multiple violations.

## Overview of violations by type of perpetrator

16. For the period under review, **State actors were responsible for 99 human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law affecting 172 victims** (151 men, seven women, three girls, four boys, and seven groups of collective victims). In comparison to February 2025, the number of violations increased by 9% and the number of victims decreased by 16%.<sup>17</sup> This is mainly due to the high number of victims of violations resulting from continued targeting of the Fulani population by Azanikpigbe and WTA in Haut-Oubangui Region.<sup>18</sup>

17. The main violations perpetrated by State actors were related to **arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention** that do not comply with national and international standards (40) – mostly attributable to the Police and the Gendarmerie; **the right to physical and mental integrity** (25); and **the right to life** (11). Among State actors, the FACA committed the highest number of violations (37 violations affecting 18 victims), followed by the Gendarmerie (22 violations affecting 35 victims)<sup>19</sup> and the Police (11 violations affecting 33 victims)<sup>20</sup>. However, the OSP/ISF accounted for the highest number of victims (two violations affecting 60 victims), in addition to the Gendarmerie and the Police. Most of the violations committed by State actors occurred in **Fertit** Region (33 violations affecting 22 victims) and **Haut-Oubangui** Region (25 violations affecting 22 victims).<sup>21</sup> However, the Kaga Region (15 violations affecting 86 victims) recorded the most victims. This is due to the high number of victims (60) in a single incident involving arbitrary arrest and detention, and appropriation of property at the Ndassima mining site in Ouaka Prefecture.



<sup>17</sup> In February 2025, State actors committed 91 violations affecting 205 victims.

<sup>18</sup> Since 1 May, at least 200 *Azande Ani Kpi Gbe* members were trained by other security personnel (OSP). Reports indicate that they have been integrated into the security apparatus without proper vetting and are reportedly paid from the State budget. Given these facts, they are now categorized under State actors. See *HRD Monthly Report: Human Rights Situation, April 2024*, p.2.

<sup>19</sup> The figures for the Gendarmerie include also violations committed by its specialized units, namely the *Brigade de Recherche et d'Intervention* (BRI) and the *Section de Recherche et d'Investigation* (SRI) of Bangui.

<sup>20</sup> The figures for the Police include also violations committed by its specialized units, namely the *Office Central pour la Répression du Banditisme* (OCRB) and the *Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire* (DST).

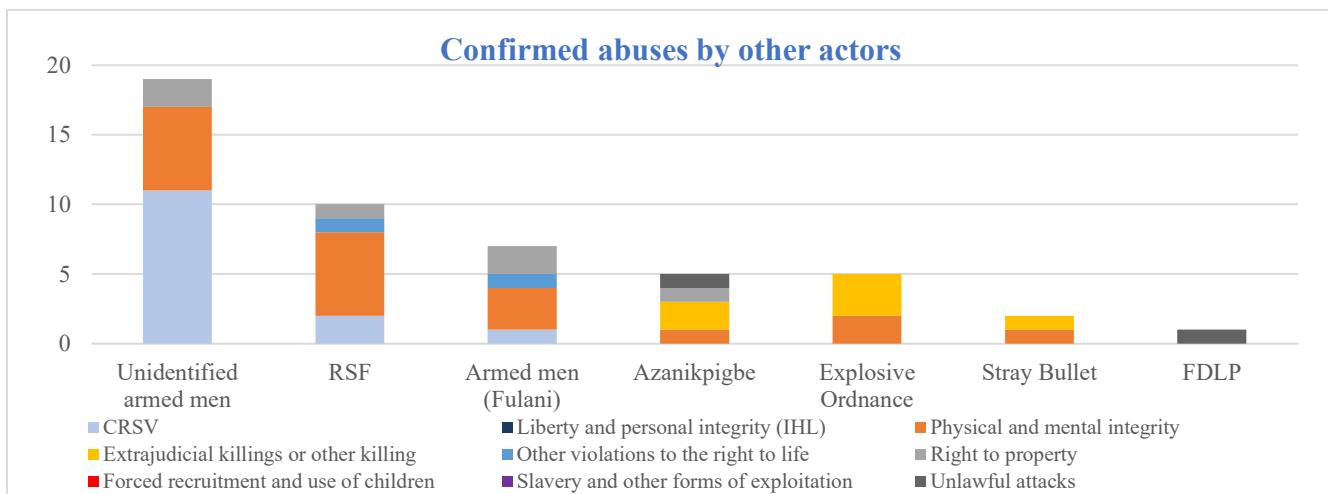
<sup>21</sup> In February 2025, the region most affected by violations by State actors were the Haut-Oubangui (32 violations affecting 33 victims) and Fertit (23 violations affecting 23 victims).

18. Armed groups signatories to the *Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation en République Centrafricaine* (APPR-RCA) were responsible for 230 human rights abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law affecting 184 victims (50 men, 73 women, 32 girls, 23 boys, and six groups of collective victims). In comparison to February 2025,<sup>22</sup> this represents a 105% increase in abuses and a 20% increase in victims, driven by high numbers of documented violations by 3R in Lim-Pendé and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures.

19. The main abuses perpetrated by armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA were related to conflict-related sexual violence (87), the right to physical and mental integrity (73), the right to life (28), and the right to property (15). Among armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA, the 3R (211 abuses affecting 157 victims) were the main perpetrators. Most of the abuses committed by armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA took place in Yadé Region (93%).



20. Other actors were responsible for 49 abuses affecting 59 victims (33 men, 10 women, five girl, nine boys and two groups of collective victims). In comparison to February 2025, this represents a 75% increase in abuses and a 11% increase in victims.<sup>23</sup> This is mainly due to a higher number of abuses by RSF in Vakaga Prefecture and abuses by armed men of Fulani ethnicity in Haute-Kotto and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures. Abuses were mainly related to the right to physical and mental integrity (19 abuses affecting 39 victims), CRSV (14 cases affecting 14 victims), right to life (eight abuses affecting 16 victims) and right to property (six abuses affecting 23 victims). Main perpetrators were unidentified



<sup>22</sup> In February 2025, armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA committed 112 abuses affecting 153 victims.

<sup>23</sup> In February 2025, other actors committed 28 abuses affecting 53 victims.

armed men (19 abuses affecting 11 victims), RSF (10 abuses affecting 16 victims), armed men of Fulani ethnicity (seven abuses affecting 12 victims).

## Typology of human rights violations and abuses and violations of IHL

### Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV)

21. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **106 CRSV cases affecting 108 victims** (73 women, one man and 34 girls). The main form of CRSV continued to be rape, with 76% of the documented rapes being gang-rapes, and sexual slavery, forced nudity and attempted rape.<sup>24</sup> The majority of the CRSV cases were perpetrated alongside other human rights violations and abuses, such as ill-treatment, appropriation of property, threats to life, abduction, recruitment and use of children by armed groups. In some cases, CRSV victims had to witness the killing of their family members. The number of perpetrators of CRSV cases was at least twice as high as the number of the victims, demonstrating that the perpetrators commit CRSV in groups leading to one victim being raped by several perpetrators at the same time.<sup>25</sup>
22. The main perpetrators of the CRSV cases documented in March 2025 were 3R members (89 victims, namely 63 women, 25 girls, and one man) in the Lim-Pendé and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures. Investigations revealed that 3R perpetrate CRSV in small groups of two to five armed men, targeting women and girls working in or travelling to farms, collecting water, or going to markets. While men and boys are also targeted, they are more often killed and ill-treated, particularly when attempting to protect women and girls. Local communities appear to be fully aware of this modus operandi, resulting in men and boys staying in the villages out of fear of being killed. However, women and girls are faced with no alternatives and remain vulnerable to these attacks as they venture out to work on their farms and go to the market. It was also noted that several women and girls were rejected by their partners and stigmatised by their communities once it became known that they had been raped by the armed men. The lack of access to critical support services such as medical, psychosocial, socio-economic, and legal assistance contributes to persistent stigma within the communities and hinders the full realisation of the rights of victims. It is worth noting that failure to adequately address this pattern of CRSV in the Yadé Region and beyond will further complicate efforts to enhance social cohesion between communities and, ultimately, sustainable peace and stability in the country.
23. Other perpetrators of CRSV include UPC members implicated in two cases involving a woman and a girl in the Haute-Kotto Prefecture. Other armed groups not signatories to the APPR-RCA were also responsible for CRSV: unidentified armed men (11 victims, namely seven women, four girls) in the Lim-Pendé Prefecture, RSF members (two victims, namely one woman, one girl) in the Vakaga Prefecture, and armed men of Fulani ethnicity (one woman) in the Lim-Pendé Prefecture. Among State actors, only FACA committed CRSV on three girls, aged 14 to 17, in Haute-Kotto, Mbomou and Nana-Mambéré Prefectures.

### Right to life

24. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **47 violations/abuses of the right to life affecting 82 victims** (55 men, nine women, 10 girls, six boys, and two groups of collective victims), including summary or extrajudicial killings (23 violations/abuses affecting 56 victims), and death threats (21 violations/abuses affecting 22 victims). **Most violations were attributed to armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA** (28 violations affecting 52 victims), with the 3R being responsible for most abuses (25 abuses and 45 victims, including 30 victims of summary killings) related to killings during 3R attacks

<sup>24</sup> Percentage of gang rape is calculated based on confirmed rape cases affecting 106 victims, from which 60 cases were documented as gang-rapes.

<sup>25</sup> Calculated based on the total number of victims (108) and perpetrators (219) of confirmed CRSV cases.

documented by MINUSCA's investigation mission to Ngoutéré, Ouham-Pendé Prefecture. Between July and December 2024, 3R armed members conducted four attacks on the village of Ngoutéré, Ouham-Pendé Prefecture, resulting in widespread killings, destruction of property, forced displacements and other grave human rights abuses. At least 26 civilians (20 men, two women, three boys, and one girl) were killed, including victims of summary executions, indiscriminate gunfire, and reprisals for suspected links to FACA. **State actors** were responsible for 11 violations affecting 14 victims, including seven victims of extrajudicial killings. Most of these violations are attributable to FACA (seven violations and eight victims, including four victims of extrajudicial killings).

25. In line with its obligations under Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Art. 3 of the Constitution, authorities have the responsibility to ensure transparent investigations into actions by State and non-State actors to determine the cause of death and to ensure accountability.

### **Deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention**

26. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **40 violations related to deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention affecting 124 victims** (115 men, two women, four boys, and three groups of collective victims). Most violations were related to arbitrary arrest and/or detention (31 affecting 121 victims), largely due to detention beyond the legal time limit for custody documented during monitoring visits. Of note, in a single incident, OSP/ISF were jointly involved in the arbitrary arrest and detention of 60 people in Ndassima mining site, Ouaka Prefecture on 17 March.

27. The detention conditions in several facilities/centres continue to raise serious concerns due to both structural deficiencies and individual violations. During the reporting period, conditions including poor hygiene, inhumane treatment, lack of separation between minors and women, and food shortages were documented in six detention centres. In Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, the prolonged absence of the judge and the lack of prison infrastructure continue to hinder lawful detention with implications for the conditions of detention. Furthermore, the situation at the OCRB continues to raise serious concerns due to allegations of torture and the restriction of access to certain detainees by their lawyers and MINUSCA. Access to some detainees was granted only in the presence of ISF officers, which undermines the confidentiality required for human rights monitoring and prevents lawyers from providing effective and confidential legal representation.

28. It is worth highlighting that persons in custody and detainees are protected by various national laws, including the Constitution, the *Code pénal* (Criminal Code), and the *Code de procédure pénale* (Criminal Procedure Code) adopted by laws n°10.001, n°10.002, and the law n°12.003 on fundamental principles of the prison system.<sup>26</sup>

### **Right to liberty and personal integrity**

29. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **12 abuses to the right to liberty and personal integrity**<sup>27</sup> affecting **28 victims**, including abductions (10 abuses affecting 19 victims) and deprivation of liberty (two abuses affecting nine victims). Most of these abuses were committed by the 3R (nine abuses affecting 19 victims) and Anti-Balaka members affiliated to the CPC (one abuse affecting seven victims). Violations and abuses related to the right to liberty and personal integrity are often linked to other violations, such as the right to property. On 11 March, four men were abducted by suspected 3R

<sup>26</sup> Additional national texts protecting persons in custody and detainees: 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, as well as decree n°160088 redefining the framework of the prison administration.

<sup>27</sup> The right to liberty and personal integrity includes protection against abduction, deprivation of liberty, and hostage-taking (violations and breaches of international humanitarian law).

members on the Boda-Pama axis (15 km from Boda), Lobaye Prefecture, while heading to a mining site. One victim escaped on 15 March and reported the incident. However, the three others remain unaccounted for.

30. In line with its responsibilities under Article 3 of the UDHR, Article 9 of the ICCPR, and Article 6 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the CAR Government is under an obligation to take measures to prevent and investigate violations and abuses of the right to liberty and personal integrity.

### Right to physical and mental integrity

31. During the period under review, MINUSCA documented **117 violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity<sup>28</sup> affecting 160 victims**, including cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment (92 violations/abuses affecting 121 victims), threats to physical and mental integrity (11 violations/abuse affecting 27 victims), torture (seven violations/abuses affecting 10 victims), maiming and injuries (six violations/abuses affecting seven victims) and excessive or disproportionate use of force (one violation affecting one victim). Armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA were responsible for 73 abuses affecting 87 victims, with the 3R responsible for 69 abuses affecting 84 victims. State actors were responsible for 25 violations affecting 34 victims, perpetrated mainly by FACA (14 violations affecting ten victims) and the OSP (four violations affecting 10 victims). Other actors were responsible for 19 abuses affecting 39 victims, perpetrated mainly by the RSF (six violations affecting 16 victims). On 12 March, an ANE agent deployed to a voter registration centre near Walago village (70 km from Zangba) was threatened by UPC members who attempted to seize his equipment. Although he initially managed to defuse tensions, on 17 March, he was forced to flee with his materials to Zangba due to renewed threats received on the same day.

32. In line with its obligations under Article 5 of the UDHR, Article 7 of ICCPR, Articles 2 and 16 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and Articles 4 and 5 of the ACHPR, the CAR Government is expected to take concrete steps to prevent and investigate cases relating to torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

### Right to property

33. MINUSCA documented **32 violations/abuses of the right to property<sup>29</sup> affecting 124 victims**, all related to destruction or appropriation of property. Armed group signatories to the APPR-RCA were responsible for 15 abuses affecting 25 victims while State actors were responsible for 11 violations affecting 76 victims. Other actors were implicated in six abuses affecting 23 victims. The main perpetrators include the 3R (12 abuses affecting 16 victims) in terms of number of violations and OSP/ISF (one violation affecting 60 victims) in terms of the number of victims. For example, on 5 March, six suspected Anti-Balaka members affiliated to the CPC attacked seven NGO staff working on a school project near Bokine (20 km north of Bossangoa) during which they assaulted one person, and robbed others of phones, luggage, and money before fleeing.

34. Pursuant to Article 17 of the UDHR and Article 14 of the ACHPR, the CAR Government is expected to take measures to protect the right to property of all individuals living on its territory. Furthermore, Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions, the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II), as well as Articles 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute, prohibit the parties to the conflict from targeting civilian property and protected property.

<sup>28</sup> Violations related to the right to physical and mental integrity include ill-treatment, torture and maiming and injuries.

<sup>29</sup> The right to property includes protection from destruction or appropriation of property and illegal taxation.

## Unlawful attacks

35. MINUSCA documented **11 unlawful attacks**<sup>30</sup> affecting eight groups of collective victims. These included four attacks by 3R members in Ngoutéré, Ouham-Pendé Prefecture; an attack by suspected 3R in Boghoro, Ombella-Mpoko Prefecture; an attack against NGO personnel and denial of humanitarian relief by Anti-Balaka members affiliated to the CPC near Bossangoa, Ouham Prefecture; an attack on MINUSCA convoy near Tabane, Haut-Mbomou Prefecture; and the looting of the health centre in Ngoutéré during the 3R attack of 2 July 2024. In addition, the violation of precautionary measures to protect civilians and civilian objects was recorded during a clash between FACA/OSP and FDLP at the Balaka mining site in Ouham Prefecture, which resulted in the death of six civilians and injury to one other by stray bullets.

36. Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions, the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II), as well as Articles 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute, prohibit parties to the conflict from carrying out indiscriminate attacks against protected persons and property.

## Children in Armed Conflict

37. During the reporting period, the CTFMR<sup>31</sup> verified **62 grave child rights violations affecting 50 children** (19 boys and 31 girls), a decrease compared to the previous reporting period during which 102 violations affecting 68 children were documented. The decrease is due to the high number of child victims of multiple violations formerly associated to armed groups who had been identified and screened during the previous reporting period.

38. Of the 62 violations verified, 89% occurred outside the reporting period but were verified during the period under review. The **main perpetrators were armed groups, which accounted for 74% of the violations (46)**, predominantly rape and recruitment and use of children. **State actors** were responsible for 10% of the violations (six), while unidentified armed men accounted for 16% (10). Eight children (four boys, four girls) were victims of multiple violations: abduction and use (four victims); abduction and rape (two victims); abduction, use, sexual violence, and maiming (one victim); abduction, use and sexual violence (one victim). The violations documented included: recruitment and use (14), killing (four), maiming (five), rape and other forms of sexual violence (30), abduction (eight) and attack against schools (one). Armed groups committed 46 abuses - CPC factions (37); 3R (35) and UPC (two); CPC-F/UPC (eight);

### Act to Protect Campaign

Through the “**Act to Protect**” campaign, **360 peacekeepers** (279 men and 81 women) were trained on the protection of children during armed conflict. Similar trainings and awareness sessions were delivered to **814 local stakeholders** (569 men and 245 women), including FACA and ISF, community members and leaders, youth leaders, members of local peace committees, and members of INGOs and NGOs, with a view to enabling them to engage in the protection of children.

<sup>30</sup> 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.

<sup>31</sup> 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.

and RSF (one). Governmental forces committed (six): FACA (three) and ISF (three); and unidentified armed individuals (10).

39. Lim-Pendé was the most affected Prefecture with 32 violations, followed by Mbomou and Ouham-Pendé with 12 violations each, Basse-Kotto and Nana-Mambéré with two violations each, Ombella M’Poko and Vakaga with one violation each.

## Human Rights Promotion and Capacity-Building

40. During the period under review, the **Human Rights Division (HRD)** organised 117 activities (awareness-raising, advocacy, trainings, and capacity-building workshops) across 16 Prefectures,<sup>32</sup> **benefiting 4,644 individuals (including 2,577 men, 1,881 women, 56 girls, and 130 boys)**. Participants included among others national and local authorities, representatives and members of civil society, human rights defenders, youth and women’s organizations, justice and correctional actors, detainees, FACA, ISF, students, community, and religious leaders. The activities focused on human rights and international humanitarian law, civil and political rights related to the electoral process, the protection of children, the peace process, MINUSCA’s mandate, human rights in detention and the prevention of CRSV and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) as well as hate speech.

41. **The HRD conducted 32 monitoring visits to detention centres and facilities in 11 Prefectures<sup>33</sup> and documented 45 victims of arbitrary detention.** These visits presented an opportunity for HRD to engage constructively with relevant authorities, to understand their challenges and propose practical solutions. MINUSCA continues to be granted access to most detention centres and facilities to monitor the situation and engage with relevant authorities to advocate and support efforts to enhance the respect for human rights. During the reporting period, full and unhindered access to the OCRB was limited in certain cases, impeding effective monitoring and protection efforts.

## Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP)

42. During the period under review, 44 risk assessments were conducted relating to MINUSCA’s support to the defence and internal security forces (FACA, ISF, and other law enforcement officers). Human rights background checks were conducted for a total of 780 beneficiaries including 172 ISF (84 Police officers and 88 Gendarmes), 13 Prison officers, three agents from the Ministry of Water and Forestry, four customs agents and 588 FACA officers.

43. Beneficiaries were provided with logistical support including air transportation and trainings. Among the risk assessments conducted, 39 were for logistical, financial, and technical support, including various missions to and from Bangui to different regions. These included the rotation of three FACA detachments from Ouadda and Ouanda-Djallé to Bangui, the deployment of five FACA detachments to Bambouti, Bangassou, Ndah, Ouadda, and Ouanda-Djallé, as well as the deployment of six police officers to Paoua. The support facilitated the implementation of 11 projects for the benefit of both the National Police (three projects) and Gendarmerie (eight projects) in Am-Dafock, Bambari, Bambouti, Bangui, Mobaye, N'Djoukou, Nola, Sibut, and Zinga.

44. The risks identified in these assessments were deemed **low and medium**. Among the individuals screened, **six** were excluded for allegations of human rights violations. Based on these assessments, MINUSCA support was approved with a set of recommendations and mitigation measures, including the need to continuously build the capacity of the non-UN security forces on international human rights law,

<sup>32</sup> Bamingui-Bangoran, Bangui, Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Lim-Pendé, Mambéré-Kadéï, Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ombella M’Poko, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Fafa, Sangha-Mbaéré and Vakaga.

<sup>33</sup> Bangui, Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Lim-Pendé, Mambéré-Kadéï, Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ombella-M’Poko, Ouaka.

international humanitarian law and the necessary skills and techniques in maintaining and restoring law and order.

45. Between 4 and 6 March, the HRDDP Secretariat held briefing sessions in Bangassou for 82 participants, namely 21 FACA personnel, 41 ISF and 20 representatives from civil society and humanitarian organizations, including 13 women. Similar sessions took place in Birao from 21 to 25 March, reaching 75 participants, including 20 newly deployed FACA, 20 ISF, 20 civil society actors, and 15 personnel from MINUSCA and the UNCT, with 10 women in total. The briefings covered the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP), its historical background, guiding principles, and scope of application. They also addressed the responsibilities of non-UN security forces, risk mitigation strategies, and relevant international human rights and humanitarian law standards. Emphasis was placed on the role of each stakeholder in safeguarding human rights and preventing violations.