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United Nations Multidimensional
Integrated Stabilization Mission in the
Central African Republic

Human Rights Division

Monthly Report: Human Rights Situation

May 2022

The Human Rights Division's (HRD) mandate includes assisting the government of the Central-African Republic (CAR) to promote and protect human rights 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 May 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 May 2022

1. The security situation continues to deteriorate in the Eastern and Central sectors of CAR, and more specifically in Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, and Vakaga prefectures, where the ongoing clashes between State actors supported by other security personnel (OSP) and the UPC are affecting the civilian population. In the Vakaga prefecture, the *Forces armées centrafricaines* (FACA) and OSP arrived on 23 May in the sub-prefecture of Tiroungoulou (125 km west of Birao). One group of FACA and OSP headed for the gold mining site of Mandjan (7km from Gordil) where the HRD documented killings of civilians while a second group remained in Gordil and set up three temporary bases at the primary and secondary school and the district health center to coordinate their operations. While the school was occupied, classes stopped and some of the students, teachers and patients fled to the bush. On 29 May, the FACA and OSP left Gordil for Sikikédé where they allegedly conducted operations against the FPRC under Mahamat Salléh's command. On 30 May, the FACA and OSP left the Vakaga prefecture for Ndélé, Bamingui-Bangoran. The HRD has received and is still investigating several cases of allegations of destruction and pillaging perpetrated by the FACA and OSP before they left the town.
2. In Haute-Kotto prefecture, after the attack perpetrated on Aigbando from 16 to 18 January 2022, OSP jointly with the help of ex-UPC combatants attacked the village once again on 28 May. The HRD documented allegations of pillaging and attack on protected persons¹. The involvement of ex-UPC elements is in line with the trend HRD has documented since October 2021 whereby the OSP use ex-anti-Balaka and UPC combatants as proxies.
3. In the Western Sector, in many prefectures, in addition to transhumance-related human rights violations and abuses, HRD is increasingly documenting human rights violations perpetrated against Muslim or Fulani by State agents and their OSP allies. In addition, the ongoing clashes between State agents and the 3R, unidentified CPC armed men, and anti-Balaka groups who are part of the CPC continue to affect the civilian population with the HRD documenting human rights violations and abuses.
4. In Bangui, in Ombella M'Poko prefecture, the trial of the ex-Minister of Arts, Culture and Tourism and 16 anti-

¹ Medical, religious, humanitarian and peacekeeping staff

Balaka commanders ended on 27 May. They were all prosecuted on three charges, including acts likely to endanger public safety, conspiracy, and criminal association. The court acquitted them all.

5. On 27 May, CAR National Assembly unanimously adopted the law that abolished the death penalty. The parliamentary group advocating for the abolishment of the death penalty used the argument that it had not been applied since 1981.

Human Rights Violations and Abuses and Breaches of International Humanitarian Law

Main Trends

65 verified incidents representing **72 human rights** violations and abuses as well as breaches of IHL **affecting 214 victims**, took place in May 2022. This constitutes a slight increase in the number of incidents and a very slight decrease in violations and victims compared to April 2022.

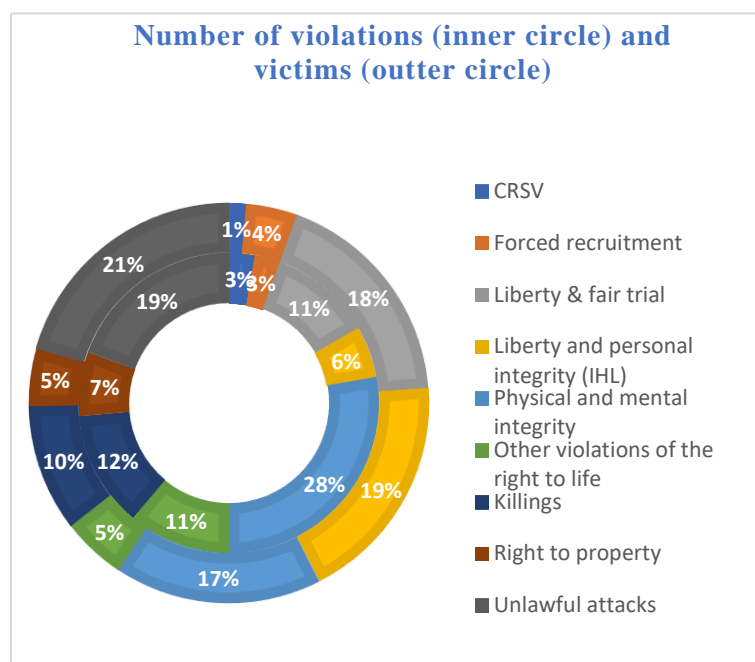
State actors and the armed groups signatories of the APPR were responsible for roughly the same number of incidents, violations and victims. However, the **OSP and the FACA, alone or jointly, were responsible for three quarters of the violations of the right to life.**

6. During the month of May, HRD, including the Women Protection Section (WPS) and the Child Protection Section (CPS), documented and verified 87 incidents ², representing 98 human rights violations and abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL), affecting 276 victims. In addition, HRD also recorded two alleged incidents, representing two violations and abuses affecting four victims, which were still being verified at the end of May.

7. Out of these 87 incidents documented by the HRD during the month of May, 65 incidents, representing 72 violations and affecting 214 victims, effectively took place in May 2022. This marks an increase of 4.6 per cent and a decrease of 2.5 per cent in the number of incidents and victims, respectively, compared to April 2022 during which 62 incidents representing 80 human rights violation that affected 219 victims had been documented.

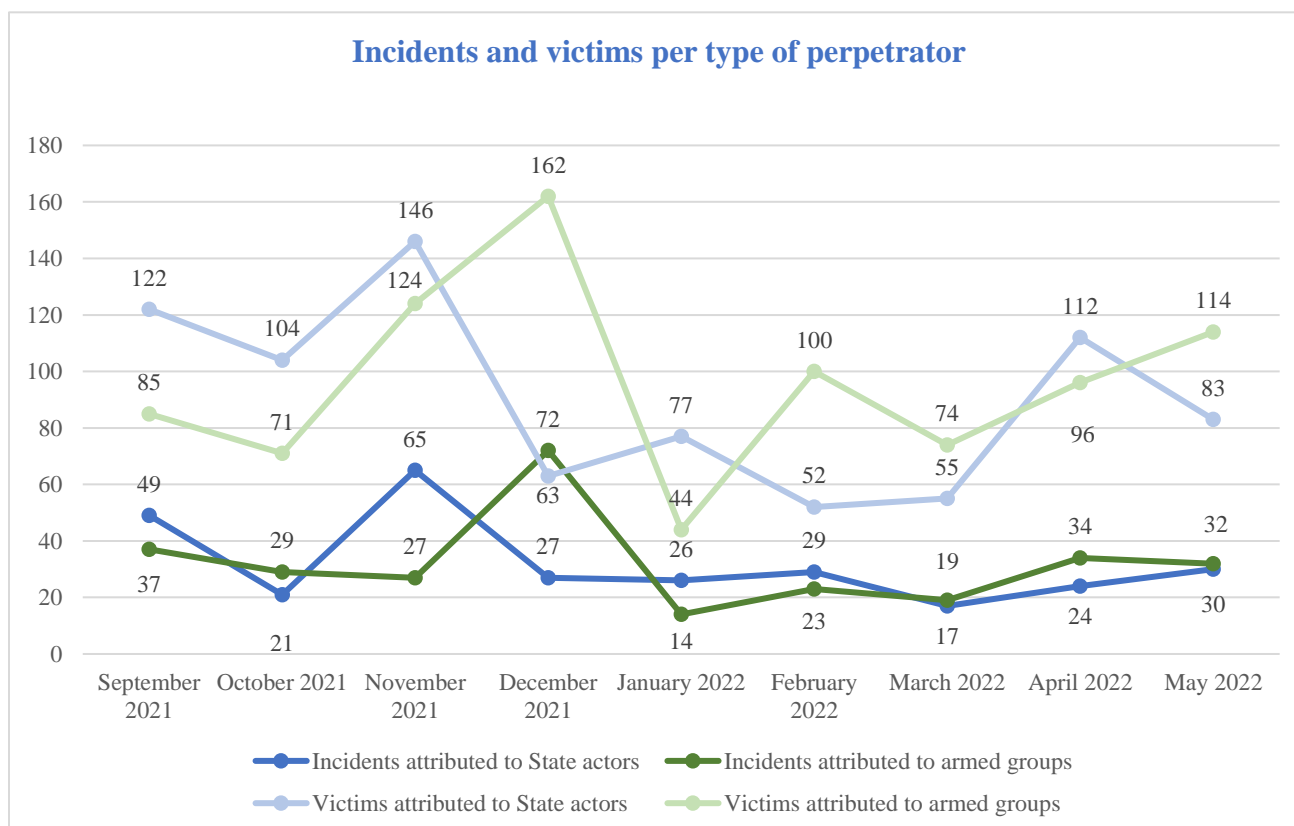
² Several types of human rights violations and abuses may be recorded during a single incident, against different victims. The following data is based on the most serious type of violation per incident and the most serious type of violation per victim.

8. Most victims were men (101), followed by women (23) and children (18 boys and three girls). In addition, there were 61 unidentified civilian victims and eight groups of collective victims.



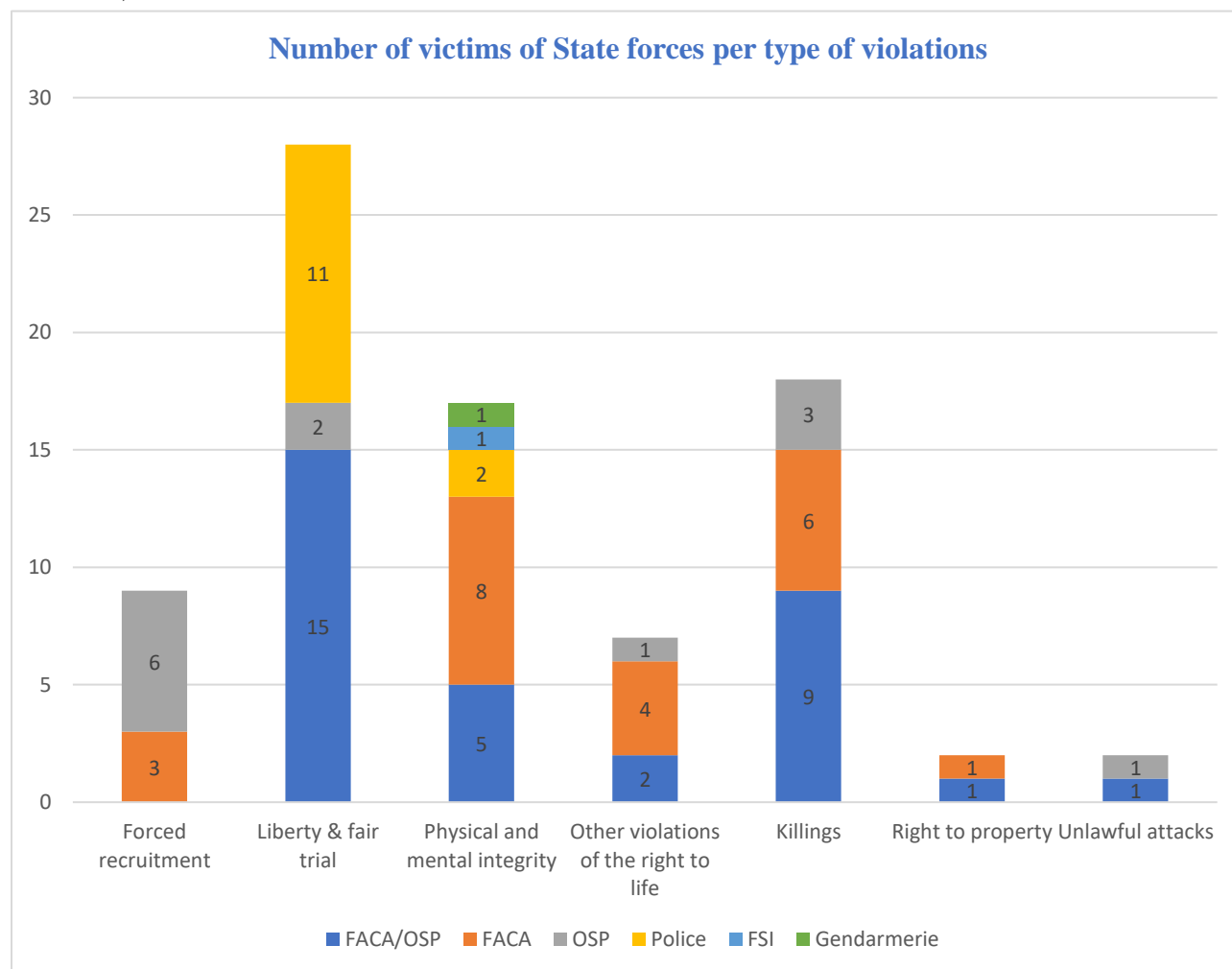
9. This month, the HRD documented and verified five incidents during which nine violations of the right to life by killing occurred, with a total of 22 victims, whereas 42 victims had been recorded in April and 26 in March. During April, both State forces and armed groups perpetrated indiscriminate attacks explaining the high number of civilian casualties and killings and hence the decrease in victims this month. State actors were responsible for a large majority of the civilians killed (18) and victims of arbitrary arrest and detention (26); however, armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA were responsible for most victims of attacks against protected persons (25) and deprivation of liberty (28).

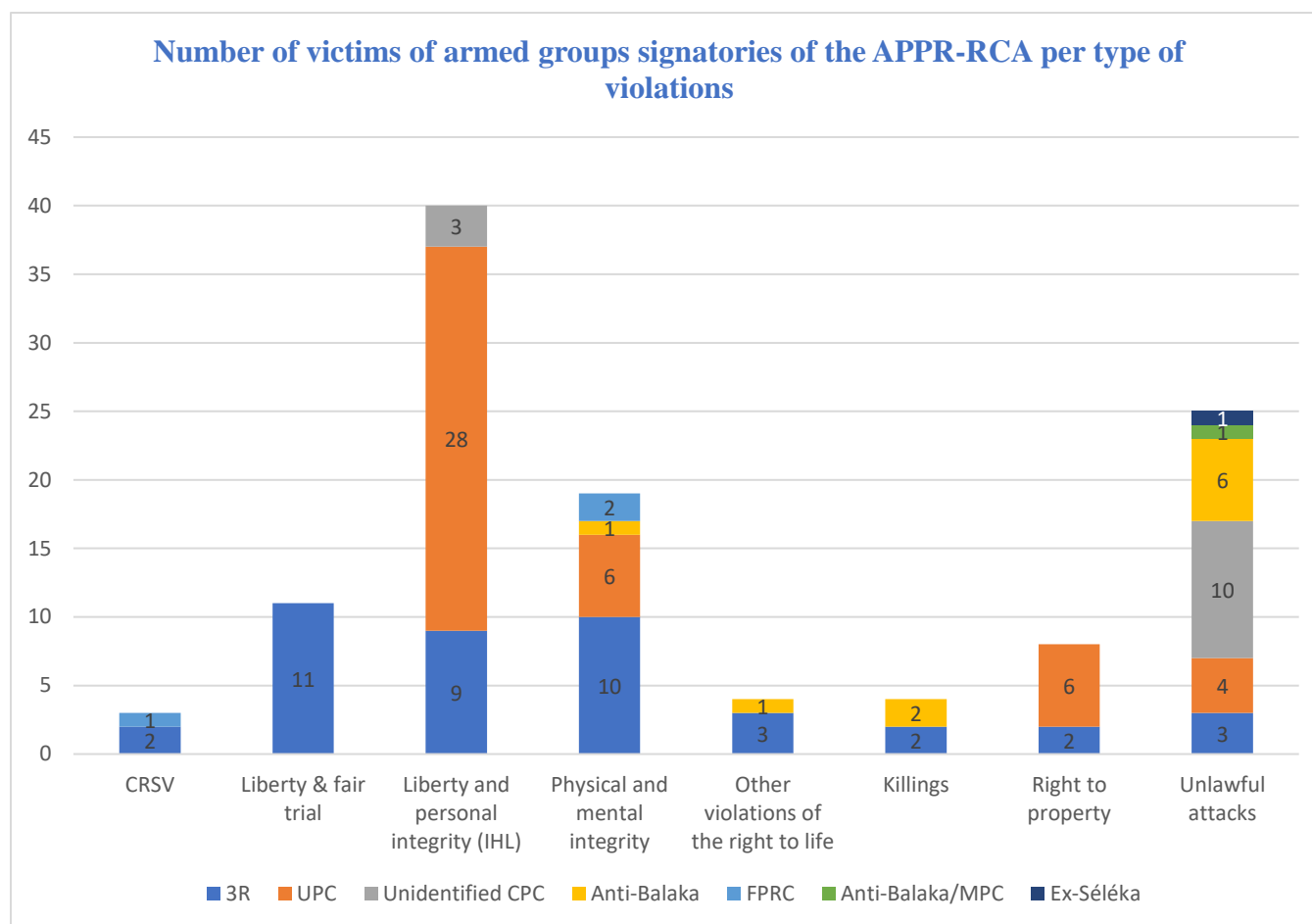
10. The State actors are responsible for 30 incidents, representing 35 violations affecting 83 victims. Amongst State actors, the FACA and OSP were responsible for most of the victims (seven incidents representing nine violations affecting 33 victims) while the FACA alone were responsible for the highest number of incidents and



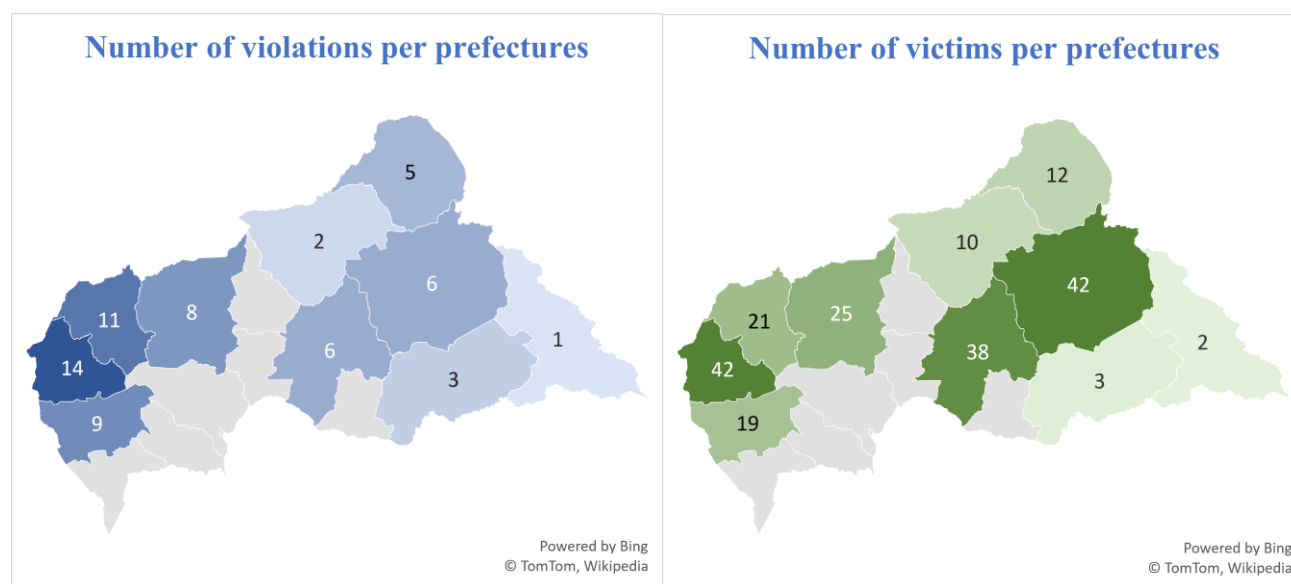
violations (ten incidents, 13 violations affecting 19 victims). The OSP were responsible for five incidents representing five violations affecting 13 victims. The decrease in the violations perpetrated by the OSP can be explained by the trend HRD has documented since October 2021 whereby OSP are increasingly using proxies in their operations and therefore are not directly perpetrating human rights violations.

11. Armed groups that are signatories to the APPR-RCA were responsible for 32 incidents, in which 24 violations affecting 114 victims were committed. Among armed group signatories to the APPR-RCA, the 3R were responsible for most of the incidents and violations (14 incidents representing 15 violations and 42 victims), whereas the UPC is responsible for most of the victims (seven incidents representing seven violations affecting 44 victims).





12. In May 2022, the HRD also documented incidents attributed to other non-State actors. The Misserya Arabs were responsible for one incident, which was an attack on protected staff and affecting seven victims; and unidentified armed men were responsible for two incidents involving two violations affecting ten victims.
13. The Haute-Kotto prefecture was again the most affected prefecture in terms of human rights violations and abuses, recording six incidents, representing six violations, and affecting 42 victims. High numbers of victims were also recorded in the Nana-Mambéré, the Ouaka, and the Ouham prefectures. However, the Nana-Mambéré, the Mambéré-Kadeï and the Ouham-Pendé were the prefectures with the highest numbers of incidents and violations. Those figures can be explained as the most affected regions are the ones where the most active armed groups operate, namely the 3R and UPC, leading to a high number of violations and abuses. In addition, State agents lead retaliatory operations in these regions.

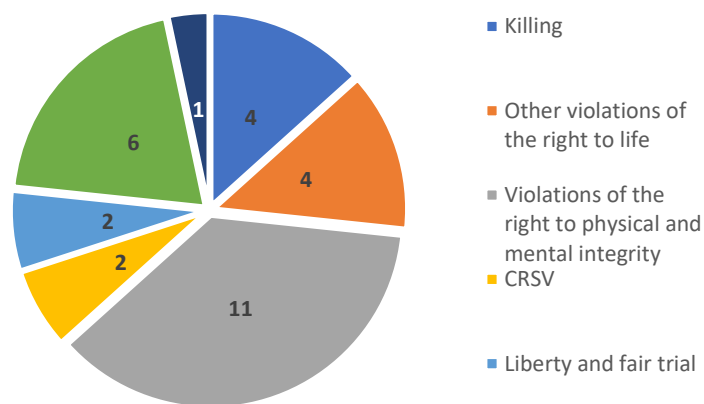


Children in Armed Conflict³

14. During the reporting period, the CTFMR verified 33 grave child rights violations directly affecting 21 children (11 boys/10 girls) – a 21% decrease in grave violations and 34% decrease in victims affected compared to the month of April during which 42 violations affecting 32 children were documented. Eleven (11) violations occurred outside of the reporting period but were verified during the period under review. Two girls were victims of multiple violations - one was a victim of three violations (abduction, recruitment and use, and rape) and another girl was a victim of two violations (maiming and sexual violence).

15. Armed groups were responsible for (58%) of the violations and pro-governmental forces (42%). Violations documented included recruitment and use (10), maiming (4), rape and other forms of sexual violence (5), abduction (5), attacks against schools (2) and denial of humanitarian access (7). CPC factions committed the highest number of violations (18): 3R (6), unidentified CPC (4), FPRC (3), anti-Balaka and UPC with (2) each, and anti-Balaka/MPC (1); followed by pro-governmental forces (14): OSP (7), FACA/FSI (3), FACA (2), and FACA/OSP and USMS with (1) each; and unidentified ex-Seleka (1).

Types of grave child rights violations



³ 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 also includes incidents that affected the civilian population as a whole (not only children), such as denial of humanitarian access.

16. In terms of child rights, the Nana Mambéré was the most affected Prefecture with (12) violations, followed by Haute-Kotto (7), Ouham-Fafa (5), Lim-Pendé (3), Ouham (2), and Bamingui-Bangoran, Mbomou, Ouaka and Ouham with (1) each.

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, 1,473 (878 men and 595 women) community members and leaders, local authorities, FACA, FSI, the judiciary (including penitentiary agents), civil society and armed group elements were trained and educated on the protection of children during armed conflict. Also, 361 (330 men and 31 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.

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

17. During the period under review, the HRD documented a total of two cases of CRSV affecting three victims (two woman and one girl). This is in line with the cases HRD documented last month.

18. The Women Protection Section and Civil Affairs Section (WPS/CAS) jointly launched the QIP project “Support to Socio-Economic Recovery of Women Affected by Conflict”, at the headquarters of the NGO “Arbre de Vie pour une Nation” in Paoua, Ouham Pendé. The economic activities for beneficiaries include soap making, sewing, knitting, and the manufacturing of shea butter.

19. On 25 May, WPS and CPS conducted an awareness-raising session in Paoua, Ouham Pendé, for 19 administrative and local authorities on CRSV.
20. On 27 and 28 May, the HRD and WPS organised a workshop to strengthen the network for the protection of witnesses and victims of sexual violence and update the referral circuit in the Paoua sub-prefecture. The activity brought together around 30 participants, including 12 men from the health, social and humanitarian sectors. Furthermore, given the large number of cases of sexual violence recorded in the Ouham-Pendé prefecture, the workshop was intended to create space for reflection and share experiences with the aim of developing recommendations and solutions to improve the situation and provide better assistance to victims.

Human Rights Promotion and Capacity Building

21. From 2 to 3 May 2022, the *Action des Universitaires pour les Droits de l'Homme* (AUDH) held a workshop on civic space at the University of Bangui for 60 teachers and students. From 9 to 10 May 2022, a similar activity was organised by the Network of Journalists for Human Rights (RJDH) benefiting 30 participants, including 12 women from journalist guilds and civil society organizations. In these workshops, the HRD provided two trainings on the meaning of civic space and the role of the United Nations in promoting civic space. These activities drew attention to the right of citizen participation in the democratic process and the challenges resulting from it, including the protection of its defenders.

Transitional Justice

With MINUSCA’s technical and financial support, the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission (TJRRC) commissioners visited Bambari, Berbérati, Birao, Bossangoa, Bria, Obo, and Paoua to open 20 awareness-raising activities and outreach missions on the TJRRC’s mandate.

22. From 19 to 20 May 2022, the National Organisation of Associations of People with Disabilities (ONAPHA) organised, with the HRD’s technical and financial support, an awareness-raising workshop for 40 people,

including 13 women. on enhancing ownership by the Central African authorities of the ratified United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Prevention of Hate Speech and Incitement to Violence

From 10 to 17 May the HRD and the NGO Tamboula organised three awareness-raising workshops on the prevention of hate speech and incitement to violence for 90 participants, including 37 women from the Local Peace and Reconciliation Committees. The HRD facilitated sessions on hate speech and the implementation of the 2012 Rabat Action Plan.

From 18 to 20 May, the HRD and the NGO WALT organised an awareness-raising workshop for 30 teachers, including 11 women, on the prevention of hate speech in schools and facilitated a session on prevention mechanisms concerning hate messages in this context.

23. In Bambari, in the Ouaka prefecture, the HRD organised a capacity-building workshop for members of the Victims' association of the Ouaka prefecture. The workshop focused on transitional justice and victims' rights in court proceedings. Ninety participants, including 53 women, participated in the workshop.

24. This month, the HRD, on its own as well as with other partners, organised 115 activities on human rights and international humanitarian law in 12 prefectures benefitting 2087 individuals, including 877 women.

25. As part of these activities, HRD organised 15 trainings aimed at building the capacity of State agents (FACA and ISF) on international humanitarian law, international human rights, children's rights and CRSV. In total 154 FACA and ISF officers, including 11 women, participated in the training.

26. The HRD conducted 30 visits to detention centres in ten prefectures to monitor and document the number of illegal detentions and the conditions in which the detainees were held. In most cases, it observed a high number of illegal detentions, with legal deadlines being regularly violated, as well as very poor detention conditions.