



# Security Council

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## Letter dated 6 December 2019 from the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic extended pursuant to resolution 2454 (2019) addressed to the President of the Security Council

The members of the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic extended pursuant to resolution 2454 (2019) have the honour to transmit herewith, in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 2454 (2019), the final report on their work.

The attached report was provided to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic on 13 November 2019 and was considered by the Committee on 2 December 2019.

The Panel of Experts would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

*(Signed)* Romain **Esmenjaud**  
Coordinator

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## Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic extended pursuant to Security Council resolution 2454 (2019)

### *Summary*

During the reporting period, the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic, signed in Bangui on 6 February 2019, remained the reference framework for the Government of the Central African Republic and the 14 signatory armed groups. Although efforts were made by regional and international partners in support of the Agreement, its implementation remained limited. The Government and some leaders of armed groups accused each other of not meeting their respective commitments, as illustrated by the discussions on the temporary joint security units.

On the ground, armed groups continued to commit violations of the Agreement in large numbers, prompting both national and international actors to demand punitive actions against perpetrators. Among others, Abdoulaye Miskine, who threatened to overthrow the Government on a number of occasions after having signed the Agreement, was the subject of several calls for national and international sanctions.

Since 14 July 2019, fighting has occurred in Vakaga Prefecture, where the Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique (FPRC), led by sanctioned individuals Nourredine Adam and Abdoulaye Hissène, recorded major military defeats. Though tensions among ethnic groups were presented as the cause of the conflict, the fighting has resulted from competition for territorial control between armed groups, including FPRC, the Mouvement des libérateurs centrafricains pour la justice and the newly created Parti du rassemblement de la nation centrafricaine.

Clashes in Vakaga Prefecture fuelled arms trafficking in the area, as all of the armed groups involved in the fighting acquired weapons, as well as recruiting fighters, from the territory of the Sudan. Information is also provided on the acquisition of arms (at times in exchange for natural resources) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by elements of the Union pour la paix en Centrafrique (UPC) and anti-balaka groups based in Basse-Kotto Prefecture.

Many violations of international humanitarian law were reported, including cases of illegal detention by anti-balaka groups, as well as by the ex-Séléka factions FPRC, UPC and Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique. The Panel also investigated the involvement of armed group members in attacks against civilians and humanitarians, as well as in sexual violence and gender-based violence, in particular in the Kaga Bandoro/Batangafu/Kabo triangle.

With regard to natural resources (gold and diamonds), trafficking remained rampant in all regions of the country. In this respect, developments in the Kaga Bandoro and Ndélé areas in particular are addressed in the report. Findings are presented on the new illegal taxation structures of ex-Séléka factions, on cases of trafficking, including one involving a close associate of Abdoulaye Hissène, and on a mechanical exploitation project in areas under FPRC control. Information is also provided on the situation in Bozoum (Ouham Prefecture), where tensions have emerged around the activities of a gold mining company.

With the support of international partners, the rapid deployment of the Armed Forces of the Central African Republic (FACA) continued outside the capital, especially in the east. FACA soldiers were present in 15 of 16 prefectures, but they continued to face significant challenges, especially in areas where armed groups were

present and FACA still had limited operational capacity. The ongoing strengthening of the Presidential Guard is also addressed in the report.

Instability in areas close to the borders, in particular in the Vakaga and Haut-Mbomou Prefectures, resulted in decisions by the authorities of the Sudan and South Sudan to close their borders with the Central African Republic (only partially and temporarily in the case of South Sudan).

The report also includes information on the reported involvement of ex-Séléka members in the establishment of an armed group belonging to an international network and targeting Western, Israeli and Saudi interests in the Central African Republic and beyond.

With regard to the implementation of sanctions, the report addresses cases of travel ban violations by Nourredine Adam, whom the Panel found to have been using a Sudanese diplomatic passport bearing the name Mohamed Adam Brema Abdallah. The report also includes a description of the positive efforts of the Government of the Central African Republic to identify the assets of sanctioned individuals and the steps that remain to be taken to freeze all assets identified.

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## I. Background

1. On 31 January 2019, the Security Council adopted its resolution [2454 \(2019\)](#), by which the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic was mandated, *inter alia*, to provide to the Council, after discussion with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#) concerning the Central African Republic, a final report no later than 31 December 2019.
2. In accordance with resolution [2454 \(2019\)](#), the present report, *inter alia*, contains an assessment of the implementation of the measures imposed by the Security Council (an arms embargo, a travel ban and an asset freeze) and addresses a number of issues, with the aim of identifying individuals and entities involved in sanctionable activities, as defined in paragraphs 20 and 21 of Council resolution [2399 \(2018\)](#) and extended in resolution [2454 \(2019\)](#).
3. The report covers the period from 1 March 2019, the beginning of the Panel's mandate, to 3 November, the date on which the report was completed, with a focus on developments since the publication of the Panel's midterm report on 30 July.
4. The liquidity crisis in the United Nations continued to affect the Panel's capacity to implement its mandate. For instance, owing to reductions in United Nations translation staff, and to ensure that the present report is issued in accordance with the deadline contained in resolution [2454 \(2019\)](#), the Panel has had to limit the length of its report to 18,000 words (instead of 23,000 as per usual practice).

### Cooperation

5. Since 1 March 2019, the Panel has travelled to 13 of the 16 prefectures of the Central African Republic (see map in annex 1.1). The Panel also conducted official visits to Belgium, Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, France, Gabon and the Russian Federation. The Panel thanks the Governments of those countries for hosting its visits.
6. Since the beginning of its mandate, the Panel has addressed 73 official communications to Member States, international organizations and private entities, receiving various levels of response to its requests (see annex 1.2).
7. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution [2454 \(2019\)](#), the Panel has continued to exchange information with other panels or groups of experts established by the Security Council, in particular the Panels of Experts on Libya, on South Sudan and on the Sudan, as well as the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
8. The Panel also thanks the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) for its continued support and collaboration.

### Methodology

9. The Panel endeavours to ensure compliance with the standards recommended by the Security Council Informal Working Group on General Issues of Sanctions in its report of December 2006 (see [S/2006/997](#), annex). While the Panel aims to be as transparent as possible, in situations where identifying its sources would expose them or others to unacceptable safety risks, the Panel has withheld identifying information.
10. The Panel is equally committed to the highest degree of fairness and has endeavoured to make available to parties, where appropriate and possible, any information in the report regarding which those parties may be cited, for their review, comment and response, within a specified deadline.

11. The Panel safeguards the independence of its work against any effort to undermine its impartiality or create a perception of bias. The Panel approved the text, conclusions and recommendations in the present report on the basis of consensus prior to its transmission by the Panel's Coordinator to the President of the Security Council.

## **II. Political issues: follow-up to the Agreement, positions of armed groups and tensions in Bangui**

### **A. Follow-up meetings and the issue of punitive measures in the case of violations**

12. National, regional and international stakeholders continued to express support for the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic (S/2019/145, annex) and to take action to facilitate its implementation. The fourth and fifth sessions of the Executive Monitoring Committee established pursuant to the Agreement were held on 31 July and 27 September 2019, respectively, with the participation of the Government, the guarantors (the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States) and the facilitators, including MINUSCA and neighbouring States, as well as representatives of armed groups and civil society.

13. On 23 and 24 August, a meeting chaired by the African Union was held in Bangui with the participation of the Government of the Central African Republic, including the Prime Minister, Firmin Ngrebada, and representatives of 13 of the 14 signatory armed groups, including sanctioned individual Abdoulaye Hissène of the Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique (FPRC) (see annex 2.1). From 4 to 7 October 2019, a high-level tripartite mission of the African Union, the United Nations and the European Union also visited the country (see annex 2.2).

14. Those follow-up meetings and initiatives enabled all stakeholders to take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the Agreement, such as the appointment of an inclusive Government on 22 March 2019 and the establishment of local-level follow-up mechanisms,<sup>1</sup> as well as to identify the many challenges ahead. Participants discussed, *inter alia*, the requests made by leaders of the self-proclaimed defence groups from the PK5 neighbourhood of Bangui to participate in the implementation of the Agreement (see annex 2.3; see also S/2018/1119, para. 35) and the frequent violations of the Agreement, including in the context of the fighting in Vakaga Prefecture (see paras. 46–71).

15. During those follow-up meetings, many participants expressed the wish, pursuant to article 35 of the Agreement, for punitive actions to be taken against those committing violations. For instance, the communiqué issued after the 31 July session of the Executive Monitoring Committee, signed by the Prime Minister and the Special Representative and Head of the African Union Office in the Central African Republic, called for “national and international sanctions” to be imposed against Abdoulaye Miskine in the light of his actions in violation of the Agreement (see annex 2.4 and paras. 26–27).<sup>2</sup> Discussions were ongoing among national and international partners on the type of measures that could be taken to operationalize article 35 of the Agreement. In addition to the United Nations and African Union sanctions cited in the Agreement, such measures could include public reprobation, the revocation of the appointment of some individuals to official positions and/or the execution of pending arrest warrants (see recommendation in para. 172 (a)).

<sup>1</sup> 15 of 17 prefectural-level committees and 14 of 17 technical security committees were operational as of 15 October 2019 (see S/2019/822, para. 9).

<sup>2</sup> An arrest warrant for Abdoulaye Miskine was issued on 2 August 2019.

## B. Armed groups and the Agreement

16. Although they continued to express support for the accord, the main armed groups in the country committed numerous violations of the Agreement, as described in the report of the Secretary-General of 15 October (S/2019/822, para. 24). This had a significant humanitarian impact, as illustrated in the box below.

### **Displacement figures indicate little change in security situation**

The Panel discussed with humanitarian actors various types of statistics on civilian victims and on human rights violations committed by armed groups.<sup>3</sup> The data could be read in different ways, in particular with seasonal variations that have a serious impact on the activities of armed groups. However, displacement figures – a reliable indicator of the perception of security among civilians – remained high. At the end of September 2019, the number of internally displaced persons stood at 600,000, while the number of Central African refugees had increased slightly compared with the figures from 2018, rising to 607,000, despite official returns from the Congo (see para. 109).<sup>4</sup> The situation for humanitarian workers also remained very challenging. While the number of attacks reported in the first nine months decreased by comparison with the same period in the previous year, falling from 319 to 218, the level of violence during those attacks increased, as illustrated by the sharp rise, from 19 to 34, in the number of humanitarian aid workers injured during those incidents.<sup>5</sup>

17. Three main factors accounted for the discrepancy between the statements of armed group leaders and their contradictory actions on the ground. First, many leaders considered that the Government had not implemented the Agreement in good faith, as illustrated by the discussions on the temporary joint security units (Unités spéciales mixtes de sécurité) (see paras. 31–35).

18. Second, many armed group fighters and leaders have been satisfied with the status quo, which has enabled them to continue to generate significant revenue, in particular through illegal taxation. The involvement of FPRC (led by sanctioned individuals Nourredine Adam and Abdoulaye Hissène) and other armed groups in the fighting in Vakaga Prefecture (see paras. 46–71) confirmed that the goals of those leaders remained to control territories and roads where they could levy tolls and traffic in weapons and ammunition. Efforts by leaders of Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation (3R), Union pour la paix en Centrafrique (UPC), and Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique (MPC) to instrumentalize the joint security units (see paras. 32–34) supported this view.

19. Third, some armed groups suffered from a structural inability to implement the Agreement. As detailed below, MPC, led by Mahamat Al-Khatim, remained the best example in this regard.

### **MPC: a structural incapacity to implement commitments**

20. In spite of its commitments to lift checkpoints (see annex 2.5), MPC continued to levy taxes at some roadblocks, for instance along the route connecting Kaga

<sup>3</sup> Meetings with humanitarian actors, August–September 2019.

<sup>4</sup> Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, “Overview of population movements”, 25 October 2019.

<sup>5</sup> See [www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/central-african-republic/infographic/rca-apercu-des-incidentes-affectant-les-humanitaires](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/central-african-republic/infographic/rca-apercu-des-incidentes-affectant-les-humanitaires).



Bandoro, Ouandago and Kabo (see maps in annex 3.19) and in Mbrès (Ouham and Nana-Grébizi Prefectures), as observed by the Panel on 7 and 8 September 2019.

21. Al-Khatim struggled to maintain control over his troops, as described in previous reports (S/2016/1032, paras. 200–201, and S/2018/1119, para. 29). In this context, Al-Khatim used various strategies in an attempt to manage the greed, egos and misconduct, including human rights violations (see paras. 79–86), of MPC military leaders. One tactic was to arrange for a regular turnover (every three months, according to MPC elements) of local military commanders;<sup>6</sup> another was the regular creation of new positions (see annex 2.6).

22. Similarly, among the several requests that Al-Khatim made after resigning from his position as special military adviser to the Prime Minister on joint security units (see annex 2.7 and para. 32), the most important was his desire to be appointed as a general of the Armed Forces of the Central African Republic (FACA).<sup>7</sup> Al-Khatim considered that obtaining such a position would help to integrate some MPC elements into the Armed Forces, thus reinforcing his authority within the MPC.<sup>8</sup>

23. MPC commanders continued to pay limited attention to Al-Khatim’s instructions (see para. 79). For instance, despite orders from the MPC leadership, an MPC local commander in Markounda (Ouham Prefecture), “colonel” Al Habo, refused in July to redeploy in order to keep control over a gold mine – and its profits – near Kouki.<sup>9</sup> In addition, in early 2019, MPC “general” Affiesse engaged in military operations in the Mbrès-Bakala area (Nana-Grébizi and Ouaka prefectures) in the absence of any instructions from Al-Khatim (see para. 94).<sup>10</sup>

#### **“Spoilers”: the cases of Abdoulaye Miskine and Mustapha Saboune**

24. The Agreement and its implementation left some politicians and military leaders unsatisfied, especially those who did not obtain the positions they had expected. Some have recently recruited fighters and acquired weaponry or attempted to do so. Their objective was to acquire an operational capability to destabilize the authorities, as well as to raise their profiles and make themselves available for possible collaboration with other opponents of the Government, including Bangui-based politicians.

25. Among them were Martin Koumtamadji, alias Abdoulaye Miskine, who became “public enemy number one” in Bangui as a result of his aggressive rhetoric against the Government (see para. 27), as well as individuals who have maintained a more discreet profile, including ex-Séléka leader Mustapha Saboune.

#### *Abdoulaye Miskine, a “general” in search of fighters*

26. In its 2019 midterm report, the Panel described Miskine’s radical opposition to the Agreement and the authorities of the Central African Republic. In that report, the Panel also described his collaboration with FPRC leaders, in particular “general” Bashar Fadoul, after Miskine’s arrival in the Central African Republic from Brazzaville in June 2019 (see S/2019/608, annex 2.8). The Panel found that he had travelled using a service passport issued by the Congo (see annex 2.8).

27. Miskine renewed his threats to overthrow the President of the Central African Republic, Faustin Archange Touadera, in a communiqué published on 30 July (see

<sup>6</sup> Meetings with Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique (MPC) elements, Kaga Bandoro, 5–9 September 2019.

<sup>7</sup> Meeting with MPC representatives, Bangui, 11 September 2019.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Meetings with representatives of MPC and Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique (FPRC), Kaga Bandoro and Mbrès, 5–9 September 2019.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

annex 2.9). He also continued his attempts to build his military capacity, including through the recruitment of members of his ethnic community, the Sara (see para. 78). He reportedly made an offer to the FPRC to carry out a military operation in Terfel during the fighting in Vakaga Prefecture (see paras. 46–71).<sup>11</sup> His efforts were halted by the 14 October incidents in Am Dafok, during which he fled the town (see para. 77).

*Mustapha Saboune, a politician in search of relevance (see annex 2.10)*

### **C. Joint temporary security units and disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation**

#### **Delays and progress in the establishment of the joint security units**

28. The establishment of the joint security units, composed of members of national defence and security forces and of armed groups, was one of the key provisions of the Agreement (see also S/2019/608, paras. 21–24).<sup>12</sup> The missions of the joint security units, which were to be established as three regional units (west, centre and east), were to control the transhumance corridors and mining areas, protect civilians, participate in civil-military operations and peacekeeping operations and secure mining sites.<sup>13</sup> The Agreement provided for the units to be fully operational 60 days after its signature, by April 2019; however, both the training and ensuing operationalization of the units were delayed substantially.

29. Through a “training of trainers” programme, the European Union Training Mission in the Central African Republic and MINUSCA trained a total of 53 instructors (34 FACA soldiers and 19 police and gendarme officers) from the national defence and security forces.<sup>14</sup> First, 31 FACA soldiers and internal security force officers received training in Bouar from 29 July to 9 August. Second, while awaiting their operationalization, 22 instructors were given complementary specialized training in Bangui from 9 to 20 September (see annex 2.11).<sup>15</sup> The instructors began providing the first training for the joint security units in Bouar on 17 October, at a training site prepared with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and MINUSCA.<sup>16</sup>

30. The operationalization of the first joint security unit – in the west – was delayed for several reasons, including the failure to meet the quota for demobilized, disarmed and vetted combatants to join the unit, mostly as a result of reluctance on the part of 3R to provide more fighters. Therefore, it was decided that 95 demobilized and disarmed ex-combatants eligible for integration into the uniformed security forces (FACA, police and gendarmes, customs, and the water and forest service) would instead join the unit for a period of two years.<sup>17</sup> The training was finally launched, although the actual number of ex-combatants for the unit remained below the initial objective (273 instead of 400).<sup>18</sup> The timeline for the operationalization of the joint security units in the centre and east of the Central African Republic remained uncertain at the time of the completion of the present report.

<sup>11</sup> Meeting with FPRC member, Bangui, 2 October 2019.

<sup>12</sup> Articles 16 and 17 of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic.

<sup>13</sup> Presidential Decree Nos. 19.096 and 19.097, 29 March 2019; and confidential document received on 27 October 2019.

<sup>14</sup> Meeting with international partners, Bangui, 27 September and 2 October 2019.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Meeting with the International Organization for Migration, Bangui, 21 September 2019.

<sup>17</sup> Meetings with international partners and members of the Government, Bangui, 18 September and 7 October 2019.

<sup>18</sup> Meeting with international partners, Bangui, 23 September 2019.

### **Armed groups and the joint security units**

31. The armed groups continued to underline the need for the deployment of the joint security units as a matter of priority (S/2019/608, paras. 45–46). At the same time, their positions and actions contributed to slowing down the process.

32. First, divergent views remained between the Government and some leaders of armed groups on the precise role of the three special military advisers to the Prime Minister for the joint security units and the chain of command of those units (S/2019/608, paras. 22–24). The dissatisfaction of the armed groups reached a peak when Mahamat Al-Khatim of MPC and Abbas Sidiki of 3R, two of the three special military advisers, resigned on 27 August and 3 September, respectively. They claimed that their appointments were empty shells and lacked official prerogatives and funding (see annex 2.12).

33. Second, it remained unclear whether the armed groups truly intended to disarm and to relinquish territorial control to restore State authority.<sup>19</sup> UPC leader Ali Darassa, unlike the other two leaders, did not resign from his position as special military adviser. Instead, he continued to lead his armed group, ordering troop movements, trafficking in weapons, and even expanding his territorial control, at times in the name of the Agreement and the deployment of the joint security units, as illustrated by his communiqué of 25 October (see annex 2.13).

34. The commitment of 3R to participating in the joint security units also remained doubtful. Even though former 3R fighters were among those undergoing training in Bouar (see para. 29),<sup>20</sup> 3R continued to tighten its grip over the territory. In the meantime, 3R leader Abbas Sidiki renewed his demand to be officially put in command of the joint security units (see annex 2.14). On 26 September, MINUSCA launched “Operation Anvil” in the west to stop the territorial expansion of 3R and force the armed group to respect its engagements under the Agreement, in particular its commitment to participating in the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation and reintegration process (S/2019/822, para. 31).<sup>21</sup> Multiple clashes have been reported between MINUSCA and 3R since then.<sup>22</sup> In this context, the capacity of the joint security units to fulfil their mandate in territories under 3R control remained uncertain.

35. Third, the Government and several international donors considered that the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation and reintegration process should be launched prior to, or at least simultaneously with, the operationalization of the joint security units.<sup>23</sup> In contrast, several armed groups were of the view that the units should be established before the start of the process.<sup>24</sup>

### **Joint security units, the United Nations sanctions regime and the arms embargo**

36. In relation to the United Nations sanctions regime, the operationalization of the joint security units raised two issues: the risk that armed groups would receive funding (through salaries to (ex-)combatants) and the risk that the arms embargo would be violated (through the provision of arms). First, the Panel was informed that the weaponry collected during the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation and

<sup>19</sup> Meeting with international partners, Bangui, 17 August 2019.

<sup>20</sup> Meeting with government officials and international partners, Bangui, 17 August 2019.

<sup>21</sup> Confidential reports, 27 and 30 September and 7 October 2019.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Article 2 of Presidential Decree No. 19.097, 29 March 2019; meetings with international partners, August–October 2019.

<sup>24</sup> Meetings with leaders of FPRC, Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation (3R), Union pour la paix en Centrafrique (UPC) and MPC, Bangui, Birao and Kouï, May–October 2019.

reintegration operations would be used to arm the joint security units. The Panel informed relevant stakeholders that the reinsertion of such weaponry, when collected by and/or under the custody of international partners, would require either a sanctions committee notification for weapons with a calibre of 14.5 mm or less, in accordance with paragraph 2 (g) of Security Council resolution 2488 (2019), or an exemption request for weapons of a calibre higher than 14.5 mm. This would be the same for weaponry or other non-lethal equipment imported to equip the joint security units.

37. Second, some international partners insisted on the need for disarmament, demobilization and vetting of combatants before they joined the joint security units, while others favoured disconnecting the two processes, as was requested by several armed groups (see para. 35).<sup>25</sup> The Panel notes that under paragraph 21 (a) of resolution 2399 (2018), extended by resolution 2454 (2019), the funding of armed groups is a sanctionable act.

#### **D. Continuing tensions on the political scene and the prospect of elections**

38. In its 2019 midterm report, the Panel described tensions between the Government and the Front uni pour la défense de la nation (FUDN) (S/2019/608, paras. 30–34). Also called *E Zingo Biani*, FUDN is a platform that brings together civil society organizations and a large number of opposition political parties. Relations have remained strained, with FUDN members continuing to criticize the Government for having made too many concessions to the armed groups at the expense of the protection of civilians. Continued violations of the Agreement and attacks against civilians by armed groups were, in their view, a testament to the failure of the strategy of the Government.<sup>26</sup>

39. On 30 September, about 300 individuals took part in a peaceful FUDN demonstration, after which representatives of the FUDN platform submitted a memorandum to the Government (annex 2.15).<sup>27</sup> Through that document and several other communiqués (annex 2.16), FUDN leaders made a number of political requests, such as the holding of a “sovereign national conference”, and expressed concerns over a wide range of issues. For instance, they accused the authorities of mismanaging the country’s natural resources through the “anarchical” granting of mining permits (see paras. 158–161).

40. The prospect of elections could contribute to heightening the tensions. FUDN leaders expressed diverging views on the holding of the vote planned for late 2020. In meetings with the Panel, several stated that the continued control exercised by armed groups over parts of the territory made the elections impossible; instead, they called for the establishment of a transitional government.<sup>28</sup> The former speaker of parliament Karim Meckassoua, who emerged as a key figure in the platform (see annex 2.17), also argued that the conditions were not ripe for elections.<sup>29</sup> In a communiqué of FUDN dated 12 October, however, it was stated that FUDN did not support a new transition, but rather the full restoration of the constitutional order (see annex 2.18).

41. The Government and its supporters sent mixed signals in response to FUDN activities and requests. On 1 July, the Prime Minister met with FUDN leaders; the

<sup>25</sup> Meetings with international partners, Bangui, 23 September and 8 October 2019.

<sup>26</sup> Meetings with leaders of Front uni pour la défense de la nation (FUDN), Bangui, 16 and 19 October 2019.

<sup>27</sup> Confidential report, 1 October 2019.

<sup>28</sup> Meetings with FUDN officials, Bangui, 18 and 19 October 2019.

<sup>29</sup> See [www.rfi.fr/emission/20190820-rca-opposition-politique-actuelle-meckassoua](http://www.rfi.fr/emission/20190820-rca-opposition-politique-actuelle-meckassoua).

latter considered that the Government failed to address any of the concerns expressed during the meeting.<sup>30</sup> In Berbérati on 4 October and in Lyon, France, on 12 October, President Touadera described FUDN as an “illegitimate” organization and its calls for a “sovereign national conference” as “demagogic”, “fallacious” and “irrelevant” (see annex 2.19).

42. The Mouvement des requins de Centrafrique, which had emerged in June 2019 as a reaction to FUDN activities and engaged in intimidation against FUDN members on social media (S/2019/608, para. 33), announced its dissolution on 13 July.

#### **Return of former President Bozizé**

43. During the third convention of the Kwa Na Kwa party, held in Bangui and Bossangoa from 12 to 18 August, the party officially announced its withdrawal from the presidential majority and endorsed former President and sanctioned individual François Bozizé as its candidate for the upcoming presidential elections.

44. On 17 November 2016, the authorities of the Central African Republic had issued a circular referring to Security Council resolutions and instructing airline companies flying to the territory of the Central African Republic not to allow Bozizé to board their planes, as his presence in the country “could undermine peace, stability and security” (see S/2018/729, annex 2.4). In this connection, the Panel recalls that, in paragraph 9 of its resolution 2399 (2018) pertaining to the travel ban, the Security Council noted that nothing shall oblige a State to refuse its own nationals entry into its territory. The resolutions of the Council therefore do not prevent Bozizé, a national of the Central African Republic, from returning to his country.

45. Pursuant to the electoral code, any candidate must have resided in the country during the 12 months preceding the election. On 14 June, to enable Bozizé’s return, his lawyers wrote a letter to the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation requesting the cancellation of the above-mentioned circular (annex 2.20). On 25 October, they also held a press conference during which they announced that they had seized the Bangui Administrative Court of the matter.<sup>31</sup>

### **III. Developments in ex-Séléka strongholds**

#### **A. Fighting for control of Vakaga Prefecture**

##### **Vakaga Prefecture: a strategic area**

46. On 14 July, an armed confrontation took place between Mouvement des libérateurs centrafricains pour la justice (MLCJ) and FPRC in Am Dafok (on the Central African Republic side of the border, in Vakaga Prefecture) (see para. 72). The clash was the starting point for violent competition between armed groups for control of Vakaga Prefecture. When the crisis erupted, several groups had a military presence in the area: FPRC (mainly composed of Rounga and the strongest faction militarily), MLCJ (Kara) and the Rassemblement patriotique pour le renouveau de la Centrafrique (RPRC; Goula). Another group, the Parti du rassemblement de la nation centrafricaine (PRNC), a splinter faction of the RPRC, was created in May (S/2019/608, annex. 2.7).

<sup>30</sup> Meetings with FUDN officials, Bangui, 18 and 19 October 2019.

<sup>31</sup> See [www.radiondekeluka.org/actualites/justice/34729-rca-les-avocats-de-francois-bozize-exigent-l-annulation-de-la-circulaire-signee-par-l-ancien-ministre-jouso.html](http://www.radiondekeluka.org/actualites/justice/34729-rca-les-avocats-de-francois-bozize-exigent-l-annulation-de-la-circulaire-signee-par-l-ancien-ministre-jouso.html); and meetings with Kwa Na Kwa members, Bangui, 19 August and 12 September 2019.

47. The series of incidents that took place from 14 July onward (see annex 3.1 for a chronology of events) resulted in a significant change in the local balance of power, with FPRC losing control over several crucial locations (Tissi on 4 October and Am Dafok on 14 October) for trade and trafficking between the Central African Republic and the neighbouring countries of Chad and the Sudan. This was the first occasion on which FPRC had lost territory since its creation in August 2014.

48. Control of Vakaga Prefecture brings great benefits, both politically and economically. Economically, controlling the area generates important revenue through illegal taxation, as Vakaga is the entry point for commercial trucks importing and exporting goods from Chad and the Sudan to the north, east and centre of the Central African Republic (see map in annex 3.2). Before the fighting started on 14 July, an agreement between RPRC, FPRC, MLCJ and the Sultan-Mayor regulated the taxation and trafficking system. However, in effect, FPRC was in charge of the management of checkpoints and the collection of taxes, making that group the main beneficiary and thereby creating frustration among the other armed groups (see also paras. 72–74).<sup>32</sup>

49. Politically, control over the north-eastern prefectures also guarantees a strong bargaining position in negotiations with the Government.

#### **Strategic use of ethnic divisions**

50. In the aftermath of the fighting in Birao on 1 and 2 September, when FPRC fighters were expelled from the town, the leaders of FPRC and MLCJ issued communiqués arguing about the ethnic character of those incidents (see annex 3.3). Leaders of MLCJ, which is mainly composed of Kara, argued that the conflict was purely ethnic and resulted from a rebellion by members of the Kara community. As a matter of fact, the rhetoric from some local Kara leaders depicted their community as the rightful owners of Vakaga Prefecture, against the Rounga, who were deemed “outsiders”.<sup>33</sup> In response, leaders of FPRC, which is mainly composed of Rounga, claimed that the clashes were organized by armed groups for political motives. The Panel found that traditional leaders of ethnic groups were indeed involved in the conflict, but that the clashes were mainly driven by armed groups defending the interests of their respective leaders and communities.

51. The amount of preparation carried out in the lead-up to the attacks on Birao was not consistent with that of a spontaneous uprising by members of an ethnic community. For instance, before the attack on 1 September, MLCJ fighters and their allies were asked not to wear their uniforms, but to wear yellow bands so that they could identify each other (see annex 3.4). According to testimonies collected from fighters who had participated in the combat,<sup>34</sup> MLCJ, PRNC and RPRC military leaders organized the offensive. They confirmed that Ali Abderahmane and Issa Issaka Aubin, the chiefs of staff of MLCJ and PRNC, respectively, had directly prepared and coordinated military operations in Birao on 1 and 2 September and on 14 September, as well as in Tissi on 4 October and in Am Dafok on 14 October.<sup>35</sup> Further information on the efforts of MLCJ to strengthen its military capacity ahead of the fighting is provided in paragraphs 72 to 76, and the role of PRNC and RPRC is discussed in paragraphs 57 to 64.

52. MLCJ representatives put forward an ethnic narrative to protect themselves from the political consequences of a violation of the Agreement and to exonerate their

<sup>32</sup> Meeting with economic operators, armed group representatives and local authorities, Birao, 4–6 October 2019.

<sup>33</sup> Meeting with Kara leaders, Birao, 4 October 2019.

<sup>34</sup> Meeting with confidential sources, Birao and Bangui, September and October 2019.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

leader, Gilbert Toumou Deya, the minister in charge of relations with armed groups.<sup>36</sup> On the ground in Vakaga Prefecture, that ethnic narrative also allowed MLCJ to hide its economic motives behind the fighting.

53. The ethnic dimension, however, remained key to understanding the current conflict, given that political and military alliances were formed along ethnic lines (see annex 3.5). For example, on 30 August, during a meeting held in Delembé (Vakaga Prefecture) between representatives of the Goula and Kara communities, several military leaders from PRNC, RPRC and MLCJ were also either present or represented (see annex 3.6).<sup>37</sup> Some participants informed the Panel that the meeting had endorsed the military strategy of the Birao attack of 1 September.<sup>38</sup>

54. Annex 3.7 provides additional details on the ambiguous position of the Sultan-Mayor of Birao as a contested leader of the Kara community.

### **PRNC and RPRC challenge to FPRC leadership**

55. Along with MLCJ and RPRC, the PRNC – a splinter group of the RPRC – played a key role in the preparation and execution of the attacks against FPRC positions.

#### *The road to the creation of PRNC*

56. In its midterm report, the Panel described the divisions and tensions existing within the RPRC, a Goula-dominated group (S/2019/608, annex 2.7).

57. In April and May 2019, Sheikh Tidjani Dahiya, the Consul of the Central African Republic in Nyala, Sudan, and the highest political and religious authority within the Goula community, visited Birao, Tiringoulou (Vakaga Prefecture) and Bangui.<sup>39</sup> During his visits, he led consultations to restructure the leadership of the Goula community; as a result, he named Abdel-Moumine Djilith, Presidential Adviser on relations with national institutions, as “chef de race” (ethnic leader), and Arnaud Djoubaye Abazene, Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, as his deputy.<sup>40</sup> While visiting Tiringoulou, an RPRC stronghold, Sheikh Dahiya met with “generals” Issa Issaka Aubin and Arda Hakouma, two of the main RPRC military leaders at the time.<sup>41</sup> On 28 May, three days after Sheikh Dahiya returned to Nyala, Issa Issaka published a communiqué announcing the creation of a new armed group, the PRNC, with Nour Gregaza as its political leader (S/2019/608, annex 2.7).

58. This sequence of events, as well as information collected by the Panel from Goula community members,<sup>42</sup> confirmed that the creation of the PRNC had been initiated by Sheikh Dahiya in agreement with some RPRC leaders, including Zakaria Damane, as explained below (see para. 62).

#### *Nour Gregaza, a figurehead with an unclear identity*

59. According to the Panel’s investigations, Nour Gregaza – whose identity and past career path remain unclear – merely served as a figurehead with little to no authority on the ground, as detailed in annex 3.8.

<sup>36</sup> Meeting with armed group representative, Bangui, 7 October 2019.

<sup>37</sup> Meeting with confidential source, Bangui, 7 October 2019.

<sup>38</sup> Meeting with individuals who had been present at the meeting, Birao, 3–6 October 2019.

<sup>39</sup> Meeting with Sheikh Tidjani Dahiya, Bangui, 19 April 2019.

<sup>40</sup> Meeting with confidential source, Bangui, 3 October 2019.

<sup>41</sup> Meeting with confidential source, Birao, 16 April 2019.

<sup>42</sup> Meetings with armed group members, Bangui, 7–8 October 2019.

*PRNC and RPRC military support to MLCJ*

60. Despite shadowy political leadership, PRNC operated on the ground as a structured group and provided military support to MLCJ offensives in Birao on 1, 2 and 14 September, Tissi on 4 October and Am Dafok on 14 October. Fighters involved in those clashes confirmed the participation of fighters from Tiringoulou, reportedly sent by PRNC “general” Issa Issaka Aubin.<sup>43</sup>

61. Around 50 PRNC fighters reportedly entered Birao on 10 September and were hosted by the Sultan-Mayor and Kara community leaders.<sup>44</sup> Along with MLCJ combatants, they assisted in repelling the attempt by the FPRC to retake Birao on 14 September.<sup>45</sup> The Panel also met in Birao on 6 October with PRNC “general” Mahamat Djouma of the Kara community, who admitted to having participated in the clashes in Birao in support of MLCJ.

*The connection between RPRC and PRNC and Bangui-based politicians leading the PRNC strategy*

62. PRNC was created mostly by former RPRC fighters (see S/2019/608, annex 2.7). On the political side, information collected by the Panel showed that, beyond the figurehead of Nourd Gregaza, the group was led by individuals still officially regarded as RPRC members, specifically Djono Ahaba and Zakaria Damane.<sup>46</sup> The latter has also continued to play a military role by commanding fighters on the ground, as evidenced by his communiqué of 26 September (annex 3.9). The creation of the PRNC enabled RPRC military and political leaders to initiate military operations without jeopardizing the political stance of RPRC as a signatory to the Agreement.

63. In late September and early October, FACA and internal security forces were deployed in Birao, with MINUSCA support. MLCJ and PRNC leaders and Kara community members had called for such a deployment. High-level government officials from the Goula community had also lobbied decision makers on this issue. In the view of those individuals, the presence of FACA and the internal security forces would contribute to freezing the situation, thereby benefiting those armed groups (and communities) who had gained territory (i.e. MLCJ, PRNC, RPRC and the Kara community). Any attempt by FPRC to retake Birao would then be seen as an attack against the authority of the State and its international partners.<sup>47</sup> The Panel also notes that the same MLCJ, PRNC and Kara leaders expressed their intention to maintain control over the illegal taxation system in place.<sup>48</sup>

64. Around the same time, on 24 September, a mediation committee led by the Government was sent to Birao. The team was led by Arnaud Djoubaye Abazene, Resident Minister of Vakaga Prefecture, and included Zakaria Damane and MLCJ leader Gilbert Toumou Deya. The committee was not accepted by all parties, with some considering that it comprised actors directly involved in the conflict.<sup>49</sup>

<sup>43</sup> Meetings with armed group members, Bangui and Birao, September–October 2019.

<sup>44</sup> Confidential report, 11 September 2019.

<sup>45</sup> Meeting with confidential source, Birao, 5 October 2019.

<sup>46</sup> Meetings with armed group representatives, Bangui, 11 September and 7 October 2019.

<sup>47</sup> Meeting with Kara leader, Birao, 5 October 2019; phone conversation with Issa Issaka Aubin, 4 October 2019; and meeting with official of the Central African Republic, Bangui, 8 October 2019.

<sup>48</sup> Meeting with Sultan-Mayor of Birao, Birao, 5 October 2019.

<sup>49</sup> Meeting with Abdoulaye Hissène, Ndélé, 8 October 2019.



### **Cross-border alliances: the Ta'isha connection**

65. Cooperation between members of the Ta'isha and Kara communities was key during the preparation and execution of the attack on Birao on 1 September. In 2017, at the end of a four-year war between Ta'isha and Salamat ethnic groups in Darfur, the Sudanese authorities launched an operation to forcibly collect weapons in the area (S/2018/1119, para. 69). The Ta'isha then requested Kara and MLCJ leaders to hide their weapons across the border to the Central African Republic, in Terfel (Vakaga Prefecture), the main Kara village located between Birao and Am Dafok.<sup>50</sup> Those weapons were used during the 1 September attack on Birao, with Ta'isha elements providing ammunition and logistical support to MLCJ (see paras. 75–76).

66. According to the agreement between the Kara and Ta'isha communities, Ta'isha individuals involved in the fighting were to be paid by looting Birao. In return for their participation in the fighting, members of the Ta'isha community also expected cheaper and easier access to the territory of the Central African Republic.<sup>51</sup> Complaints about the taxes and policies imposed on the Sudanese by the FPRC were reportedly an important factor leading to their involvement.<sup>52</sup>

### **FPRC preparations for retaliation**

67. By losing control over several key locations in Vakaga Prefecture, the FPRC leadership lost credibility on the ground and ran the risk of losing considerable political influence. The Panel collected information indicating that FPRC was actively preparing a counteroffensive to regain control of the area.<sup>53</sup>

68. To rebuild the military capacity of FPRC, which had been severely affected by the hostilities, in particular those in Am Dafok on 14 October (see paras. 75–76), sanctioned individual Nourredine Adam reportedly contacted Sudanese armed group leaders from the Rizeigat and Misseriya communities to recruit fighters.<sup>54</sup>

69. Annex 3.10 provides more details on the preparations for retaliation undertaken by FPRC.

### **Humanitarian impact of the fighting**

70. Even though no civilians were reportedly among the 79 persons confirmed dead during the fighting in Birao on 1, 2 and 14 September, the impact of the hostilities on civilians was considerable.<sup>55</sup> The residential areas targeted for looting and burning by MLCJ and PRNC fighters were mainly in the Haoussa, Bornou and Rounga neighbourhoods (see annex 3.11), sparing those of the Goula, Kara and certain Sudanese ethnic groups. This strong ethnic dimension, combined with a fear of reprisals, initially resulted in the displacement of all ethnic groups in Birao. By 20 October, at the two main camps in Birao (MINUSCA and the airstrip), the official number of internally displaced persons registered had reached 10,000.<sup>56</sup> Tensions emerged among the displaced communities along the lines of the divisions apparent in the fighting. This was highlighted by the serious violation of international human rights law by MLCJ elements in preventing water distribution to the (predominantly

<sup>50</sup> Meetings with members of Mouvement des libérateurs centrafricains pour la justice (MLCJ) and the Kara community, Birao, 3–6 October 2019.

<sup>51</sup> Meeting with economic operator, Birao, 5 October 2019.

<sup>52</sup> Meeting with confidential sources, Birao, 5 October 2019.

<sup>53</sup> Meetings with FPRC representatives, Bangui, Birao, Kaga Bandoro and Ndélé, September–October 2019.

<sup>54</sup> Meeting with diplomatic source, Bangui, 8 October 2019; and communication with confidential source, Birao, 31 October 2019.

<sup>55</sup> Confidential reports, 6 and 16 September 2019.

<sup>56</sup> Confidential reports, 1 and 23 October 2019.

Rounga) camp for internally displaced persons at the airstrip on 2 November.<sup>57</sup> As the fighting spread to Am Dafok in October, the local population there also fled, reportedly to the Sudan.<sup>58</sup>

71. Further information on the humanitarian situation in Birao is provided in annex 3.12.

## **B. Cross-border arms trafficking by armed groups**

### **Trafficking by Kara and MLCJ, and reactions of FPRC**

72. The fighting between MLCJ and FPRC fighters in Am Dafok on 14 July led to the death of four FPRC combatants and two Kara traders.<sup>59</sup> The clash resulted from a dispute between FPRC and MLCJ over the smuggling of weapons and ammunition from the Sudan by merchants from the Kara ethnic group and MLCJ fighters. It took place as heavily armed MLCJ fighters moved from Terfel to Am Dafok to recover six boxes (1,440 rounds) of hunting ammunition that had been previously seized by FPRC “general” Bashar Fadoul from a Kara merchant, Khamis Adam.<sup>60</sup> In previous months, through several seizures, FPRC fighters had retrieved at least 35 boxes of 12-gauge hunting ammunition (i.e. a total of 8,400 rounds) purchased across the border by Kara merchants.<sup>61</sup> After negotiations by the Sultan-Mayor and payments of large sums of money, “general” Bashar Fadoul returned many of those boxes<sup>62</sup> but also issued a warning that he would no longer accept the import of hunting ammunition by members of MLCJ and Kara merchants, as the ammunition was used by anti-balaka groups all over the country. Instead, Bashar Fadoul said, he would accept the import of conventional weapons and ammunition.<sup>63</sup> This greatly frustrated members of the Kara community, who informed the Panel, along with MLCJ leaders, that the “import” of hunting ammunition was a common and lucrative practice for Kara merchants (see annex 3.13).<sup>64</sup>

73. The steps taken by FPRC following the 14 July clashes further exacerbated these frustrations. First, FPRC published pictures of their reported seizures, including 14 motorcycles, two machine guns, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and rockets and several thousand rounds of hunting and conventional ammunition (see annex 3.14). While the seized hunting ammunition, reportedly worth about FCFA 600,000 (\$1,020), had indeed been taken from the Kara merchants and MLCJ during successive seizures,<sup>65</sup> it is likely that the conventional weapons already belonged to the FPRC and appeared in the pictures to increase the so-called “war booty”.

74. Second, the leadership of FPRC published two communiqués condemning – for the first time – trafficking in ammunition, while FPRC continued to acquire weapons. On 17 July, Nourredine Adam stated in a press release that the FPRC base in Am Dafok had been attacked by “criminal smugglers of ammunition” and warned that he would no longer accept trafficking activities in areas under his control. One day later,

<sup>57</sup> Confidential report, 3 November 2019.

<sup>58</sup> Phone conversation with confidential source, 18 October 2019.

<sup>59</sup> Meetings with confidential sources, Birao and Bangui, August and October 2019.

<sup>60</sup> Meetings with MLCJ members and Kara merchants, Birao, 21 August and 3 October 2019; and meeting with FPRC source, 20 August 2019.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> Meeting with merchants, Birao, 3 October 2019.

<sup>63</sup> Meetings with FPRC source close to Bashar Fadoul, Birao, 20 August and 4 October 2019; meeting with Kara representative, Birao, 21 August 2019; and meeting with merchants, Birao, 3 October 2019.

<sup>64</sup> Meeting with MLCJ members, Birao, 21 August 2019.

<sup>65</sup> Meeting with Imam Moustafah Younous, 21 August 2019; and meeting with Kara source and MLCJ member, Birao, 23 August 2019.

Bria-based FPRC “general” Ali Ousta announced that the possession and sale of weapons and ammunition of all calibres, “including hunting ammunition”, was prohibited (see annex 3.15).

#### **Acquisition of military equipment by MLCJ and loss of military materiel by FPRC**

75. MLCJ had only limited weaponry until mid-2019, but acquired military materials through the Sudanese territory, in particular through the long-standing connections between the Ta’isha and Kara ethnic groups (see paras. 65–66).<sup>66</sup> The Ta’isha reportedly allowed MLCJ members and individuals from the Kara community to use their weaponry stored in Terfel.<sup>67</sup> An individual referred to as “general” Djazouli, from the Ta’isha community, who lives in Am Dafok (on the Sudanese side of the border) and engages in commercial activities in Birao, was involved in arms trafficking to MLCJ. On 27 August, four days before the Birao attack, Djazouli organized the transport of weapons (AK-type assault rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and 12.7 calibre machine guns mounted on pushcarts) from Am Dafok (Sudanese side) and Um Dukhun (Sudan) to the MLCJ zone commander and military chief of staff in Terfel (see map in annex 3.16).<sup>68</sup>

76. The MLCJ military build-up gained momentum when it captured three FPRC pickup trucks and weapons in Birao on 1 September and 16 mounted pick-up trucks from FPRC in Am Dafok on 14 October.<sup>69</sup> On the same day, three other FPRC vehicles were burned, further reducing the FPRC fleet (see annex 3.16).<sup>70</sup>

#### **Arms trafficking and recruitment by FPRC, UPC and Abdoulaye Miskine**

77. As a result of the 14 October attack on Am Dafok, “generals” Bashar Fadoul and Abdoulaye Miskine fled to Tissi and a non-identified location on the Sudanese border, respectively, thus temporarily halting their military build-up efforts.<sup>71</sup> Until that date, Bashar Fadoul – one of the FPRC “generals” closest to Nourredine Adam – had been in charge of weapons and logistic supplies for the FPRC.<sup>72</sup> Bashar Fadoul had purchased military equipment through FPRC connections with the Rapid Support Force of the Sudan (S/2019/608, paras. 18 and 49), such as several pickup trucks with twin-barrelled anti-aircraft guns mounted on them. At least one of those trucks was burned in Am Dafok on 14 October (see annex 3.16). Bashar Fadoul had also continued to facilitate the acquisition by other armed group leaders, in particular Miskine and Ali Darassa of UPC, of military equipment and vehicles from the Sudan (see also annex 3.17 and S/2019/608, paras. 48–53 and annexes 2.8 and 4.6).

78. Since his arrival in Am Dafok in June, Miskine has continuously engaged in recruiting new fighters and acquiring a military arsenal through cooperation with FPRC (S/2019/608, annex 2.8).<sup>73</sup> He recruited fighters who mainly originated from the Sara ethnic group in Chad and the Central African Republic. In August, he also reportedly attempted unsuccessfully to recruit South Sudanese fighters.<sup>74</sup> Miskine

<sup>66</sup> Meeting with Kara and MLCJ sources, Birao, 3 October 2019.

<sup>67</sup> Meetings with confidential sources, Birao, 3 and 5 October 2019.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid.; meeting with FPRC and UPC sources, Bangui and Birao, 2, 5 and 8 October 2019; phone conversation with Sudanese officials, 12 October; and meetings with confidential sources, Birao, 3 and 7 October 2019.

<sup>69</sup> Confidential document received on 29 October 2019; meeting with PRNC member, Birao, 5 October 2019; phone conversations with MLCJ and FPRC members, 9–12 October 2019.

<sup>70</sup> Confidential document received on 29 October 2019.

<sup>71</sup> Communication with Sudanese military intelligence, 30 October 2019.

<sup>72</sup> Meeting with FPRC sources, Birao and Bangui, August and September 2019.

<sup>73</sup> Panel’s missions to Birao, August and October 2019.

<sup>74</sup> Meeting with diplomatic and confidential sources, Bangui and Birao, September–October 2019.

also continued to buy weapons, ammunition and pickup trucks through Bashar Fadoul's connections (see annex 3.18). That materiel was either delivered to FPRC elements under Bashar Fadoul, who handed it over to Miskine, or it was delivered to the latter directly when allowed by Bashar Fadoul.<sup>75</sup>

### C. Violations of human rights and international human rights law in the Kaga Bandoro/Batangafo/Kabo triangle and the Bria area

#### Trend of sexual and gender-based violence, crime and violence against humanitarians in the triangle

79. The towns of Batangafo, Kabo and Kaga Bandoro and the roads running between them remained among the areas most affected by criminality and armed group activities in the Central African Republic, with humanitarians targeted by criminal activities (see maps in annex 3.19).<sup>76</sup> Roads within the triangle remained scattered with checkpoints operated by ex-Séléka elements, often officially belonging to MPC, but actually operating outside any clear chain of command (S/2019/608, annex 4.3). This area of insecurity, referred to in previous Panel reports (see S/2018/1119, annex 4.2), has now extended even further along the routes leading out of Kaga Bandoro. For example, on the road south of the town, civilians have been frequent victims, often of rape, by unidentified armed ex-Séléka elements. In one particularly violent incident on 4 August, a group of armed ex-Séléka elements robbed and raped a female traveller, then left her tied up.<sup>77</sup>

#### *Women and girls particularly vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence during the transhumance period*

80. During the 2019 transhumance period, the number of incidents of sexual and gender-based violence on the Kaga Bandoro-Botto road spiked considerably in March.<sup>78</sup> During the Panel's visit to that road, villagers explained that during the transhumance period, the corridor passed close by the road, and rapes occurred often when women and girls travelled to the fields and school (see recommendation in para. 172 (b)).<sup>79</sup>

#### *Lack of justice deters reporting of sexual and gender-based violence*

81. Limited access to justice for victims of sexual and gender-based violence remained a challenge in Nana-Grébizi Prefecture and contributed, together with fear of reprisals, to fewer cases being officially reported.<sup>80</sup> Although the joint rapid response unit to prevent sexual violence against women and children travelled to Kaga Bandoro to carry out a field investigation in August 2019,<sup>81</sup> the prosecutor of

<sup>75</sup> Meetings with FPRC, MLCJ leaders, Sultan-Mayor and community leader, Birao, 20–22 August 2019; meeting with FPRC members, Birao, 20–21 August 2019; and meeting with civil society representatives and confidential sources, Birao, 20–21 August 2019.

<sup>76</sup> Panel's mission to Kaga Bandoro, Batangafo, Kabo and Sido, 7–14 August 2019; and [www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/centrafricrepublic/infographic/rca-apercu-des-incidentes-affectant-les-humanitaires](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/centrafricrepublic/infographic/rca-apercu-des-incidentes-affectant-les-humanitaires).

<sup>77</sup> Meetings with civil society representatives, Kaga Bandoro, 8 August 2019; and confidential report, 7 August 2019.

<sup>78</sup> Meeting with representative of the World Health Organization, Kaga Bandoro, 8 August 2019.

<sup>79</sup> Meeting with community representatives, Kaga Bandoro-Botto road, 9 August 2019.

<sup>80</sup> Meeting with international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and confidential sources, Kaga Bandoro, 7–9 August 2019.

<sup>81</sup> Meeting with confidential source, Kaga Bandoro, 6 August 2019.

Nana-Grébizi Prefecture has remained in Bangui and has not returned to the prefecture since December 2018.<sup>82</sup>

*Rape and robbery committed by ex-Séléka elements in villages close to their checkpoints*

82. Armed groups have attempted to explain away incidents in this area, blaming them on uncontrolled elements deprived of financial revenue owing to the removal of checkpoints following the Agreement.<sup>83</sup> However, during the Panel’s visit to the road connecting Batangafo, Kabo and Sido on 12 August, eight checkpoints were still operational.<sup>84</sup> Robberies and rapes were often committed in the vicinity of ex-Séléka checkpoints. For example, in Godo on 5 August 2019, armed ex-Séléka elements entered a village and raped one woman and beat her husband. Reportedly, this was the fifth occasion on which armed ex-Séléka elements had come to that village from the checkpoint at Nguepande and committed such crimes.<sup>85</sup>

*Criminality in Batangafo*

83. During the Panel’s mission to Batangafo (10–15 August), violent robberies occurred on an almost daily basis, highlighting an overall dynamic that has remained relatively unchanged over the past two years (S/2017/1023, paras. 181–187, and S/2018/1119, paras. 60–65). The humanitarian community, in particular national staff, was often the target of those robberies. Calls for those responsible to be brought to justice were made to the anti-balaka leaders controlling the camp for internally displaced persons, namely, René Ninga, Sende, Arnaud, Bruno and Gaba. They used that request to demand payments from residents of the camp – on top of regular extortion – for arresting the perpetrators. The demand led to a protest march against their actions on 23 October.<sup>86</sup>

84. Ex-Séléka and anti-balaka leaders also colluded for financial gain. Anti-balaka leaders established strong links with a certain Sadam, the most visibly active ex-Séléka leader in Batangafo, though not the official local commander of MPC.<sup>87</sup> In addition, automatic weapons of the ex-Séléka were hired by anti-balaka, at times confusing victims as to the identity of the perpetrators of crimes in Batangafo. That tactic benefited all of the criminal groups, with each one hiding behind the others.<sup>88</sup> For example, during one robbery in August, the perpetrators pretended to speak Arabic and carried automatic weapons, but were believed to be anti-balaka fighters.<sup>89</sup>

*Criminality in Kaga Bandoro*

85. Although Kaga Bandoro was declared a “town without weapons” on 5 August, a significant number of fighters from various ex-Séléka groups were seen moving around the town – and along the main roads – with their weapons during a Panel visit (8–10 August). The ex-Séléka factions also continued to deploy a mixed brigade in Kaga Bandoro, illegally detaining civilians for long periods and demanding payment for their release. For example, on 4 June, the mixed brigade arrested a young motorcycle taxi driver after his rented motorbike was stolen by anti-balaka fighters,

<sup>82</sup> Meetings with local authorities, Kaga Bandoro, 8 August 2019.

<sup>83</sup> Meetings with civil society representatives and armed groups, Batangafo, 10–15 August 2019.

<sup>84</sup> Panel’s mission to Kabo and Sido, 12 August 2019.

<sup>85</sup> Meetings with confidential sources, Kaga Bandoro, 8 August 2019.

<sup>86</sup> Meetings with civil society representatives, Batangafo, 10–15 August 2019; and confidential report, 25 October 2019.

<sup>87</sup> Panel’s mission to Batangafo, 10–15 August 2019.

<sup>88</sup> Meetings with armed group and civil society representatives, Batangafo, 10–15 August 2019.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.

with the mixed brigade demanding FCFA 600,000 (\$1,020). Despite efforts to have him released, the driver remained in detention as at 31 October.<sup>90</sup>

86. In this context, criminality remained high, with thieves undeterred by the presence of MINUSCA and national security forces. On 1 October, in Kaga Bandoro, a national staff member of MINUSCA was shot and killed at his residence by unknown combatants.<sup>91</sup> Just as in Batangafo, in Kaga Bandoro and on the surrounding main roads, armed elements continued to target humanitarians during their activities. A humanitarian convoy was stopped by fighters on the Kaga Bandoro-Botto road on 28 August. The armed individuals then beat one of the drivers and stole phones and money from them.<sup>92</sup>

### **Bria: flagrant human rights violations by armed groups**

87. The town of Bria (Haute-Kotto Prefecture) has suffered a severe impact from armed group activities. Civilians have been affected both directly, by armed groups (as described in [S/2019/608](#), para. 60), and indirectly, by the disruptive actions of armed groups against the humanitarian community and State actors.

#### *Women vulnerable to anti-balaka violations in the camp for internally displaced persons*

88. According to official statistics, as of 10 October, 45,000 civilians remained displaced in Bria with the majority of those at the PK3 camp for internally displaced persons; even houses close to the site remained empty.<sup>93</sup> Anti-balaka elements under “general Bokassa” maintained their parallel justice system at the PK3 site and along the road between Bria and Ira Banda.<sup>94</sup> On many occasions, they illegally detained PK3 site residents and accused them of various crimes before meting out punishment at their illegal tribunal at the camp.<sup>95</sup> Two incidents were illustrative of the particular vulnerability of women at the PK3 site. On 7 August, anti-balaka fighters illegally detained a pregnant woman accusing her of theft from her husband.<sup>96</sup> On 9 May, anti-balaka elements beat up a woman, accusing her of witchcraft.<sup>97</sup> Anti-balaka elements not only impeded humanitarian activities at the site,<sup>98</sup> but also stole goods intended for the internally displaced persons.<sup>99</sup> At the same time, “Bokassa” also requested humanitarian assistance for his anti-balaka elements.<sup>100</sup>

#### *FPRC: mixed brigade imposed its own interpretation of the law*

89. The FPRC mixed brigade in Bria, under the overall command of regional zone commander “general” Hissein Damboucha ([S/2019/608](#), paras. 66 and 67; [S/2018/1119](#), para. 67), also illegally taxed, arrested, detained and tortured

<sup>90</sup> Meeting with civil society representatives, Kaga Bandoro, 8 August 2019; and confidential report, October 2019.

<sup>91</sup> Confidential report, 2 October 2019.

<sup>92</sup> Confidential report, 30 August 2019.

<sup>93</sup> Meeting with international NGO, 22 September 2019; and Commission mouvement de population statistics on displacement for September 2019, Commission mouvement de population/Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 25 October 2019.

<sup>94</sup> Panel’s mission to Bria, 8–10 May 2019.

<sup>95</sup> Meeting with civil society representatives and residents of the camp for internally displaced persons, Bria, 8–10 May 2019.

<sup>96</sup> Confidential report, 9 August 2019.

<sup>97</sup> Confidential report received on 17 September 2019.

<sup>98</sup> Meeting with international NGO, 8 May 2019.

<sup>99</sup> On 13 August 2019, bags of food were discovered at the PK3 camp that had previously been stolen by anti-balaka elements. Confidential report, 14 August 2019.

<sup>100</sup> Meeting with “Bokassa”, Bria, 9 May 2019.

individuals, enforcing its own interpretation of the law.<sup>101</sup> These incidents ranged from arrests and the levying of fines – such as the arrest made by FPRC on 5 August of the president of the motorcycle taxi association who was fined FCFA 2,500 (\$5) for not wearing a yellow taxi driver vest – to the torturing and killing of individuals. On 7 July, for instance, an individual who the armed group claimed had raped a female minor was found dead at the premises of the FPRC mixed brigade.<sup>102</sup> Women, however, were particularly vulnerable, as reporting any incident involving an armed group member, such as rape, would put them at an increased risk of further FPRC harassment.<sup>103</sup>

#### *Harassment of humanitarian workers by armed groups*

90. FPRC elements have also exerted physical and psychological pressure against NGOs working in Bria. They have attempted to control humanitarian assistance by interfering with the recruitment of national NGO staff,<sup>104</sup> demanding that NGOs seek authorization for projects<sup>105</sup> and threatening NGO staff over the content of their projects.<sup>106</sup> The constant harassment of NGOs and the real threat of robberies – for example: Médecins sans frontières was robbed on 26 October<sup>107</sup> – has had a negative impact on the work of NGOs in the town. Moreover, armed groups, including FPRC, have also blocked the free movement of humanitarian assistance to Bria on the road between Bambari and Bria.<sup>108</sup>

91. FPRC also restricted the movement and activities of local authorities. On 5 August, FPRC elements under Hissein Damboucha harassed a team of the Unité d'exécution du programme national de désarmement, démobilisation et réinsertion, claiming that they had not been informed about the mission.<sup>109</sup> The following day, civil servants working for the Ministry of Finance were prevented from working by FPRC.<sup>110</sup> The reaction of FPRC elements to the deployment of FACA in Bria on 24 September is discussed in paragraph 148.

### **D. Issues related to natural resources: parallel taxation structures and trafficking**

92. In the eastern and northern parts of the country, armed groups continued to generate revenue by participating in trafficking in gold and diamonds and collecting taxes from all actors within the production and trade chains. As a result, these areas remained non-compliant with the Kimberley Process (i.e., rough diamonds from these areas cannot be exported).

<sup>101</sup> Panel's mission to Bria, 8–10 May 2019.

<sup>102</sup> Confidential report, 11 July 2019.

<sup>103</sup> Meeting with civil society members, Bria, 8–10 May 2019.

<sup>104</sup> Panel's mission to Bria, 8–10 May 2019.

<sup>105</sup> Meeting with "Bokassa", Bria, 9 May 2019.

<sup>106</sup> Panel's mission to Bria, 8–10 May 2019.

<sup>107</sup> Jerry Bambi, "Central African Republic: armed robbery attack on humanitarian aid group MSF – morning call", Africa News, 30 October 2019.

<sup>108</sup> Confidential report, 14 October 2019.

<sup>109</sup> Confidential report, 6 August 2019.

<sup>110</sup> Confidential report, 9 August 2019.

### Parallel taxation structures

93. In spite of the commitments made in the Agreement regarding the restoration of State authority, ex-Séléka factions maintained and, in some areas, extended parallel structures for taxing all types of economic activities. In Ndélé (Bamingui-Bangoran Prefecture), the FPRC parallel taxation structure described in a previous Panel report (S/2018/729, annex 6.5) remained in place, with collectors, artisanal miners and miners all paying annual fees (FCFA 300,000 (\$495), 35,000 (\$57) and 2,000 (\$3), respectively).<sup>111</sup> In Bambari (Ouaka Prefecture), UPC also continued to levy taxes on mining and other economic operators as confirmed by copies of receipts that were all issued in 2019 (see annex 3.20).

94. A similar parallel taxation structure was recently put in place in the area of Mbrès and Bakala (Nana-Grébizi and Ouaka prefectures). Local ex-Séléka leaders “general” Oumar Kaffine (FPRC) and “general” Affiesse (MPC),<sup>112</sup> who commanded the military operations of early 2019 to seize control of the mining sites previously controlled by anti-balaka elements (see S/2019/608, para. 63), established themselves as heads of a lucrative taxation system. The system covered mining sites around Azené and Bozou, where gold and, to a lesser extent, diamonds were sourced, and in the gold mining sites along the road between Mbrès and Bakala (see map in annex 3.21).<sup>113</sup> Local ex-Séléka leaders also facilitated the arrival of foreigners (mainly Chadians), to work as diggers alongside locals and also to act as investors bringing in materials, such as motor pumps and metal detectors.<sup>114</sup> Most of the gold and rough diamonds from the area were smuggled to Chad and sometimes from there on to Cameroon.<sup>115</sup>

### Mechanical mining project of Mahamat Kidessi

95. For several decades, Abdel Rahim Mahamat Kidessi, alias “Manga”, a national of the Central African Republic, has been involved in various business activities in Bangui and abroad, including, as confirmed by his profile on social networks, in the diamond trade (see annex 3.22). According to several individuals who held positions of power at that time, he developed business connections with ex-Séléka leaders during the transition, including Abdoulaye Hissène and Nourredine Adam.<sup>116</sup>

96. A wide variety of sources have informed the Panel of Mahamat Kidessi’s presence in towns controlled by ex-Séléka factions between May and June 2019.<sup>117</sup> After he had entered the country from the Sudan, his presence was reported in Birao (around 22 and 23 May), Ndélé (around the period 23–30 May and around 12 June) and Kaga Bandoro (early June). He was travelling as part of a convoy comprising 5 to 10 individuals and several vehicles transporting materials for gold and diamond mining, including metal detectors, an excavator and a cistern, most likely for oil.<sup>118</sup> Information obtained from local sources differed as to the location of the mining sites he and members of the group visited. Several sites, all controlled by FPRC – Sangha-

<sup>111</sup> Meetings with local economic operators and FPRC members, Ndélé, 8–12 October 2019.

<sup>112</sup> Meeting with “general” Kaffine, Mbrès, 8 September 2019.

<sup>113</sup> Meetings with economic operators and community representatives, Kaga-Bandoro and Mbrès, 5–9 September 2019.

<sup>114</sup> Ibid.

<sup>115</sup> Ibid.

<sup>116</sup> Meeting with confidential sources, June to October 2019.

<sup>117</sup> Meetings with armed group members, local authorities, community representatives, economic operators and international partners held in Bangui, Birao, Ndélé and Kaga-Bandoro, June–October 2019; confidential report, 12 June 2019.

<sup>118</sup> The vehicle transporting the excavator reportedly remained in Mamoun (road between Birao and Ndélé) due to mechanical issues. The cistern was reportedly left in Ndélé in view of future activities.



Carrières, Manovo and the area of Mbrès and Bakala (see para. 94 above) – were mentioned.<sup>119</sup> He also reportedly bought diamonds and gold during his stay in the country.<sup>120</sup>

97. Such activities can only be carried out with the authorization (against payment) of FPRC leaders. Kidessi’s convoy was protected by FPRC fighters and he visited leaders of this armed group in each location he visited.<sup>121</sup>

#### **Aimé Moubamou: business associate of Abdoulaye Hissène**

98. Aimé Moubamou, a national of the Congo, is a close and long-standing associate of sanctioned individual Abdoulaye Hissène. During the transition period, Aimé Moubamou supported Hissène in his business ventures, including when Hissène attempted to sell gold in Kenya and crude oil in Chad (see S/2017/639, paras. 44–49, and S/2017/1023, paras. 42 and 43). Annex 3.23 includes documents confirming Aimé Moubamou’s presence, along with Hissène’s, in Nairobi in September 2014 and in N’Djamena in December 2014.

99. In October 2019, Aimé Moubamou was seen in Ndélé, along with Hissène, by the Panel as well as by other sources.<sup>122</sup> He arrived in Ndélé from Chad in September 2019 and departed towards Chad around 10 October. He reportedly purchased diamonds and gold during his stay in the Central African Republic.<sup>123</sup>

100. Moubamou’s presence in Ndélé demonstrated that he has continued working as Hissène’s business associate, even though Hissène has been under United Nations sanctions since May 2017 due to his activities as an armed group leader. Several other sources confirmed their continued collaboration, with Aimé Moubamou travelling on behalf of Hissène and facilitating his business activities.<sup>124</sup>

101. The Panel was not in a position to present its findings directly to Aimé Moubamou and Mahamat Kidessi.

## **IV. Armed groups, human rights violations and trafficking activities in the south-east of the Central African Republic**

### **A. Civilians, victims of armed groups activities (Basse-Kotto Prefecture)**

102. Pockets of anti-balaka groups have operated since 2017 (see S/2017/1023, paras. 74–77), along roads close to mining sites and at markets in Basse-Kotto Prefecture largely preying on civilians.<sup>125</sup> These local groups, which, unlike in 2017, referred to themselves as anti-balaka groups despite having limited or no connections to the Bangui-based anti-balaka signatories of the Agreement, had no clear hierarchical structure within Basse-Kotto Prefecture. The absence of an overall anti-balaka leader – some anti-balaka leaders still adhered to the Rassemblement des républicains (RDR) group previously led by the now-deceased anti-balaka “general” Gaetan Boadé<sup>126</sup> – contributed to the failure of local peace agreements to take hold.

<sup>119</sup> Meetings with armed group members, local authorities, community representatives, economic operators and international partners held in Bangui, Birao, Ndélé and Kaga-Bandoro, June–October 2019.

<sup>120</sup> Ibid.

<sup>121</sup> Ibid.

<sup>122</sup> Meeting with confidential sources, Ndélé, 8–12 October 2019.

<sup>123</sup> Ibid.

<sup>124</sup> Meetings with armed group members and economic operators, January 2018 and October 2019.

<sup>125</sup> Panel’s mission to Basse-Kotto prefecture, 12–18 September 2019.

<sup>126</sup> See annex 4.2 for “colonel” Ngyambe’s letter of 16 August 2019, containing a call for peace.

103. Even in those areas where anti-balaka leaders have adhered to local peace agreements, such as in Mobaye Sub-Prefecture, where “general” Mathieu signed a local peace agreement in 2019,<sup>127</sup> associates continued and even reinforced their illegal activities. For example, at Boulangba market, Ludovic Angboyondji and his associates were responsible for repeated human rights violations against civilians including illegal detention and torture.<sup>128</sup> At the market at Mafunga Gia, Mobaye Sub-Prefecture (see maps in annex 4.1) the deputy of “general” Mathieu, Akim, killed four civilians on 22 October 2019 because of a disagreement over the relocation of the market.<sup>129</sup> In Satema Sub-Prefecture, the local anti-balaka leader, Jean-Pierre Bida, also aligned with a local peace initiative. Consequently, Bida’s power was subverted by the Kembé Sub-Prefecture local anti-balaka leader, “general”: Aimé Ngbando who also controlled diamond mines in Yangbassi (see maps in annex 4.1).<sup>130</sup>

104. Local anti-balaka leaders maintained their power by engaging in widespread violence against civilians (see annex 4.3). One local official claimed that anyone not vaccinated was vulnerable to anti-balaka exactions.<sup>131</sup> Women were particularly vulnerable: in Ngaba, Kembé Sub-Prefecture, women were reportedly taken hostage and sold to other anti-balaka elements for FCFA 30,000 (\$51) each.<sup>132</sup> During their attempts to mediate, local officials also became the targets of local anti-balaka groups.<sup>133</sup> In Zangba Sub-Prefecture, for example, local village chiefs were beaten up by local anti-balaka leader Luc Ngaima in August (see annex 4.4), while in Satema, in August, the Sub-Prefect resigned after being threatened by anti-balaka elements.<sup>134</sup>

#### **Union pour la paix en Centrafrique and anti-balaka: fewer clashes but civilians deeply affected**

105. In Basse-Kotto Prefecture, UPC maintained control over the main towns, including Alindao, Dimbi, Zangba and Mobaye and at strategic points along various roads, while anti-balaka groups controlled many smaller markets and some mining sites.<sup>135</sup> Clashes between UPC and anti-balaka fighters still occurred, for instance over the control of the Kollo mining site in Mingala Sub-Prefecture on 29 August. Fighting also took place in Zangba Sub-Prefecture in April after local anti-balaka leader Luc Ngaima stole an automatic weapon from a Muslim trader (see [S/2019/608](#), para. 58).<sup>136</sup>

106. On 29 August, armed UPC elements attacked several villages close to the Kollo mining site with weapons that included rocket-propelled grenades. The attack led to the displacement of villagers from surrounding areas.<sup>137</sup> UPC leader Ali Darassa denied having carried out any attacks in the area. Instead, at a meeting with civil society in Alindao on 5 September, Darassa claimed that the UPC presence in Kollo

<sup>127</sup> Meeting with local authorities and confidential sources, Mobaye, 14–16 September 2019.

<sup>128</sup> Meeting with the local authorities of Mobaye Sub-Prefecture, Mobaye, 16–18 September 2019.

<sup>129</sup> Confidential report, 23 October 2019.

<sup>130</sup> Meeting with armed group leaders, Mobaye, 16 September 2019.

<sup>131</sup> The vaccinations were also carried out during the expansion of self-defence groups in region 6 in 2017, as detailed in [S/2017/1023](#), para. 80.

<sup>132</sup> Meeting with local authorities and residents of Satema Sub-Prefecture, Mobaye, 16 September 2019.

<sup>133</sup> Ibid.

<sup>134</sup> Ibid.

<sup>135</sup> In Mobaye, the anti-balaka also had a base. Panel’s visit to Basse-Kotto Prefecture, 12–18 September 2019.

<sup>136</sup> Meeting held in Mobaye with local authorities of Zangba and Mobaye, 16–18 September 2019.

<sup>137</sup> Meeting with a civil society representative held in Alindao, 12 September 2019; confidential report, 30 August 2019.

was linked to social cohesion activities and that UPC had not used any weapons.<sup>138</sup> UPC also continued to commit human rights violations against civilians. In Alindao, on 1 May, UPC leader “general” Siddik illegally detained the vice-president, the second vice-president and the treasurer of the Alindao peace and social cohesion committee for having invited FACA to a celebration; they did not release them until a day later following protests by the local population.<sup>139</sup>

### **Impact of the clashes and attacks on displacement and humanitarian assistance**

107. In July and August, fighting between armed groups and exactions against civilians created new zones of displacement, including across the border in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, province of North Ubangi (see maps included in annex 4.1).<sup>140</sup> Anti-balaka groups carried out human rights violations even across the border in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.<sup>141</sup> Beside creating new displacement zones, the tensions also delayed the permanent return of those already displaced.<sup>142</sup>

## **B. Cross-border trafficking in arms and natural resources with the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Basse-Kotto Prefecture**

108. Deals, trafficking routes and entry points for weapons, gold and diamonds are discussed in annex 4.5.

## **C. Obo area: humanitarian situation and activities of groups locally referred to as the Lord’s Resistance Army (see annex 4.6)**

## **V. Regional dynamics**

### **A. Update regarding the joint commissions**

109. Following the meeting of the Cameroon and Central African Republic joint cooperation commission, held on 6 and 7 May (see S/2019/608, para. 36), the joint commission of the Central African Republic and the Republic of the Congo held its fifth meeting on 5 and 6 August, the first such meeting in 32 years. The Central African Republic and the Republic of the Congo signed 12 agreements, including one on poaching and the illegal exploitation of forest products and wildlife (see S/2018/729, annex 7.7), one establishing a subcommittee on defence and security and one establishing a subcommittee on borders (see annex 5.1). On the margins of the meeting, UNHCR facilitated the signing of a tripartite agreement on the voluntary repatriation to the Central African Republic of refugees currently residing in the Republic of the Congo.<sup>143</sup>

110. On 2 October, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central African Republic informed the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic that discussions were ongoing with Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan

<sup>138</sup> Confidential source, 7 September 2019; meetings with a civil society representative held in Alindao, 12 September 2019.

<sup>139</sup> Meetings with civil society representatives held in Alindao, 12 and 13 September 2019.

<sup>140</sup> UNHCR, “Democratic Republic of the Congo, operational update, August 2019” available at <https://data2.unhcr.org/fr/documents/details/71607>.

<sup>141</sup> *L’Interview*, “République démocratique du Congo: le gouvernement dresse un bilan de 50 morts dans multiples irruptions des rebelles anti-balaka au Nord-Ubangi”, 26 October 2019.

<sup>142</sup> Meeting with members of the humanitarian community, Bangui, 20 and 30 September 2019.

<sup>143</sup> Meeting with an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangui, 15 August 2019.

and Sudan about holding meetings of the relevant joint commissions in late 2019 and early 2020. The Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea were considering holding a meeting of their joint commission in 2020.<sup>144</sup>

111. On 15 October, during a visit to the Central African Republic by the President of Rwanda Paul Kagame, five agreements were signed, including an agreement on military cooperation.<sup>145</sup>

## **B. Closing of the border with the Sudan**

112. The present report provides new information on trafficking in arms and the movements of fighters across the border between the Central African Republic and the Sudan (see paras. 72–78 above).

113. On 26 September, following a meeting in Nyala, the Sudan, the National Transition Council of the Sudan announced the closure of the country's borders with the Central African Republic and Libya. Sudanese officials told the Panel that the decision was the result of the insecurity in the border area, in particular the fighting in Vakaga Prefecture (see paras. 46–71 above), and was aimed at limiting the flows of arms and combatants.<sup>146</sup>

## **C. Situation along the border with Chad**

114. Officials from the Ministry of Territorial Affairs of Chad told the Panel that insecurity in the northern part of the Central African Republic remained a concern. On 11 October they informed the Panel that Chad had deployed six army battalions to monitor the situation along the border with the Central African Republic.<sup>147</sup>

115. Discussions were also ongoing to organize a conference on cross-border transhumance with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and IOM. The conference was to be held in N'Djamena and was to be attended by representatives of the national and local authorities and relevant civil society organizations based in the Central African Republic and Chad. The event, initially planned to be held ahead of the 2019–2020 transhumance season, would be the first of its kind since 2011.

## **D. Border with South Sudan**

116. Insecurity and activities of armed groups in the area of Haut-Mbomou, which borders South Sudan, are addressed in annex 4.6.

117. On 21 February, the Governor of Tambura State (South Sudan) closed the border near Bambouti after the killing of five South Sudanese traders on the road between Bambouti and Obo<sup>148</sup> on the grounds that the situation in the Central African Republic was a source of instability for the area under his authority.

118. In March, the Prefect of Haut-Mbomou, the Sub-Prefect for Obo and Bambouti met in Tambura with the Minister of Interior, the Minister for Information, the

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<sup>144</sup> Meeting with an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malabo, 4 September 2019.

<sup>145</sup> Archived at the United Nations.

<sup>146</sup> Meeting with Sudanese officials, Bangui, 7 and 16 October 2019.

<sup>147</sup> Meeting with Chadian officials, N'Djamena, 11 October 2019.

<sup>148</sup> The South Sudanese traders allegedly had links with officials in Tamboura. Meeting with the Sub-Prefect for Obo and Bambouti held in Obo, 25 September 2019; meeting with the head of the camp for South Sudanese refugees in Obo, held in Obo, 27 September 2019.

Minister for Education and the Minister for Social Affairs of South Sudan and with the Governor of Tambura State to discuss security issues along the border.<sup>149</sup> During the meeting, the South Sudanese authorities agreed to reopen the border but reportedly requested the authorities of the Central African Republic to (a) deploy the Internal Security Forces and FACA to Bambouti; (b) expel Fulani from Bambouti, whose activities were deemed a source of instability; and (c) arrest the individuals involved in the killing of the five South Sudanese traders on 20 February on the road between Bambouti and Obo.<sup>150</sup>

119. On 18 April, the border was officially reopened.<sup>151</sup> In May and June, three individuals were arrested in relation to the killing of the South Sudanese traders.<sup>152</sup> However, although FACA had been dispatched to Bambouti on a temporary basis, the reported demands of the South Sudanese authorities had yet to be met in full.

## **E. Regional action on cross-border transhumance**

120. In its final report for 2018 (S/2018/1119, annex), the Panel addressed the role of transhumance in the crisis surrounding the Central African Republic and called for stronger regional cooperation to address this issue (see paras. 105–140 and 210 (a) and (b) of that report).

121. The forty-eighth meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa was held in Kinshasa from 27 to 31 May. The participants discussed transhumance, made several recommendations and called for a regional conference on transhumance and pastoralism. The participants recommended that the Government of the Central African Republic include transhumance in the agenda of all joint commissions for cooperation, as did the participants in the fourth session of the Executive Monitoring Committee co-chaired by the African Union and the Government of the Central African Republic, held in Bangui on 30 July (see recommendation in para. 172 (b) below).

## **F. Update on the reported coup d'état in Equatorial Guinea of December 2017**

122. As indicated in the Panel's midterm report (S/2019/608, annex), 130 individuals were tried in absentia and sentenced to prison terms by a court in Bata, Equatorial Guinea, on 31 May (see para. 42 of that report). On 6 September, the authorities of Equatorial Guinea provided the Panel with a list of the nationals of the Central African Republic who had been found guilty.<sup>153</sup> Along with other sentenced individuals from Cameroon, Chad, Mali and Senegal, they remained detained in Ebolowa, Cameroon. Equatorial Guinea has been negotiating with Cameroon for their extradition to serve their sentences.<sup>154</sup>

<sup>149</sup> Meeting with the Prefect of Haut-Mbomou, and the Sub-Prefect for Obo and Bambouti, Obo, 25 and 27 September 2019.

<sup>150</sup> Ibid.

<sup>151</sup> Confidential report, 23 April 2019.

<sup>152</sup> Meeting with the Sub-Prefect of Bambouti held in Obo, 25 September 2019, and meeting with the prosecutor of Obo, held in Bangui, 30 September 2019.

<sup>153</sup> Archived at the United Nations.

<sup>154</sup> Meeting with an official at the Ministry of Justice in Malabo, 6 September 2019.

## **VI. Reported involvement of ex-Séléka members in the establishment of a regional network of armed groups targeting Western, Israeli and Saudi interests in Central African Republic and elsewhere**

123. On 19 April, an international news channel broadcast a television report featuring excerpts of a video showing the questioning of ex-Séléka member Ismael Djidah. According to the news report, the footage had been recorded, after Djidah's arrest in Chad. In his self-incriminatory testimony, he explained that, together with Michel Djotodia, former President of the Central African Republic, he had created an armed group to carry out violent acts against Western, Saudi and Israeli interests in several African countries, including the Central African Republic, with support from the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps of the Islamic Republic of Iran.<sup>155</sup>

### **A. Ismael Djidah and Michel Djotodia, a close and long-standing relationship**

124. Michel Djotodia and Ismael Djidah first met when Djotodia was Consul of the Central African Republic in Nyala (South Darfur State, the Sudan), a function that Djotodia held from 2005 to 2006. According to several sources, including ex-Séléka leaders, Djidah facilitated connections between Michel Djotodia and Chadian and Sudanese rebel groups operating in the Sudan, one of which the Justice and Equality Movement of Khalil Ibrahim.<sup>156</sup>

125. After openly rebelling against the regime of François Bozizé, Michel Djotodia was expelled from the Sudan and went to Benin, where he was arrested in 2006. Throughout the period in which Michel Djotodia was in prison, from November 2006 to June 2008, Djidah reportedly provided him with regular financial support.<sup>157</sup> After Michel Djotodia was released, both men remained close associates until Djotodia returned to the Central African Republic to create the Séléka coalition, in 2012.

126. When Michel Djotodia became transitional president in March 2013, he asked Ismael Djidah to come to Bangui and appointed him presidential adviser. That was the function specified on Djidah's diplomatic passport issued in June 2013 (see annex 6.2). The Panel collected a dozen testimonies from individuals who occupied high-level positions during Djotodia's presidency and who described Ismael Djidah as "Djotodia's man", only answering to the President and travelling in his name.<sup>158</sup>

127. When Djotodia was forced to resign in January 2014 and returned to Benin, Ismael Djidah followed him and continued to work for him in Cotonou, Benin, until his arrest in early 2019.<sup>159</sup>

<sup>155</sup> i24 News, "Un réseau terroriste iranien démantelé en Afrique", accessed on 19 April 2019 via <https://www.i24news.tv/fr/actu/international/afrique/1555609709-un-reseau-terroriste-iranien-demantele-en-afrique-exclusivite-i24news>. The link is no longer active. The news report has been archived at the United Nations (see also annex 6.1).

<sup>156</sup> Meetings with confidential sources, Bangui, May–October 2019.

<sup>157</sup> Meetings with confidential sources, Bangui, 8 and 12 October 2019.

<sup>158</sup> Meetings with former cabinet ministers, presidential advisers and armed group leaders, Bangui, August–October 2019.

<sup>159</sup> Ibid.

## B. Testimony of Ismael Djidah

128. During its investigation, the Panel gained access to a transcript and a longer version of the video of Ismael Djidah's above-mentioned testimony. In the testimony, he provided the following information, the veracity of which was corroborated by diplomatic sources:<sup>160</sup>

- Djidah had created, upon instruction of Michel Djotodia (see details in paras. 132–137) and with the support of the Quds Force, an armed group named “Saraya Zahraa” in order to carry out violent actions against Western, Israeli and Saudi interests in Africa, including in the Central African Republic. His objective was to establish a group comprising between 200 and 300 armed elements and operating in cooperation with other cells comprising armed group members from Chad and the Sudan;
- Djidah had travelled to Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon and Iraq. During each of these trips he met with Quds Force representatives who provided him with sums of between \$12,000 and \$20,000;
- Between 30 and 40 individuals, whom Djidah claimed to have recruited from within the ranks of ex-Séléka groups, had travelled to Lebanon, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic in 2017 and 2018 to participate in training that included the use of firearms. The training had been provided by groups of individuals including Quds Force and Hizbullah members.

129. On 24 October 2019, the United Arab Emirates confirmed to the Panel that Ismael Djidah had travelled from Dubai to Kish Island in the Islamic Republic of Iran,<sup>161</sup> on 11 December 2016 and had returned the following day. The Panel collected information from airline companies and obtained other documents evidencing travels by Djidah to Lebanon in March, July, September and December 2017, February–March and July 2018, as well as a copy of Djidah's visa for Iraq issued on 21 October 2018 (see annex 6.3).

130. The Panel also collected information and documents<sup>162</sup> confirming the travels to Lebanon and Iraq of 12 individuals reportedly members of the Saraya Zahraa group and reportedly recruited by Djidah from within the ranks of ex-Séléka groups.

131. The Panel was unable to meet with Djidah and is unable, at the present stage, to confirm the veracity of the information contained in his testimony in its entirety.

## C. Role of Michel Djotodia

132. In his testimony, Ismael Djidah claimed that he had collaborated with the Quds Force on the instructions of Michel Djotodia. According to Djidah, and according to diplomatic sources,<sup>163</sup> Michel Djotodia met with Quds Force officials on Kish Island in the Islamic Republic of Iran in April 2016. An agreement was reportedly reached according to which Michel Djotodia was (a) to receive support from the Quds Force to reclaim power in the Central African Republic and (b) to establish a special unit to carry out violent acts in several African countries, including the Central African Republic. On the same occasion, Michel Djotodia was reportedly provided with \$150,000 and reportedly decided to task Ismael Djidah with implementing the agreed plan.

<sup>160</sup> Meetings with diplomatic sources, 22 July, 28 August and 14 October 2019.

<sup>161</sup> A visa exemption system is in place for nationals of a large number of countries who wish to visit Kish Island.

<sup>162</sup> Archived at the United Nations.

<sup>163</sup> Meetings with diplomatic sources, 22 July, 28 August and 14 October 2019.

133. Several ex-Séléka leaders also told the Panel that Michel Djotodia had received money – between \$100,000 and \$200,000 – from nationals of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They claimed to have no further information on the purpose of this financial support.<sup>164</sup>

134. The Panel obtained copies of two handwritten letters, one dated December 2018 and one with an illegible date, in which Ismael Djidah is mentioned and the drafter requests the support of “friends” to fight against the “Israeli and Wahhabi ideologies” (see annex 6.4). The letters were reportedly sent to Quds Force representatives by Djotodia. The Panel is unable to confirm the authenticity of these letters.

135. On 24 October 2019, the United Arab Emirates informed the Panel that Michel Djotodia had travelled from Dubai to Kish (Islamic Republic of Iran) on 27 April 2016 and returned to Dubai on 30 May. While the Panel evidenced the close connection between Michel Djotodia and Ismael Djidah (see paras. 124–127), it is unable at the present stage to confirm Michel Djotodia’s involvement in the plan as detailed by Djidah.

136. Michel Djotodia has denied being the author of the above-mentioned letters. He has also denied having met with Quds Force representatives and having participated in or being aware of the above-mentioned plan. He has told the Panel that he spent only two days in Kish Island, a trip that had been organized by business partners from the Islamic Republic of Iran whom he had met in Dubai on behalf of a Cotonou-based company.<sup>165</sup>

137. Djotodia has denied being aware of any of the activities of Ismael Djidah who, according to him, had falsely claimed to act on his behalf. He has also denied having appointed Djidah as presidential adviser during his presidency. In Djotodia’s view, Djidah was in contact with individuals from the Islamic Republic of Iran to extort money by requesting their financial support for reconciliation activities that he claimed to implement in the Central African Republic.<sup>166</sup>

#### **D. Information provided by the Islamic Republic of Iran**

138. On 28 October, the Islamic Republic of Iran wrote to the Panel that reports of meetings between Michel Djotodia and the country’s authorities, and of support that the Quds Force had provided to the two ex-Séléka leaders, were allegations founded on fake sources and a fabricated scenario. The Islamic Republic of Iran underlined that it neither interfered in the internal affairs of any country nor supported any violent act.

### **VII. Arms embargo and national defence and security forces**

#### **A. Easing of the arms embargo and requests for heavy weaponry**

139. On 12 September, in the light of progress achieved towards meeting the five key benchmarks set by the Security Council with regard to the arms embargo measures,<sup>167</sup> the Council adopted resolution [2488 \(2019\)](#) with which it eased the arms embargo for the provision to Central African Republic security forces of weapons with a calibre of 14.5 millimetres or less, and ammunition and components especially designed for such weapons, for which advance notification is now required, instead of a request for advance approval by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to

<sup>164</sup> Meetings with ex-Séléka leaders held in Bangui, August–October 2019.

<sup>165</sup> Telephone conversations with Michel Djotodia, 15 and 31 October 2019.

<sup>166</sup> Ibid.

<sup>167</sup> See Security Council resolution [2454 \(2019\)](#), paras. 9 and 10; [S/PRST/2019/3](#); [S/2019/609](#).



resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#) concerning the Central African Republic.<sup>168</sup> In easing the arms embargo, the Security Council has responded to repeated calls of the authorities of the Central African Republic (see annex 7.1).

140. Calls by national authorities for a total lifting of the arms embargo have continued since. During the visit of the Chair of the Committee to the Central African Republic from 1 to 4 October, the President, the Prime Minister and several ministers stressed the need to lift the arms embargo against the Government while strengthening the efforts to stop armed group arms from trafficking (see annex 7.1).

141. On 23 October, during the Russian Federation-Africa summit held in Sochi, Russian Federation, President Touadéra of the Central African Republic also requested that FACA be provided with lethal weapons with a calibre larger than 14.5 mm, armoured personnel carriers, infantry fighting vehicles, mortars and other artillery weapons. According to the President, such weaponry was needed to build a stronger national army (see excerpts from the President's speech contained in annex 7.1). He also stressed that armed groups smuggled heavy weapons, bypassing the embargo and preventing the Government from regaining control over the entire country.<sup>169</sup> The Panel notes that illicit trafficking in weaponry by armed groups has indeed continued (see, for instance, paras. 72–78), but that the number of documented heavy weapons possessed by the groups remains low.

## **B. Deployment of national defence and security forces: training, recruitment and equipment, and cases of misconduct**

### **Forces armées centrafricaines and Presidential Guard**

#### *Training and recruitment*

142. Recruits and soldiers of FACA continued to receive support from, inter alia, the European Union Military Training Mission in the Central African Republic and Russian instructors.

143. From 24 June to 16 October, the Mission trained 1,020 new FACA recruits in Bouar and Bangui (see annex 7.2). The 1,014 FACA recruits who successfully completed the training will be incorporated into the army and gradually deployed.<sup>170</sup> Between September 2016 and October 2019, the Mission had provided training to approximately 6,000 soldiers (see annex 7.2). Beside the 100,800 pieces of 7.62 x 38 mm ammunition transferred by Cyprus after having notified the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#) concerning the Central African Republic (see [S/2019/608](#), annex 6.1), the Mission also obtained 178 AK-type assault rifles on loan from France, which it has used for FACA training purposes since June.<sup>171</sup>

144. From May to July, and from August to October, the 235 Russian instructors continued their training sessions in Bangui and Berengo (Lobaye Prefecture).<sup>172</sup> As at 30 October, Russian instructors had trained a total of 2,972 FACA soldiers.<sup>173</sup> Russian instructors also continued to be present in the provinces to ensure that the skills

<sup>168</sup> Security Council resolution [2488 \(2019\)](#), para. 2 (g).

<sup>169</sup> Ibid.

<sup>170</sup> Meeting with the European Union Military Training Mission in the Central African Republic held in Bangui, 2 October 2019. Correspondence with the Mission of 18 and 22 October 2019.

<sup>171</sup> Meetings with French diplomatic sources and European Union sources held on 23, 24 and 25 September, and on 8 and 9 October 2019. Telephone conversations with French and European Union diplomatic sources, 1 and 4 October 2019.

<sup>172</sup> Correspondence with the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Bangui, 30 October 2019.

<sup>173</sup> Ibid.

acquired during their training were correctly applied once the FACA soldiers were deployed (see details in annex 7.2).

145. The five-year recruitment plan (2018–2022), which is aimed at revitalizing the national army and compensating for the numerous retirements in 2017 and 2018, provides for an overall recruitment of 1,300 FACA officers, deputy officers and soldiers for 2019,<sup>174</sup> including 70 ex-combatants (see annex 7.2). However, the recruitment of these new FACA members has been affected by significant delays (see also S/2018/1119, para. 177 and S/2019/608, annex 6.2).<sup>175</sup>

146. The delays contrasted with the recruitment in 2019 of several hundred new members of the Presidential Guard, mostly from the Mbaka-Mandja ethnic group (see also S/2019/1119, para. 175).<sup>176</sup> Around 100 of these new recruits were flown to Angola in September for training; the training was ongoing at the time of drafting of the present report.<sup>177</sup> The Panel has informed the national authorities of the Central African Republic and relevant other countries that, pursuant to relevant Security Council resolutions, unless notified in advance to the Committee and coordinated with MINUSCA, such trainings constitute a violation of the arms embargo (see recommendation in para. 172 (c) below). The Panel also notes that these recruitments are not provided for in the national defence plan, the recruitment planning or the budget, and that the new recruits have not been vetted.<sup>178</sup>

#### *Deployment and equipment, and cases of misconduct*

147. The Government of the Central African Republic, with MINUSCA support,<sup>179</sup> pursued its policy of rapid FACA deployment, particularly to the east of the country. In late September and early October, 82 FACA members were deployed in Bria and 50 in Birao, two locations where FACA had been totally absent since the start of the crisis in 2013.<sup>180</sup> Whereas these deployments are part of efforts to re-establish State authority in areas controlled by armed groups, they are not necessarily conducive to the garrison army concept outlined in the national defence plan. The original concept had provided for the inclusion of FACA in permanent structures in four defined defence zones. As at mid-October, a total of 1,429 FACA troops had been deployed in 19 locations outside the capital (see map in annex 7.3 and S/2019/608, paras. 90–92).

148. While the arrival of FACA soldiers has mostly been welcomed by local communities, new deployments and the prospect of further deployments have elicited contradictory reactions among armed groups. For instance, in a communiqué of 20 July, Nourredine Adam called for the progressive deployment of the defence and security forces in the areas under FPRC control with a view to, among other things, facilitating the operationalization of the joint security units (see annex 7.4). However, on 22 September, FPRC combatants in Bria fired gunshots into the air to express their discontent at the planned FACA deployment there; later, on 25 September, the FPRC zone commander in Bria stated that FACA deployment had been accepted.<sup>181</sup> UPC, by contrast, continued to strongly oppose FACA movements in Alindao and Bambari, as

<sup>174</sup> FACA recruitment plan 2019.

<sup>175</sup> Meetings with confidential sources, Bangui, 7 and 8 October 2019. Confidential document, 21 October 2019.

<sup>176</sup> Meeting with FACA officers and international partners, 2 and 8 October 2019.

<sup>177</sup> Ibid. Meeting with FACA Chief of Staff, Bangui, 8 October 2019. Meeting with confidential sources, Bangui, 8 October 2019.

<sup>178</sup> Meetings with FACA officers, Bangui, 7 and 8 October 2019. Telephone conversation with a confidential source, 30 October 2019.

<sup>179</sup> Meeting with a confidential source, Bangui, 20 September 2019. Confidential report, 1 July 2019.

<sup>180</sup> Confidential reports, 27 September and 9 October 2019. See S/2019/822, para. 49.

<sup>181</sup> Confidential report, 23 September 2019.

well as in other areas,<sup>182</sup> and UPC elements attacked FACA personnel close to Obo (see annex 4.6).

149. FACA deployments have continued to face significant challenges. First, FACA continued to rely heavily on the support and protection of MINUSCA, especially in areas controlled by armed groups (for example Birao, Bria and Alindao), where they were at constant risk of being attacked. FACA personnel thus patrolled only in well-delimited areas and under MINUSCA supervision.<sup>183</sup> Second, FACA soldiers continued to face serious logistical challenges, including a lack of proper housing and a chronic delay in rotations, leading to discontent and misconduct among soldiers.<sup>184</sup> Third, deployed FACA personnel often had no weapons storage facilities at their disposal. Lastly, even though 2,448 uniformed personnel participated in the nationwide campaign to raise awareness of the military code of justice,<sup>185</sup> there continued to be cases of misconduct and ill-treatment ranging from widespread extortion and taxation of civilians and impingement on the freedom of movement<sup>186</sup> to more severe human rights violations. The challenges are discussed further in annex 7.5.

### **Internal security forces (see annex 7.6)**

#### **Arms transfers in 2019 and management of weapons and ammunition**

150. Since late 2018, the supply of lethal weaponry to the defence and security forces has been at its largest since the imposition of the arms embargo in 2013. On 2 December 2018, a French aircraft arrived at M'Poko International Airport in Bangui to deliver 1,400 AK-type assault rifles in line with an exemption granted by the Committee on 26 February 2018. On 3 April, 400 weapons were given to the internal security forces; the remaining 1,000 stayed with FACA (see annex 7.7). The 2,800 magazines for these assault rifles arrived on 13 August. Between 18 August and 16 September, 11 aircraft arrived in Bangui to deliver 4,695 weapons and more than 7 million rounds of ammunition as part of the military cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Central African Republic, as allowed under an exemption granted by the Committee on 30 January. These weapons and ammunition were gradually distributed to FACA, police and gendarmes.<sup>187</sup>

151. Donations of weapons and ammunition by the Russian Federation and France in 2018 and 2019 (see also [S/2018/1119](#), para. 180) almost covered the needs of FACA for small arms and light weapons.<sup>188</sup> However, the internal security forces were still in dire need of weapons and crowd control equipment (see [S/2019/608](#), annex 6.6, and [S/2018/1119](#), annex 9.5).<sup>189</sup> Notwithstanding the donations made by several countries of non-lethal materiel, including vehicles, uniforms and communication tools, the logistical support for deployed FACA personnel and internal security forces remained insufficient (see also para. 149 below).

152. In 2019, with the support of the United Nations Mine Action Service and funding by international partners, substantial efforts were made to build and rehabilitate weapons and ammunition storage depots in Bambari, Bangassou, Bouar

<sup>182</sup> Panel's missions to Alindao, 13 September 2019, and Obo, 24–29 October 2019. Confidential report, 1 October 2019.

<sup>183</sup> Ibid. Panel's missions to Birao, 3–5 October 2019; Bria, 3 October 2019; Kaga-Bandoro, 4–9 September 2019.

<sup>184</sup> Panel's mission to Alindao and Obo, 13 September and 24–28 September 2019.

<sup>185</sup> See [S/2019/822](#), para. 47.

<sup>186</sup> Panel's missions to Ouham-Pendé, Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou prefectures, 10–14 May 2019, 27–30 May 2019 and 24–30 September 2019.

<sup>187</sup> Meeting with confidential sources, Bangui, 8 October 2019.

<sup>188</sup> Meetings with international partners, Bangui, 8 and 30 October 2019. See also annex 7.1.

<sup>189</sup> Meeting with international partners, Bangui, 8 October 2019.

and Bangui, among other places (see also [S/2019/822](#), para. 52). On the other hand, the implementation of the weapons and ammunition management system remained limited, as specified in annex 7.7.

### C. Importation of commercial explosives (see annex 7.8)

## VIII. Diamonds and gold: legal trade, trafficking and security issues

### A. Kimberley Process, diamonds trade, and trafficking

153. Between 1 January and 15 October, the Central African Republic exported 18,171 carats of rough diamonds.<sup>190</sup> While that figure is higher than that for the same period in 2018 (9,228 carats), it is negligible compared with the country's estimated current production (about 330,000 carats per year; see [S/2018/1119](#), paras. 141–142 and [S/2019/608](#), para. 102). Nearly the entirety of the country's production continued to be smuggled through neighbouring countries. Information on trafficking in diamonds and gold in areas outside the control of the State (i.e., the east and north) is included in paragraphs 92 to 101 above and annex 4.5.

154. Trafficking was also rampant in the western part of the country, including in Kimberley Process-compliant zones. The Government has taken some measures to address the problem, such as establishing a minimum threshold of activities for buying houses (bureaux d'achat) and collectors, and routine inspection field missions, as was done in Boda (Lobaye Prefecture) in August 2019 (see annex 8.1 for further information on these measures).

155. A recently published study that addressed diamond smuggling in the Central African Republic contained a detailed discussion of several factors, including the disorganized state of the supply chain and the climate of impunity prevailing in the sector.<sup>191</sup> The Panel endorses several of that study's recommendations, in particular those regarding the need to reform the operational framework for resumption of exports of rough diamonds from the Central African Republic under the Kimberley Process as to incite buying houses to formalize their activities,<sup>192</sup> and those concerning the need to strengthen measures to counter impunity and trafficking, for instance through better inspections at Bangui M'Poko International Airport (see [S/2018/729](#), para. 119 (e)) and strengthened cooperation between the country's relevant law enforcement agencies.

### B. Gold: increasing legal trade, and the issue of funding for armed groups

156. Between 1 January and 15 October, 194.49 kilograms of gold were exported from the Central African Republic, which confirmed the steady rise in the country's legal trade in gold that started in 2016 (see statistics in annex 8.2). At the same time,

<sup>190</sup> Official data supplied by the Central African Republic.

<sup>191</sup> Terah U. De Jong and others, *Rapport diagnostic sur la contrebande des diamants en République centrafricaine*, Tetra Tech/United States Agency for International Development, 2019.

<sup>192</sup> Under the operational framework for resumption of exports of rough diamonds from the Central African Republic under the Kimberley Process, any export of rough diamonds has to be approved by an international monitoring team. Some buying houses considered that this system created delays that had a negative impact on their profits. As a result, there are suspicions that some buying houses do not declare all of their activities and exports (source: meetings with economic operators and representatives of the Ministry of Mines, March–October 2019).

this amount represents only a tiny proportion of the country's actual production, estimated at about 2 tonnes per year.<sup>193</sup>

157. The Panel continued to deplore the absence of any national framework and regulations regarding the traceability and the origins of the gold exported (see [S/2018/1119](#), paras. 157–159). As a result of that absence, although most of the gold originated from sites located in areas under the control – or relative control – of the Government, the Central African Republic has certainly continued to export gold from sites where armed groups collect taxes.

### C. Security issues around the activities of mining companies: the case of Bozoum

158. On 25 March 2019, the Minister for Mines and Geology suspended the activities of four mining companies operating in the area of Bozoum (Ouham-Pendé Prefecture), Tian Xiang, Tian Run, Meng and Mao, for failure to comply with environmental protection rules (see annex 8.3).

159. After locals had complained about the companies' continued activities (see annex 8.4), a parliamentary fact-finding mission visited the Bozoum area from 6 to 10 June. In the mission report, the companies were accused of, inter alia, damaging the environment, failure to declare most of their production and operating outside their permit areas (see annex 8.5).<sup>194</sup> On 29 July, members of the Government held a press conference to refute the mission's conclusions.<sup>195</sup>

160. Tensions around the activities of mining companies raised security concerns. On 27 April, in Bozoum, an angry crowd burned a vehicle belonging to one of the mining companies in protest against the arrest by FACA of a priest for taking pictures of the mining sites (see annex 8.6).<sup>196</sup> The Panel notes that the use of FACA and the internal security forces to protect the interests of private companies has become a common practice (see [S/2018/729](#), annex 7.5) and has had a negative impact on the image of the State security forces.<sup>197</sup>

161. Similar accusations had previously been levelled against mining companies operating in other areas (see [S/2018/729](#), annex 7.5 and [S/2018/1119](#), paras. 154–156). This succession of cases helped to turn the issue into a political one, with the opposition accusing the Government of mismanaging the country's natural resources (see also [S/2019/822](#), para. 18). A separate parliamentary fact-finding team was established to address the issue of corruption in the granting of mining permits.<sup>198</sup>

<sup>193</sup> Sebastian Pennes, *Diagnostic de l'exploitation minière et perspectives de développement socio-économique en RCA à la lumière de la vision du régime minier en Afrique – rapport final*, Levin Sources, Cambridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, October 2018.

<sup>194</sup> The accusations are corroborated by other sources and several other members of Parliament from the area, including some who were not members of the Mission; meeting with confidential sources and members of Parliament, Bangui, 13 and 20 May 2019.

<sup>195</sup> Meeting with the Minister for Mines, Bangui, 10 September 2019. Radio Ndeke Luka, "République centrafricaine : Le gouvernement contredit le rapport des députés sur la dégradation de l'environnement à Bozoum", 28 July 2019, available from [www.radiondekeluka.org](http://www.radiondekeluka.org).

<sup>196</sup> Confidential report, 29 April 2019.

<sup>197</sup> See report of the fact-finding mission (annex 8.5).

<sup>198</sup> Radio Ndeke Luka, "Assemblée Nationale : Des députés accusés de corruption dans l'attribution des marchés à des sociétés d'exploitation minière", 20 July 2019, available from [www.radiondekeluka.org](http://www.radiondekeluka.org).

## D. Mining permits

162. In May 2019, copies of 41 mining permits were uploaded to the official website of the Ministry of Finance and the Budget.<sup>199</sup> The Panel noted that the list included permits for certain areas not under State control, including three permits for semi-mechanized artisanal exploitation in areas where armed groups collected taxes from all economic operators. Office de recherches géologiques et d'exploitation minière obtained a permit for operations in Bria (Haute-Kotto Prefecture), issued on 14 January 2018; Lobaye Invest for operations in Bangassou (Mbomou Prefecture) and in Bria, Ouadah and Sam Ouandja (Haute-Kotto Prefecture), issued on 4 April 2018; and Coopérative Minière Minerva Africa for operations in Agoudou Manga (Ouaka Prefecture), issued on 24 September 2018 (see annex 8.7).

163. The Panel brought this matter to the attention of the Minister for Mines and Geology by letter dated 17 September 2019. The Panel requested information about the measures taken by the Government to ensure that the granting of such permits did not facilitate exports of rough diamonds sourced outside Kimberley Process-compliant zones and/or did not facilitate the funding of armed groups. The Minister informed the Panel that he would clarify the issue (see recommendation contained in para. 172 (d) below).<sup>200</sup> In a communication of 30 November, the company Lobaye Invest stated that it had not undertaken any activities in areas controlled by armed groups.

## E. Regional cooperation in the fight against trafficking

164. On 10 and 11 April, in the framework of the Kimberley Process, a workshop was held on regional cooperation in Central Africa with the participation of representatives of Angola, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Participants discussed ways to increase regional cooperation, including by establishing a consultative framework for law enforcement agencies and harmonizing taxation policies.

165. During its investigations, the Panel observed that many individuals involved in trafficking in the Central African Republic had previously engaged in similar activities in other African countries. This was the case, for instance, with Abadi Shouki, mentioned in the Panel's final report for 2017 (S/2017/1023, paras. 163–166). In that regard, the Panel underlines the importance of information-sharing and/or the establishment of "red lists" among countries in the region and elsewhere (see recommendation contained in para. 172 (e) below).

## IX. Information on sanctioned individuals and the implementation of sanctions

### A. Implementation of the asset freeze by national authorities

166. On 2 October, in a meeting with the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic in Bangui, the General Prosecutor of the Central African Republic stated that the national authorities had undertaken to identify the assets of individuals under United Nations sanctions. The information collected by the authorities and shared with

<sup>199</sup> Available from [www.finances-budget.cf/documents/permis-d-exploitation/permis-miniers](http://www.finances-budget.cf/documents/permis-d-exploitation/permis-miniers), (accessed on 25 October 2019).

<sup>200</sup> Meeting with the Minister for Mines, 10 September 2019.

the Panel on 18 October corroborated the Panel's findings included in previous reports (see S/2016/1032, para. 46; S/2017/639, paras. 36–38; S/2018/1119, paras. 203–206; and S/2019/608, paras. 107 and 108). The Panel commends the authorities of the Central African Republic for their work on this issue.

167. Among the bank accounts identified, only the account of sanctioned individual and FACA officer Habib Soussou opened at Banque sahélo-saharienne pour l'investissement et le commerce (BSIC) (see S/2018/1119, paras. 204–208) had yet to be frozen. BSIC informed the Panel that no instructions for the freezing of the asset had been issued by the General Prosecutor. In a letter of 8 November, the Panel reminded the General Prosecutor and other relevant national authorities that all assets of sanctioned individuals were to be frozen.

## **B. Use of a fraudulent Sudanese passport and travel ban violations by Nourredine Adam**

168. In June, the Panel was informed that Nourredine Adam was travelling with a Sudanese passport bearing the name of Mohamed Adam Brema Abdallah. On 22 August, following several requests for information made to countries to which Nourredine Adam had travelled, Kenya shared a copy of the passport, which had been issued on 10 June 2018, thereby enabling the Panel to confirm by facial recognition that the passport was indeed being used by Nourredine Adam (see annex 9.1). As a result, on 6 September, the Committee amended the information on Adam included in the sanctions list and issued a press release on the matter.<sup>201</sup>

169. Kenya also informed the Panel that Nourredine Adam used the passport when travelling to Nairobi from Dubai on 19 November 2018.

170. On 30 July, the Panel sent a letter to the Sudan requesting information on the passport. The Sudan has yet to provide a response (see recommendation in para. 172 (f) below).

171. During the reporting period, Nourredine Adam continued to be based in Khartoum (see S/2019/608, para. 18) and engaged in other travel ban violations (for previous cases, see, for instance, S/2018/1119, paras. 199–201). He reportedly travelled from Khartoum to Riyadh on 15 August and, from Riyadh to Khartoum on 20 August.<sup>202</sup> Saudi Arabia has yet to respond to the Panel's request for information regarding this journey.

## **X. Recommendations**

172. The Panel recommends that the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic:

(a) Encourage the Government of the Central African Republic and the guarantors of the Agreement to define punitive measures and sanctions that could be taken pursuant to article 35 of the Agreement, in particular in cases of international humanitarian law violations (see para. 15);

<sup>201</sup> United Nations, "2127 sanctions committee amends list entry of one individual", press release, 6 September 2019.

<sup>202</sup> Meeting with confidential sources, Birao, 21–22 August 2019. Meeting with FPRC representative, 20 August 2019.

(b) Encourage the Government of the Central African Republic, relevant regional and international partners to pursue their efforts at cooperation on cross-border transhumance, and in this regard:

(i) pursue their efforts to hold a regional conference on transhumance and pastoralism (see para. 121);

(ii) ensure that sexual and gender-based violence and measures against it are included in the agenda of any meetings and initiatives related to transhumance (see para. 80);

(c) Remind the States neighbouring the Central African Republic of the provisions of paragraph 9 of Security Council resolution [2488 \(2019\)](#), in which the Council called upon the authorities of the Central African Republic and the authorities of neighbouring States to cooperate at the regional level to investigate and combat armed groups involved in arms trafficking, and, pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution [2454 \(2019\)](#), to provide information on traffickers to the Panel for further investigation and cooperation;

(d) Call upon the Government of the Central African Republic and Member States providing operational and non-operational training to the country's Presidential Guard to coordinate that training with MINUSCA and notify the Committee in advance of such activities as required under paragraph 2 (b) of resolution [2488 \(2019\)](#) (see para. 146);

(e) Encourage the Government of the Central African Republic to clarify its policy regarding the granting of mining permits in areas controlled by armed groups and provide the Committee with information on the measures taken to ensure that such permits do not facilitate the export of diamonds sourced outside Kimberley Process-compliant zones and/or do not facilitate the funding of armed groups (see paras. 162–163);

(f) Encourage the Government of the Central African Republic and neighbouring countries to strengthen the cooperation among their law enforcement agencies involved in countering trafficking in natural resources, in particular through information-sharing and the establishment of lists of traffickers (see paras. 164–165);

(g) Remind the Government of the Sudan of the information provided by the Panel concerning the Sudanese diplomatic passport used by sanctioned individual Nourredine Adam, as well as its obligation to cooperate with the Panel on this issue (see paras. 168–171).



## Annexes

### **Annexes to the final report of the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic extended pursuant to Security Council resolution [2454 \(2019\)](#)**

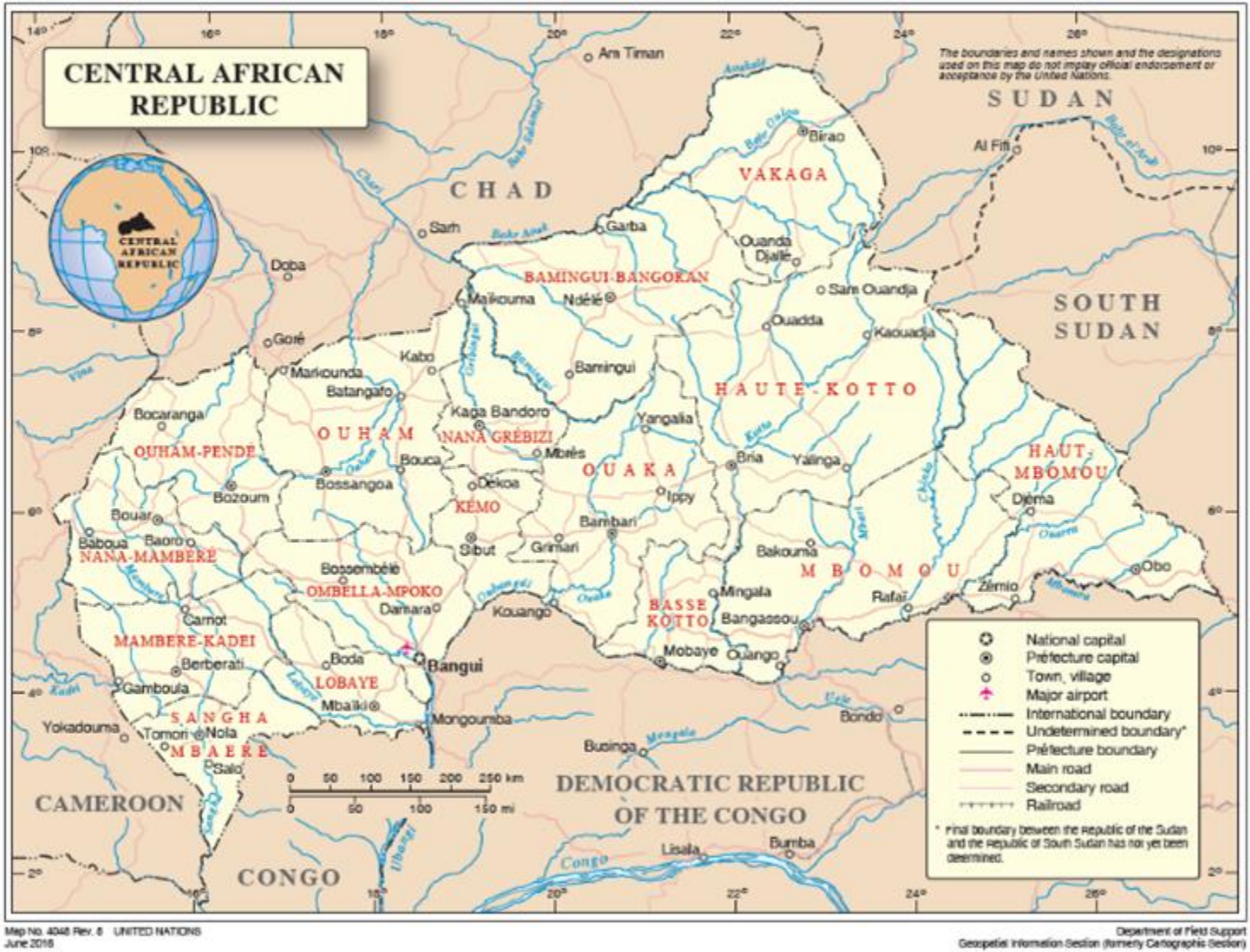
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Annex 1.1: Map of the Central African Republic.



**Annex 1.2:** Table of correspondence sent and received by the Panel from 1 March to 4 November 2019.

Country/Entity	Number of letters sent	Information fully supplied	Information partially supplied	No answer / Information not supplied	Pending
African Union	1			1	
Republic of the Congo	2			2	
Chair	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
CAR	3	1		2	
Chad	4	2		2	
WFP	3	3			
Ethiopian Airlines	3	2		1	
Kenya	3	1		2	
Sudan	4			4	
Cameroon	3	2		1	
Gabon	2	2			
Russian Federation	1	1			
Lapara	1			1	
Israel	2	2			
BSIC	2	2			
Sogea Satom	1	1			
India	1			1	
EPC Group	1			1	
Individual	2			2	

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CBCA	1	1			
Ecobank	2	2			
BPMC	1	1			
Equatorial Guinea	3	3		2	
Thien Pao	1			1	
United Arab Emirates	2	1		1	
Lebanon	1			1	
Iraq	1			1	
Middle East Airlines	1	1			
Canada	1	1			
Uganda	2	1		1	
Saudi Arabia	1			1	
Turkish Airlines	2	2			
Iran	1	1			
Benin	1	1			
Nigeria	1			1	
Angola	1				1
Rwanda	1	1			

## Annex 2.1: Communiqué of the meeting of the Agreement signatories of 23-24 August 2019.

Document obtained by the Panel from a diplomatic source on 11 September 2019.



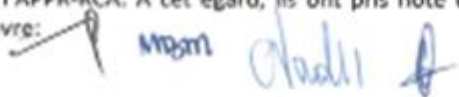
### Communiqué de la réunion de concertation entre les parties signataires de l'Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation en RCA avec les Garants et Facilitateurs, 23 et 24 août 2019

Les 23 et 24 août 2019 à Bangui, les parties signataires de l'Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation en République Centrafricaine (APPR-RCA) ainsi que les Garants et Facilitateurs de l'Accord ont tenu à Bangui une réunion de concertation sous la présidence de l'Ambassadeur Matías Bertino MATONDO, Représentant spécial du Président de la Commission de l'Union africaine (UA) et Chef de la Mission de l'UA pour la Centrafrique et l'Afrique Centrale (MISAC), Garante de l'Accord de paix et co-Président du Comité Exécutif de Suivi (CES), pour faire le point sur l'état de la mise en œuvre de l'accord de paix signé à Bangui, le 6 février 2019.

La réunion de concertation s'est tenue en présence du Premier Ministre de la RCA, Chef du Gouvernement et co-Président du CES, S.E.M. Firmin NGREBADA, du Représentant spécial du Secrétaire Général de l'Organisation des Nations unies (ONU) et Chef de la Mission Multidimensionnelle Intégrée des Nations unies pour la Stabilisation en RCA (MINUSCA), M. Mankeur NDIAYE, du Représentant du Secrétaire Général de la Communauté Economique des États de l'Afrique Centrale (CEEAC), autre garant de l'Accord, l'Ambassadeur Adolphe NAHAYO, et du Ministre de la Justice, des Droits de l'Homme, Garde des sceaux, Président du Comité de Mise en Œuvre National (CMON) M. Flavien MBATA.

Outre les représentants des groupes armés signataires de l'Accord de paix, ont pris part également à la réunion Mme Marie-Noëlle KOYARA, Ministre de la Défense Nationale, de la Reconstruction de l'Armée et des Anciens Combattants, le Général Linguissara WANZET et, Ministre de l'Intérieur chargé de la Sécurité Publique, M. Maxime MOKOM, Ministre chargé du Désarmement, Démobilisation et Réinsertion (DDR), M. Gilbert TOUMOU DEYA, Ministre délégué auprès du Premier Ministre chargé des relations avec les groupes armés, les Ambassadeurs ou Chargés d'Affaire de l'Angola, du Cameroun, du Tchad, de la Guinée Equatoriale, de la République Démocratique du Congo (RDC), en tant que Facilitateurs de l'APPR-RCA, ainsi que la Coordination du Secrétariat technique du CES de l'APPR-RCA.

Après la cérémonie d'ouverture marquée par les allocutions de S.E.M. Firmin NGREBADA, de l'Ambassadeur Matías Bertino MATONDO et de M. Mankeur NDIAYE, les travaux se sont poursuivis à huis-clos. Au cours des deux jours de travail, les participants ont passé en revue les progrès et défis relatifs à la mise en œuvre des différents engagements pris au titre de l'APPR-RCA. A cet égard, ils ont pris note des présentations faites sur l'état de la mise en œuvre:





- des engagements respectifs du Gouvernement et des groupes armés ;
- des violations de l'Accord depuis sa signature,
- du processus DDR ;
- des questions spécifiques ;
- des arrangements sécuritaires temporaires ;
- des engagements de région et de la communauté internationale ;
- de la participation des groupes armés dans le gouvernement.

Les participants ont salué l'appui continu des Garants et Facilitateurs, notamment de l'UA, de la CEEAC, de la MINUSCA, du Cameroun, de la RDC, de la République du Congo, du Tchad, de la Guinée Equatoriale, de l'Angola, du Soudan ainsi que la contribution multiforme des partenaires de la communauté internationale, dans la mise en œuvre de l'APPR-RCA.

Les participants ont salué les principales avancées de l'Accord de paix, particulièrement la formation d'un Gouvernement inclusif nommé le 22 mars 2019, la mise en place et l'opérationnalisation de la plupart des organes du Mécanisme de Mise en Œuvre et de Suivi (MOS) de l'Accord, notamment le Comité Exécutif de suivi (CES), son Secrétariat technique, le Comité de Mise en Œuvre National (CMON) et, les Comités de Mise en Œuvre Préfectoraux (CMOP) et les Comités Techniques de Sécurité (CTS) en cours d'installation, la création de la Commission Inclusive chargée d'examiner les différents aspects du conflit et de faire des recommandations à la Commission Vérité, Justice, Réparation et Réconciliation (CVJRR), l'élaboration en cours de projets de lois sur la décentralisation, les partis politiques, le statut des anciens Chefs d'Etat, ainsi que les avancées dans le processus de DDR dans l'ouest du pays et dans la préparation des Unités Spéciales Mixtes de Sécurité (USMS).

Les participants ont pris note avec satisfaction des avancées enregistrées dans le processus du grand DDR, notamment de l'important progrès déjà réalisé dans le désarmement et la démobilisation du FDPC, de RJ aile Sayo et Belanga, du UFR-F et des anti-Balaka à l'Ouest du pays. Jusqu'à ce jour, 583 éléments des groupes armés signataires ont déposé leurs armes.

Les participants ont réaffirmé leur plein soutien à la poursuite et l'accélération de l'exécution du Programme Nationale du DDR et aux efforts. Ils ont en outre encouragé des autorités centrafricaines à poursuivre leurs efforts d'inclusion et de représentation des groupes armés dans l'administration publique, à faciliter l'intégration des ex-combattants éligibles dans les forces nationales de la défense et de la sécurité ainsi que la réintégration des anciens éléments des Forces Armées Centrafricaines (FACA) actuellement membres des groupes armés.

Les participants ont rappelé l'importance de poursuivre les efforts d'inclusion et de représentation des toutes les communautés centrafricaines dans l'administration publique. Les Garants et Facilitateurs ont mis l'accent sur l'impérieuse nécessité d'une conjugaison des efforts de bonne foi des groupes armés signataires pour accélérer le processus de désarmement et de démobilisation dans le cadre du Programme Nationale du DDR.

*Handwritten signatures and initials in blue ink, including "elook" and "M33M", and a small box containing the number "2".*



**Annex 2.2:** Communiqué de the Tripartite AU-UN-EU mission to the Central African Republic (6 October 2019).

*Document obtained by the Panel from a diplomatic source on 8 October 2019.*



### COMMUNIQUÉ CONJOINT

**L'Union africaine, Les Nations Unies, et l'Union européenne réitèrent leur appui à la mise en œuvre de l'Accord politique pour la paix et la réconciliation en République centrafricaine (APPR-RCA), unique voie pour le retour à une paix durable en RCA.**

Du 4 au 7 octobre 2019, le Commissaire à la paix et à la sécurité de l'Union africaine (UA), Ambassadeur Smail Chergui, le Secrétaire général adjoint des Nations Unies pour les opérations de paix, M. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, et le Directeur Général - Afrique du Service européen pour l'action extérieure de l'Union européenne, M. Koen Vervaeke, ont effectué une mission conjointe en République centrafricaine. Cette mission, qui fait suite à celle d'avril 2019, s'inscrit dans le cadre du suivi de la mise en œuvre de l'Accord politique pour la paix et la réconciliation en République centrafricaine signé le 6 février 2019. Elle avait ainsi pour but de faire le point sur les progrès accomplis, d'identifier les défis relatifs à la mise en œuvre de l'Accord de paix et d'échanger avec les différents acteurs concernés sur les solutions adéquates pour en accélérer l'exécution.

La mission conjointe a été reçue en audience par le Président de la République, Son Excellence le Professeur Faustin Archange Touadéra et le Premier Ministre, Son Excellence M. Firmin Ngrebada. Elle a aussi mené une série d'entretiens avec des membres du Gouvernement, des leaders de partis politiques et de la société civile, ainsi que des représentants des missions diplomatiques et d'organisations régionales et internationales. Elle a eu une séance de travail par vidéoconférence avec l'ensemble des responsables civils et militaires des Bureaux de terrain de la Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en République centrafricaine (MINUSCA).

Au terme de cette visite, la mission conjointe salue les efforts déployés par le Président de la République et son Gouvernement, ainsi que par les acteurs qui travaillent pour la mise en œuvre intégrale de l'Accord de paix. Elle se félicite des

progrès réalisés dans la restauration de l'autorité de l'État, notamment avec l'installation de tous les Préfets dans les 16 préfectures, de la majorité des sous-préfets, des Comités techniques de sécurité (CTS), des Comités de mise en œuvre préfectoraux (CMOP), ainsi que du déploiement progressif des Forces de défense et de sécurité.

La mission conjointe, tout en prenant note des progrès réalisés à ce jour avec une baisse sensible des violences depuis la signature de l'Accord de paix, a exprimé sa préoccupation face aux actes hostiles qui continuent d'être perpétrés dans le pays. Elle a fermement condamné, d'une part, les affrontements entre les groupes armés à Birao et ayant entraîné le déplacement de plus de 15 000 personnes, et, d'autre part, la persistance des violations de l'Accord de paix et des droits de l'homme dans les autres régions du pays, notamment au nord-ouest dans la période récente.

La mission en appelle à toutes les parties prenantes à respecter scrupuleusement leurs engagements pris au titre de l'Accord et exhorte tous les groupes armés à déposer immédiatement les armes, à mettre un terme aux violences visant la population civile, à démanteler les barrières illégales et à privilégier le dialogue et la concertation, ainsi que les mécanismes de règlement de différends prévus dans l'Accord. Elle engage toutes les parties à garantir l'opérationnalisation rapide des mesures de sécurité transitoires, notamment les Unités spéciales mixtes de sécurité (USMS) ainsi que le désarmement et la démobilisation des groupes armés. Elle encourage également l'adoption rapide des projets de lois essentielles à la pleine mise en œuvre de l'Accord et à la tenue des prochaines élections.

Elle encourage par ailleurs la population centrafricaine, y compris les parties signataires et non signataires, les acteurs politiques, la société civile et les associations de femmes et de jeunes, à continuer de soutenir la mise en œuvre de l'Accord qui reste l'unique voie pour le retour à une paix durable sur l'ensemble du territoire. Elle réaffirme la détermination de la communauté internationale à s'opposer à toute remise en cause de l'Accord dans lequel le peuple centrafricain a tant investi et qui répond à ses aspirations en matière de paix, de sécurité, de justice, et de réconciliation nationale. Elle rappelle que toute entrave à la mise de l'Accord expose ses auteurs à des sanctions.

La mission en appelle à l'ensemble de la communauté internationale à continuer à apporter une réponse urgente et appropriée aux besoins humanitaires et de

développement, essentiels pour permettre à la population de bénéficier des dividendes de la paix qui commencent à se concrétiser sur le terrain.

La mission conjointe se félicite de l'accompagnement continu de l'Union africaine, de la Communauté économique des Etats de l'Afrique centrale (CEEAC), garants de l'Accord de paix, des pays de la sous-région, ainsi que celui de la MINUSCA, de l'Union européenne, et des autres partenaires internationaux, qui revêt une grande importance dans la stabilisation et le relèvement de la République centrafricaine et les invite à poursuivre leurs efforts concertés afin d'accroître leur appui à la mise en œuvre des dispositions de l'Accord de paix.

La mission conjointe réaffirme que le processus électoral constitue une étape indispensable et prioritaire pour la consolidation des acquis démocratiques et la stabilité du pays. Elle exhorte donc les acteurs centrafricains au respect des prochaines échéances électorales de 2020/2021, dans les délais constitutionnels, et s'assurer que celles-ci soient libres, transparentes et pacifiques. Elle appelle la communauté internationale à appuyer ce processus électoral à travers la mobilisation des fonds nécessaires à son bon déroulement.

La mission conjointe réitère sa volonté de continuer à soutenir les efforts de l'ensemble des institutions centrafricaines et de la population dans la mise en œuvre de l'Accord de paix, la bonne conduite des élections à venir et la stabilisation de la République centrafricaine.

La mission conjointe remercie le Gouvernement et le peuple centrafricains pour l'accueil chaleureux et se réjouit de la disponibilité de tous les acteurs tout au long de son séjour.

Fait à Bangui, le 6 octobre 2019

**Annex 2.3:** Memorandum of PK5 self-defence groups submitted to ECCAS representative on 5 September 2019.

*Document obtained by the Panel from a diplomatic source on 16 October 2019.*

COORDINATION DE L'AUTO DEFENSE DU PK5  
*FORCE-FOI-HONNEUR*

**MEMORANDUM**

A

**TRES HAUTE ATTENTION DE MONSIEUR L'AMBASSADEUR REPRESENTANT DE LA  
CEEAC  
-BANGUI-**

Née dans un contexte de crise intercommunautaire après la chute du pouvoir du Président DJOTODIA dans notre capitale Bangui, l'Auto-défense du PK5 s'est constituée à partir de Décembre 2013 suite aux traques, débandades et exode des musulmans des sept arrondissements de Bangui y compris une partie du 3<sup>e</sup> arrondissement après les chutes en série des quartiers à dominance musulmane de Galabadja, Malimaka, Miskine, Moustapha et autres, suivies de leurs cortèges de victimes et de destructions que nous savons tous aujourd'hui. La progression des attaques antibalakas pesant de plus en plus sur le PK5, dernier bastion de retranchement des musulmans à partir de Janvier 2014, les ruées intempestives de nos congénères à destination de l'intérieur et de l'extérieur du pays, laissèrent une minorité désemparée d'environ 3000 hommes à majorité de jeunes dans un cul de sac du PK5.

Ne trouvant échappatoire en dehors de cette enclave verrouillé et auréolé de tout risque, cette minorité abandonnée d'hommes et de femmes cloisonnée au PK5, s'est décidée de s'organiser en Auto-défense pour sauver sa Communauté, sa localité, et ses biens. Contrainte à la légitime défense dans leur unique refuge de Bangui, désormais érigée en unique enclave musulmane, l'Auto-défense du PK5 s'est ainsi constituée.

A ce jour, l'Auto-défense du PK5 dispose de 1500 hommes, répartis dans 14 zones sur l'ensemble des 11 quartiers constitutifs du PK5.

Constituée par instinct de survie pour se protéger des attaques dans un conflit qui prenait nettement un caractère confessionnel, l'Auto-défense du PK5 n'est affiliée à aucun groupe politico-militaire. En effet, la population du PK5, abandonnée à elle-même depuis le déclenchement du conflit, jusqu'à la restauration de l'autorité de l'Etat, sa défense revenait essentiellement à ces jeunes civils, innocents, contraints par la force des choses à la vie des armés.

Ayant essuyé de Décembre 2013 à la cessation récente des hostilités, 111 attaques, l'Auto-défense du PK5 a enregistré à ce jour, plus de 1000 éléments tués, disparus, arrêté sous handicapés parmi lesquels des centaines d'âmes innocentes sont inutilement tombées sous les balles des ennemis et parfois des forces conventionnelles et internationales.

De nos jours malgré le climat ambiant global de paix qui prévaut sur l'ensemble du pays après la signature de l'Accord Politique pour la Paix et de Réconciliation

en Centrafrique signé le 06 février 2019, l'Auto-défense du PK5 continue de faire l'objet de traque, de molestage et de menaces d'attaques.

Fustigée de l'intérieur comme de l'extérieur de la communauté par des détracteurs de tout bord depuis le début de la crise, l'Auto-défense du PK5 s'est tout de même comportée en organisation responsable.

En contact permanent depuis toujours avec les organismes internationaux, les forces internationales déployées au chevet de notre pays, les autorités de la Transition et celles démocratiquement élues, l'Auto-défense du PK5 n'a cessé d'exprimer son adhésion pour une sortie idoine, durable et définitive de la crise.

Ainsi, en termes d'actions concrètes, l'Auto-défense du PK5 a notamment contribué depuis lors :

- au maintien et la pérennisation de la cohésion sociale et du ~~vivre~~ ensemble à travers la coexistence des mosquées et églises, Chrétiens et Musulmans au PK5 ;
- à l'atténuation des braquages et d'autres formes de violences au PK5 ;
- à la protection et la sauvegarde des institutions publiques et privées telles les banques, les stations de carburant, les maisons de commerce, les humanitaires, etc ;
- à la sécurisation et au succès des consultations populaires à la base de Janvier 2015 au PK5 ;
- à la sécurisation au côté des forces internationales de la visite du Pape François du 29 Novembre au PK5 et aux succès des processus référendaires, et électoraux du 13 Décembre 2015 et début 2016 au PK5 ayant permis le bon déroulement des campagnes et l'élection du Professeur Faustin Archange TOUADERA à la magistrature suprême de l'Etat aux prix même de nos vies, à la sécurisation de la visite du Président Hollande du 13 Avril 2016 ainsi que des différentes personnalités nationales et internationales en visite au PK5 ;
- aux négociations et à la signature du pacte de non-agression avec nos frères antibalakas pour la réouverture en Janvier 2016 du cimetière musulman de Boeing ;
- à la sécurisation et à la reprise des activités commerciales au PK5 ; poumons économiques du pays depuis toujours ;
- aux différents dialogues en faveur de la réouverture du Commissariat du 3e arrondissement et pour la restauration de l'autorité de l'Etat au PK5, etc.

Malheureusement, aucune de ces actions citoyennes n'est mise l'actif de l'Auto-défense du PK5.

Bien au contraire assimilée à un groupe de voyous, bandits armés, terroristes, djihadistes, mercenaires, islamistes, etc., par les détracteurs de toujours, l'Auto-

défense du PK5 a toujours fait l'objet de toute forme de stigmatisation, de diabolisation, d'isolement et de disqualification dans tout processus de pacification du pays jusqu'à ce jour.

Pourtant, nul n'ignore que ces crises à rebondissement qui durent depuis plus de deux décennies, n'ayant ni vainqueurs ni vaincus et qui, malheureusement, ont fait des victimes et dommages aux compatriotes innocents de tout bord laissant des destructions et des fractures sociales sans précédent, n'est que le cumul de l'exclusion et des diverses conséquences de la mal gouvernance chronique qui ont toujours caractérisé nos dirigeants successifs.

Aujourd'hui, bien que le patriotisme des Centrafricains de différentes tendances tente de prendre le dessus sur ces maux avec l'appui de la communauté internationale qui ne ménage aucun effort pour sortir le pays du chaos, certains fils du pays, en particulier, l'Auto-défense du PK5, continue de faire l'objet d'exclusion et de stigmatisation de la part des autres.

En effet, la réussite des foras politiques et sociaux, la tenue des scrutins référendaires à l'issue desquels le nouveau projet de constitution a été adopté, le retour à la légalité constitutionnelle à travers des élections libres, transparentes et démocratiques ayant abouti à l'accession du Professeur Faustin Archange TOUADERA à la Magistrature suprême de l'Etat jusqu'à la signature récente de l'APPR-RCA du 06 février 2019 qui augurent, certes, un avenir meilleur du pays, il n'en demeure pas moins, Monsieur le Représentant de l'Union Africaine de l'Initiative Africaine, que les préoccupations suivantes de l'Auto-défense du PK5 restent pendantes. En effet :

- L'Auto-défense n'a jamais été pris en compte dans les différents foras tant à l'intérieur qu'à l'extérieur du pays. Du Forum de Brazzaville, en passant par les assises de Rome, au Forum de Bangui jusqu'à la mission de Vienne et aux discussions ayant abouti à l'APPR-RCA du 06 février 2019, l'Auto-défense du PK5 a toujours été écarté au profit des personnes mal indiquées ou des profito-situationnistes coptés ci et là. La cooptation basée sur des critères ethniques ou népotiques, l'exclusion mettant de côté les interlocuteurs crédibles, a toujours été le principal mode de sélection et de gouvernance de nos dirigeants ;
- L'Auto-défense qui est une organisation constituée à majorité des jeunes, n'a jamais été associée aux différentes manifestations nationales de la jeunesse. Abandonnée à elle-même, sa voix ne porte plus au niveau des instances de décisions du pays, etc.

Même s'elle est constituée au début par nécessité, l'Auto-défense du PK5 est devenue de nos jours, une organisation à part entière ayant par devers elle, des armes au même titre que la SELEKA et les BALAKA. Malheureusement, elle a

toujours été mise de côté dans tous les processus de résilience et de quête définitive et durable de paix dans le pays.

En dépit de tout ce qui précède, l'Auto-défense du PK5, au-delà de toute illusion et désespoir, continuera de garder espoir pour un avenir meilleur de notre pays et ne cessera de saisir toute opportunité pour la normalisation du pays. Toutefois, elle tient à attirer l'attention de la Communauté Internationale et de nos actuels dirigeants et à exprimer ses vœux pour ne pas l'exclure de tout processus global de recherche permanent de paix dans le contexte actuel de notre pays.

Sur ce, l'Auto-défense du PK5 voudrait bien formuler à l'endroit des facilitateurs, des garants du processus dans notre pays ainsi que de nos dirigeants politiques, les vœux suivants :

- Rompre définitivement avec la stigmatisation, les menaces, et l'exclusion à l'égard de l'Auto-défense du PK5 afin de compter désormais avec cette jeunesse engagée en optant pour une gouvernance participative à la base, juste et inclusive à tous les niveaux ;
- Leur accorder les mêmes droits et devoirs que leurs concitoyens des autres communautés tels que garantis dans la constitution du pays ;
- Libérer des prisons ses éléments aux dossiers vides ou condamnés à tort ;
- Etre intégré dans l'application des recommandations de l'APPR-RCA du 06 février 2019, notamment dans la mise en œuvre du DDR-RSS en recrutant dans l'Armée, la Police, la Gendarmerie, les Eaux et Forêts et la Douane, certains de nos éléments valides et compétents qui savent déjà manœuvrer les armes ;
- Accorder des privilèges dans la hiérarchie militaire aux 14 COM/ZONES et aux 36 membres du bureau de la Coordination ;
- Arrêter définitivement toute tentative de désarmement forcé du PK5 à l'exemple de l'opération «SOUKOULA» ;
- Garantir formellement la sécurité des 1500 éléments en échange de cantonnement et dépôt d'armes ;
- Assurer la prise en charge alimentaire et sanitaire des 1500 éléments à cantonner ;
- Assurer la prise en charge, le soin voire l'évacuation des victimes des balles ;
- Faciliter aux éléments victimes, l'accès et/ou la reconstitution des pièces administratives et civiles perdues ou endommagées ;
- Faciliter l'accès aux bourses d'études aux éléments étudiants ;
- Offrir des quotas d'intégration et de responsabilités aux diplômés et administrateurs à tous les niveaux des services de l'Etat ;

- Etre pris en compte dans tous les processus de reconstruction nationale à tous les niveaux.

Espérant que nos préoccupations seront prises en compte, l'Auto-défense du PK5 s'engage désormais résolument sur la voie de la résilience, de la recherche de la paix définitive, du relèvement et de la reconstruction véritable de notre unique patrie ; la République Centrafricaine, en général et, en particulier, la localité du PK5.

Telles sont, Monsieur le l'Ambassadeur, les principales préoccupations de l'Auto-défense du PK5 que nous avons l'honneur de porter à votre sage appréciation.

Fait à Bangui, le 05/09/2019

POUR LA COORDINATION



**MAHAMAT RAHMA ALIAS LT**  
TEL : (236) 72 84 03 34

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL



**ABAKAR ZAKARIA**  
(+236) 75 01 48 14

Ampliations :

- Présidence de la République
- MINUSCA
- SAINTEGIDIO



**Annex 2.4:** Recommendations of the fourth session of Comité Executif de Suivi (CES) issued on 2 August 2019.

*Document obtained by the Panel from a diplomatic source on 14 August 2019.*



- Sans préjudice du principe de l'opportunité des poursuites l'application de la justice aux auteurs des crimes commis dans le pays.

**3. SUR LA SITUATION DE Mr KOUTAMADJI MARTIN ALIAS ABDOULAYE MISKINE, LEADER DU MOUVEMENT FDPC :**

- La prise des sanctions nationales et internationales ;
- Au Ministère de la Justice et des Droits de l'Homme de prendre toutes les mesures judiciaires qui s'imposent ;
- La prise des mesures conséquentes à l'encontre de ses représentants nommés dans les cabinets de la Présidence de la République et de la Primature.

**4. DES RENCONTRES :**

- La tenue d'une rencontre entre le Gouvernement, les Garants, les facilitateurs et les leaders des anciens groupes armés pour faire le point de l'exécution des engagements des parties à l'Accord ;
- La tenue d'une rencontre avec les garants et les facilitateurs pour trouver des solutions sur la situation du KM5 et décider du déguerpissement des occupants des camps BEAL et RDOT de Bangui ;
- La tenue d'une rencontre entre le Gouvernement et les garants de l'APPR-RCA et la MINUSCA pour la définition et la limitation du périmètre de sécurité à ne pas franchir par chacun des anciens groupes armés sous peine de sanction.

**5. DES MISES EN DEMEURE :**

- Une mise en demeure à l'endroit des anciens groupes armés sur la question des Violences basée sur le genre et l'inscrire désormais dans les violations de l'APPR-RCA ;

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- Une mise en demeure assortie de délai à l'endroit des anciens groupes armés qui n'ont pas apporté des réponses appropriées aux violations dont ils sont accusés présentées au cours de cette session ;
- Une mise en demeure à l'endroit des groupes armés pour exiger la dissolution formelle de leurs groupes.

#### 6. SUR LE DDDR :

- La poursuite par le Gouvernement du programme du DDDR sur l'ensemble du territoire et du processus de la mise en place des USMS pour apporter une solution au problème de cantonnement des éléments des anciens groupes armés ;
- Le déploiement simultané des activités du DDDR sur l'ensemble du territoire afin de créer les conditions de mise en place et d'opérationnalisation des USMS et de lancement des programmes et projets de développement des régions du pays.

#### 7. SUR LA RÉCONCILIATION NATIONALE :

- La réactualisation du calendrier de la mise en place de la CVJRR pour tenir compte des contraintes de la procédure ;
- La création d'un fonds de Réparation par la future loi relative à la CVJRR, qui sera approvisionné par les contributions des partenaires ;
- Le réajustement du mandat de la Commission Inclusive pour lui permettre de mener toutes les activités prévues ;
- La saisine directe de la Commission Inclusive par les victimes pour des plaintes pour référencement.

**8. SUR LES ORGANES DU MÉCANISME DE MISE EN ŒUVRE :**

- Le Comité de Mise en Œuvre National (CMON) doit prendre toute sa place dans la mise en œuvre, travailler sur les points de faiblesse identifiés et en rendre compte au CES ;
- La mise en place de procédures flexibles pour la contribution de l'Etat au financement des organes de mise en œuvre ;
- La convocation d'une réunion avec les partenaires pour faire le point de leur appui au financement de la mise en œuvre de l'APPR- RCA.

**9. SUR LA VULGARISATION :**

- La révision du plan de la communication au tour de l'APPR-RCA pour intégrer les femmes dans la plateforme des acteurs ;
- La coordination entre le Ministère de la Communication et des Médias en charge de cette question et le CMON dans l'exécution des activités du plan de communication ;
- La création d'un espace de sensibilisation sur les violations des droits de l'Homme notamment la protection de la femme dans la vulgarisation ;
- La protestation contre la diffusion d'une interview du leader des 3 « R » dépassée de plusieurs jours et inopportune sur la Radio Ndele Luka, une action contreproductive pour la paix ;
- Élargissement de la couverture de la Radio Centrafrique sur tout le territoire afin de permettre à toute la population d'accéder à la bonne information sur l'APPR-RCA.

**10. SUR DES QUESTIONS DIVERSES :**

- L'intégration de la dimension régionale dans la sécurisation et la pacification de la transhumance et l'inscription de cette question à l'ordre du jour de toutes les commissions mixtes ;





- L'organisation en temps opportun des missions conjointes de démantèlement des barrières illégales (FACA, USMS, MINUSCA) ;
- L'application du code de justice militaire aux FACA coupables de violations de l'APPR-RCA.

#### 11. DES VÉRIFICATIONS À FAIRE SUR :

- Les arrestations arbitraires et séquestrations des civils, avec demande de rançons, par les leaders des groupes armés ;
- Les informations sur un éventuel conflit en cours entre les communautés arabes et peuhles.

Fait à Bangui le 02 AOUT 2019.

La Coprésidence du Comité Exécutif de Suivi



**S.E.M. Firmin NGREBADA**  
Premier Ministre,  
Chef du Gouvernement

**S.E.M. Mathias Bertino MATONDO**  
Représentant Spécial du Président  
de la Commission de l'Union  
Africaine, Chef de la MISAC

**Annex 2.5:** MPC communiqué signed by its leader Mahamat Al-Khatim on 7 October 2019.

*Document obtained by the Panel from an armed group representative on 8 July 2019*



### COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

#### **Mouvement Patriotique pour la Centrafrique (MPC), relatif à l'application de l'accord politique pour la paix et la réconciliation (APPR)**

L'Etat-major du Mouvement Patriotique pour la Centrafrique (MPC) informe l'opinion nationale et internationale et les garants de l'accord de Khartoum signé à Bangui le 06 Février 2019.

Nous portons à votre connaissance que nous procéderons au démantèlement des barrières illégaux ainsi que la libération des bâtiments administratifs dans la zone sous contrôle MPC dans les 72 heures qui suivent.

Le MPC reste toujours attaché à l'esprit de l'accord de Khartoum et à ses engagements pris devant la communauté internationale pour la sortie définitive de la crise en République Centrafricaine.

Fait à Kaga-Bandoro, le 07 Juillet 2019

Le Général **ALKATIM MAHAMAT**  
Chef d'Etat-major du mouvement

**Annex 2.6:** The creation of local military commander positions as a management tool within MPC.

During their meeting at Moyen-Sido on 5 August 2018 (S/2018/1119 para 30-31), Mahamat Al-Khatim, Ali Darassa and Abdoulaye Hissène discussed the issue of the chronic insecurity in Nana-Gribizi and Ouham prefectures. Those prefectures were particularly subject to acts of criminality due to the activities of small groups of fighters, often foreigners, officially part of the MPC. During the Moyen-Sido meeting, the three leaders agreed to create FPRC military commander positions in MPC areas of control (therefore including in locations where a MPC local commander position already existed). Those positions were given to members of the uncontrolled groups operating in the area (including MPC members) with a view to giving them an official role and in the hopes that it would limit their movements on the axes.<sup>1</sup> One year later, this system of FPRC commander positions in MPC zones was still in place.

For instance, in Kabo (Ouham prefecture), at the time of the Panel's mission (6 September 2019), Ahmad Hajaj, the MPC zone commander (comzone) was working in cooperation with an individual named "Nahar" who was officially the FPRC local military commander. Nahar claimed he only recently joined FPRC and could not confirm to the Panel if he was in contact with the FPRC military leadership or who was his direct superior.<sup>2</sup> Nahar is reportedly a Chadian national and a former member of the "*Direction de la Documentation et de la Sécurité*" under the regime of Hissène Habré (1982-1990).<sup>3</sup> As of 1990, Nahar reportedly joined several armed groups, in particular in the Sudan, before joining the Séléka in 2012. He was described to the Panel as particularly violent toward civilians.<sup>4</sup> His background is representative of that of many elements operating in the MPC area. The Panel notes that such individuals have no interest in the implementation of the Agreement, as they will be unable to obtain any position in CAR States security forces or administration.

<sup>1</sup> Meeting with FPRC and MPC representatives, Kaga-Bandoro, 6 and 9 September 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Meeting with Nahar, Kabo, 7 September 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Meeting with armed group representative and confidential sources, Kaga-Bandoro and Kabo, 5-9 September 2019.

<sup>4</sup> Idem.

**Annex 2.7:** Letter addressed to the AU, ECCAS and MINUSCA signed by Mahamat Al Khatim on 2 September 2019.

*Document obtained by the Panel from an armed group representative on 5 September 2019.*



Le Général ALKATIM MAHAMAT, Chef d'Etat-major du Mouvement  
**MPC**

Note A l'Attention de leurs Excellences ;

- L'Ambassadeur, représentant de l'Union Africaine
- L'Ambassadeur, représentant de la CEEAC
- Le représentant de la MINUSCA.

Objet : Note d'intention suite à vos interventions au cours de notre rencontre du 30 Août 2019 à Kaga bandoro relatives à ma démission du 27 Août 2019.

Excellences messieurs les Ambassadeurs, garants de l'accord politique pour la paix et la réconciliation en RCA.

Suite à vos sages conseils et vos interventions salutaires jugés positifs et réconciliateurs par lesquels vous me demandez de revenir sur ma décision en privilégiant le dialogue dans l'intérêt supérieur de la nation, j'ai pris le temps et la réflexion et après avoir réuni mon état-major, il a été décidé ce qui suit :

- 1 - Demandons la revalorisation de mon grade de Général qui ne doit pas poser aucun problème car je suis militaire de carrière.
- 2 - Demandons que je sois nommé Chef de région militaire de la zone Centre Nord et de facto Chef des USMS.
- 3 - Promouvoir aux grades et aux galons de mes officiers qui leur permettent de jouer pleinement leurs missions dans le cadre des USMS.
- 4 - Demandons que mes représentants ayant été nommés dans les fonctions de l'Etat soient bien traités sans discrimination aucune.



5 - Demandons mon installation officielle conformément à mes fonctions de Conseiller Militaire en Charge des Unités Spéciales Mixtes de Sécurité (USMS) pour la Zone Centre Nord ce qui n'a pas été fait jusqu'ici.

6 - Souhaitons que nous soyons consultés par le Gouvernement à tout moment dans le cadre de la sécurité en ce qui concerne notre zone de responsabilité.

Telles sont nos propositions dans l'intérêt de la consolidation de la paix et la réconciliation à travers l'Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation en RCA.

Haute et déférente considération.

**AMPLIATION**

- Union Africaine
- CEEAC
- MINUSCA

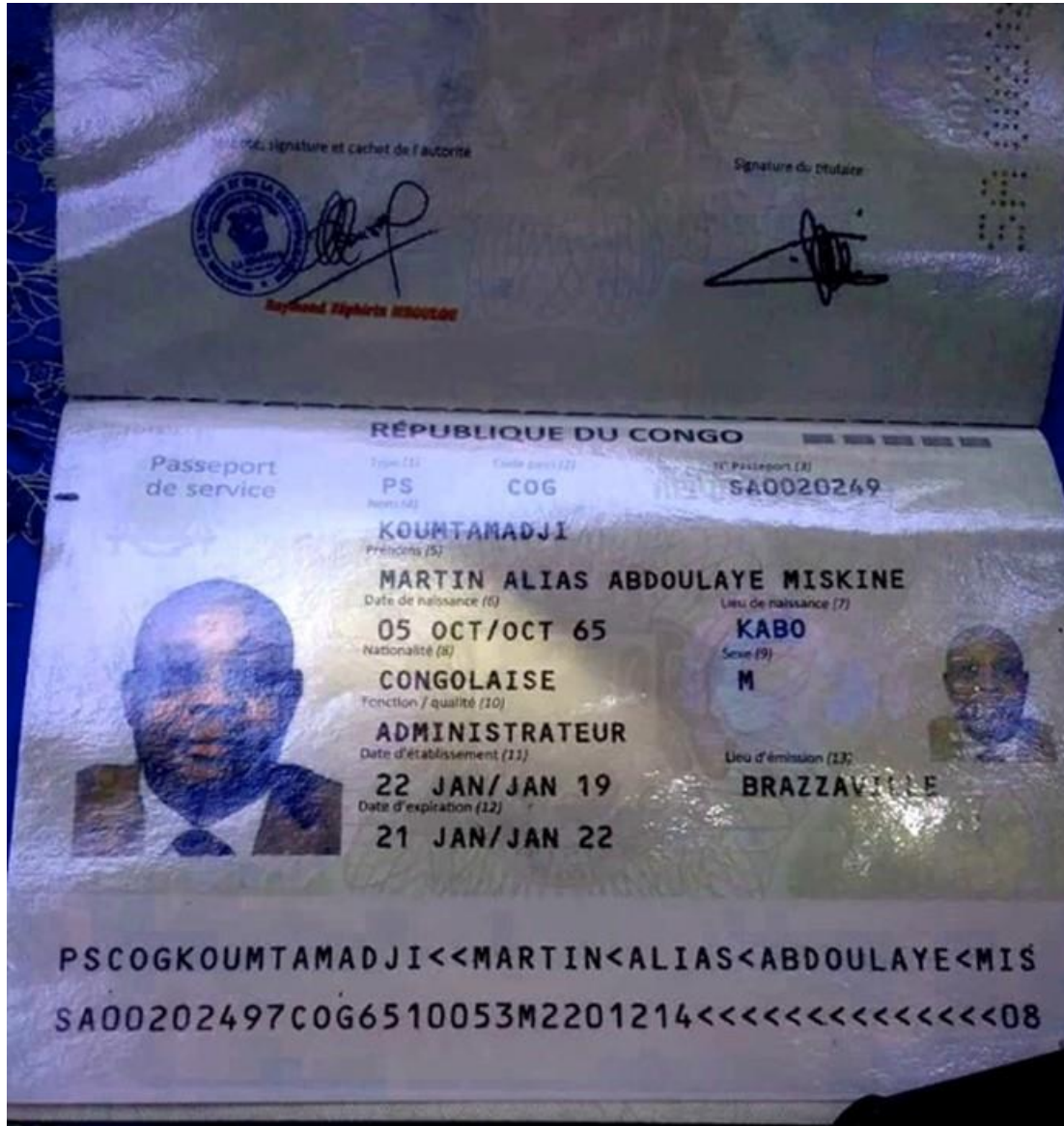
fait à Kaga bandoro le 2 sept 2019

Chef d'Etat-major du Mouvement (MPC)



**Annex 2.8:** Copy of Abdoulaye Miskine's service passport from the Republic of Congo issued on 22 January 2019.

*Document obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 8 October 2019.*



**Annex 2.9:** FDPC press communiqué signed by Abdoulaye Miskine at Am Dafok (Vakaga prefecture) on 30 July 2019.

*Document obtained by the Panel from an armed group representative on 31 July 2019.*



### COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

Nous, Général Abdoulaye MISKINE, avec le FDPC et toutes les forces patriotiques, ayant entendu les appels éplorés du peuple meurtri, abandonné et agonisant du fait de la mal gouvernance chronique, ainsi que les plaintes et doléances des forces vives de la Nation et de nos FACA, épris de paix, avons décidé de prendre nos responsabilités, pour restaurer la sécurité, la paix et la stabilité sur toute l'étendue du territoire national, afin de redonner sécurité et confiance au peuple.

Le régime de TOUADERA, bien que démocratiquement élu, a livré le pays aux mafieux et bourreaux sans foi ni loi du peuple Centrafricain qui continuent de massacrer et piller le peuple, et cela en dépit de la signature de compromission de Khartoum ; le pays est aussi livré à la prédation étrangère qui pille les richesses au mépris de l'environnement, de la santé des centrafricains et de leur dignité.

Entre autres graves dérives liées à cette mal-gouvernance, le peuple, et nous avec lui, reprochons à TOUADERA les faits suivants qui sont des crimes contre le peuple Centrafricain :

- la flagrante violation de la Constitution et le parjure de son serment présidentiel à travers tout ce qui suit :

**- FRONT DEMOCRATIQUE DU PEUPLE CENTRAFRICAÏN (FDPC)**



## FRONT DÉMOCRATIQUE DU PEUPLE CENTRAFRICAIN

- o voter des lois contraires aux intérêts du peuple et voter/destituer les Députés qui s'opposent au bradage du pays ;
- o imposer le code électoral selon le bon vouloir de TOUADERA, pour faire le hold-up électoral.
  - la consécration de l'impunité :
    - o des dignitaires auteurs avérés des malversations et corruption, qui ne sont jamais sanctionnés ;
    - o des chefs étrangers des groupes armés qui tuent en masse et qui sont légitimés dans la gestion de l'Etat ;
    - o des milices entretenues sur deniers publics, qui incitent à la haine et profèrent des menaces de mort à tout va.
  - les fonds spéciaux du PR et du PM sont augmentés à plus de 4 milliards de francs pendant que le peuple meurt de faim ;
  - TOUADERA tient coûte que coûte à organiser les élections avec le soutien des groupes armés sans sécuriser le pays ;
  - TOUADERA ne pense qu'à sa réélection en 2020. Et il est déjà entré en campagne en profitant illégalement d'une part, des moyens de l'Etat et d'autre part, de la complicité avérée de la MINUSCA qui viole ainsi son mandat de neutralité ;
  - aucune création d'emplois ni promotion de l'entrepreneuriat des jeunes pour lutter contre le chômage ;

**- FRONT DEMOCRATIQUE DU PEUPLE CENTRAFRICAIN (FDPC)**



## FRONT DÉMOCRATIQUE DU PEUPLE CENTRAFRICAIN

- aucune action d'envergure pour lutter contre la pauvreté ou les pénuries et flambées des prix de tout (eau, électricité, médicaments, nourriture, logement, etc.) écrasent le peuple ;
- le mépris des retraités, la non réévaluation des salaires des fonctionnaires et la non application des statuts spéciaux ;
- l'isolement diplomatique du pays et des actions inamicales à l'égard des pays voisins (participation des proches de Touadéra à des projets de coup d'Etat, insulte et diffamation des chefs des Etats voisins par les soutiens du régime, sans réaction aucune de Touadéra) ;
- refus de favoriser le retour des anciens Chefs d'Etat, pour participer à la recherche des solutions de sortie définitive de crise.

De tout ce qui précède, force est de constater que TOUADERA, non seulement, ne dispose plus de la légitimité que lui a conféré le peuple, aujourd'hui de plus en plus meurtri et trahi, mais encore qu'il mérite d'être traduit devant la haute cour de justice pour haute trahison.

Au nom du peuple souverain meurtri et trahi, nous exigeons la démission immédiate de TOUADERA. Dans le cas contraire, nous le démettrons par tous les moyens.

**- FRONT DEMOCRATIQUE DU PEUPLE CENTRAFRICAIN (FDPC)**



## FRONT DÉMOCRATIQUE DU PEUPLE CENTRAFRICAIN

- o les promesses de la rupture et de la sécurisation totale du pays jamais tenues ;
- o l'instauration d'un régime totalitaire à travers le parti-Etat (MCU) en totale violation de l'éthique démocratique ;
- o le mépris des FACA, obligés de se soumettre aux ordres d'étrangers chefs de groupes armés ;
- o le mépris des entrepreneurs nationaux au profit des proches de TOUADERA et d'étrangers véreux ;
- o l'absence de concertation entre Institutions pour les accords Etat-Etat et pour la passation de marchés publics avec des entreprises étrangères. A titre d'exemples :
  - ☒ les accords de défense ;
  - ☒ les contrats d'exploitation minière et forestière, ce qui a pour conséquence des exploitations sauvages au mépris des populations et de l'environnement ;
  - ☒ le marché de production sécurisée des cartes grises des véhicules, passeports, carte d'identité, acte de naissance, etc..., dans le but de frauder les élections en 2020.
- l'instrumentalisation des hautes Institutions sur fond de corruption pour :
- o s'afficher publiquement dans les activités du parti-Etat (MCU) ;

**- FRONT DEMOCRATIQUE DU PEUPLE CENTRAFRICAIN (FDPC)**



## FRONT DÉMOCRATIQUE DU PEUPLE CENTRAFRICAIN

Et à tout ce qui adviendra à compter de ce jour, le peuple sera souverainement et régulièrement associé, pour participer à toute prise de décision dans l'intérêt commun. Une coordination assurera les relations et la concertation à tous les niveaux des communautés.

Nous appelons et croyons à la totale confiance, en la sagesse et en l'intelligence du peuple pour rester calme.

Le peuple est libre avec pouvoir et devoir de dire ce qu'il pense de bien, pour relever son pays.

Soyons fiers et courageux face à nos responsabilités partagées dans l'intérêt du pays et de la postérité, devant Dieu et l'histoire

Fait à Amdafock le 30 juillet 2019



Le Général de Division  
KOUATAMADIS Martin alias Abdoulaye MISKINE

- FRONT DEMOCRATIQUE DU PEUPLE CENTRAFRICAIN (FDPC)

**Annex 2.10:** Mustapha Saboune, a politician in search of relevance.

Mustapha Saboune is a dual national from the Central African Republic and Canada; he currently lives between Chad and Canada. He was the political coordinator of the Séléka and the FPRC before participating in the creation of the Siriri coalition and becoming its president (see below document). He described the Siriri coalition to the Panel as a political party gathering CAR nationals from the diaspora.<sup>5</sup> According to Mustapha Saboune, his party calls for the establishment of a Government of transition.

Despite his claim that Siriri is solely a political party, Saboune has made several attempts to establish a military presence on the ground, admitting that he had tried unsuccessfully to take control of the Siriri armed group, which used to operate in Mambéré-Kadéï prefecture from early 2018 until the beginning of 2019 (S/2018/1119, paras. 94-104).<sup>6</sup> During the “Khartoum peace talks” (S/2018/1119, paras 11-12), Mustapha Saboune also tried to participate in the negotiations as representative of one of the armed groups, but failed and participated only as a civil society representative.<sup>7</sup>

Over the course of 2019, a representative of Mustapha Saboune also attempted to recruit fighters in the Nana-Gribizi and Ouham prefectures. Since May 2019, the Panel collected several testimonies of MPC and FPRC fighters based in the Ouham and the Nana Gribizi prefectures, including Ahmat Bahar (S/2018/1119 para 81-83) stating that an individual named Ahmat Makin, presenting himself as a representative of Mustapha Saboune, had been trying to recruit fighters for Siriri.<sup>8</sup>

Ahmat Makin is an ex-Séléka fighter with ties to the MPC leadership. He was the deputy chief of the presidential guard under Michel Djotodia’s presidency. He allegedly received 11 million FCFA (about \$18,500) from Mustapha Saboune to start his recruitment campaign.<sup>9</sup> According to the testimonies collected by the Panel, Saboune’s reputation as a leader who poorly pays his troops is altering his capacity to recruit.

On 15 February, Mustapha Saboune published a communiqué stating that sanctioned individual Abdoulaye Hissene had joined Siriri ranks as commissioner-general for defence (see document

<sup>5</sup> Meeting with Mustapha Saboune, Ndjamena, 14 October 2019.

<sup>6</sup> Idem.

<sup>7</sup> Meeting with armed group representatives, Bangui, 20 April 2019.

<sup>8</sup> Meeting with FPRC and MPC representatives in Bangui, Kaga-Bandoro, Kobo, September 2019.

<sup>9</sup> Meeting with FPRC and MPC representatives, Kaga-Bandoro, 5-9 September 2019



below). A few days later, Abdoulaye Hissène denied this appointment (see document below). Saboune reportedly offered a significant amount of money to Abdoulaye Hissène in exchange for joining the Siriri coalition.<sup>10</sup> Hissène reportedly accepted the money without delivering on his engagement.

Mustapha Saboune denied any involvement of Siriri in military activities but acknowledged his attempt to recruit Abdoulaye Hissène, while not confirming any transfer of funds to Hissène.<sup>11</sup>

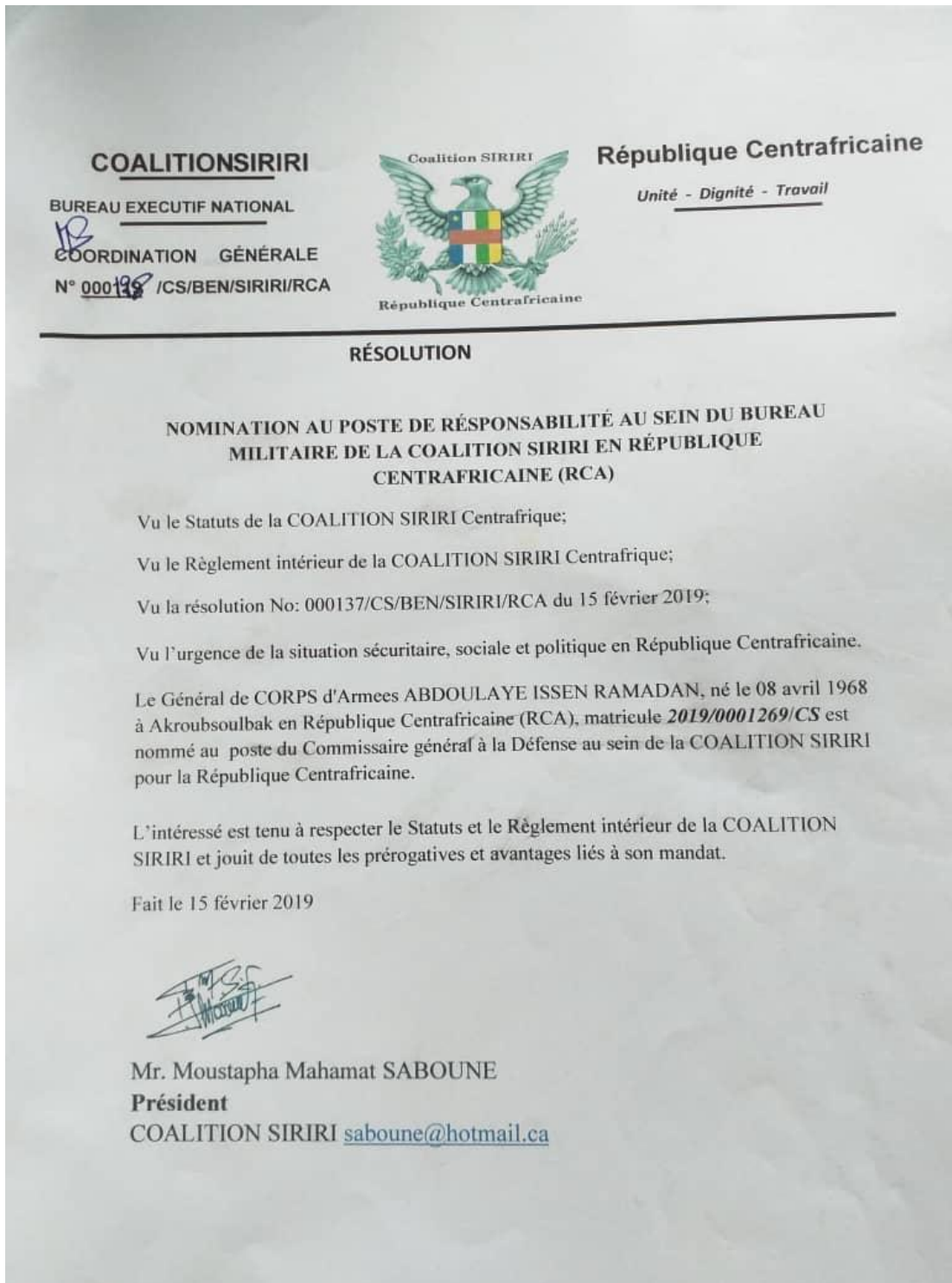
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<sup>10</sup> Meeting with an FPRC member, Bangui, 11 September 2019.

<sup>11</sup> Meeting with Mustapha Saboune, Ndjamena, 14 October 2019.

**Document 1: Resolution of the Siriri coalition appointing Abdoulaye Hissène, and signed by Mustapha Saboune as President on 15 February 2019.**

*Document obtained by the Panel from an armed group representative on 16 February 2019.*



**Document 2: Communiqué of Abdoulaye Hissène signed on 18 February 2019 (the document mistakenly indicates 18 April 2019 as date of signature).**

*Document obtained by the Panel from an armed group representative on 30 October 2019.*

FRONT POPULAIRE POUR LA RENAISSANCE DE  
CENTRAFRICAINE  
\*\*\*\*\*  
CONSEIL NATIONAL DE DEFENSE ET DE SECURITE  
CNDS  
N° 001 / FPRC / HC / CNDS / 50-19

République Centrafricaine  
Unité-Dignité-Travail  
\*\*\*\*\*

**FPRC**

**COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE**

Par rapport à la résolution N° 000128/C5/BEN/SIRIRI/ RCA du 15 Février 2019 portant nomination au poste de responsabilité au sein du Bureau militaire de la coalition SIRIRI en République Centrafricaine signée par Monsieur **MOUSTAPHA MAHAMAT SABOUNE** soit disant président de la dite coalition, nous **ABDOULAYE ISSENE RAMADANE** Président du Conseil National de défense et de Sécurité (**CNDS**) dément formellement cette nomination et ne s'y reconnais pas.

Le Président du **CNDS** informe toutes les opinions nationales et internationales que cette nomination qui est démunie de toute vérité n'engage que le détracteur de la Paix **MOUSTAPHA MAHAMAT SABOUNE**. Le Président du **CNDS** demande aux autorités Tchadiennes de tout faire pour mettre la main sur cet ennemi de la Paix en RCA et usurpateur du titre de Président de la coalition. A part les 14 groupes armés reconnus en RCA par les signataires de l'accord de KHARTOUM aucun autre n'existe ailleurs.

Par conséquent, le Président du Conseil National de Défense et de Sécurité met en garde **MOUSTAPHA MAHAMAT SABOUNE** pour ses allégations mensongères et doit éviter dans l'avenir de reproduire une telle déclaration qui risque de compromettre la Paix en RCA et faire des confusions dans l'esprit des Centrafricains qui sont à l'orée de la Paix après tant d'années de souffrance.

Fait à Ndélé, le 18/04/2019

Le Président du Conseil National  
De Défense et de Sécurité (CNDS)

**ABDOULAYE ISSENE RAMADANE**

**Ampliations :**

- Minusca : ..... 1
- Gouvernement : ..... 1
- Union africain: ..... 1
- Union européenne : ..... 1

**Annex 2.11:** Details on the content of the training given to FACA and ISF instructors, and on the training to be received by ex-combatants.

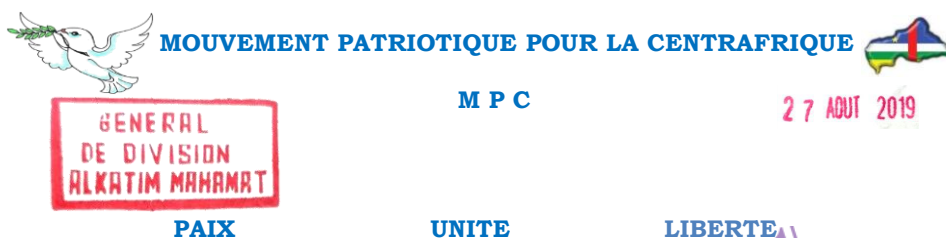
- *FACA instructors' training content:*
  - Instruction on combat shooting (ISTC)(14 hours)
  - Pedagogics (11 hours)
  - Instruction on combat (10 hours)
  - Close operational intervention techniques (TIOR) (10 hours)
  - International law and prevention of sexual violence (8 hours)
  - First aid (5 hours)
  - Topography (5 hours)
  - Civic education (3 hours)
  - Health (2 hours)
  - TOTAL: 68 hours
  
- *Police and Gendarmes instructors' training content:*
  - Judicial police (26 hours)
  - Instruction on combat shooting (ISTC)(10 hours)
  - International law and prevention of sexual violence (8 hours)
  - First aid (5 hours)
  - Instruction on combat (4 hours)
  - Pedagogics (4 hours)
  - Civic education (3 hours)
  - Topography (4 hours)
  - Health (2 hours)
  - Close operational intervention techniques (TIOR) (2 hours)
  - TOTAL: 68 hours

Source: confidential document received from confidential source on 24 October 2019

- *On the training content of the ex-combatants in the USMS: see articles 12-15 of the Decree Nr. 19.097 concerning the legal regime applicable to the USMS.*

**Annex 2.12:** Communiqués of MPC and 3R leaders who resigned from their positions as special advisers to the Prime Minister.

*Document obtained by the Panel from an armed group representative on 28 August 2019.*



Le Général **ALKATIM MAHAMAT**, Conseiller Militaire en Charge des Unités Spéciales Mixtes de Sécurité (USMS) pour la zone Centre Nord.

A

La Très Haute Attention du Président de la République, Chef de l'Etat.

**Objet :** Lettre de démission de mes fonctions de Conseiller Spécial en charge des Unités Spéciales Mixtes de Sécurité (USMS) pour la zone Centre Nord.

Excellence Monsieur le Président de la République, Chef de l'Etat ;

Qu'il me soit permis de venir très respectueusement par la présente vous adresser ma démission de mes fonctions Conseiller Militaire en Charge des Unités Spéciales Mixtes de Sécurité (USMS) pour la zone Centre Nord pour les Motifs ci-après :

- Fonctions jugées fictives et non effectives sur le plan de droit.
- Manque de prise en charge financière subséquente.
- Absence de moyen de déplacement en vue de la facilitation de fonction sur le terrain.
- Absence d'exercice d'une bonne collaboration d'où risque de crise de confiance.
- Mes représentants nommés dans les fonctions gouvernementales ne sont pas bien traités par rapport à leurs fonctions.

Excellence Monsieur le Président de la République, Chef de l'Etat ;

Par décret N°19.074 du 24 Mars 2019, je suis appelé à assumer les fonctions de Conseiller Militaire en Charge des Unités Spéciales Mixtes de Sécurité (USMS) pour la zone Centre Nord. Du point de vue de droit, je dois bénéficier de tous les avantages inhérents à ces fonctions surtout qu'il s'agit des fonctions de secteur de sécurité.

Fort de ce qui précède, je viens vous présenter ma démission. Toute fois, je reste fidèle aux engagements de l'accord de Khartoum dans le cadre de la consolidation de la paix en Centrafrique.

Très haute et déférente considération.

**AMPLIATION**

- Président de l'AN
- PM
- Union Africaine
- CEEAC
- Ambassade de France
- Ambassade des USA
- Union Européenne
- Minusca
- Archives

fait à Kaga bandoro le 27 / JUIN / 2019



Le Général **ALKATIM MAHAMAT**

Chef d'Etat-major du Mouvement (MPC)



*Document obtained by the Panel from an armed group representative on  
5 September 2019*

RETOUR RECLAMATION REHABILITATION

REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE

Unité Dignité Travail

Le General BI SIDI SOULEMANE ; conseiller militaire en charge des unités spéciales mixtes de sécurité Région Nord Ouest

A

La Très Haute Attention du Président de la République, Chef de l'Etat

**Objet:** lettre de démission de ma fonction de Conseiller Militaire en charge des unités spéciales mixtes de sécurité Région Nord Ouest

Son excellence, Monsieur le Président de la République Chef de l'Etat

Qu'il me soit permis de venir très respectueusement par la présente, vous adresser ma démission pour les motifs ci après :

- **Absence de concertation avec le chef de gouvernement d'où risque de crise de confiance**
- **Fonction jugée floue, pas de cahier de charge**
- **Non implication dans le processus de préparation, de mise en œuvre (exemples : documents élaborés, comité de pilotage usms) '**
- **Pas de prise en charge financière, ni moyens de travail**
- **Sur les quatre personnes de 3R proposée a des hautes fonctions, sauf une seule personne qui est nommée et qui est en fonction, cette personne aussi subi des menaces et des humiliations ; pourtant cela fait presque sept mois que l'accord est signé**

Son Excellence, Monsieur le Président de la République Chef de l'Etat

Compte tenu de tout ce que je viens de citer, je vous présente ma démission

Moi, je veux la paix pour tous les centrafricains, et je suis entièrement attaché à l'APPR-RCA

En vertu de l'article 34, j'en appelle aux garants pour trouver une solution à cette situation

Très haute et déférente considération





**Annex 2.13:** Ali Darrassa using the USMS to legitimize UPC's expansion and trafficking activities.

As described in the Panel's previous report (S/2019/608, para. 24), Ali Darassa has continued to take advantage of the ambiguity of the terms of reference regarding his appointment as special adviser to the Prime Minister for the USMS, and he has used his position to legitimate UPC's military operations in Basse-Kotto prefecture as well as his expansionist activities in Haut-Mbomou prefecture.

In two communiqués published on 30 September and 28 October, Ali Darassa justified the deployment of his fighters in Bambouti (Haut-Mbomou Prefecture) next to the border between CAR and South Sudan (see document below). Ali Darassa declared his actions as being part of the USMS mandate, citing the protection of populations and the organization of the upcoming transhumance. Ali Darassa sees the operationalization of the USMS in Bambari as a means to legitimate the official return of his troops to the Ouaka capital after his ousting by MINUSCA.<sup>12</sup>

UPC sources informed the Panel that given the group's continued mistrust towards the Government – *inter alia* because of the Presidential Guards recruits sent for training to Angola, the FACA deployment and delays in USMS operationalisation– UPC has continued to purchase weaponry through connections in Sudan and South Sudan (see also S/2019/608, annex 4.7).<sup>13</sup> Amongst others, a UPC arms trafficker informed the Panel that the armed group had reportedly purchased 120 AK-type assault rifles and 500 rocket-propelled grenade launchers, which arrived in Am Dafok in late August and were subsequently transported to Ndélé, Bria and Bokolbo mid-September.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Meeting with an FPRC member, Bangui, 11 September 2019.

<sup>13</sup> Meeting with Mustapha Saboune, Ndjamen, 14 October 2019.

<sup>14</sup> Idem.

Document obtained by the Panel from an armed group member on 29 October 2019.



N°0152/ UPC / DIR.MIL./SG-2019

## COMMUNIQUE

L'Unité pour la Paix en Centrafrique (UPC), par la voix de son Coordinateur Militaire Chef d'Etat Major, le Général d'Armée Ali DARRASSA, s'insurge vivement contre les allégations mensongères et manipulatrices des Députés du Haut Mbomou, signataires d'une déclaration visant à faire croire à des attaques sur les populations et les villages de cette préfecture.

La présence des quelques éléments de l'UPC dans le secteur de Bambouti vise uniquement à sensibiliser les éleveurs qui arrivent dans la région pour la transhumance saisonnière, aux engagements, et devoirs des signataires de l'Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation (APPR) signé notamment par l'UPC le 06 février 2019.

Ces explications se veulent didactiques afin d'éviter les traditionnels différends et conflits agro-pastoraux. De même, cette sensibilisation a pour but de préparer la mise en place des futures Unités Spéciales Mixtes de Sécurité (USMS) pour lesquelles le Chef d'Etat Major de l'UPC, le Général d'Armée Ali DARRASSA a reçu mandat du Gouvernement par sa nomination au poste de Conseiller Militaire en charge des USMS à la Primature.

L'Etat-major de l'UPC accueille avec satisfaction le lancement des USMS à Bouar, mais en appelle à la Communauté Internationale et aux Garants de l'APPR-RCA pour que ces unités soient rapidement lancées à Bambari afin de garantir la sécurité des couloirs de transhumance du Sud-Est et de la Ouaka.

Les listes des éléments devant intégrer les USMS ont été communiquées depuis longtemps au Comité Exécutif. Il devient désormais capital que celles-ci soient mises en place rapidement pour respecter les termes des textes signés, et ainsi sécuriser les zones avant que ne se produisent des conflits entre éleveurs nomades et populations sédentaires.

Le Chef d'Etat Major de l'UPC rappelle que son mouvement s'est engagé dans l'APPR-RCA et qu'il est vain de propager des discours diffamatoires de haine et de division uniquement mus par des intérêts privés. Dans sa totalité, la population Centrafricaine recherche la Paix et l'UPC s'est engagée dans la même voie.

Vive la Centrafrique apaisée, vive la Paix.

Fait à Gbokolobo, le 25 Octobre 2019

**Le Coordinateur Militaire, chef d'état-major de l'UPC**

**Général d'Armée ALI DARRASSA**



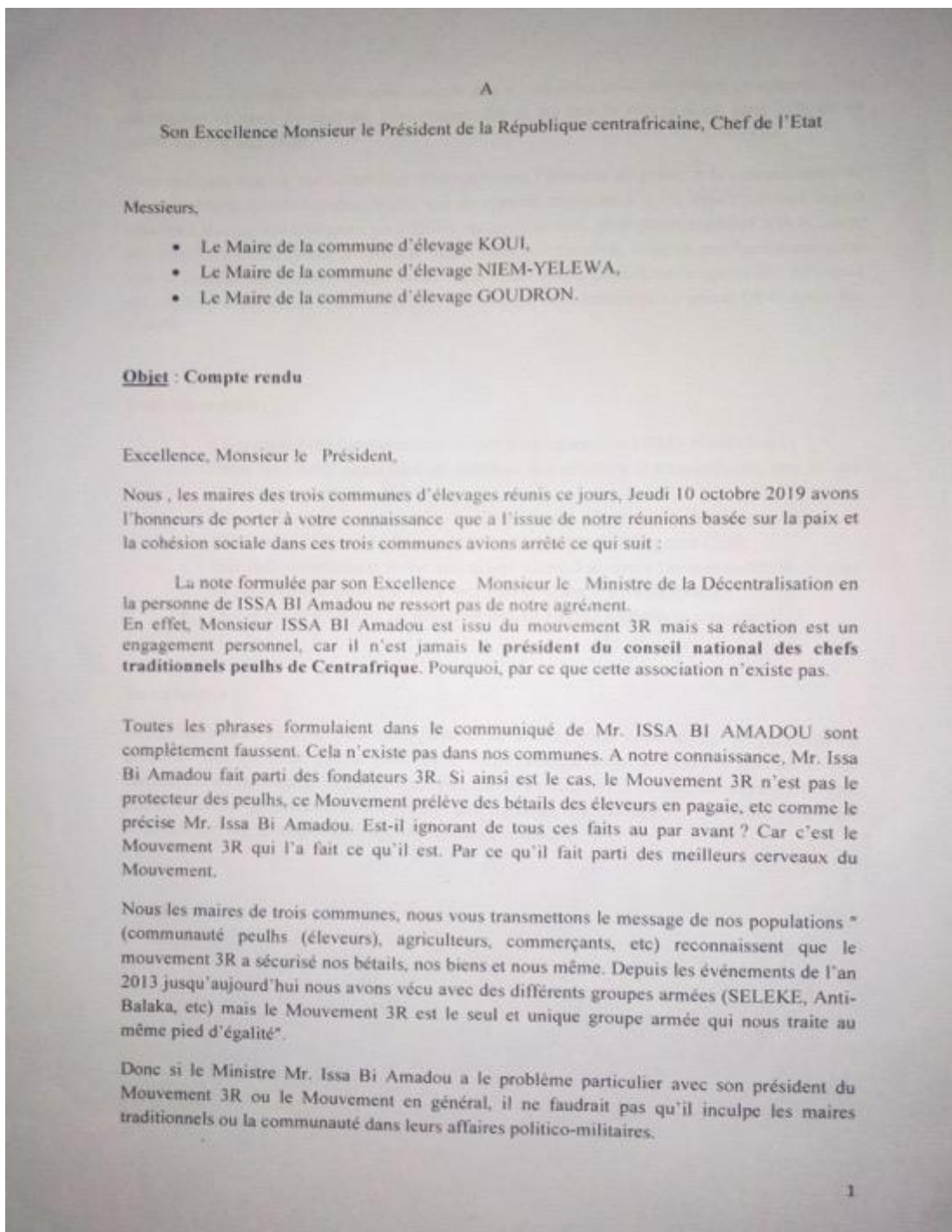
Tél : 75 67 70 46 – 72 48 25 12

Le format de cette lettre est un document officiel et authentique de l'UPC. Tout autre modèle est un faux.

**Annex 2.14:** Letter addressed to President Touadera and signed on 10 October 2019 by local authorities supporting the official nomination of Abbas Sidiki as USMS chief.

On 10 October 2019, a letter signed the mayor of Kouï (Ouham Prefecture) and Niem Yelewa (Nana-Mambéré Prefecture) supported the official nomination of Abbas Sidiki as USMS chief in their localities.

*Document obtained by the Panel from an armed group representative on 20 October 2019.*



Après quoi, le Général Sidiki nous rassure que si ces doléances sont prises en content, il se désengage du rang du **chef du Mouvement 3R** et laissera la charge à un autre officier en attendant le grand DDR.

Tous les trois maires des communes d'élevages ont l'honneur de porter à la connaissance du Gouvernement que le Général Sidiki qui accepterait répondre à notre appel pendant lequel celui-ci a précisé ses doléances pour finir avec ces histoires. Si le Gouvernement à bien voulu accepter les doléances que le Général Sidiki nous fait mention, il serait une bienvenue pour tout le monde. Le Gouvernement sache qu'il serait prêt à compléter le quota des éléments sollicités aux USMS, et le Mouvement 3R s'engage définitivement au grand DDR après les USMS.

**Voici ses propos :**

- Le général Sidiki souhaite être le chef d'opération des USMS Nord-Ouest ;
- Dans les USMS quels sont les nombres des officiers et sous-officiers des 3R qui seront pris en compte ;
- Que le Gouvernement précise au Mouvement 3R le quota des officiers et sous-officiers qui seront à la faveur du Mouvement pendant le grand DDR ;
- Que le Gouvernement révise son accord visant à nommer les sept cadres politiques du Mouvement 3R et que trois sont déjà en poste il en reste quatre ;
- Que le galon d'officier du président des 3R (Sidiki Abbass) soit validé ;

**En définitive :**

Nous, les maires de trois communes venons au secours pour appuyer les propositions du président des 3R pour que la paix règne définitivement dans le pays en général et nos communes en particulier. Mais ce n'est pas une imposition ni condition de notre part. Mais plutôt c'est une proposition idéale en tant que les chefs traditionnels de ces zones. Car c'est nous qui sommes sur le terrain qui voyons les choses en clair.

Veillez agréer Excellence Monsieur le Président de la République, l'Expression de nos très haute considération.

Fait à Degaulle, le 10/10/2019

Ont signé :

Maire de Koum

Yaya Adamou Daouda



Maire de Goudron

Elhadji Amadou Farikou



Maire de Niem Yelwa

El-hadj Bachirou Bi Amadou



Ampliation :

1. Assemblée nationale
2. Premier Ministre chef du Gouvernement co-président du CES
3. MUNISCA
4. Les garants
5. Les facilitateurs
6. Ambassade France
7. Ambassade Etats-Unis
8. Pays amis de la RCA
9. Tous les chefs traditionnels peulhs

**Annex 2.15:** FUDN memorandum of 30 September 2019.

*Document obtained by the Panel from a member of FUDN on 19 October 2019.*



# É ZINGO BIANI

FRONT UNI POUR LA DÉFENSE DE LA NATION

## MÉMORANDUM POUR UNE SORTIE DE CRISE EN CENTRAFRIQUE

Quatre (4) mois après la création de É Zingo Biani, le Front Uni pour la Défense de la Nation, force est de constater que la situation nationale décrite dans nos précédentes déclarations est passée de très préoccupante à pratiquement explosive. Contrairement à la propagande présidentielle et gouvernementale, qui veut faire croire que tout va bien, la situation s'aggrave semaine après semaine, faisant courir au pays le risque d'une recrudescence de la crise, autrement plus dévastatrice qu'auparavant.

Fidèle à sa mission de « Défense de la Nation », la plateforme citoyenne É Zingo Biani vient, par le présent Mémoire, tirer une ultime alarme et appeler les différents acteurs, à commencer par le Président de la République, l'Assemblée Nationale et le Gouvernement, à un sursaut pour sauver l'Etat et la Nation Centrafricaine.

### I Des constats

#### La Impasse sécuritaire

Le fait est là désormais, incontestable : l'Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation (APPR), dit Accord de Khartoum, a définitivement échoué à inscrire le pays dans la dynamique de retour à la paix et à la sécurité à laquelle les parties à cet accord, à savoir le Gouvernement et les groupes armés, se sont engagées sous la garantie et la facilitation de l'Union africaine et de la Communauté internationale.

Outre le constat fait par le représentant du Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies, M. Mankeur Ndiaye, selon lequel on enregistre au moins 70 violations de l'accord par semaine depuis sa signature, le leader du Mouvement de Libération du Peuple Centrafricain (MLPC) membre de la majorité présidentielle, affirme à l'instar de É Zingo Biani, que :

- la situation sécuritaire n'a pas changé d'un iota sur le terrain ;
- les barrières érigées par les groupes armés restent pleinement actives ;
- les exactions sur les populations se poursuivent ;
- aucun processus sérieux de désarmement des combattants n'est engagé ;
- les groupes armés ont mis à profit le temps de leur légitimation par l'accord et de leur participation au pouvoir pour se réarmer et recruter de plus belle. ..

Dans ce contexte, les tueries de Mingala, les récents combats d'Amdafock et de Birao avec leurs cortèges d'exactions commises sur la population civile en sont une parfaite illustration.

Malgré tout, les sanctions prévues dans l'Accord ne sont pas mises en œuvre.

La démission des chefs de guerre des hautes fonctions nationales qui leur avaient été confiées, sonne non seulement la mort définitive de cet accord, mais annonce aussi une nouvelle descente aux enfers pour le pays. Une telle perspective doit être combattue vigoureusement.

### **I.b Impasse politique**

Parce que le Gouvernement, sous l'impulsion du Président de la République, a misé toute la gouvernance du pays sur l'Accord de Khartoum en faisant fi de la Constitution de la République, l'impasse sécuritaire née de l'échec de cet accord entraîne en même temps une impasse politique. A titre d'illustration :

- la nomination des chefs des groupes armés aux plus hautes fonctions de l'Etat en violation de la Constitution ;
- la mise à l'écart des autres institutions constitutionnelles du pays par le Président de la République et par le Gouvernement ;
- la violation systématique des libertés publiques des citoyens au prétexte de la recherche de la paix et de la cohésion sociale ;
- la gestion clanique et patrimoniale du pouvoir ;
- le détournement à grande échelle des fonds publics ;
- la corruption endémique à la tête de l'Etat...

Tout cela a gravement mis à mal le pacte républicain et démocratique, en créant de surcroît chez les citoyens un sentiment de défiance généralisée.

L'accentuation de l'emprise des groupes armés sur plus de 80% du territoire, ainsi que la recrudescence de l'insécurité dans ces parties du territoire rendent pratiquement impossible l'organisation d'élections libres, transparentes et inclusives dans les délais impartis par la Constitution.

La situation du pays se caractérise ainsi par une totale faillite du pouvoir en place et une absence d'offre pour sortir de l'impasse politique. Il faut, et il est urgent de sortir le pays de cette impasse.

### **II. Des préconisations de sortie de crise**

É Zingo Bianî, le Front Uni pour la Défense de la Nation, est convaincue qu'il reste possible, avec le concours de tous les Centrafricains et l'appui de la Communauté internationale, de sortir le pays de cette double impasse, sécuritaire et politique, et de le remettre sur le chemin du redressement.

Depuis sa naissance, É Zingo Bianî, le Front Uni pour la Défense de la Nation, a porté maintes revendications assorties de propositions.

Le fait est cependant que ces revendications et propositions ont été volontairement ignorées par le Gouvernement et que la situation a continué à se détériorer. La déliquescence de l'Etat et de la démocratie, ainsi que l'accentuation de l'insécurité et le risque d'une nouvelle déflagration générale obligent à aller au-delà de la demande initiale de mesures ciblées et ponctuelles.

Ce qu'il faut aujourd'hui, c'est une réponse globale (institutionnelle, sécuritaire et sociale) qui repose sur une impulsion politique nouvelle, inclusive et déterminée, qui s'appuie sur la volonté des Centrafricains exprimée dans la Constitution et qui sauvegarde l'acquis du retour à l'ordre constitutionnel.

Pour la plateforme citoyenne È Zingo Bianî, cette réponse globale consiste dans la **restauration de l'ordre démocratique et constitutionnel**.

**Restaurer** l'ordre démocratique et constitutionnel parce que la démocratie reconquise en 2016 au prix du sacrifice du peuple et moyennant l'engagement fort de la Communauté internationale est menacée dans ses fondements par les pratiques de concentration du pouvoir, de neutralisation des contre-pouvoirs, d'élimination du pluralisme, mais aussi par la gestion clanique et patrimoniale du pouvoir.

**Restaurer** l'ordre démocratique et constitutionnel parce que l'Etat de droit souhaité par les Centrafricains s'est transformé en un Etat sans foi ni loi, sans justice pour le plus grand nombre, où les criminels ont la garantie de l'impunité tandis que le citoyen est empêché d'exercer ses libertés constitutionnelles.

**Restaurer** l'ordre démocratique et constitutionnel parce qu'il ne saurait y avoir de paix durable contre la volonté des Centrafricains exprimée par la Constitution et sans la participation des Centrafricains.

**Restaurer** l'ordre démocratique et constitutionnel parce qu'il est le meilleur garant d'une gestion publique au profit du plus grand nombre, et non seulement de quelques-uns, et d'une gestion transparente et équitable des richesses et ressources nationales ; le meilleur garant du progrès économique et social.

**È Zingo Bianî, le Front Uni pour la Défense de la Nation entend engager immédiatement cette restauration de l'ordre démocratique et constitutionnel. Dans cet esprit, È Zingo Bianî appelle toutes les forces vives de la nation à entreprendre, dans les plus brefs délais et par toutes les voies prévues par la Constitution, les actions appropriées pour :**

- Mettre fin aux violations incessantes de cette Constitution, à commencer par les violations les plus graves, constitutives de crimes contre la Nation Centrafricaine ;
- Mettre tout en œuvre pour que le pouvoir d'Etat soit à l'avenir exercé en conformité stricte avec la Constitution et dans le respect des libertés et droits fondamentaux des Citoyens ;
- Que les solutions de sortie de crise soient inspirées des Centrafricains, conformes à leur volonté et à la justice due aux victimes de cette crise ;

È Zingo Bianî, le Front Uni pour la Défense de la Nation, en appelle aussi à la **convocation urgente d'une Conférence Nationale Souveraine** à laquelle toutes les forces vives de la Nation prendront part afin de créer un consensus de gouvernance, plus indispensable que jamais, pour sortir le pays de l'impasse.

Fait à Bangui, le 30 septembre 2019



**È ZINGO BIANÎ**  
FRONT UNI POUR LA DÉFENSE DE LA NATION



**Annex 2.16:** Communiqués of 28 May and 22 July 2019 presenting FUDN requests.

*Documents obtained by the Panel from a FUDN member on 12 August 2019.*

**È ZÎNGO BÎANÎ**  
**Front Uni pour la Défense de la Nation**

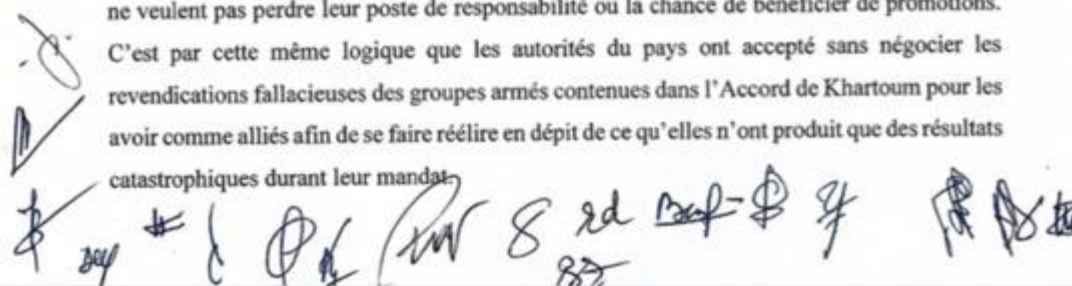
**Prise de position sur la recrudescence des violences des groupes armés dans l'arrière-pays après l'Accord de Khartoum.**

Quoique toutes les entités de la nation n'aient pas adhéré aux démarches menant à l'accord de Khartoum, on nous l'a présenté comme la seule alternative pour ramener la paix définitive en Centrafrique. Contre toute attente, nous assistons ces derniers temps à la recrudescence des violences des groupes armés dans l'arrière-pays. Les tueries dans les villages de **Zangba** dans la Basse Kotto, **de Lemouna, Loura et Bohong** dans l'**Ouham Pendé** constituent à n'en point douter des massacres de trop, entraînant d'énormes pertes en vies humaines et des déplacements massifs de la population en cette saison de pluie où les conditions de vie sont de plus en plus précaires.

Aujourd'hui, plus rien ne peut justifier de tels actes de barbarie dans la mesure où tous les groupes armés sont non seulement signataires de l'Accord politique pour la paix et la réconciliation, mais ont également bénéficié de promotions au sein de la haute administration civile et militaire du pays, ce, en violation de l'article 28 de la Constitution du 30 mars 2016.

Face à ce qu'il convient de qualifier de pré génocide et de terrorisme, nous avons jugé la réaction du Président de la République et du Gouvernement non adaptée car en deçà des attentes du peuple qui est pris en otage par des mercenaires étrangers bien identifiés, connus et localisés. D'autant plus qu'aucune action forte n'a été menée par le Gouvernement à l'expiration de l'ultimatum de 72h lancé la semaine dernière.

Dans le même temps, sans se soucier des tueries de la population perpétrées par les groupes armés, le Président de la République ne fait que s'atteler à préparer les prochaines élections en imposant aux fonctionnaires de l'Etat d'adhérer au Mouvement Cœurs Unis si ces derniers ne veulent pas perdre leur poste de responsabilité ou la chance de bénéficier de promotions. C'est par cette même logique que les autorités du pays ont accepté sans négocier les revendications fallacieuses des groupes armés contenues dans l'Accord de Khartoum pour les avoir comme alliés afin de se faire réélire en dépit de ce qu'elles n'ont produit que des résultats catastrophiques durant leur mandat.



Pendant que le gouvernement fait des yeux doux aux groupes armés, les syndicats, les organisations de la société civile et les partis politiques sont traqués et privés de leur droit de manifester et de se réunir.

Nous prenons à témoins la communauté internationale de cette dérive dictatoriale qui s'installe dans le pays et de la haute trahison du Chef de l'Etat qui a violé son serment en n'assurant pas la sécurité du peuple centrafricain et qui persiste à déclarer qu'il est sur la bonne voie alors que son mandat court vers sa fin et que le peuple n'a jamais tiré profit de sa politique d'irresponsabilité que ses partisans appellent « Politique de main tendue ».

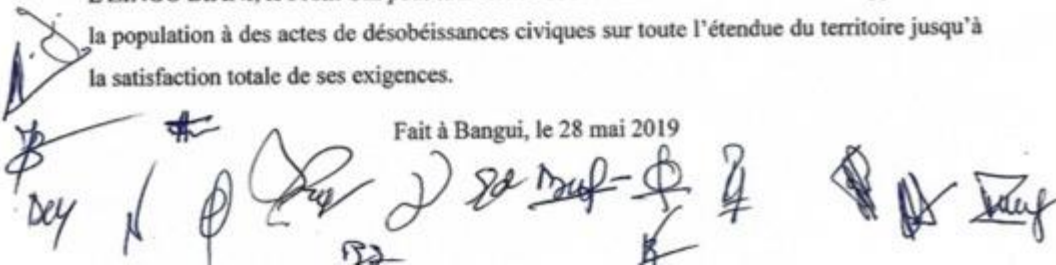
Pour porter haut les préoccupations du peuple, nous, forces vives de la nation, décidons de la mise en place de È ZÎNGO BÎANÎ, Front Uni pour la Défense de la Nation

Eu égard à tout ce qui précède, È ZÎNGO BÎANÎ, le Front Uni pour la Défense de la Nation :

- Exige au Président de la République de rapporter sans délai les décrets portant nomination de Sidiki, d'Ali Darassa et d'Alkhatim comme conseillers militaires dans les régions placées sous leur contrôle et leurs représentants à des hautes fonctions politiques, administratives et militaires ;
- Exige que Sidiki, Ali Darassa ainsi que tous les autres auteurs de crimes contre le peuple soient interpellés et traduits en justice ;
- Exige la cessation de l'adhésion forcée des fonctionnaires au parti MCU ;
- Exige l'arrêt du matraquage des organisations syndicales, de la société civile et partis politiques ;
- Présente ses condoléances les plus attristées aux parents des victimes succombées par le fait de la barbarie des mercenaires étrangers ;
- Invite toutes les forces vives de la nation préoccupées par la survie de la nation à intégrer sans délai È ZÎNGO BÎANÎ, le Front Uni pour la Défense de la Nation afin de participer à la lutte contre l'anéantissement de la République Centrafricaine...

È ZÎNGO BÎANÎ, le Front Uni pour la Défense de la Nation se réserve le droit d'appeler toute la population à des actes de désobéissances civiques sur toute l'étendue du territoire jusqu'à la satisfaction totale de ses exigences.

Fait à Bangui, le 28 mai 2019



## Ont signé

Entité	Représentant	Signature
Groupe de Travail de la Société civile sur la Crise Centrafricaine GTSC	Gervais LAKOSSO	
Groupement Syndical des Travailleurs de Centrafrique GSTC	Firmin ZOPONGUELE	
Association pour la Stabilisation des Conflits et de la Création d'Emplois ASCCE	Romain Stéphane DANE	
Organisation des Demandeurs d'Emplois et Stagiaires en Centrafrique ODEESCA	Sylvianne ZOOMIRI	
Mouvement Kodro Ti Mo Kozo ni SI MKMKS	Jean Serge BOKASSA	
Conseil des Leaders Politiques et Sociaux CLPS	Raymond ADOUMA	
Parti National pour un Centrafrique Nouveau PNCN	Cyriaque GONDA	
Rassemblement pour la République RPR	Ferdinand Alexandre N'GUENDET	
Kwa Na Kwa KNK	Bertin BEA	
Union pour le Renouveau Centrafricain URCA	Anicet Georges DOLOGUELE	
Chemin de l'Espérance	Gildas de Carême BENAM	
Initiative Pour une Transformation par l'Action ITA	Dominique YANDOCKA	
Parti Panafricain pour la Liberté et le Développement PPLD	Sosthène GUETEL DILAMKORO	
Centrafricain Nouvel Elan CAN	Sylvain PATASSE	

Congrès des Démocrates pour la Renaissance de Centrafrique CDRC	OUANDAKOUZOU Romain	
Parti Démocratique Centrafricain	Jean Serge WAFIO	
Union pour le Progrès en Centrafrique UPCA	Faustin YERIMA	
Union Nationale Démocratique du Peuple Centrafricain	Marie Claire MBOLIDI DAMADA	
Mouvement National pour le Renouveau MNR	Paul BELLET	
Mouvement pour l'Unité et le Développement MUD	Martin PANO	
Mouvement Démocratie l'Indépendance et le Progrès Social	Raymond ADOUMA	
Debut pour le Centrafrique (DPC)	Philippe MAKOUNSI	
Nouveau Démocratie pour la Renaissance... NDREC	BENDOUNGA Joseph	
Mouvement Patriotique pour le Renouveau (MPR)	WAKORO Kelaine Kiville	



# È ZÎNGO BÎANÎ

FRONT UNI POUR LA DÉFENSE DE LA NATION

## DECLARATION PORTANT REVENDEICATIONS ADDITIONNELLES

Le 28 mai 2019, trente-deux (32) membres des forces vives de la nation, dont des partis politiques, organisations de la société civile, organisations syndicales et personnalités indépendantes, ont pris position dans une déclaration commune **sur la recrudescence des violences des groupes armés dans l'arrière-pays après l'Accord de Khartoum**. Ils ont émis six (6) revendications fortes et non négociables à l'endroit de l'autorité suprême du pays et ont mis en place È ZÎNGO BÎANÎ, le Front Uni pour la Défense de la Nation pour porter haut les préoccupations du peuple et participer aux efforts de restauration de la paix et de la dignité du peuple centrafricain perdues depuis le début de cette crise qui s'éternise.

De cette date à nos jours beaucoup de faits graves se sont encore produits dans le pays :

- en guise de réponse aux revendications pacifiques et citoyennes de È Zingo Biani, le Chef de l'Etat a favorisé la création de plusieurs milices, composées de ses proches et des criminels connus, pour menacer et outrager les membres de È ZÎNGO BÎANÎ, Front Uni pour la Défense de la Nation ;
- dans son discours à Birao, le Chef de l'Etat a traité les membres de È ZÎNGO BÎANÎ, Front Uni pour la Défense de la Nation, de manipulateurs diaboliques ;
- le Chef de l'Etat a instruit le gouvernement d'interdire toutes les manifestations publiques de È ZÎNGO BÎANÎ et n'a accordé aucune attention aux revendications citoyennes à lui soumises.

Concomitamment, on observe que:

- le Ministre de la Sécurité publique s'est rendu à Kouï pour remercier le Mercenaire bourreau du peuple centrafricain, Abbas SIDIKI, au nom du Chef de l'Etat pour sa bonne collaboration avec le gouvernement ;

*[Handwritten signatures and marks are present throughout the document, including a large signature at the bottom left and several initials on the right margin.]*

- le Chef de l'Etat a refusé de signer dans les délais la loi portant Code électoral et a influencé la Cour Constitutionnelle qui a violé la Constitution en s'arrogeant des fonctions législatives dans le but de favoriser Faustin Archange TOUADERA lors des prochaines élections générales. Sa proximité avec les intérêts du pouvoir n'est plus à démontrer à l'instar de la participation de sa Présidente aux cérémonies de mise en place du Mouvement Coeurs Unis ;

- la Cour Constitutionnelle, encore, sur instruction du Président Touadera et dans l'intérêt de son clan, a produit une interprétation erronée de l'article 60 alinéa 2 de la Constitution, ouvrant la voie à l'octroi anarchique des permis miniers à plusieurs sociétés étrangères.

Les conséquences sont une catastrophe humaine, économique et écologique occasionnant, notamment, la pollution de la rivière Ouham et la surexploitation minière dans la Lobaye ;

- une fois cette catastrophe humaine, économique et écologique connue, le Premier Ministre et le Ministre des Mines ont menti à la Représentation Nationale alléguant que tout se passait dans les normes à Bozoum, et menaçant de poursuites judiciaires le Prêtre Aurélio Gazerra qui a contribué à rendre public les faits ;

- quelques jours plus tard, le Rapport de la Commission d'enquête parlementaire est venu confirmer les accusations de la population de Bozoum.

Au lieu d'une exploitation artisanale semi mécanisée, comme mentionnée dans leur permis d'exploitation, il s'agit plutôt d'une exploitation industrielle et anarchique effectuée par quatre(4) sociétés chinoises ;

- le gouvernement a attribué à la société Al Madina, dont les principaux dirigeants, Libanais, sont des repris de justice du fait d'activités terroristes, la production des cartes nationales d'identité et autres documents administratifs dont le certificat de nationalité sécurisé, la carte de séjour...

*[Handwritten signatures and scribbles at the bottom of the page, including names like 'Louboum' and 'M. R. A.']*

Cette même société est déjà attributaire du marché très juteux d'établissement de permis de conduire et cartes grises pourtant déjà attribué à la société Centrafrique Cartes Système(CCS) de droit centrafricain;

- le parti MCU et ses organisations satellites multiplient des meetings dans la ville de Bangui et ses environs pour vendre l'image du Président Touadera en achetant les consciences. Pendant ce temps, les pénuries d'eau courante, d'électricité, de carburant et de denrées alimentaires persistent à Bangui et dans le reste du pays ;
- plusieurs entités de la nation manifestent régulièrement leur mécontentement pour réclamer des réponses à leurs revendications dans l'indifférence et le mépris total du gouvernement ;
- Lors de son récent déplacement à Bouar pour le lancement du programme DRRR, le Chef de l'Etat s'est affiché publiquement aux côtés du Mercenaire sanguinaire Abbas SIDIKI à qui il a accordé une audience ;
- La Minusca continue de se détourner de sa mission première d'accompagnement du peuple centrafricain vers la stabilisation pour se mêler des affaires intérieures de la République. Cette mission n'est plus au service du peuple, mais du pouvoir dictatorial qui se met en place.

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Fort de ce qui précède, È ZÎNGO BIANÎ, Front Uni pour la Défense de la Nation, ajoute les revendications ci-après à celles déposées sur la table du gouvernement :

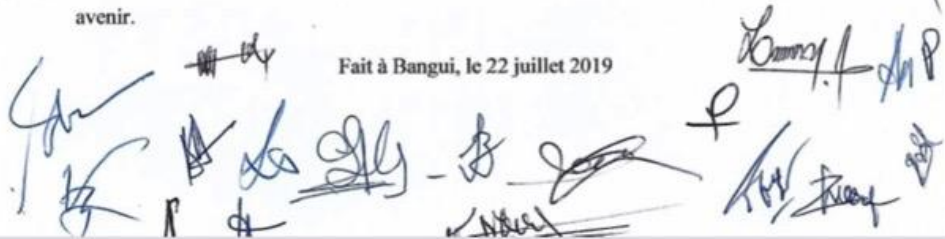
1. La démission des membres de la cour constitutionnelle qui n'inspirent plus confiance au peuple ;
2. La révocation du gouvernement et la traduction des ministres des mines, de la sécurité publique et de l'environnement devant la justice;
3. La mise en place d'une équipe pluridisciplinaire chargée de réaliser une évaluation de l'impact socio-environnemental de la catastrophe écologique de Bozoum en vue de la prise en charge des victimes et de la réparation des dommages ;
4. L'annulation de l'acte d'attribution à la société Al Madina du marché d'établissement des cartes nationales d'identité et autres documents administratifs;
5. la réponse urgente et positive aux revendications sociales des travailleurs, des diplômés sans emplois, des auxiliaires de la police pour ne citer que ceux là
6. le Recadrage de la mission de la Minusca par l'application *stricto sensu* de son mandat.

È Zingo Bianî attend impérativement des réponses favorables à ces revendications ainsi qu'à celles déjà remises au gouvernement, dans un délai raisonnable.

Le défaut de réponses favorables du Chef de l'Etat, confirmerait son mépris à l'égard de la souffrance du peuple centrafricain et sa complicité avec ceux qui le maintiennent dans cette crise.

Dès lors, È ZÎNGO BIANÎ, Front Uni pour la Défense de la Nation, lancera un appel à la désobéissance civile pour inviter le peuple à prendre sa destinée en main et à redéfinir son avenir.

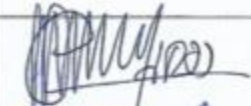


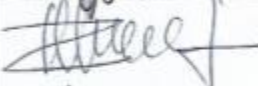
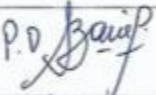


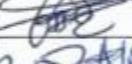



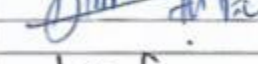

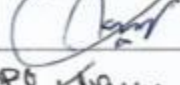



Fait à Bangui, le 22 juillet 2019





Union Nationale Démocratique du Peuple Centrafricain	Marie Claire MBOLIDI DAMADA	
OFCA	Marie Annick SERVICE	
Mouvement Démocratie l'Indépendance et le Progrès Social	Raymond ADOUMA	
FODEM	Stéphane PENTCHAOKI	
Espace Linga Tere	Vincent MAMBACHAKA	
Debout pour le Centrafrique DPLC	Philippe MAKOUNDJI	
Parti de l'Unité et de la Reconstruction PUR	Eddy Symphorien KPAREKOUTI	
UNDD	Augustin GANAHO	
RNICA	Teddy DEFIQBONA	
Mouvement Patriotique pour le Renouveau MOPAR	Mélanie Mireille WAKORO	
Parti Populaire	Bourgey KPOMMABOOKAMA	
Mouvement National pour le Renouveau MNR	Paul BELLET	
Mouvement pour l'Unité et le Développement MUD	Martin PANOU	
Personnalité Indépendante	Maître Arlette SOMBO DIBELE	
Personnalité Indépendante	Adrien POUSSOU	
<i>Congrès</i> <i>CSDE</i> <i>des Socialistes Démocratiques</i> <i>Centrafricains</i>	N'DJIER-YALI THOUS	

## Ont signé

Entité	Représentant	Signature
Groupe de Travail de la Société civile sur la Crise Centrafricaine GTSC	Gervais LAKOSSO	
Groupement Syndical des Travailleurs de Centrafrique GSTC	Firmin ZOPONGUELE	
Rassemblement pour la République RPR	Ferdinand Alexandre N'GUENDET	P.O. 
Organisation des Demandeurs d'Emplois et Stagiaires en Centrafrique ODEESCA	Sylvianne ZOUMIRI	
Mouvement Kodro Ti Mo Kozo SI MKMKKS	Jean Serge BOKASSA	P.O. 
Conseil des Leaders Politiques et Sociaux CLPS	Raymond ADOUMA	
Citoyen Debout et Solidaire Centrafrique CDS CA	Jean François AKANDJI	 P.O.
Chemin de l'Espérance	Gildas de Carême BENAM	
Initiative Pour une Transformation par l'Action ITA	Dominique YANDOCKA	P.O. 
Parti Panafricain pour les Libertés et le Développement PPLD	Sosthène GUETEL DILAMKORO	
Union pour le Renouveau Centrafricain URCA	Anicet Georges DOLOGUELE	
Parti National pour un Centrafrique Nouveau PNCN	Cyriaque GONDA	 P.O.
Kwa Na Kwa KNK	Bertin BEA	
Association pour la Stabilisation des Conflits et de la Création d'Emplois ASCCE	Romain Stéphane DANE	
Congrès des Démocrates pour la Renaissance de Centrafrique CDRC	OUANDAKOUZOU Romain	
Parti Démocratique Centrafricain	Jean Serge WAFIO	P.O. 
Union pour le Progrès en Centrafrique UPCA	Faustin YERIMA	

**Annex 2.17:** Communiqué of FUDN meeting in Paris with participation of former speaker of Parliament Karim Meckassoua (23 September 2019).

*Document obtained by the Panel from a member of FUDN on 24 September 2019.*



**COMITÉ D'ACTION EUROPE**

**COMMUNIQUÉ**

**RÉUNION DE TRAVAIL AVEC LES LEADERS DES PARTIS ET MOUVEMENTS POLITIQUES DE PASSAGE À PARIS**

**Lieu : Café de la Paix, Paris**

Le représentant pour l'Europe de la plateforme EZB, Coordinateur du Comité d'Action Europe, a tenu ce jour une réunion de travail avec les Leaders de partis et mouvements politiques membres de la plateforme, de passage à Paris. Il s'agit de **M. Jean-Serge BOKASSA**, Coordinateur Général du Mouvement Kodro ti Mo Kozo Si; **M. Anicet Georges DOLOGUÉLÉ**, Président de l'URCA; et de **M. Karim MECKASSOUA**, Président du Mouvement Chemin de l'Espérance.

La réunion a permis de faire le point sur la situation politique et sociale du pays, sur l'évolution de la Plateforme EZB depuis sa création, ainsi que sur ses actions passées et à venir.

Les participants sont convaincus que dans la situation où le pays se retrouve, la dynamique unitaire doit être renforcée. Ils s'engagent à œuvrer en ce sens dans l'esprit de la construction d'une paix durable et de la restauration de l'ordre démocratique et constitutionnel.

Les Leaders politiques présents adressent leurs félicitations à l'équipe de coordination de la plateforme EZB qui a su, malgré les intimidations, les entraves et la répression, poursuivre son action pour sauver notre Nation, et exhorte l'équipe à amplifier cette action.

Ils appellent leurs adhérents et sympathisants à apporter à l'action de la plateforme È ZÎNGO BÎANÎ, à commencer par la mobilisation du 30 septembre 2019, tout le soutien nécessaire.

Fait à Paris le 23 septembre 2019

Le Représentant pour l'Europe de È ZÎNGO BÎANÎ  
Coordinateur du Comité d'action Europe

**Pr Jean-François AKANDJI-KOMBÉ**

**Annex 2.18:** FUDN communiqué of 13 October 2019 addressing the issue of a Government of transition.

*Document obtained by the Panel from a member of FUDN on 19 October 2019.*



## COMITÉ D'ACTION EUROPE

### COMMUNIQUÉ

#### MISE AU POINT SUITE À LA RENCONTRE DE LYON DU 12 OCTOBRE 2019 ENTRE LE PRÉSIDENT TOUADÉRA ET DES CENTRAFRICAINS DE LA DIASPORA

Le Comité d'action Europe de la Plateforme È ZINGO BIANI a suivi avec une attention particulière les échanges du Président de la République avec des compatriotes de la Diaspora, dans la ville de Lyon, ce 12 octobre 2019,

Nous notons avec un vif regret et une vive préoccupation que le Président Touadéra n'a fait aucun cas des graves difficultés que traverse notre pays, et notamment des violences qui, malgré l'Accord de Khartoum, se poursuivent dans plusieurs préfectures de la RCA, spécialement la Vakaga, la Sangha Mbaéré, la Ouaka, la Basse-Kotto et le Mbomou, violences qui ne cessent d'endeuiller les familles centrafricaines et de jeter dans la brousse des milliers de nos compatriotes.

Nous dénonçons et jugeons comme irresponsable la posture négative et agressive adoptée par le Président Touadéra à l'égard de la plateforme È ZINGO BIANI (EZE), qui se traduit par un refus systématique du dialogue et par une démarche délibérée de diabolisation de cette Plateforme. Qualifier, comme il l'a fait à une nouvelle fois à Lyon, EZE « d'association illégitime » alors que cette plateforme, légalement constituée, agit uniquement pour le respect de la Constitution et par les seules voies autorisées par celle-ci, et alors que les autorités traitent avec la plus grande considération les groupes qui ont pris les armes contre notre Etat et notre Nation, revient très clairement à choisir le camp des bourreaux du peuple contre les paisibles citoyens.

Nous nous élevons aussi avec force contre les procès d'intention que l'on se plaît ces derniers temps à faire à la plateforme, en lui imputant en particulier un prétendu appel à la transition. À ce propos, nous tenons à rappeler que dans son dernier Mémoire, qui a dument été réceptionné par la Présidence de la République, par le Président de l'Assemblée Nationale et par le Premier Ministre mais qui n'a manifestement pas été lu, la plateforme EZE appelle à « une restauration de l'ordre constitutionnel » pour sortir de la crise, et uniquement à cela. La Constitution, rien que la Constitution, toute la Constitution, dans un esprit de dialogue rétabli entre le pouvoir et le peuple : telle est la position assumée de la plateforme EZE, qu'elle continuera à défendre.

Nous exhortons, enfin, la Communauté internationale à ne pas se laisser entraîner dans des manœuvres du pouvoir qui n'ont pas d'autre but que de fournir des prétextes à la campagne de répression qui se prépare actuellement contre EZE et ses responsables, faute de quoi elle en sera tenue pour co-responsable.

Pour le Comité d'action Europe È ZINGO BIANI  
Le Coordonnateur, Représentant de EZE pour l'Europe

Fr Jean-François AKANDJI-KOMBÉ

**Annex 2.19:** Excerpts of President Touadera's speeches mentioning FUDN in Berbérati and Lyon respectively on 4 and 12 October 2019.

Excerpts from President Touadera's speech mentioning FUDN in Berbérati on 4 October 2019.

*Document obtained by the Panel from Government source on 5 October 2019.*

Je voudrais vous informer que grâce à cet Accord, certains groupes armés tels que les 3R de SIDIKI, les FDPC d'Abdoulaye MISKINE, les RJ de SAYO et les Anti Balaka de la Nana-Mambéré ont déjà été désarmés dans le cadre du DDRR.

Une fois les groupes armés désarmés, nous mettrons en place les Unités Spéciales Mixtes de Sécurité, composées à 60% des éléments issus des anciens groupes armés et 40% des FACA, pour assurer la sécurité des régions en attendant le déploiement effectif des FACA.

D'ores et déjà, nous avons procédé au redéploiement conjoint des FACA avec la MINUSCA dans certaines régions jadis sous l'influence des groupes armés, notamment à Paoua, Bambari, Bouar, Bangassou, Kaga-Bandoro, Alindao et Bria.

Mais certaines voix s'élèvent pour décrier une prétendue violation de la Constitution et une certaine connivence entre le Gouvernement et les groupes armés.

D'autres vont jusqu'à nous accuser de ne pas faire la guerre pour sauver le peuple face aux exactions des groupes armés et réclament la tenue urgente d'une conférence nationale souveraine.

Une telle demande, émanant de surcroît d'une association illégitime, est démagogique, fallacieuse et inopportune. Elle vise seulement à empêcher l'organisation des futures élections présidentielle et législatives pour instaurer une autre transition qui leur permettrait d'usurper la souveraineté du Peuple.

13

Je rappelle que l'un des principes cardinaux de notre République est le Gouvernement du Peuple par le peuple et pour le peuple. Les institutions éligibles, chargées de diriger l'Etat, tiennent leurs pouvoirs du peuple par voie d'élections, au suffrage universel direct.

A ce propos, toutes les institutions prévues par la Constitution du 30 mars 2016 ont d'ailleurs été mises en place dans le délai constitutionnel et fonctionnent harmonieusement. Il n'y a pas de crise institutionnelle dans notre pays.

Je vous exhorte donc à la vigilance pour barrer la route à toutes les manœuvres tendant à replonger le pays dans le chaos et à mettre en péril notre démocratie en construction.

Mesdames et Messieurs ;

Je voudrais, en terminant mon propos, réitérer mes félicitations au Ministre des Postes et Télécommunications et ses collaborateurs pour le travail accompli et l'encourager à poursuivre les réformes pour le développement du secteur des TIC en République Centrafricaine.

J'exprime toute ma reconnaissance aux partenaires au développement notamment, la BAD et l'Union Européenne qui ont su percevoir en notre approche de désenclavement numérique, une réelle volonté de promouvoir la cohésion sociale, la paix, la bonne gouvernance à travers cet outil précieux de développement des affaires, de changement de mentalité, d'ouverture sur le monde de manière non discriminatoire par le désenclavement numérique, qui donne la chance à chaque fils et fille du pays, quelle que soit sa position géographique, de développer ses connaissances et accroître ses capacités multiformes dans un esprit constructif et une vision communautaire.

C'est donc avec optimisme que je déclare lancés, les travaux du projet fibre optique en République Centrafricaine.

Je vous remercie.

Excerpt from President Touadera's speech mentioning FUDN in Lyon on 12 October 2019.

*Document obtained by the Panel from a Government source on 13 October 2019.*

Je vous exhorte par conséquent, au nom de la paix, à continuer de manifester votre adhésion massive et de soutenir sans faille la mise en œuvre de l'Accord de paix.

Enfin, l'un des sujets que je voudrais aborder avec vous est la demande de la tenue urgente d'une conférence nationale souveraine, réclamée par un prétendu Front Uni pour la Défense de la Nation, encore appelé E ZINGO BIANI.

Vous savez jusqu'où de telles organisations illégitimes ont entraîné notre pays dans le passé. Cette demande d'organisation d'une conférence nationale souveraine est, vous le savez, est démagogique, fallacieuse et inopportune. Elle vise seulement à empêcher l'organisation des futures élections présidentielle et législatives pour instaurer une autre transition qui permettrait aux membres de cette organisation d'usurper la souveraineté du Peuple.

Je tiens à vous rappeler que l'un des principes cardinaux de notre République est le Gouvernement du Peuple par le peuple et pour le peuple. Les institutions éligibles, chargées de diriger l'Etat, tiennent leurs pouvoirs du peuple par voie d'élections, au suffrage universel direct.

Vous êtes tous témoins que toutes les institutions prévues par la Constitution du 30 mars 2016, à l'exception du Sénat, ont été mises en place dans le délai constitutionnel et fonctionnent harmonieusement. Il n'y a pas de crise institutionnelle pouvant justifier un énième dialogue dans notre pays. Le Gouvernement est en train de mettre en œuvre les recommandations fortes du Forum de Bangui de 2015.

C'est pourquoi, je vous exhorte à la vigilance pour barrer la route à toutes les manœuvres tendant à replonger le pays dans le chaos et à mettre en péril notre démocratie en construction.

Je vous demande avec insistance de faire preuve d'amour pour votre pays en soutenant sans faille l'Accord pour la Paix et la Réconciliation pour que vive et se développe notre cher et beau pays.

Il y a un vieux proverbe que nous avons bien souvent répété sans lui accorder grande attention. Je le livre à notre méditation : « L'union fait la force ».

Je vous invite à unir nos cœurs, nos forces, notre génie et notre énergie pour rebâtir notre pays afin de donner à la jeunesse et à nos progénitures un pays prospère, pacifique, uni où il fait mieux vivre.

Ensemble nous gagnerons le défi de la Paix ;

Ensemble nous gagnerons le défi de la sécurité ;

Ensemble nous gagnerons le défi de la Réconciliation Nationale ;

Ensemble nous gagnerons le défi du développement de notre cher et beau pays.

Vive la diaspora centrafricaine !

Que Dieu bénisse la République Centrafricaine !

Je vous remercie.

**Annex 2.20:** KNK letter to the CAR Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation sent on 14 June 2019.

*Document obtained by the Panel from a KNK leader on 10 September 2019.*

KWA NA KWA  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Bureau Politique  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Secrétariat General  
\*\*\*\*\*  
N° 035 KNK/BP/SG.19



Republique Centrafricaine  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Unité – Dignité – Travail

Bangui, le 14 JUN 2019

A

Monsieur le Ministre des Transports  
et de l'Aviation Civile

- BANGUI -

Objet : Demande d'abrogation de la circulaire n° 762 du 17 novembre 2018

Monsieur le Ministre,

Votre prédécesseur, Monsieur Théodore JOUSSO, en date du 17 novembre 2018, a cru bon de devoir signer la circulaire susmentionnée à l'attention des compagnies aériennes desservant le territoire de la République Centrafricaine, ladite circulaire leur faisant interdiction « (...) **d'embarquer le passager François BOZIZE YANGOUVONDA, car la présence en Centrafrique de ce dernier risquerait de compromettre la paix, la stabilité et la sécurité (...)** ». La ou les compagnies qui enfreindraient cette injonction se verraient, selon les termes de la circulaire, « **non seulement refuser l'atterrissage à l'aéroport international Bangui M'Poko mais surtout s'exposer à des sanctions conséquentes** ».

Pour justifier la prise de cette mesure, il a été fait mention des résolutions des Nations Unies n°2196 et n°2127, lesquelles résolutions, instaurant un régime de sanction à l'encontre de S.E. François BOZIZE YANGOUVONDA, ne lui permettrait donc pas de voyager à destination de la République Centrafricaine.

De manière très précise, les sanctions qui frappent S.E. François BOZIZE YANGOUVONDA, ancien Président de la République Centrafricaine, sont instaurées par la Résolution 2134 en son paragraphe 30 et à la page 8, et non par celles que le gouvernement a visé à travers sa circulaire. Ce dernier paragraphe stipule en effet que « **tous les Etats Membres doivent pour une période initiale d'un an à compter de l'adoption de la présente résolution, prendre les mesures nécessaires pour empêcher l'entrée ou le passage en transit sur leur territoire des individus désignés par le Comité créé au paragraphe 57 de sa résolution 2127 (2013), étant entendu que rien dans les dispositions du présent paragraphe n'oblige un Etat à refuser l'entrée sur son territoire à ses propres nationaux** ». Il est à noter que ces mesures ont été depuis reconduites chaque année et que la dernière reconduction

NGOUVONDA constitue, pour le Gouvernement de la République Centrafricaine, la violation d'au moins deux (2) libertés fondamentales du citoyen BOZIZE et qui lui est due, à lui comme à tous les citoyens centrafricains reconnus par la Constitution du 30 Mars 2016 en son article 5 et aux alinéas 2 et 3. Il s'agit de la liberté d'aller et venir ainsi que du principe selon lequel nul ne peut être contraint à l'exil.

Sur la question du risque de compromission de la paix, de la stabilité et de la sécurité de la République Centrafricaine que la présence de ce dernier comporterait, il demeure incontestable que cela ne constitue pas un motif à même de justifier la violation de la Constitution et de ses droits fondamentaux. Il en résulte simplement que le Gouvernement de la République Centrafricaine est invité à exercer pleinement ses prérogatives quant au maintien de l'ordre et qu'il lui appartient de travailler à préserver la tranquillité des populations.

Dans cette optique, le KWA NA KWA réaffirme par la présente son entière disponibilité à œuvrer de concert avec les autorités afin de permettre à S.E. François BOZIZE NGOUVONDA, victime de fait d'un bannissement, de rentrer dans son pays dans les meilleurs délais afin d'apporter sa contribution à la restauration de la paix en Centrafrique.

C'est pourquoi, fort de ce qui précède, nous sollicitons votre bienveillance aux fins d'obtenir l'abrogation pure et simple de la circulaire inique, antipatriotique et profondément injuste prise par votre prédécesseur.

Dans l'attente, veuillez bien vouloir croire, Monsieur le Ministre, en l'assurance de ma haute considération.

Pour le Bureau Politique

L'Ouvrier Secrétaire Général a.i.



Destinations:

- Minusca
- Union Africaine
- Union Européenne
- Ambassade de France
- Ambassade des Etats-Unis
- Ambassade du Congo
- Ambassade de la République Démocratique du Congo
- Ambassade du Cameroun



**Annex 3.1:** Chronology of the fighting in Vakaga prefecture.

Based on confidential reports, from 10 July to 4 November 2019.

- On 10 July, in Am Dafok, a trader from Birao affiliated to MLCJ tried to transport hunting ammunition from Am Dafok to Birao but his cargo was confiscated by FPRC elements at the Am Dafok checkpoint. Later, on 13 July 2019, two individuals who asked for the return of the ammunition in Am Dafok were illegally arrested by FPRC armed elements.
- On 14 July, MLCJ armed elements from Birao and Terfel (on the Am Dafok-Birao axis) mobilized in large numbers carrying weapons and went to Am Dafok to demand the release of the two individuals. A clash between the MLCJ elements and FPRC erupted. Four FPRC elements died during the clash. In retaliation, FPRC executed the two detained individuals.
- On 21 July, an MLCJ element name Moktar tried to kill Sami Fadoul, an FPRC leader, in the central market of Birao. This incident precipitated the decision by FPRC to send reinforcements to Birao.
- On 30 July, a mediation committee (or Edgna) was constituted to investigate the events in Am Dafok. Meanwhile, about 200 FPRC armed elements under the command of “General” Kanton from Ndele and Sikkikede arrived in Birao officially to support the mediation but in fact their mission was to re-enforce the FPRC positions.
- On 4 August, the Edgna concluded the mediation with the following findings and resolutions;
  - The MLCJ attack against the FPRC in Am Dafok was the root cause of the clash.
  - MLCJ must commit to the payment of a “Diya” (compensation) of FCFA nine million (around \$15,000) to the families of the four FPRC elements who were killed by their armed elements in Am Dafok.
  - FPRC must commit to also paying “Diya” of FCFA four million FCFA (\$6,800) to the families of the two prisoners they executed.
- On 5 August, the Kara community with the support of the other communities in Birao raised FCFA four million (\$6,800), as partial payment for the Diya. FCFA three million (\$5,100) was

agreed on as payment to support the departure of the FPRC elements who had come as reinforcement in Birao.

- On 10 August, during a meeting with MINUSCA and local authorities, members of the Kara community requested the FPRC elements from Ndele who had arrived for reinforcement, to leave Birao. ‘General’ Kanton indicated that his troops’ presence in Birao was purely for the protection of the Rounga community of Birao, which he claimed was his birthplace. Several meetings were held to request that he and his elements leave Birao. He indicated that he would only leave Birao on instruction from his superiors.

- On 15 August, 76 cattle were stolen and two shops belonging to the Rounga and Haoussa merchants were looted. At the request of some merchants, “general” Kanton started to guard the market with his armed elements.

- On the night of 28-29 August, the son of the Sultan-Mayor of Birao, on his way back from a wedding ceremony, opted to pass through the market guarded by FPRC elements. A confrontation ensued between the Sultan-Mayor’s son and FPRC elements. Allegedly the Sultan’s son stabbed one FPRC element before being shot in the stomach. He was rushed to the local hospital where he died.

- In the morning of 1 September, MLCJ armed elements backed by the Kara youth attacked the residence of “general” Kanton where he was staying with his FPRC elements. Several deaths were recorded, including “general” Kanton. The total number of casualties was as follows: 23 FPRC elements and eight MLCJ elements. Fighting and looting started again on 2 September before the MLCJ took total control of Birao.

- On 10 September, around 50 PRNC fighters reportedly entered Birao and were hosted by the Sultan and Kara community leaders.

- On 14 September, FPRC reinforcements, mainly from Sikkikede and Ndele, attacked MLCJ positions in Birao. A total of 37 FPRC elements and 11 MLCJ elements were reportedly killed. Birao remained under the control of MLCJ.

- On 25 September 2019, the first batch of 18 FACA soldiers were deployed to Birao with MINUSCA support.

- On 4 October, Kara youth, supported by MLCJ and PRNC elements, attacked FPRC at Tissi Fongoro (north of Birao). Uncertainty around which group controlled Tissi remained until confirmation was received that FPRC controlled the town.

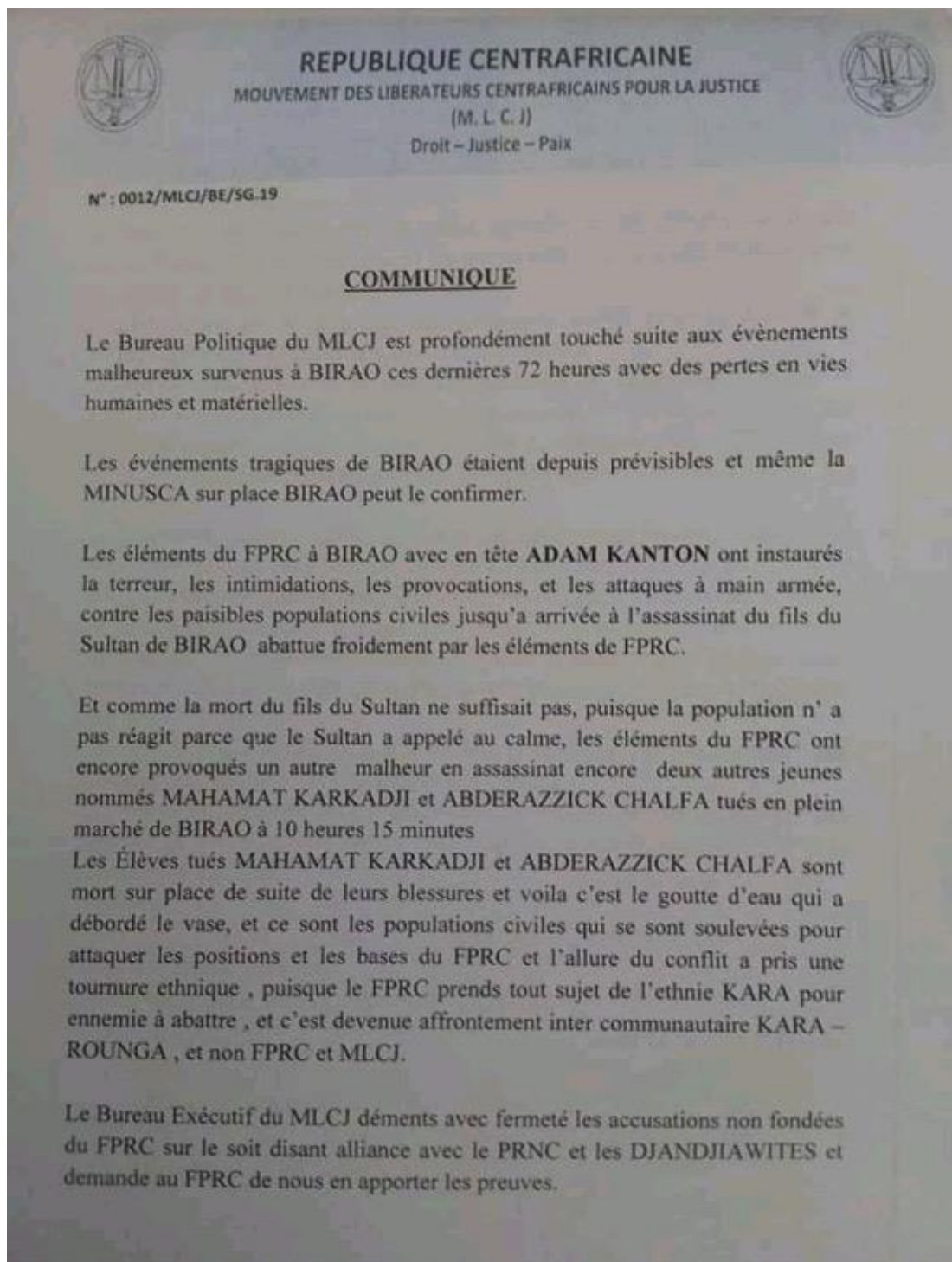
- On 14 October, MLCJ and PRNC armed elements supported by Kara youth launched an attack and subsequently captured Am Dafok.
- On 14 October, 14 ex-elements of the FPRC were evacuated by MINUSCA from Birao to Bria. A warrant was issued by the CAR authorities to arrest eight of those FPRC elements who had participated in the Birao fighting.
- On 17 October, a delegation from Bangui visited Birao with a clear message to the Sultan-Mayor to cease hate speech and threats to attack MINUSCA and the IDP Camp. The delegates included AU Ambassador Matias Matondo, ECCAS representative Adolf Nahayo, Minister of Information and Justice Flavien Mbata, and the Minister of Public Security, General Henri Wanze-Linguissara. The delegation stated that the events in Birao constituted a violation of the Peace Agreement.
- On 21 October, youth and women from the IDP site protested near the MINUSCA camp entrance to present their grievances, including on the poor living conditions in the site. They also requested to be evacuated or relocated from Birao to Bangui, Bria or Ndélé because they did not feel secure in Birao due to regular threats from armed elements. Members of the Bornou, Haoussa and Rounga ethnic groups complained about threats by the Kara youths, in particular when they attempted to harvest groundnuts or look for food in their fields. Some IDPs also expressed concerns over the attitude of the Sultan-Mayor, deemed as accomplice of armed elements threatening them.

Annex 3.2: Map of the Vakaga prefecture.



**Annex 3.3:** Communiqués of MLCJ and FPRC regarding the fighting in Birao on 1-2 September 2019.

*Document obtained by the Panel from an armed group representative on 4 September 2019.*



Le FPRC dans son communiqué du 2 Septembre 2019, parle des Djiandjiawites recrutés, mais la question est de savoir comment expliquer que le FPRC a ses bases à la frontière AMDAFOCK et TISSI, et laisser les Djiandjiawites franchir leurs barrières et joindre le MLCJ à BIRAO ?

Il faut que le FPRC arrête de nous distraire et de distraire le Peuple Centrafricain, l'heure n'est plus à la manipulation et à l'affrontement pour troubler la quiétude de la population

Le MLCJ est un Mouvement qui a toujours œuvré pour la Paix et le Développement et les preuves sont visibles à BIRAO.

Le MLCJ condamne avec fermeté les assassinats des civiles innocents par le FPRC et les destructions des biens et les incendies des maisons par les partis en conflit inter communautaire KARA – ROUNGA, et demande à la MINUSCA de prendre des mesures nécessaires pour assurer la sécurité des personnes et des biens.

Le Bureau Politique du MLCJ porte à la connaissance de l'opinion nationale et internationale qu'il reste toujours attaché à l'esprit de l'accord de Paix et de la Réconciliation en Centrafrique signé le 06 Février 2019, et demande au FPRC de cesser immédiatement ses agitations barbares et les provocations contre la population civile et de se retirer de la Commune de RIDINA pour regagner leurs bases à SEKIKEDE et NDELE et d'attendre le Processus DDRR et L'USMS en cours.

La MLCJ appelle au calme et à la retenue et demande aux deux parties Inter Communautaires de cultiver la Paix et la Tolérance.

Le bureau Politique du MLCJ demande à ses ex combattants de BRIA et de BIRAO de rester calme, de ne plus s'agiter et de ne pas répondre à la provocation du FPRC.

Fait à BIRAO, le 03 Septembre 2019

**AMPLIATIONS :**

- PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE
- PRIMATURE
- MINUSCA
- UNION AFRICAINE
- CEEAC
- PRESSE
- 

Pour Le Bureau Politique  
Le Secrétaire General,



Le Col. OUSMANE BHOUMA

Document obtained by the Panel from an armed group representative on 16 October 2019.





**Annex 3.4:** Kara/MLCJ fighters wearing yellow materials.

*Pictures obtained by the Panel from an armed group representative on 3 September 2019*



**Annex 3.5: Ethnicity and armed groups in Vakaga prefecture.****Ethnic alliances: a tool for the armed groups**

The composition of the armed groups in Vakaga prefecture has an ethnic dimension: MLCJ mainly comprises members of the Kara ethnic group; RPRC/PNRC is exclusively led by, and largely composed of Goula, and although the FPRC has more diversity amongst its rank and file, its leadership remains largely Rounga.

Armed group leaders are not only considered as military leaders but also leaders within their ethnic group. To expand their areas of influence, leaders of armed groups have also, at times, sealed alliances with other ethnic groups. For instance, Abdoulaye Hissène married a daughter of the Sultan-Mayor of Birao, himself a Kara; and ‘general’ Kanton, who died in the fighting in Birao on 2 September (see chronology in annex 3.1), had been married to a sister of Gilbert Toumou Deya,<sup>15</sup> the MLCJ president and a pre-eminent member of the Kara community.

**‘Edgna’ investigations**

After the clash in Am Dafok on 14 July 2019 (see chronology in annex 3.1), a mission composed of community leaders was appointed to investigate the incident. The mission’s role was to determine the responsibilities and facilitate negotiations for compensation in order to solve the problem. This “committee of mediation” is referred to traditionally as an “Edgna”. The delegation was composed of representatives from all ethnic groups from Vakaga prefecture.

As stated in their mission reports (see below), the Edgna ruled that the Am Dafok clash was initiated by the MLCJ whose elements had “attacked unarmed FPRC elements” (see document below).<sup>16</sup> On 6 August, the committee officially settled the compensation as follows: FCFA nine million (around \$15,000 dollars) would be given to the FPRC by way of compensation for the MLCJ attack. In parallel, Nourredine Adam personally agreed to send FCFA four million (around \$6,800) to the families of the two members of the Kara community who were killed in Am Dafok in retaliation for the initial MLCJ attack.<sup>17</sup> The first payment to the FPRC was made with a contribution

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<sup>15</sup> Meetings with confidential sources, Birao, 3-6 October 2019.

<sup>16</sup> *Idem.*

<sup>17</sup> Meetings with confidential sources, Birao 3-6 October 2019.

from all Birao merchants and community representatives keen to avoid further tensions.<sup>18</sup>

However, according to some armed group representatives, the Edgna settlement of 6 August only resolved the issue between the communities, but not between the armed groups themselves. Tensions remained between MLCJ and FPRC even prior to the killing of the son of the Sultan on 29 August. Individuals from both armed groups spoke to the Panel of the potential for the escalation of tensions between MLCJ and FPRC ahead of the events of 1 September.

### **The FPRC and the Rounga community**

As described in the main body of this report, the FPRC's grip on Vakaga prefecture was contested by other armed groups. The growing presence of members of the Rounga community was viewed with suspicion by the MLCJ and Kara leaders who considered themselves as the rightful owners of the land in Birao and Am Dafok. FPRC leaders were accused of favouring Rounga merchants and their partners.<sup>19</sup>

After the Am Dafok clash on 14 July and the 1 September attack on Birao (see chronology in annex 3.1), leaders from the Rounga community, including the Mayor of Sikkikede (Vakaga prefecture), a Rounga stronghold, called for strong actions against the MLCJ. In late July, as a result, the FPRC sent around 100 fighters to Birao, officially to support the mediation or Edgna. After the departure of the Edgna delegation in mid-August, 42 FPRC elements remained with Adam Kanton claiming to be waiting for the end of the rainy season.<sup>20</sup>

Subsequent events confirmed the capacity of community leaders to challenge the authority of armed group leaders and, at times, pressure them.<sup>21</sup> The failed attempt to oust the MLCJ/PRNC from Birao on 14 September was primarily motivated by Abdoulaye Hissène's wish to respond to the calls to avenge the death of Adam Kanton and thereby preserve his status within the Rounga community. His preferred strategy was initially to wait till the end of the rainy season to carry out any action.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Meeting with a Birao-based merchant, Bangui, 10 September 2019.

<sup>19</sup> Meetings with leaders of the Kara community, Birao, 4 October 2019.

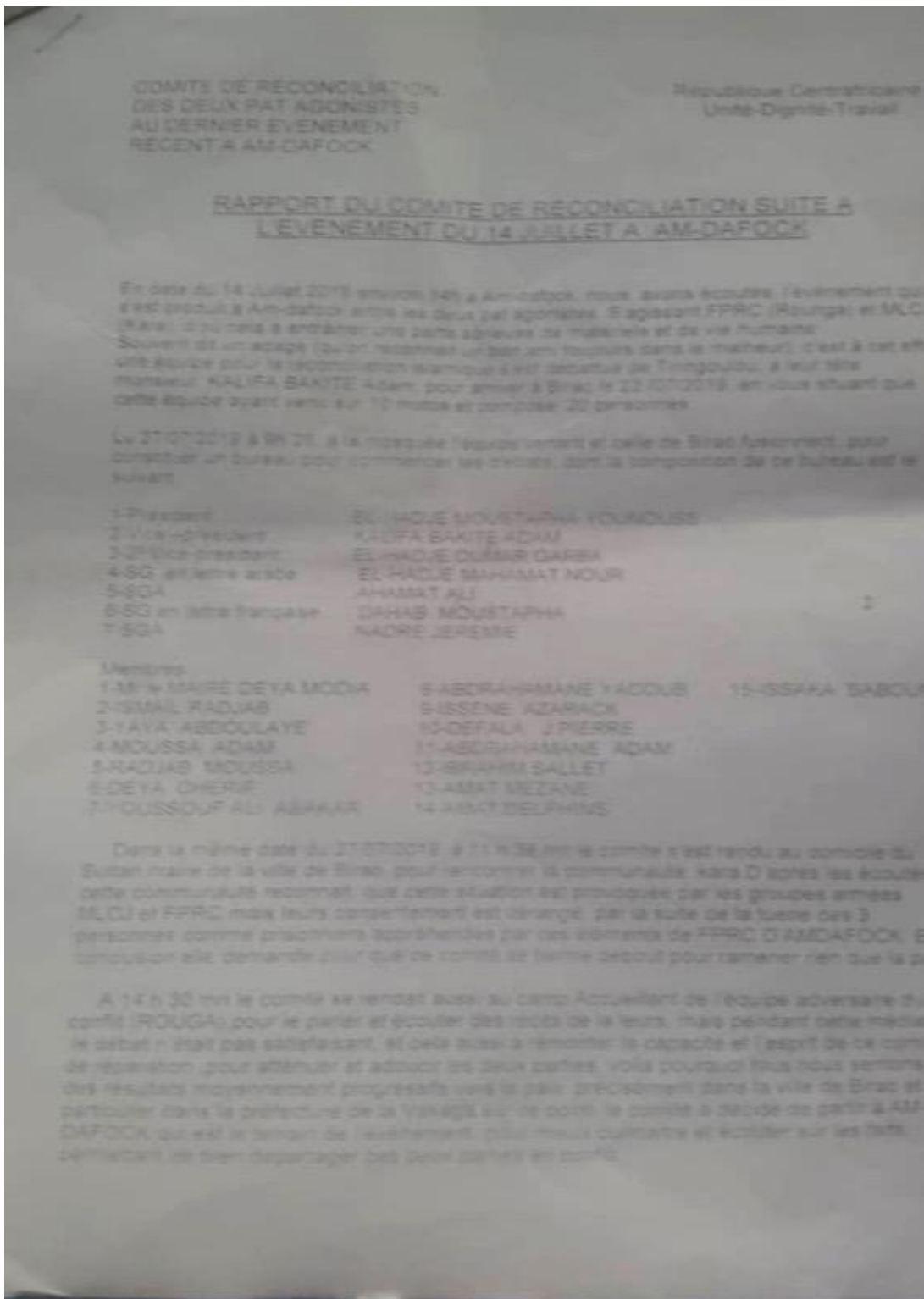
<sup>20</sup> Confidential report, 25 August 2019; meeting with confidential source, Birao, 5 October 2019.

<sup>21</sup> Meeting with an FPRC representative, Bangui, 12 September 2019.

<sup>22</sup> Idem.

Report of the Egan mediation following 14 July 2019 events in Am Dafok.

*Documents obtained by the Panel from a community representative in Birao on 10 October 2019*



Le 29/07/2019 le comité a fait une demande d'aide financière et logistique à la MINUSCA, pour le permettre dans les démarches de ce conflit

Le 29/07/2019 l'arrivée de l'équipe de Ouanda-Djallé cette équipe est composée de 10 personnes, ou à leur tête monsieur le maire DJEME NGREBAYE

Le 30/07/2019 à 10h 45 minutes madame la cheffe du bureau de la MINUSCA et son staff reçoivent le comité de réconciliation et demande à ce comité de jouer beaucoup plus son rôle de médiateur, entre ces groupes en conflit et en le félicitant de l'effort à la quelle il en est fait

Le 31/07/2019, Départ de certains membres du comité à AM-DAFOCK à leur tête monsieur DAHAB Moustapha, pour coucher à AMSSISSIA village situé à 19 kilomètres d'Am dafock

Le 01/08/2019, à 7h45 minutes arrivée de cette équipe à AM-DAFOCK

A 10h 38m ce comité s'est rencontré, avec le groupe armée FPRC de la localité, et qui est pilier à ce conflit. En rentrant dans les débats, qui a duré au moins 2 heures de temps et demi, la déclaration de monsieur BACHAR, FADOU, le responsable de FPRC d'Am dafock, fait comprendre à ce comité les sources fiables de cet crise, provenant d'un commerçant en le nom de Kamis aussi, décédé dans cette affrontement, du faite ces éléments de FPRC ont mis la main sur ses 6 cartons de munition de chasse, comme il n'est pas satisfait de ça, qu'il s'est retourné, au village pour repartir armée avec son groupe MLCJ, qu'on ne peut pas connaître exactement leur nombre, mais sont parties sur 17 motos, pour aller commettent ces dégâts

Le 02/08/2019, retour à Birao de ces membres du comité de réconciliation en mission d'Am-dafock

Le 03/08/2019 à 7h26m à la mosquée, le comité reprenne ses initiatives dans le but de reconstruire la paix entre ses 2 pat agonistes en conflit

A 13h 5mn, ce comité s'est rendu au domicile du sultan maire Am-ngabo, pour trouver la communauté KARA et lui a donné du tord, parce que c'est elle qui est à l'origine de cette situation de cris

A 10 h 40 mn, le comité se rendait aussi chez la communauté adverse du conflit (ROUGA) pour leur transmettre ces mêmes choses et aussi, il leurs a attribuer du tord, a cause de l'assassinat des 3 personnes appréhendés par ces éléments de FPRC avant cette affrontement

Mais celle-ci ne casse pas la colère, à tel point ils n'ont pas donner réponse, mais plutôt donnent rendez-vous au lendemain à 10 h

Le 04/08/2019 quand le comité est en poursuite dans ces démarches à la mosquée étaient venus quelque nombre de la famille de monsieur SALIM Fadoul, le quel est raté de justesse par coups de bal tiré par un des frères de la communauté KARA le 18/07/2019

Étaient venus dirent à cet comité de réconciliation, qu'ils préfèrent de cette communauté KARA, une amande à un montant d'assassinat, mais le comité à l'impression de ne pas accepter, il va bien sur résoudre la situation, mais ce la doit être réglée différemment

A 10 h, le comité de réconciliation retourne vers cette communauté ROUGA selon le rendez-vous donné, mais celle-ci continu sa résistance, qui allait même décourager certaines membres du comité, mais au dernier temps, ils sont revenus à la raison, c'est maintenant qu'ils réclament à leurs adversaires de leurs verser des montant concernant à leurs

déposés, et à l'occupation des funéraires de leur famille disparues dans cette combat, provoqués par cette famille KARA.

Le 04/08/2019, consacrait dans la poursuite d'attente des montants et sont arrêtés, en montant de 9 000 000 de francs CFA.

LE 06/08/2019 à 15 h 34 mn, le comité de la réconciliation a déchargé à la communauté Rongwa un montant de 4 000 000 million de francs CFA, et reste un montant de 5 000 000 à verser par cette communauté Kara à celle de Rongwa, puis un délai de 3 mois est prévu au versement de ce montant.

Pour en finir, le comité de la réconciliation demande à ces deux pat agonistes, de se retrouver à la mosquée centrale après la prière de 16 h, pour se faire pardonner.

16 h 25 mn, commence cette réunion pour la réconciliation, qui a ouvert par la prière ordonnée de l'imam MOUSTAPHA YOLINOUSS, en souhaitant la bienvenue à ces participant, puis brièvement donne rapport du comité de réconciliation sur cette situation pour arriver à ce niveau, et exhorte également à chacun des responsables communautaires. D'instruis beaucoup la où ils sont, le respect au droit humain et de beaucoup plus cultiver, rien que la paix par ce qu'elle n'a pas de prix.



À près là il y avaient beaucoup des gens parés, et ressortent, que toujours ces problèmes proviennent des groupes armées et souvent la population souffre à cause de la mal gestion de leurs responsables, prenant le cas de l'événement récent du 14 juillet 2019 à Am-dafock à l'origine monsieur TOUMOU AMZA DEYA le responsable de MLCJ.

Pour en finir ils donnent cette histoire que la ville de Birac est le chef lieu de la préfecture de la Vakaga, dont sa construction était dans la participation de toukraces natifs de cette région mais n'appartienne pas à une seule race, donc tout le monde a le droit à cette ville de Birac. Fin de parler, les deux communautés en conflit se sont saluer dans les mains et aussi il ya application des signatures, c'est à 17 h 50 mn s'achève cette réunion de réconciliation par prière finale de monsieur KALIFA BAKITE ADAM.

Le Rapporteur

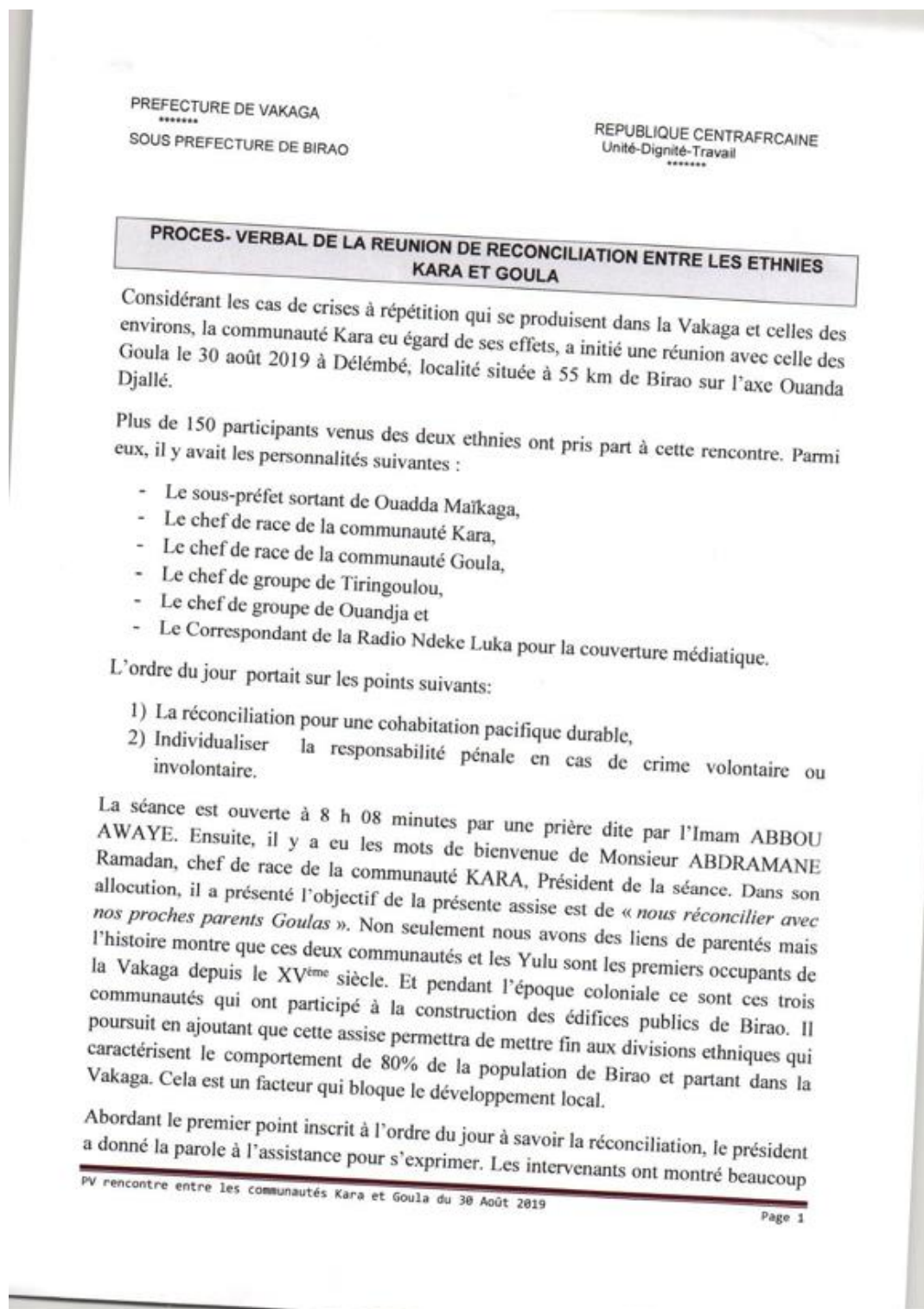
Le président

Nadiré JEREMIE

   
MOUSPARHA Youssouf

**Annex 3.6: “Procès Verbal” of the Kara-Goula meeting published on 30 August 2019.**

*Document obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 4 October 2019.*



d'intérêts pour ce point et ont souligné qu'il y avait eu dans le passé plusieurs réconciliations entre les parties en conflits dans la Vakaga et qui n'ont pas été respectées. Ceci est dû à la haine et au mauvais comportement des autorités locales qui, pour des intérêts personnels, privilégient les sujets étrangers au détriment des populations autochtones. Alors le résultat de ces amitiés basées sur l'intérêt égoïste est en défaveur de la population qui se solde par des tueries, vols, etc.....

En somme, après les débats, les participants ont recommandé que

- les deux communautés cohabitent pacifiquement avec les autres dans la ville de Birao ;
- l'autorité de l'Etat soit effective à travers ses différents services déconcentrés dans la Vakaga

Concernant le deuxième point, les participants ont décidé avec plus de fermeté de faire la lumière sur les actes de crimes : " Que désormais on ne peut tolérer que les cas de crime involontaire." Dans le cas où le crime est commis volontairement, l'auteur répondra de ses actes devant la justice.

Pour finir, une dizaine des représentants des deux communautés ont juré sur le coran et ont signé un document pour valoriser ce pacte.

C'est à 10 h 35 minutes que la rencontre a pris fin par la prière dite par Cheik DJOUMA Issa suivie du mot de clôture du Président de la séance qui a précisé qu'une cérémonie officielle sera organisée à Birao dans les jours à venir.

Fait à Délémbé, le

Le Rapporteur



**Jérémie NADRE**

Le Président de la séance



**ABDRAMANE Ramadan**



Noms des Signataires Considérant Comme dernière Pacte d'alliance entre La Communauté Goula et Kara, le 30/08/2019 à Diélembé

Communauté Goula:

- EL HASSE IBRAHIM ABDOULAYE, chef de race Goula
- MAHAMAT Katre, Conseiller municipal (C. Grandja)
- MAHAMAT Charfadine chef de groupe village (Tiringanba)
- MAHAMAT Charli chef de groupe village (Grandja)
- SID AHAMAT cherif chef de groupe village (Gordil)

Fait à Diélembé le, 30/08/2019

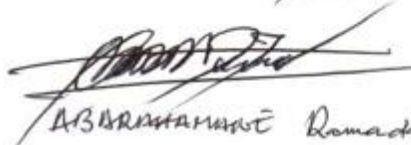
IBRAHIM ABDOULAYE:



Communauté Kara:

- ABRAMAMANE Ramadane chef de race (Kara)
- BACKITE Karam vice-president chef de race (Kara)
- ABDEL AZIZE Chaïb, Conseiller Communautaire
- ABDOULAYE SAOUS chef de groupe village (Diélembé)
- AHAMAT Radjab chef de village (ROKOTO)

Fait à Diélembé le, 30/08/2019



ABRAMAMANE Ramadane.

**Annex 3.7:** The role of the Sultan-Mayor in the fighting in Vakaga prefecture.

Leaders of the Kara community were directly involved in the MLCJ's actions in Vakaga prefecture. However, the Sultan of Vakaga, himself a Kara, was sidelined for most of the preparation period and during the mobilization of the community to support MLCJ's efforts.<sup>23</sup> Military leaders from the Kara community told the Panel that they did not recognize the authority of the Sultan anymore and no longer trusted him.<sup>24</sup>

The Sultan's role as a Kara community leader was first contested due to frustration within the community over his accumulation of mandates. In particular, the Sultan was named Mayor of Birao by the Government after the Bangui Forum in 2015, giving him control over all public funds allocated to the Vakaga prefecture.<sup>25</sup>

Frustrations over the Sultan were further exacerbated by his cooperation with FPRC and Nourredine Adam. The Sultan has had a long history of alliances with the armed groups in Vakaga prefecture, largely economically motivated, as he has received a share of the illegal taxes collected by the FPRC.<sup>26</sup> The Sultan also regularly received money from Nourredine Adam who, for instance, reportedly paid for his trip to Khartoum for medical treatment in early 2019.<sup>27</sup> After the death of his son on 28 August 2019 (see chronology in annex 3.1), the Sultan also publicly opposed to any retaliation against FPRC.<sup>28</sup>

The launch of the 1 September 2019 attack on Birao (see chronology in annex 3.1) and the overwhelming mobilisation within the Kara community against the FPRC presence forced the Sultan to readjust his position and follow the hardliners within the Kara. If not, he would have run the risk of losing his legitimacy as a representative of the Kara community.

In an audio file which the Panel obtained on 11 September, one can hear the Sultan-Mayor celebrating the Kara/MLCJ victory over FPRC. He also overstated his involvement in the fight (see transcript below). Talking to an unidentified colonel, the Sultan went as far as portraying himself as a general having commanded military operations.

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<sup>23</sup> Meeting with leaders of the Kara community, Birao, 4 October 2019.

<sup>24</sup> *Idem.*

<sup>25</sup> Meeting with community leaders, Birao, 8 October 2019.

<sup>26</sup> Meeting with confidential source, Birao, 6 October 2019.

<sup>27</sup> *Idem.*

<sup>28</sup> Confidential report, 30 August 2019.

During a meeting with the Panel on 5 October, the Sultan called for the departure from Birao of the Rounga, the Haoussa and all the communities described as working for the FPRC.

Transcript below is translated from Arabic to English of an audio recorded declaration made by the Sultan during a phone conversation, reportedly dated 2 September 2019. The voice of the Sultan-Mayor on the audio was recognized by a wide variety of individuals. The Panel obtained the audio recording from confidential sources on 11 September 2019. The file is archived at the United Nations.

*“Thanks Colonel. We will. We are heroes, Colonel. We struck hard and by surprise. We collected three pick-up trucks and all their weapons including 12/7, bazooka and other things. We killed their bosses. General Adam Kanton and ‘BD’ also. The others are in disarray. Far in the bush. All that is to say about us is false. Right now I am in Birao center with all my men. We are ready to fight them. Don’t worry Colonel. Thank you, thank you”*

**Annex 3.8:** Information on Nourd Gregaza.**Nourd Gregaza, a figurehead and political shield**

Nourd Gregaza is unknown on the CAR political and/or military scene. Several implausible theories have circulated about his identity or professional background; some also questioned his very existence.<sup>29</sup> In spite of the Panel's extensive (and ongoing) investigations thereon, uncertainty remains on a number of issues.

Nourd Gregaza has expressed himself through communiqués, most of them being aggressive toward President Touadéra. In his communiqués, he claimed to know the President personally, and threatened to overthrow his regime.<sup>30</sup>

On 11 September and 14 October, the Panel had two phone conversations with an individual claiming to be Nourd Gregaza, the PRNC leader. The individual declared his intention to be a candidate for the 2020 presidential election but seemed to lack knowledge of the legal requirements to do so (in particular the rule on residency in the country). He also displayed limited knowledge of the situation on the ground. He said he lived in France and maintained a residence in Bangui despite having admitted that he had not been in CAR for some time. Nourd Gregaza informed the Panel of his family ties with Djoubaye Abazene, the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, to whom he referred as his uncle.

During the same conversation, the individual refused to give details on his current activities and claimed to be "well known and very influential in CAR". The Panel could not find any evidence corroborating this statement.

The Panel also communicated with Nourd Gregaza through the social media account of "Sarah Gregaza", whom the Panel identified as being linked to another social media account opened by "Sarah Mehard". During exchanges with the Panel, she presented herself as a French citizen and Nourd Gregaza's wife. She indicated that she was the PRNC's Secretary-General and was regularly travelling to Bangui (unlike her husband).

In Bangui and Birao, representatives of the Goula community told the Panel that Nourd or Nourredine Gregaza was the son of a Goula gendarme from Bria and that his mother belonged to the

<sup>29</sup> <https://letsunami.net/index.php/2019/06/04/ndele-qui-est-derriere-la-rebellion-prnc-de-nourd-gregaza/> [accessed on 25 October 2019].

<sup>30</sup> <https://corbeaunews-centrafrique.com/centrafrique-veritable-declaration-de-guerre-de-monsieur-nourd-gregaza-president-du-prnc-au-president-touadera/> [accessed on 25 October 2019].

Banda ethnic group.<sup>31</sup> They stated that Nourd Gregaza had left CAR to live in France in the mid-1990s, where he was reportedly currently incarcerated for murder. On 25 September 2019, representatives of the French authorities confirmed to the Panel that an individual named Nourd Gregaza was currently detained for murder in France.

The Panel continues to investigate the identity, activities, connections and financial means of Nourd Gregaza.

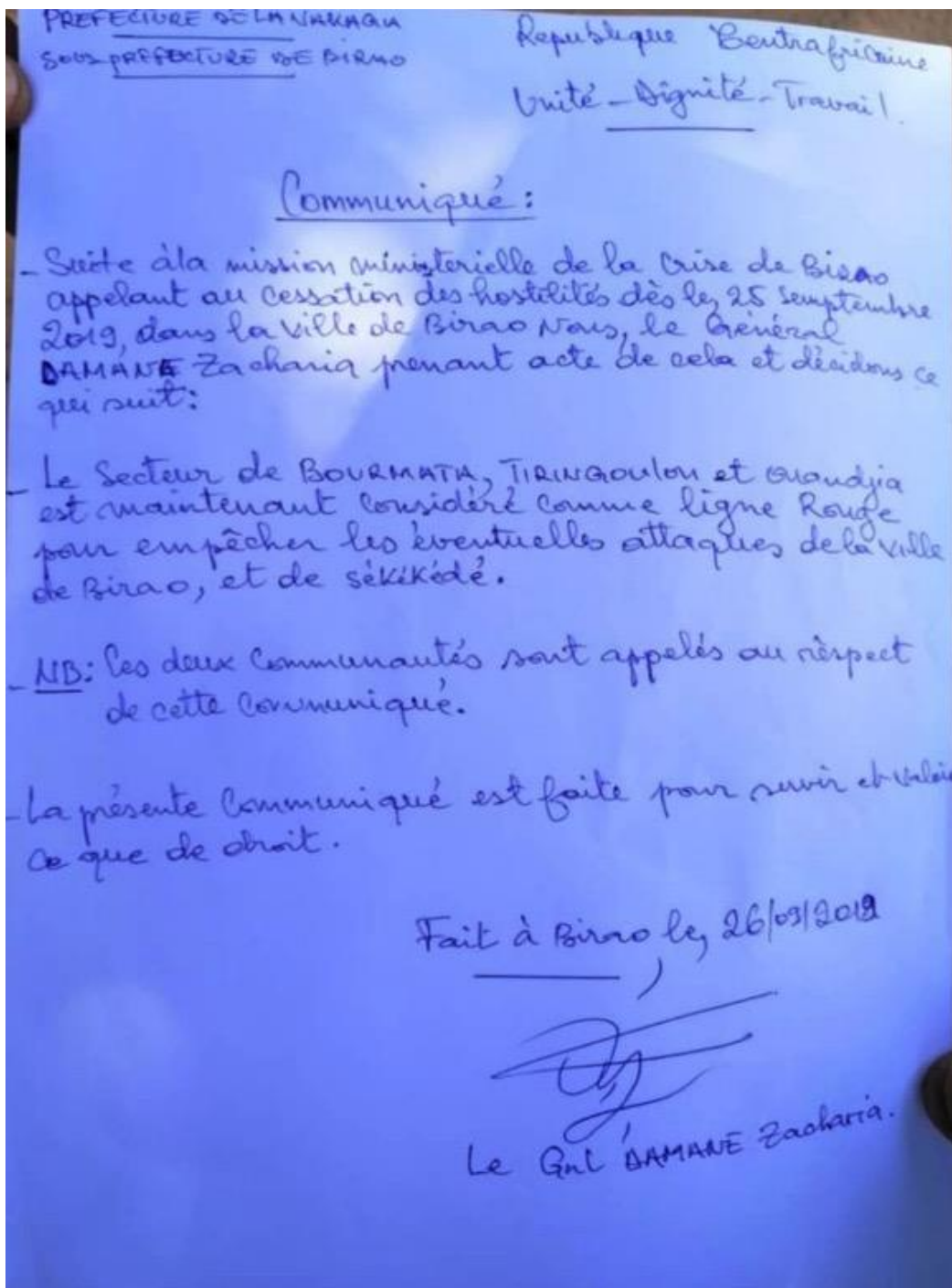
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<sup>31</sup> Meetings with representatives of the Goula community, Bangui and Birao, 25 August and 8 October 2019.

**Annex 3.9:** Communiqué of 26 September 2019 signed by Zakaria Damane.

The Panel notes that Zakaria Damane presents himself as “General”, a title that he only possesses as a member of the RPRC. The Panel also notes that the communiqué referred to a zone controlled by PNRG.

*Document obtained by the Panel from an armed group representative 27 September 2019.*



**Annex 3.10:** Further information on FPRC's preparation for retaliation.***FPRC, looking for reinforcements***

To reinforce its military capabilities, FPRC has endeavoured to make alliances, in particular with MPC. On 15 September, along with 140 armed fighters, MPC leader Mahamat Al-Khatim tried to reach Ndélé but was stopped by MINUSCA in Bamingui (Bamingui-Bangoran prefecture).<sup>32</sup> The purpose of his visit was to meet with Abdoulaye Hissène and finalize the terms of their cooperation with a view to undertaking future actions in the Birao area.<sup>33</sup> MPC and FPRC members based in the Kaga Bandoro area also collected funds to support a military operation.<sup>34</sup> As the MPC is mainly composed of members of the Salamat ethnic group who are present in both Chad and the Sudan, this group's involvement would heighten the risk of spreading the conflict beyond CAR border.

Saleh Zabadi, a Kaga-Bandoro-based "general", was among the FPRC military leaders who reportedly expressed their readiness to participate in the offensive on Birao.<sup>35</sup> Saleh Zabadi is from the Misseriya ethnic group, mostly present in the Sudan and Chad. The Panel notes that his involvement in the conflict in Vakaga could lead to the arrival of additional foreign fighters.

After the attack against FPRC positions in Am Dafok on 14 October, numerous Chadian identification papers were collected by the MLCJ/PRNC fighters from FPRC fighters. Copies of the documents were shared with the Panel and are archived at the United Nations.

As it is common to find people with dual citizenship in border areas, these identification papers do not prove that the FPRC is mainly comprised of foreign fighters, as MLCJ/PRNC have claimed. However, it is clear that FPRC has the capacity to recruit fighters living in Chad, including members of the Rounga community who would be interested in carrying out acts of revenge following the fighting in Birao.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>32</sup> Confidential report, 16 September 2019.

<sup>33</sup> Meetings with armed group representatives, Kaga-Bandoro, 5-9 September 2019.

<sup>34</sup> Meetings with confidential sources, Kaga-Bandoro and Mbrès, 5-9 September 2019.

<sup>35</sup> Meetings with armed group representatives, Kaga-Bandoro, 5-9 September 2019.

<sup>36</sup> Meeting with Rounga community leader, Bangui, 12 September 2019.

**Annex 3.11: Burned and looted houses in Birao.**

*Pictures taken by the Panel in Birao on 3-5 October 2019.*





**Annex 3.12:** Further information on the humanitarian situation in Birao.

The heavy rains in September and October 2019 worsened the living conditions on the IDP sites. Poor living conditions combined with intercommunal tensions and reports of weapons circulating within the sites created a feeling of fear amongst residents of the displaced sites.<sup>4</sup> During a two-week period, UNHCR registered 72 protection incidents, predominantly gender-based violence, but also violations of physical integrity and freedom of movement.<sup>5</sup> Children were particularly vulnerable and a number of children associated with armed groups were registered.<sup>6</sup> On 21 October, a group of displaced youth protested at the MINUSCA site against a perceived lack of security on the site and requesting relocation (see photos below). This group claimed that Bornou, Haoussa and Rounga civilians faced constant threats from Kara youth who prevented them from reaching their farms.<sup>7</sup>

*IDPs protesting on 21 October 2019 asking to be relocated for fear of violence on the site. Pictures obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 22 October 2019.*



**Annex 3.13:** Information on the lucrative business of hunting ammunition.

Most of the hunting ammunition trafficked by traders in Birao come from the Sudan (see picture nr. 1 below, with “Taital – Sudan”).<sup>37</sup> The importation of hunting ammunition is a very lucrative business. While one box with 240 rounds of hunting ammunition reportedly costs FCFA 150,000 (\$250) when purchased in Sudan, the same box is reportedly worth FCFA 180,000 (\$307) in the CAR. Birao merchants resell the ammunition mostly in Bria.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Meetings with merchants and confidential sources, Birao, August and October 2019.

<sup>38</sup> Idem.

**Annex 3.14:** Pictures of the weapons, ammunition and motorcycles reportedly seized by the FPRC from the MLCJ in Am Dafok.

*Pictures obtained from confidential source on 18 July 2019.*



**Annex 3.15:** FPRC communications on the trafficking of weapons and (hunting) ammunition.

*Press statement of 17 July 2019 of Nouredine Adam, received from a confidential source on 18 July 2019.*

FRONT POPULAIRE POUR LA  
RENAISSANCE DE CENTRAFRIQUE  
BUREAU EXECUTIF NATIONAL  
PRESIDENCE  
N° 021/FPRC/BEN 019



République Centrafricaine  
Unité - Dignité - Travail

**COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE**

En date du 14 juillet 2019, la base militaire du FPRC à Am-Dafock a été attaquée par des criminelles contrebandiers trafiquants des munitions qui n'ont aucune existence politique. Le bilan est lourd des conséquences.

Le Bureau Exécutif National du FPRC condamne fermement cette attaque et affirme sa volonté et sa détermination de lutter contre les actes criminels et de banditisme dans les zones sous son contrôle, susceptibles de perturber le processus de paix en cours. Et ce, quel que soit son auteur.

Le Bureau Exécutif National du FPRC réaffirme sa pleine adhésion à l'APPR-RCA et souligne sa volonté à agir de bonne foi et sans délai pour la mise en œuvre accélérée de l'APPR-RCA. Il met ainsi en garde tout individu, groupe d'individus ou organisation criminelle qui espère profiter des « vides sécuritaires » actuelles dues au démantèlement des barrières illégales pour se livrer à des trafics et activités criminelles qui troubleraient la sécurité dans les zones sous son contrôle. Des dispositions ont été prises et la réponse du FPRC pour préserver les acquis du processus de paix en cours sera ferme.

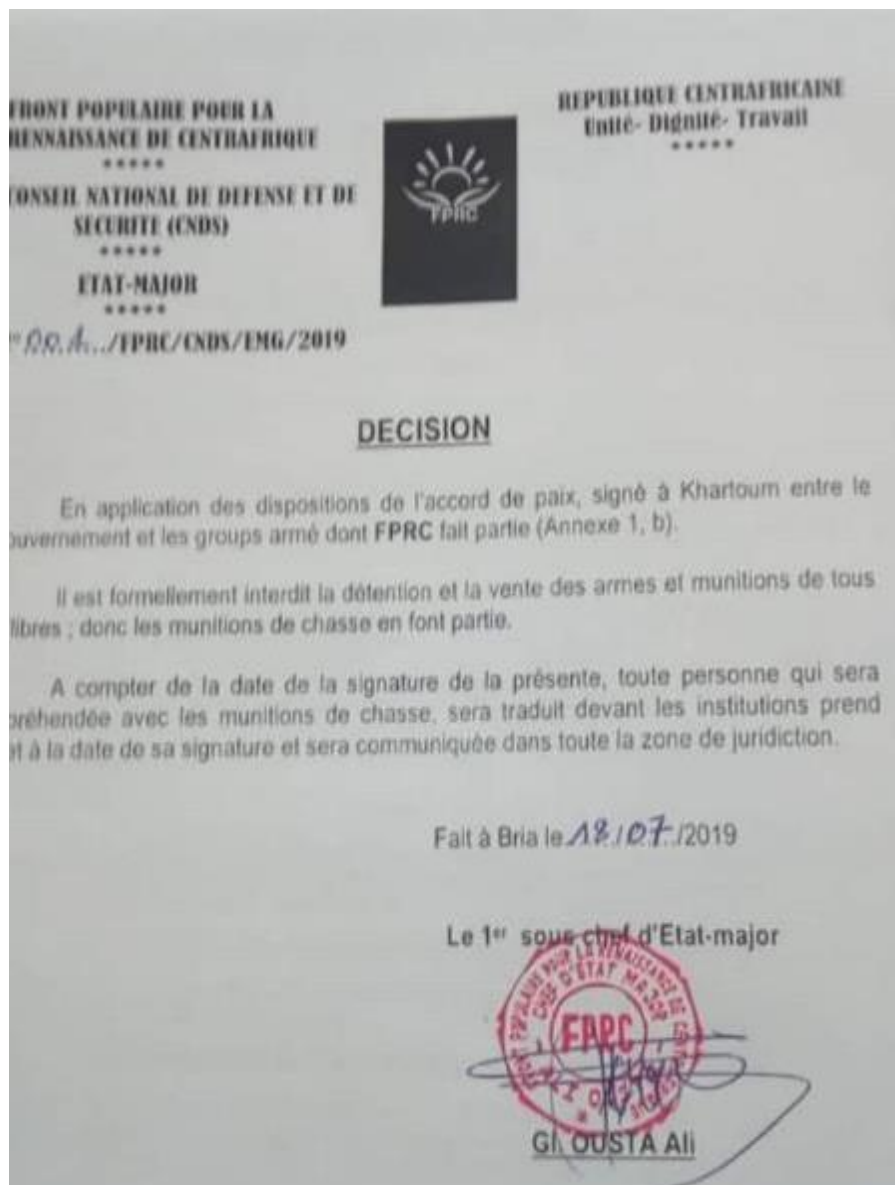
Le Bureau Exécutif National du FPRC demande avec insistance l'accélération de la mise en place des dispositifs sécuritaires transitoires prévus dans le cadre l'APPR-RCA (article 16 et 17) afin de pouvoir répondre aux enjeux et les défis sécuritaires dans la zone.

Fait à Birao, le 17 juillet 2019

Le Vice-Président

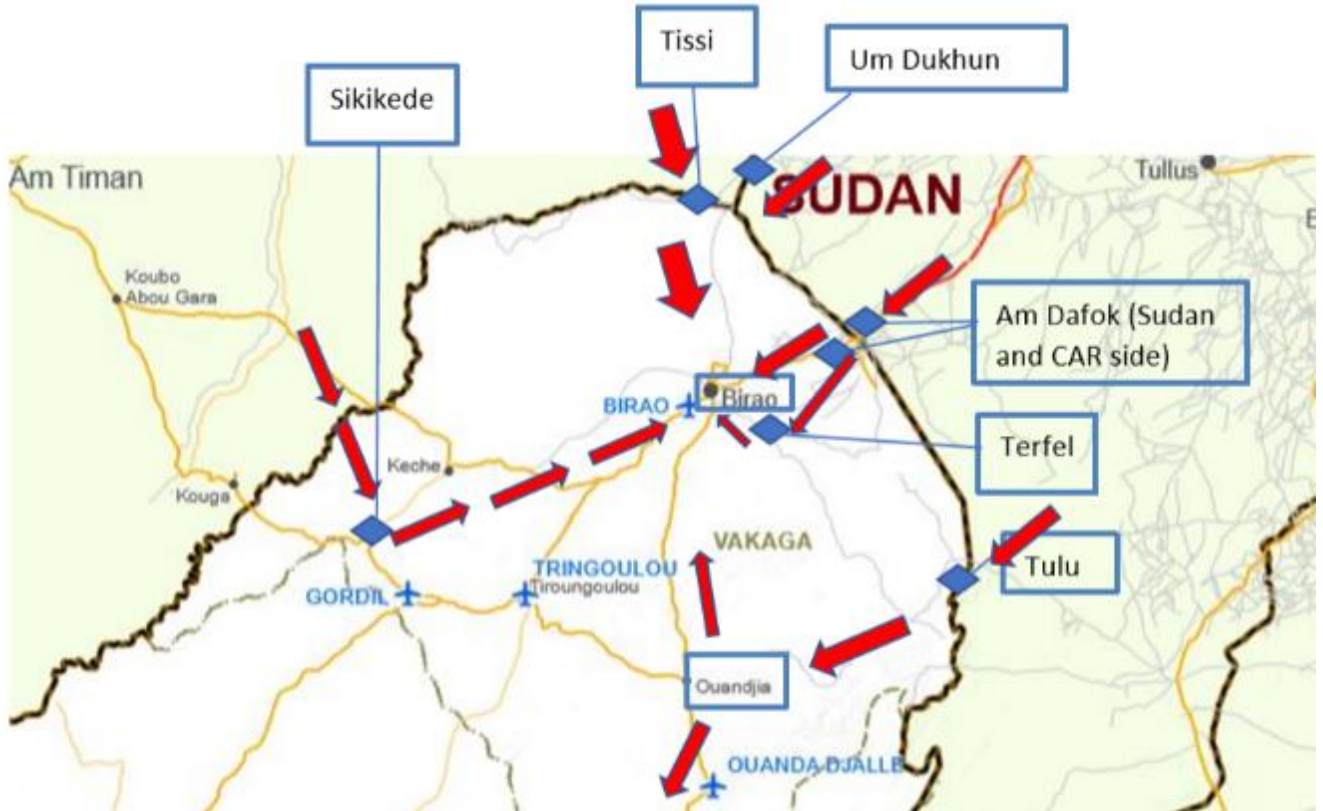
**Général Nouredine ADAM**

Decision of 18 July 2019 of “general” Ali Ousta, received from a confidential source on 19 July 2019.



**Annex 3.16:** MLCJ's acquisition of military equipment and FPRC's loss of military material and vehicles

Map of trafficking routes and trafficking hubs of MLCJ, RPRC, MLCJ and Kara traffickers



*Pictures of FPRC weaponry seized by MINUSCA peacekeepers in Birao in early September 2019, obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 5 October 2019.*



*Pictures of FPRC fighters in Birao on 1 September 2019 (the FPRC fighter in the first picture carries ammunition and a machine gun similar to the one seized by MINUSCA peacekeepers), received from confidential source on 3 September 2019.*



*Pictures of an FPRC pick-up vehicle with mounted twin-barreled anti-aircraft canon, before and after the attack in Am Dafok on 14 October 2019, received from confidential sources on 5 and 22 October 2019.*



Abdoulaye Miskine is pictured in the photo on the left above (in the middle, in front of the mounted pick-up) which was reportedly taken in the village Garada, Vakaga prefecture, where Miskine was reportedly “on mission” to provide food to the local population. The vehicle, however, belonged to the FPRC at that time; it was just on loan to Miskine.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>39</sup> Meeting with confidential sources, Birao, 5 October 2019.

**Annex 3.17:** Additional information on UPC arms trafficking in cooperation with FPRC leaders.

The UPC reportedly continued to acquire weapons and ammunition from and/or through Sudanese territory, with the complicity of elements from the Sudanese Rapid Support Force (RSF) (see also S/2019/608, para. 49, 52 and 53). One UPC representative and trafficker informed the Panel of a transaction that was concluded with the RSF elements in August 2019. In mid-September 2019, the weaponry (500 rocket-propelled grenade launchers and 500 AK-type assault rifles), was reportedly transported to Am Dafok, where “general” Bashar Fadoul agreed to temporarily store it, before being brought to Bokolbo via Birao and Bria. The trafficker declared that UPC has continued to rearm, as the armed group does not trust the Government and President, - amongst others because of the Government’s active recruitment and training of the Presidential guard.<sup>40</sup> The Panel could not confirm the presence of the weaponry in Bokolbo.

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<sup>40</sup> Meeting with UPC trafficker and UPC fighters, Alindao and Bangui, September-October 2019.



**Annex 3.18:** Arms trafficking by FPRC and Abdoulaye Miskine.

*Picture of Abdoulaye Miskine and Bashar Fadoul in Am Dafok, prior to the Am Dafok attack, received from confidential source on 25 October 2019.*



*Pictures and screenshots of films of Martin Koumtamadji, alias Abdoulaye Miskine, and well-armed individuals around him, obtained from confidential sources on 21 June and 29 October 2019. The elements in the first picture reportedly belong to the close guard regiment of Miskine. The Panel could not, however, confirm this information, and it remains unclear which elements in the photos belong to FPRC, and which ones may have been recruited by Miskine himself.*

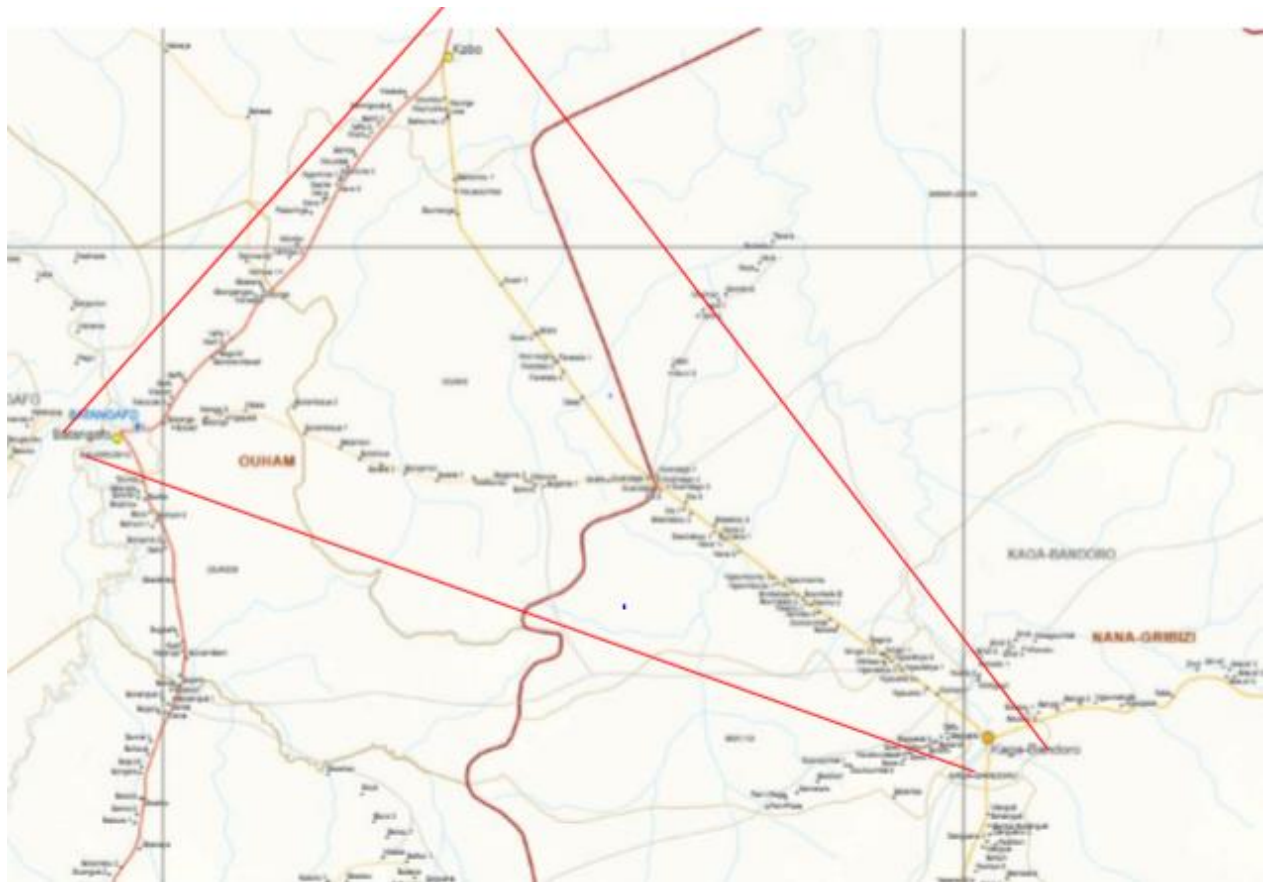




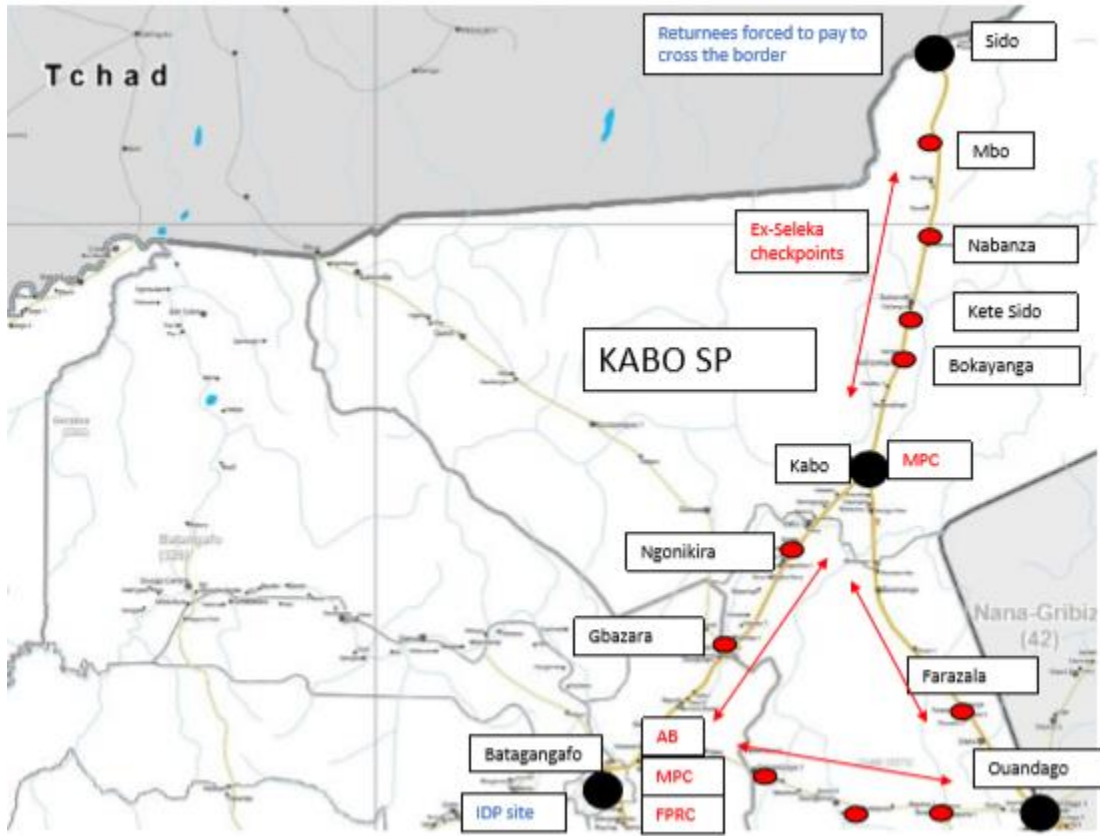
*Picture of a vehicle reportedly purchased by Abdoulaye Miskine in July and August 2019, obtained from confidential sources on 2 and 22 August 2019.*



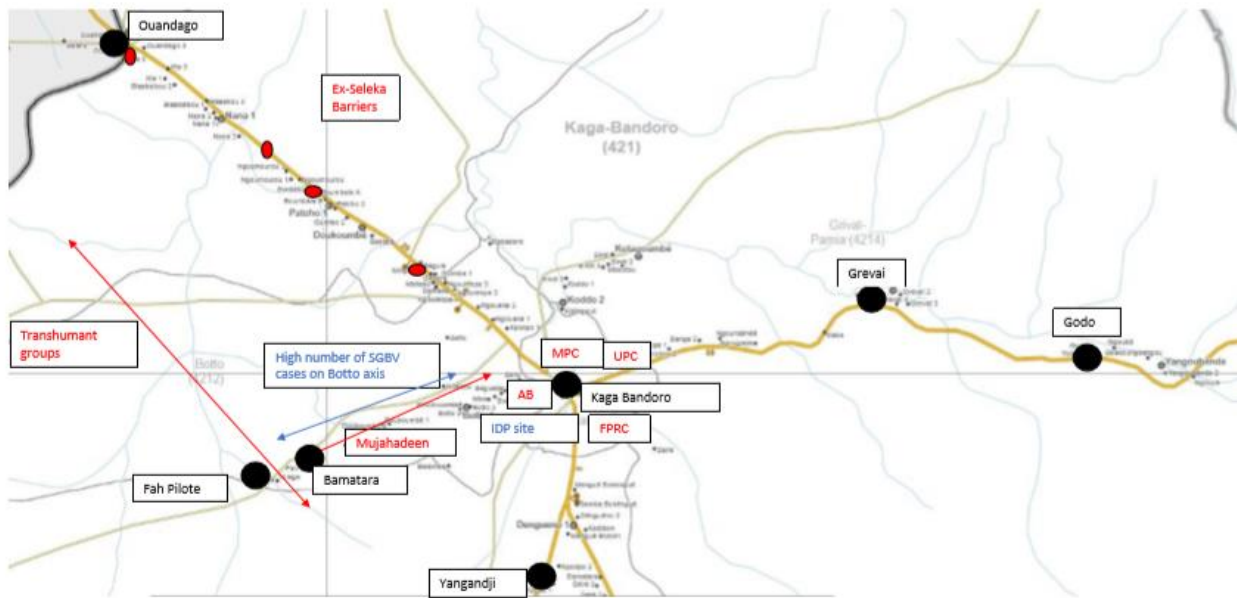
**Annex 3.19:** Map showing the Kaga-Bandoro-Batangafu-Kabo triangle.



Maps of the checkpoints on the Ouandago-Batangafa-Kabo-Sido axis and on the Kabo-Ouandago axis



Map of Kaga-Bandoro and axes leading out of Kaga-Bandoro



**Annex 3.20:** Receipts provided by UPC to economic operators in the Bambari area in return for the payment of taxes.

Documents obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 5 October 2019.

Ministère des Finances  
Direction Général  
De l'impôt  
N° 000

République Centrafricaine  
Unité - Dignité - Travail  
\*\*\*\*\*

**IMPÔT**  
**REÇU DES IMPÔTS COMMERCIAL**

Nom(s) : HAMZADOU  
Prénom(s) :  
Nature d'activité : Commerce  
Lieu d'activité : BAMBARI  
Préfecture de : Ouaka  
Commune : BAMBARI  
Montant versé : 25000

Fait à Bangui le ...../...../2019  
Directeur général de l'impôt

**CONVOCAATION**

Le Directeur Général de la Mine, Conakoua :  
De Profession : collecteur d'or  
Mr/Mme/Mlle : Hamzadou  
De se présenter à : Bambari  
Résident au : Bambari  
De se présenter le : 05/10/2019 à partir de 08h00  
Pour de raison : affaire fiscale

Le refus de répondre à cette présente Convocation entrainera à une infraction aux mines qui sera sanctionnée sévèrement.

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL DE LA MINE

**CONVOCAATION**

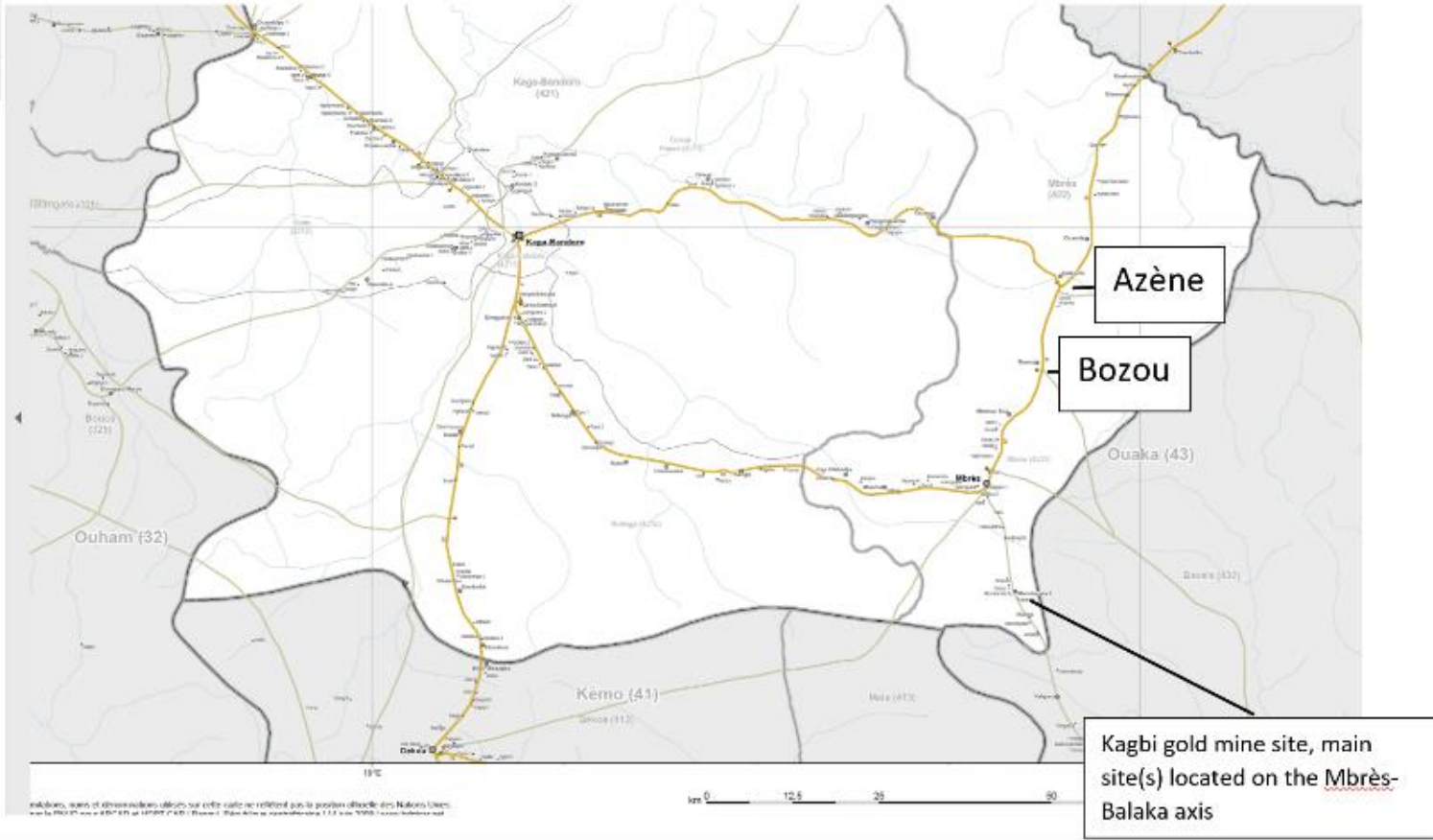
Le Directeur Général de la Mine, Conakoua :  
De Profession : collecteur d'or  
Mr/Mme/Mlle : Hamzadou  
De se présenter à : Bambari  
Résident au : Bambari  
De se présenter le : 05/10/2019 à partir de 08h00  
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Le refus de répondre à cette présente Convocation entrainera à une infraction aux mines qui sera sanctionnée sévèrement.

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL DE LA MINE

**Annex 3.21:** Map of mining sites in the Mbrès area (Nana-Gribizi prefecture).

**Nana-Gribizi**



**Annex 3.22:** CV of Abdel Rahim Mahamat Kidessi, available on his LinkedIn profile.

Available at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/abdel-rahim-mahamat-b0495190/>

[accessed on 29 October 2019]

Contacter

[www.linkedin.com/in/abdel-rahim-mahamat-b0495190](https://www.linkedin.com/in/abdel-rahim-mahamat-b0495190/) (LinkedIn)

Principales compétences

Gemmologiste / EXPERT  
EVALUATEUR

## ABDEL RAHIM MAHAMAT

Entrepreneur indépendant  
Paris Area, France

### Expérience

DIAMANCO  
Entrepreneur indépendant  
janvier 2016 - Present  
France

DIAMANCO  
Entrepreneur indépendant  
janvier 2016 - Present  
FRANCE

ROYALE / E-SOLAR / NAKATO MINE  
ADMINISTRATEUR DE SOCIÉTÉS  
janvier 1997 - Present  
BANGUI / RCA

Avec une expérience de plus de 20 ans, je serai votre partenaire professionnel fiable pour vos projets d'investissements dans le domaine des mines : exploitation, évaluation, achat de diamant et or.

### Formation

HRD / IGI  
GEMMOLOGISTE / EXPERT-EVALUATEUR EN DIAMANT ET  
OR, GEMMOLOGIE · (2000 - 2013)

HRD (Antwerpen Diamond High Concil), IGI (Institut Gemmologique International)  
EVALUATION, EXPERTISE DE DIAMANTS TAILLES ET BRUTS

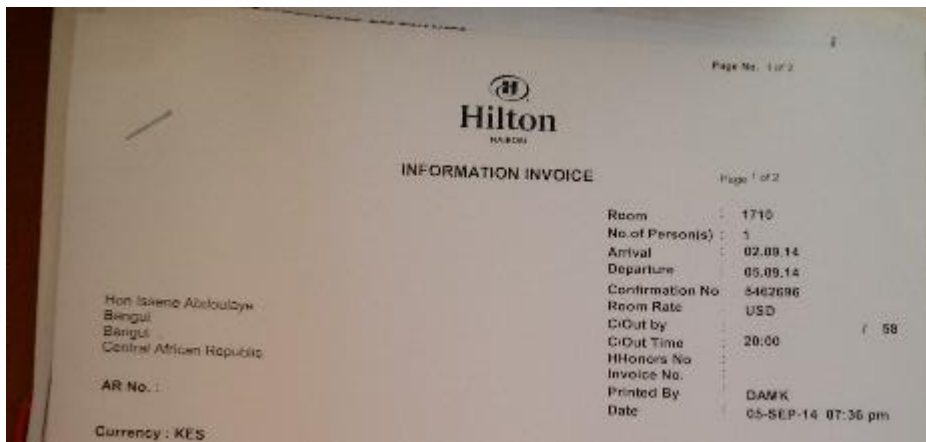
Page 1 of 1



**Annex 3.23:** Evidence of Aimé Moubamou’s business connections with Abdoulaye Hissène.

Evidence of the presence of Aimé Moubamou and Abdoulaye Hissène in Nairobi, Kenya (September 2014). At that time, Abdoulaye Hissène was attempting to sell undeclared gold.<sup>41</sup>

*Documents seized at Abdoulaye Hissène’s house in Bangui on 16 August 2016 and obtained by the Panel on 18 October 2016.*

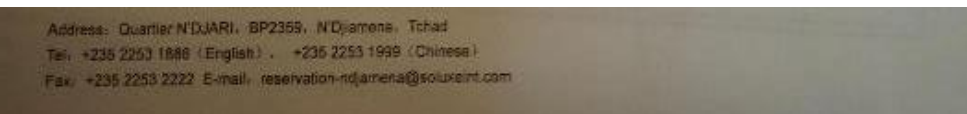


Below evidence of Aimé Moubamou and Abdoulaye Hissène’s presence in Ndjaména, Chad (December 2014). At that time, Abdoulaye Hissène and his associates were negotiating with the company Mezcors in view of the sale of Chadian crude oil.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>41</sup> See S/2017/639, paras. 44-49; S/2017/1023, paras. 42-43. See also The Sentry, *Le règne de la terreur, un business florissant en République centrafricaine*, Novembre 2018, p.22-27.

<sup>42</sup> Idem.

Hotel bill of Aimé Moubamou. Documents seized at Abdoulaye Hissène's house in Bangui on 16 August 2016 and obtained by the Panel on 18 October 2016.



Below a picture of Abdoulaye Hissène in Ndaména, posted on Aimé Moubamou's Facebook page on 21 December 2014.

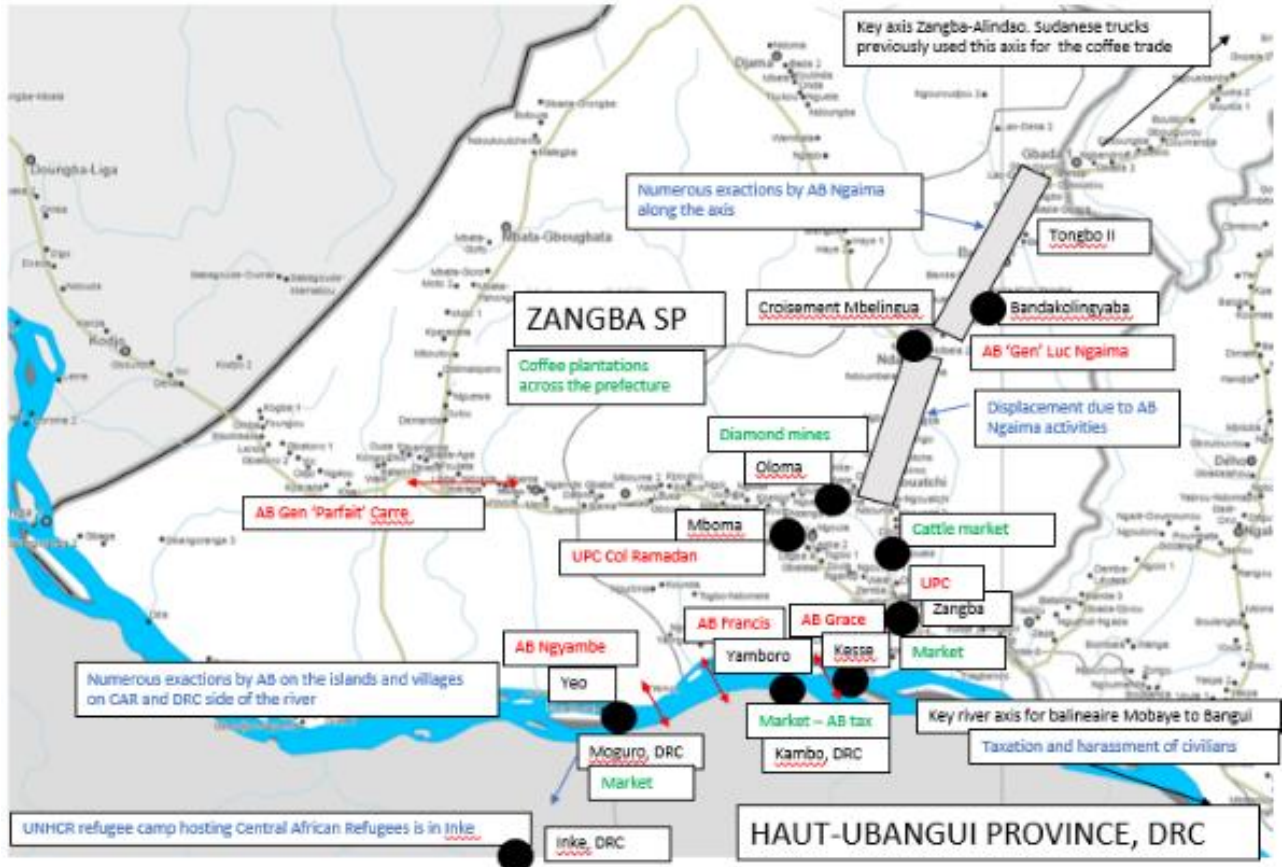
Available at

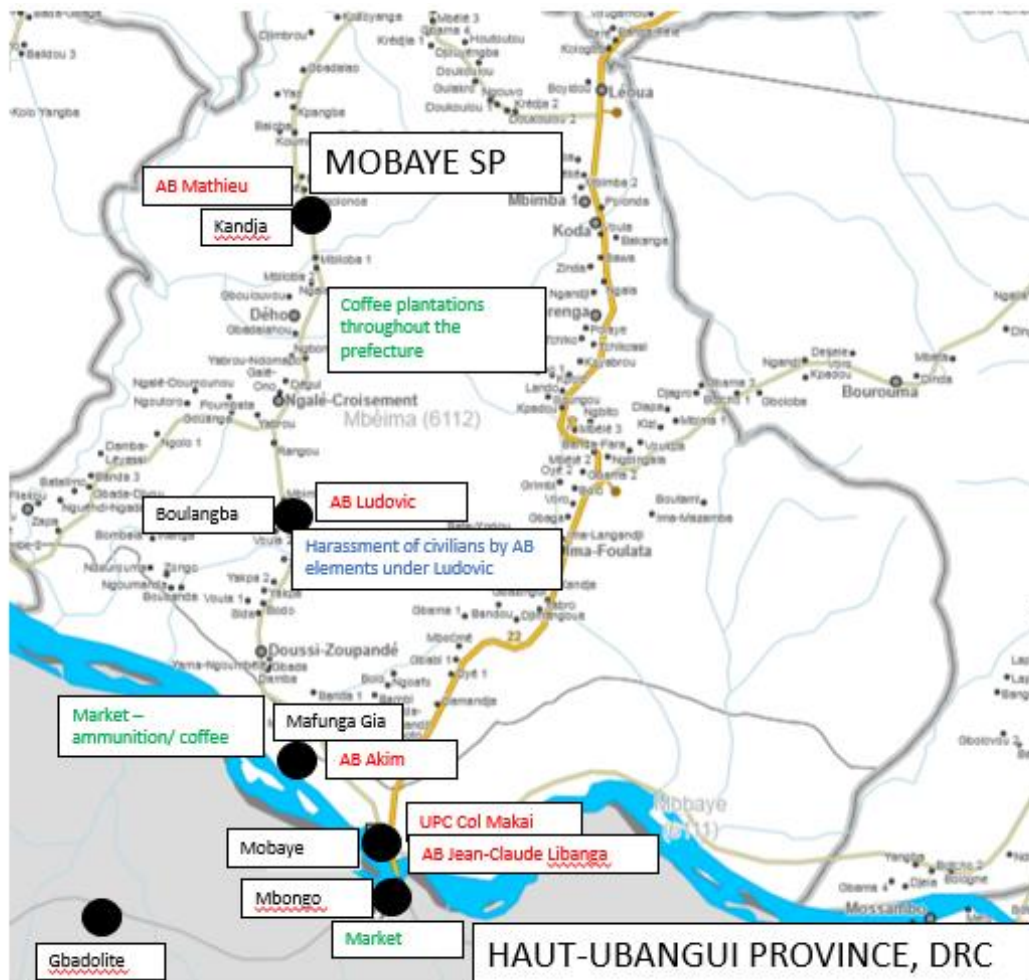
<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=577617722370068&set=a.577526729045834&type=3&theater> [accessed on 1 October 2019]

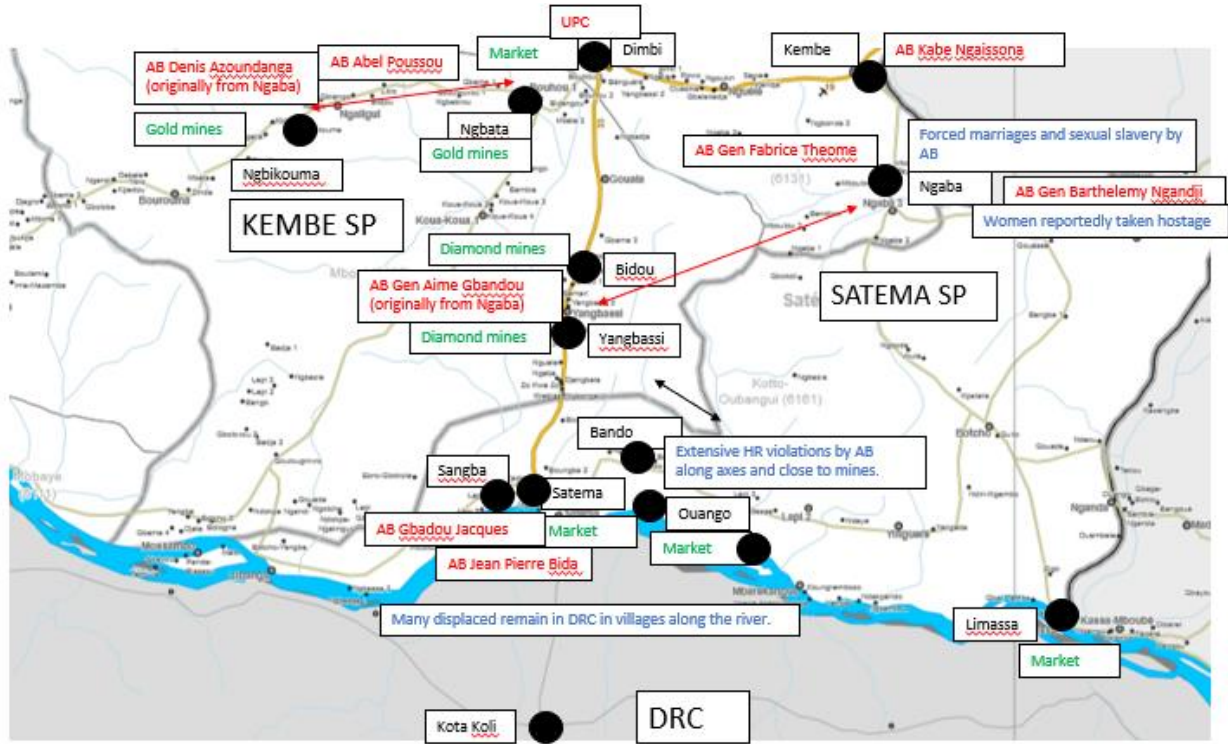


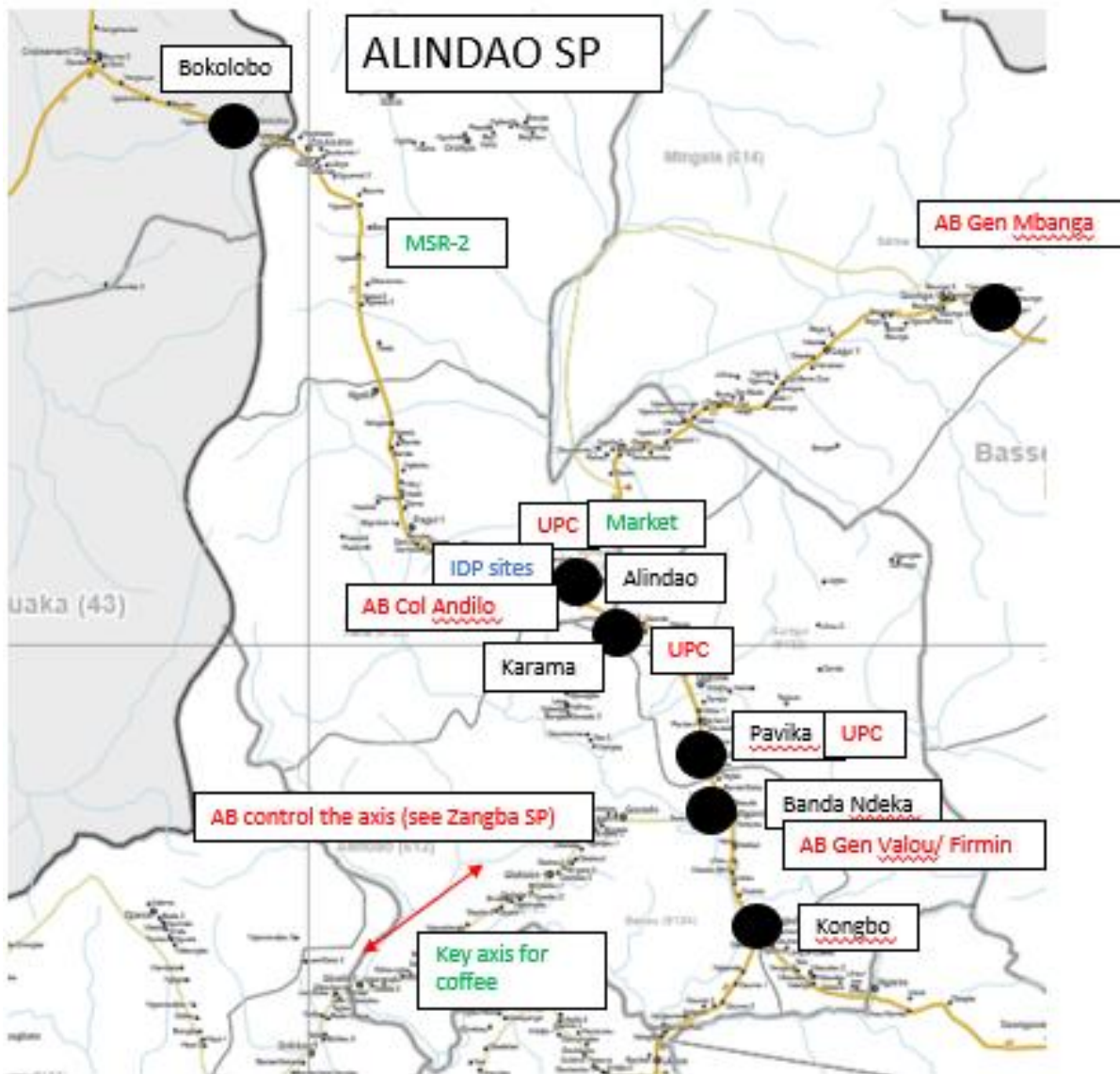
On 24 October 2019, the Panel was also shown by a confidential source pictures of Aimé Moubamou which were reportedly taken in Oyo (Rep. of Congo) and Switzerland. Both those travels were made in the context of Abdoulaye Hissène and his associates' negotiations with the company Mezcor regarding the sale of Chadian crude oil.

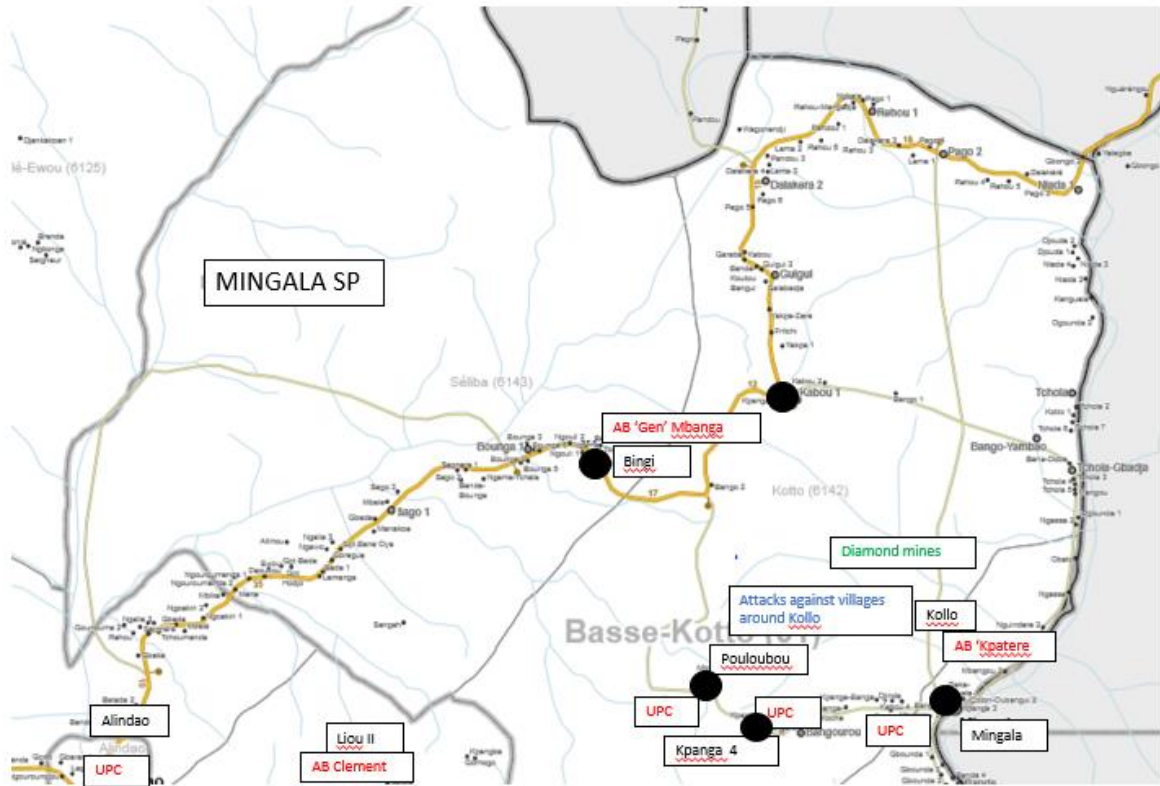
Annex 4.1: Maps of the sub-prefectures of Basse-Kotto











Annex 4.2: Letter from anti-balaka leader 'Colonel' Ngyambe of 16 August 2019.

Letter obtained by the Panel in Mobaye from confidential sources on 17 September 2019.

Jeudi le 16/08/2019

Republique Centrafricaine  
Sous-préfecture de ZANGARA  
Unité  
Mme. TAVOIS  
Mme. ABOU

TEMIC DENNON TENRE LE GENERAL ADJONCT  
NGUAMBI BIEN VENUE

LAISSER PASSER LA population libre


ORDRE DU JOUR Confortation entre nous la population libre.

Monsieur le préfet de la basse Kotto de Mobaye  
Nous constatons que la guerre n'a pas de  
solution de la nous prenons fin à partir aujourd'hui  
DU NOM de la Président de la République Sous préfet le Maire  
de la commune les chef de Group et le chef de village  
Apparten aujourd'hui Mis éléments ont pris fin

Nous voulons que la paix règne entre nous les Population  
Sur la piste du fleuve Balliennour les peuples entre librement  
du niveau du Marché. Vouloir de venir aussi fréquemment

NB RENONCER à passer beaucoup des Monde  
Tous les Groupement du chef des groupe ces sont venue  
plus de deux cent personnes dans la liste de famille de présence.  
Le pasteur DAMA-Antoine se remercie beaucoup. Cette réunion  
comme notre pays de et pléner la paix Nous voulons  
habiter sous la loi. Clôture de réunion était à 16h00 ann

Fait A YEMO Vendredi le 16/08/2019

  
NGUAMBI  
BIEN VENUE  
*[Signature]*



**Annex 4.3:** Predatory acts against civilians by anti-balaka elements in Satema, Mingala, Zangba, Kembe and Alindao sub-prefectures.

The self-defence/anti-balaka groups in Basse-Kotto prefecture have adopted a predatory attitude towards civilians across the prefecture; some of their activities are summarized below.

**Sexual violence, forced marriages and ritual killings prevalent in Basse-Kotto prefecture**

A large percentage of human rights violations committed by anti-balaka elements in Basse-Kotto were against women within their own communities and have been used as a method by anti-balaka leaders of maintaining control within their localized area of operations.<sup>43</sup>

In Satema sub-prefecture, cases of forced marriage and sexual slavery were provided to the Panel dating from 2017 through September 2019.<sup>44</sup> In Ngaba for example, in 2017 women had been kidnapped by the anti-balaka including a military commander named Denis Azoundanga<sup>45</sup> and had then been sold to other anti-balaka elements for as little as FCFA 3,000 (about \$5). Denis Azoundanga has remained active in Ngaba and along the axis to Mobaye (see map below). More recently in June 2019, in Kembe, the anti-balaka leader ‘General’ Barthelmy Ngandji took two women hostage keeping them in a church asking for FCFA 30,000 (\$51) for each woman.<sup>46</sup>

Other cases in Satema involved ritualistic killings linked to the diamond mines. Anti-balaka under Aime Ngbando who control the mines in Yangbassi believe that such killings yield greater profits for the mines. For example, a 14-year-old girl from Yangbassi was killed in a ritualistic way by the anti-balaka from Ngaba to support increased profits from the Yangbassi mines.<sup>47</sup>

**The kidnapping and illegal detention of 11 women and killing of a youth by anti-balaka fighters led by colonel Ngyambe in Zangba sub-prefecture.**

During its mission to Zangba, the Panel was given details of an incident where an anti-balaka group comprising around 10 men led by ‘colonel’ Bienvenue Ngyambe (Yeo island) and two other well-known local leaders ‘cdt majeur’ Francis (Yamboro island), and Grace à Dieu Bedambe (Kesse island) kidnapped 11 women in March 2019 on islands close to the DRC after killing a youth who had accompanied them.<sup>48</sup>

Each of the local anti-balaka leaders along the river axis was in charge of an island close to their village of origin. Although the anti-balaka group moved back and forth, the majority of their relatives were displaced in DRC close to the islands. During the dry season the DRC can be reached by foot from the islands where anti-balaka elements tax cross-border trade activities.

<sup>43</sup> Panel’s mission to Basse-Kotto prefecture, 12-18 September 2019.

<sup>44</sup> Idem.

<sup>45</sup> Meeting with local authorities and confidential sources, Mobaye, 13-17 September 2019.

<sup>46</sup> Idem.

<sup>47</sup> Idem.

<sup>48</sup> Panel’s mission to Basse-Kotto prefecture, 12-18 September 2019.

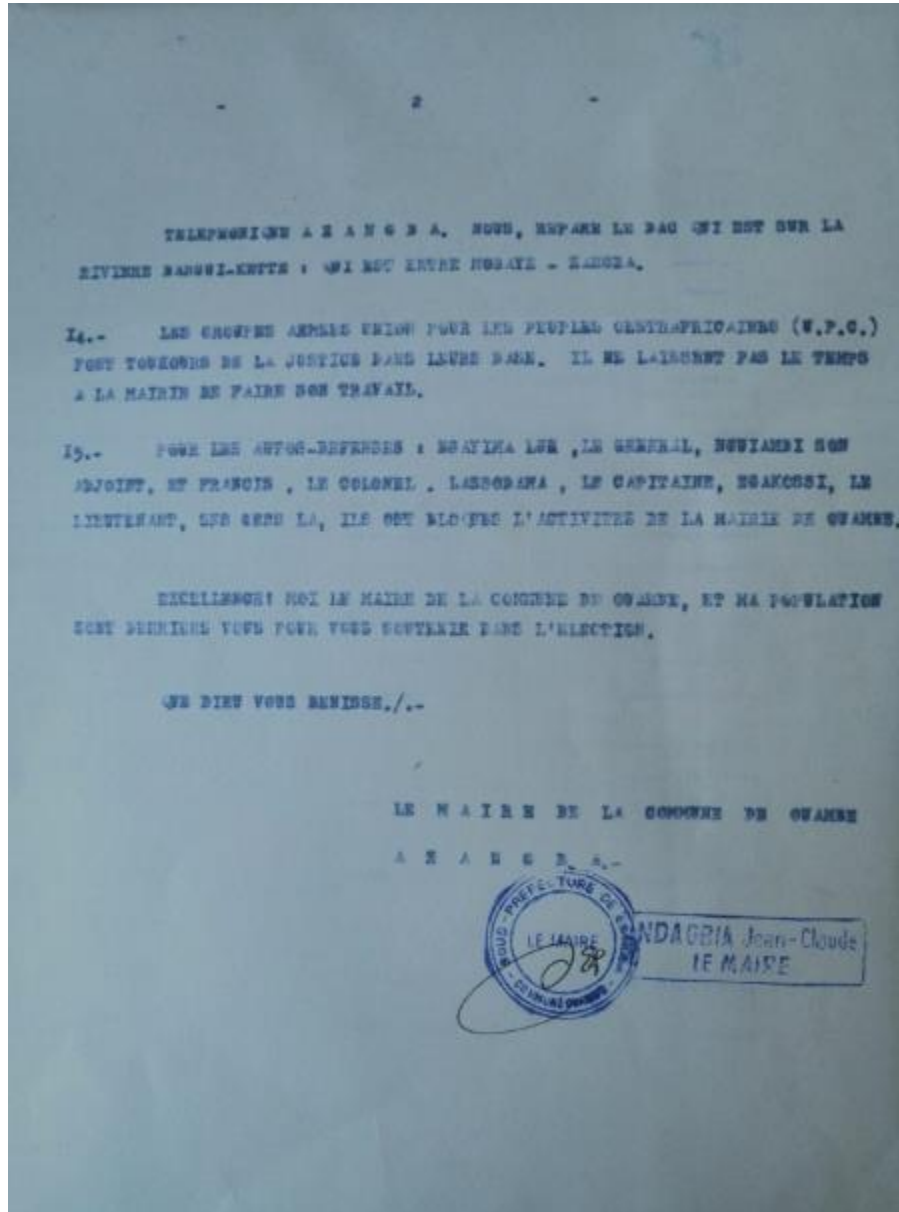
In March 2019, on the day of the event, 11 women carrying three babies, together with three youth, attempted to cross into Kangbo, DRC via the island closest to Zangba to sell goods including palm oil. Anti-balaka elements were waiting to ambush them as they came through. After tying up the eldest youth who was around 18 years old, they used sticks to beat the women to move them into the four pirogues. Then they moved by pirogue to Kesse and then Yamboro. It was in Yamboro where the anti-balaka elements, under the overall command of Ngyambe, beat the 18-year-old until he passed out, repeatedly climbing on his head. When they thought he was dead they untied him and put him into the pirogue. At the moment they threw him into the river, he moved attempting to hold onto the pirogue. Under the instructions of Francis, an anti-balaka element took a machete to hit him as the youth then stood up in the shallow water, Francis instructed another element to shoot him. The anti-balaka element missed so Francis gave him his own weapon and instructed him to shoot him, which he did eventually killing him. His body was left in the water.

After the killing of this youth, the anti-balaka divided the women into two groups with one staying with Francis and the other went to Yeo with Ngyambe. Grace then called by phone from Kesse, using the Congolese network, to say that UPC fighters were coming to attack. The anti-balaka elements then brought all the women together and locked them up before leaving, reportedly to fight with UPC. In the days which followed, the detainees were transferred between different islands and villages, including in DRC, in the same area close to Yeo. The wives of the anti-balaka also served as guards for periods when the anti-balaka were fighting and also threatened to kill the women themselves if their husbands were killed by UPC. During this period, some of the women were taken by anti-balaka elements and raped. At another moment, Ngyambe took all of the women to one island and threatened to summon them one by one and that they would be executed.

Eventually, after moving the women back and forth between islands and CAR and DRC, 'colonel' Ngyambe said they would either be killed or their families would need to pay a ransom of FCFA 120,000 (about \$200) for each woman. Gradually all of the women were released in April 2019, more than three weeks after being initially captured as their families found the payment for the ransom. In September 2019, some of the women were still repaying this ransom sum back to their families and other debtors.

**Annex 4.4:** Letter written by local authorities describing Luc Ngaima and other anti-balaka individuals.

*Document obtained by the Panel in Mobaye from confidential sources on 17 September 2019.*



**Annex 4.5:** CAR-DRC cross-border trafficking in arms and natural resources in Basse-Kotto prefecture.

Hunting ammunition and weapons continued to be smuggled across the Ubangui river from the DRC, often in exchange for diamonds and gold extracted in CAR, as was highlighted in previous Panel reports (S/2016/1032, paras. 143-149; S/2017/1023, para. 106-107, 247-255; S/2018/729, para. 108; S/2017/639, para.92).

Aside from looting, the illegal exploitation of natural resources has remained an important source of income for armed groups operating in. Therefore, the acquisition of weapons and ammunition remained essential to the anti-balaka and UPC groups' survival. These groups have continued to fight for the control of mining areas and weapons' border entry points. This was illustrated by the 28 August 2019 fighting in Kollo, which UPC wanted to seize control, as mines there are lucrative for buyers from DRC purchasing rough diamonds in the area.<sup>49</sup>

In the Kembe sub-prefecture, anti-balaka 'generals' Aimé Ngbando and Denis Azoundanga, who controlled the gold and diamond mines on the Dimbi-Satéma and Dimbi-Bourouma axes, regularly received boxes of hunting and conventional ammunition coming from Gbadolite and Kota Koli, DRC (see map in annex 4.1), in exchange for gold and diamonds.<sup>50</sup> On many occasions, buyers from the DRC crossed the river by pirogue to arrive in Satema, and then travelled by motorcycle to the villages of Bidou and Yangbassi to exchange goods with the 'generals' and their elements (see map in annex 4.1).<sup>51</sup> The buyers also picked up gold extracted in the villages of Ngbikouma and Ngbata.<sup>52</sup> Three Congolese traffickers' names were reported to the Panel, which intends to communicate them to the CAR and DRC authorities.

In Mobaye sub-prefecture, anti-balaka 'general' Akim controlled the Mafunga Gia market, which is known as a weapons-trafficking hub (see map in annex 4.1),<sup>53</sup> and anti-balaka elements from Yeo reportedly crossed the river to the Mogoro market in the DRC when they needed weaponry.<sup>54</sup>

UPC established strategic bases along the river. For example, in Zangba and Mobaye, during the Panel's visit to UPC brigades along the Ubangui river,<sup>55</sup> armed UPC elements explained their role as preventing foreign infiltration and smuggling of prohibited goods. However, it was precisely in these locations that the UPC weapons and ammunition coming from Gbadolite were smuggled through Kambo, DRC, into the CAR territory (see map in annex 4.1).<sup>56</sup>

<sup>49</sup> Meeting with local authorities and confidential sources, Alindao and Mobaye, 13-17 September 2019.

<sup>50</sup> Meeting with local authorities and confidential sources from Dimbi and Satéma, Mobaye, 14, 15 and 16 September 2019.

<sup>51</sup> Idem.

<sup>52</sup> Idem.

<sup>53</sup> Meeting with confidential sources and local authorities, Mobaye, 15 and 17 September 2019.

<sup>54</sup> Idem.

<sup>55</sup> Visit of UPC 'brigades fluviales' and UPC bases, Zangba and Mobaye, 14 and 15 September 2019.

<sup>56</sup> Meeting with local authorities, Mboma, 14 September 2019.

*Picture of an anti-balaka element with conventional weapon at his group's base in Mobaye, taken by the Panel in Mobaye on 16 September 2019.*



*Pictures of UPC fighters armed with AK-type assault rifles at the river brigade in Zangba, taken by the Panel in Zangba on 15 September 2019.*



*Picture of a UPC fighter armed with AK-type assault rifle at the UPC base in Alindao, taken by the Panel in Alindao on 14 September 2019.*



**Annex 4.6:** Humanitarian situation and activities of groups locally referred to as LRA in the Obo area.

The humanitarian situation in the remote south-east of the country has been negatively impacted by the changing dynamics of armed groups operating there, with women and youth particularly vulnerable.<sup>57</sup> The arrival of FPRC in 2019 to Zemio and Mboki has led to some tensions in these two towns (see map below). At the same time, UPC's expansion to the border with South Sudan and its collaboration with groups from the Haut-Mbomou prefecture, referred to locally as the Lord Resistance Army (LRA) - hereafter "LRA" - has not only increased insecurity for communities, but also threatened the further closure of the border (see section V of the report, paras. 112-113) and those carrying out livelihood activities outside of the main hub of Obo. The Panel could not confirm the actual affiliation of those local groups with the sanctioned entity LRA of Joseph Kony.

**UPC presence restricting livelihoods and exacerbating ethnic tensions**

In Haut-Mbomou prefecture, UPC has gradually expanded its presence, as the armed group has followed herders fleeing armed group violence and illegal taxation elsewhere (see S/2018/1119, paras 128-130). This expansion has been accompanied by UPC attacks and exactions against civilians. For example, in September and October when travelling from Mboki to Bambouti, UPC elements were responsible for a series of violent incidents against farmers, hunters and villagers including the attack on a hunting group on 12 September, around 35km north of Obo. The initial attack resulted in the death of three hunters; the next day, an exchange of fire with a group of FACA elements and hunters which had gone to collect the bodies led to the death of a FACA soldier and of several UPC elements.<sup>58</sup>

UPC also collected cattle or payments from the Fulani and in the absence of the former,<sup>59</sup> also asked families to hand over their sons (see S/2019/608, annex 4.2).<sup>60</sup> The links to the UPC rendered the Fulani community vulnerable to community violence stemming from negative perceptions including actors based in neighbouring countries.<sup>61</sup> The

<sup>57</sup> At risk yet still resilient: violence against women and youth in eastern CAR and northeastern DRC, Crisis Tracker, Invisible Children, September 2019.

<sup>58</sup> Meeting with local authorities and representatives, Obo, 27 and 28 September 2019.

<sup>59</sup> Meeting with Peulh community leader, Obo, 25 September 2019.

<sup>60</sup> Meetings with confidential sources, Obo, 27 September 2019.

<sup>61</sup> Meeting with international NGO, Bangui, 12 September 2019.

South Sudanese Governor of Tamboura, for example, made the departure of Fulanis from Bambouti one of the conditions for the reopening of the border closed on 21 February 2019,<sup>62</sup> while in DRC clashes between Fulanis and communities have become increasingly common.

### **Human rights violations by UPC mixed brigades in Mboki and Zemio**

Abdoulaye Mahamat Garba had commanded UPC in Mboki since 2017. Since having assumed a position in the follow-up committee to the Agreement in Bangui since July 2019,<sup>63</sup> the former UPC second-in-command “general” Ahmat Bouba<sup>64</sup> has taken over as UPC local leader. Reportedly, the two however have reportedly maintained regular contact with one another via satellite phones, and Garba has remained in actual command.<sup>65</sup> UPC has established control over Mboki with five checkpoints in the town and along the Mboki-Zemio and Mboki-Obo axes.<sup>66</sup> Taxes were not only collected at barriers but from entire villages. For example, in Maboussou on 8 May 2019, UPC demanded FCFA 10,000 per household (\$16).<sup>67</sup> The UPC mixed brigade – an illegal local ‘gendarmerie’ set up by the armed group - has also imposed its own version of the law in both towns and beaten to death at least three individuals in their detention centres.<sup>68</sup>

### **Insecurity and impact of armed group activities on IDPs**

The ferry at Dembia, which had blocked access to Zemio from Bangassou since early 2018, was finally repaired in August.<sup>69</sup> In July, several thousand tentative returns of CAR IDPs from Zapai in the DRC were also reported although 25,000 remained.<sup>70</sup> However, UPC has continued to tax returnees at illegal checkpoints along the Mbomou

<sup>62</sup> On 4 September, the UPC arrived in Bambouti from Mboki claiming to providing security for the Peulh but after negotiation with the Prefet of Obo left on 6 September. The armed group then returned on 19 October with around 50 UPC elements who had reportedly come from Mboki, Zemio and Tamboura (CAR). Meeting with local authorities, Obo, 28 September 2019.

<sup>63</sup> Meeting with local authorities, Obo, 27 September 2019.

<sup>64</sup> ‘General’ Bouba reportedly received the title of general from the UPC after he personally killed one of the two FACA soldiers in Mboki on 25 June 2017. Meeting with confidential source, Obo, 25 September 2019.

<sup>65</sup> Meeting with confidential sources, Obo, 28 September 2019.

<sup>66</sup> Allegedly, UPC leader Ali Darassa requested the removal of these barrier on May 2019 and Garba, the local UPC leader refused to comply with these instructions. Confidential report, 25 May 2019.

<sup>67</sup> Meeting with confidential source, Obo, 25 September 2019.

<sup>68</sup> Meeting with confidential source, Obo, 25 September 2019.

<sup>69</sup> Meeting with international NGO, Bangui, 22 September 2019.

<sup>70</sup> Meeting with confidential source and international NGO, 30 and 20 September 2019; Confidential report, 13 July 2019.

river separating CAR and DRC, reportedly illegally arresting returnees who had bypassed illegal UPC checkpoints.<sup>71</sup> UPC also entered DRC territory, reportedly killing a CAR refugee on 5 June leading to a temporary closure of the DRC-CAR border.<sup>72</sup>

### **“LRA” copycat attacks**

A considerable number of incidents reported in Haut-Mbomou prefecture in 2019 were attributed by locals to LRA groups who often abducted youth and women as porters for stolen goods when returning to their camp in the Mbomou forest in the DRC (see map below).<sup>73</sup> These “LRA” actions against villages such as Legoua (Obo sub-prefecture) in February 2019, and twice in September 2019, highlighted the challenge for resilience when communities were repeatedly attacked.<sup>74</sup> Local authorities acknowledged to the Panel that other armed groups also operated in the area, sometimes imitating the “LRA”’s modus operandi, a trend correlating with the deterioration of the local economy. At the same time, some “LRA” groups appeared to be settling down with emissaries from one “LRA” group requesting schooling for their children in Fanzane village, 10km from Zemio in October 2019 (see map below).<sup>75</sup>

### **Insecurity limiting humanitarian response in Obo**

The movement of humanitarians in Haut-Mbomou prefecture has been limited due to the unpredictability of armed group activities,<sup>76</sup> and the absence of security providers on the axes. Due to the poor state of the roads, MINUSCA has never reached Bambouti and, due to river levels in Kajema, was only able to reach Mboki during the dry season while the FACA, based in Obo, have largely limited themselves to maintaining three checkpoints in town, moving only along the axis to Bambouti when requested or with a payment.<sup>77</sup> Humanitarians were also requested to pay per diems to FACA elements of FCFA 5,000 (about \$10) on top of fuel to provide security for convoys on the Bambouti axis.<sup>78</sup>

<sup>71</sup> Confidential report, 23 May 2019.

<sup>72</sup> Confidential report, 5 June 2019.

<sup>73</sup> Meeting with confidential sources, Obo, 26 September 2019.

<sup>74</sup> Meeting with confidential sources and local authorities, Obo, 26 and 27 September 2019.

<sup>75</sup> Confidential report, 6 October 2019; and UN media report at <https://peacekeeping.un.org/fr/haut-mbomou-quand-des-elements-de-groupes-armes-decident-de-scolariser-leurs-enfants> [accessed on 30 October 2019.]

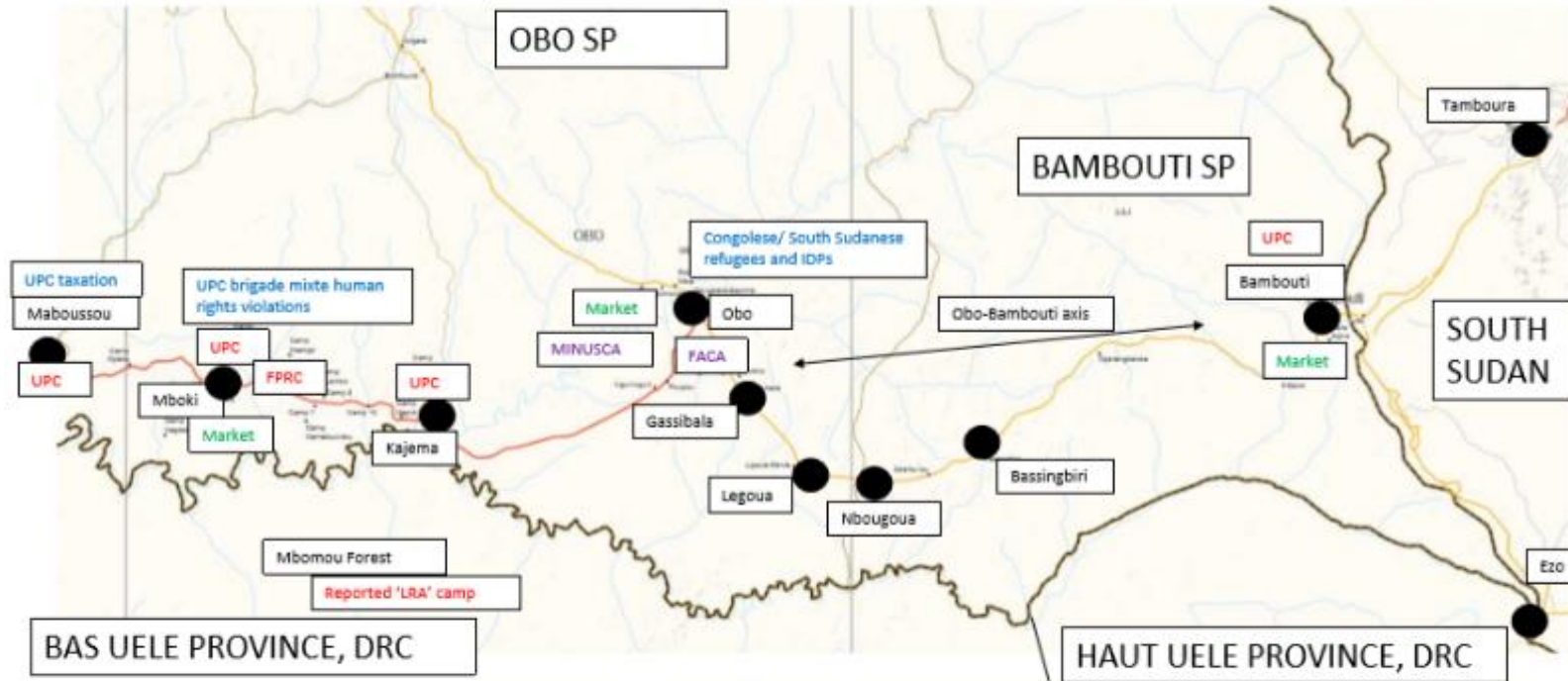
<sup>76</sup> Meeting with international NGO, Bangui, 22 September 2019.

<sup>77</sup> Panel visit to Obo, 24-28 September 2019.

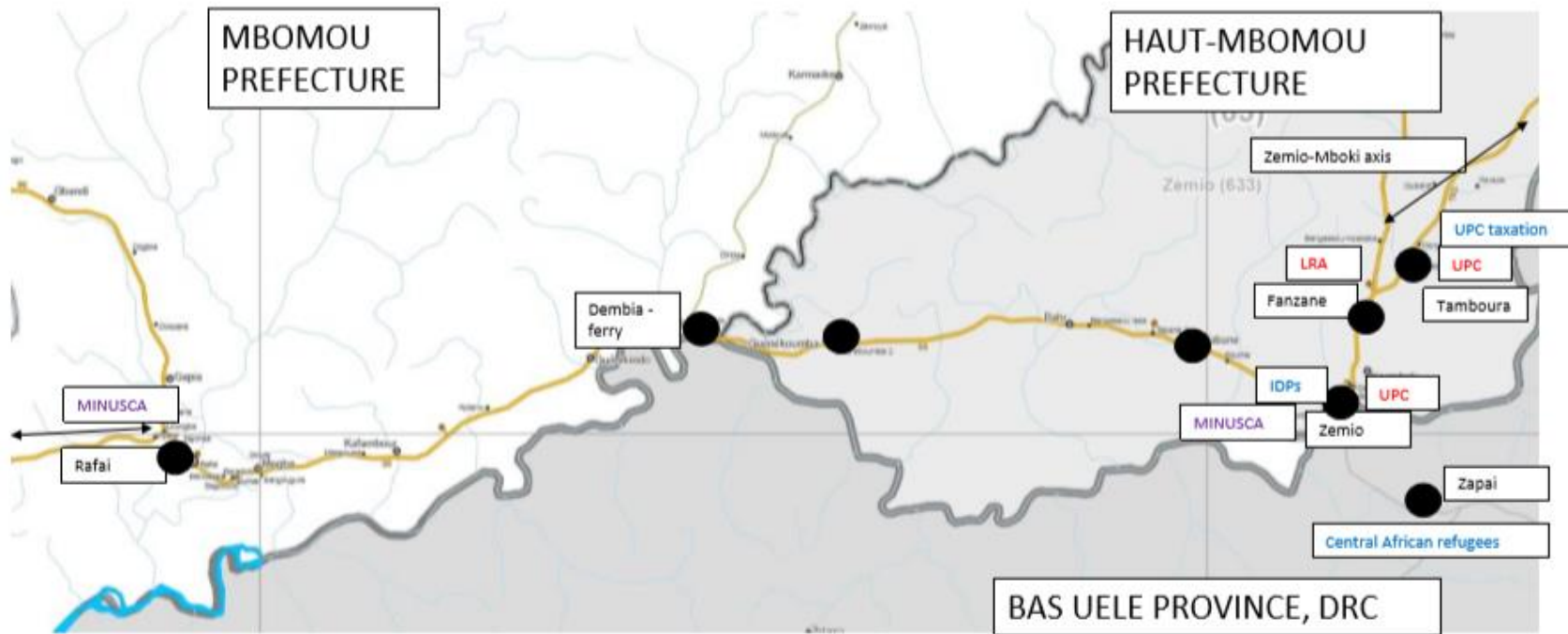
<sup>78</sup> Meeting with international NGOs, Obo, 25 and 26 September 2019.



# Map of Haut-Mbomou

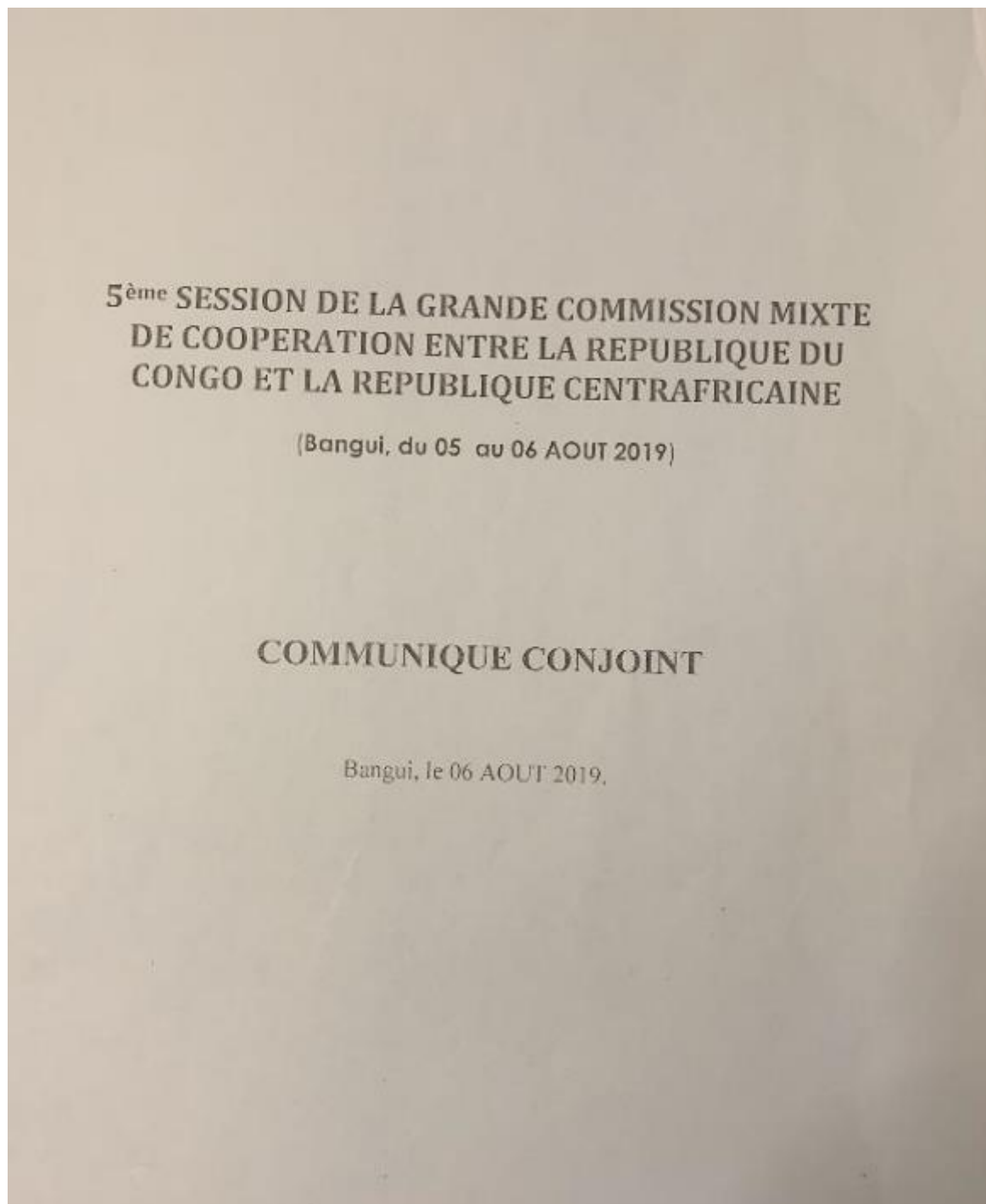


# Map of Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou



**Annex 5.1:** Communiqué of the 5th session of joint commission between the Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo.

*Document obtained by the Panel from a diplomatic source on 12 August 2019.*



Du **05 au 06 Aout 2019**, s'est tenue à l'hôtel Ledger Plaza de Bangui, la 5<sup>ème</sup> Session de la Grande Commission Mixte de Coopération entre la République Centrafricaine et la République du Congo.

Les deux délégations étaient conduites respectivement par leurs Excellences, **Sylvie BAIPO TEMON**, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et des Centrafricains de l'Etranger de la République Centrafricaine et **Jean- Claude GAKOSSO**, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, de la Coopération et des Congolais de l'Etranger

La cérémonie solennelle d'ouverture des travaux a été ponctuée par les allocutions de Leurs Excellences **Jean- Claude GAKOSSO**, et **Sylvie BAIPO TEMON**, qui se sont félicités de la densité des excellentes relations d'amitié et de fraternité séculaires qui unissent les deux pays, et leurs Chefs d'Etat.

Conformément à l'ordre du jour adopté, les Experts des deux Délégations ont examiné des questions politiques, juridiques et de sécurité, des questions de coopération économique, commerciale, scientifique, culturelle et technique.

Ainsi, les Accords ci-après ont été paraphés et signés:

1. Accord Cadre de Coopération ;
2. Accord relatif aux consultations Politiques régulières ;
3. Accord relatif à la lutte anti braconnage et à l'exploitation illicite des produits forestiers et fauniques ;
4. Accord relatif à l'interconnexion des réseaux de communications électroniques ;
5. Accord de cooperation dans le domaine de la Santé ;
6. Accord tripartite Congo/RCA/UNHCR relatif au rapatriement volontaire des réfugiés centrafricains vivant au Congo ;
7. Protocole d'Accord portant création de la Sous-commission spéciale Défense et Sécurité ;
8. Protocole d'Accord portant création de la sous-commission technique mixte en matière des frontières ;
9. Protocole d'accord de coopération culturelle et artistique ;
10. Programme d'application du protocole d'accord de coopération dans le domaine des sports pour la période 2020-2022 ;
11. Arrangement technique portant organisation, composition et fonctionnement du comité technique de suivi du protocole d'accord dans le domaine minier ;
12. Programme d'exécution du protocole d'accord de coopération en matière de stratégies communes technique de liaisons routières pour les années 2020-2022 ;

Les deux Parties sont convenues de donner une impulsion nouvelle à la coopération entre les deux pays, à travers notamment l'approfondissement de la coopération dans divers domaines d'intérêt communs, tels que le renforcement des capacités institutionnelles et humaines, les échanges universitaires, le commerce, l'industrie et les mines.

Elles sont également convenues de la mise sur pied d'un Comité de suivi de la mise en œuvre des recommandations issues de la Grande Commission Mixte de Coopération, en vue de garantir la mise en œuvre effective des actions de coopération initiées entre les deux pays.

A l'issue des travaux, Les deux Délégations se sont félicitées de l'esprit de fraternité, de convivialité et de compréhension mutuelle qui a prévalu tout au long des travaux et qui a permis aux deux délégations de s'accorder sur les principales questions soumises à leur appréciation.

Durant son séjour en RCA S.E.M. **Jean- Claude GAKOSSO**, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, de la Coopération et des Congolais de l'Etranger a été reçu en audience par S.E.M le professeur **Faustin Archange TOUADERA**, Président de la République Centrafricaine, Chef de l'Etat, à qui il a transmis les salutations fraternelles de son Homologue et Ami, S.E.M **Denis SASSOU N'GUESSO**, Président de la République du Congo, Chef de l'Etat, ainsi que ses sincères félicitations pour la négociation et la signature de l'Accord politique pour la paix et la réconciliation en RCA du 06 février 2019, de même que ses souhaits de plein succès pour la mise en œuvre de cet important instrument.

S.E.M. **Jean-Claude GAKOSSO** s'est également entretenu avec S.E. Mme **Sylvie BAIPO TEMON**, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et des Centrafricains de l'Etranger de la République Centrafricaine, avec qui il a procédé à un large tour d'horizon de la coopération bilatérale ainsi que des voies et moyens permettant de la relancer.

La Délégation Congolaise a exprimé sa profonde gratitude au Chef de l'Etat, au Gouvernement et au peuple centrafricains pour l'accueil fraternel et chaleureux ainsi que pour l'hospitalité dont elle a fait l'objet. Les deux Parties sont convenues de tenir les assises du Comité de suivi ainsi que celles de la 6<sup>ème</sup> session de la Grande Commission Mixte de Coopération au Congo, à des dates à convenir d'accord-parties par voie diplomatique.

Fait à Bangui, le 06 Aout 2019.

**Pour le Gouvernement  
de la République du Congo**

**Pour le Gouvernement  
de la République Centrafricaine**

**Jean-Claude GAKOSSO**  
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, de la  
Coopération et des Congolais de l'Etranger

**Sylvie BAIPO TEMON**  
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères  
et des Centrafricains de l'Etranger

Annex 5.2: Communiqué of 48th ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC) (Kinshasa, 31 May 2019)

*Document obtained by the Panel from a diplomatic source on 5 June 2019.*

**Communiqué de la 48<sup>ème</sup> réunion ministérielle du Comité consultatif permanent des Nations Unies chargé des questions de sécurité en Afrique centrale**

Le 31 mai 2019, le Comité consultatif permanent des Nations Unies chargé des questions de sécurité en Afrique centrale a tenu sa 48<sup>ème</sup> réunion ministérielle à Kinshasa, République Démocratique du Congo. Au cours de leurs échanges, les Ministres ont adopté le Rapport de la réunion des experts qui s'est déroulée du 27 au 30 mai.

Les travaux de la réunion ministérielle ont porté sur la situation politique et sécuritaire en Afrique centrale. Le Comité s'est félicité de la mise en œuvre effective, par les Etats membres, des recommandations issues de sa 47<sup>ème</sup> réunion ministérielle tenue à N'Djamena, au Tchad, du 3 au 7 décembre 2018.

Le Comité a aussi pris bonne note des développements positifs dans la sous-région, notamment la bonne tenue des élections générales du 30 décembre 2018 qui ont permis à la République démocratique du Congo de connaître une alternance pacifique. Le Comité a présenté ses vives félicitations à Son Excellence Felix-Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, ainsi que ses vœux de plein succès dans l'exercice des hautes charges que le peuple congolais lui a confiées.

Le Comité se félicite aussi des progrès réalisés dans le cadre de l'Initiative africaine pour la paix et la réconciliation en République centrafricaine, notamment la signature de l'Accord politique pour la paix et la réconciliation en République centrafricaine (APPR-RCA), suivi du renforcement du caractère inclusif du Gouvernement et des mécanismes de mise en application dudit Accord. **Le Comité a appuyé les efforts des autorités centrafricaines, ainsi que le plaidoyer pour la levée totale de l'embargo sur les armes.**

Le Comité a entendu une communication du Ministre des Relations Extérieures de la République du Cameroun sur la situation sociopolitique qui prévaut dans son pays. Il a pris acte des efforts du Gouvernement du Cameroun pour trouver une solution durable à la crise dans les régions du Nord-Ouest et du Sud-Ouest du pays. Il a exprimé sa solidarité avec le peuple et le gouvernement du Cameroun ainsi que ses encouragements au Gouvernement pour la poursuite du dialogue en vue d'une résolution pacifique de cette crise.

Le Comité a noté que malgré ces développements positifs, l'Afrique centrale continue d'être confrontée à des défis sécuritaires considérables, notamment les activités des groupes armés, le terrorisme, la piraterie maritime, le mercenariat, et l'exploitation illicite des ressources naturelles. Les membres du Comité ont

réaffirmé la volonté de leurs Etats de renforcer la coopération sous-régionale pour relever ces défis.

Les membres du Comité ont examiné, à huis clos, la question du financement des institutions régionales ainsi que les problématiques sécuritaires liées à la transhumance transfrontalière dans la sous-région. A l'issue de leurs délibérations, les Ministres ont :

**Sur la transhumance transfrontalière :**

1. Réaffirmé l'importance du pastoralisme et de la transhumance pour les économies de plusieurs Etats de la sous-région ; particulièrement au Cameroun, en République Centrafricaine, et au Tchad ;
2. Pris note des tensions, de plus en plus récurrentes entre les éleveurs nomades et les communautés locales en République Démocratique du Congo et dans plusieurs pays de la sous-région, lesquelles risquent de porter atteinte à la paix et à la sécurité internationale ;
3. Exprimé leur profonde préoccupation concernant les dégradations que fait peser sur la biodiversité, la présence d'animaux d'élevage dans les aires protégées ;
4. Exprimé également leur vive préoccupation sur la recrudescence de la prolifération des armes légères et de petit calibre, du terrorisme, de la criminalité, du braconnage, du trafic de drogue ainsi que le pillage des ressources naturelles liés à la transhumance transfrontalière ;
5. Sensibilisé les Etats concernés d'apprécier l'opportunité à adopter des mesures permettant une transhumance contrôlée et pacifiée, tant au niveau national que bilatéral, y compris dans le cadre de leurs commissions mixtes de coopération.
6. Invité le Secrétariat général de la CEEAC à conclure dans les meilleurs délais et de manière inclusive, le processus d'élaboration des mécanismes de régulation communautaire du pastoralisme et de la transhumance en Afrique centrale ;
7. Appelé d'urgence à une conférence de haut niveau pour discuter des questions liées au pastoralisme et à la transhumance transfrontalière en vue d'une gestion concertée et intégrée ;
8. Déclaré demeurer être saisi de cette question.

**Sur le financement des institutions régionales :**

1. réitéré leur engagement à renforcer la coopération sous-régionale pour relever les défis auxquels l'Afrique centrale est confrontée, y compris dans le cadre des institutions que leurs Etats ont mises en place;
2. Pris note des retards enregistrés dans le paiement des contributions aux différentes institutions et mécanismes sous-régionaux ;
3. invité les Etats à accorder une attention particulière aux obligations auxquelles ils ont souscrit pour le fonctionnement efficient des mécanismes sous-régionaux de coopération en matière de sécurité et d'intégration ;
4. encouragé les Etats membres à participer activement aux réunions consacrées à la réforme institutionnelle de la CEEAC;
5. insisté que les réflexions dans le cadre de la réforme en cours aboutissent à la mise en place de mécanismes appropriés garantissant le versement régulier des contributions financières.

La 48<sup>ème</sup> réunion s'est achevée par la lecture d'une Motion de remerciement à Son Excellence Felix Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, Président de la République Démocratique du Congo, au Gouvernement et au peuple congolais.

**Fait à Kinshasa, le 31 mai 2019**



**Annex 6.1:** Screenshot from the news story featuring Ismael Djidah's testimony.

Available at <https://www.i24news.tv/fr/actu/international/afrique/1555609709-un-reseau-terroriste-iranien-demantele-en-afrique-exclusivite-i24news> [accessed on 19 April 2019 – the link was no longer active at the time of drafting of the report].





**Annex 6.3:** Documents and information on Ismael Djidah's travels.

Airline companies confirmed the following travels by Ismael Djidah<sup>79</sup>:

- Lomé, Togo, to Beirut, Lebanon (9 March 2017)
- Beirut, Lebanon, to Lomé, Togo (14 March 2017)
- Lomé, Togo, to Beirut, Lebanon (19 July 2017)
- Beirut, Lebanon, to Lomé, Togo (30 July 2017)
- Beirut, Lebanon, to Accra, Ghana (11 September 2017)
- Lomé, Togo, to Beirut, Lebanon (25 December 2017)
- Beirut, Lebanon, to Lomé, Togo (31 December 2017)
- Lomé, Togo, to Beirut, Lebanon (26 February 2018)
- Beirut, Lebanon, to Lomé, Togo (23 March 2018)
- Beirut, Lebanon, to Cotonou, Bénin (11 July 2018)

On 8 November 2019, Lebanon confirmed to the Panel that Ismael Djidah had entered the territory of Lebanon on several occasions using a diplomatic passport. Lebanon mentioned that Djidah's most recent visit ended on 11 July 2018. He had arrived from Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, through Rafic Hariri International airport in Beirut.

Diplomatic sources informed the Panel that Ismael Djidah, along with the individuals he reportedly recruited, travelled from Lebanon to Iraq and Syria by road on several occasions (Syria in July and September 2017, and February 2018; Iraq in November 2018).<sup>80</sup> Iraq did not respond to the Panel's requests for information regarding these reported travels.

Below are documents concerning some of Djidah's travels.

<sup>79</sup> Letter from Ethiopian Airlines, 25 October 2019; Letter from confidential source, 27 September 2019.

<sup>80</sup> Meeting with diplomatic sources, 22 July and 14 October 2019.

Details of Ismael Djidah's travels between Lomé (Togo), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) and Beirut (Lebanon) (9-14 March 2017). Document obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 14 October 2019.

Itinerary Page 1 of 2

## SatGuru Travels and Tour Services

Office Address: C/388 Boulevard St.Michel, a côté de UBA banque central.coo@satgurutravel.com +22997974530  
Galileo Reference: 7546X4  
Consultant's Name:

Passenger(s):  
DJIDAH/ISMAILMOHAMAD

**FLIGHT: Lomé to Addis Ababa (ET509)** Thursday, March 09

Date:	March 09, 2017 (Thu)	Departs:	13:00 hrs
Airline:	Ethiopian Airlines	Arrives:	21:30 hrs
Flight:	ET509 (Operated by Ethiopian Airlines)		
From:	Lomé, Togo	Airport:	LFW - Lomé Airport
To:	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Airport:	ADD - Bole Airport
Class:	ECONOMY (Y)	Baggage:	ADULT 2PC
Stops:	Non-stop	Duration:	05:30
Status:	Confirmed	Aircraft:	Boeing 767-8 Dreamliner
In flight service:	Snack or Brunch, Non-smoking		
Vendor Locator:	BLQWIL		
Service(s):	Ticket Numbers (E-tickets) 0711711881393C1 - Confirmed		
E-ticket(s):	DJIDAH/ISMAILMOHAMAD: 071 1711 881393		


**FLIGHT: Addis Ababa to Beirut (ET406)** Thursday, March 09

Date:	March 09, 2017 (Thu)	Departs:	22:15 hrs
Airline:	Ethiopian Airlines	Arrives:	01:45 hrs (March 10)
Flight:	ET406 (Operated by Ethiopian Airlines)		
From:	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Airport:	ADD - Bole Airport, Terminal 2
To:	Beirut, Lebanon	Airport:	BEY - Beirut Int'l Arpt
Class:	ECONOMY (Y)	Baggage:	ADULT 2PC
Stops:	Non-stop	Duration:	04:30
Status:	Confirmed	Aircraft:	Boeing 767-300
In flight service:	Dinner, Non-smoking		
Vendor Locator:	BLQWIL		
Service(s):	Ticket Numbers (E-tickets) 0711711881393C2 - Confirmed		
E-ticket(s):	DJIDAH/ISMAILMOHAMAD: 071 1711 881393		

**FLIGHT: Beirut to Addis Ababa (ET407)** Tuesday, March 14

Date:	March 14, 2017 (Tue)	Departs:	02:35 hrs
Airline:	Ethiopian Airlines	Arrives:	08:00 hrs
Flight:	ET407 (Operated by Ethiopian Airlines)		
From:	Beirut, Lebanon	Airport:	BEY - Beirut Int'l Arpt
To:	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Airport:	ADD - Bole Airport
Class:	ECONOMY (Y)	Baggage:	ADULT 2PC
Stops:	Non-stop	Duration:	04:25
Status:	Confirmed	Aircraft:	Boeing 767-300
In flight service:	Breakfast, Non-smoking		

Details of Ismael Djidah's travel between Beirut, Lebanon, and Accra, Ghana (11 September 2017). Document obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 28 August 2019.

  
**SKY GATE**  
TURKISH AIR LINES

Galileo Reference: MPDLT4  
Consultant's Name:

Passenger(s)  
**DJIDAH ISMAELMOHAMAD**

**FLIGHT: Beirut to Istanbul (TK827)** Monday, September 11

Date:	September 11, 2017 (Mon)	Departs:	06:30 hrs
Airline:	Turkish Airlines Inc	Arrives:	08:25 hrs
Flight:	TK827 (Operated by Turkish Airlines Inc)		
From:	Beirut, Lebanon	Airport:	BEY - Beirut Intl Arpt
To:	Istanbul, Turkey	Airport:	IST - Ataturk Arpt, Terminal 1
Class:	ECONOMY (S)	Baggage:	ADULT 2PC
Stops:	Non-stop	Duration:	01:55
Status:	Confirmed	Aircraft:	Airbus Industrie A330-200
In flight service:	Meal, Non-smoking		
Vendor:	RJVQW		
Locator:			

Service(s): Ticket Numbers (E-tickets) 2354931642706C1 - Confirmed

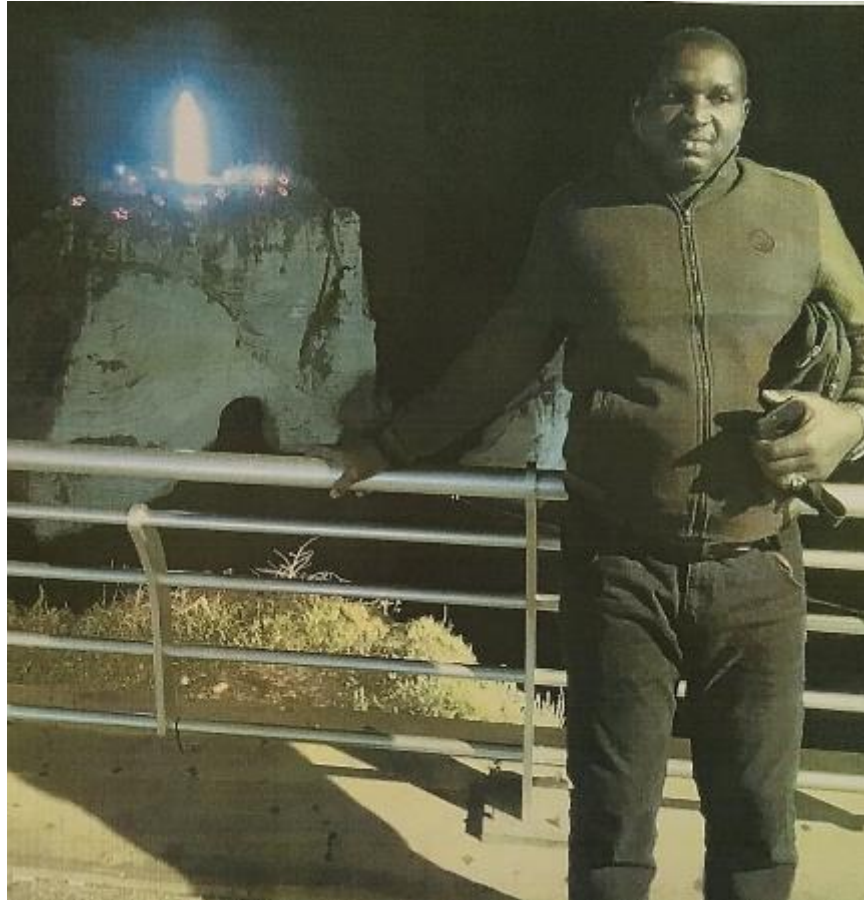
**FLIGHT: Istanbul to Accra (TK629)** Monday, September 11

Date:	September 11, 2017 (Mon)	Departs:	14:35 hrs
Airline:	Turkish Airlines Inc	Arrives:	18:50 hrs
Flight:	TK629 (Operated by Turkish Airlines Inc)		
From:	Istanbul, Turkey	Airport:	IST - Ataturk Arpt, Terminal 1
To:	Accra, Ghana	Airport:	ACC - Kotoka Airport
Class:	ECONOMY (S)	Baggage:	ADULT 2PC
Stops:	Non-stop	Duration:	07:15
Status:	Confirmed	Aircraft:	
In flight service:	Meal, Non-smoking		
Vendor:	RJVQW		
Locator:			

Service(s): Ticket Numbers (E-tickets) 2354931642706C2 - Confirmed

about:blank 9/9

Picture of Ismael Djidah reportedly taken in Beirut in September 2017. *Obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 28 August 2019.*



Copy of Ismael Djidah's Iraqi visa, issued on 21 October 2018. Document obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 28 August 2019.

جمهورية العراق  
REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

00066138

Abuja

00066138

صورة Photo	الجنسية Nationality	التاريخ Date of Birth			رقم الجواز Passport No.	الجنس Sex	الاسم Name
		سنة Year	شهر Month	يوم Day			
	NIGERIAN	1968	08	25	A 50458140 IKOYI LAGOS 04/12/2017 03/12/2022	MALE ذكر	MUHAMMAD SAMAILA JIDDAH محمد ساميل جديده
	NIGERIAN	1973	11	12	A 09803220 KADUNA 09/10/2018 08/10/2023	MALE ذكر	KUSA SAMINU MOHAMMED كوسا سامينو محمد

ملاحظة:  
• مراجعة متبوية الإقامة خلال مدة سبعة ايام  
• لا يحق عملها في العراق

00066138

Abuja

00066138

MUHAMMAD SAMAILA JIDDAH 2-KUSA SAMINU MOHAMMED  
NATIONALITY 2-NIGERIAN VISITORS 2 زائر نيجيري  
PASSPORT NO. 1-A50458140, 2-A09803220  
ISSUING AUTHORITY NIGERIA نيجيريا  
VISA ISSUE 2018/10/21 في 11009  
ISSUE DATE 2018/12/20 الى 2018/10/21  
BENEFICIARY شركة الدار البيضاء

المستقبل  
موتاق رشاد زيار  
24-10-2018

لا يمنع لحاظه المرفق  
المرفق لا يمنع الحاشية  
24-10-2018

Plot 338, Diplomatic Drive Cadastral  
Zone A00, Central Area, Abuja-Nigeria


abjemb@moia.gov.iq

Tel: +2348026





Copy of the hotel bill for Ismael Djidah's stay in Beirut, Lebanon (24-25 February 2018). The Panel notes that, according to information provided by airline companies, Ismael Djidah arrived in Beirut on 26 February 2018 only. Document obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 28 August 2019.



# ASSAHA

HOTEL  
The Lebanese Arab Company

## Reservation Confirmation

BOOKING DETAILS					
CLIENT(S) NAME :			ST STANDARD ROOM		
Mr. اسماعيل جداه					
Reservation Date				Number of pax	
23/02/2018				1	
CHECK IN	24/02/2018	CHECK OUT	25/02/2018	TOTAL NIGHTS	1
ROOM TYPE & NUMBER			RATE		
ST STANDARD ROOM	No. 200	LEBANESE POUND	87,537.83	Gov. Tax	Y
			9,682.16	Service Charge	N
GROSS TOTAL			97,459.99		

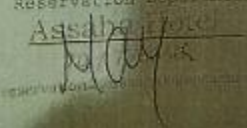
Dear Sir,

We look forward to welcoming you at The Lebanese Arab Company

YOUR GUARANTEED RESERVATION NO.: RS008701

We would like to assure you that no efforts would be spared from any of us to make your stay with us a most enjoyable and memorable one.

Best regards

Reservation Department  
  
 ASSAHA HOTEL

**Annex 6.4:** Copies of two letters mentioning Ismael Djidah.

Documents obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 28 August 2019.

A  
l'Attention de notre Cher  
Grand Ami

Objet: Note d'information

A l'honneur de Grand Ami, j'ai le grand plaisir de bien vouloir tenir cette occasion pour saluer l'initiative dont vous avez pris soin de nous vouloir nous aider.

En effet, Cher Grand Ami, avant de me lancer dans le sujet, recevez de moi mes salutations le plus sincères.

Vous savez, Cher Grand Ami, l'heure où je vous parle, l'épique entrée est en guerre et la République Centrafricaine. La tenue récente de Général Ismael de chez pour s'appuyer à votre distinction j'espère qui m'aidera, déterminée et à un succès incontestable.

Colombes, le 16/12/11

A  
L'Attention de notre cher  
Grand Ami

Objet : Demande de soutien

A l'honneur du Grand Ami, j'ai le grand plaisir de bien vouloir saisir cette occasion pour saluer l'initiative dont vous avez pris part afin de bien vouloir nous aider.

En effet, cher Grand Ami, avant de se lancer dans le projet, recevez de moi mes salutations les plus sincères.

Suite à la crise économique au quel nous sommes confrontés, je sollicite au près de vous une aide financière pour une fin du terrain. Et ceci est une demande urgente. Vous auriez donc plus d'élucidation au près du Général Ismael Djedab.

L'axe politique que nous allons établir en  
 champs d'action dans un futur proche va être  
 dynamique et jouer également un rôle de  
 premier rang et lutter contre l'islamisme  
 radical et wahabite.

Cet appareil politique sera représenté par notre  
 Cher frère le Général Ismael.

Pour enfin Cher Grand Ami le plan de projet  
 nécessite une assistance financière et matérielle  
 pour pouvoir bien et bien fonctionner.

C'est à l'instar de cette optique que j'ai pris  
 l'initiative de bien vouloir venir auprès de  
 vous afin que le projet soit réalisé.

Pour en conclusion Cher Grand Ami, nos  
 sentiments les plus sincères vont à votre entourage et  
 celle de l'équipe.

**Annex 7.1:** Additional information on the easing of the arms embargo with the adoption of Security Council resolution 2488 (2019), and continued calls for the total lifting of the arms embargo by the national authorities.

### **Calls to lift the embargo prior to the adoption of resolution 2488 (2019)**

On the repeated calls of the Central African authorities to ease or lift the arms embargo, see also S/2018/1119, paras 185-188; S/2017/1023, paras. 26-28; S/2016/1032, paras. 60-64; S/2016/694, paras. 27-30)

Calls by the CAR authorities for a total lifting of the arms embargo intensified in late 2018-early 2019, with the national authorities organizing a campaign to garner support. The Government's main argument, reiterated by President Touadera in Sochi and Brussels in September and October 2019 (see below), remained that the arms embargo unfairly affected the national defence and security forces while armed groups continued to acquire weapons.

The CAR Government's attempts to press ahead for a total lifting of the arms embargo reached its peak on 28 January 2019 when several civil society groups organised demonstrations in Bangui and other towns (Bouar, Bossangoa, Mbaiki), calling for the Security Council to lift the arms embargo. In Bangui, then Prime Minister Simplicie Sarandji addressed the crowd and thanked them for sharing the Government's views on this matter.<sup>81</sup> MINUSCA had to restrict staff movement as crowds attempted to damage United Nations property in Bouar and in some areas of Bangui.<sup>82</sup> The calls to lift the arms embargo were temporarily suspended after the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2454 (2019) on 31 January 2019, which extended the arms embargo.<sup>83</sup>

### **Adoption of resolution 2488 (2019) and its aftermath**

With the adoption on 12 September 2019 of resolution 2488 (2019), which is discussed in para. 140 of the present report, the Security Council eased the arms embargo as regards the provision of non-lethal military equipment intended solely for humanitarian or protective use, and related technical assistance or training. Whereas the Sanctions Committee needed to approve these supplies in advance before the adoption of Resolution 2488 (2019), the new resolution now foresees a mere notification in advance for such supplies.<sup>84</sup>

When the resolution was adopted, the Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic in New York noted that arms embargo provisions had been modified positively, easing the measures in the light of the situation on the ground, and that the exemption and notification

<sup>81</sup> Panel's mission in Bangui, 5-30 January 2019.

<sup>82</sup> Phone conversation with international partner, 31 January 2019. Confidential documents, 29 January 2019.

<sup>83</sup> S/2018/2454, 31 January 2019, para. 1.

<sup>84</sup> S/RES/2488, 12 September 2019, para. 2(d).

procedures remain effective tools to allow the security and defence forces to be trained, equipped and armed.<sup>85</sup> On the other hand, the Permanent Representative also noted that “the resolution just adopted is a step in the right direction towards a partial – and, why not, even total? – lifting of the arms embargo”.<sup>86</sup>

The President repeated his call to lift the arms embargo at the Russia-Africa summit in Sochi on 23 October 2019 and during an interview in Brussels on 28 September 2019. Below the translation of excerpts from the speech of President Touadera in Sochi (Federation of Russia, 23 October 2019 - source: <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/61884> [accessed on 1 November 2019])

“[...]

Russia has provided enormous assistance to the Central African Republic in the military sphere, contributed to training soldiers for the Central African Republic’s armed forces, to modernising the Central African army, and to training gendarmes and police. On September 14, 2019, **Russia completed the delivery of the second batch of weapons to the Central African Republic, which covers our small arms needs in full.** We hope that Russia will continue to train our personnel, train officers for our army, including at Russian military academies.

**We also expect our Russian partners to supply us with lethal weapons with a calibre of over 14.5 mm, as well as armoured personnel carriers, infantry fighting vehicles, mortars and other artillery weapons, which will help us strengthen our defence and security forces.** We asked the Russian Defence Ministry to **train four helicopter pilots and helicopter maintenance specialists.** The resolution on easing the arms embargo, which was adopted by the UN Security Council on September 12, based on the French project, is insufficient, as **our needs for small arms were met after we received the second batch of Russian weapons. We need heavier weapons to build effective forces in the CAR. Illegal armed groups smuggle such weapons.**

It turns out that the sanctions imposed in 2013, when there was no legal government in the Central African Republic, are now directed against the legitimate authorities, because **illegal groups receive heavy weapons illegally, bypassing the embargo.** So, we cannot regain control over our entire country.”

See also the interview of President Touadera in Brussels on 28 September 2019, see <https://vimeo.com/365937652> [accessed on 20 October 2019]. Several press articles refer to the call of the President to lift the arms embargo and supply the Central African forces with heavy weapons.

<sup>85</sup> S/PV.8617, 12 September 2019.

<sup>86</sup> Idem.

**Annex 7.2:** Additional information on the training and recruitment of FACA.

- On training of FACA by the European Union Training Mission (EUTM) in the Central African Republic and ammunition/weapons used for training purposes:

From 24 June to 16 October 2019, EUTM delivered basic training to a total of 1,020 new FACA recruits in Bouar (508 recruits) and Bangui (512 recruits). A total of 1,014 FACA recruits, or 99.41%, successfully passed the training (see also S/2018/1119, para. 177 and S/2019/608, annex 6.1).

As of 31 October 2019, EUTM had trained:

- A total of 5 battalions: 4 territorial infantry battalions and the amphibious battalion, i.e. a total of around 6,000 FACA;
  - 3,700 FACA soldiers have received basic military training. 1,100 of these 3,700 have been deployed outside Bangui (attention: there is a total of 1,429 FACA deployed outside Bangui);
  - 2,485 FACA (officers, deputy officers and soldiers) received specialized training (transmissions, command, tactical combat, international humanitarian law, human rights law, prevention of sexual abuse and HIV);
  - 53 individuals (34 FACA and 19 ISF) were trained during the “Train the Trainers Programme” in view of the training of the joint temporary security units – USMS.
  - 1, 020 new recruits were trained in Bouar and Bangui from 24 June to 16 October.<sup>87</sup>
- On the training of FACA by Russian instructors:

From May to July 2019, and from August to October 2019, 235 Russian instructors continued to conduct training sessions in Bangui and Berengo.<sup>88</sup>

Russian instructors are currently present in Bambari, Bangassou, Bocaranga, Bouar, Dekoa, Paoua, and Sibut to ensure that the skills acquired during the training are correctly applied by the FACA once deployed (see also S/2018/1119, para. 176 and S/2019/608, para. 88 and annex 6.1). Russian instructors were also present in (a) Um Rawq (Sudan), together with the Tripartite Force, (b) Bria and Ouadda, where they reportedly ensured the security of hospitals, and (c) Bokolbo (Ouakka prefecture) (see also S/2018/1119, para. 175-176 and S/2019/608, annex 6.1).<sup>89</sup>

<sup>87</sup> Correspondences with EUTM, October 2019.

<sup>88</sup> Correspondence with the Embassy of Russian Federation in Bangui, 30 October 2019.

<sup>89</sup> Meeting with confidential sources, 21 September 2019.

- Additional information on the absorption of ex-combatants in the national army.

The objective is to integrate a total of 490 ex-combatants in the national army. The pilot project has already resulted in the integration of 232 ex-combatants; this means that there still remains 258 ex-combatants to be integrated.

70 ex-combatants are supposed to be integrated in the national army through the 2019 recruitment process. The integration of the remaining 198 ex-combatants is planned to take place during the next recruitment campaigns (see also S/2018/1119, para. 177).<sup>90</sup>

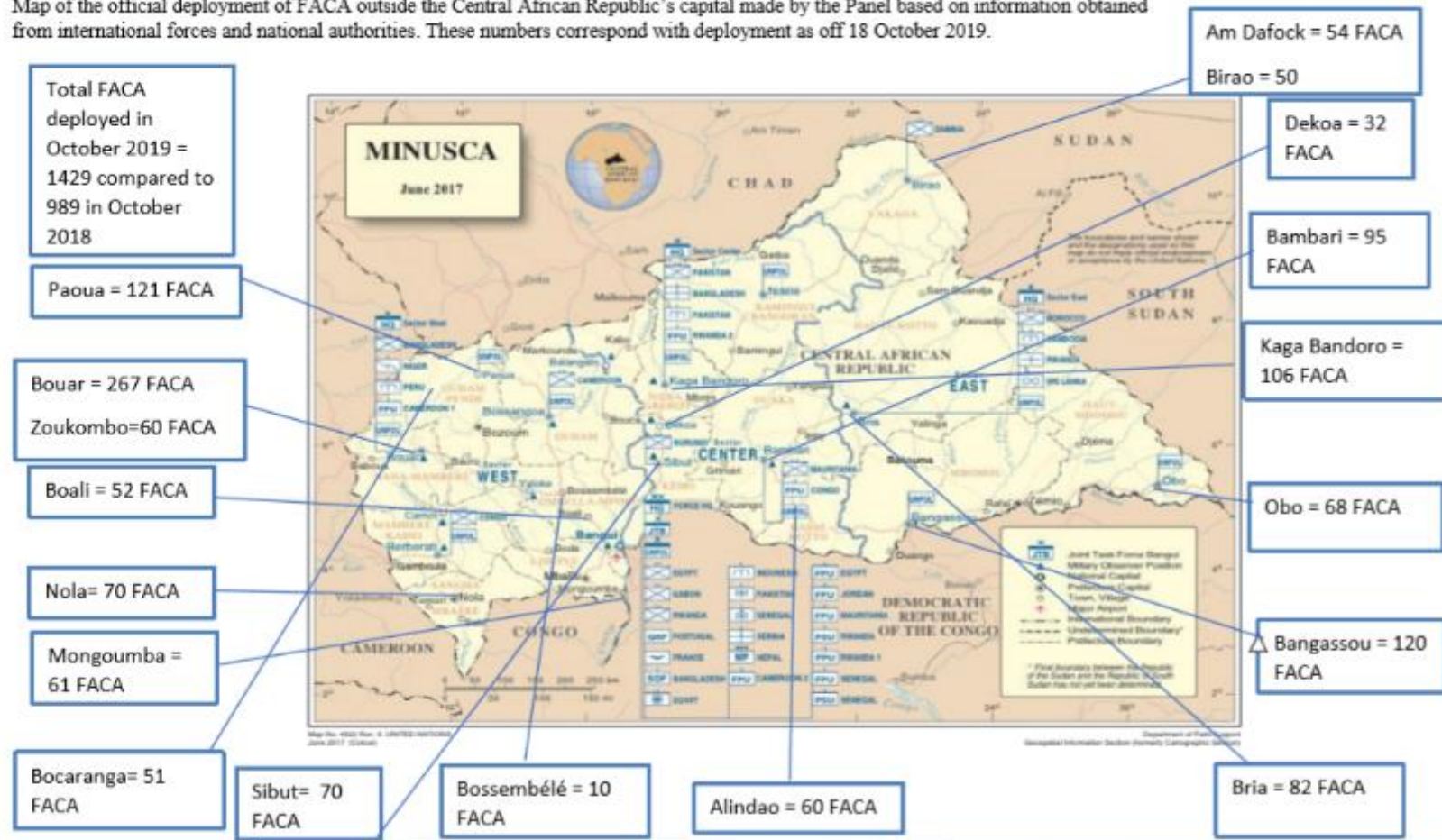
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<sup>90</sup> Recruitment Plan 2019. Meetings and phone calls with international partners, October 2019.



### Annex 7.3: Map of FACA deployment.

Map of the official deployment of FACA outside the Central African Republic's capital made by the Panel based on information obtained from international forces and national authorities. These numbers correspond with deployment as off 18 October 2019.



**Annex 7.4:** Press communiqué by Nourredine Adam, 10 July 2019.

FRONT POPULAIRE POUR LA  
RENAISSANCE DE CENTRAFRIQUE  
BUREAU EXECUTIF NATIONAL  
PRESIDENCE  
N° 020/FPRC/BEN 019



République Centrafricaine  
Unité - Dignité - Travail

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

**Objet :** Déploiement des Forces de Sécurité et de Défense (FSD) et mise en place des Unités Spéciales Mixtes de Sécurité (USMS) et du Comité Technique de Sécurité (CTS) dans les zones sous contrôle du FPRC.

Compte tenu de la détermination du FPRC à agir de bonne foi et sans délai pour la mise en œuvre accélérée de l'APPR-RCA afin d'une paix durable, réconciliation nationale et stabilité politique effectives et enracinées en République Centrafricaine ;

Attendu que le FPRC entend réaffirmer et consolider les principes fondamentaux de paix, d'unité et réconciliation nationales qui constituent la pierre angulaire de son action politique ;

Soucieux de la complexité des facteurs susceptibles d'impacter le contexte sécuritaire, aussi bien dans l'arrière-pays que dans les confins de la République Centrafricaine, particulièrement en début de la saison sèche ;

Le Bureau Exécutif National du FPRC demande avec insistance le déploiement progressif des forces de sécurité et de défense (FSD) dans les zones sous son contrôle en vue de l'effectivité du Comité Technique de Sécurité (CTS) et, également, de la mise en place et de l'opérationnalité des Unités Spéciales Mixtes de Sécurité (USMS), avant octobre 2019.

Le Bureau Exécutif National du FPRC salue l'avancée du processus de paix, tel que consacré dans l'APPR-RCA. Cependant, demande aux Garants de l'Accord de procéder à l'évaluation de la mise en œuvre des dispositions de l'APPR-RCA par tous les signataires en vue de la présentation du bilan six mois après la signature de l'Accord, à Bangui.

A la communauté internationale dans son ensemble, le Bureau Exécutif National réitère, comme souligné dans le préambule de l'APPR-RCA : « la nécessité de restaurer sans délai la sécurité en République Centrafricaine, d'y promouvoir durablement la paix et la stabilité, et de s'atteler impérieusement à une profonde réconciliation nationale » ; et demande que la mise en œuvre des dispositifs prévus dans le cadre l'APPR-RCA soient en adéquation avec les enjeux et les défis sécuritaires et selon le contexte particulier de chaque région.

Ndidié, le 10 juillet 2019

Le 1<sup>er</sup> Vice-Président

**Annex 7.5:** Additional information on the continued challenges of FACA deployment and cases of misconduct.

- On the support and protection of deployed FACA by MINUSCA: When deployed in areas under control of armed groups, FACA soldiers can mostly conduct patrols only jointly with MINUSCA and/or sometimes have their freedom of movement limited by armed groups threatening to prevent FACA soldiers from deploying in some areas (see also S/2019/608, para. 93).<sup>91</sup>
- On the attacks of FACA soldiers: FACA soldiers continued to be attacked by armed group fighters. For example, on 13 September 2019 in the Haut-Mbomou prefecture, FACA soldiers were attacked by UPC elements. One FACA element got killed and another one severely wounded.<sup>92</sup> The FACA had gone to the bush to save a group of 12 hunters from Obo which was attacked by the UPC one day earlier.<sup>93</sup> Also, on 29 September UPC members reportedly fired at a FACA checkpoint in Bambari; as a result, they were arrested by the UPC military commander in Bambari and handed over to Ali Darassa in Bokolbo.<sup>94</sup>
- On the delayed rotations: There is a chronic and often prolonged delay in the rotations of the deployed FACA units. To illustrate, the rotation of at least five FACA units for which the rotation was due several months ago (see details below)<sup>95</sup> was postponed until December 2019 at least:
  - 70 FACA in Sibut: deployed on 16 January 2019 and rotation initially planned on 15 July 2019;
  - 32 FACA in Dekoa: deployment on 17 January and rotation initially planned on 17 May 2019;
  - 68 FACA in Obo: deployment on 19 March 2019 and rotation initially planned on 19 July 2019;<sup>96</sup>
  - 120 FACA in Bangassou: deployed on 10 February and rotation initially planned on 10 June 2019;
  - 60 FACA in Alindao: deployed on 10 February and rotation initially planned on 10 June 2019.
- On the other logistical challenges faced by deployed FACA and the lack of weapon storage facilities: As observed by the Panel in amongst others Alindao, Obo and Birao (August-October 2019), deployed FACA continued to suffer from a lack of proper housing, food,

<sup>91</sup> Panel's mission to Alindao, 20, 21 April and 13 September 2019. Panel's mission to Kaga-Bandoro, 7-10 June and 5-9 September. Confidential reports 29 September, 1 and 2 October,

<sup>92</sup> Panel's mission to Obo, 27 See also confidential reports 12 and 17 September 2019.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid.

<sup>94</sup> Confidential report, 1 October 2019.

<sup>95</sup> Information obtained from international forces and national authorities. These numbers correspond with deployment as of 18 October 2019.

<sup>96</sup> Meeting with confidential sources, Obo, 24-28 September 2019.

water, and sanitation. Often, there is are no/insufficient vehicles, deficient fuel and no communication tools.<sup>97</sup>

*Picture illustrating the lack of storage facilities in Birao, taken by the Panel in Birao on 5 October 2019.*



- On cases of misconduct involving FACA elements:
  - Incidents of human rights violations involving FACA soldiers were recorded by the Panel, with cases ranging from widespread extortion/taxation of civilians, impinging on freedom of movement,<sup>98</sup> to more severe human rights violations illustrated by three incidents which took place across a two-week period in July-August 2019: in Bocaranga, Ouham-Pende prefecture on 30 July 2019, two FACA soldiers armed with AK47s (along with two other individuals) assaulted two ethnic Fulani stealing money and other goods; on 7 August, in Bambari, Ouaka prefecture a drunk FACA soldier killed a Fulani with a knife; and on 14 August, in Bakouma, Mbomou prefecture, FACA elements tortured a male civilian.<sup>99</sup>

<sup>97</sup> Panel's mission to Alindao, 13-14 September; Obo, 24-28 September; Birao, 3-5 October 2019; Bria, 3 October 2019.

<sup>98</sup> Panel's missions to Ouham-Pende, Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou, 10-14 May 2019, 27-30 May 2019, 24-30 September 2019.

<sup>99</sup> Confidential sources, 1, 8 and 15 August 2019. Confidential report, 31 August 2019.

- Reports have mentioned an upsurge of abuses and human rights violations due to the lack of discipline of FACA, in particular in the Ouham-Pende prefecture.<sup>100</sup> Besides the cases already cited in the Panel's midterm report (S/2019/608, annex 6.5), the following cases of misconduct can also be reported for the July-October 2019 period:
- In mid-June 2019, several FACA elements in Paoua reportedly raped two women in Bemal.<sup>101</sup>
  - In early July, there were several reports of FACA elements illegally taxing civilians in Bangassou and Béma (Mbomou prefecture).<sup>102</sup>
  - On 8 July, a FACA soldier in Béma reportedly inflicted cruel and inhuman treatment to an anti-balaka comzone arrested in Béma who was later transferred to the prison of Bangassou.<sup>103</sup>
  - On 18 July, a FACA corporal from Paoua (Ouham-Pendé prefecture), on mission in Betoko, beat an 11-year old boy with his weapon, wounding the boy.<sup>104</sup>
  - On 22 July, MINUSCA documented two rape cases of minor girls by two FACA soldiers in Bambari (Ouaka prefecture).<sup>105</sup> On the same date, MINUSCA was informed that a FACA soldier had raped and impregnated a minor in the same town.<sup>106</sup>
  - On 22 July, in Zoukombo (Nana-Mambéré prefecture), a FACA soldier shot at his colleague following a dispute. The FACA was however not wounded.<sup>107</sup>
  - On 30 July, the FACA unit commander in Paoua (Ouham-Pendé prefecture) arrested and handed over to the local gendarmerie three of his elements, as they were accused of having threatened and extorted three Chadian traders two days earlier.<sup>108</sup>
  - On 2 August, 2 FACA soldiers threatened and extorted two Fulanis.<sup>109</sup>
  - On 14 August in Bakouma (Mbomou prefecture), FACA elements reportedly beat, tortured and severely injured a male motorcyclist involved in a road accident.<sup>110</sup>
  - On 19 September in Paoua (Ouham-Pendé prefecture) during a meeting attended by MINUSCA, local authorities, ISF and FACA, one point of concern raised was the illegal taxation of civilians by some ISF auxiliaries and FACA at checkpoints.<sup>111</sup>

<sup>100</sup> Confidential report, 31 August 2019.

<sup>101</sup> Confidential report, 31 July 2019.

<sup>102</sup> Confidential report, 31 July 2019.

<sup>103</sup> Confidential reports, 12 July 2019 and 31 July.

<sup>104</sup> Confidential report, 31 July 2019.

<sup>105</sup> Confidential reports, 24 and 31 July 2019.

<sup>106</sup> Ibid.

<sup>107</sup> Confidential report, 31 July 2019.

<sup>108</sup> Confidential reports, 31 July and 31 August 2019.

<sup>109</sup> Confidential report, 31 August 2019.

<sup>110</sup> Confidential reports, 16 and 31 August 2019.

<sup>111</sup> Confidential reports, 20 and 30 September 2019.

- In September, there were numerous reports of FACA elements taxing civilians using the Bouar-Bocaranga axis.<sup>112</sup>

On the challenges of FACA deployment and cases of FACA misconduct, see also S/2019/608, annexes 6.4 and 6.5.

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<sup>112</sup> Confidential report, 30 September 2019.

**Annex 7.6:** Information on the recruitment, training, equipment, redeployment and conduct of Internal Security Forces (ISF).

A total of 18,815 candidates applied for the 2019 country-wide ISF recruitment process for 1,000 recruits to integrate into the ISF training schools in December 2019. The final list of 1,000 recruits (500 police and 500 gendarmes) will take into consideration the results of the various tests, but also guarantee a national geographical representation and gender-balance (see details below).<sup>113</sup>

Between 1 January and 31 October 2019, a total of 1,581 police officers and gendarmes in Bangui and beyond received various training sessions organized by MINUSCA, with the support of international and national partners, ranging from investigation techniques to deontology (see details below). As of 30 October, Russian instructors provided training to a total of 319 police officers and 300 gendarmes,<sup>114</sup> as such training is a precondition for assigning them weapons when they are deployed (see also S/2018/729, para. 14 and S/2019/608, annex 6.6).

As of 1 October, 29% of the total 3,683 police officers and gendarmes were deployed outside Bangui, which represented an increase of only 1% compared to 1 June 2019 (see tables below and S/2019/608, annex 6.). In late September and early October, following the clashes in Vakaga prefecture (see paras. 46-71), 18 police officers and 10 gendarmes were rapidly deployed to Birao with the critical support and protection of MINUSCA.<sup>115</sup> The 28 officers cohabited with MINUSCA peacekeepers at the gendarmerie brigade, in front of one of the refugee camps which they aimed to secure.<sup>116</sup>

ISF elements also continued to suffer from dire living and working conditions and lack of basic equipment, including weapons, ammunition and crowd control equipment, especially in remote areas, as observed by the Panel in Birao (see picture below and S/2019/608, annex 6.6).

**Additional information on the recruitment process**

Of 18,815 candidates, 97% of the candidates, 24.4% of whom were female, were eligible and thus authorized to pass the sport and written examinations. These examinations took place on 15-16 September 2019 in all prefectures, except for Birao where they were postponed to late September because of the armed clashes between FPRC and MLCJ/RPRC. For Bangui, the tests took place from 15 to 25 September 2019. The list of 1,300 candidates (650 police and 650 gendarmes) who were admitted for the medical tests and investigation

<sup>113</sup> Meeting with confidential source, Bangui, 8 October 2018.

<sup>114</sup> Correspondence with the Embassy of Russian Federation in Bangui, 30 October 2019.

<sup>115</sup> Meeting with police officers and gendarmes, Birao, 5 October 2019. Meeting with MINUSCA Police Commander, Bangui, 8 October 2018.

<sup>116</sup> Panel's mission to Birao, 5-8 October 2019. Confidential documents, received on 25 October 2019.

<sup>117</sup> This was witnessed by the Panel in amongst others Mobaye, on 15 and 16 September 2019.

of morality has yet to be published.<sup>118</sup> (see also S/2018/729, para. 14, S/2018/1119, para. 178 and S/2019/608, annex 6.6)

### Additional information on the deployment of the FSI

On 1 October 2019, only 29% of the 3, 683 police and gendarme officers were deployed outside Bangui, most of whom were in the West, as the table below shows:<sup>119</sup>

	Police	Gendarmerie	ISF
<b>Bangui</b>	996	1394	2390
<b>Regions</b>	<b>Total : 309</b> West : 235 Center : 55 East : 19	<b>Total : 755</b> West : 628 Center : 105 East : 22	<b>Total : 1064</b> West : 863 Center : 160 East : 41
<b>Not operational</b>	174	55	229
<b>Total</b>	<b>1479</b>	<b>2204</b>	<b>3683</b>

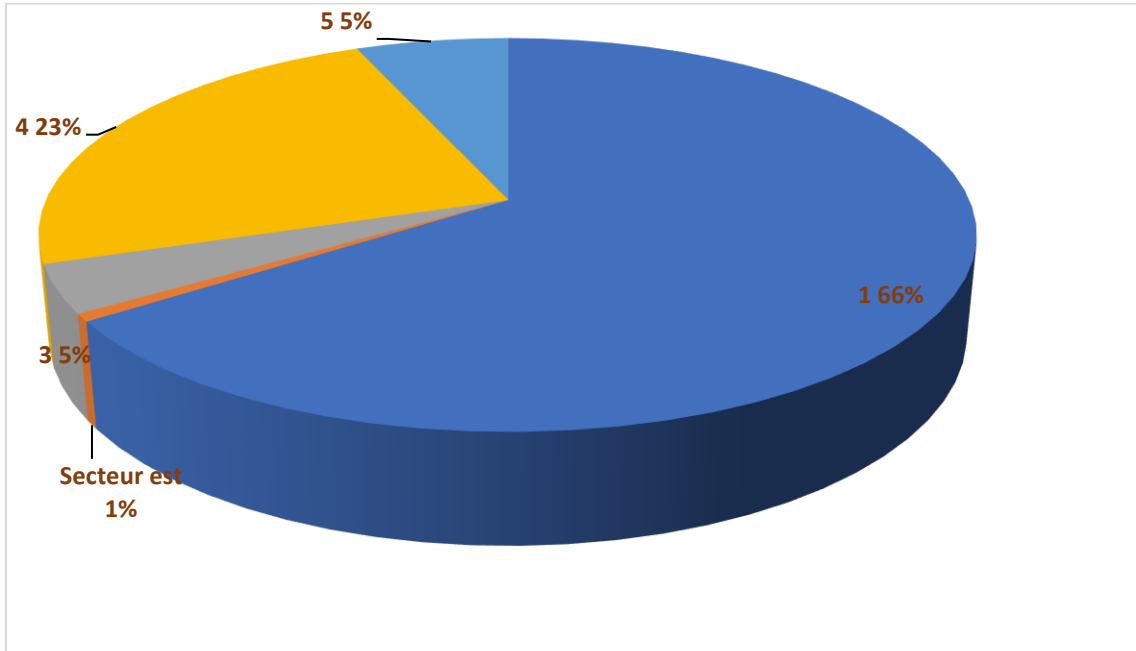
Diagram illustrating the deployment of the Internal Security Forces:<sup>120</sup>

<sup>118</sup> Meeting with confidential source, Bangui, 8 October 2019. Correspondence with confidential source, 25 October 2019.

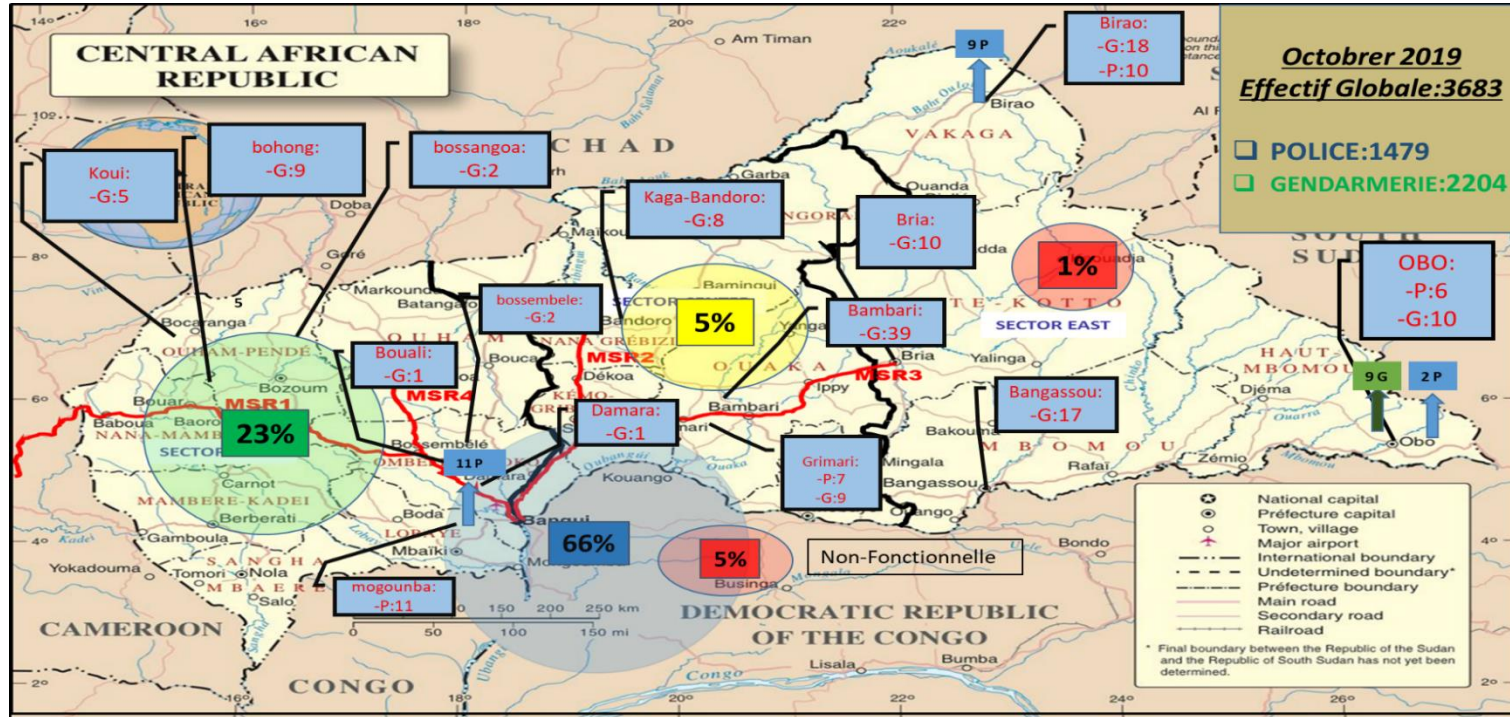
<sup>119</sup> Ibid. See also S/2019/608, annex 6.6.

<sup>120</sup> Obtained from confidential source, 1 October 2019.





Map on the FSI deployment<sup>121</sup>:



<sup>121</sup> Idem.

**On the lack of needed equipment for ISF** (see also S/2017/123, para. 16, S/2018/729, para 16, S/2018/1119, para 1119 and S/2019/608 annex 6.6).

The Panel observed a lack of basic facilities for ISF deployed in Birao on 24 September 2019. There were no beds, no cooking facilities, etc.<sup>122</sup> When the Panel visited their base on 5 October, the ISF reported that they had been deployed with a total of 20 AK-type assault rifles (7 for the police and 14 for the gendarmes). However, they did not receive any ammunition or magazines. The Panel was informed that the magazines and ammunition arrived on 8 October.<sup>123</sup>

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<sup>122</sup> Panel's visit of the base with FACA and FSI deployment, Birao, 5 October 2019.

<sup>123</sup> Meeting with international partners, Bangui, 8 October 2019.

**Annex 7.7:** Additional information on the 2019 arms transfers and management of weapons and ammunition.

- On the donation of 1,400 AK-type assault rifles by France

*Document on the allocation/distribution of the weapons donated by France, received from confidential source on 8 October 2019.*

**REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE**  
 Unité-- Dignité--Travail  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**MINISTERE DE LA DEFENSE NATIONALE  
 ET DE LA RECONSTRUCTION DE L'ARMEE**  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
**ETAT MAJOR DES ARMEES**  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
**CEMA A RESSOURCES**  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
**BUREAU RESSOURCES MATERIELLES**  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 N°...J...MDNRA/EMA/CEMAAR/BRM.

Bangui, le

Le Capitaine, Chef du Bureau Ressources Matérielles

**Objet :** utilisation des armes du don français.

La République Française a fait un don **1.400** fusils de type **AK47** aux forces armées centrafricaine courant décembre 2018.

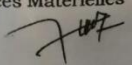
Suite à l'autorisation du comité de sanction **400 Fusils** ont été cédés aux forces de sécurité intérieures le 03. Avril 2019.


Ce faisant le stock de 1.000 Fusils d'assauts restant au magasin est utilisé de la manière suivante :

LOCALITES	NOMBRE	OBSERVATIONS
Magasin	730	
Missions	270	

Par ailleurs, il est à noter que plusieurs armes dudit don présentent des défauts fonctionnelles et sont mises en réparation.

De plus, les armes ont été livrées sans chargeurs ce qui pose des difficultés pour leur utilisation.

Bangui, le 11<sup>e</sup> 3 JUN 2019  
 Capitaine, Chef du Bureau  
 Ressources Matérielles  
  
**Giles Martial FEIKOUMON**



- On the weapons and ammunition management system: The letter of the Secretary-General dated 26 July 2019, denoted as the “benchmark report” (S/2019/609, issued 31 July 2019) articulated the needs and commitments of the authorities of the Government of the Central African Republic with regards to, amongst others, (a) weapons and ammunition storage facilities; (b) the training of the defence and security forces for the management of the weapons and ammunition; (c) the increase in adequate storage and management capacity. In spite of the efforts of national authorities, with the support of international partners, to build and rehabilitate weapons and ammunition storages in some localities (see supra), there remained a serious lack of proper storage facilities to secure weapons and ammunition in many areas where FACA and ISF elements are deployed, as observed by the Panel.<sup>124</sup> Moreover, there also remained room for improvement with regards to the management of weapons, ammunition and storage facilities, in Bangui and beyond. De facto, a proper system for the management of arms and ammunition has yet to be put in place. Amongst others, the number of personnel qualified to manage and secure the weapons and ammunition remained low;<sup>125</sup> the process of marking the weapons has yet to start;<sup>126</sup> the weapons and ammunition were not being registered in a national register, nor being recorded in the local arms registers;<sup>127</sup> more broadly, it was difficult, sometimes impossible, to keep track of the distribution of, or localize and/or trace, the distributed weaponry.<sup>128</sup> On this topic, see also S/2018/1119, paras 189-192.

<sup>124</sup> Panel’s mission to Alindao, 13-14 September; Obo, 24-28 September; Birao, 3-5 October 2019; Bria, 3 October 2019.

<sup>125</sup> Meeting with international partners, July - October 2019. Confidential document, June 219.

<sup>126</sup> *Idem*.

<sup>127</sup> For example, in camp Kassai, there are no system to account for the incoming and outgoing weapons.

<sup>128</sup> *Idem*.

**Annex 7.8:** Update on the import of commercial explosives.

In its 2019 midterm report, the Panel addressed the issue concerning the import, transport, storage and use of commercial explosives and accessories in the Central African Republic by foreign and national companies active in the mining and road infrastructure sectors, in particular vis-à-vis (1) the sanctions' measures and (2) the explosive security and safety (S/2019/608, paras 97-101).

On 11 July 2019, the Government of the Central African Republic, pursuant to paragraph 1 (h) of resolution 2399 (2018) as renewed by resolution 2454 (2019), submitted two post-facto exemptions requests regarding the importation of explosives and related material for road construction by two companies, Sogea Satom and ONM, aiming at post-facto exempting previous imports.<sup>129</sup> The CAR authorities had also decided that any new import of explosives had to be submitted to the Minister of Defence, which would then be in charge of sending the official correspondence to the Sanctions Committee (see document below)

On 21 October, the Sanctions Committee decided that commercial explosives and materials typically used in the construction industry and not intended to have a military use did not fall within the scope of the arms embargo provided for in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 2488 (2019). According to the Committee, for the future, the importations of civilian use explosives accessories can be allowed by the Government in collaboration with MINUSCA, UNMAS and the Panel of Experts.<sup>130</sup>

The Committee also stressed the importance of receiving assurances that appropriate safeguards are put in place to minimize the risk of diversion of the explosives and accessories and that they are safely stored and accounted for.<sup>131</sup>

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<sup>129</sup> Document of 11 July 2019, Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic.

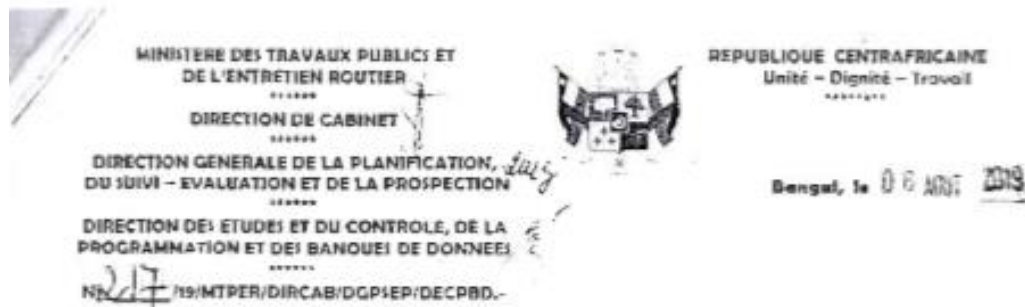
<sup>130</sup> Document of 21 October 2019, Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic.

<sup>131</sup> *Idem*.

Copy of the message of the Minister of Defence of 11 July 2019, obtained by the Panel from confidential source on 15 July 2019:



Excerpts of requests to purchase explosive substances and submit the request to the Sanctions Committee, obtained by the Panel from confidential source on 21 August 2019:



**LE MINISTRE DES TRAVAUX PUBLICS ET DE L'ENTRETIEN ROUTIER  
AU  
COMITE DU CONSEIL DE SECURITE (Groupe d'Experts sur la RCA)  
S/C DE  
MADAME LE MINISTRE DE LA DEFENSE NATIONALE ET DE LA  
RECONSTRUCTION DE L'ARMEE  
BANGUI**

**Objet:** Autorisation d'achat d'un complément de substances explosives  
**Référence:** Contrat N°1426/18/MTPER/DIRCAB/DGP/EP/DECPBD de la MPRN du 19 mars 2017  
**Intitulé:** Travaux d'Aménagement et Bitumage de la Route Baoro-Bouar et de Construction de deux Ouvrages d'Art de franchissement des rivières WEN et LOBAYE, y compris la réalisation des Travaux de Confortement sur les deux sections de route Bouar vers Baboua  
**Financement:** Banque Mondiale (BM).  
**Titulaire:** SOGEA SATOM

Madame,

Conformément au **MESSAGE PORTE** N° 214/MDNR/DIRCAB/SP, du 11 Juillet 2019, j'ai l'honneur de solliciter de vous une autorisation d'achat d'une quantité supplémentaire d'explosifs au profit de l'entreprise SOGEA-SATOM. Dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre du projet cité ci-haut, l'entreprise a exprimé le besoin de passer une commande supplémentaire d'explosifs.

En effet suite aux six (06) tirs sur les roches du gisement retenu, il s'est avéré que l'explosif chimique de type 2460 qui avait été utilisé n'a pas permis de faire tomber les roches en quantité suffisante pour permettre d'avoir la quantité des matériaux nécessaires pour les travaux de confortement. En tenant compte de la spécificité de la dite roche, l'entreprise a revu à la hausse les quantités de ces substances.



MINISTÈRE DES TRAVAUX PUBLICS ET  
DE L'ENTRETIEN ROUTIER  
\*\*\*\*\*  
DIRECTION DE CABINET  
\*\*\*\*\*  
N° 1255/19/MTPE/DIRCAB



Unité - Dignité - Travail  
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Bangui, le 06 JANV 2019

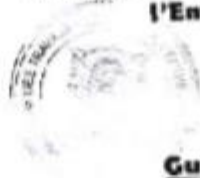
**SOIT TRANSMIS**

A

**Madame le Ministre de la Défense Nationale et de la  
Reconstruction de l'Armée  
-BANGUI-**

Honneur vous transmettre pour «**APPRECIATION et DECISION**» la  
demande d'achat d'un complément de substances explosives formulée  
par l'entreprise SOGEA-SATOM, titulaire du marché des travaux de  
bitumage de la section de route Baoro-Bouar, sur financement de la  
Banque mondiale.

**Le Ministre des Travaux Publics et de  
l'Entretien Routier**



**Guismala HAMZA**

**Annex 8.1:** Measures taken by the Government to fight against trafficking in diamonds and gold.**Presidential decree of 30 September 2019**

On 30 September, the President issued a decree amending the 2009 Law implementing the mining code (see document 1 below). The decree included, inter alia, measures aiming at checking the morality of the collectors - foreigners now have, for instance, to provide a copy of their criminal record in their country of origin - and at ensuring that mining operators formalize all their activities and withdraw from any engagement in illegal activities - minimal threshold of sales/exports were established for collectors and buying houses. The establishment of such thresholds was already included in a note of the Minister of Mines and Geology issued in early 2019 (see Panel's midterm report S/2019/608, para. 103 and annex 7.1).

The tax rate for diamond exports was also recently reduced to 4%. In addition to increased efforts to punish traffickers (the "sticks"), the latter measure represents an incentive for mining operators to formalize their activities (the "carrots"). This may contribute to limit diamond-smuggling. As discussed in a recent study, one of the main factors for trafficking in CAR is that operating through illegal networks is today more profitable than operating legally.<sup>132</sup>

**Verification mission in Boda (August 2019)**

In 2019, the Ministry of Mines and Geology started carrying out routine missions to verify the activities and documentation of mining operators. One such mission was deployed in August 2019 in Boda (Lobaye prefecture), one of the eight "KP compliant" subprefectures.

On 16 August 2019, members of the mission had to hurriedly leave Boda after they were attacked and one of their vehicles burnt by an angry crowd (see pictures (document 2) below). This attack followed the death of a diamond collector who suffered a heart attack as, according to some claimed, he was being racketed by members of the delegation.<sup>133</sup>

<sup>132</sup> De Jong, T. (2019). *Rapport diagnostic sur la contrebande des diamants en République centrafricaine*. Washington, DC: USAID Artisanal Mining and Property Rights Task Order under the Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights II (STARR II) IDIQ, p.15 and 18.

<sup>133</sup> See for instance, [https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=2857981384309949&id=949108905197216](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2857981384309949&id=949108905197216) [accessed on 26 October 2019].

In reaction to this event, the Minister of Mines and Geology made a TV appearance on 18 August 2019 (see transcript of this statement in document 3 below). After having recalled the objectives of the routine verification mission, he confirmed that a collector had died while the mission was in Boda. He indicated that the collector fainted as the mission was verifying his documentation (rather than racketeering him), and later died at the hospital.

The information provided by the Minister, including the circumstances of the collector's death, was confirmed to the Panel by two members of the Ministry's mission.<sup>134</sup>

### **Suspension of the activities of a mining cooperative in Bania (Mambéré-Kadéi)**

In his communiqué of 18 August, the Minister also mentioned that the authorities had identified a mining cooperative based in Bania (50 kilometers south-east of Berbérati, Mambéré-Kadéi prefecture) smuggling diamonds towards Bertoua (Cameroun) and managed by individuals using false CAR identification documents.

The cooperative called E-Maï was reportedly operating with mechanical means of exploitation without holding any mining permit.<sup>135</sup> The cooperative reportedly stopped its activities after the deployment of a mission from the Ministry of Mines in the area on 12-15 August 2019.

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<sup>134</sup> Meetings with staff from the Ministry of Mines, Bangui, 2 and 3 September 2019.

<sup>135</sup> Meetings with staff from the Ministry of Mines, 10 and 11 September 2019.

Document 1: Presse release issued on 3 October 2019 to present the Presidential decree (a copy of the decree is archived at United Nations).

*Conseiller Spécial Diamant du  
Président de la République  
Centrafricaine*



RÉPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE  
*Unité – Dignité – Travail*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Central African Republic Government launches complete reform of the diamond mining sector in a drastic approach to fight illicit traffic**

*Antwerp, 3 October, 2019* : Ahead of the Annual General Membership (AGM) meeting of the World Diamond Council (WDC) in Antwerp, the Government of the Central African Republic launched a full overhaul of the country's alluvial diamond mining sector.

Going forward, the CAR's Government will stand for a bold new and drastic approach where full transparency and proper due diligence protocols, traceability of individual parcel and OECD Due Diligence Guidance will be crucial.

The country direly needs diamond production to return to the formal market.

A comparison with the past demonstrates that while in 2012, the total production was about USD62 million whereas in 2018 only USD2.3 million was reached. In 2017, after the partial lifting of the embargo, things went well for a while and 113,000 cts. were exported. In 2018, that fell again to almost nothing, just 12,000 cts. This is 3% of 2012.

Following the adoption of Presidential Decree N<sup>o</sup>. 19.282 signed by the President and Head of State Faustin Archange-Touadéra on 30 September 2019, all existing buying houses can participate into demonstrating their capability to formalize exports and to withdraw from any engagement in the informal circuit. Above all, there will be an obligation for each buying house to export at least USD 3 million per quarter and a withdrawal of the license will follow in case of failure of the minimum amount of exports.

After a trial period which will end on 31 December 2019, the buying houses that have passed the conditions will enter into a contract with the CAR Government which will stipulate the due diligence sourcing protocols.

*Conseiller Spécial Diamant du  
Président de la République  
Centrafricaine*



**RÉPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE**  
*Unité – Dignité – Travail*

In the same spirit, the Presidential Decree further stipulates severe conditions on foreign buyers whose licenses will also be withdrawn in cases of non-compliance.

Also, tax revenues of the State need a re-start. So with a new finance law of 23 July 2019 the total exportation tax rate was reduced to 4% to be competitive and in line with neighbouring countries.

Further, this will be accompanied with a reinforcement of the Mining Police and the local KP structures in place.

The Central African Republic thanks the international community for the assistance it has received. In particular, the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme where especially the work of the CAR Monitoring Team is applauded. The decision to shorten Kimberley Process (KP) approval procedures to 7 days was crucial in the context of the on-going reform.

It is the CAR Government's hope the reform process in particular the peace agreement of Khartoum of 6 February 2019 will bring the first positive results already in 2019 at the KP Plenary in New Delhi and will lead to a new Operational Framework which will allow a normalisation of the country's exports.

The reform's intentions were announced already at the KP Intersessional in Mumbai in mid-June 2019 and are highlighted in a presentation which can be viewed here : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxIVDnn-vPA>.

The Presidential Decree N°. 19.282 of 30.9.2019 is attached to this release.

- ends -

For more information, please contact Mr. Peter Meeus, Special Advisor Diamonds to the President of the Central African Republic : +32472690376 (calls and sms); +971529247667 (whatsapp); [peter@pmeconsulting.org](mailto:peter@pmeconsulting.org) (email).

Document 2: Pictures of the vehicle of the Ministry of Mine and Geology's mission burnt in Boda on 16 August 2019.

Available at

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=2857981384309949&id=949108905197216](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2857981384309949&id=949108905197216)

[consulted on 26 October 2019]



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Document 3: Communiqué of the Minister of Mines of 18 August 2019.

COMMUNIQUE DU MINISTRE DES MINES ET DE LA GEOLOGIE

Le vendredi 15 août 2019, des événements graves se sont produits dans la ville de BODA ; événements qui auraient pu mettre à mal les efforts déployés par le Gouvernement à réconcilier toutes les communautés vivant en République Centrafricaine, après les crises à répétition que le pays a connues de 2012 à 2015.

Comme vous le savez chers compatriotes, ces crises du fait de l'insécurité qu'elle a générée dans le pays en général et particulièrement dans toutes les zones minières, ont entraîné des conséquences graves pour le secteur minier : une désorganisation du circuit de collecte du diamant et de l'or entraînant une baisse drastique des recettes d'exportation consécutive à la fermeture des Bureaux d'achat crédibles, mais surtout le développement d'un trafic illicite à d'exportation.

Depuis quelques mois, des voix s'élèvent pour interpeller le gouvernement de ce que des quantités énormes de diamant traversent nos frontières sans que les commanditaires et les complices intérieurs soient inquiétés malgré les efforts de traçabilité du circuit mis en place par le ministère des mines grâce aux concours de nos partenaires financiers.

C'est pourquoi, le ministère des mines informé ces derniers temps grâce au partage fructueux d'informations développé entre les services des mines de la République sœur du Cameroun et de la République Centrafricaine a mis en place une stratégie de contrôle des bureaux d'achat et des collecteurs lorsque les éléments en notre possession sont probants.

Quelles informations ont déclenché les contrôles au niveau de BANIA et au niveau de BODA ?

1. Au niveau de BODA

Des transactions portant sur un lot 558,80 carats de diamant entre un bureau d'achat et des collecteurs pour une valeur de 67 millions de FCFA n'ont pas été retracées dans nos livres au niveau du BECDOR. Ce lot de diamant serait vendu sur la place de DOUBAI en transitant par le Cameroun.

La mission partie de Bangui pour un contrôle des pièces afférentes à l'exercice des achats ou ventes des métaux précieux était chargée de réconcilier les statistiques de productions et de ventes au niveau des bureaux d'achat ainsi que des collecteurs de la zone.

Après le contrôle de 3 centres secondaires le premier jour, la mission a consacré le jour suivant au contrôle des collecteurs.

C'est pendant le relevé des données des bordereaux de ventes du collecteur DJIBRILLA NOUHO, ce dernier a été pris de malaise. Transporté à l'hôpital en urgence par le Chef de mission, il succombera quelques heures plus tard à la mosquée après avoir été exfiltré des mains du médecin.

Le Gouvernement que dirige le Premier Firmin NGREBADA sous la Haute impulsion du Président de la République Chef de l'Etat, Pr Faustin Archange TOUADERA, exprime à la famille éprouvée ses sincères condoléances.

Le Gouvernement tient à rassurer l'opinion nationale qu'une enquête judiciaire a été ouverte immédiatement par les services compétents pour établir les circonstances exactes du décès de ce compatriote.

Le Gouvernement salue par la même occasion l'intervention de l'imam de BODA, au fait de la réalité, a permis de rétablir très rapidement de calme dans la localité.

## 2. Au niveau de BANIA

Sur insistance des Autorités locales, le département a aussi instruit une mission dans la localité de BANIA où opère la coopérative minière E – MAÏ en partenariat avec des sujets étrangers, qui seraient devenus centrafricains par la possession de vrais/faux papiers d'identités centrafricains.

Cette mission qui a séjourné dans cette localité a découvert des transactions illicites vers le Cameroun de 3225 carats pour une somme de plus de 700 millions de FCFA carats de diamants vendus à BERTOUA.

Chers compatriotes

Voilà les faits qui se sont déroulés dans la localité de BODA que certains compatriotes s'acharnent à travestir sur les réseaux sociaux.

Je vous remercie



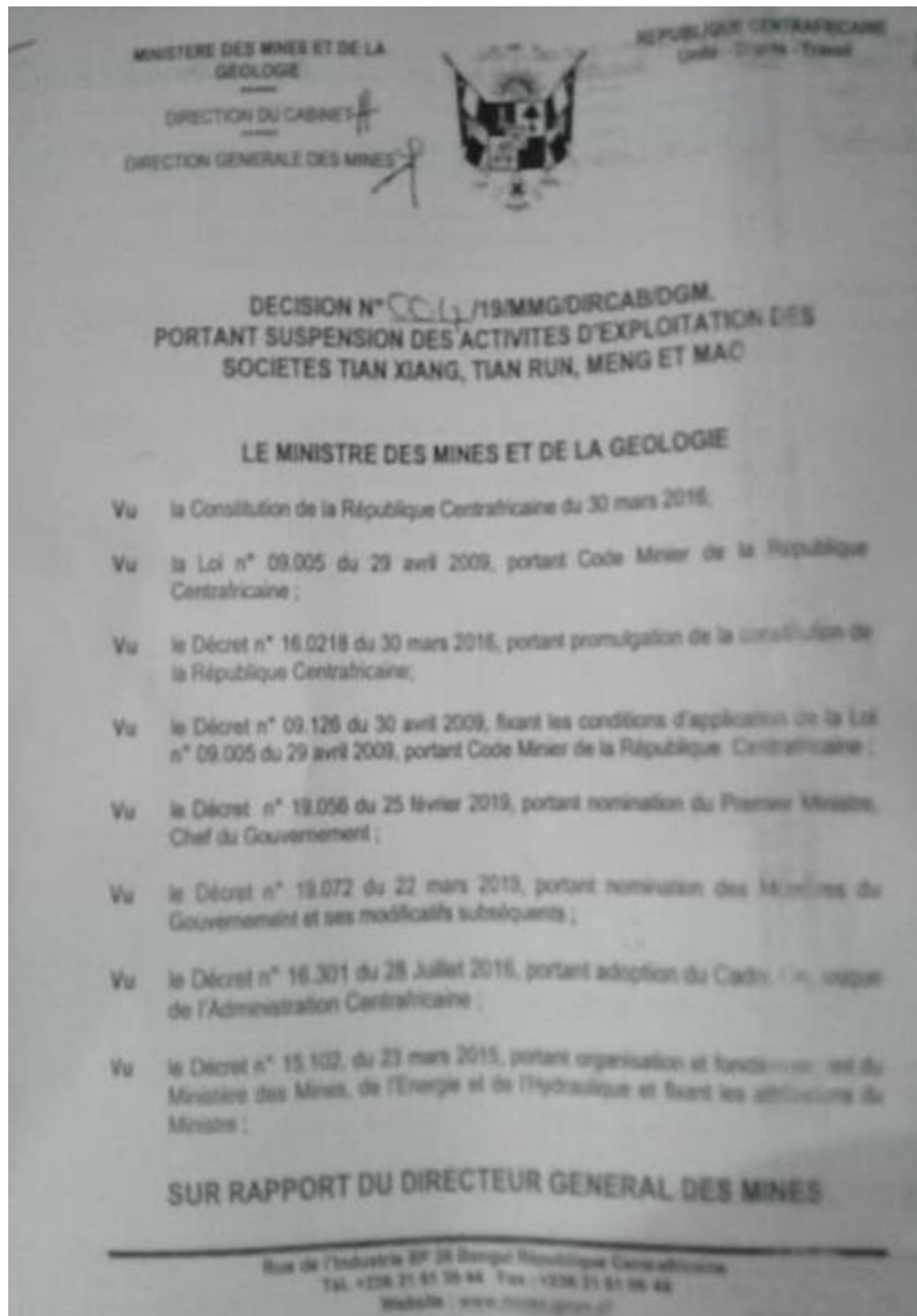
**Annex 8.2:** Exports of gold by the Central African Republic (2010-2018).

Based on data provided to the Panel by the Ministry of Mines on 19 October 2019.

Year	Volume of gold exported (grams)
2010	56475,71
2011	72834,51
2012	38283,66
2013	11034,1
2014	7103,77
2015	8102,63
2016	32934,78
2017	108036,87
2018	141808,27

**Annex 8.3:** Decision of the Ministry of Mines and Geology to suspend activities of mining companies operating in Bozoum area.

*Document obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 15 May 2019.*



**DECIDE**

**Article 1<sup>er</sup>** : Les activités d'exploitation des Sociétés Minières TIAN XIANG, TIAN RUN, MENG et MAO basées à BOZOOM sont suspendues jusqu'à nouvel ordre.

**Motif** : Non respect des textes qui régissent les activités minières en République Centrafricaine, notamment le manquement aux obligations relatives à la protection de l'environnement.

**Article 2** : Les sociétés TIAN XIANG, TIAN RUN, MENG et MAO ne reprendront leurs activités qu'après avoir rempli toutes les conditions exigées par la Loi et règlement en vigueur.

**Article 3** : Le Directeur Général des Mines et le Commandant la Compagnie de l'Unité Spéciale Anti-Fraude sont chargés, chacun en ce qui le concerne de la stricte application des dispositions de la présente Décision.

**Article 4** : La présente Décision prend effet à compter de la date de sa signature et sera notifiée aux intéressées.

Fait à Bangui, le 25 MARS 2019



**Léopold MBOLI-FATRAN**  
Ministre des Mines et de la Géologie

**Ampliations :**  
SEM PR/CE.....ATCR  
SEM PM/CG.....ATCR

**Annex 8.4:** Denunciation of the continuing activities by mining companies operating in the Bozoum area.

Below examples of statements made on social networks.

Tweet posted on 4 April 2019



Posted on 19 July 2019

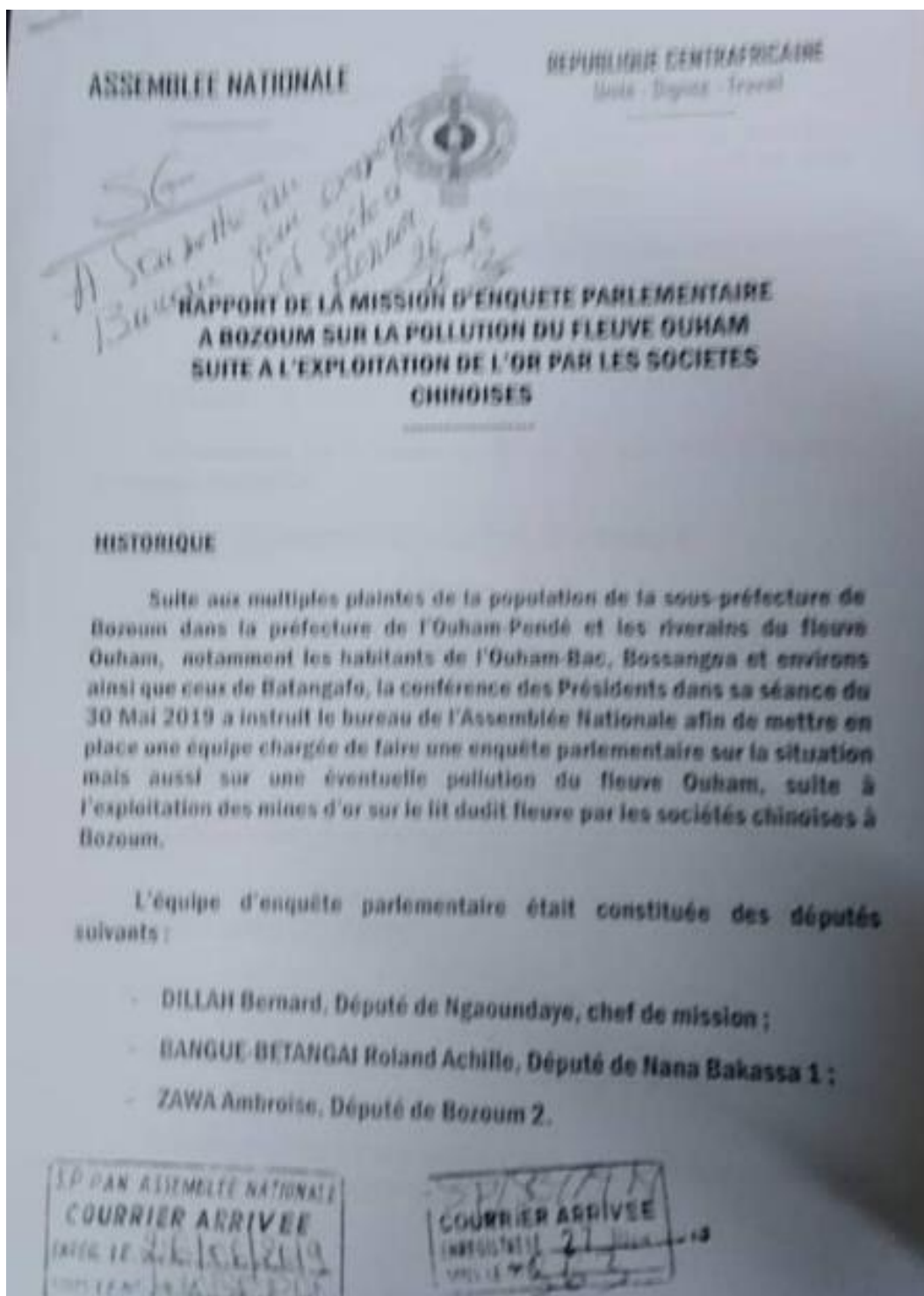


Tweet posted on 7 August 2019



**Annex 8.5:** Report of the parliamentary fact-finding mission.

*Document obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 13 July 2019.*



## I. OBJECTIFS DE LA MISSION

Il est question pour la délégation de s'enquérir des conditions d'exploitation des mines d'or à Borsum et d'analyser l'impact de cette exploitation sur l'environnement et la population locale.

Il ne serait pas superflu de vérifier si les autorisations sont conformes aux dispositions constitutionnelles.

## II. PERIODE DE L'ENQUETE

L'enquête s'est déroulée à deux niveaux :

Premièrement sur le terrain du 06 au 10 juin 2019 à Bozoum-Bossangoa-Ouham Bac.

## III. DU DEROULEMENT DE LA MISSION D'ENQUETE

Il ressort que l'équipe a utilisé plusieurs méthodes de collecte des données sur le terrain. Il s'agit des entretiens collectifs et individuels, des réunions avec les différentes entités et couches de la société, et des échanges et réunions avec les autorités administratives, politiques, locales et religieuses.

### A- BOZOUM

#### 1- Echanges avec la population

Nous avons tenu quatre réunions pendant notre séjour et plusieurs entretiens individuels et collectifs.

Il ressort de nos échanges pendant les réunions ce qui suit :

- Les autorités locales ne sont pas informées ni associées à cette exploitation par les sociétés chinoises.
- Les poissons et la faune aquatique sont exploitées et exportées bien que ne faisant pas partie du permis d'exploitation.

- Les infrastructures et ouvrages d'art notamment les ponts sont endommagés par les gros porteurs qui emmènent les engins sur les chantiers.
- Les artisans miniers n'opèrent plus du fait de l'attribution de leurs sites aux entreprises chinoises.
- La main d'œuvre locale n'est pas utilisée sinon à moindre proportion du fait que les techniciens sont les sujets chinois et camerounais.
- Les cas de violences répétées sur la population civile, perpétrées par de nombreux FACA déployés pour la sécurisation des sites et des ressortissants chinois.
- L'absence quasi-totale des représentants du Ministère des mines car il y aurait seulement trois (03) ingénieurs géologues stagiaires pour la supervision des 16 sites en activité.
- Un des sites notamment celui de Bozoum est exploité sans autorisation (permis) d'exploitation, cela a pour conséquence l'absence d'un cahier de charges pouvant permettre à la population de bénéficier des retombées de cette exploitation.
- Pour les communes disposant de ces cahiers de charge son élaboration n'a pas été contradictoire et les bénéficiaires n'ont pas connaissance de leurs contenus.
- L'utilisation de produits chimiques dans le processus d'exploitation de l'or notamment le mercure a été signalée.
- La déforestation et la désertification résultant de l'abattage massif des arbres est à craindre.
- La pêche devient presque impossible du fait de la pollution de l'eau.
- La prostitution organisée autour des sites avec pour conséquence à court terme le développement des IST et du phénomène des jeunes filles mères.
- Une possible insurrection contre ces sociétés si rien n'est fait dans un bref délai pour mettre terme à ce mode d'exploitation.

Il est à souligner qu'en l'absence de preuve, mais de source concordante, il est fait état de l'existence d'une unité de transformation de l'or en lingot à l'insu des autorités, donc sans leur contrôle.

Toutefois, suite à nos investigations, nous avons fait le constat que deux cadres de l'administration des mines sont complices des pratiques frauduleuses des sociétés chinoises. Il s'agit de l'actuel Directeur Régional des Mines, des ingénieurs géologues stagiaires en services sur les sites et du Chef de Brigade des mines de Bozoum.

Au terme de nos rencontres avec les différentes couches de la population, il ressort que l'exploitation minière à Bozoum n'est pas bénéfique pour la population ni pour la communauté. Il est souhaitable que cette exploitation soit arrêtée sinon suspendue immédiatement pour trouver une autre méthode d'exploitation plus convenable et respectueuse de l'environnement.

Notons que la délégation a pris le soin de rappeler à la population que l'Etat a le droit de signer les contrats d'exploitation de ses richesses afin de disposer de fonds pour la mise en œuvre de sa politique. Cependant, il ne faudrait pas que ces exploitations mettent en péril la population ou détruisent l'environnement et les ressources.

## **2- Echanges avec la partie chinoise**

La délégation s'est rendue sur le site n°13 afin d'échanger avec la partie chinoise qui s'est fait représenter par le frère aîné de la présidente directrice générale assisté de Mr. Charles Serge NGANDO, ingénieur géologue stagiaire détaché par le ministère en charge des mines.

Lors de nos échanges avec ces représentants des sociétés chinoises des séries de questions leurs ont été posées.

C'est ainsi qu'en répondant à la première question qui est de savoir le nom des sociétés exerçant sur les différents sites, notre interlocuteur nous a fait savoir qu'il existe quatre sociétés à savoir :



- La société TIAN ROUN ;
- La société TIAN XIANG ;
- La société SMC MAO ;
- La société MENG.

Toutes ces quatre sociétés ont une seule Présidente Directrice Générale en la personne de Madame ZHAO BAOMEI.

**De quels types de permis disposent vos sociétés ?**

En réponse à cette question, le représentant de ces sociétés chinoises a fait savoir à la délégation que seul le Permis d'Exploitation Artisanal Semi-Mécanisé a été délivré aux quatre sociétés, elles n'ont pas des permis de recherche. La délégation avait émis le vœu d'obtenir les documents administratifs de ces sociétés. Malheureusement, le responsable en charge de ces dossiers n'était pas sur le site au moment de la visite. Toutefois, la délégation a eu l'assurance d'obtenir une copie auprès du ministère en charge des mines et auprès du Directeur Régional des Mines à Bouar.

**Que dites-vous des inquiétudes de la population par rapport à ces exploitations ?**

Il est bien normal que la population s'inquiète, mais le permis concédé vise à exploiter de l'or sur le lit du fleuve Ouham. Et pour les éventuels cas de réhabilitation dudit lit, après exploitation, un fonds séquestre est constitué dans les livres de la banque centrale.

Le montant de ce fonds doit être communiqué pour nous permettre d'apprécier et il est tout de même intéressant de connaître l'entité sensée faire la réhabilitation.

**Que dites-vous de l'utilisation du mercure dans le processus d'exploitation de l'or sur ces sites ?**

En aucun moment les produits chimiques sont utilisés dans le processus d'exploitation de l'or sur nos sites, non le mercure n'a jamais été utilisé.

**Est-ce que le mercure peut être utilisé dans l'exploitation de l'or ?**

Oui ! Le mercure permet l'attractivité de l'or mais qu'ils ne font pas recours à ce processus et réaffirme que le mercure n'est pas du tout utilisé dans leur processus d'exploitation de l'or .

Pour taire toutes divergences sur cette question un prélèvement d'eau a été fait pour être examiné au laboratoire.

**Pouvons-nous avoir une idée sur le nombre des engins utilisés sur les sites**

Sur chaque site il y a environ trois (03) engins de chantier qui travaillent. A ce jour il y aurait treize (13) sites aux dires de la partie chinoise et seize (16) selon nos informateurs.

Un engin consomme trois cent (300) litres de gasoil par jour, soit neuf cent (900) litres par chantier que nous devons multiplier par treize (13) sites soit une consommation journalière de onze mille sept (11.700) litres. Ce qui dégage une consommation mensuelle de deux cent quatre-vingt-douze cent (292.500) litres par mois si ces sociétés travaillent 25 jours dans le mois.

**Combien d'employés sont sur le site ?**

Une dizaine d'employés dont la quasi-totalité sont des étrangers notamment les chinois et les camerounais œuvrant comme des machinistes, les quelques employés centrafricains ne sont que des tâcherons rémunérés au quotidien.

**Quelle est la durée d'exploitation concédée par l'Etat ?**

Une concession de trois (03) ans renouvelable est donnée aux quatre sociétés chinoises.

**A quand remonte le début d'exploitation faite par vos sociétés ?**

Le début d'exploitation remonte au mois de février 2019. Toutefois, une suspension de deux (02) semaines a été observée suite à une instruction du ministère.

Notons ici que la population a unanimement fait mention du non-respect du côté chinois de cette instruction du ministère quant à cette suspension.

**Pourriez-vous nous présenter la situation de vos productions sur les quatre (04) mois d'exploitation ?**

Un cahier d'exploitation faisant état de la production journalière a été présenté à la délégation (voir en annexe). Il ressort que l'exploitation moyenne est d'environ 400 grammes à 1 kg par site et par mois. Cette situation semble inacceptable au regard des dépenses en terme de cout de production journalière.

Ces sociétés à leur dire n'exploitent pas le diamant, et aucun agent de la brigade minière sauf le CB mines de Bozoum que nous soupçonnons fortement de complicité n'intervient au moment de la production.

Une comparaison avec la quantité déclarée au niveau du BECDOR permettra d'avoir une idée précise de la quantité produite sur les différents sites d'exploitation.

**3- Visites sur les sites d'exploitation**

Afin de toucher du doigt les conséquences de cette exploitation décriée par la population, la délégation s'est rendue sur trois (03) sites accompagnée par les représentants des sociétés chinoises. Ainsi donc nous avons été sur le site 3 tenu par la société TIAN ROUN, le site 12 appartenant à la société SMC MAO et le site 16 de Kparet.

A l'issu de cette visite sur le terrain un constat identique a été fait d'autant que le mode d'exploitation est le même.

Ce constat fait ressortir ce qui suit :

- Le fleuve est dévié de son lit naturel, créant en certains lieux des inondations;
- Des cas d'abattage d'arbres afin d'accéder aux sites ;
- Les marigots et ruisseaux endommagés pour faciliter la circulation des engins ;
- Le lit du fleuve érigé en montagne de gravier ;
- Le bradage des ressources nautiques ;
- La pollution de l'eau.

#### **B- BOSSANGOA**

Une grande réunion publique a regroupé toutes les sensibilités et couches de la population à la Mairie de Bossangoa le 10 juin 2019. Etaient présents les autorités administratives et politiques, les autorités locales et religieuses, ainsi que des militants de la société civile, des femmes et des jeunes de la localité.

Nous avons enregistré la présence de deux (02) députés lors de cette réunion de haut niveau. Il s'agit des honorables :

- Marc DELORO, Président du collectif des députés de l'Ouham
- Barthelemy BANABONA, député de la circonscription de Bossangoa 1.

La réunion de la Mairie de Bossangoa fait suite à la visite effectuée par la délégation la veille dans la commune de l'Ouham-Bac.

Ce qui ressort de ces deux rencontres font état de ce que :

- Les cas d'avortement sont en augmentation depuis la pollution du fleuve ;
- Les difficultés d'accéder à de l'eau saine pour la consommation ;
- L'inexistence des forages ;

- Le développement des démangeaisons surtout vaginales,
- La disparition voire la fuite des espèces aquatiques ;
- La rareté d'approvisionnement en poisson frais ;
- La multiplication des cas de décès dans les villages de pêcheurs ;
- Une possible insurrection (révolte) si rien n'est fait.

Notons que dans les échanges et de manière répétée, les participants ont pris à partie les députés, invoquant leur possible complicité ou encore leur éventuelle corruption afin d'autoriser ces exploitations abusives.

#### IV. DES OBSERVATIONS

Il découle de cette visite d'enquête parlementaire que l'exploitation de l'or par les entreprises chinoises à Bozoum n'est pas rentable pour l'Etat, et préjudiciable pour la population et pour l'environnement.

En effet, le mode d'exploitation utilisé ne respecte pas l'environnement, et le fait de ne rien faire est apparenté à un bradage de nos ressources avec la complicité de certains responsables du Ministère des mines.

Les violences perpétrées par les FACA (en nombre impressionnant) déployés pour sécuriser les sites sur la population civile à l'heure où le peuple réclame son armée est à dénoncer pour que des mesures rigoureuses soient prises à l'encontre des auteurs de ces actes et de leurs commanditaires.

Le désastre écologique constaté sur le terrain est de nature à justifier l'arrêt immédiat sans condition de ces exploitations.

La disparition des espèces protégées et de nos ressources aquatiques n'est qu'une question de temps.

Les inquiétudes sur la santé de la population doivent faire objet d'une préoccupation gouvernementale.

Nous appelons les organisations des défenses de droit de l'homme à s'emparer de cette question.

La santé publique est menacée dans l'Ouham-Pende et l'Ouham, car personne ne peut prétendre qu'avec cette pollution, la population ne soit pas en danger, surtout que celle-ci utilise l'eau du fleuve pollué.

L'exploitation sur le terrain n'a rien d'artisanal car de gros engins sont massivement utilisés.

Il ressort de nos investigations qu'aucun des permis attribués à ces sociétés n'a reçu au préalable l'autorisation de l'Assemblée Nationale au terme de l'art. 60 de la Constitution de la République Centrafricaine du 30 Mars 2016.

En somme, si rien n'est fait dans un délai raisonnable, la perte de confiance envers les autorités s'accroîtra et le risque d'une mutinerie de la population serait évident car la situation ne saurait être acceptée.

#### V. DES RECOMMANDATIONS

Parvenu au terme de notre enquête, nous recommandons au gouvernement :

- d'arrêter sans délai les travaux d'exploitation des mines d'or à Bozoum et les environs.
- d'envoyer sur le terrain une mission mixte (gouvernement, parlement, sociétés civiles et experts) pour examiner l'impact de ces exploitations d'autant que la question d'utilisation des produits chimiques a été évoquée.
- qu'une équipe médicale soit déployée sur le terrain afin de faire des prélèvements d'échantillons pour un examen contradictoire pouvant apaiser la population.

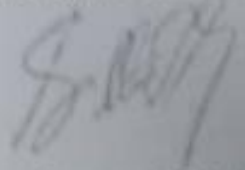
- que le bureau de l'Assemblée Nationale autorise un audit de la Cour des comptes et une enquête judiciaire sur l'éventuelle implication frauduleuse de certains parlementaires et membres du gouvernement ou cadres du ministère en charge des mines dans le processus d'obtention des permis d'exploitation.
- Le changement sans délai des cadres de la direction régionale des mines, les géologues présents sur le terrain et ceux de la brigade des mines de Bozoum.

Fait à Bangui, le 25 Juin 2019

Le Rapporteur de la mission

  
**Hon. Rolland A. BANGUE BETANGAI**

Le Chef de mission

  
**Hon. Bernard DILLAH**

**Annex 8.6:** Incidents of 27 April 2019 in Bozoum.

Below a narrative of the incidents involving the priest of Bozoum. This narrative was corroborated by a confidential report obtained by the Panel on 29 April 2019.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Local priest detained by the army in Central African Republic as he documents ecological disaster by Chinese mining company**

*Bozoum, CAR. Saturday 27 April 2019.*

*By Aurelio Gazzera, Carmelite. (<http://bozoumfr.blogspot.com/>)*

This morning, Saturday 27 of April, I wanted to look at the situation about the Ouham river, and the four Chinese mining companies present to extract gold.

I take some photos, and some video of the works that have practically continued (Editor's note: this extraction was declared illegal and the four Chinese companies were ordered to stop on 25 March 2019).

When I start my way back to the mission, a soldier comes toward me and orders me to stop. He is armed, and I do not really trust him, so I tell him I just want to continue on my way. He then calls by radio other soldiers, who arrive immediately.

They ask me why I had come to take photos... and I tell them that it is not forbidden, even less so because I was not even at the work area but on the other side of what was the Ouham river (Editor's note: the riverside is destroyed and polluted, see photo at the end of document). They are very upset, and they threaten me, they yell and pull away my camera and my phone, then pat me down and search my pockets.

They walk with me to the place where I left my car, and there they tell me I am arrested! One of them asks me whether I am not ashamed, as a man of God, to be doing "that kind of thing". I reply that I am rather ashamed of him, who is supposed to protect the country, and not to sell it to foreigners...

Since I insist that I was not on the works area, they want me to show them where I was when I took the photos. We start walking again, under the sun at full force, and we do for the third time the 1.5 km. Afterwards we go back to my car, of which they had already taken the keys, they make me climb in the back seat and depart at high speed toward the "Brigade Minière" (donation of the Chinese!!!). But we have to go across the city of Bozoum and the people looking on understand immediately that there is a problem.

When we arrive to the Brigade Minière, a large group of young people, women and other people arrive, yelling and demanding that I am liberated. The situation is almost comical: the soldiers do not know



what to do, and there I am waiting... After a few minutes, they decide to let me go, but I demand to have my camera and my phone back.

Finally, I come out of the Brigade Minière. The large group celebrates loudly and I leave by motorcycle (the car keys had not yet arrived back). The entire population of the city are in the streets, happy that I have been freed, but also very angry toward the authorities, and above all against the Chinese mining company.

I go back home, but in the meantime the city is really in upheaval: the people set up road blocks, and a car of the Chinese company is set on fire.

The crowd intends to go toward the mining works, to chase the Chinese away. Then I return to the city with the Prefect and the Public Prosecutor, and we try to calm down the people. But exactly at the same time a vehicle of the FACA (armed forces of Central Africa), arrives at high speed with about ten soldiers. They are armed, but the crowd (already between 3000 and 4000 people) moves toward them and forces them to back away. When they are close to the vehicle, the soldiers start shooting toward the people at point-blank range: we all throw ourselves to the ground, and thanks to the Lord there are no casualties!

Finally, they leave. I bring back the crowd to the center of the city, I climb on one of the road blocks and thank them, but I tell them to please go back to their homes, and do not commit more violent acts. I also say that the problem of the salvage exploitation of the river has to be solved according to the law.

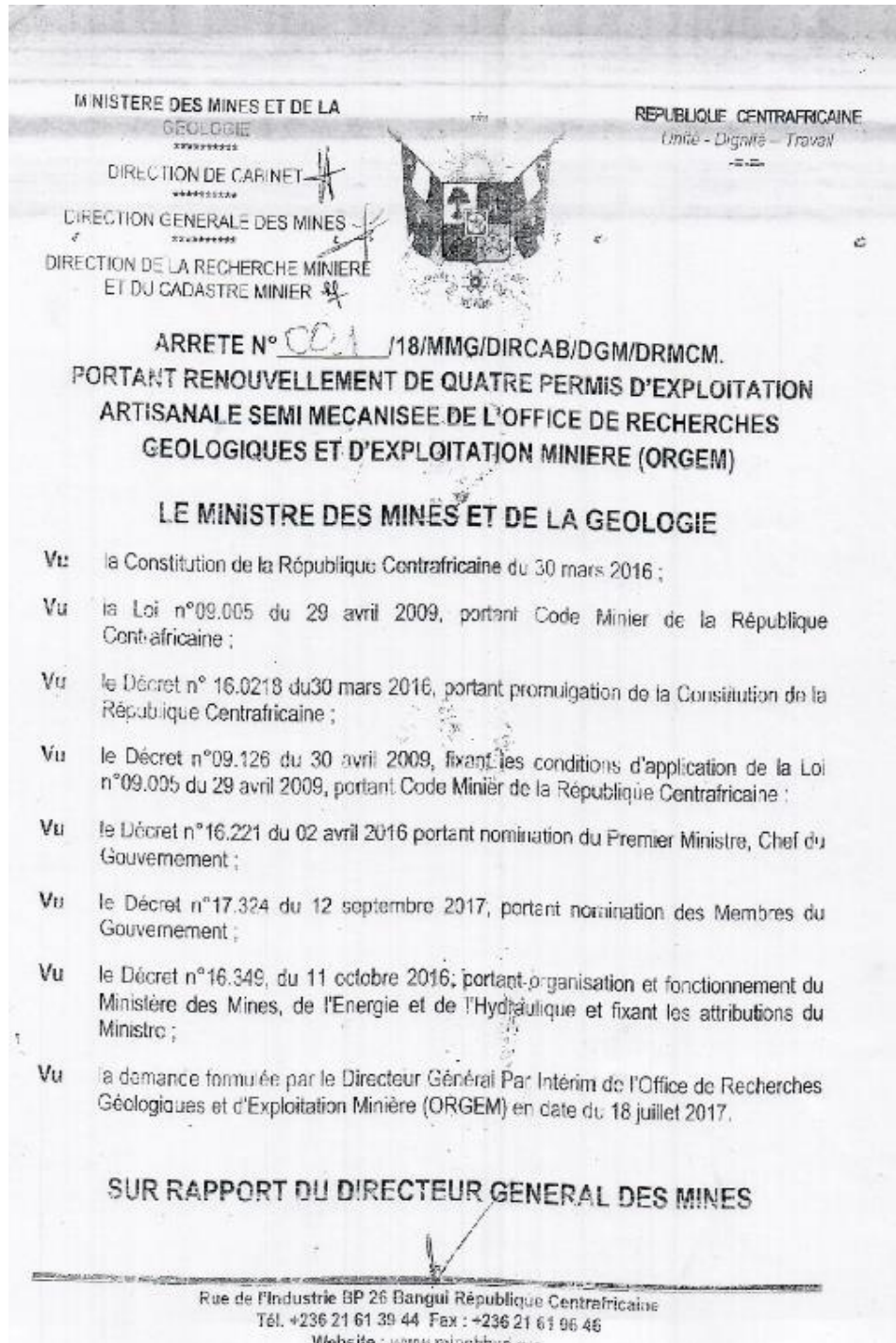
And they leave!

Merci na Nzapa. Thanks be to God!

Father Aurelio Gazzera ([gazzera.aurelio@gmail.com](mailto:gazzera.aurelio@gmail.com))

**Annex 8.7:** Mining permits for areas located in areas controlled by armed groups.

Available at <http://www.finances-budget.cf/documents/permis-d-exploitation/permis-miniers> [consulted on 25 October 2019].



## ARRETE

**Article 1 :** Il est accordé à l'Office de Recherches Géologiques et d'Exploitation Minière (ORGEM) le renouvellement de quatre (04) Permis d'Exploitation Artisanale Semi Mécanisé (PEASM) portant les numéros n°002\_13, 003\_13, 004\_13 et 004\_13, situés respectivement dans les zones de Bria, Gadzi, Boda et Bania pour une validité de trois (03) ans, renouvelable par période de trois (03) ans chacun.

**Article 2 :** Lesdits Permis, valables pour l'Or et le Diamant, sont des polygones couvrant une superficie totale de 4 km<sup>2</sup>, et sont définis par les coordonnées Géographiques suivantes :

Permis de Bria

Points	A	B	C	D	Centre
Longitude E	22°00'47,6"	22° 00'59"	22° 00'59"	22°00'47,6"	22° 00' 59"
Latitude N	6°25' 9,94"	6°25'9,94"	6° 24' 22"	6° 24' 22"	6° 24' 46"

Permis de Gadzi

Points	A	B	C	D	Centre
Longitude E	16°41'49,8"	16°42'56,6"	16°42'56,6"	16°41'49,8"	16°42'23"
Latitude N	4° 33' 53,5"	4°33' 53,5"	4°33'37,5"	4°33'37,5"	4°33'45,5"

Permis de Boda

Points	A	B	C	D	Centre
Longitude E	17°17'26,8"	17°18'8,89"	17°18'8,89"	17°17'26,8"	17°17'47,9"
Latitude N	4° 6' 47,59"	4° 6' 47,59"	4° 6' 22,3"	4° 6' 22,3"	4° 6' 35"

Permis de Bania

Points	A	B	C	D	Centre
Longitude E	16°8'40,2"	16°9'27,43"	16°09'27,43"	16°8'40,2"	16°8'40,2"
Latitude N	4° 3' 19,2"	4° 3' 19,2"	4° 2' 56,4"	4° 2' 56,4"	4° 3' 7,8"

**Article 3 :** L'ORGEM doit exploiter les substances minérales de façon rationnelle, en respectant les normes de santé publique et de sécurité au travail, de

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Tél. +236 21 61 59 44 Fax : +236 21 61 06 46  
Website : [www.minenhvd.org](http://www.minenhvd.org)

préservation de l'environnement et de commercialisation des produits conformément à la réglementation en vigueur.

**Article 4 :** l'ORGEM doit tenir à jour :

- Un registre indiquant l'effectif du personnel œuvrant sur ces chantiers ;
- Un registre de production et de vente mentionnant les productions mensuelles et les ventes effectuées.

**Article 5 :** les registres de production et de vente doivent être présentés sur toute réquisition et tout contrôle des Agents des Mines et de la Répression des fraudes.

**Article 6 :** Les travaux d'exploitation feront l'objet de rapport d'activité à adresser d'une part, au Ministre en charge des Mines et d'autre part au Directeur Général des Mines et de la Géologie.

**Article 7 :** Le présent Arrêté qui prend effet à compter de la date de sa signature, sera enregistré et publié partout où besoin sera.

Fait à Bangui, le 04 JAN 2018



*[Signature]*  
**Leopold MBOLI FATRAN**  
Ministre des Mines et de la Géologie

MINISTRE DES MINES ET DE LA GEOLOGIE

DIRECTION DE CABINET

DIRECTION GENERALE DES MINES

DIRECTION DE LA RECHERCHE MINIERE  
ET DU CADASTRE MINIER

SERVICE DE LA DOCUMENTATION  
ET DU CADASTRE MINIER



REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE  
Unité - Dignité - Travail

**ARRETE N° 035/18/MMG/DIRCAB/DGM/DRMCM/SDCM**  
**PORTANT ATTRIBUTION DE QUATRE (04) PERMIS D'EXPLOITATION**  
**ARTISANALE SEMI-MECANISEE POUR L'OR ET DIAMANT A LA SOCIETE**  
**LOBAYE INVEST SARLU**

**LE MINISTRE DES MINES ET DE LA GEOLOGIE**

- Vu la Constitution de la République Centrafricaine du 30 Mars 2016 ;
- Vu la Loi n° 09.005 du 29 avril 2009, portant Code Minier de la République Centrafricaine ;
- Vu le Décret N° 16.0218 du 30 Mars 2016, portant promulgation de la Constitution de la République Centrafricaine ;
- Vu le Décret n° 09.126 du 30 avril 2009, fixant les Conditions d'Application de la Loi n° 09.005 du 29 avril 2009, portant Code Minier de la République Centrafricaine ;
- Vu le Décret n° 16.221 du 02 Avril 2016, portant nomination du Premier Ministre, Chef du Gouvernement ;
- Vu le Décret n° 17.324 du 12 septembre 2017, portant nomination des Membres du Gouvernement ;
- Vu le Décret n° 16.349, du 11 Octobre 2016, portant organisation et fonctionnement du Ministère des Mines, de l'Energie et de l'Hydraulique et fixant les attributions du Ministre ;
- Vu la demande formulée en date du 23 Mars 2018, par Monsieur **EVGENII KHODOTOV**, Directeur Gérant de la Société **LOBAYE INVEST**.
- Vu la quittance du Versement du Trésor Public n° 035703 du 30 Mars 2018.

**SUR RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL DES MINES**

Rue de l'Industrie BP 20 Bangui République Centrafricaine  
Tél. +236 21 61 35 44 Fax : +236 21 61 06 46

**ARRETE**

**Article 1<sup>er</sup> :** Il est accordé à la Société **LOBAYE INVEST SARLU**, quatre (04) Permis d'Exploitation Artisanale Semi-Mécanisée sous le numéro n°180, 181, 182 et 183\_18 situés dans les secteurs de **BANGASSOU, OUADDA, BRIA** et **SAM OUANDJA**, pour une période de validité de trois (3) ans renouvelable.

**Article 2 :** Lesdits Permis valables pour l'Or et le Diamant, sont des polygones couvrant une superficie de 4 km<sup>2</sup>, soit 400 hectares et sont définis par les coordonnées géographiques suivantes :

Points	Longitude Est	Latitude Nord	Aires (ha)	Localité
A	22,795996	4,795503	100	BANGASSOU
B	22,804468	4,795477		
C	22,804418	4,786380		
D	22,796098	4,786430		

Points	Longitude Est	Latitude Nord	Aires (ha)	Localité
A	22,421706	8,012427	100	OUADDA
B	22,431147	8,012367		
C	22,431207	8,003858		
D	22,421585	8,003858		

Points	Longitude Est	Latitude Nord	Aires (ha)	Localité
A	22,056366	6,698050	100	BRIA
B	22,065841	6,698157		
C	22,065940	6,689304		
D	22,056685	6,689308		

Points	Longitude Est	Latitude Nord	Aires (ha)	Localité
A	23,240356	8,503048	100	SAM- OUANDJA
B	23,249608	8,503120		
C	23,249482	8,494726		
D	23,240476	8,494760		

**Article 3 :** La Société LOBAYE INVEST doit tenir à jour :

- Un registre indiquant l'effectif du personnel œuvrant sur ces chantiers et leurs qualifications;
- Un registre mentionnant les productions et les ventes effectuées.

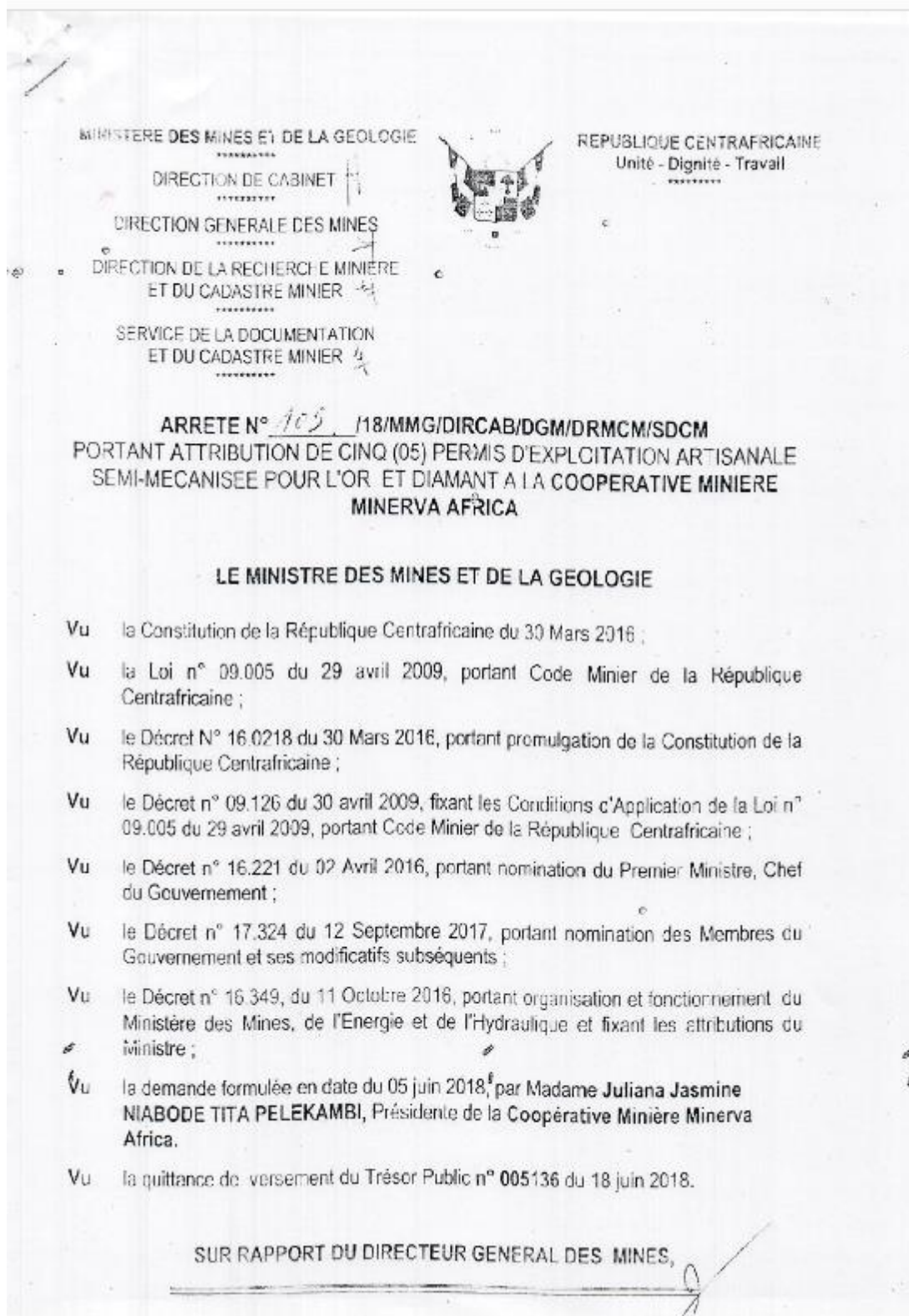
**Article 4 :** Les travaux d'exploitation feront l'objet de rapports d'activités semestriels qui seront adressés d'une part, au Ministre en charge des Mines et d'autre part au Directeur Général des Mines.

**Article 5 :** Le présent arrêté qui prend effet à compter de la date de sa signature, sera enregistré et publié au Journal Officiel.

Fait à Bangui, le 04 AVR 2018



Leopold MBOLI FATRAN





**ARRETE**

**Article 1<sup>er</sup>** : Il est accordé à la **Coopérative Minière Minerva Africa**, cinq (05) Permis d'Exploitation Artisanale Semi-Mécanisée sous le numéro **n°195** dans le secteur de **AGOUDOU MANGA** dans la Sous-préfecture de Bambari pour une période de validité de trois (3) ans renouvelable.

**Article 2** : Lesdits Permis, valables pour l'Or et le Diamant, sont un polygone couvrant une superficie de 5 km<sup>2</sup>, soit 500 hectares et sont définis par les coordonnées géographiques suivantes :

Points	Longitude Est	Latitude Nord	Aire (ha)	Localité
A	20° 52' 40,79946"	5° 56' 6,97866"	500	AGOUDOU MANGA (BAÏDOU)
B	20° 52' 42,23856"	5° 55' 52,90881"		
C	20° 52' 11,70861"	5° 55' 13,56438"		
D	20° 50' 42,15724"	5° 55' 0,686172"		
E	20° 50' 6,338292"	5° 54' 34,31386"		
F	20° 49' 54,47283"	5° 53' 42,29656"		
G	20° 49' 38,72694"	5° 53' 51,75438"		
H	20° 49' 51,11047"	5° 54' 50,34258"		
I	20° 50' 34,42106"	5° 55' 18,45004"		
J	20° 51' 50,26392"	5° 55' 40,54540"		

**Article 3** : La **Coopérative Minière MINERVA AFRICA** doit tenir à jour :

- Un registre indiquant l'effectif du personnel œuvrant sur ces chantiers et leurs qualifications;
- Un registre mentionnant les productions et les ventes effectuées.

**Article 4** : Les travaux d'exploitation feront l'objet de rapports d'activités trimestriels qui seront adressés d'une part, au Ministre en charge des Mines et d'autre part au Directeur Général des Mines.

**Article 5** : Le présent arrêté qui prend effet à compter de la date de sa signature, sera enregistré et publié au Journal Officiel.

Fait à Bangui, le 2<sup>e</sup> SEPT 2018



**Leopold MBOLI FATRAN**

