



MAIN STORIES

Controversy Over Bouba's Arrest and Release

Amnesty International on Justice

Trying To Re-Engage Rebels

Russia

Humanitarian Situation

MINUSCA Mandate Renewed

HIGHLIGHTS

- The former Minister of Animal Breeding and Animal Health and also the Political Coordinator of the Unite pour la Paix en Centrafrique (UPC) rebel group, Ali Hassan Bouba, who was arrested on 19 November in Bangui on instructions from the Special Criminal Court (SCC) for crimes against humanity, was released on 26 November. Bouba was released following pressure from President Faustin Archange Touadéra and the Russian mercenary outfit, Wagner. Bouba is reportedly a confidante of Touadéra and a source of intelligence for Wagner.
- Amnesty International said on 8 December that dozens of persons suspected of criminal responsibility for crimes under international law, including war crimes and crimes against humanity remain at large in the CAR. Likewise, there is not even one suspect in pre-trial detention pursuant to an arrest warrant delivered by the SCC. The release of Hassan Bouba Ali was the latest example of the lack of support by political authorities for the Court's mission, it added.
- Kalité Deya, a rebel general, suspected of war crimes, was appointed by a presidential decree on 2 December as an adviser on the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises to the president.
- The leader of the UPC, Ali Darrassa, on 29 November issued a statement, saying his organisation is withdrawing from the L'Accord politique pour la paix et la réconciliation en République centrafricaine (APPR-RCA).
- Nearly thirty Central African personalities are being prosecuted after being cited in an order for reference to the Bangui Criminal Court, Among the people cited in the order are former president François Bozizé and his son Aimé Vincent, as well as the former president of the National Assembly, Karim Meckassoua.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that the humanitarian emergency in the CAR has reached levels not seen since 2015. In 2022, 3.1 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection, 63% of the population.
- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), from 3 January 2020 to 6 December 2021, there were 11,742 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 101 deaths.
- An International Monetary Fund (IMF) team led by Édouard Martin, conducted a mission from 15 to 26 November 2021, to discuss a staff-monitored program with the authorities. Martin amongst other said that the growth forecast for 2021 had been revised upwards from -1 to 1 percent.
- Under the impetus of Angolan President João Lourenço, the Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation (3R's) General Sembé Bobo, the Mouvement pour la Paix en Centrafrique (MPC's) Mahamat al-Khatim and former President Bozizé, who is living in Chad, agreed to billet their forces, while the government undertook to start a process of disarmament, demobilisation, reintegration and repatriation.
- The leaders of the two most powerful armed groups, the UPC's Ali Darassa and the Front Populaire pour la Renaissance de la Centrafrique (FPRC's) Noureddine Adam refused to sign an agreement with the government despite the intervention of the heads of the Angolan and Sudanese intelligence services.
- Russian mercenaries have taken command of at least one European Union (EU)-trained battalion in the CAR, according to a leaked report of the EU foreign service. The report added that "most deployed Forces armées centrafricaines (FACA) units are operating under direct command or supervision of Wagner.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- On 30 November, the services of the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, warned that the European Union Training Mission in the Central African Republic (EUTM-RCA) might not be extended.
- The Security Council on 12 November decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) until 15 November 2022.
- The European Parliament (EP) urged EU states on 25 November to adopt asset freeze sanctions and a travel ban on the Wagner Group. They also encouraged all states, particularly the Central African Republic, not to use the company's services.
- Touadéra has ordered universities to make Russian compulsory instead of Spanish as soon as 2022.
- China is ready to take the 8th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation as an opportunity to elevate cooperation with the CAR "to a new level" and help boost the development of the CAR, Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.
- Defence ministers from Cameroon and the CAR say kidnapping for ransom, cattle theft and illegal arms trafficking continue to hinder security along the border of the neighbouring countries.
- According to a communique issued on 25 November by the National Council for the Liberation of Chad (NCLC), 27 of its combatants were killed when Russian mercenaries attacked their base located in the CAR town of Kogi. According to the communique, the mercenaries also killed at least 100 Chadian civilians.

