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HUMAN RIGHTS QUARTERLY BRIEF ON THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 28 December, combined presidential, legislative, regional and local elections were held, without major incidents in most Prefectures, but amid a tense political and security environment, localized security disruptions caused by Azande Ani Kpi Gbe members in Bambouti, Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, and operational challenges.
- Release of at least 870 detainees nationwide following presidential pardons signed by President Touadéra on 29 November, contributing to a reduction of prison overcrowding.
- Reinforcement of national human rights and transitional justice mechanisms through MINUSCA technical assistance to the CNDHLF and the CVJRR.
- Launch of the first 2025 criminal session of the *Cour d'Appel* of Bambari resulting in the conviction of 32 defendants, including in eight cases of sexual violence.
- MINUSCA documented 639 human rights violations and abuses, affecting 1,018 civilians with UPC responsible for the most abuses (117) and the Police responsible for the most victims (253). Most of the human rights violations/abuses and victims were documented in Ouaka Prefecture (138 violations/abuses affecting 267 victims).
- Main human rights violations and abuses include *inter alia* deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention (27%), the right to physical and mental integrity (19%) and recruitment and use of children (13%).

SIGNIFICANT HUMAN RIGHTS-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

1. During the fourth quarter of 2025, MINUSCA continued its support to reinforce national human rights and transitional justice mechanisms, notably the *Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme et des Libertés Fondamentales* (CNDHLF), and the *Commission Vérité, Justice, Réparation et Réconciliation* (CVJRR). MINUSCA's support to the CNDHLF included institutional capacity-building, technical assistance to enhance its operational effectiveness and engagement with civil society actors in the context of the electoral process. Between 20 and 24 October, MINUSCA/Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in the framework of the EU-funded project to support human rights defenders and in collaboration with the CNDHLF, provided technical support that contributed to the review of key institutional frameworks in line with the Paris Principles. In its engagement with the CVJRR, MINUSCA provided sustained technical assistance through working sessions and advisory support for the effective implementation of its mandate. In this context, MINUSCA supported the development of a strategic roadmap to guide the operationalization of the Commission's mandate, including a series of working sessions held between 3 and 8 December with commissioners and administrative staff. In addition, in December, MINUSCA supported collaboration between the CVJRR and the Special Criminal Court (SCC), to promote complementarity between their respective mandates towards ensuring a balanced transitional justice process.
2. On 21 November, court-appointed lawyers from the Central African Bar Association filed judicial petitions on behalf of over 250 detainees held beyond the lawful pretrial detention period at Ngaragba Central Prison, requesting their release in accordance with relevant national laws. These petitions notably contributed to ongoing discussions and advocacy within the National Legal Aid Committee, which subsequently approved in December a legal aid project for detainees in prolonged pre-trial detention in the Bouar (Nana-Mambéré Prefecture) and Berbérati (Mambéré-Kadéï Prefecture) prisons.
3. On 26 November, MINUSCA, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), supported two parallel workshops in Bangui, bringing together 25 participants from Parliament, the Ministry of Defence, and national institutions. The first workshop was aimed at raising awareness on key international disarmament conventions, including the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). It also highlighted their relevance for protecting populations from indiscriminate harm. The second workshop aimed at enhancing the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in the ongoing electoral process, with a particular emphasis on improving the accessibility of polling stations.
4. On 4 December, the *Cour d'Appel* of Bambari (Ouaka Prefecture) launched the hearings for its first criminal session in 2025, which took place from 4 to 19 December and included a total of 26 cases, including eight cases of sexual violence. Twenty cases were tried, while six were referred to the next criminal session. The charges included criminal conspiracy, trafficking in human remains, grave desecration, murder, attempted murder, lethal assault, crimes against humanity, war crimes, rape, and illegal possession of weapons and war munitions. A total of 37 defendants appeared before the Court; 32 were convicted and five acquitted. The sentences pronounced range from five years imprisonment to 20 years of hard labour.

5. As of 26 December, at least 870 detainees had been released nationwide following presidential pardons signed on 29 November by President Touadéra. Pursuant to the decree, all persons convicted of crimes or offences whose convictions became final before 1 December 2025 are eligible for sentence reductions, regardless of the nature of the offence, with the sole exclusion being fines, court costs and compensation for damages. All terms of up to three years were fully remitted and longer sentences significantly reduced. The implementation of the decree has contributed to addressing overcrowding in prisons.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

6. The Central African Republic (CAR) held general elections (presidential, legislative, regional and local) on 28 December 2025, marking a critical milestone in the country's democratic process. Local elections were held for the first time in about 37 years, underscoring the historical significance of the process. While October and November were marked by pre-electoral legal and political developments, December represented the most intense phase, as preparations including campaign activities culminated with the elections on 28 December. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented and confirmed a total of 16 human rights violations/abuses related to the electoral process. At the time of reporting, some allegations were still being confirmed.
7. Targeted support to national and local human rights actors enhanced their role in the process including their contribution to early warning and response as well as in promoting a peaceful electoral environment. For instance, from 22 to 24 December, MINUSCA provided technical and financial support to the CNDHLF by facilitating two capacity-building sessions for 200 civil society actors, including 104 women, on monitoring human rights during the electoral period, which enabled the establishment of a mechanism for centralising early warning alerts and strengthened the Commission's capacity to respond to allegations of human rights violations.
8. In October, the pre-electoral environment witnessed concerns related to political rights, civic space and the treatment of opposition figures. For instance, on 3 October, the president of the *Marche pour la Démocratie et le Salut du Peuple* (MDSP) was arrested at Bangui airport and charged with offences related to State security and public order, while a local political leader from Vakaga Prefecture was arrested the same day in Bangui by Other Security Personnel (OSP) and transferred to an unknown location, raising concerns of enforced disappearance. At the time of reporting, his whereabouts remained unknown. In addition, on 8 October, in Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, a Muslim woman of Zande ethnicity received a death threat warning her not to run in the local elections, prompting her withdrawal the following day.
9. In November, the electoral context was increasingly shaped by legal/political contestations, and concerns over limitations on the civic space. On 14 November, the Constitutional Council confirmed the candidacies of opposition figures Anicet-Georges Dologuélé (*Union pour le Renouveau Centrafricain - URCA*) and Henri-Marie Dondra (*Unité Républicaine - UNIR*), following earlier disqualification decisions of the former on the basis of dual nationality. In early December, the electoral context remained affected by underlying security constraints and localized tensions observed during the pre-electoral period. Although no major election-related human rights violations were documented, insecurity in certain regions, particularly those affected by armed group presence, continued to raise concerns regarding the ability of political actors to campaign freely and safely.

Electoral campaign (13 to 26 December)

10. During the electoral campaign period, election-related human rights issues were more pronounced in the Haut-Mbomou Prefecture. Between 17 and 23 December, Azande Ani Kpi Gbé (Azanikpigbe) members abducted at least 14 people in total, 13 of whom were candidates or members of campaign teams. All of the abductees were taken to an Azanikpigbe base and held between one and three days, with some robbed before their release. In other regions, MINUSCA received reports indicating that opposition candidates and their supporters were subjected to intimidation, restrictions on their freedom of movement, and threats by both armed groups and State actors with implications for their ability to conduct campaigns.

Election Day (28 December)

11. According to the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) international electoral observation mission and the African Union Electoral Observation Mission (MOEUA), the elections were conducted under satisfactory security and organizational conditions despite security-related incidents and logistical and procedural shortcomings observed in several Prefectures. The CNDHLF noted that voting generally took place smoothly, while citing concerns including, inter alia, a range of operational issues, insufficient presence of ANE representatives in some polling centres, incidents of intimidation, accessibility constraints for persons with disabilities and alleged vote-buying. Additionally, the opposition political parties UNIR and URCA issued communiqués alleging serious irregularities and fraud in the electoral process.
12. In Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, Azanikpigbe members carried out several coordinated attacks aimed at disrupting the electoral process, including an attack against a FACA post located approximately 6 km from Zémio, as well as attacks against the FACA base and the sub-prefecture of Bambouti (80 km from Obo). During these incidents, Azanikpigbe members reportedly seized FACA weapons, burned electoral materials, abducted political and electoral actors, and appropriated property belonging to an NGO. As a result of these security incidents, voting and counting were conducted in only 25 of the 41 polling stations in the Zémio electoral constituency. None of the five polling stations in Bambouti was able to operate, while elections were able to take place in Mboki and Djemah amid a fragile security environment.

SECURITY AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

13. The security situation during the reporting period was marked by continued armed group activity despite the ongoing disarmament and demobilisation (DD) process, sustained security operations by State actors, and persistent intercommunal tensions. Armed group activity related to actions by 3R in the Yadé Region, Azanikpigbe in the Haut-Oubangui Region, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of Sudan in the Fertit Region, and the *Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique* (UPC) and other armed elements in the Kaga Region. These dynamics were accompanied by opportunistic criminality, recurrent transhumance-related tensions, and incidents affecting civilians.
14. In the **Yadé** Region,¹ the security situation was marked by continued activity by 3R, clashes involving armed groups, and operations conducted by OSP. Despite an overall decline in abuses attributed to 3R since the 19 April Agreement, reports of illegal taxation, appropriation of property and conflict-related

¹ The Yadé Region includes the Lim-Pendé, Ouham, and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001*, January 2021.

sexual violence (CRSV) persisted, particularly affecting Fulani herders and women and girls in rural areas. On 13 November, in the Lim-Pendé Prefecture, suspected 3R members reportedly raped four women in Boh (120 km from Paoua), while on 21 November, in Souri and Lia (40 km and 45 km from Paoua), 3R members allegedly beheaded one man and raped two women. Clashes between OSP and armed groups continued during the reporting period: on 5 December, approximately 7 km from Mainodjo (80 km from Markounda, Ouham Prefecture), an OSP operation against the *Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique* (MPC) and UPC members reportedly killed six MPC and three UPC combatants while two persons (one from each group) were arrested. On 7 December, in Lia (60 km from Paoua, Lim-Pendé Prefecture), OSP elements reportedly attacked 3R-held checkpoints, after which 3R members retaliated by targeting local men accused of collaborating with OSP. On 14 December, in Dokabi (40 km from Markounda, Lim-Pendé Prefecture), a mixed FACA/OSP patrol apprehended four Chadian nationals, including a Chadian soldier attempting to access mining sites after illegally crossing the border, marking the third such incident involving suspected Chadian military personnel during the month.

15. In the **Equateur** Region,² the security situation was marked by FACA and OSP operations against armed groups, alongside an intensified presence by 3R in December, resulting in civilian casualties, displacement and heightened protection concerns. During the reporting period, FACA and OSP continued operations targeting the Ndalé faction of the Anti-Balaka in Nana-Mambéré Prefecture. On 1 October, during one such operations in Lakata (65 km from Bouar), OSP elements shot and injured a suspected Anti-Balaka member. On 7 October, during a related operation along the Abba–Gbiti–Naziboro axis (140 km from Bouar), the local population reportedly fled into the bush, fearing violence. On 4 December, in Banguérem (75 km from Bouar, Nana-Mambéré Prefecture), clashes between 3R and Anti-Balaka members resulted in at least one death, triggered the mass displacement of the population towards Nzotoa (25 km from Bouar), and reportedly led to the establishment of a 3R base in the locality. On 8 December, in Dinguiri, Zaoro-Sangou and Irma-Baron (90–130 km from Berbérati), more than 50 suspected 3R members reportedly established bases and collected illegal taxes, prompting further civilian displacement.
16. In the **Kaga** Region,³ the security situation was characterized by OSP operations at mining sites, continued abuses by UPC members, and reports of unidentified armed men, with significant implications for the protection of civilians. During the reporting period, OSP operations at the Ndassima mining site (35 km from Bambari, Ouaka Prefecture) continued to affect the protection of civilians. On 6 October, 30 civilians accused of stealing gold were arbitrarily arrested by OSP and subsequently detained at the Gendarmerie of Bambari. Additionally, on 15 October, approximately 40 others were also arrested by OSP elements with many of them reportedly beaten resulting in injuries. In November, UPC members were reported to have been active in Ouaka and Nana-Gribizi Prefectures. On 11 November, near Langbangué (10 km from Bambari, Ouaka Prefecture), UPC members intercepted a family of three, assaulted the adults, attempted to rape a pregnant woman, and stole their motorcycle and money before releasing them. In Nana-Gribizi, on 22 and 23 November, UPC members allegedly abducted six civilians who were travelling to their fields in the localities of Gribizi 1 and Gribizi 3 (20 and 25 km from Mbrès).

² The Equateur Region includes the Mambéré, Mambéré-Kadéï, Nana-Mambéré, and Sangha Mbaéré Prefectures, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001*, January 2021.

³ The Kaga Region includes the Nana-Grébizi, Ouham Fafa, Kémo, and Ouaka Prefectures, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001*, January 2021.

They were, however, released on the same day. In December, reports of approximately 100 unidentified armed men in desert-style camouflage outfits, speaking Arabic and Fulfulde along the Sibut–Damara and Bambari–Chimbolo axis, as well as the discovery of five corpses, including a child, near Dékoa on 8 December raised security concerns in the area.

17. In the **Fertit** Region,⁴ the security situation was shaped by cross-border dynamics, continued activity by the RSF of Sudan, and sustained FACA/OSP operations, significantly impacting the protection of civilians. Throughout October and November, reports indicated the recruitment and mobilisation of civilians by OSP to create local self-defence groups in Vakaga Prefecture, including in Birao, Am-Dafock and surrounding localities, raising concerns over lack of accountability, oversight and the risk of human rights abuses. RSF activity also persisted, notably with an attack against civilians near Bilibili (45 km north-east of Birao) on 18 October, which reportedly left one man seriously injured, as well as additional RSF movements observed along the Boromata–Illidris axis. On a positive note, a local peace agreement signed on 30 October in Am-Dafock (65 km north-east of Birao) between Central African communities and Sudanese communities, with MINUSCA support, contributed to a temporary improvement in the security situation in parts of the Prefecture. However, in December, additional incidents were reported including, among others, clashes between FACA/OSP and presumed Chadian armed groups near Aouk (126 km north-east of Birao) on 2 December and 24 December, resulting in at least five deaths, including two OSP elements. Meanwhile, the arrival on 17 December of some 585 Sudanese refugees (250 women, 168 men, 167 children) in Ouanda-Djallé (126 km Southwest of Birao) raised the need for immediate humanitarian response.
18. In the **Haut-Oubangui** Region,⁵ particularly in Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, the security situation was shaped by continued activity by Azanikpigbe, with direct consequences for the protection of civilians. Despite a declaration issued on 5 September by some Azanikpigbe members renouncing armed violence, the group continued conducting sporadic attacks, abductions, destruction of property and intimidation during the reporting period. On 14 and 15 October, Azanikpigbe members reportedly attacked UPC elements along the Zémio–Mboki axis, while on 26 October, approximately ten members of the group set fire to five houses belonging to Muslim residents in Aliwali village (10 km from Zémio). In November, clashes between Azanikpigbe and UPC members along the Mboki–Zémio axis, as well as FACA/OSP search operations in Tabane, Ngouyo, Banangui and Djema (20 km, 60 km, 80 km and 113 km from Zémio, respectively), triggered temporary displacement and reports of intimidation and mistreatment of civilians. In December, the security situation further deteriorated, with multiple abductions of health workers and attacks against humanitarian personnel reported between 4 and 5 December along the Zémio–Djemah and Zémio–Mboki axis, including the looting of vaccines and medical supplies by unidentified armed men. On 15 December, a MINUSCA convoy came under fire by unidentified armed men, injuring two peacekeepers. In the days preceding the elections, local sources also reported increased mobilisation of Azanikpigbe members around key localities, notably Bambouti (80 km from Zémio), Dembia and Derbissaka (350 km from Bangassou, Mbomou Prefecture). Following

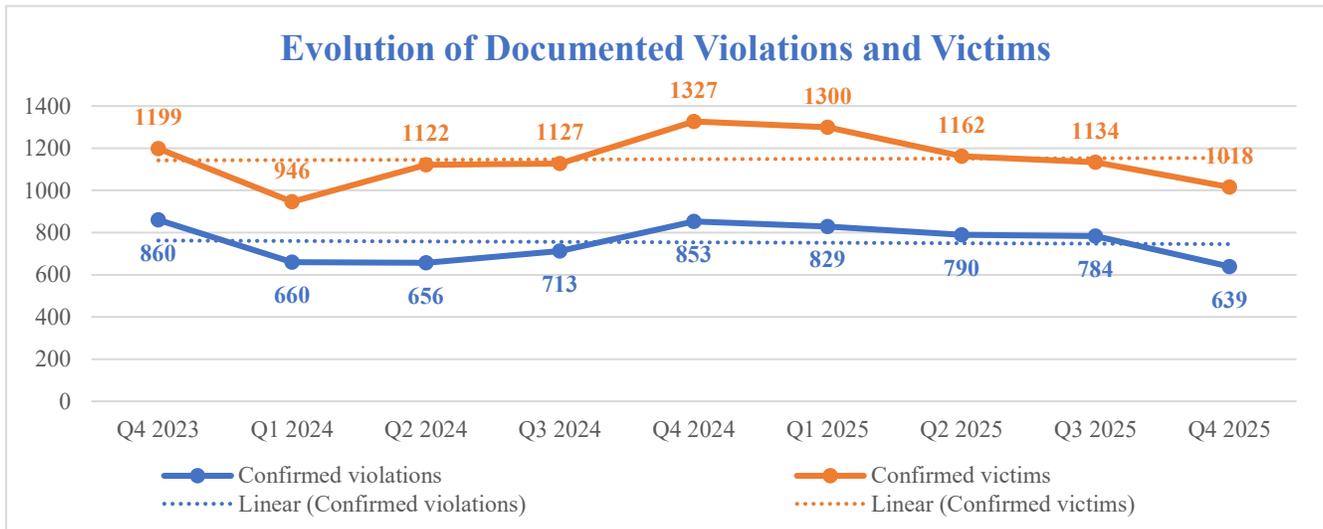
⁴ The Fertit Region includes the Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, and Vakaga Prefectures, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001*, January 2021.

⁵ The Haut-Oubangui Region includes Basse-Kotto, Mbomou and the Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001*, January 2021.

an attack by Azanikpigbe in Bambouti on election day, on 29 December, approximately 500 civilians reportedly fled Bambouti to seek refuge in Source-Yubu (5 km from Bambouti, in South Sudan).

GENERAL TRENDS

19. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **639 human rights violations and abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL) affecting 1,018 civilian victims** (including 651 men, 108 women, 147 boys, 49 girls, and 63 groups of collective victims). This represents an 18% decrease in violations/abuses and a 10% decrease in victims compared to the previous quarter (Q3 2025).⁶ The most common violations and abuses were related to deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention (27%), the right to physical and mental integrity (19%) and recruitment and use of children (13%), consistent with trends observed during Q3 2025. In addition, 18 men, two women, eight boys and two girls were victims of extrajudicial and summary killings (18 violations/abuses). UPC members were responsible for the highest number of abuses (117 abuses affecting 69 victims), while the Police⁷ was responsible for the highest number of victims (79 violations affecting 253 victims). During the reporting period, MINUSCA conducted a human rights investigation mission in the Am-Dafock sub-Prefecture in Vakaga Prefecture and verified human rights violations and abuses, attributable primarily to the RSF, but also OSP and unidentified armed men. In addition, the recruitment and use of children by the *Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique* (FPRC) was documented with 21 children separated from the said group.



20. **State actors** were responsible for 53% of human rights violations (337) and for 68% of the victims (687). This represents a 17% decrease in the number of violations and a 8% decrease in the number of victims by State actors compared to the third quarter of 2025.⁸ The most common types of violations committed by State actors were primarily related to arbitrary arrest and detention (172 violations and 527 victims), including detention beyond the legal time limit for custody, as well as violations linked to conditions of

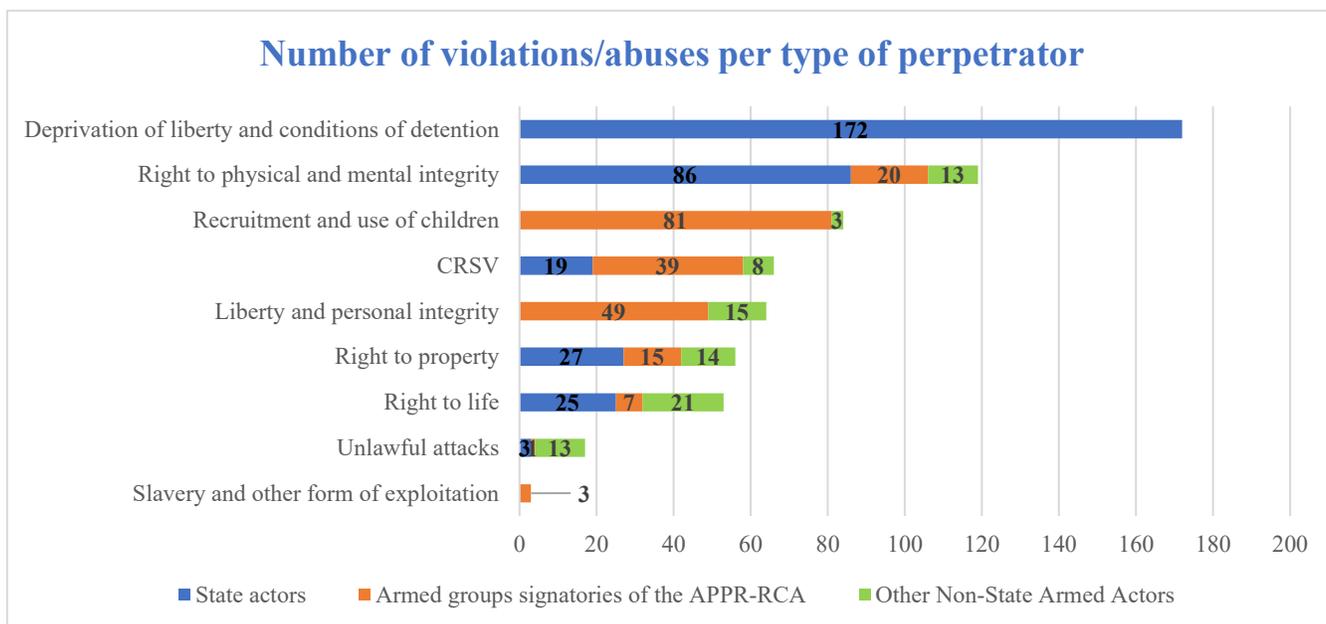
⁶ In Q3 2025, MINUSCA documented 784 violations/abuses, affecting 1,134 victims.

⁷ The figures for the Police include also violations committed by its specialized units, such as the *Office Central pour la Répression du Banditisme* (OCRB) (eight violations affecting 42 victims) and the *Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire* (DST) (three violations affecting three victims).

⁸ In Q3 2025, State actors were responsible 404 violations, affecting 743 victims.

detention that do not comply with national and international standards. A high number of violations related to the right to physical and mental integrity was also documented (86 violations and 151 victims). The main perpetrators included the FACA⁹ (109 violations affecting 88 victims), the Police (79 violations affecting 253 victims), the OSP (52 violations affecting 89 victims) and the Gendarmerie¹⁰ (58 violations affecting 136 victims). In addition, five violations affecting four victims were jointly committed by FACA and the OSP.

21. **Armed groups signatories to the *Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation (APPR-RCA)*** were responsible for 34% of abuses (215) and for 15% of the victims (151). This represents a 16% decrease in the number of abuses and 38% decrease in the number of victims compared to Q3 2025.¹¹ The decrease is primarily attributed to reduced armed group activity following the 19 April and 19 November peace agreements, which contributed to a lower number of documented abuses, although violations by armed groups persisted during the reporting period. It is also worth noting that budgetary constraints limited the number of human rights investigative missions, which may have affected the documentation of abuses, particularly in areas in which armed groups are present. The most common abuses were related to the recruitment and use of children (81 abuses affecting 85 children), the right to liberty and personal integrity (49 abuses affecting 55 victims), CRSV (39 cases affecting 41 victims), the right to physical and mental integrity (20 abuses affecting 28 victims) and the right to property (15 abuses affecting 20 victims), consistent with trends observed during Q3 2025. The main perpetrators remained unchanged compared to the third quarter, with UPC responsible for 117 abuses affecting 69 victims and 3R for 35 abuses affecting 34 victims. Of the documented cases, 20 abuses affecting 15 victims were committed by the UPC between October and December 2025 (representing 17% of the total abuses



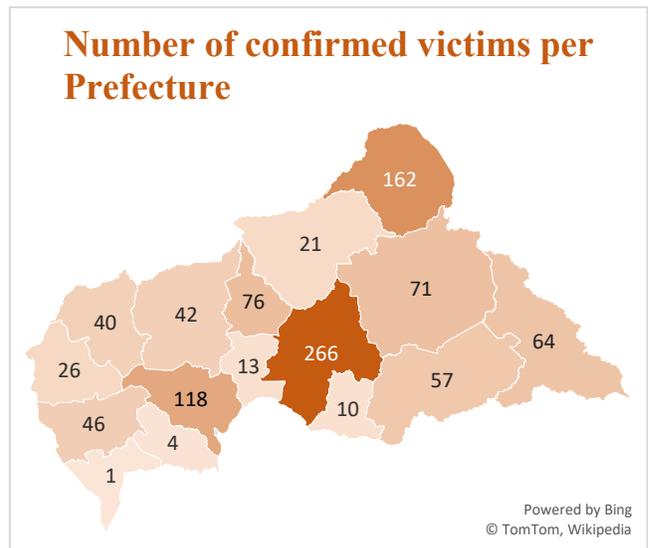
⁹ The figures for the FACA include also the violations committed by its specialized units, namely the *Garde Présidentielle* (two violations affecting two victims).

¹⁰ The figures for the Gendarmerie include also violations committed by its specialised units, including the *Brigade de Recherche et d'Intervention (BRI)* (five violations affecting 12 victims) and the *Section de Recherche et d'Investigation (SRI)* of Bangui (two violations affecting one victim).

¹¹ In Q3 2025, armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA were responsible for 256 abuses, affecting 244 victims.

attributed to the group), and 32 abuses affecting 32 victims were committed by the 3R (representing 91% of the total abuses attributed to the group).

22. **Other actors**, including armed groups non-signatories to the APPR-RCA, were responsible for 87 abuses (13% of total violations and abuses) and 181 victims (18% of total victims), reflecting a continued upward trend largely driven by abuses committed by Azanikpigbe and RSF of Sudan. The most common abuses included violations to the right to life (21 abuses/violations affecting 61 victims, including 18 victims of summary killings), the right to liberty and personal integrity (15 abuses/violations affecting 68 victims), the right to property (14 abuses/violations affecting 64 victims), the right to physical and mental integrity (13 abuses/violations affecting 22 victims), and unlawful attacks (13 abuses affecting 12 groups of collective victims). The main perpetrators were the RSF (30 violations affecting 95 victims), the Azanikpigbe (23 abuses affecting 41 victims) and unidentified armed men (22 abuses affecting 30 victims). The RSF were particularly active this quarter, with a 25% increase in the number of abuses and a 400% increase in the number of victims compared to the third quarter.¹²
23. During the quarter under review, most violations/abuses, as well as victims, were documented in the **Kaga Region** (180 violations/abuses affecting 356 victims), mainly attributed to UPC (71 abuses affecting 34 victims). The violations/abuses were mainly perpetrated in Ouaka Prefecture (138 violations/abuse affecting 266 victims), predominantly committed by UPC (69 abuses affecting 33 victims) and mostly related to forced recruitment and use of children, and violations of the right to liberty and personal integrity. These figures highlight the UPC’s involvement in human rights abuses despite commitments under the 19 April Agreement and how the regrouping of its members for disarmament operations continued to impact the protection of civilians. However, it is worth noting that 27 victims were children separated during the disarmament process in Grimari and Ippy (80 km and 65 km from Bambari, respectively). In Ouaka Prefecture, OSP were responsible for 22 violations affecting 55 victims, mainly linked to unlawful detention and violations of the right to physical and mental integrity, mostly at the Ndassima mining site (35 km from Bambari) where security operations against civilian artisanal miners around mining sites led to arbitrary arrests, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and the extrajudicial killing of one civilian.



¹² In Q3 2025, RSF of Sudan were responsible for 24 abuses, affecting 19 victims.

24. Between October and December 2025, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR)¹³ verified 193 grave child rights violations against 126 children (94 boys and 32 girls). These included 84 cases of **recruitment and use** of 88 children (79 boys and nine girls) a 28% decrease compared to Q3 2025, during which 122 (91 boys and 31 girls) were victims of recruitment and use. The **Fertit** Region was the most affected with 31 cases of recruitment and use of children, in the Vakaga (22 abuses affecting 22 victims) and Haute-Kotto (nine abuses affecting 10 victims) Prefectures. The main perpetrators of recruitment and use were **armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA**, who were involved in 96% of the cases (81) and **other actors** for the rest (three cases).

MAIN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND ABUSES, AND VIOLATIONS OF IHL

25. In the fourth quarter of 2025,¹⁴ an analysis of the human rights situation highlighted areas of concern across several regions despite ongoing efforts by authorities to prevent and respond to challenges. State actors, notably the Police, the Gendarmerie, the FACA and OSP, continued to commit violations primarily related to arbitrary arrest and detention, detention beyond the legal time limit for custody, poor conditions of detention, and violations of the right to physical and mental integrity, particularly in the context of security operations around mining sites and during military operations. Despite commitments under the 19 April Agreement and ongoing disarmament efforts, armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA, notably UPC and 3R, continued to commit abuses against civilians, including recruitment and use of children, CRSV, and violations of the right to liberty and personal integrity. In parallel, the reporting period was marked by sustained activity by Azanikpigbe in the Haut-Oubangui Region, including abductions and attacks, while RSF activity in Vakaga Prefecture raised serious cross-border protection and IHL concerns, further compounded by reports of the recruitment and training of local youth in collaboration with OSP.

Deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention

26. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **172 violations related to the deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention**¹⁵ affecting **527 victims** (including 436 men, 16 women, 37 boys, six girls, and 32 groups of collective victims). This represents a 10% decrease in the number of violations related to deprivation of liberty and a 8% decrease in the number of victims in comparison to the third quarter of 2025.¹⁶ Most violations were related to arbitrary arrest and/or detention (132 violations affecting 487 victims), largely due to detention beyond the legal time limit for custody, with the **Police** (52 violations affecting 214 victims) and the **Gendarmerie** being the main perpetrators (34 violations

¹³ The information in this section has been collected by the MINUSCA Child Protection Unit. The Security Council has created mechanisms and tools to implement the mandate on the protection of children in armed conflict, including through Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), which establishes the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) to collect reliable and up-to-date information on violations committed against children by the parties to the conflict, as well as the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.

¹⁴ For a thorough overview of the human rights violations and abuses that occurred during the reporting period, please refer to the monthly reports of October, November and December, available on the following webpage <https://minusca.unmissions.org/en/human-rights-division-reports-0>

¹⁵ Violations related to deprivation of liberty and condition of detention includes arbitrary arrest and/or detention, condition of detention that do not meet national and international standards.

¹⁶ In Q3 2025, there were 192 violations related to deprivation of liberty documented, affecting 570 victims.

affecting 95 victims), but also to the high number of arbitrary arrests and detentions carried out by OSP (20 violations affecting 70 victims).

27. The detention conditions in several facilities/centres continue to raise serious concerns due to both structural deficiencies and individual violations. During the reporting period, poor hygiene, severe overcrowding, unsanitary detention conditions, physical abuse and humiliating treatment of detainees, lack of medical care, prolonged detention, and food shortages in 13 detention centres/facilities were documented.
28. In early October, particular concern was raised regarding the practices of OSP, notably the arbitrary arrest and detention of miners during security operations at the Ndassima mining sites (35 km from Bambari), Ouaka Prefecture. Several miners were reportedly held in a container without ventilation, hygiene facilities, food or water before being transferred to a detention facility in Bambari.
29. Despite persistent challenges, several positive developments were noted with regards to the functioning of judicial institutions. On 17 October, in Obo, Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, the Public Prosecutor and the President of the *Tribunal de Grande Instance* (TGI) officially took office, completing the deployment of magistrates in the Prefecture. On 24 October, the Investigating Judge and Clerk of the TGI of Kaga-Bandoro held a mobile court hearing at Ngaragba Central Prison in Bangui, reviewing 49 cases and ordering the release of 20 detainees. In November, two additional TGI in Bouca (Ouham-Fafa Prefecture) and Ouandja-Kotto (Haute-Kotto Prefecture) became operational, bringing the number of functioning jurisdictions to 43 out of 44, with 34 courts holding criminal hearings in November 2025.
30. It is worth highlighting that persons in custody and detainees are protected by various national laws, including the Constitution, the *Code pénal* (Criminal Code) and the *Code de procédure pénale* (Criminal Procedure Code) adopted by laws n°10.001, n°10.002 and the law n°12.003 on fundamental principles of the prison system.¹⁷

Right to physical and mental integrity

31. From October to December, MINUSCA documented **119 violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity**¹⁸ affecting **201 victims** (139 men, 36 women, 15 boys, six girls, and five groups of collective victims). It includes cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment (87 violations/abuses affecting 164 victims), threats to physical and mental integrity (16 violations/abuses affecting 22 victims), as well as torture (nine cases affecting 10 victims), with OSP identified as the main perpetrator (three violations affecting four victims). This represents a 6% decrease in the number of violations/abuses, and a 20% decrease in the number of victims in comparison to the third quarter of 2025.¹⁹ The decrease is possibly attributed to lower number of abuses committed by the armed group signatories to the APPR-RCA, possibly linked to the official dissolution of 3R and UPC following the 19 April Agreement and related disarmament efforts. State actors were responsible for 86 violations affecting 151 victims, armed groups

¹⁷ Additional national texts protecting persons in custody and detainees: *Decree n°160090* on standard internal regulations applicable to prisons in the Central African Republic, *decree n°160087* on the organization and operation of prisons in the Central African Republic and determining their internal regulations, as well as *decree n°160088* redefining the framework of the prison administration.

¹⁸ Violations related to the right to physical and mental integrity include, *inter alia*, acts of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment as well as injury and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.

¹⁹ In Q3 2025, there were 127 violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity affecting 250 victims.

signatories to the APPR-RCA were responsible for 20 abuses affecting 28 victims, and other actors were responsible for 13 abuses affecting 22 victims.

32. In line with its obligations under Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Articles 2 and 16 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and Articles 4 and 5 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the CAR Government is expected to take concrete steps to prevent and investigate cases relating to torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV)

33. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **66 cases of CRSV²⁰ affecting 79 victims** (including 42 women, 35 girls, one man, and one boy). This represents a 14% decrease in cases and a 9% decrease in victims compared to Q3 2025.²¹ While this decrease may reflect a reduction in documented incidents during the reporting period, it is also worth noting that CRSV remain underreported due to the fear of stigmatization and reprisals, the climate of impunity, the absence of adequate support for survivors as well as socio-cultural stereotypes. In addition, budgetary constraints limited the number of human rights investigative missions, which may have affected the documentation of CRSV, particularly in areas affected by armed group presence.
34. Women and girls were predominantly targeted with rape, including gang rape. Haute-Kotto (14 cases affecting 19 victims), Vakaga (13 cases affecting 20 victims) and Lim-Pendé (13 cases affecting 19 victims) were the most affected Prefectures. Rape continued to be the most prevalent type of CRSV (46 cases affecting 33 women and 27 girls), while other types of CRSV included forced marriage (six cases affecting 10 girls), sexual assault and harassment (four cases affecting three women and one boy), attempted rape (four cases affecting four women), forced nudity (three cases affecting two women and one man), and sexual slavery (three cases affecting two women and one girl).²²
35. The armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA were responsible for 59% of the CRSV cases, while other perpetrators included State actors (29%), and other armed groups (12%). The FACA (15 cases affecting 14 victims), 3R (13 cases affecting 19 victims), and UPC (13 cases affecting nine victims) were the main perpetrators of CRSV during the reported period.
36. MINUSCA further received allegations from local partners of approximately 180 CRSV cases committed by the 3R members in October and November 2025. Due to security concerns, limited access and resource constraints, these allegations could not be investigated or documented during the reporting period. This highlights the need for concerted action to enhance preventive mechanisms and victims' access to appropriate services as MINUSCA continues its engagement with judicial authorities. to identify perpetrators for accountability purposes.

²⁰ The term “conflict-related sexual violence” refers to rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization, forced marriage and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity perpetrated against women, men, girls, or boys that is directly or indirectly linked to a conflict. See the full definition in the Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Report of the United Nations Secretary-General (S/2019/280).

²¹ In Q3 2025, there were 77 cases of CRSV documented, affecting 87 victims.

²² The total number of victims by type of conflict-related sexual violence exceeds the overall total, as some victims were subjected to multiple forms of CRSV.