



MAIN STORIES

Cryptocurrencies

State of the Army

Russian Human Rights Abuses

Humanitarian Developments

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Central African Republic (CAR) has become the second country in the world to adopt bitcoin as official currency after El Salvador took the same step last year. MARA, a cryptocurrency company backed by Coinbase Global Inc., said it would advise the CAR on the use of Bitcoin.
- The Bank of Central African States (BEAC) urged the CAR to annul the law that made Bitcoin legal tender. The bank warned that the move breached its rules and could affect monetary stability in the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) and make it easier for criminals to launder money and sponsor terrorism. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said that the move “raises major legal and economic policy challenges.”
- The International Crisis Group (ICG) said that 5 years after the CAR adopted a National Defence Plan, the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) is once again falling into politicisation with irregularly recruitments, different chains of command, poor training and performance on the battlefield as well as the militarisation of Bangui. Due to salary payment problems, many FACA members choose to stay in Bangui, with one-third reportedly residing in the capital.
- FACA personnel deployed in the hinterland are facing deteriorating relations with the Russian, with growing discontent with how Wagner mercenaries humiliate and physically abuse FACA officers and soldiers.
- Human Rights Watch (HRW) in a report published on 3 May, documents human rights abuses committed since 2019 by the Wagner private security company. Russians summarily executed, tortured, and beat civilians, HRW said.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- On 15 April, the United Nations (UN) announced the opening of an investigation into the alleged massacre of 10 to 15 people by Russian mercenaries in Gordile and Ndah villages on 11 and 12 April 2022.
- The UN Humanitarian Coordinator in the CAR, Denise Brown, said only about 20% of funds have been mobilised to provide assistance to vulnerable people in 2022. Brown said at the same time in 2021, 89% of funds had been mobilised, adding that the war in Ukraine and the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan mean that humanitarian actors cannot deliver significant aid to CAR.
- A new declaration calling for more concerted action to help nearly 1.4 million displaced Central Africans has been signed after a key regional conference organised by the Government of Cameroon and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The Governments of Cameroon, the CAR, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Republic of Congo, Chad, Sudan and South Sudan committed to enhancing refugee protection and promoting their socio-economic.
- The Republican Front, a group of youth leaders close to Les Requins (the Sharks), a pro - President Faustin-Archange Touadéra militia, marched to parliament on 29 April to submit its petition on a referendum to change the Constitution to include a third term for the president. However, the President of the National Assembly, Simplicie Mathieu Sarandji, not only refused to receive the petition but ordered them to leave the premises of the National Assembly, or be arrested.
- In Bangui, almost every demonstration in support of President Touadéra or against the United Nations (UN) and France is reportedly organised at the presidency by a small group that includes presidential aides, senior members of the presidential party, and members of Wagner.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- Following the publication on social media of a video showing individuals wearing uniforms of the FACA, slashing the throats of two civilians whose hands were tied behind their backs, the Mouvement de Liberation du Peuple Centrafricain (MLPC) political party and its leader, Martin Ziguele, called on the government to immediately open an investigation into the incident. The government however, accused Ziguele, of tarnishing the image of FACA.
- Soldiers, supported by an Anti-Balaka militia faction supporting Touadéra on 9 May, killed 23 people in Bokolobo village.
- The World Bank April 2022 Macro Poverty Outlook states that growth is projected to increase by 3.2% in 2022.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in its April 2022 World Economic Outlook (WEO) that the economy will grow by 3.5% in 2022.
- Economy Minister Herve Ndoba said in a statement that CAR's finances were in an "alarming" state and huge spending cuts loomed without foreign help.
- Resident World Bank representative Han Fraeters said the bank expects the government to explain expenditures in the security sector to be able to disburse its budget support.
- United States (US) President Joe Biden extended beyond 12 May 2022 for 1-year, Executive Order 13667 of 12 May 2014 which deals with the "unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the situation in and in relation to the CAR."
- Cameroon's military deployed hundreds of troops to its eastern border with the CAR after rebels abducted at least 35 people.
- The Central African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sylvie Baïpo Témon and the French Ambassador to Bangui, Jean-Marc Grosгурin, reaffirmed their commitments to work together in the interest of their citizens.

