



MAIN STORIES

**Touadéra Shifts Blame
and Defends the
Russians**

**Sant'Egidio Enters
the Dialogue Fray**

ICGLR Mediation

Trouble with France

Humanitarian Situation

HIGHLIGHTS

- President Faustin-Archange Touadéra, in an interview with Jeune Afrique, blamed the Coalition des Patriotes pour le Changement (CPC) rebels for continued insecurity and the United Nations (UN) arms embargo for the Central African Armed Forces' (FACA) lack of fire power, complaining that rebels are better armed. He denied the presence of Russian 'mercenaries' in the country. Touadéra stressed that he is in favour of a national dialogue before the end of the year.
- The Sant'Egidio Community brought together opposition and government figures in Italy on 27, 28 and 29 September to prepare for a national dialogue. The Community of Sant'Egidio is a lay Catholic association and one of the most influential conflict resolution groups in the world. Participants could not agree on CPC participation in the dialogue process but called on rebels to lay down their arms.
- A break-away faction of the Union for Peace in the CAR (UPC) rebel group, led by General Hamadou Tanga, said they no longer recognised the leadership of Ali Darrassa and wanted to return to the 2019 Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation.
- Prime Minister Henri-Marie Dondra could face a motion of no-confidence, led by former prime ministers Simplicie Mathieu Sarandji and Firmin Ngrébada.
- Russian military instructors committed rights abuses during clashes with rebels this year, a government report said, bolstering evidence produced in a UN report in June. The government's report found 103 incidents of human rights abuses carried out by Russian instructors, CAR troops and the rebels.
- The military high command has been dispatching battalions to the Central and Northwest regions of the country to reinforce their positions as the CPC and their allies continue their attacks on government formations.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- Eleven civilians were reportedly killed by rebels near Bambari on 5 October 2021. Red Cross sources put the death toll at 38. The authorities blamed the attack on the CPC.
- Five civilians were killed in a landmine explosion on 3 October in Bowara village situated 63 km from Bocaranga on the Ndim-Kowone highway.
- The Return, Reclamation, et Rehabilitation (3R) militia group reportedly ambushed a Russian security convoy in Bombo, Mambere-Kadei Prefecture on 2 October 2021. Three Russian soldiers and two rebels were killed in the ensuing clashes.
- At least 80 civilians were killed in two days of attacks by the FACA and Russian mercenary on villages occupied by the UPC in Basse-Kotto from 30 September to 1 October 2021. Most of the dead were reportedly artisanal miners.
- Acting President of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), Angola President João Lourenço, convened a meeting to discuss the situation in the CAR. The ICGLR encouraged the Government of the CAR to declare a ceasefire to pave the way for peace in that country. The ICGLR also said that the CPC must sign a formal declaration renouncing violence and returning to the 2019 peace accord.
- Touadéra told the ICGLR that despite the various international and regional efforts to establish peace, the crisis in his country continues.
- On his way back home from the United Nations General Assembly in New York, where he had pleaded for the lifting of the arms embargo on his country, Touadéra stopped over in Brussels and Paris. Touadéra reportedly concentrated on finding a way to patch up relations with France. It appears his efforts were in vain.
- Authorities announced the end of Russian customs cooperation. The agreement signed on 7 May 2021 caused controversy, particularly following videos showing Russian agents searching UN vehicles.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- It is alleged that Wagner mercenaries have openly accused Prime Minister Henri-Marie Dondra of wanting to bring down the Touadéra government. They demanded his departure as well as financial compensation of 40 billion CFA francs to be paid no later than October 13. The mercenaries are allegedly angered by the loss of the customs contract.
- The World Bank said in its October 2021 Macro Poverty Outlook report that CAR's economic growth is projected to decline by 0.8 percent in 2021 and is expected to average 4 percent in the medium term.
- The Belgium Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sophie Wilmès, met with Touadéra. Wilmès regretted the fact that the work of the European Union (EU) and the UN in the country "is regularly hampered", even attacked by hostile forces. Wilmès underlined the importance her country attaches to respect for human rights and the fight against impunity.
- The UN Secretary General, António Guterres, met with Touadéra in New York. Touadéra reportedly pleaded with Guterres for a lifting of the UN arms embargo. It is not clear what Guterres reaction was. However, Guterres focused on the crisis of confidence between MINUSCA and Touadéra's government. Guterres was particularly concerned about a series of demonstrations against peacekeepers.

