

MONTHLY UPDATE

IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

AUGUST• No 8/2022

CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC (CAR)



MAIN STORIES

Touadéra Moving Closer to Changing the Constitution

Human Rights Abuses

UN Arms Embargo Extended

USango Coins

Russia

HIGHLIGHTS

- Convinced that President Faustin-Archange Touadéra is trying to cling to power and determined to prevent him from doing so, the opposition created the Republican Bloc for the Defence of the Constitution (BRDC) at the end of July. The President of the Parti africain pour une transformation radicale et l'intégration des États (PATRIE), Crépin Mboli-Goumba, is the coordinator of the BRDC. In a petition lodged with the Constitutional Court on 22 August, Mboli - Goumba, asks the judges declare the proposed constitutional referendum contrary to the Constitution of March 30, 2016.
- On 2 August, approximately 500 Fulani herders and women from the Muslim community of the village Djabarouna, at PK 45 marched in Bangui to support the project to revise the Constitution.
- On 6 August, several thousands of Central Africans, across the country, marched to request a new constitution, an initiative of the “Circle of reflection for a republican constitution.”
- On 12 August, Touadéra affirmed to have taken note of the request of the “sovereign people,” calling for a new constitution. On 15 August, the minister in charge of the general secretariat of the government, Maxime Balalou, declared that the government had the authorisation of the National Assembly to set up a Constituent Assembly.
- The first vice president of the National Assembly, Évariste Ngamana, aimed to disburse at least two million CFA francs per prefecture in public funds, or 40 million CFA francs for the whole country, to pay people to protest in favour of the Constitution. To do so, he has allegedly embezzled state funds.

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- More than four months after the end of the Republican Dialogue, the Recommendations Monitoring Committee was set up on 1 August 2022 by Touadéra. Its 11 members come from political parties, religious denominations and civil society.
- The UN Human Rights Office on 25 July issued two reports, one detailing a brutal, organised attack on a village by a pro-Government militia. The second report details conflict-related sexual violence committed from December 2020 to early March 2022 by members of the Front Populaire pour la Renaissance de la Centrafrique (FPRC) and the Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique (UPC).
- The UN Security Council on 29 July extended its arms embargo against the CAR — as well as a travel ban and assets freeze imposed on certain individuals and entities, as designated by its sanctions committee — for one year; eased some of the embargo's restrictions; and renewed for 13 months the mandate of the Panel of Experts tasked with assisting that body. The embargo no longer affects the Central African armed forces.
- According to Touadéra, his country's launch of the "Sango coin" currency, as well as the call for the creation of a common digital currency by the regional central bank, represent two key achievements for his country and all of Africa. However, the sale of the digital coin got off to a slow start, with just over 5% of the target bought in the hours after its launch.
- According to security sources, the CAR has officially requested 3,000 additional Russian military instructors to support the Central African Armed Forces (FACA).
- At the conclusion of his ten-day official visit to CAR, Yao Agbetse, the UN Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the CAR, said on 5 August that armed groups must lay down their arms and engage in political dialogue, urging the international community to strengthen efforts to restore State authority and end impunity.



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- MINUSCA special intervention units have been deployed in the town of Bakouma, prefecture of Mbomou, for an operation from 14 June to 30 August 2022 to counter the activities of the Coalition des Patriotes pour le Changement (CPC).
- MINUSCA and the FACA based in Bangassou decided to strengthen their coordination in relation to patrols to protect civilian populations in the south of the country.
- The civilian population continues to be the most affected by armed violence in the CAR. In the first seven months of 2022, 96 incidents affecting humanitarian workers were recorded.
- The International Criminal Court (ICC) made public an arrest warrant for a rebel leader in the CAR, Noureddine Adam. The warrant, which was previously sealed and dated back to January 2019, states that Adam is wanted on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- The European Union (EU) Council adopted two decisions concerning the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions in the CAR: the civilian Advisory Mission in support of Security Sector Reform in the CAR (EUAM RCA) and the military training mission European Union Training Mission in CAR (EUTM RCA). The decisions extend their mandates, until 9 August 2024 in the case of the civilian mission EUAM RCA, and until 20 September 2023 for the military EUTM RCA.
- Tension is rising again between France and the CAR after French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to Yaoundé, where he denounced Moscow's hybrid diplomacy in the CAR. CAR's government did not react but allegedly decided to put all French nationals in the CAR under surveillance.
- According to the United States (US) Department of State's 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report, the Government of the CAR does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so.



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- There is continued agitation from opposition and civil society groups for Rwandan peacekeepers from MINUSCA and Rwandan soldiers to leave the country. They believe that President Paul Kagame is assisting Touadéra to stay in power.
- Gabon and the CAR are working on a military protocol to enable Gabon to send another military contingent to CAR after 450 of its troops attached to the UN peacekeeping forces in the country were repatriated in 2021 on accusations of sexual abuse.
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