



IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

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CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC (CAR)



MAIN STORIES

Attacks in Ouaka
Prefecture

EU Sanctions Wagner
Group

HIGHLIGHTS

- President Faustin Archange Touadéra placed justice and national reconciliation at the centre of his New Year's speech. He said that he wants to organise a republican dialogue before the end of 2022 to promote unity and reconciliation.
- According to some close to Touadéra, as well as those of his United Hearts Movement (MCU), if the democratic opposition continues to stick to its position of not participating in the republican dialogue, it must take place without them.
- The government's plan is to organise a constitutional referendum at the same time as the municipal elections in 2022.
- Sandra Boodhun, a Mauritian national, was recently elevated by Touadéra to the rank of special adviser although this was never officially announced.
- Touadéra appointed former journalist Guy Moskit as a special adviser in early December to help keep watch on his opponent Karim Meckassoua's movements. Moskit knows the former speaker of parliament very well.
- Ali Darassa, the leader of the Unite pour la Paix en Centrafrique (UPC), was appointed as the chief of staff of the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) after his return to the organisation.
- The former Minister of Livestock and Animal Health Ali Hassan Bouba, suspected of war crimes and crimes against humanity, on 24 December announced the creation of a new militia. According to Bouba, he has only one goal at the moment, that of capturing or killing Ali Darassa.
- On 17 December, the Special Criminal Court (SCC) announced it would send its first case to trial. The case involves alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in May 2019 by suspects from the Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation (3R).

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- Between 6 and 16 December 2021, Muslim civilians were killed and injured by Anti-balaka fighters supported by government forces in Boyo commune in Ouaka prefecture, for their alleged links with UPC rebels. According to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), around 15 civilians were killed.
- On 13 December, the European Union (EU) adopted a set of restrictive measures against the Wagner Group, a Russia-based private military entity. Among the eight individuals the EU sanctioned was Valery Zakharov, who is now Touadéra's security counsellor. Touadéra's spokesperson, Albert Yaloké Mokpeme, criticised the decision of the EU.
- Local authorities in Yidere suspect they might have uncovered a war crimes scene following the discovery of a mass grave containing 20 skeletons in the locality situated in the Mambere-Kadei prefecture. The skeletons might be the remains of victims of a retaliatory attack carried out by Russian mercenaries in October 2021.
- A Forces armées centrafricaines (FACA) lieutenant, Amady Jérémy, was allegedly killed by Russian mercenaries on 29 December 2021 in Bouka, Ouham-Pendé Prefecture. FACA soldiers, posted to the region, expressed their anger at Jérémy's killing. They denounced what they say is Wagner's incessant attacks on soldiers.
- On 30 December 2021, three Tanzanian peacekeepers were injured when their vehicle struck an unidentified explosive device. On 31 December 2021, two Bangladeshi peacekeepers were seriously injured, following the explosion of an unidentified explosive device.
- At least 17 people were reportedly killed by Russian mercenaries in Pande village, Mambere-Kadei Prefecture, 30km to the west of Lamy-Pont, near the Cameroon border on 5 January 2022.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- A Russian helicopter gunship belonging to Wagner on 6 January 2022 bombed the Ndassima mining site in Bambari, Ouaka Prefecture, killing two civilians and injuring 10 others. The military high command and their Russian allies said the bombing was an error.
- On 17 December 2021, Management of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a seven-month (December 2021 - June 2022) Staff-Monitored Program (SMP) for the Central African Republic.
- The Central African Republic ranks among the top three countries most affected by malnutrition in Africa, according to the World Food Programme (WFP).
- The number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) increased from 664,491 to 669,791 in November 2021.
- The CAR presented Russian President Vladimir Putin with a portrait made of butterfly wings, a traditional gift signalling the increasingly close ties between the two countries.
- After more than six months of hesitation, Russia's Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, is preparing to appoint a new ambassador in Bangui. Alexander Bikantov is tipped to become the new ambassador.
- The EU temporarily suspended its FACA training mission, due to "control exercised by mercenaries from the Wagner company."
- The International Criminal Court (ICC) reportedly plans to open an investigation, directly targeting Touadéra, because he is using the services of Russian mercenaries, in violation of international treaties. The decision of the ICC also came in the wake of revelations of extra-judicial killings by Les Requins, a pro- Touadéra militia and its cooperation with the Wagner mercenaries.
- It is alleged that Touadéra is considering the withdrawal of the CAR from the ICC.
- The United States (US) Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the US Treasury Department announced sanctions against Ali Darassa, the leader of the UPC, for serious human rights abuses.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- The finance ministry published a list of the various contracts signed by Bangui in the fight against Covid-19, which reached a total amount of 2.8 billion CFA francs (43 million euros). According to the document, the main beneficiary in 2021 was Facility +, owned by the Russian Dimitri Mozer, also honorary consul general of the CAR in Liège, Belgium.
- Touadéra, on 10 December, met with Josep Borrell, EU High Representative in charge of Foreign Affairs and Security Policy in Brussels. The meeting took place behind closed doors.
- Portuguese Prime Minister António Luis Santos da Costa met with his CAR counterpart, Henri-Marie Dondra. Da Costa reaffirmed Portugal's commitment to peace and stability in the CAR, through MINUSCA.

