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United Nations Multidimensional
Integrated Stabilization Mission in the
Central African Republic

Human Rights Division

Monthly Report: Human Rights Situation

June 2022

The Human Rights Division's (HRD) mandate includes assisting the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR) to promote and protect human rights and prevent violations and abuses through its field offices and headquarters in Bangui. This report is based on information received by the HRD and only includes human rights violations and abuses that were documented and verified during the month of June 2022. Incidents that could not be verified are not included. Ordinary crimes are also excluded from this report.

This information is shared locally as well as nationally with CAR's authorities and partners.

Security and political context in June 2022

1. Violence and insecurity persist in the eastern Sector of CAR, specifically in Haut-Kotto, Mbomou, and Vakaga prefectures. For instance, in Mbomou Prefecture, in the sub-prefecture of Bakouma (130 km north of Bangassou), *Coalition des patriotes pour le changement* (CPC)/*Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique* (UPC) combatants attacked a *Forces armées centrafricaines* (FACA) position resulting in armed clashes on 23 June. During the attack, eight armed combatants, including rebel leader Abdoulaye Machaï, were killed by FACA elements and a stray bullet killed one civilian. The HRD was also informed of heavy gunfire heard in Nzacko (185 km north of Bangassou) on 24 June, resulting in massive displacement of the civilian population into the bush. The threat of a significant deterioration in the prefecture's security situation remains high.
2. Following these events, several civilians remained in the bush, fearing another attack. The number of civilians affected is difficult to assess due to access issues in Bakouma and its surrounding areas. For example, on the Rafai-Zemio axis and in Makembe (PK25 of Bangassou), HRD received allegations of the appropriation of civilian property, violations of the right to life, and conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) by combatants of various unidentified armed groups but were unable to investigate them for lack of access.
3. In Vakaga Prefecture, threats to civilians were recorded throughout the month. The HRD was informed that both the UPC and T'aicha Arabs from Sudan are operating on the Ouandja-Djallé and Sam-Ouandja axis (115 km south of Birao) and close to Birao airport under the so-called 'General' Ali Darrassa. On 2 June, two vehicles with 25 civilians were stopped by UPC combatants on their way to Sam-Ouandja. The combatants threatened, abducted, and extorted the civilians before releasing them in exchange for their possessions. On 23 June, allegations of looting, destruction, and appropriation of civilian property, including the Ouandja-Djallé elementary school, by these combatants were reported. Some civilians, including local authorities, fled to the mountains fearing for their safety.
4. In the Western Sector, in Nana-Mambéré and Mambéré-Kadéï prefectures, threats against civilians were documented as a result of the presence of *Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation* (3R) and anti-Balaka combatants affiliated with the CPC. The movement of 3R combatants toward the village of Besson resulted in

the withdrawal of the gendarmes and FACA deployed in the village, further exposing the civilian population. Meanwhile, combatants from the border with Cameroon increased their attacks on civilians in the isolated villages around Dilapoko and immediately returned to their hideouts. Force patrols are increasing in this locality to ensure the protection of civilians. Following the movement of 3R combatants in the Gadzi sub-prefecture, FACA officers threatened the local population, accusing them of being complicit with the 3R armed group; the population started to flee the area. The HRD is monitoring the situation as such volatility can lead to human rights violations and abuses.

5. Continuing a trend from May, the HRD documented transhumance-related human rights violations and abuses in the Western Sector, specifically in the Mambéré-Kadeï Prefecture, with clashes occurring between herders and the local population.
6. In the Basse-Kotto Prefecture, an armed clash broke out on 18 June between CPC/UPC and anti-Balaka armed groups in the village of Nzelete (85 km southeast of Bambari and 17 km north of Alindao) following an incursion by UPC combatants into the village to attack the civilian population. The anti-Balaka had intervened to repel this attack and chase the UPC combatants out of the village. The incident displaced the local population; however, no civilian casualties were recorded. The security situation remains volatile in the villages of Nzelete and Tambia.
7. In Bangui, in Ombella M'Poko Prefecture, tensions between those in favour of amending the 30 March 2016 Constitution and those opposed to it continue, with messages of hatred and incitement to violence. This situation could lead to violence or clashes that could undermine public order and peace.

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

8. During the month of June, HRD, including the Women Protection Section (WPS) and the Child Protection Section (CPS), documented and verified 61 incidents that effectively took place in June 2022, representing 68 human rights violations and abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL), affecting 202

Main Trends

In total, **61 verified incidents** representing **68 human rights violations and abuses** as well as breaches of IHL **affecting 202 victims** took place in June 2022. This constitutes a **slight decrease** in the number of incidents and violations and victims compared to May 2022.

State actors were responsible for the highest number of incidents and human rights violations, although armed groups signatories of the APPR were responsible for the highest number of victims, including civilians killed.

victims. In addition, HRD also recorded 17 alleged incidents, representing 21 violations and abuses affecting 63 victims, which were still being verified at the end of June. This marks a 6% decrease in incidents, violations and victims compared to May 2022 during which 65 incidents representing 72 human rights violations and abuses that affected 214 victims had been documented. Such a decrease may be partly attributed to the difficulties that MINUSCA is facing in reaching the affected populations, notably due to the fuel crisis in CAR.

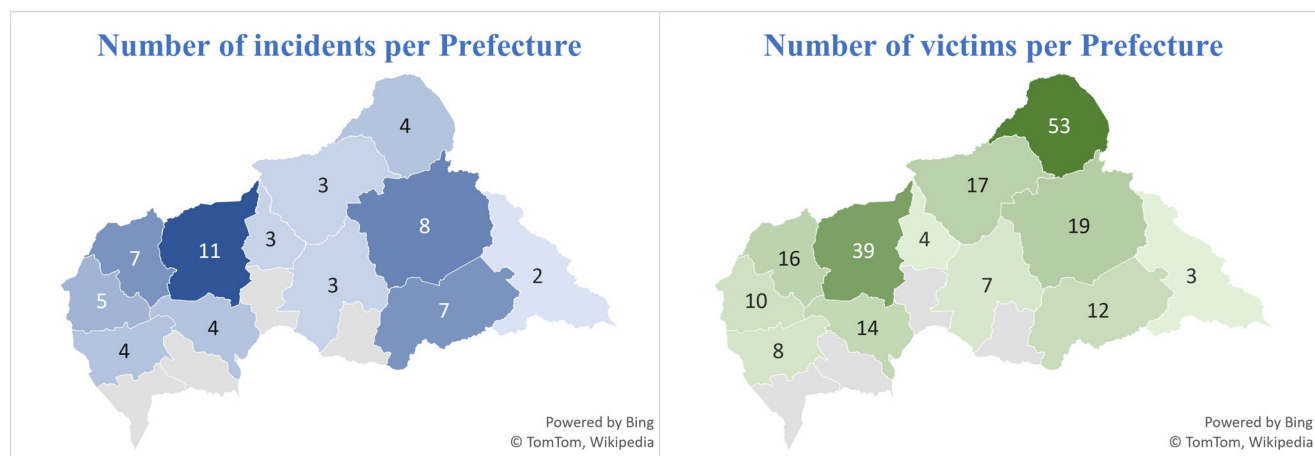
9. The HRD also documented and verified 20 incidents that took place outside of the reporting period (prior to June 2022), representing 24 human rights violations and abuses affecting 156 victims.

10. Most victims were men (129), followed by women (24) and children (six boys and six girls). In

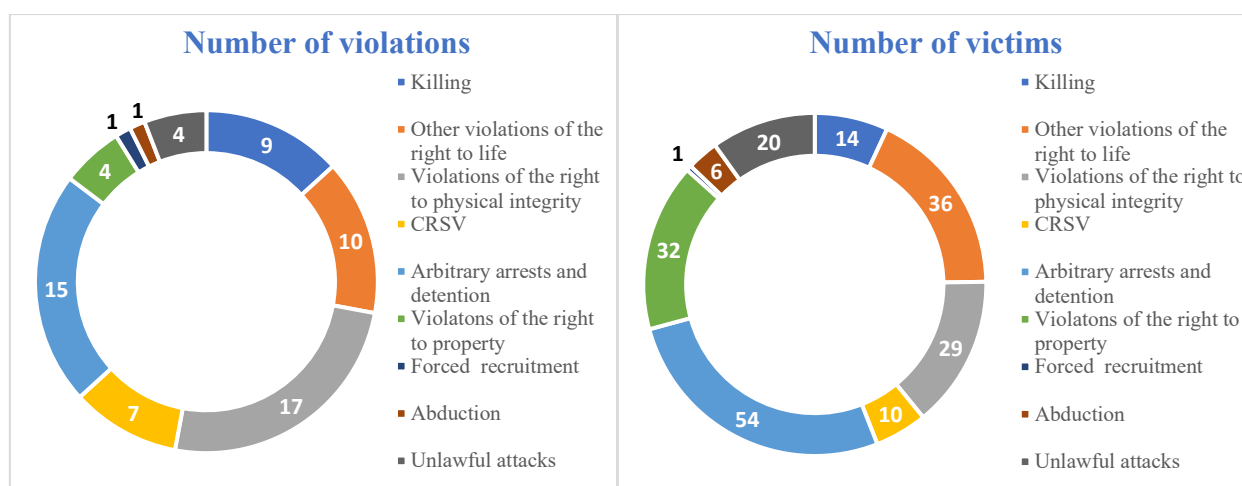
addition, there were 32 civilian victims for which the gender was not indicated and five groups of collective victims.

11. Vakaga and Ouham were the most affected prefectures in terms of victims of human rights violations and abuses. Vakaga recorded four incidents, representing five violations and 53 victims, whereas Ouham registered

11 incidents, 12 violations and 39 affected victims. High numbers of victims were also recorded in Haute-Kotto and the Bamingui-Bangoran prefectures.



12. In Sector East, armed groups signatories of the *Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation en République Centrafricaine* (APPR-RCA) were responsible for most incidents, violations, and affected victims.¹ UPC alone was responsible for 68% (59) of the victims in the eastern sector. Most of them related to the violation to the right to life and the right to physical and mental integrity.
13. In Sector Centre, State actors were responsible for most human rights violations and abuses, with the police being responsible for the greatest number of incidents, violations, and victims. For example, the police were responsible for 57% of the affected victims (16), which can be attributed to the high number of cases of arbitrary detention in the centre of the country.²
14. In Sector West, armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA were also responsible for the highest number of incidents, violations, and victims during the reporting period.³ The 3R was responsible for affecting 59% (27) of the documented victims in the west, most of them related to CRSV, killing or other forms of violations of the right to life, and violations to the right to physical integrity. The western Sector was the most affected in terms of incidents (31), violations (35) and victims (87).

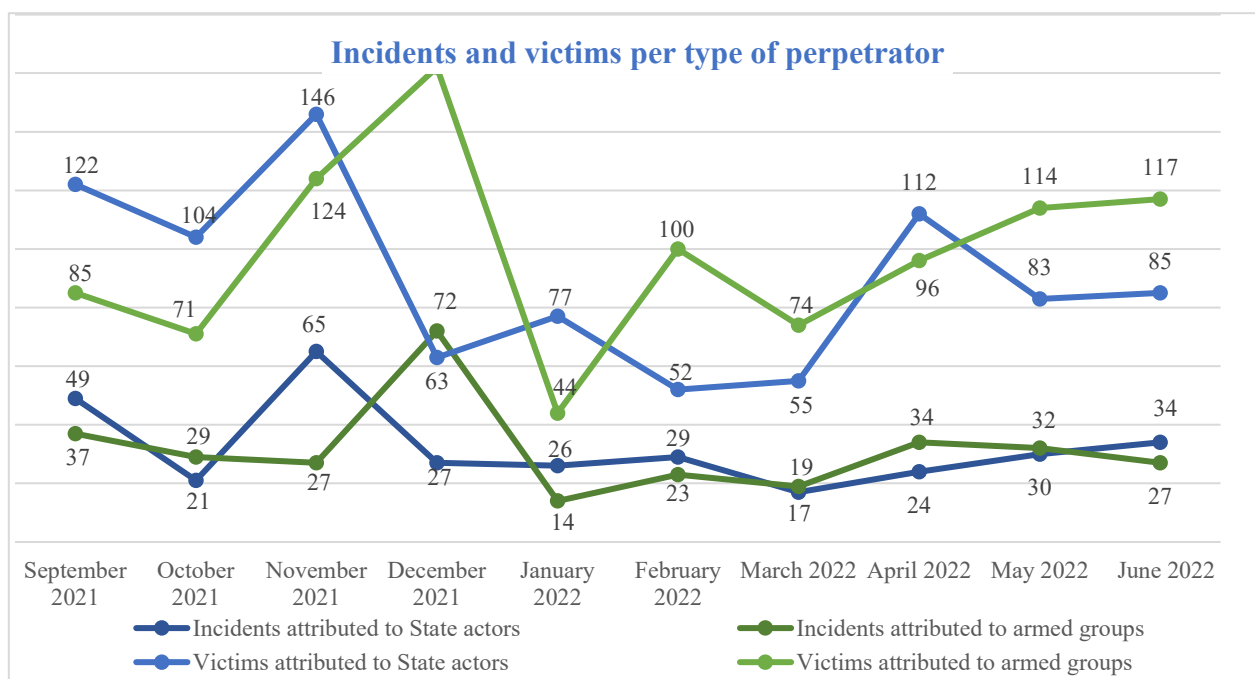


¹ The prefectures in the East Sector include: Haut-Mbomou, Haute-Kotto, Mbomou, and Vakaga.

² The prefectures in the Central Sector include: Bamingui-Bangoran Basse-Kotto, Kémo, Nana-Gribizi, and Ouaka

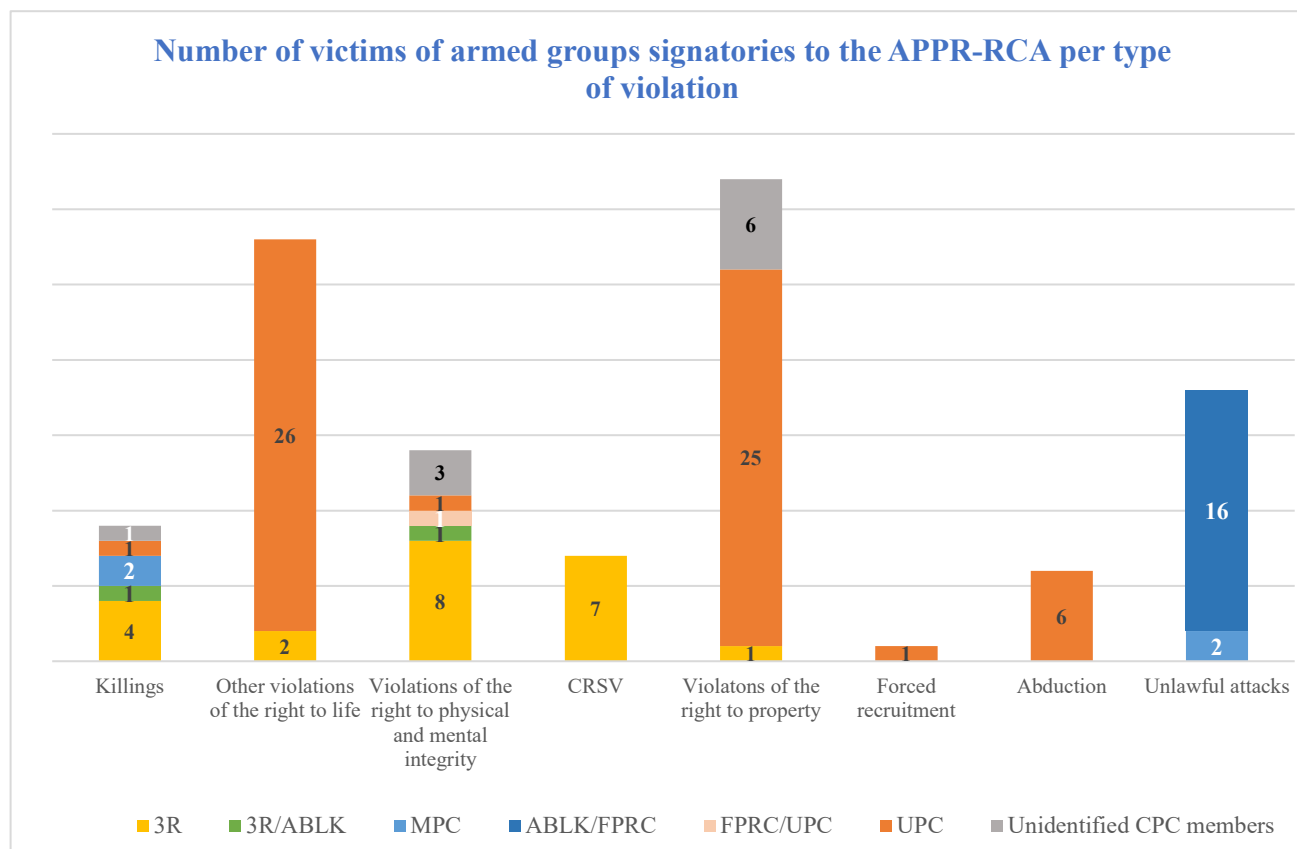
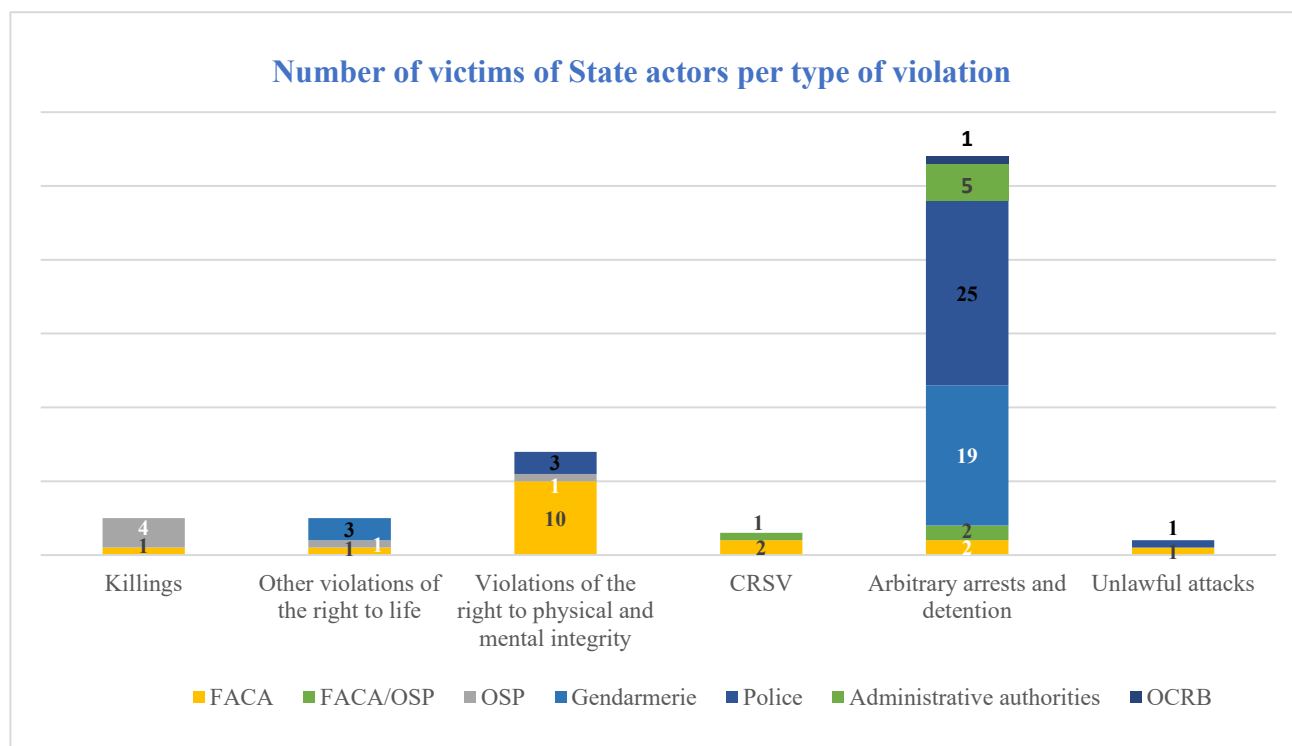
³ The prefectures in the West Sector include: Bangui, Lobaye, Mambéré-Kadéï, Nana-Mambéré, Ombella M'Poko, Ouham, Ouham Pendé, and Sangha-Mbaéré.

15. This month, the HRD documented and verified seven incidents during which nine violations of the right to life by killing occurred, with 14 victims, whereas 22 victims had been recorded in May and 42 in April. Armed groups signatories of the APPR-RCA were responsible for a large majority of the civilians killed (nine) as well as for most victims of other violations to the right to life (26), right to property (32) and attacks against protected persons (18). State actors, however, were responsible for most victims of arbitrary arrest and detention (49), which were mainly documented during HRD’s monitoring visits of detention facilities.
16. State actors are responsible for 34 incidents, representing 36 violations affecting 85 victims. Amongst State actors, the police and the gendarmerie were responsible for the highest number of victims (15 incidents representing 15 violations affecting 51 victims) most of them related to cases of arbitrary arrest and detention. The FACA and other security personnel (OSP), jointly or separately, were responsible for 16 incidents, representing 18 violations and 26 victims. The decrease in the violations perpetrated by OSP, jointly or separately, (four) can be linked to the trend HRD has documented since October 2021 whereby OSP are increasingly using proxies in their operations and therefore are not directly perpetrating human rights violations. Other state actors such as administrative authorities, *Office Centrafricain de Répression du Banditisme* (OCRB) and *Unité Spéciale Mixte de Sécurité* (USMS) were responsible for three incidents, representing three violations and affecting eight victims.



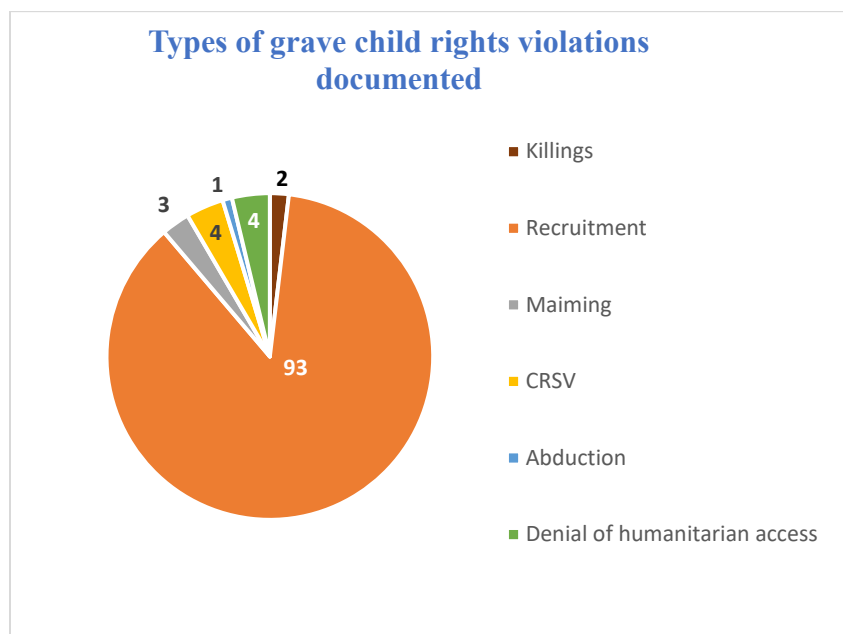
17. Armed groups that are signatories to the APPR-RCA were responsible for 25 incidents, in which 30 violations affecting 115 victims were committed. This month, the most common types of violations were arbitrary arrest and detention (54 victims), violations of the right to physical and mental integrity (29 victims) and to the right to life (50), including killings, attempted killing and death threats. Among armed group signatories to the APPR-RCA, the 3R were responsible for most of the incidents and violations (10 incidents representing 12 violations and 22 victims), whereas the UPC is responsible for most of the victims (six incidents representing seven violations affecting 60 victims).

18. In June 2022, the HRD also documented incidents attributed to other non-State actors. The T'aicha Arabs and unidentified armed men were responsible for one incident involving one violation, affecting one victim each.



Children in Armed Conflict⁴

19. During the reporting period, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) verified 107 grave child rights violations directly affecting 101 children (59 boys and 42 girls) – a 224% increase in grave violations and 381% increase in victims affected compared to the previous reporting period during which 33 violations affecting 21 children were documented. The increase in grave violations during the reporting period can be explained by the high number of recruitment and use of children attributed to the FPRC in Bamingui-Bandoran Prefecture, that were verified only in June.
20. Armed groups were responsible for 93% of the violations and pro-governmental forces for the remaining 7%. Ninety-five (95) violations occurred prior to June but were verified during the period under review.



21. Violations documented included recruitment and use of children (93), killing (two), maiming (three), rape, sexual exploitation, and other forms of sexual violence (four), abduction (one) and denial of humanitarian access (four). CPC factions committed the highest number of violations (77): FPRC (69), 3R (four) and UPC, MPC, FPRC/ABK and anti-Balaka/FPRC/MPC with one each; Pro-governmental forces (seven): FACA (four) and OSP (three). A temporary occupation of a school (one) was also reported by FACA elements in Vakaga Prefecture.

⁴ The Child Protection (CPS) and Women Protection (WPS) Sections apply a different methodology. They include incidents that are attributed to unidentified armed individuals, as well as some incidents that may have occurred before the month under consideration but were documented during the reporting period. The CPS, in accordance with its mandate under the *Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism* (MRM), also includes incidents that affected the civilian population as a whole (not only children), such as denial of humanitarian access.

Act to Protect campaign

To continue enhancing the prevention of grave child rights violations by parties to the conflict and as part of implementing the “**Act to Protect**” campaign, 1,761 (1069 men and 692 women) community members and leaders, local authorities, FACA, FSI, the judiciary (including penitentiary agents), civil society and armed group elements were trained on the protection of children during armed conflict. Also, 360 (266 men and 94 women) peacekeepers were trained on the protection of children during armed conflict with a focus on the monitoring and reporting of grave child rights violations.

22. In terms of child rights, Bamingui-Bangoran was the most affected Prefecture with (91) violations, followed by Haute-Kotto (four), Lim-Pende (three) and Nana Mambere with (three) each, Ouham-Fafa (two), and Bangui, Haut-Mbomou, Mbomou and Ouham with one each.

23. On 22 June, CPU supported the Ministry for the Promotion of Gender, Family and Children in organizing a one-day workshop to validate a draft Handover Protocol for children arrested for association to armed groups. The Protocol ensures that children arrested/apprehended on the frontlines by GoCAR or MINUSCA, are handed over to Social Affairs and Child Protection actors instead of entering a judicial process. This draft Protocol was initiated in 2017 but could not be

adopted given the national legislation criminalized children for association. MINUSCA will continue to support its adoption.

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

24. During the period under review, the HRD documented seven violations of CRSV affecting 10 victims (five women and five girls). This is more than the number of cases documented in May (two).
25. On 16 and 17 June the Paoua-based Women Protection Advisor delivered a presentation during the workshop on transhumance and human rights for FACA, USMS and members of transhumance communities (ACDA, ANDE, FNEC, CLPR, MAIRIE), civil society organisations and the local Human Rights Forum. The participants were briefed on key issues concerning conflict-related sexual violence in connection with transhumance. She called for the contribution of all actors in the prevention and fight against such violence and to help survivors have access to available care services.
26. On 19 June, to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, SRSG Valentine Rugwabiza issued a press statement in which she recalls that CRSV constitutes a threat to collective security and an obstacle to the restoration of peace and calls for sustained efforts for prevention and response.
27. On 24 June, the Women Protection Section (WPS) convened a meeting of the Working Group on the “Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangement (MARA)” mechanism and, alongside UNHCR and UNFPA, presented recent trends and developments on sexual violence in CAR, based on the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS). While the majority of the cases were committed in the bush and the forest, there were cases where survivors were abused at water collection points, in military camps, at markets, and in internally displaced persons sites. Medical and psychosocial care were received in most of the cases. However, only a few survivors were able to access to legal assistance. Several challenges encountered during the reporting period were identified, including the low coverage of the country in terms of specialised services with a holistic approach, and the lack of protection of survivors and witnesses.
28. On 28 June, an official ceremony commemorating the handover of the Action Plan of the *Comité stratégique de lutte contre les violences sexuelles basées sur le genre liées aux conflits* to His Excellency Professor Faustin Archange Touadéra took place with representatives of Member States, UN agencies, civil society representatives, and high-level government officials attended the ceremony. This Action Plan intends to

coordinate and strengthen efforts from the Government of CAR, civil society and international partners in the fight against SGBV/CRSV.

Human Rights Promotion and Capacity Building

29. This month, the HRD, on its own as well as with other partners, organised 75 activities on human rights and international humanitarian law in 12 prefectures, benefitting 1,490 individuals of which 767 were women.⁵
30. As part of these activities, the HRD organised: six trainings aimed at building the capacity of State agents (FACA, ISF, USMS, and penitentiary authorities) for 113 State actors, including 10 women; 18 trainings for 512 CSO actors, including 267 women; and nine outreach campaigns for 832 individuals, including 480 women, from various communities, such as IDPs, youths, religious leaders, and the general population. The HRD also conducted one capacity building activity for 33 MINUSCA/UNPOL forces, including 10 women.^{fs}
31. On 3 June, the HRD completed a two-day capacity-building workshop for human rights protection actors in the sub-prefecture of Paoua. The activity gathered 32 people including 12 women from the local Human Rights Forum and local human rights non-governmental organisations.
32. On 7 June, the HRD organised jointly with MINUSCA Civil Affairs Section (CAS), UN Police (UNPOL) and Strategic Communication and Public Information (SCPI) a workshop on early warning, in-depth investigations, and care for victims of SGBV in Bamingui-Bangoran Prefecture. The workshop was organised for 50 participants, including 35 women, from the Ndélé high school, both students and teachers, police officers and members of the *l'Organisation des Femmes Centrafricaines* (OFCA). On 30 June, in Ndélé, the

Prevention of Hate Speech and Incitement to Violence

On 7 June, with the HRD's technical and financial support, the national NGO URU started a series of capacity-building workshops for youth organizations on civic space. The NGO also organized a diagnostic workshop on the right to freedom of expression in the Central African context carried out through their project "Protecting our civic space" put in place with the technical and financial support of the HRD.

From 21 to 24 June, the HRD contributed to a regional forum in Kinshasa for the development of a draft regional strategy and action plan for the prevention and fight against hate speech in Central Africa. This initiative brought together media professionals, regulatory bodies, actors of digital platforms of the 11 countries of the Economic Community of Central African States, legal and communication experts as well as UN officials.

HRD organised, together with UNPOL, CAS and SCPI, and in partnership with the Conseil Préfectoral de la Jeunesse, an awareness raising activity on peace and security, human rights, local elections, and development for 60 young people, including 22 women. The HRD presented its mandate, an introduction to human rights and fundamental freedoms, and urged all participants to ensure respect for human rights.

33. From 10 to 13 June 2022, the HRD facilitated a capacity building workshop on women leadership and political rights for 50 women leaders in Mbomou Prefecture. The participants were informed about the Central African electoral policy, the related laws, and the different causes of the low participation of women in the electoral process.

34. On 21 June 2022 in Bossangoa, the HRD organised a training workshop for 30 civil society members and community leaders, including 14 women, on human rights monitoring in the electoral context. During this interactive workshop, the HRD recalled the concepts of human rights monitoring and presented modules on the international legal and institutional

⁵ The prefectures are as follows: Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Mambéré-Kadéï, Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ombella M'Poko, Ouaka, Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, and Vakaga.

framework of elections, women's participation, child protection in the electoral process and human rights monitoring in the electoral context.

35. The HRD observed four trials during the month of June. In Bangui, Ombella M'Poko prefecture, on 9 June, the trial of six FACA officers prosecuted for conspiracy, criminal association and undermining the internal security of the State ended after six days of hearings. One of the accused was the ex-president François Bozizé's nephew. All were acquitted by the Court.
36. On 22 June, the HRD had a meeting with President Touadéra's advisor in charge of human rights to follow-up on the case of the civilians arbitrarily detained in Camp de Roux (Bangui) and discuss the proper implementation of articles 40 and 48 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CCP). At the end of the meeting, the advisor committed to ensuring the provisions of the CCP as well as the procedures in criminal matters are respected. The HRD's advocacy with the different administrative and judicial authorities resulted in the release of 11 civilians arbitrarily detained at Camp de Roux.
37. The HRD conducted 21 visits to detention centres in nine prefectures to monitor and document the number of illegal detentions and the conditions in which the detainees were held.⁶ In total, the HRD documented at least 51 cases of illegal detention, the legal deadlines being regularly violated, very poor prison conditions, and several cases of detention and torture of civilians accused of sorcery.
38. Following HRD's advocacy efforts, on 29 June, a man who had been arbitrarily detained in *l'Office Central de Répression du Banditisme* (OCRB) in Bangui since 2 June 2022 was released. In Bambari, Ouaka prefecture, the HRD followed-up on the *Procureur de la République's* order to free four detainees detained at the Bambari gendarmerie issued on 31 May. Three of the detainees, prosecuted for civil offences, were released and the fourth detainee who had exceeded the legal time limit for custody saw his case transferred to the public prosecutor's department.
39. From 28 to 30 June 2022, the HRD organised its annual retreat in Bangui for all the coordinators of its units and field offices. The retreat focused on several thematic areas, as well as the global strategic realignment of thematic and programmatic priorities with the Mission's mandate. The coordinators also reviewed and made recommendations to strengthen strategic human rights analysis, reporting and advocacy and to improve information flow, coordination, and communication (internal and external) mechanisms, tools/processes based on priority issues identified.

Transitional Justice

The Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission (TJRRC) commissioners continued their information and outreach missions in Bossembele, Damara, Sibut, Boda and Mbaiki during the month of June. Additionally, the HRD had a working session with a delegation from the African Union in Bangui for a support and training mission on transitional justice for the commissioners of the TJRRC.

⁶ The prefectures are as follows: Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Mambéré-Kadéï, Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Ombella M'Poko, Ouaka, and Ouham.