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Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée  
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en Centrafrique



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Multidimensional  
Integrated Stabilization Mission in the  
Central African Republic

## HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION

### Monthly Report: Human Rights Situation

February 2026

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*The mandate of MINUSCA includes, inter alia, assisting the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR) to promote and protect human rights. This report is based on information received by the Human Rights Division (HRD) and only includes human rights violations and abuses that were documented and verified during the month of February 2026 in line with the established methodology of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Information that could not be verified is not included. Ordinary crimes are also excluded from this report. This report is shared with the CAR authorities and partners.*

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### Main political and security developments

1. In February, security concerns with implications for the protection of civilians were linked to the activities of armed groups, human rights violations by State security actors, transhumance-related clashes, and intercommunal violence linked to the dry season. These dynamics were compounded by recurrent cross-border pressures and by ongoing military operations, which together resulted in a volatile protection environment across several regions. On the political front, after the 28 December 2025 elections, on 2 February, President Touadéra met individually with several former presidential candidates, who publicly reaffirmed their acceptance of the presidential election results and their readiness to support national reconstruction efforts.
2. In **Equateur Region**,<sup>1</sup> Nana-Mambéré Prefecture, in Gobolo (129 km west of Bouar), on 10 February, *Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation* (3R) members abducted six civilians, including the 73-year-old village chief. In Mambéré-Kadéï Prefecture, movements and attempted installations of Anti-Balaka members under the self-proclaimed “General” Ndalet were reported near Nandobo (45 km north of Berbérati).
3. In **Fertit Region**,<sup>2</sup> cross-border dynamics linked to the conflict in Sudan continued to drive instability, with several incidents involving Sudanese armed actors and local self-defence groups. In the Vakaga Prefecture, 12 km South of Birao, on 6 February, unidentified armed men ambushed two self-defence members travelling by motorcycle and stabbed one of them who was later evacuated in a critical condition. In Am-Dafock, on 19 February, a Rapid Support Forces of Sudan (RSF) commander met local authorities to discuss border security and transhumance after concerns due to the significantly increased presence of RSF members in Am-Dafock and Sikikédé (140 South-West of Birao). In Birao, on 25

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<sup>1</sup> The Equateur Region includes the Mambéré, Mambéré-Kadeï, Nana-Mambéré, and Sangha-Mbaéré Prefectures, as per Gov. decree No. 21001, January 2021.

<sup>2</sup> The Fertit Region includes the Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto, and Vakaga Prefectures, as per the Gov. decree No. 21001, January 2021.

February, local authorities confirmed the presence of approximately 100 RSF members positioned in Sudan approximately 400 metres from the border. Parallel cross-border dialogue mechanisms through the follow-up committee to the Am-Dafock local peace agreement facilitated discussions with Sudanese counterparts to mitigate tensions. In the Bamingui-Bangoran Prefecture, in Ndélé, on 11 February, nine members of armed groups, including one from the *Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique* (FPRC) and eight from the Siriri Coalition, disarmed and demobilized with support from MINUSCA. In Ndélé, on 12 February, a grenade was thrown into the courtyard of an international NGO but failed to detonate. The MINUSCA safely neutralised the device and the Gendarmerie opened an investigation on the matter.

4. In **Haut-Oubangui Region**,<sup>3</sup> insecurity throughout the month was primarily shaped by persistent activity of the *Azandé Ani Kpi Gbé* (Azanikpigbe) in Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou Prefectures, with repeated attacks and abductions causing fear among civilians and prompting population movements across several localities. In the Mbomou Prefecture, in Dembia, on 3 February, an attack by Azanikpigbe members on a detachment of the *Forces armées centrafricaines* (FACA) injured two soldiers and caused temporary civilian displacement before MINUSCA patrols facilitated the return of residents. In the Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, in Zémio, on 3 February, the reopening of a secured river crossing facilitated the voluntary return of approximately 700 people from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Meanwhile, in Bambouti (80 km East of Obo), on 17 February, a MINUSCA joint assessment mission found the town largely deserted and its infrastructure looted but noted improving security conditions that could support the gradual return of displaced residents since the attack by the Azanikpigbe on 28 December 2025. From 16 to 19 February, Bangassou Auxiliary Bishop Aurelio Gazzera, and member of the “*Plateforme des Confessions Religieuses*” met with Azanikpigbe, FACA, and Internal Security Forces (ISF) representatives, confirmed that the hostages abducted on 28 December remained alive, and underscored the need for sustained dialogue to secure their release. On 16 February, the Government Spokesperson highlighted the President’s openness to a diplomatic solution, reiterating the State’s willingness to engage in dialogue in Haut-Mbomou Prefecture while underscoring its responsibility to ensure security and public order.
5. In **Kaga Region**,<sup>4</sup> Ouaka Prefecture, at a FACA detachment located 20 km from Bakala, on 22 February, an internal dispute escalated into a fatal shooting between two soldiers, after which the surviving soldier was arrested. In the Nana-Grébizi Prefecture, in Kaga-Bandoro and Nana-Outa, on 6 February, farmers reported renewed destruction of agricultural fields by cattle belonging to Fulani and Mbororo herders, respectively, risking escalation of intercommunal tensions. Toward the end of the month, movements of armed elements contributed to heightened vigilance. In Ouham-Fafa Prefecture, on 4 February, unidentified armed men attacked Yima village (18 km east of Batangafo), displacing over 100 people.
6. In **Plateaux Region**,<sup>5</sup> the security environment was characterized by violent intercommunal reprisals linked to cattle theft and to the presence of armed elements around Bangui and across Ombella-M’Poko Prefecture. On 1 February, in Sakoussa (18 km East of Bangui), Ombella M’Poko Prefecture, the cycle of violence between Fulani herders and local hunters escalated following the killing of a Fulani herder in retaliation for the killing of four hunters near Yazé on 29 January, prompting the deployment of the ISF to deter further confrontation. On 4 February, in Ombella-M’Poko Prefecture, in Bobala, 3R members carried out repeated attacks to loot civilians, causing population displacement. Amid these security concerns, on 11 February in Ombella-M’Poko Prefecture, in Bossembélé, MINUSCA officially

<sup>3</sup> The Haut-Oubangui Region includes the Basse-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, and Mbomou Prefectures, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001, January 2021*.

<sup>4</sup> The Kaga Region includes the Ouham Fafa, Kémo, Nana-Grébizi, and Ouaka Prefectures, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001, January 2021*.

<sup>5</sup> The Plateaux Region includes Ombella M’Poko and Lobaye Prefectures, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001, January 2021*.

handed over the rehabilitated Court of First Instance to national authorities, a development expected to strengthen judicial capacity and improve access to justice in the region.

7. In **Yadé Region**,<sup>6</sup> Ouham Prefecture, transhumance-related violence remained a key driver of insecurity due to persistent tensions between herders and farmers during the seasonal movement of livestock. This resulted in five civilians killed, at least seven injured, and significant cattle losses in separate incidents in Kounang and Kowone (43 km from Bocaranga) on 31 January; between Bozélé and Gazouene on 2 February; in Bobéré (12 km north of Bossangoa) on 3 February; and near Bokine (18 km north of Bossangoa) on 15 February. On 1 February, in Taley (75 km from Paoua), a dispute between two FACA soldiers escalated into gunfire, resulting in the death of both soldiers. On 5 February, in Zara (30 km west of Paoua), a senior 3R commander known as “Adamou” was killed during an encounter with other security personnel (OSP) elements. Subsequently, 3R members threatened Fulani herders in nearby Bozamale, accusing them of collaborating with the OSP and warning of reprisals. In the Lim-Pendé Prefecture, there were continued reports of abuses by 3R members, including conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV),<sup>7</sup> despite the demobilisation efforts initiated after the 19 April 2025 Agreement.

### Significant human rights-related developments

8. During the reporting period, the *Commission Vérité, Justice, Réparation et Réconciliation* (CVJRR) made significant advances in strengthening its operational and institutional framework. On 4 February, the President and Vice-Presidents of the CVJRR met with the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, as well as the Director of the Human Rights Division, to discuss ongoing challenges and minimum operational needs and to review available support from MINUSCA and the Peacebuilding Fund. The CVJRR leadership welcomed MINUSCA’s continued engagement, noting its importance in overcoming constraints and sustaining progress since the Commission’s establishment in 2020. Earlier in the period, from 25 January to 2 February, the Commission updated its administrative and financial procedures manual, drawing on national oversight bodies and external technical expertise from the HRD. The Commission formally adopted the revised version during its plenary session on 27 February. On 11 and 12 February, the CVJRR finalized and validated its institutional Roadmap during a workshop supported by the HRD involving 29 participants, including six women. The session refined the Commission’s strategic pillars, actions, and activities and reinforced a victim-centred approach supported by civil society organizations.
9. National authorities also took steps to promote justice and strengthen the fight against impunity and the compliance with their human rights obligations. On 12 February, the Ministry of Justice, Promotion of Human Rights, and Good Governance issued Circular No. 113 prohibiting interference by unauthorised individuals in criminal justice processes, recalling that only designated Defence and Internal Security Forces may carry out arrests, searches, detentions, and interrogations, addressing longstanding concerns regarding unauthorized interventions. Between 2 and 19 February, the Ministry prepared and validated national reports under the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, drawing on technical support from the HRD to ensure alignment with treaty-body guidelines and previous concluding observations. From 16 to 19 February, the Ministry, with HRD support, convened representatives from various ministries and national human rights institutions to develop an interministerial monitoring tool for implementing the Universal Periodic

<sup>6</sup> The Yadé Region includes the Lim-Pendé, Ouham, and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures, as per the *Gov. decree No. 21001, January 2021*.

<sup>7</sup> 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 *Report of the United Nations Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (S/2019/280)*.

Review and the National Human Rights Policy action plans and to revitalize associated steering mechanisms. On 11 February, NGO Amnesty International expressed concerns in a public statement indicating that the Special Criminal Court (SCC) may face closure in 2026 due to funding shortfalls and called on States to provide additional financial support to sustain its operations. On 17 February, the Central African Government announced efforts to secure alternative funding for the SCC.<sup>8</sup>

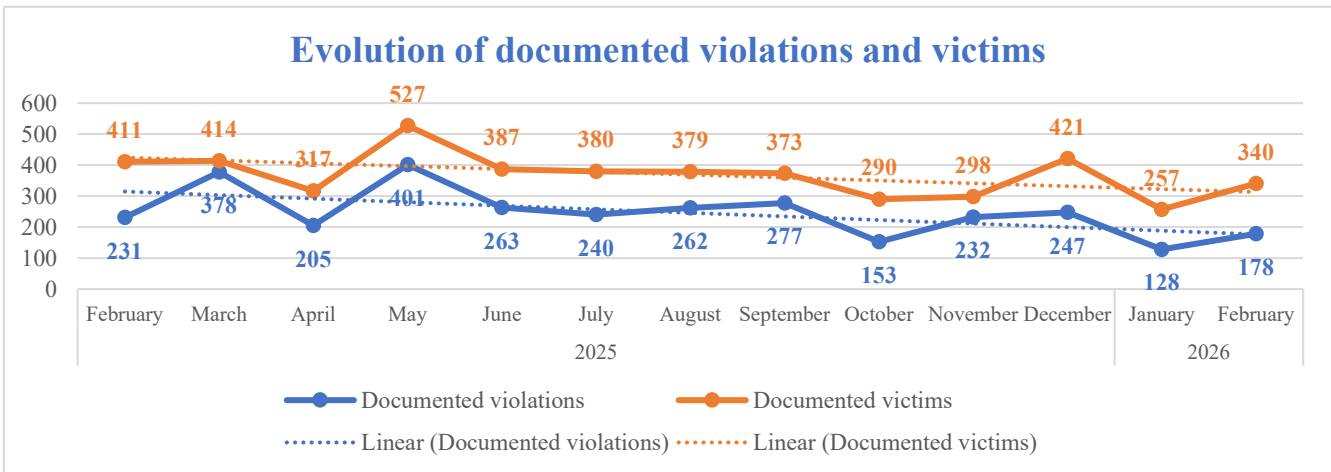
- The *Commission Nationale des Droits de l’Homme et des Libertés Fondamentales* (CNDHLF) expanded its oversight activities and institutional consolidation during the period under review. From 13 to 20 February, the CNDHLF, supported by the HRD, conducted training sessions and assessments of the post-electoral human rights environment in Berberati and Bouar, enhancing its visibility and partnerships with regional actors.

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

- During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented 178 violations and abuses of international human rights law (IHRL) and breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL), affecting 340 victims (including 216 men, 61 women, 18 girls, 16 boys, and 29 groups of collective victims), 49 of whom suffered multiple violations. Seventy-five percent of the documented violations/abuses took place in February 2026, while the remaining violations/abuses occurred between 2009 and January 2026. Compared to January 2026, both the number of violations/abuses (+39%) and victims (+32%) increased.<sup>9</sup> Most violations and abuses were related to arbitrary arrest and/or detention and

**Main Trends**

In total, **178 human rights violations and abuses** as well as breaches of IHL affecting **340 victims** (including 216 men, 61 women, 18 girls, 16 boys, and 29 groups of collective victims) were documented in February 2026. This constitutes an **increase** in both the number of violations (+39%) and the number of victims (+32%) compared to January 2026.



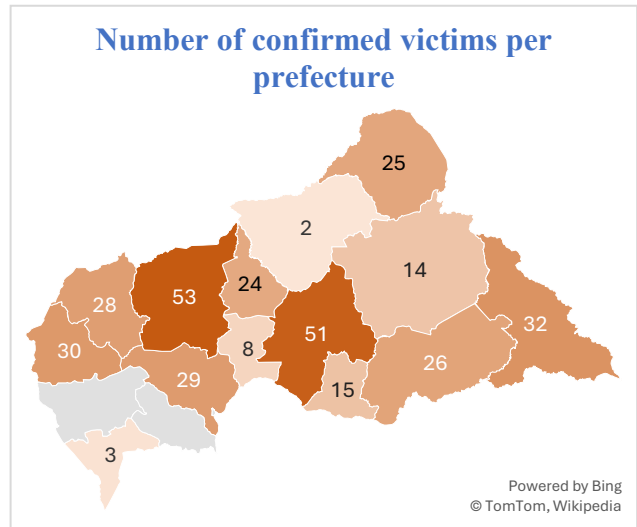
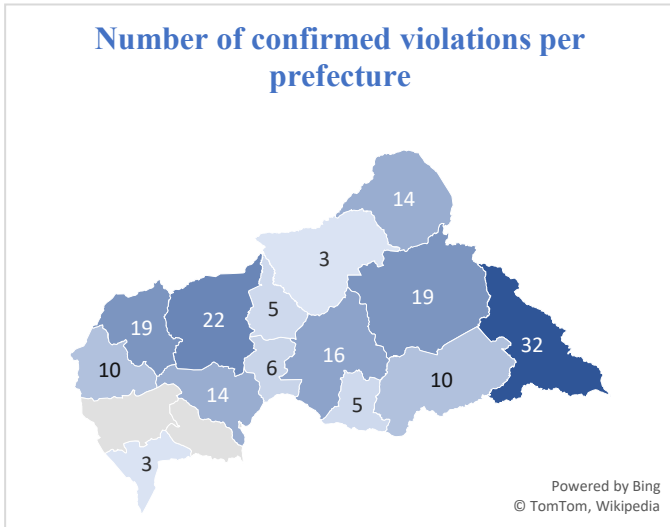
conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards (29%), the right to physical and mental integrity (16%), CRSV (14%), and the right to property (10%).<sup>10</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Of note, an October 2025 agreement between MINUSCA, the United Nations Development Programme, and the European Union secured partial funding until October 2028, with current resources covering operations until 30 June 2026.

<sup>9</sup> In January 2026, MINUSCA documented 128 violations and abuses affecting 257 victims.

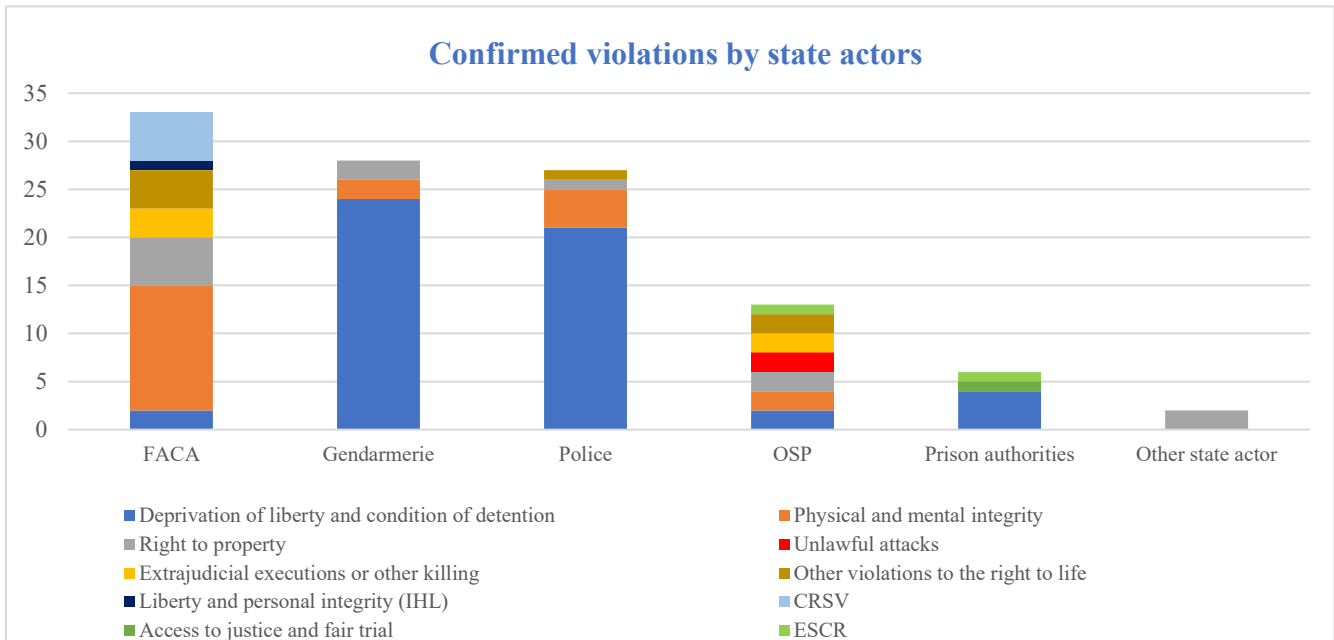
<sup>10</sup> In January 2026, the most common types of violations and abuses were related to arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards (43%), the right to physical and mental integrity (21%), the right to property (16%), and the right to life (9%), including extrajudicial and summary killings (5%).

12. **Men** were mainly victims of arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards (68%), violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity (14%), and the right to property (12%). **Women** were mostly victims of CRSV (44%), arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards (26%), violations/abuses of the right to liberty and personal integrity (19%) and violations to the right to physical and mental integrity (14%). **Girls** were primarily victims of CRSV (72%), recruitment and use (44%), and violations/abuses of the right to liberty and personal integrity (22%). **Boys** were mainly victims of violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity (50%) and arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards (43%).
13. The **Haut-Oubangui and the Yadé** Regions registered the highest number of violations/abuses (47 and 41, respectively) and the **Kaga** and **Yadé** Regions the highest number of victims (83 and 81, respectively). The Haut-Mbomou was the most affected Prefecture in terms of violations and abuses (32 violations/abuses affecting 32 victims). The most common violations in the Haut-Oubangui and Kaga Regions were related to arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards, while the most common abuses in the Yadé Region were related to the CRSV committed by the 3R in the Lim-Pendé Prefecture.



## Overview of violations by type of perpetrator

14. For the period under review, **State actors were responsible for 109 human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law affecting 251 victims** (187 men, 27 women, seven girls, 11 boys, and 19 groups of collective victims). The patterns remained broadly consistent with those observed in January 2026, with a slight increase in the number of violations (+16%) and victims (+15%), notably by the FACA, Gendarmerie, and Police.<sup>11</sup> The main violations perpetrated by State actors were related to arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards (53), mostly attributable to the Gendarmerie and the Police; the right to physical and mental integrity (21); the right to life (12), including the extrajudicial killing of nine victims, and the right to property (12). Among State actors, while acting alone, the FACA committed the highest number of violations (32 violations affecting 38 victims),<sup>12</sup> while the Gendarmerie was responsible for the highest number of victims (28 violations affecting 99 victims).<sup>13</sup> The Police was responsible for 27 violations affecting 84 victims,<sup>14</sup> the OSP for 11 violations affecting 18 victims,<sup>15</sup> and Prison authorities were responsible for six violations affecting six victims. Most of the violations committed by State actors occurred in **Haut-Oubangui Region** (30 violations affecting 54 victims) and **Kaga Region** (27 violations



affecting 83 victims),<sup>16</sup> mostly due to the high number of arbitrary arrest and/or detention and conditions of detention that do not comply with national and international standards.

<sup>11</sup> In January 2026, the HRD documented 94 violations affecting 217 victims by State actors.

<sup>12</sup> In the graph below, the FACA bar includes the violations committed by the FACA and also one violation committed jointly with the Internal Security Forces (ISF), affecting one victim.

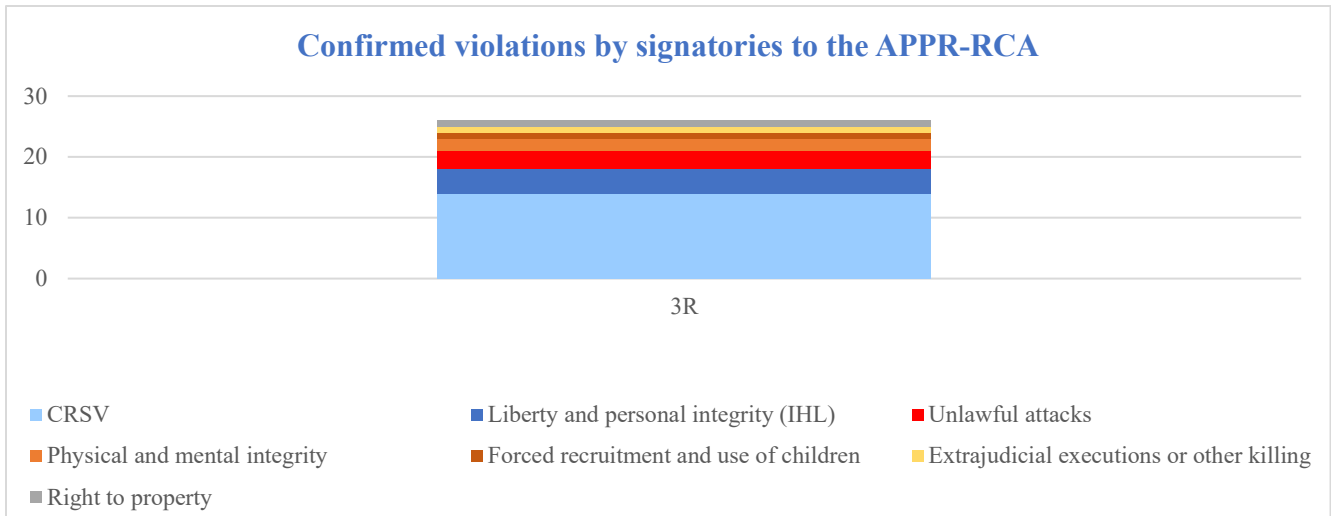
<sup>13</sup> The figures for the Gendarmerie include also violations committed by its specialised units, namely the *Brigade de Recherche et d'Intervention* (BRI) (two violations affecting 10 victims).

<sup>14</sup> The figures for the Police include also violations committed by its specialised units, namely the *Office Central de Répression du Banditisme* (OCRB) (four violations affecting 11 victims).

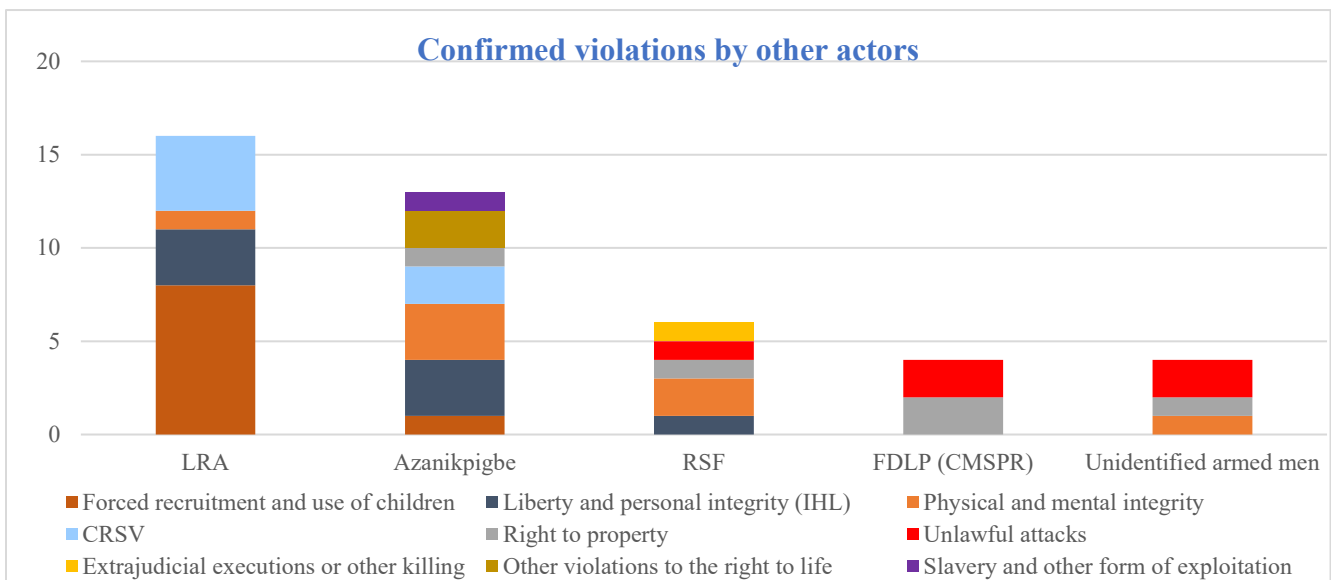
<sup>15</sup> In the graph below, the OSP bar includes the violations committed by the OSP alone as well as two violations committed jointly with the FACA, affecting three victims.

<sup>16</sup> In January 2026, the Kaga Region was the most affected by violations by State actors (24 violations affecting 69 victims).

15. **Armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA were responsible for 26 human rights abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law affecting 41 victims** (eight men, 23 women, four girls, two boys, and four groups of collective victims), all attributed to the 3R. In comparison to January 2026,<sup>17</sup> this represents an increase of 420% in abuses and of 1266% in victims, primarily due to an increase of the confirmed abuses by the 3R, which continued despite the signature in N’Djamena of the 19 April 2025 agreement between the CAR Government and the 3R and the subsequent demobilisation and disarmament efforts. The main abuses perpetrated by armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA were related to CRSV (14), liberty and personal integrity (four), unlawful attacks (three), the right to physical and mental integrity (two), and forced recruitment, the right to life, and the right to property (one each). All of the abuses committed by armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA took place in the **Yadé** (85%) and **Equateur** (15% each) Regions.



16. **Other actors were responsible for 43 abuses affecting 48 victims** (21 men, 11 women, seven girls, three boys, and six groups of collective victims). In comparison to January 2026, this represents an increase of 48% in abuses and of 29% in victims,<sup>18</sup> mainly due to an increase of abuses by the Azanikpigbe and to the documentation of grave violations against children in armed conflict by the



<sup>17</sup> In January 2026, the HRD documented five abuses affecting three victims by armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA.

<sup>18</sup> In January 2026, the HRD documented 29 abuses affecting 37 victims by other actors.

*Lord's Resistance Army* (LRA) after the victims escaped in the Haute-Kotto Prefecture. Abuses were mainly related to forced recruitment (nine abuses affecting nine victims), the right to liberty and personal integrity (seven abuses affecting 16 victims), the right to physical and mental integrity (seven abuses affecting 10 victims), conflict-related sexual violence (six abuses affecting eight victims), the right to property (five abuses affecting 21 victims), unlawful attacks (five abuses affecting five victims), the right to life (three abuses affecting six victims, including two victims of killings), and slavery and other forms of exploitation (one abuse affecting two victims). The main perpetrators were the LRA (16 abuses affecting eight victims), the Azanikpigbe (13 abuses affecting 17 victims), the RSF (six abuses affecting seven victims), and the *Front de défense des libertés publiques* (FDLP) and unidentified armed men (four abuses affecting eight victims each).

## Typology of human rights violations and abuses and violations of IHL

### Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV)

17. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **25 CRSV cases affecting 40 victims** (27 women and 13 girls aged from 11 to 17 years old), 64% of which occurred in February 2026. The main form of CRSV continued to be rape, including gang rape, followed by sexual slavery. Some of the CRSV cases were perpetrated alongside other human rights violations and abuses such as abduction, recruitment and use of children, death threats, and forced labour. The main perpetrators of CRSV cases documented in February 2026 were **armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA**, with 14 cases affecting 23 women and four girls aged 15, 16, and 17 years old, all attributed to the 3R in the Lim-Pendé Prefecture, despite the signature of the APPR-RCA and the 19 April 2025 N'Djamena agreement that lead to the DDR process. **State actors** were responsible for five cases against five girls aged 13, 14, and 17 years old, all attributed to FACA elements in the Haut-Mbomou, Ouaka, and Ouham Prefectures. **Other actors** were responsible for six cases affecting four women and four girls aged 11 and 16 years old. The cases involving the women were committed by the Azanikpigbe in the Haut-Mbomou Prefecture and the cases involving the girls were committed by the LRA in the Haute-Kotto Prefecture. It is worth noting that CRSV cases remain largely underreported.
18. To strengthen community awareness and support survivors of CRSV, MINUSCA conducted two community training activities in the Bamingui-Bangoran and Ouaka Prefectures, reaching a total of 82 participants, including 31 women. During the activities, medical and psychosocial support mechanisms were presented by Ndele hospital, INTERSOS, the SENI project and MSF. MINUSCA encouraged peer-to-peer awareness-raising and distributed solar radios to support wider community outreach through collective radio-listening initiatives.

### Right to life

19. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **16 violations/abuses of the right to life affecting 25 victims** (16 men, eight women, and one boy), including summary or extrajudicial killings (seven violations/abuses affecting 10 men, one woman, and a 4-year-old boy), enforced disappearance (one violation affecting one man), attempted summary or extrajudicial killings (two violations affecting four victims), and death threats (six violations/abuses affecting eight victims). Most violations were attributed to **State actors** (12 violations affecting 18 victims, including nine victims of extrajudicial killings). The FACA were responsible for the highest number of violations and victims (seven violations affecting nine victims, including five victims of extrajudicial killings). **Armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA** were responsible for one abuse affecting one victim, consisting in one summary killing attributed to the 3R. **Other actors** were responsible for three abuses affecting six victims, including two victims of killing attributable to the RSF from Sudan. On 15 February, in Sikikédé, Vakaga Prefecture, RSF members attacked a civilian vehicle travelling between Sikikédé and the Chadian border, resulting in the

immediate death of a 27-year-old pregnant woman and a four-year-old boy, and causing serious gunshot wounds to two men.

20. In line with its obligations under Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the State guarantees the right to life of every individual, including the responsibility to ensure transparent investigations into actions by State and non-State actors to determine the cause of death and to ensure accountability.

### Deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention

21. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **53 violations related to deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention affecting 184 victims** (147 men, 16 women, one girl, seven boys, and 13 groups of collective victims). Most violations were related to arbitrary arrest and/or detention (38 affecting 169 victims), largely due to detention beyond the legal time limit for custody documented during monitoring visits. Of note, the Gendarmerie in Bambari was involved in the prolonged detention of 20 detainees, who spent between one and two weeks in their premises.
22. The detention conditions across several facilities/centres continued to raise serious concerns, with recurrent structural deficiencies compounded by individual violations. Poor conditions of detention were observed in the Bambari Gendarmerie and Ndélé Police Station, where detainees slept on dirty mats in poorly ventilated rooms without State-provided food, a situation exacerbated by the absence of functioning prisons, leading to the mixing of convicted detainees, pre-trial detainees, and individuals in custody. Concerns also emerged at the *Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire* (DST) in Bangui, where 21 Nigerien women, including six with infants and three pregnant, were held pending administrative removal for irregular stay, raising questions regarding safeguards for vulnerable women and access to information, particularly in light of language barriers. At the Central Prison of Nola, HRD noted the cessation of health care, lack of water and electricity, unsanitary living conditions, and inadequacy of food allowance, which amounts to a meagre XAF 67 (about USD 0.12) per day per prisoner. In the Central Prison of Bambari, overcrowding worsened and the food allowance, though recently slightly increased to XAF 93 (approximately USD 0.16) per day, remained insufficient. Despite these challenges, HRD's sustained advocacy with judicial authorities in Bambari and Nola resulted in the release of multiple detainees held in prolonged pre-trial detention and renewed commitments to improve oversight and detention practices.
23. 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.<sup>19</sup>

### Right to liberty and personal integrity

24. During the reporting period, MINUSCA documented **12 abuses to the right to liberty and personal integrity<sup>20</sup> affecting 34 victims**, all of them involving abductions. Most of these abuses were committed by the 3R (four abuses affecting 17 victims) and the Azanikpigbe (three abuses affecting 11 victims). Violations and abuses related to the right to liberty and personal integrity are often linked to other violations, such as forced recruitment, CRSV, or appropriation of property. On 10 February, 3R members abducted a 15-year-old girl and seven women when they were working in the fields in Tatou, Lim-Pendé.

<sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> The right to liberty and personal integrity includes protection against abduction, deprivation of liberty, and hostage-taking (violations and breaches of international humanitarian law).

They raped them before their release. All victims were subsequently referred to a hospital for medical care.

25. In line with its responsibilities under Article 3 of the UDHR, Article 9 of the ICCPR, and Article 6 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR), the CAR Government is obligated to take measures to prevent and investigate violations and abuses of the right to liberty and personal integrity.

### Right to physical and mental integrity

26. During the period under review, MINUSCA documented **30 violations/abuses of the right to physical and mental integrity**<sup>21</sup> affecting **50 victims**, including cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment (24 violations/abuses affecting 39 victims), maiming and injuries (three violations/abuses affecting seven victims), threats to physical and mental integrity (two violations affecting two victims), and torture (one violation affecting two victims). **State actors** were responsible for 21 violations affecting 37 victims, perpetrated mainly by FACA (13 violations affecting 23 victims). **Armed groups signatories to the APPR-RCA** were responsible for two abuses affecting three victims, all attributed to the 3R. **Other actors** were responsible for seven abuses affecting 10 victims, notably involving the Azanikpigbe (three abuses affecting three victims) and the RSF (two abuses affecting four victims). On 6 February, in Dékoa, Kémo Prefecture, a FACA element slapped and hit a 32-year-old man. Following bystanders’ intervention, the FACA element fired shots at the ground to disperse the crowd. The FACA element was subsequently taken to the Police station and briefly arrested.
27. In line with its obligations under Article 5 of the UDHR, Article 7 of 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 ACHPR, the CAR Government is expected to take concrete steps to prevent and investigate cases relating to torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

### Right to property

28. MINUSCA documented **18 violations/abuses of the right to property**,<sup>22</sup> affecting **38 victims**, most related to destruction or appropriation of property. **State actors** were responsible for 12 violations affecting 16 victims, **armed group signatories to the APPR-RCA** were responsible for one abuse affecting one victim, and **other actors** were responsible for five abuses affecting 21 victims. The main perpetrators in terms of violations were the FACA, acting alone or jointly with the OSP (six violations affecting seven victims), while the main perpetrators in terms of victims were the Azanikpigbe (one abuse affecting eight victims). On 19 January, in Ngombe, Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, Azanikpigbe members forcibly entered a refugee camp hosting Congolese farmers and compelled the refugees to supply them with food. The armed men seized a range of goods after ordering the refugees to forcibly make ready produce for their benefit.
29. Pursuant to Article 17 of the UDHR and Article 14 of the ACHPR, the CAR Government is expected to take measures to protect the right to property of all individuals living on its territory. Furthermore, Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions, the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II), as well as Article 8 of the Rome Statute, prohibit the parties to the conflict from targeting civilian property and protected property.

<sup>21</sup> Violations related to the right to physical and mental integrity include ill-treatment, torture and maiming and injuries.

<sup>22</sup> The right to property includes protection from destruction or appropriation of property and illegal taxation.

## Unlawful attacks

30. MINUSCA documented **10 unlawful attacks**<sup>23</sup> affecting 10 groups of collective victims, including attacks against civilians by the 3R, FDLP, OSP, and 3R in the Nana-Mambéré, Ouham, Ouham-Fafa, and Vakaga Prefectures, respectively. Other incidents included the denial of NGO humanitarian relief by 3R members in the Nana-Mambéré and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures.
31. Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions, the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II), as well as Articles 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute, prohibit parties to the conflict from carrying out indiscriminate attacks against protected persons and property.

## Children in Armed Conflict

32. During the reporting period, the CTFMR<sup>24</sup> verified **39 grave child rights violations affecting 21 children** (16 girls and five boys), a 200% increase compared to the previous reporting period, during which 13 grave violations affecting 11 children were documented. The increase in February is due to the number of children verified to be associated with the LRA following their escape from the armed group. All the escapees were victims of multiple violations, particularly abduction, recruitment and use, and sexual violence.
33. Of the 39 violations verified, 64% occurred during the reporting period. Nine children (seven girls and two boys) were victims of multiple violations. The **main perpetrators were armed groups, which accounted for 70% of the violations (27)**, predominantly recruitment and use of children, rape, and abduction. **State actors** were responsible for 15% of the violations (six), while **other actors** accounted for 15% (six). Armed groups committed 27 violations, with responsibility attributable to the LRA (16), 3R (eight) and Azanikpigbe (three). State actors committed six violations, with the FACA accounting for all. Unidentified armed individuals were responsible for six violations. The violations documented included: rape and other forms of sexual violence (13), recruitment and use (10), abduction (six), denial of humanitarian access (five), maiming and injuries (four), and killing (one).
34. Haute-Kotto was the most affected Prefecture with 13 violations, followed by Haut-Mbomou (11), Lim-Pendé (six), Ouham (four), Ouaka (two), and Nana-Mambéré, Ouham-Pendé, and Vakaga (one each).

### Act to Protect Campaign

Through the “**Act to Protect**” campaign, **227 peacekeepers** (141 men and 86 women) were trained on the protection of children during armed conflict. Similar trainings and awareness sessions were delivered to **1,142 local authorities** (675 men and 467 women), including FACA and ISF, community members and leaders, youth leaders, members of local peace committees, and members of INGOs and NGOs, with a view to enabling them to engage in the protection of children.

<sup>23</sup> Unlawful attacks include attacks against civilians, attacks against other protected persons, the failure of precautions to protect the civilian population or objects under a party’s control against the effects of attacks, and denial of humanitarian relief.

<sup>24</sup> 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.

## Human Rights Promotion and Capacity-Building

35. During the period under review, the **HRD organised 80 activities** (awareness-raising, advocacy, trainings, and capacity-building workshops) across **14 Prefectures**,<sup>25</sup> **benefitting 3,334 individuals (including 1,885 men, 1,139 women, 138 girls, and 172 boys)**. Participants included national and local authorities, representatives and members of civil society, human rights defenders, youth and women’s organisations, justice and correctional actors, detainees, FACA, ISF, students, community and religious leaders, among others. The activities focused on human rights and international humanitarian law, civil and political rights related to the electoral process, the protection of children, the peace process, MINUSCA’s mandate, the prevention of CRSV, the justice system, and human rights in detention.
36. **The HRD conducted 59 monitoring visits to detention centres and facilities in 14 Prefectures**,<sup>26</sup> **and documented 179 victims of arbitrary detention**. MINUSCA continues to be granted access to most detention centres and facilities to monitor the situation and engage with relevant authorities to advocate for and support efforts to enhance respect for human rights.

## Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP)

37. During the period under review, 27 risk assessments were conducted relating to MINUSCA's support to the Defence and Internal Security Forces (FACA, ISF, and other law enforcement officers). Human rights background checks were conducted for a total of 262 beneficiaries including 87 ISF (53 Gendarmes and 34 Police officers), 169 FACA officers and six Prison officers.
38. Beneficiaries were provided with logistical support, including air and ground transportation for various redeployments and missions to and from Bangui to Bambari, Bambouti, Bangassou, Berbérati, Birao, Bossangoa, Bouar, Bria, Mobaye, Nzacko, Obo, and Yalinga. Other risk assessments allowed MINUSCA’s UNPOL and UNMAS to organize three trainings for Defence and Internal Security Forces officers in Bangui and Bouar, including one in weapon and ammunition management.
39. The risks identified in these assessments were deemed low and medium. Based on these assessments, one of the screened individuals was excluded for allegations of human rights violations and MINUSCA support was approved with a set of recommendations and mitigation measures, including the need to continuously build the capacity of the non-UN security forces on international human rights law, international humanitarian law and the necessary skills and techniques in maintaining and restoring law and order.

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<sup>25</sup> Bamingui-Bangoran, Bangui, Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Lim-Pendé, Mambéré, Mambéré-Kadéï, Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ombella M’Poko, Ouaka, Sangha-Mbaéré, and Vakaga.

<sup>26</sup> Bamingui-Bangoran, Bangui, Basse-Kotto, Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Lim-Pendé, Mambéré-Kadéï, Mbomou, Nana-Grébizi, Nana-Mambéré, Ouaka, Ouham, Sangha-Mbaéré, and Vakaga.