



Central African Republic Country Report: Children & Security

The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative

Updated as of 31 January 2017

www.childsoldiers.org

info@childsoldiers.org



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I. BACKGROUND

Map of Central African Republic¹



¹ Central Intelligence Agency, 'Central African Republic', available <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ct.html> accessed 29 January 2017.



Children in Central African Republic – Struggle Within Conflict

Insecurity in Central African Republic (CAR), marked by rebellions, coups and inter-ethnic fighting over the last three decades, has greatly impacted children, hampered development, and caused the deterioration of the basic social and economic infrastructure in the country. The situation in CAR remains of concern as widespread attacks on civilians, greatly impacting children, continue despite the fact that violence between Séléka rebels and the anti-balaka militia is decreasing.² All parties to the conflict, including government forces, ex-Séléka factions, anti-Balaka, and other unidentified armed men, are alleged to have committed serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law against children.³

Children continue to be killed in CAR as a result of conflict. A new outbreak of violence in September 2015 critically affected children. In 2015, the United Nations (UN) documented the killing of 62 children and the maiming of 185, mostly during this outbreak of violence. Children have also been used and recruited by armed forces. In 2016, 13,000 children were associated with armed groups.⁴ Children have further suffered sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), with 70 cases documented in 2015. Incidents of SGBV were attributed, despite the difficulties in obtaining verified information, to the ex-Séléka faction, anti-balaka elements, and peacekeepers.

Some 2.2 million people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance, half of whom are children.⁵ At the end of 2016, it was estimated that 420,000 people were internally displaced and an additional 453,000 people had sought refugee in neighbouring countries. The situation remains dire for children. One in every two children is affected by stunting, and some 139 in every 1,000 children born die before their fifth birthday.⁶

² UNOCHA, 'About CAR', available <http://www.unocha.org/car/about-ocha-car/about-ocha-car> accessed 29 January 2017.

³ United Nations Security Council, 'Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Central African Republic', UN Doc. S/2016/133 (12 February 2016) ('February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict in CAR Report'), para. 16. See International Criminal Court, 'Situation in the Central African Republic II: Article 53(1) Report Executive Summary' (24 September 2014), available <https://www.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/otp/SAS-CARII-Art53-1-Executive-Summary-24Sept2014-Eng.pdf> accessed 29 January 2017 ('ICC Situation in CAR').

⁴ UNOCHA, '2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Central African Republic' (October 2016), available https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/rca_ocha_171123_hno_french.pdf accessed 29 January 2017 ('2017 HNO'), p. 5.

⁵ UNICEF, Central African Republic, available <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/car.html> accessed 29 January 2017 ('UNICEF CAR').

⁶ UNICEF CAR; 2017 HNO.



II. SECURITY SITUATION

1. Context

CAR is a former French colony, located in the centre of the African continent. It gained independence in the early sixties and has a long history of coups and authoritarian rule. Following independence, the country has faced decades of political instability and violence, which contributed to it becoming one of the world's poorest countries. Years of violence have created deep ethnic and religious cleavages.

Political instability and cycles of conflict have plagued CAR since 2001, when General François Bozizé ousted President Patassé. Following a further military coup in 2003, Bozizé was elected President in 2005 after a two-year transition period. However, discontent grew in the northeast and northwest of CAR as armed groups dissatisfied with the security and development situation in their respective regions emerged.⁷ Bozizé was re-elected in 2011, only to be ousted in 2013 by the Muslim-dominated armed rebel coalition known as Séléka, made up of various existing armed groups who were dissatisfied with the Bozizé regime. In 2013, Séléka's leader, Michel Djotodia, proclaimed himself President of CAR.⁸ A transitional government was established, but conflict took on increasingly sectarian overtones by December 2013, as the anti-balaka movement took up arms and inter-communal clashes erupted again in and around Bangui.⁹ The Muslim population was increasingly victim of revenge attacks by predominantly Christian militias and allied residents.

Séléka forces continued to expand their control over CAR, committing crimes against civilians so as to suppress resistance.¹⁰ Although Séléka was soon disbanded by President Djotodia in response to growing criticism for human rights abuses, it continued to exist *de facto*: its members integrated into the Central African Armed Forces/*Forces armées Centrafricaines* (FACA), and crimes continued to be perpetrated against civilians.¹¹ Séléka's rule generated armed resistance and the formation of predominantly Christian

⁷ ICC Situation in CAR, para. 9.

⁸ United Nations Security Council, 'Letter dated 19 December 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council transmitting the final report of the International Commission of Inquiry on the Central African Republic', UN Doc. S/2014/928 (22 December 2014) ('December 2014 COI Report'), para. 26.

⁹ Amnesty International, 'Central African Republic: Ethnic cleansing and sectarian killings' (12 February 2014), available <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2014/02/central-african-republic-ethnic-cleansing-sectarian-violence/> accessed 29 January 2017 ('Amnesty International CAR Ethnic cleansing').

¹⁰ ICC Situation in CAR, para. 11.

¹¹ ICC Situation in CAR, para. 11.



'anti-balaka' militias.¹² The conflict subsequently escalated to sectarian violence, with civilians being targeted on the basis of their religion and ethnicity.¹³

From early 2014 onwards, violence in CAR was marked by attacks on civilians, mass killings, and widespread destruction of property.¹⁴ The anti-balaka began coordinated attacks targeting Muslims in retaliation for abuses by the Séléka group, which drove thousands of Muslims to flee the country.¹⁵ The anti-balaka forces' brutality included cutting the throats of Muslim civilians, public lynching, mutilations, and setting bodies on fire.¹⁶ Many human rights organisations spoke out against what many have an alleged to be an ethnic cleansing campaign against the Muslim population in CAR.¹⁷ At the peak of the unrest, hundreds of thousands of people were displaced.¹⁸ President Djotodia was forced to resign in January 2014 and an interim president was elected by a transitional government which had been put in place a few months earlier.¹⁹ In July 2014, a ceasefire was reached between Séléka and anti-balaka, and in September 2014, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) was deployed.²⁰ Despite these efforts, instability continued, leading the transitional government to organise the Bangui Forum for National Reconciliation in May 2015.²¹ The result was the signing of an agreement between several militias and the transitional government for disarmament and demobilisation.²² A new constitution was approved in December 2015 and elections were held in early 2016, eventually leading to the election of Faustin Archange Touadéra as president.²³

Despite the peaceful transition of power following president Touadéra's election, the country remains unstable, with serious human rights violations.²⁴ The situation has particularly deteriorated since summer 2016. The government of President Touadéra has limited control outside the capital Bangui and violence

¹² ICC Situation in CAR, paras. 11-12; Human Rights Watch, 'Central African Republic: Muslims Forced to Flee' (12 February 2014), available <https://www.hrw.org/news/2014/02/12/central-african-republic-muslims-forced-flee>, accessed 29 January 2017 ('HRW Muslims Forced to Flee').

¹³ ICC Situation in CAR, paras. 12-13.

¹⁴ December 2014 COI Report, para. 28.

¹⁵ HRW Muslims Forced to Flee.

¹⁶ HRW Muslims Forced to Flee.

¹⁷ Amnesty International CAR Ethnic cleansing; ICC Situation in CAR, para. 15.

¹⁸ December 2014 COI Report, para. 294.

¹⁹ February 2016 SG Children in Armed Conflict in CAR Report, para. 11.

²⁰ February 2016 SG Children in Armed Conflict in CAR Report, paras. 12-13.

²¹ February 2016 SG Children in Armed Conflict in CAR Report, para. 14.

²² February 2016 SG Children in Armed Conflict in CAR Report, para. 14.

²³ United Nations Security Council, 'Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic', UN Doc. S/2016/305 (1 April 2016), para. 8.

²⁴ Human Rights Watch, 'World Report 2017: Events of 2016' (2017) ('2017 Human Rights Watch Report'), p. 175.



among ex-Séléka factions and between anti-Balaka and ex-Séléka has become widespread since September 2016. Fighting between ex-Séléka factions in November 2016 resulted in 85 civilians killed, 76 wounded and nearly 11,000 displaced from the town of Bria. Armed groups also occupied hospital buildings. Further to this, on 24 October 2016, an anti-government and anti-MINUSCA protest turned violent, resulting in the death of four civilians and leaving 14 injured, including five peacekeepers.²⁵ In addition, in January 2017 one Bangladeshi peacekeeper was killed in an ambush, although the perpetrator is unknown.²⁶

Beyond its own internal conflicts, spillover violence from neighbouring Darfur has affected the north of the country, while in the south, the Ugandan rebel group known as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has entered the country through the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and terrorised civilians.

2. State, Non-State, Regional and International Actors

a) State Actors

Government Forces: FACA (*Forces armées Centrafricaines*)

FACA is the main security forces of CAR.²⁷ Under president Bozizé, it was estimated at about 8,000 troops and was dominated by the Gbaya tribe (residing mainly in the northeast of the country).²⁸ Recently, FACA has become more of a menace to the population than a guarantor of its security, and is feared for its brutality and gross human rights abuses, committed with impunity.²⁹ However, its presence is rather limited beyond the capital Bangui.³⁰ When President Djotodia declared the dissolution of Séléka, several thousand former-Séléka members were integrated into the FACA by decree.³¹ Simultaneously, numerous former-FACA members joined the ranks of the anti-balaka factions.³² With the takeover of the government by Séléka, the FACA is said to have ceased to exist, with Séléka forces becoming the de facto state forces.³³

²⁵ 'Security Council Report, 'January 2017 Monthly Forecast: Central African Republic' (28 December 2016), available http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2017-01/central_african_republic_19.php accessed 29 January 2017.

²⁶ UN News Centre, 'UN condemns deadly ambush that leaves one 'blue helmet' dead in Central African Republic' (7 January 2017), <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55923#.WItGG3eZPdR> accessed 29 January 2017.

²⁷ December 2014 COI Report, para. 115.

²⁸ December 2014 COI Report, para. 115.

²⁹ December 2014 COI Report, paras. 115-166.

³⁰ IRIN, 'Armed Groups in CAR' (17 September 2014), available <http://www.irinnews.org/report/100623/armed-groups-car> accessed 29 January 2017.

³¹ ICC Situation in CAR, para. 11.

³² ICC Situation in CAR, para. 12.

³³ December 2014 COI Report, paras. 94-95, 171.



Government forces have allegedly perpetrated crimes and violations including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and illegal detention, as well as torture, carried out in facilities such as the Central Crime Control Centre, and other detention facilities. There is also evidence of enforced disappearances, theft, confiscation of property, and incitement to ethnic hatred and to commit crimes.³⁴

b) Non-State Actors

Ex-Séléka (formerly Séléka)

Ex-Séléka is comprised of several Islamic rebel groups and is backed by armed mercenary fighters from Chad and Sudan.³⁵ Originally, the Séléka coalition's ideology called for respect and the inclusion of political dialogue, but violations of human rights and international human rights law by Séléka have been widely reported since the beginning of the conflict. The coalition called Séléka was established in late 2012 following the discontent of the north-eastern population against president Bozizé. It also resulted from the abandonment of the region by the central government and the growing influence of Chad and Sudan. Séléka launched its first attacks in the northern part of the country in December 2012 and advanced toward Bangui, eventually overthrowing President Bozizé in 2013, forcing him to flee. Since 2013 and its disbandment, Séléka have become the *de facto* armed forces of the new regime.³⁶ The elements of the armed group that remain active are now commonly referred to as 'ex-Séléka'.

After Djotodia's resignation in January 2014, the ex-Séléka forces imploded into several rival movements: the Union for Peace in the Central African Republic (UPC), led by Ali; the Popular Front for the Rebirth of Central African Republic (FPRC), led by Nourredin Adam and supported by Djotodia; the Patriotic Rally for the Renewal of Central African Republic, led by Djono Ahaba and Zacharia Damane; the Reformed Séléka for Peace and Justice, led by Moussa Dhaffane; and the Patriotic Movement for the Central African Republic (MPC).³⁷ The estimated number of ex-Séléka fighters varies greatly. It is unclear how many individuals are associated with ex-Séléka.

³⁴ December 2014 COI Report, paras. 116, 117-166.

³⁵ ICC Situation in CAR, para. 9.

³⁶ ICC Situation in CAR, para. 11.

³⁷ International Crisis Group, 'Central African Republic: The Roots of Violence' (21 September 2015), available <https://d2071andvip0wj.cloudfront.net/230-central-african-republic-the-roots-of-violence.pdf> accessed 29 January 2017 ('CAR The Roots of Violence'), p. 7.



Numerous reports reveal that a number of human rights violations have been perpetrated against children by this alliance, including murder, sexual violence, and the recruitment and use of children under the age of 15.³⁸ In 2015, the UN reported the recruitment of 13 children by the ex-Séléka faction, UPC.³⁹ Further, the United Nations has been collecting reports indicating that this group commits violations that include extrajudicial executions, attacks on civilian and protected objects, torture, and other forms of ill-treatment, as well as arbitrary arrest and illegal detention.⁴⁰

CASE STUDY – Children and the Séléka⁴¹

Grace (not his real name) joined the Séléka in December 2012 when he was 15 years old. The eldest of seven children, Grace felt responsible to support his family after an armed group abducted his father. After he joined the Séléka ranks, he was transferred to a village about 10 km away from his home, and underwent a difficult training process. The training was meant to make the children mean and unforgiving. He said that children were often sent to the frontlines while other soldiers stayed further behind. He remembers being drugged and inebriated as a way to make him do things he would never do otherwise. He also recalled that until the Séléka took Bangui, there was no difference between Muslims and Christians in battle.

Anti-balaka Forces

The anti-balaka forms part of a long tradition of resistance by the Gbaya, Banda, Mandjia and Mboum ethnic groups during the colonial period.⁴² Atrocities allegedly committed by Séléka factions outraged the non-Muslim population and led to the creation of groups called anti-balaka, made up of local residents, former FACA members, and other Bozizé supporters.⁴³ Due to the absence of any centralised command in the anti-balaka movement, the implementation of agreement in the field remains challenging.⁴⁴ According to the UN Panel of Experts, as of October 2014, roughly 1,500 anti-balaka fighters continued to pose a threat to security.⁴⁵

³⁸ United Nations Security Council, 'Children and Armed Conflict: report of the Secretary-General', UN Doc. S/2016/360 (20 April 2016) ('2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report'), paras. 34-43; February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict in CAR Report, para. 6; December 2014 COI Report, paras. 167-279.

³⁹ February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict in CAR Report, para. 22.

⁴⁰ December 2014 COI Report, paras. 170-279.

⁴¹ This story has been adapted from a story originally published by Save the Children. See Save the Children, 'Caught in a Combat Zone: The urgent need to demobilise children from armed groups in the Central African Republic' (16 December 2014), available https://www.savethechildren.net/sites/default/files/CAF-cf-13_CaughtInACombatZone_16Dec14.pdf accessed 29 January 2017 ('Save the Children demobilize CAR'), p. 5.

⁴² CAR The Roots of Violence, p. 2.

⁴³ December 2014 COI Report, para. 281.

⁴⁴ CAR The Roots of Violence, p. 9.

⁴⁵ United Nations Security Council, 'Letter dated 28 October 2014 from the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2127 (2013) addressed to the President of the Security



A number of crimes are alleged to have been committed by members associated with anti-balaka forces, constituting violence directed mainly towards the Muslim population.⁴⁶ The International Criminal Court (ICC) opened an investigation into the alleged crimes committed in CAR, including crimes against children such as enlisting children in armed factions, but also for murder and torture.⁴⁷

Return, Reclamation, Rehabilitation

In 2015, a new-formed armed group called Return, Reclamation, Rehabilitation (3R) emerged to protect the minority Peuhl population from attacks from Christian militia. In April 2016, it increased its attacks in retaliation for anti-balaka activity. This group is known to have killed civilians, committed rapes and caused large-scale displacement in northwest CAR. In one week in November 2016, Human Rights Watch documented the killing of at least 50 civilians in Ouham Pende province. It further interviewed 42 people, describing how 3R members shot and killed civilians, raped women and girls, and pillaged villages.⁴⁸

Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)

The LRA is a Ugandan-based group also operating in CAR.⁴⁹ The LRA first emerged in northern Uganda at the end of the 1980s.⁵⁰ Over time, the LRA became a notorious and feared rebel group, infamous for the abduction and mutilation of civilians.⁵¹ The LRA has abducted children during periods when they have been active in CAR.⁵² The LRA is notorious for its recruitment and use of children. In 2015, the LRA was reported to have recruited and used 21 children in CAR, accounting for more than half of all verified child recruitment in CAR that year.⁵³

Council transmitting the final report of the Panel prepared in accordance with paragraph 59(c) of the resolution', UN Doc. S/2014/762 (29 October 2014), p. 2.

⁴⁶ December 2014 COI Report, para. 50.

⁴⁷ ICC Situation in CAR; December 2014 COI Report, paras. 293-442.

⁴⁸ Human Rights Watch, 'Central African Republic: Mayhem by New Group' (20 December 2016), available <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/12/20/central-african-republic-mayhem-new-group> accessed 29 January 2017.

⁴⁹ Veronique Barbelet, 'Central African Republic: addressing the protection crisis' (Humanitarian Policy Group, November 2015) available <http://www.data.unhcr.org/car/download.php?id=637> accessed 29 January 2017 ('HPG Protection Crisis CAR'), p. 4.

⁵⁰ CAR The Roots of Violence, p. 41.

⁵¹ Maria Burnett, 'Africa's Longest War Still Taking Lives' (Human Rights Watch, 19 June 2009), available <https://www.hrw.org/news/2009/06/19/africas-longest-war-still-taking-lives> accessed 29 January 2017.

⁵² February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict in CAR Report, paras. 38-39.

⁵³ February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict in CAR Report, para. 22.



c) Regional and International Actors

CAR's central position on the African continent makes it vulnerable to political instability and conflict in neighbouring states, as well as intrusion by armed groups from Chad, Sudan, and the DRC.⁵⁴ Large diamond mines in the north are a driving force underlying the ongoing conflict and militia activities by groups from Chad and Darfur.⁵⁵

African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA)

MISCA took over the Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic, led by the Economic Community of Central African States established in 2008.⁵⁶ MISCA was a mission set up by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU) with the full support of the UN.⁵⁷ It was established on 5 December 2013 by UN Security Council Resolution 2127 (2013) and deployed later that same month.⁵⁸ It was tasked to, *inter alia*, contribute to the protection of civilians and stabilisation of the country, including the restoration of the authority of the central government.⁵⁹ The MISCA mission was complemented by the French operation of 2,000 soldiers, known as Operation Sangaris,⁶⁰ and by a European Union peacekeeping force,⁶¹ which provided 800 additional military personnel and police.⁶² On 15 September 2014, per UN Security Council Resolution 2149 (2014), MISCA's authority was transferred to MINUSCA.⁶³

⁵⁴ HPG Protection Crisis CAR, p. 3

⁵⁵ HPG Protection Crisis CAR, p. 3

⁵⁶ See e.g. European Commission, Press Release Database, 'Central African Republic', 10 February 2014, available http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-99_en.htm accessed 29 January 2017.

⁵⁷ See December 2014 COI Report, p. 114, fn. 271.

⁵⁸ United Nations Security Council, 'Resolution 2127 (2013)', UN Doc. S/RES/2127 (5 December 2013).

⁵⁹ European Commission Press Release Database, 'Central African Republic' (10 February 2014), available http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-99_en.htm accessed 29 January 2017.

⁶⁰ At the end of 2016, operation Sangris withdrew from CAR. See United Nations Security Council, 'Special Report of the Secretary-General on the strategic review of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic', UN Doc. S/2016/565 (22 June 2016) ('2016 SG MINUSCA Report'), para. 13.

⁶¹ The mission ended its mandate and closed in March 2015. See United Nations Security Council, 'Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic', UN Doc. S/2015/227 (1 April 2015), para. 11.

⁶² HPG Protection Crisis CAR, p. 4.

⁶³ United Nations Security Council, 'Resolution 2149 (2014)', UN Doc. S/RES/2149 (10 April 2014), para. 21.



United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA)

BINUCA was a UN political mission mandated to consolidate peace, foster national reconciliation, strengthen democratic institutions and promote human rights.⁶⁴ It was established on 1 January 2010 and ever since 2013, its priorities also included strengthening the political dialogue and implementation of the Libreville Agreements, and to restore security throughout the territory and create a conducive environment for holding credible elections.⁶⁵ Under Security Council Resolution 2149 of 10 April 2014, BINUCA was subsumed into the newly established peacekeeping mission, MINUSCA.⁶⁶

MINUSCA's role is to protect civilians, provide support for the transition process, facilitate the immediate, full, safe, and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance, promote and protect human rights, and provide support for national and international justice and the rule of law.⁶⁷ The establishment of MINUSCA played a positive role, in collaboration with other international forces, particularly Operation Sangaris, in stabilising the security situation.⁶⁸ In July 2016, MINUSCA's mandate was extended and updated by UN Security Council Resolution 2301 (2016).⁶⁹

Reports of sexual crimes committed by the various peacekeepers in CAR have surfaced in recent years.⁷⁰ In 2014, it was alleged that 108 new sexual abuse cases were committed in CAR, with the vast majority of victims being children.⁷¹ In early 2016, the UN allegedly found more cases of child abuse by European troops in CAR.⁷² On 11 March 2016, the UN Security Council adopted its resolution on sexual abuse and

⁶⁴ HPG Protection Crisis CAR, p. 4.

⁶⁵ BINUCA, 'Background', available <http://binuca.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=5525&language=en-US> accessed 29 January 2017.

⁶⁶ United Nations Security Council, 'Resolution 2149 (2014)', UN Doc. S/RES/2149 (10 April 2014), para. 19.

⁶⁷ United Nations Security Council, 'Resolution 2149 (2014)', UN Doc. S/RES/2149 (10 April 2014), para. 30.

⁶⁸ 2016 SG MINUSCA Report, para. 2.

⁶⁹ United Nations Security Council, 'Resolution 2301 (2016)', UN Doc. S/RES/2301 (26 July 2016), paras. 23, 33-36.

⁷⁰ See 'Sexual and Gender-Based Violence' section below. For French peacekeepers, there were no charges brought in the end, see Benoît Morenne, 'No Charges in Sexual Abuse Case Involving French Peacekeepers' (The New York Times, 6 January 2017), available https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/06/world/africa/french-peacekeepers-un-sexual-abuse-case-central-african-republic.html?_r=0 accessed 29 January 2017.

⁷¹ Al-Jazeera, "'Sickening' sex abuse alleged in CAR by UN peacekeepers' (1 April 2016), available <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/03/sex-abuse-alleged-car-peacekeepers-160331183645566.html> accessed 29 January 2017.

⁷² The Guardian, 'UN finds more cases of child abuse by European troops in CAR' (29 January 2016), available <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/29/un-finds-more-cases-of-child-abuse-by-european-troops-in-car> accessed 29 January 2017.



exploitation, designed to prevent sexual violence by UN peacekeepers. It also called for medical and psychological assistance for survivors of sexual violence.⁷³

International Criminal Court (ICC)

CAR also became a signatory to the Rome Statute in 2001, and the government has since referred two conflict situations to the ICC for investigation.⁷⁴ The first investigation was in relation to violence that occurred between 2002 and 2003.⁷⁵ An ICC trial chamber found Jean-Pierre Bemba, former *Mouvement pour la Libération du Congo* president and commander-in-chief of the Armée Libération du Congo, guilty and convicted him for 18 years for his role as a military commander with effective authority and control over armed forces committing war crimes (murder, rape, and pillaging) and crimes against humanity (murder and rape).⁷⁶ The second investigation referred to the ICC, known as ‘CAR II’, opened in September 2014 in relation to violence beginning in December 2012 until 2013.⁷⁷

IV. CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS

1. Recruitment and Use of Children

The recruitment and use of children in CAR has been rampant.⁷⁸ While the precise number is unknown, it is estimated that between 2013 and 2015 anywhere from 6,000 to 10,000 children were associated with armed groups.⁷⁹ Children have been recruited and used by all parties, including the LRA.⁸⁰ In 2015, the UN documented more than 40 cases of child recruitment and use mostly by the LRA, former Séléka militia, and

⁷³ United Nations Security Council, ‘Resolution 2271 (2016)’, UN Doc. S/RES/2271 (2 March 2016).

⁷⁴ International Criminal Court, ‘Central African Republic’, available <https://www.icc-cpi.int/car> accessed 29 January 2017 (‘ICC CAR’).

⁷⁵ ICC CAR.

⁷⁶ *The Prosecutor v. Jean-Pierre Bemba* (Judgment) ICC-01/05-01/08 (21 March 2016).

⁷⁷ International Criminal Court, ‘Central African Republic II’, available <https://www.icc-cpi.int/carII> accessed 29 January 2017.

⁷⁸ February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict in CAR Report, paras. 17-22; United States Department of State, ‘Trafficking in Persons Report’ (June 2016) (‘2016 TIP Report’), p. 125; United States Department of State, ‘Trafficking in Persons Report’ (July 2015) (‘2015 TIP Report’), p. 116.

⁷⁹ February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict in CAR Report, para. 17; 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 35. See UNICEF, ‘New release of children by armed group in Central African Republic brings total to more than 600 since May’ (28 August 2015), available http://www.unicef.org/media/media_83024.html accessed 29 January 2017 (‘UNICEF release of children in CAR’). See also 2016 TIP Report, p. 125.

⁸⁰ February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict in CAR Report, para. 17.



UPC.⁸¹ Between 2013 and 2015, anywhere from 6,000 to 10,000 children were associated with armed groups.⁸² Children have been recruited and used by all parties, including the LRA.⁸³

In the period from December 2013 to the end of 2014, the country task force verified 464 cases of new recruitment, and noted that 2,807 children were identified and verified among armed groups.⁸⁴ Children associated with anti-Balaka were seen manning checkpoints and reportedly being trained in handling weapons.⁸⁵ In 2015, 30 children were verified as having been newly recruited, the majority by the LRA.⁸⁶ In between April and September 2016, MINUSCA reported recruitment of 33 children into armed groups and the abduction of 22 children.⁸⁷ Children have been used as combatants, messengers, cooks, and informants, and in other roles within armed groups.⁸⁸ Girls have been reportedly used as sex slaves.⁸⁹

Patterns of the use and recruitment of children have varied from 2011 to the present. From 2011 to December 2012, children were reportedly recruited and used to fight in the northern part of CAR alongside groups such as the Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix (CPJP), Union of Democratic Forces for Unity (UFDR), the Mouvement des libérateurs centrafricain pour la justice (MLCJ), Front démocratique du peuple centrafricain (FDC), and Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix fondamentale, as well as foreign armed groups such as FPR and LRA.⁹⁰ Following the emergence of Séléka, the expansion of self-defence militias, and the significant deterioration of the security situation in March 2013, children were being recruited on a large scale, including recruitment following separation from armed groups.⁹¹ During this time, the rise in the use of children was mainly attributed to anti-balaka.

Some armed groups in CAR have committed to the demobilisation of child recruitment, but further efforts are needed to ensure these agreements are implemented and all children are released. In 2014 and 2015,

⁸¹ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 35.

⁸² February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict in CAR Report, para. 17. See UNICEF release of children in CAR. See also 2016 TIP Report, p. 125.

⁸³ February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict in CAR Report, para. 17.

⁸⁴ February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict in CAR Report, para. 20.

⁸⁵ February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict in CAR Report, para. 21. See also 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 35

⁸⁶ February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict in CAR Report, para. 22.

⁸⁷ United Nations Security Council, 'Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic', UN Doc. S/2016/824 (29 September 2016) ('September 2016 situation in CAR Report'), para. 34.

⁸⁸ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 35. See UNICEF release of children in CAR.

⁸⁹ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report para. 35.

⁹⁰ February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict in CAR Report, para. 18.

⁹¹ February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict in CAR Report, para. 19.



5,541 children (4,274 boys, 1,267 girls) were separated from armed groups.⁹² While many efforts have been made by aid groups to provide for the demobilisation of children, there is a strong need for reintegration programmes in order to prevent re-recruitment.⁹³

2. Trafficking and Child Labour

CAR is a source, transit and destination country for the trafficking in children for both forced labour and sexual exploitation.⁹⁴ The ongoing conflict significantly increases the population's susceptibility to trafficking.⁹⁵ It is reported that most victims in CAR are nationals of the country and that only a small proportion of victims are transported back and forth between CAR and Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, DRC, Sudan, and South Sudan.⁹⁶ Reported forms of child trafficking include domestic servitude, commercial sexual exploitation, forced marriages, and forced labour in areas such as agriculture, mining, and street vending, to name a few.⁹⁷ Pygmy minorities are also at particular risk of forced labour in the agricultural sector.⁹⁸

The government has been unable to address the worst forms of child labour and has neither investigated cases, provided protection nor the provision of support to victims of human trafficking.⁹⁹ MINUSCA has trained police officers, military personnel, and civilian experts on child rights and protection, although officers lack the resources required to carry out investigations.

3. Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

Sexual violence against women and children is widespread and includes rape and gang rape, forced marriage, sexual slavery, and sexual mutilation.¹⁰⁰ Women, girls, men and boys are victims of SGBV in CAR. The UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict has noted that all parties to the armed

⁹² February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict in CAR Report, para. 17.

⁹³ 2016 TIP Report, p. 125. See also 2015 TIP Report, pp. 115-117.

⁹⁴ 2016 TIP Report, p. 125.

⁹⁵ 2016 TIP Report, p. 125. See also 2015 TIP Report, pp. 115-117.

⁹⁶ 2016 TIP Report, p. 125.

⁹⁷ 2016 TIP Report, p. 125. See also 2015 TIP Report, pp. 115-117.

⁹⁸ 2016 TIP Report, p. 125.

⁹⁹ 2016 TIP Report, p. 126. See also United States Department of Labor Bureau of International Labor Affairs Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking, 'The Department of Labor's 2015 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor' (30Department of La, pp. 253-259. See also 2015 TIP Report, pp. 115-117.

¹⁰⁰ United Nations Security Council, 'Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic', UN Doc. S/2014/562 (1 August 2014), para. 17.



conflict have used sexual violence to humiliate their opponents, with women and girls being specifically targeted.¹⁰¹ Rape has been used to punish women suspected of trading with people on the other side of the sectarian divide.¹⁰²

Concerns regarding conflict-related sexual violence became particularly acute in late 2015 with growing political unrest. From April to September 2016, 44 allegations of conflict related sexual violence were filed, 25 being investigated and verified. The victims were comprised of 22 women, 21 girls and 1 boy.¹⁰³ In 2015, MINUSCA verified 79 cases of conflict-related sexual abuses, 36 involving the rape of minors committed by varying armed groups.¹⁰⁴ A total of 44 per cent of cases involved gang rapes, often committed in front of family members. Displaced populations are particularly vulnerable with reports of sex being demanded as a 'payment of passage' for women fleeing war.¹⁰⁵

Reporting is deterred by the absence of a functioning justice system, combined with the fear of retaliation, and the pressure put on survivors. Forced marriage has been a negative coping mechanism to protect the honour of the victims.¹⁰⁶ In particular, incidents are reported of girls being forced into marriages, where they are subjected to domestic servitude, sexual slavery, and possibly sex trafficking. This has increased in 2015 and has often been perpetrated by members of armed groups.¹⁰⁷ In areas under the control of ex-Séléka militia, armed fighters reportedly went door-to-door looking for girls and forcing them to marry fighters.¹⁰⁸ Anti-balaka fighters are also responsible for many cases of sexual violence against women and girls, for example, in and around the M'poko displacement camp in the capital of Bangui.¹⁰⁹ The camp had become so dangerous by the end of 2015 that many aid groups were no longer able to enter.¹¹⁰ Women, who were

¹⁰¹ United Nations Security Council, 'Conflict-related sexual violence', UN Doc. S/2015/203 (23 March 2015) ('2015 SG Report on conflict-related sexual violence'), para. 14.

¹⁰² United Nations Security Council, 'Report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence', UN Doc. S/2016/361 (20 April 2016) ('2016 SG Report on conflict-related sexual violence'), para. 26.

¹⁰³ September 2016 situation in CAR Report, para. 32.

¹⁰⁴ 2016 SG Report on conflict-related sexual violence, para. 26.

¹⁰⁵ 2016 SG Report on conflict-related sexual violence, para. 28.

¹⁰⁶ 2016 SG Report on conflict-related sexual violence, para. 27.

¹⁰⁷ 2016 TIP Report, p. 125.

¹⁰⁸ 2016 SG Report on conflict-related sexual violence, para. 28; February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict in CAR Report, para. 30.

¹⁰⁹ Human Rights Watch, 'Central African Republic: Amid Conflict, Rape' (17 December 2015) <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/12/17/central-african-republic-amid-conflict-rape> accessed 29 January 2017 ('HRW Amid Conflict').

¹¹⁰ HRW Amid Conflict.



taken hostage by anti-balaka forces and released after their families paid a ransom, reported seeing other women held captive, some of whom had infants with them.¹¹¹

Men and boys have also been victims of sexual violence. Of the survivors in 2015 (27,977 women), a total of 1,824 were men and boys.¹¹² However, rape and sexual abuse of men and boys is still considered a cultural taboo. The UN however confirmed that in 2015 over 2000 men and boys accessed gender-based violence services.¹¹³

Incidents were attributed, despite the difficulties in obtaining verified information, to the ex-Séléka faction, but also to anti-balaka elements. A small number of incidents were also reported to the police, but there was no apparent result of investigations in 2015.¹¹⁴ In the first ten months of 2015, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recorded around 6,000 cases of human rights violations, while a further 60,000 cases of SGBV were registered by an inter-agency group headed by the UN Population Fund.¹¹⁵ In 2016, the UNHCR noted that 3,077 incidents of the sexual violence were reported.¹¹⁶

Moreover, the presence of various peacekeepers has led to sexual violence being committed against women and children by members of the peacekeeping forces. Since MINUSCA's inception, some 100 cases of rape or sexual abuse committed by peacekeepers – primarily from DRC and the Republic of Congo – were reported.¹¹⁷ From October to December 2015, eight cases were reported.¹¹⁸ At least one UN peacekeeper has been accused of the rape of a 12 year old girl, and other peacekeepers have been involved in the sexual abuse of boys as young as nine.¹¹⁹ Soldiers from the French military force allegedly sexually abused a number of young children in exchange for food or cash.¹²⁰ An independent review of these allegations was

¹¹¹ HRW Amid Conflict.

¹¹² 2016 SG Report on conflict-related sexual violence, para. 26. See also 2015 SG Report on conflict-related sexual violence, para. 14.

¹¹³ 2016 SG Report on conflict-related sexual violence, para. 27.

¹¹⁴ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 37.

¹¹⁵ UNHCR, 'Human Rights Day: Abuses rife in Central African Republic' (10 December 2015), available <http://www.unhcr.org/5669a3a66.html>, accessed 29 January 2017.

¹¹⁶ 2017 HNO, p. 5.

¹¹⁷ 2016 TIP Report, p. 125.

¹¹⁸ 2016 TIP Report, p. 125; 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 177.

¹¹⁹ Human Rights Watch, 'World Report 2016: Events of 2015' (2016), pp. 165-167.

¹²⁰ Marie Deschamps, Hassan B. Jallow, Yasmin Sooka, 'Taking Action on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by Peacekeepers: Report of an Independent Review on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by International Peacekeeping Forces in the Central African Republic' (17 December 2015) ('2015 Report on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by Peacekeepers') <http://www.un.org/News/dh/infocus/cenafricrepub/Independent-Review-Report.pdf> accessed 29 January 2017, p. i.



conducted and the ensuing report found that the UN had failed in its obligations to conduct a sufficiently in-depth investigation.¹²¹

Overall, sexual violence is under-reported in CAR. Shame, stigma, and fear of retaliation often deter victims from coming forward for fear of social stigmatisation and rejection. Under-reporting can also be attributed to the lack of state authority and access to a functioning judiciary.¹²² Survivors of SGBV face challenges accessing services as many public institutions charge fees, putting services out of the reach of many and resulting in a high number of unsafe abortions, leading to maternal mortality.¹²³

4. Education

Access to education remains a challenge in CAR. Approximately one in three children are out of school, mostly as a result of conflict.¹²⁴ Schools remain the subject of attack, with 98 attacks on schools reported from 2011 to 2015.¹²⁵ The UN reported 19 attacks on schools in 2015 alone, all of which took place in the context of an already fragile education system.¹²⁶ In addition, schools continue to be used by armed groups for military purposes.¹²⁷ From 2012 until 2015, 36 cases of military use of schools, mostly by factions of ex-Séléka, were documented. In December 2014 and January 2015, FPRC elements used the primary school of Boto to launch attacks against anti-balaka. Similarly, on 20 January 2015, anti-balaka elements in Bagui expelled pupils from their classrooms in three primary schools and used their schools as their base.¹²⁸ Further, later in 2016, MINUSCA indicated 15 separate incidents where the use of schools and hospitals by armed groups deprived children of education and health care.¹²⁹ In addition, all armed groups have been known to loot schools. The increasing difficulty for children to gain access to any sort of education, compounded by high numbers of displaced persons, has led to warnings that an entire generation is at risk of growing up illiterate.¹³⁰

¹²¹ 2015 Report on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by Peacekeepers, p. iv.

¹²² 2016 SG Report on conflict-related sexual violence, para. 27.

¹²³ 2016 SG Report on conflict-related sexual violence, para. 27.

¹²⁴ UNICEF CAR.

¹²⁵ February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict in CAR Report, para. 32.

¹²⁶ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 38.

¹²⁷ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 38. See also Save the Children, 'Caught in a Combat Zone: The urgent need to demobilise children from armed groups in the Central African Republic', available http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/caught_in_a_combat_zone.pdf accessed 29 January 2017 ('Caught in a Combat Zone'), p. 8.

¹²⁸ February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 35.

¹²⁹ September 2016 situation in CAR Report, para. 34.

¹³⁰ Caught in a Combat Zone, p. 9.



5. Access to Healthcare

Over 70 per cent of health facilities in the country have been damaged or destroyed.¹³¹ Since 2013, 213 health facilities out of 935 are not operational due to the limited number of staff members, or lack of equipment.¹³² It is estimated that over one million people are in need of health assistance.¹³³ Hospitals and health care personnel continue to be the subject of attack. In 2013, ex-Séléka groups attacked the Hôpital de l'amitié, in Bangui and summarily executed ten patients. As a result, medical personnel and patients fled the hospital. A few months later, a health centre was attacked, killing 22 civilians, including three humanitarian workers.¹³⁴ This latter attack on a health care facility by ex-Séléka led to its closure, denying around 5,000 children access to healthcare.¹³⁵ Also in 2015, a nurse working in a dispensary in Bambari was abducted and killed by three members of anti-balaka, who accused her of spreading the information about their further attacks. In this case two suspects were handed over to the gendarmerie.¹³⁶ For example, in December 2015, a hospital run by Doctors Without Borders (*Médecins Sans Frontières*) in the M'poko camp for displaced persons was stormed and looted by armed men, resulting in the temporary closure of the hospital.¹³⁷ Further, hospitals are subjected to military use. In 2015, the country force documented two cases of military use of hospitals by factions of ex-Séléka.¹³⁸

Due to the collapse of the national health infrastructure, the country has been reliant on humanitarian groups to provide basic health services. There has been, however, documented cases of denial of humanitarian access by armed groups and the nature of incidents affecting humanitarian actors has taken on increasingly criminal aspects. Unidentified armed individuals have been known to impede the provision of assistance by looting and pillaging goods as well as stealing cars and attacking humanitarian workers. This has been the case since 2011 until 2016.¹³⁹

¹³¹ Doctors Without Borders, 'Central African Republic' (2015) available <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/country-region/central-african-republic> accessed 29 January 2017.

¹³² 2017 HNO, p. 23.

¹³³ 2017 HNO, p. 23.

¹³⁴ February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 36.

¹³⁵ February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 36.

¹³⁶ February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 36.

¹³⁷ HRW Amid Conflict.

¹³⁸ February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 37.

¹³⁹ February 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, paras 42-47.



There is only one functioning paediatric hospital in the entire CAR where, in 2014, 680 children were treated for severe acute malnutrition over a three-month time period.¹⁴⁰ The conflict interrupted malnutrition treatment programmes, and high chronic malnutrition remains a concern.¹⁴¹ Malnutrition, malaria, respiratory infections and diarrhoea are the biggest killers of children in CAR.¹⁴² Infant mortality rates remain high, and around 880 women per 100,000 die from pregnancy related issues.¹⁴³ Furthermore, there have been outbreaks of immunisation-preventable diseases, such as measles, throughout the country.

¹⁴⁰UNICEF United States Fund, 'Central African Republic – Infographic: The Worst Crisis You've Never Heard Of' (6 May 2014), available <https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/central-african-republic-car-crisis-statistics> accessed 29 January 2017. See also UNICEF, 'Child Refugee Crisis, Central African Republic' (December 2015), available <https://www.unicefusa.org/mission/emergencies/child-refugees/central-african-republic> accessed 29 January 2017 ('UNICEF Child Refugee Crisis').

¹⁴¹ UNICEF Child Refugee Crisis. See also World Food Programme, 'Fighting Malnutrition in the Central African Republic' (27 April 2015) available <https://www.wfp.org/stories/fighting-malnutrition-central-african-republic> accessed 29 January 2017.

¹⁴² UNOCHA, 'War's Silent Killer: Death by malnutrition in Central African Republic' (16 March 2016), available <https://unocha.exposure.co/36e4dae3838a9f016403a62118a02efd> accessed 29 January 2017.

¹⁴³ UNICEF CAR.



ANNEX I: LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

3R	Return, Reclamation, and Rehabilitation
APRD	People's Army for the Restoration of Democracy
AU	African Union
BINUCA	United Nations Intergrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic
CAR	Central African Republic
CPJP	Convention of Patriots for Justice and Peace
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
FACA	Central African Armed Forces
FDC	Democratic Front of the Central African People
FPRC	Popular Front for the Rebirth of Central African Republic
ICC	International Criminal Court
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
MISCA	African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic
MLCJ	Movement of Central African Liberators for Justice
MPC	Patriotic Movement for the Central African Republic
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
UFDR	Union of Democratic Forces for Unity
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UPC	Union for Peace in the Central African Republic



ANNEX II: KEY FACTS¹⁴⁴

Central African Republic in a Snapshot

	Central African Republic
Geography	<p>Climate: Tropical; hot, dry winters; mild to hot, wet summers</p> <p>Terrain: Vast, flat to rolling plateau; scattered hills in northeast and southwest</p> <p>Border countries: Cameroon 901 km, Chad 1,556 km, Democratic Republic of the Congo 1,747 km, Republic of the Congo 487 km, South Sudan 1,055 km, Sudan 174 km</p> <p>Coastline: Landlocked; almost the precise center of Africa</p>
People	<p>Population: 5,507,257 (July 2016 est.)</p> <p>Median age: 19.5 years</p> <p>Languages: French (official), Sangho (lingua franca and national language), tribal languages</p> <p>Ethnic groups: Baya 33%, Banda 27%, Mandjia 13%, Sara 10%, Mboum 7%, M'Baka 4%, Yakoma 4%, other 2%</p> <p>Religions: Indigenous beliefs 35%, Protestant 25%, Roman Catholic 25%, Muslim 15%; Note: animistic beliefs and practices strongly influence the Christian majority</p>
Economy	<p>Capital: Bangui</p> <p>Major urban areas: Around 40% of the population lives in urban areas, the majority in the capital city of Bangui (794,000 (2015 est.))</p> <p>GDP: \$1.482 billion (2015 est.)</p> <p>GDP per capita: \$700 (2016 est.)</p> <p>GDP by sector: Agriculture 58%, Industry 11.7%, Services 30.3% (2016 est.)</p>
Children and youth	<p>Population under age of 25: 60.25%</p> <p>Unemployment (ages 15-24): N/A</p> <p>Child labour (ages 5-14): 47% (2006 est.)</p> <p>Legal age of conscription: 18 years of age for selective military service; 2-year conscript service obligation (2012)</p>

Relevant UN Security Council Resolutions

On MINUSCA – Resolutions 2149 (10 April 2014); 2212 (26 March 2015); 2217 (28 April 2015); 2264 (9 February 2016); 2281 (26 April 2016); 2301 (26 July 2016)

On EU military operation – Resolutions 2134 (28 January 2014); 2181 (21 October 2014).

¹⁴⁴ Central Intelligence Agency, 'Central African Republic' (12 January 2017), available <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ct.html> accessed 29 January 2017.



On targeted sanctions – Resolution 2134 (28 January 2014), renewed every 12 months.

On MISCA and French intervention force – Resolution 2127 (5 December 2013).

On BINUCA (as of 10 April 2014 subsumed in MINUSCA) – Resolutions 2031 (21 December 2011); 2088 (24 January 2013); 2121 (10 October 2013); 2196 (28 January 2014).

On the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) – Resolutions 1125 (5 February 1998); 1159 (27 March 1998); 1182 (14 July 1998); 1201 (15 October 1998); 1230 (26 February 1999); 1271 (22 October 1999).

On the Inter-African Mission to monitor the implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB) – Resolutions 1125 (6 August 1997); 1136 (6 November 1997); 1152 (5 February 1998); 1155 (16 March 1998).

Central African Child Protection Legislation

	Central African Republic ¹⁴⁵
National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Constitution (2004) ▪ Family Code (<i>portant code de la famille</i>) (1997) (Loi n°97.013) ▪ Labour Code (<i>code du travail</i>) (2009) (Loi n°09.004) ▪ Penal Code (<i>code pénal</i>) (2010) (Loi n°10.001) ▪ Nationality Law (<i>code de la nationalité</i>) (1961) (Loi n° 1961.212) ▪ Criminal Procedure Code (<i>code de procédure pénale</i>) (2002) (Loi n°10.002) ▪ Law on the Protection of Women from Violence (<i>protection de la femme contre les violences</i>) (2006) (Loi n° 06.032) ▪ Law on the Promotion and Protection of Persons with Disabilities (<i>promotion de la personne handicapée</i>) (2000) (Loi n° 00.007) ▪ Order No. 6 in relation to young workers (<i>Arrêté no 6/MFPTSS fixant les conditions d'emploi des jeunes travailleurs ainsi que la nature des travaux et les catégories d'entreprises interdits aux jeunes gens et l'âge limite auxquels s'applique l'interdiction</i>) (1986) ▪ Law on the advancement of young girls (1966) (Law No. 66/26) ▪ Law on prohibiting dowry (1966) (Law No. 66/16) ▪ Law on the protection of the morals of Central African Youth (1960) (Law No. 60/95) ▪ Law on the organisation of the educational system (1984) (Law No. 84/031) ▪ Imperial Order on the protection of youth (1979) (Order No. 79/077) ▪ Imperial Order on the psychological and moral protection of young persons living in an educational establishment of boarding school (1978) (Order No. 78/034)

¹⁴⁵ Child Rights International Network, 'Central African Republic: National Laws' (19 September 2012), available <https://www.crin.org/en/library/publications/central-african-republic-national-laws> accessed 29 January 2017.



International	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified 1992)▪ Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (ratified 2012)▪ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2006)▪ International Labour Organization Minimum Age Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (2000)▪ International Labour Organization Convention No. 182 (1999) concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (2000)▪ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (acceded 1981)▪ International Covenant on Social, Economic, and Cultural Rights (acceded 1981)▪ International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ratified 1971)▪ International Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (acceded 1991)▪ International Convention against Torture and other Cruel and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (acceded 2016); including Optional Protocol▪ International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (acceded 2016)▪ International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ratified 2016) <p><u>Treaties signed but not ratified</u></p> <p>Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (signed 2010)</p>
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Annex III: Timeline of Notable Events¹⁴⁶

1958

Territory of CAR gains internal self-governance within French Equatorial Africa.

1959

Constitution adopted.

1960

CAR becomes independent, David Dacko becomes first president.

1991

Political parties are permitted to form.

1993

October: Andre Kolingba loses to Ange-Felix Patassé in first democratic elections.

1996

May: Soldiers stage mutiny over unpaid wages in Bangui. France sends troops to quell uprising and protect French citizens.

December: Factions in the FACA begin fighting and rebels seize key targets before a truce is reached.

1997

January: Presidents of Gabon, Burkina-Faso, Chad, and Mali mediate a peace treaty between president Patassé of CAR and rebel forces, resulting in the Bangui Agreements.

August: French forces replaced by the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB), with approval by the UN Security Council under Resolution 1125.

1998

April: UN Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) formed to replace French logistical support to MISAB which was phased out.

1999

¹⁴⁶ TimelinesDB, 'Events Related to CAR', available <http://www.timelinesdb.com/> accessed 29 January 2017; BBC, 'Central African Republic profile – Timeline' (18 October 2016), available <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13150044> accessed 29 January 2017; Security Council Report, 'Chronology of Events: Central African Republic' (19 January 2017), available <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/chronology/central-african-republic.php?page=10> accessed 29 January 2017.



September: Patassé wins re-election with 51% per cent of the vote, but vote leaves parliament almost evenly split between Patassé's party and the opposition.

2000

February: MINURCA replaced by UN Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA).

December: Civil servants stage strike over back-pay and accuse Patassé of mismanagement and corruption.

2001

May: 59 people killed during a failed coup attempt lead by former president Kolingba. Coup fails as Patassé receives military support from Libyan and Chadian troops and Congolese rebels.

July: Jean-Pierre Lhomme, a UN security chief, is shot and killed in Bangui as he aids a fellow worker.

November: Violent clashes occur during the attempted arrest of General Francois Bozizé over his accused involvement in the attempted coup in May. Thousands flee violence between units of the Presidential Guard units and forces loyal to Bozizé. Forces loyal to Bozizé fire mortar shells at the residence of the president.

2002

February: Former defence minister Jean-Jacques Demafouth appears in a Bangui court to answer charges related to the coup attempt of May 2001.

August: Kolingba is convicted *in absentia* for his role in the 2001 coup attempt and sentenced to death.

October: Libyan-backed forces help subdue an attempt by forces loyal to Bozizé to overthrow Patassé.

2003

March: Bozizé-led forces take control of Bangui and Bozizé declares himself president. Patassé takes sanctuary in the French embassy.

June: Patassé flees to France after being granted asylum.

2004

December: New constitution adopted.

2005

May: Bozizé declared winner in run-off presidential election.

August: Floods leave 20,000 homeless in capital of Bangui.

September: Clashes intensify between rebel and government forces in the northwest of the country.

2006

April: CAR requests the ICC to investigate former president Patassé for crimes against humanity.

June: 33 people killed in rebel attack on army camp in the northeast.



August: Former president Patassé found guilty *in absentia* of fraud and sentenced to 20 years hard labour. UN Security Council passes Resolution 1706, which mandates a multidimensional UN presence in Chad and the Central African Republic and requests recommendations.

October: Rebels seize town of Birao in northwest.

December: French forces begin to provide aerial support to CAR forces and bomb rebel holdings. UN Secretary-General reveals preliminary options for the UN operation in the CAR. FACA burns the home of two leaders of a Baptist church in retribution after they did the same to a pastor's house.

2007

January: Rebels attack town in northwest CAR.

February: Abdoulaye Miskine, leader of UFDR, and Bozizé sign a peace accord in Libya. Miskine calls on rebel forces to lay down their arms. Police and troops use live ammunition to break up crowds in Bangui. Uganda's LRA crosses into the CAR. UN Secretary-General presents finalised options for the UN operation to Chad and the CAR over Chadian opposition.

March: Rebel forces again attack town of Birao.

April: Bozizé and UFDR leaders sign new peace accords including amnesty for UFDR members.

May: ICC announces investigation into crimes allegedly committed by former president Patassé between 2002 and 2003. In the northwest government forces burn hundreds of homes in retaliation for the killing of a local official. UNICEF releases report that the conflict is killing 420 children a week and the recent conflict had created close to 212,000 new refugees. Hundreds of refugees arrive in CAR from Darfur following attacks and air strikes on civilian populations there.

September: UN Security Council passes resolution authorising a peacekeeping force to protect civilians from violence spilling over from Darfur.

October: EU ministers approve deployment of 3,000 strong, one-year peace keeping force to the CAR.

November: Initial MINURCAT forces deployed. Agreement between ICC and Government reached which includes the formation of a field office in Bangui.

2008

January: Widespread civil servant and teacher strike paralyses government. UN Secretary-General appoints Victor Da Silva Angelo as special representative and head of MINURCAT. EU launches its peacekeeping force (EUFOR).

February: Ugandan LRA raids CAR.

March: EUFOR officially starts its yearlong deployment.

May: Government and rebel group APDR sign peace agreement.

June: Government and two of the main rebel groups, UFDR and APRD, sign peace agreement agreeing to disarm and demobilise rebel forces.

August: Rebel groups allowed to form new party, NAP, headed by former minister Jean-Jaques Demafouth

September: CAR parliament adopts amnesty law for rebel fighters.

November: 13 soldiers killed in a rebel raid near Chadian border.

December: Former president Patassé returns from exile to participate in peace talks. Government-rebel peace deal envisages formation of consensus government and election in March 2010.



2009

January: National unity government revealed. MINURCAT extended March 2010 and deployment of 5,200-person peacekeeping force to replace EUFOR authorized by UN Security Council.

February: 6,000 people flee into Chad after violence erupts between the Runga and Gulu ethnic groups.

March: EUFOR replaced by UN peacekeepers.

August: Several attacks by LRA continue to displace persons in the CAR.

September: Ugandan forces pursue the LRA in CAR.

October: Patassé permanently returns from exile.

November: Convention of Patriots for Justice and Peace (CPJP) takes town of Ndele, only to be driven back by government forces.

2010

April: Election postponed, extending Bozizé's term until elections can be held.

May: UN votes to withdraw a UN force from Chad and CAR.

July: Rebels again attack the town of Birao.

November: Ex-DRC vice-president Jean-Pierre Bemba goes on trial at International Criminal Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the CAR between 2002 and 2003.

December: MINURCAT completes its withdrawal from Chad and CAR.

2011

January: Presidential elections held, Bozizé wins re-election. Opposition leaders pull representatives from election body claiming fraud.

May: In the second round of election, Bozizé's party wins 61 of 105 seats despite the opposition boycotting the vote.

June: CPJP and government sign a ceasefire agreement.

July: Government and a breakaway group of the CPJP sign a peace deal.

September: Violence erupts in town of Bria, the primary mining hub, between CPJP members and former UFDR members.

October: Peace pact between CPJP, UFDR, and government ends violence centred on the country's diamond mines.

2012

January: Former minister and rebel leader Jean-Jaques Demafouth arrested for trying to destabilise the country.

February: US Special Forces are deployed to assist in fight against LRA.

March: AU deploys forces to search for LRA leader Joseph Kony.

November: New Séléka rebel coalition rapidly takes control of northern and central CAR coming within 60 miles of the capital.

2013



January: UN Security Council adopts Resolution 2088 extending BINUCA. A ceasefire is reached between government and the Séléka coalition.

March: Rebels break peace accord and take control of the capital Bangui. Bozizé flees to Cameroon. August: Rebel leader Michel Djotodia sworn in as president.

September: Djotodia dissolves the coalition.

November: Fighting escalates between the Muslim Séléka rebels and Christian self-defence militias in northern CAR.

December: France expands its military presence to 1,600 troops. US Secretary of State Chuck Hagel orders American troops from Burundi to CAR. UN Security Council adopts resolution 2127 permitting the deployment of an AU International Support Mission to the CAR (MISCA). Hundreds die due to the sectarian violence in Bangui alone.

2014

January: President Michel Djotodia resigns and goes into exile in Benin and is replaced by Catherine Samba-Panza. The UN Security Council renews BINUCA's mandate and authorises the deployment of EU forces. EU ministers send 1,000 soldiers to help stabilise the country as sectarian violence continues.

February: Muslim population forced to flee from Bangui. Amnesty International calls exodus of the Muslim population 'ethnic cleansing'. France increases ground troops from 400 to 2,000. Over 28,000 people flee CAR in this month alone.

April: UN Security Council approves deployment of 12,000 peacekeeping troops to CAR with resolution 2149 creating the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

May: UN Security Council announces sanctions against former president Bozizé, anti-balaka leader Levy Yakete, and the Séléka's number two, Nourredine Adam. Chad closes its shared border with the CAR.

July: Séléka and anti-balaka forces agree to tentative ceasefire.

August: Mahamat Kamoun announced as interim prime minister of transitional government. Kamoun is the first Muslim to hold the post of prime minister in the CAR.

2015

January: The CAR government rejects a ceasefire agreement negotiated in Kenya between two militia groups because they were not involved in the negotiations. UN accuses Christian militia of ethnic cleansing.

May: Rival militia groups agree to release children used in the militia camps including the soldiers; some three hundred and fifty children are released. Prosecutors in France open investigation into alleged abuse of children by French soldiers.

August: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon fires General Babacar Gaye head of the MINUSCA due to MINUSCA's handling of sexual and other misconduct allegations.

September: Communal clashes restart in the capital after Muslim taxi-driver is attacked. Transitional government approves new constitution.

December: New constitution approved in referendum. Elections proceed peacefully.

2016



January: Voting results annulled by courts due to irregularities.

February: New elections held in vote to restore democracy.

March: Faustin-Archange Touadera declared winner of the February election and takes office. Ex-DRC vice-president Jean-Pierre Bemba and President and Commander-in-chief of the *Mouvement de liberation du Congo* (MLC) found guilty of two counts of crimes against humanity and three counts of war crimes committed in the CAR from October 2002 to March 2003.

June: Jean-Pierre Bemba is sentenced to 18 years imprisonment. Civilians killed in Bangui and six police officers abducted by a group of militiamen. Civilians killed in Batangafo in armed clashes between a group of former Séléka rebels and pastoralists.

July: Kidnappings by Lords Resistance Army reportedly on increase in CAR at a time Uganda is considering withdrawing troops.

September: The United Nations reports that the violence is continuing and has a widespread effect.

November: Fighting over a period of a week between two factions of the ex-Séléka at the end of November reportedly results in 85 killed, and nearly 11,000 displaced from the town of Bria.¹⁴⁷

¹⁴⁷ Security Council Report, 'Monthly Forecast: Central African Republic', available <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/central-african-republic/> accessed 29 January 2017.



ANNEX IV: RECOMMENDED READING

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