



MAIN STORIES

**Chad Hands Over
CAR Rebel Leader to
ICC**

**Discussion on CAR at
UN**

**UN Independent
Expert on Human
Rights Visits CAR**

Humanitarian Situation

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 14 March, Chadian authorities handed over former militia leader, Maxime Jeoffroy Eli Mokom Gawaka, who is the nephew of former President François Bozizé, to the International Criminal Court (ICC). Mokom is suspected of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Mokom, one of the leaders of the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC), was arrested at the Central African border in Sido by the Chadian National Security Agency (ANS), before being transferred to Ndjamená. Mokom reportedly had a disagreement with the ANS about the distribution of funds allocated by Angola to finance those in exile.
- An audio broadcast leaked on social networks incriminates the president of the Chadian Union of Resistance Forces (UFR), Timan Erdimi and Abdoukassim Algoni Tidjani, a former special adviser to President Faustin Archange Touadéra. Erdimi asked Tidjani for assistance in contacting Touadéra to facilitate the support of the Wagner Group to overthrow the N'Djamena regime.
- Mankeur Ndiaye, Special Representative of the United Nations (UN) Secretary General for the Central African Republic (CAR) and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) told the Security Council that while the military had succeeded in restoring State authority in some parts of the country, these efforts had resulted in human rights violations by all parties.
- The representative of the United States (US) at the Security Council, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, pointed out that the arms embargo could not be lifted, as forces referred to as “other security personnel” perpetrated 40% of all documented violations during the last reporting period. In particular, she took aim at the activities of the Wagner Group, which, alongside the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) had committed 17 status-of-forces agreement violations over the past four months.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- The Russian representative at the Security Council, Anna Evstigneeva, took issue with what she characterised as a campaign to discredit the activities of “Russian instructors.”
- The UN’s independent expert on human rights in the CAR, Yao Agbetse, said the government and its Russian allies should stop obstructing investigations into human rights abuses. Agbetse said the military and Russian mercenaries prevented access for UN investigators and were believed to be responsible for nearly half the country's rights violations.
- The 14 members of the Bureau of the National Assembly were elected on 7 March, dominated by the ruling United Hearts Movement (MCU). Several members of the outgoing bureau were reappointed.
- According to Freedom House’s Freedom in the World 2022 report, CAR is rated as “Not free” with an aggregate score of 7/100 (0=Least Free, 100=Most Free).
- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU’s) 2021 Democracy Index ranks CAR 162 out of 165 countries (1=best; 165=worst) with a score of 1.43 (1=worst; 10=best), up from 1.32 in 2020, putting it in the category of a “Authoritarian Regime.”
- On 24 February, at least nine people were killed and several wounded following clashes between Unité pour la Paix en Centrafrique (UPC) rebels and Anti-Balaka combatants in the village of Mbiakreu, situated in the sub prefecture of Ippy.
- On 5 March, a hundred people in Bangui participated in a demonstration in support of Russia in its offensive against the Ukraine.
- On 12 March, Wagner mercenaries massacred 15 people, mostly Muslims, at mining sites in Markounda, Ouham, Prefecture.
- Since 2021, 47 incidents involving explosive devices were recorded, killing 32 people, including 25 civilians.



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- Following the death of Front Populaire pour la Renaissance de la Centrafrique (FPRC) leader, Zakaria Damane, killed by Russian mercenaries on 12 February, several rebels left to join the Party for the Reunification of the Central African Nation (PRCAN) led by Gregaza Nourd.
- An International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff team led by Oral Williams visited Bangui from February 22 to March 4, 2022, to discuss the first review of CAR's staff-monitored program (SMP), which was approved in December 2021. Williams said that the economy "is showing signs of recovery," adding that reaching a consensus with development partners on the remainder of the budget support "is critical to safeguarding pro-poor spending and the provision of public services."
- The United Nations General Assembly held an Emergency Special Session on a resolution condemning the Russian invasion of the Ukraine. CAR abstained from the vote.
- Russia recognised the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and Lugansk People's Republic (LPR), which broke away from Ukraine and on 22 February said it had established diplomatic relations with the regions. Russian news agency RIA Novosti subsequently claimed that the CAR became the first African country to recognise the independence of the DPR and LPR. However, this information has since been denied by Bangui.
- About 100 former UPC rebels trained in Russia are reportedly to be deployed to Mali to help the country in its fight against jihadists.
- On 21 February, police detained four French soldiers, who are members of MINUSCA. The arrests sparked false rumours that France had attempted to assassinate Touadéra. The soldiers were released on 24 February 2022.



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- On 23 February, three staff members of the French humanitarian non-governmental organisation (NGO), Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), were arrested by Russian mercenaries on suspicion that they kept arms at their base. After the intervention of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the Frenchmen were released.
- Cameroon removed some checkpoints on the Douala-Bangui corridor to facilitate trade with the CAR. Central African truck drivers are forced to pay bribes ranging from 15,000 to 25,000 FCFA to be able to reach Bangui. In protest, they started a strike on 22 February 2022, which led to the temporary closure of the border.
- On the side-lines of the EU-AU summit, Touadéra met with Swiss-Romanian trader Nicolae Bogdan Buzaianu, whose activities in The Gambia and Romania have been the subject of several investigations. Buzaianu suggested setting up bitcoin mining centres in the country, despite its lack of regular and stable supply of electricity required for this activity.
- Touadéra tried in vain during a Europe-Africa summit in Brussels to get a one-on-one meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron to discuss restoring French budgetary aid that has been frozen.
- Valentine Rugwabiza from Rwanda will replace Senegalese Mankeur Ndiaye as Special Representative of the Secretary General for the CAR and Head of MINUSCA.

