



## MAIN STORIES

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### Humanitarian Situation

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### AU Statement on the Situation in CAR

### Russian Private Military Contractors (PMCs)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Banned from leaving the country and his private residence searched, the former Prime Minister, Firmin Ngrebada, has now strengthened his close security by Russian mercenaries from the Wagner company. This worries President Faustin-Archange Touadéra, who allegedly suspects that Ngrebada is instigating the atrocities of Russian mercenaries in the rural areas.
- Suspected of having participated in the creation of the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) rebel group, the former president of the National Assembly, Karim Meckassoua, was dismissed on 10 August by the Constitutional Court as deputy in the third arrondissement of Bangui.
- The main opposition Coalition of the Democratic Opposition 2020 (COD-2020) on 24 July said it would take part in dialogue, after government agreed that a republican dialogue organising committee would no longer be placed under Touadéra's direct authority, raised the number of opposition political parties' representatives from one to four and broadened the choice of experts who could provide support
- The government lifted the state of emergency decreed in February 2021 after the rebels of the CPC had attacked Bangui.
- Yao Agbetse, independent expert on the situation of human rights in the CAR, called on authorities in the CAR to thoroughly investigate the killing of 13 individuals in the vicinity of Bongboto village on 21 July 2021.
- Union for Peace in the CAR (UPC) rebels on 27 July 2021 launched a series of coordinated attacks on the town of Obo in the Haut-Mbomou prefecture, targeting FACA (Central African Armed Forces) and Moroccan peacekeepers.

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- Return, Reclamation, Rehabilitation (3R), on 31 July 2021, attacked the village of Mann, Ouham-Pende Prefecture and killed at least 12 people, including five soldiers.
- United Nations (UN) report, published on 4 August 2021, details the worsening human rights situation. The Human Rights Division of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the CAR (MINUSCA) documented 526 incidents of abuses and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law during the past year. These violations affected at least 1,221 victims. The Coalition des Patriotes pour le Changement (CPC) was responsible for over half of the documented incidents (54%). The Central African Armed Forces (FACA), Internal Security Forces (FSI) and Russian military instructors were responsible for 46% of the confirmed incidents.
- Admiral Hervé Bléjean, Director of the EU General Staff, told the Defence Sub-Committee (SEDE) of the European Parliament that the presence of mercenaries from Wagner was impacting negatively on the operations of the European Union Training Mission in the CAR.
- The United Nations Security Council extended an arms embargo and targeted sanctions regime for another year; however, China abstained in the vote because it believes the measures should be removed.
- Rwanda has sent 700 more soldiers to the CAR to secure the main supply route connecting the capital Bangui to the border with Cameroon.
- Touadéra paid a four-day visit to Rwanda. His visit was at the invitation of President Paul Kagame. They signed a Memorandum of Understanding to reform CAR's security and defence sectors.
- The G5+, a group of states and international institutions that are partners of the CAR (United States, France, European Union, African Union, Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States,



# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- MINUSCA and World Bank), said that they noted with great concern the development of an acute humanitarian crisis in the CAR.
- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said on 12 August 2021 that clashes between armed groups and FACA, supported by bilateral forces in Ouham and Ouham-Pendé, had displaced tens of thousands of women, men and children.
- There were 297 incidents affecting humanitarian workers in the first seven months of 2021, compared to 230 during the same period in 2020.
- Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said on 19 July that attacks on patients, health staff and medical facilities during a countrywide surge in violence were forcing the suspension of medical activities and seriously constrained people's access to healthcare.
- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), from 3 January 2020 to 12 August 2021, there were 11,174 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 98 deaths.
- The African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC) said in a communiqué on 21 July 2021 that it welcomed the steady progress in the implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central Africa Republic (PAPR-CAR) but expressed concern over the deteriorating security situation. It also requested the Chairperson of the AU Commission, working in close coordination with the Government of the CAR, to undertake an assessment exercise on the illegal flow of arms in CAR.
- The World Bank said on 4 August 2021 that hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, real GDP growth decelerated to 0.8% – its lowest level over the past five years. Real GDP is projected to decline by 0.6% in 2021 – 5.8 percentage points below pre-COVID-19 and elections projections – leading to a 2.6% decline in income per capita.

