



MAIN STORIES

**Security Situation
Deteriorates**

**Strained Relations
with South Africa**

Russia

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ever since an aerial attack on 28 November on a former factory of the Société Centrafricaine de Développement Agricole (Socada) in Bossangoa, Ouham prefecture, where soldiers and Wagner's mercenaries are now stationed, different versions of events emerged. It is not clear who was responsible, but Chad, the Coalition des Patriotes pour le Changement (CPC) rebels, France and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) have been accused of involvement by various role-players in the Central African Republic (CAR).
- A new armed group has been announced in the CAR, named Coalition Siriri. Some political analysts in Bangui say the group, founded by Moustapha Sabone, the older brother of Abakar Sabone, former leader of the Movement of Central African Liberators for Justice (MLCJ) is tied to President Faustin-Archange Touadéra. However, other analysts say Coalition Siriri is fiercely opposed to the policies of Touadéra.
- According to the government, several localities in the hinterland are currently being surrounded by rebels from the CPC as they allegedly move to attack Bangui, which has been placed on red alert.
- South Africa's State Security Agency (SSA) has been secretly funding the Pretoria embassy of the CAR for more than eight years, at an unknown cost to the taxpayer. The funding began during Jacob Zuma's presidency in 2014, and has reportedly only now been terminated by the SSA.
- Russia's Wagner Group is freeing hardened rebels held in jail cells in the CAR and deploying them overseas, including in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region.



- An investigation by an international consortium of journalists published on 2 December shows that Wagner is circumventing the ban on the export of precious stones. Wagner has been trading diamonds since 2019, using a company called Diamville, based in the CAR, linked to President Vladimir Putin's close confidante, Yevgeny Prigozhin.
- Four armed groups, signatories to the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic (APPR-RCA), announced the complete dissolution of their movements, according to an information note published by the presidency.
- Having become Touadéra's main regional sponsor, Kigali is now busy transforming its diplomatic-military efforts into commercial outlets. Rwanda relies on Pascal Bida Koyagbé, Minister Delegate for Major Works and Strategic Investments and close friend of Touadéra. Kigali is particularly interested in the exploitation of gold deposits.
- The United States (US) State Department added Russia's Wagner Group to a blacklist on international religious freedom for alleged involvement in abuses in the CAR. In addition to the Wagner Group designation, US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken also placed CAR, on a "special watch list" for religious freedom violations.
- Touadéra is attending the US/Africa summit and expressed his gratitude to President Joe Biden for a warm welcome.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- Georges Gougouey, an adviser to Touadéra, was one of the main figures working behind the scenes to set up the headquarters of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) in Bangui. Gougouey played a central role in organising the 20 to 24 November visit of BRICS boss, Larisa Zelentsova, of Russia, to Bangui.
- During the Kimberley Process (KP) meeting in Botswana, the CAR Monitoring Team (MT) documented that only eight of the CAR's diamond-producing subprefectures were KP-compliant and that diamond-production continued in non-compliant subprefectures. The CAR has refuted the CAR MT report.
- Chadian rebels, whose presence had been reported for several months on Central African territory, finally made their first incursion into Chadian territory. The rebels are allegedly supported by Wagner, which is determined to overthrow President Mahamat Deby Jr.
- The Defence ministers from Cameroon said they were deploying a joint force to their common border after at least 80 people were taken hostage over the past three months.
- The Minister for Economy Lea Doumta, who led a delegation on a two-day visit to India, said that her country is impressed with India's growth and development model and is keen to emulate it. During the visit, CAR signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with EV manufacturer Pravaig Dynamics. Under the MoU, the company can access strategic resources such as lithium and rhodium and also operate the country's first special economic zone (SEZ).
- United Nations (UN) Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, announced the appointment of Mohamed Ag Ayoya of Mali as the new resident coordinator for the CAR.

