

MONTHLY UPDATE

IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

12 FEBRUARY • NO 2/2021

CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC (CAR)



MAIN STORIES

Post-Election
Developments

State of
Emergency

The State of
Security Forces

Foreign Role Players
Stoke the Conflict

ICGLR Involvement

Humanitarian
Developments

ICC Trials

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Constitutional Court on 18 January 2021 confirmed President Faustin-Archange Touadéra's re-election with 53.16% of the vote. The official turn-out was only 35.25%.
- The Constitutional Court on 1 February 2021 cancelled the results of the first round of legislative elections in 13 out of 140 constituencies for irregularities. Only 22 deputies out of 1 527 candidates were declared elected in the first round.
- The Coalition of the Democratic Opposition (COD-2020) on 2 February 2021 announced its withdrawal from the rest of the electoral process.
- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)'s 2020 Democracy Index ranks CAR 165 out of 165 countries (1=best; 165=worst) with a score of 1.32 (1=worst; 10=best), the same as in 2019, putting it in the category of an "Authoritarian Regime".
- CAR is ranked 146 out of 180 countries in Transparency International's 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI: 1=clean; 180=highly corrupt).
- Nouredine Adam, the leader of the Popular Front for the Rebirth of Central African Republic (FPRC) and one of the key figures in the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) rebel group, said that the latter's aim is to restore security countrywide; and that the CPC asked for inclusive, fair, transparent and democratic elections but Touadéra, refused to listen.
- Parliament extended a state of emergency for six months across the country on 5 February 2021. It was first imposed on 21 January 2021 after the CPC seized control of several national highways and blockaded Bangui.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- It is alleged that since the start of hostilities between government forces and armed groups ahead of the presidential election, a pro-Touadéra militia appeared in Bangui called Les Requins ('Sharks'). They are allegedly responsible for kidnappings and killings.
- The Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Central African Republic (MINUSCA), Mankeur Ndiaye, appealed for the deployment of 3 000 more peacekeepers in response to an upsurge in violence.
- Ndiaye underlined the limited tactical capacities of elements of the Defence and Security Forces and the lack of proper training. The government recently announced the delisting of 800 soldiers for desertion.
- MINUSCA, on 3 February, denied rumours that it was conducting joint operations with Russian mercenaries against rebels.
- The heads of state and governments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) met on 29 January in Angola, to discuss the security situation in the CAR. They congratulated Touadéra on his election victory and called on rebels to accept a unilateral ceasefire.
- A meeting took place between a François Bozizé delegation and emissaries from the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the ICGLR to discuss the situation in the CAR.
- Touadéra refused to participate in a mediation led by Francophones. He did not want either Denis Sassou Nguesso (Republic of the Congo), whom he considers too close to his opposition, or Chadian President Idriss Déby Itno, with whom he does not get along with, to be involved.
- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a report dated 11 February 2021 that a surge in violence had displaced over 240 000 people within the CAR since mid-December 2021.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- The rebels were reportedly trying to 'suffocate' Bangui by preventing supplies to the country from Cameroon. However, FACA, MINUSCA and Russians as well as Rwandan troops have retaken towns to open the Bangui-Garoua Bouldi corridor to Cameroon.
- MINUSCA announced on 8 February 2021 the arrival of a first convoy of 14 trucks of UN humanitarian aid from Cameroon to Bangui after a 50-day blockade by armed rebel groups.
- Aid workers in CAR told Refugees International that efforts to negotiate humanitarian access with militias are ongoing but extremely difficult in the current context. Humanitarian organisations reported that the Wagner Group, a Russian private military contractor, also prevented organisations from delivering aid to communities.
- In a letter addressed to the Secretary General of the United Nations, the leaders of the COD-2020 accused Ndiaye of having interfered in the elections of December 27, 2020. Ndiaye is described by his critics as 'Touadéra's campaign manager'.
- As of 12 February 2021, CAR had recorded 4 996 coronavirus cases; 63 deaths; 4 885 recoveries and 35 523 deaths had been done. Note: The accuracy of these figures is doubtful.

