



MAIN STORIES

Rumours of a Coup

Tensions In
Presidential Guard

Russia

Still the Sango Coin

HIGHLIGHTS

- Khartoum's de facto deputy leader, General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, claimed he helped stop a coup being plotted in Sudan and planned by the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) to overthrow the government of the Central African Republic (CAR).
- In a press release on 1 January, the Coalition Siriri rebel group, founded by Moustapha Sabone, the older brother of Abakar Sabone, former leader of the Movement of Central African Liberators for Justice (MLCJ), said it was determined to march towards Bangui to overthrow the "bloodthirsty" regime of President Faustin Archange Touadéra.
- The presidential guard, the Groupement spécial chargé de la protection républicaine (GSPR), already riddled with internal tensions and personal rivalries, is divided over the case of Lieutenant Julien Rafai, who is also the leader of a powerful militia operating within the army, the Requins (Sharks). He is refusing to obey an order to be transferred out of Bangui.
- Former Constitutional Court President, Danièle Darlan, revealed in December 2022 that in early March 2022, Yevgeny Migunov, the second secretary at the Russian Embassy paid her a visit to tell her that Touadéra, must remain in office indefinitely.
- On 19 January 2023, Prime Minister Felix Moloua held talks in Moscow with the leadership of Russia's Defence Ministry. The two sides discussed regional security issues and noted the importance of Russian-Central African ties in the defence sphere.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- Émile Parfait Simb, the controversial Cameroonian businessman wanted for fraud on three continents launched the African Russophony Organisation, to bring together Russian speakers and friends of the Russian language in Africa. Simb took refuge in Bangui to escape Cameroonian justice.
- The head of the Russian House in CAR, Dmitry Sytyi, was reportedly seriously injured in a parcel bomb attack on 16 December 2022. Russian oligarch Yevgeny Prigozhin, the owner of Wagner, blamed the attack on Paris and urged Moscow to declare France as a state sponsor of terrorism. United States (US) officials received conflicting information about the event, including that Sytyi was seen partying in Bangui in the hours after the incident.
- The National Assembly on 28 December adopted a law regulating the organisation of referendums.
- The Special Criminal Court (SCC) had its mandate extended for a further five years under a law passed on 28 December.
- From January to December 2022, humanitarian personnel and assets were affected by 179 incidents, down from 396 incidents in 2021.
- Self-proclaimed Union for Peace in the Central African Republic (UPC) general Abakar Amadou announced his withdrawal from the disarmament process in early January 2023. Amadou will be joining Coalition Siriri.
- Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in its 2023 World Report that despite a unilateral ceasefire declared by President Faustin Archange Touadéra in October 2021, ongoing conflicts in the CAR continued to seriously affect civilians in 2022.
- The World Bank said in its January 2023 Global Economic Prospects (GEP) that growth is projected at 3.0% in 2023.
- The CAR is still backing its Sango Coin token and in its latest move, it announced that it formed a new task force to work out how to integrate the token into its economy. In a statement on 19 December, the government said it had delayed listing its national cryptocurrency token, citing "current market conditions" and "marketing reasons."



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a report on 22 January 2023 that the humanitarian crisis in CAR continues to deteriorate. As a result of violence against civilians and insecurity in areas outside urban centres, 3.4 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection in 2023, an increase of 10% compared to 2022.
- In his New Year's wishes to the Diplomatic Corps, Touadéra referred to the US as “one of our friendly countries,” adding that he personally participated in the US/Africa Summit.
- The US Representative to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, said in a statement on her meeting with Touadéra that she had raised concerns about the role of Wagner forces in the country and emphasised the importance of transparent governance and respect for the rule of law.
- The headquarters of the European Union (EU) in Bangui, went up in smoke overnight on 18/19 December. The Bangui rumour mill alleged that it was retaliation for the attack on Sytyi.
- Two French MINUSCA staff members, arrested on 10 January 2023 at Bangui-M'poko International Airport, were released from police custody on 12 January, without any charges being brought against them.
- The CAR wants to "rebuild ties of trust" with France, its new ambassador to Paris, Flavien Mbata, said.
- Two governors of the southern region of Chad, accompanied by two senior officers of the Chadian army, met at the border with Central African prefectures of Lim-Penned, accompanied by mercenaries from Wagner and FACA soldiers. The Chadians demanded explanations from the Central African authorities concerning the presence of Chadian rebels on Central African territory.
- After the rebels of the CPC attacked the border town of Béloko, the Cameroonian authorities decided unilaterally to close their country's border with the CAR as a security measure.

