

# MONTHLY UPDATE

IN TRANSFORMATION  
INITIATIVE

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CENTRAL AFRICAN  
REPUBLIC (CAR)



## MAIN STORIES

Peaceful Legislative  
Elections

The CPC Tries  
Blackmail

Touadéra's Russians

The UN in CAR

Humanitarian  
Situation

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Voting took place on 14 March 2021 in a second round of legislative elections. The contest included run-off votes in 49 electoral districts and first-round voting in 69 districts where insurgent violence interrupted the first round in December. Results will be announced on 22 March 2021.
- President Faustin-Archange Touadéra dismissed four ministers and six advisers to the presidency and the prime minister's office, because of suspected links to the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) rebels.
- According to Freedom House's Freedom in the World 2021 report, CAR is rated as 'Not free' with an aggregate score of 9/100 (0=Least Free, 100=Most Free).
- The Central African Armed Forces (FACA), backed by Russian and Rwandan allies, regained control of the rebel stronghold of Bossangoa.
- At least 14 people were killed at a religious site in Bambari amid clashes between armed groups and security forces, according to Amnesty International.
- There was a decline in incidents affecting humanitarian aid workers from 66 in January 2021 to 49 in February 2021.
- A second meeting of the heads of state and governments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), set for 27 February 2021, was postponed indefinitely. The CPC, on 10 March 2021, said in a press release that the second meeting was postponed, following the 'persistent refusal of the government to open an inclusive dialogue'.
- The Security Council, on 12 March 2021, decided to increase the size of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated

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Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). It decided to increase the Mission's military component by 2 750, and its police component by 940.

- The Security Council, on 24 February 2021, discussed the situation in the CAR. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, told the Council that the Central African Republic continued to suffer from violence despite the successful conclusion of the first round of the presidential election in December.
- The United Nations Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic submitted its midterm report (September to December 2020) to the Security Council. The report sheds new light on the regional dimensions of the crisis and the significance of cross-border flows of fighters, arms and natural resources as a key aspect of the crisis in the Central African Republic.
- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that the current crisis has caused the displacement of 276 000 people and according to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) an additional 109 000 Central Africans are currently in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Cameroon, Chad and the Republic of Congo due to the crisis.
- In March 2021, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) sent an aid convoy from Cameroon to CAR with 135 tonnes of food, enough to feed almost 10 000 people displaced by violence. It was the first convoy organised by the ICRC in 2021.
- At least 24 000 children under five across 14 of the CAR's 35 health districts are at risk of severe acute malnutrition following the recent spike in violence across the country. This year, at least 62 000 children under five are expected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition, a 25 percent increase from 2020.
- The 2021 Index of Economic Freedom published by the Heritage Foundation ranks CAR at 166 out of 178 countries (178=worst; 1=best). CAR falls in the category of 'Repressed' nations.

