



## MAIN STORIES

### A Referendum

### Russia and Wagner

### The AU on CAR

### Humanitarian Developments

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The President of the Central African Republic (CAR), Faustin-Archange Touadéra, said on 30 May that he would hold a referendum in July 2023 on his intention to change the constitution and remove presidential term limits. The opposition Republican Bloc for the Defence of the Constitution (BRDC) said it would not participate in the referendum.
- The United Nations (UN's) independent expert on the human rights situation in the CAR, Yao Agbetse, said that a constitutional referendum could complicate the country's human rights situation. Agbetse also noted that the main constitutional reform proposals have not yet been made public. He also urged the State not to use the financial burden of the referendum as an excuse to compromise the local election process, which has currently been suspended.
- The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) said in a communiqué that it rejects any form of unconstitutional changes of government, including manipulation of the constitution and expressed concern over CAR stakeholders' disagreement on the organisation of the referendum.
- During a UN Security Council meeting on 20 June, the representative of the United Kingdom (UK), James Kariuki, warned that Touadéra's plans to overhaul the country's constitution risk unravelling the years of hard work to strengthen its democratic system
- The Central African ambassador in Moscow, Léon Dodonu-Punagaza said that his country is ready to host a military base that could house up to 10,000 Russian soldiers.

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- Le Monde, in partnership with Dossier Centre and CAPA Presse, obtained reports on the Wagner Group's activities in the CAR, written by the mercenaries themselves between 2017 and 2021. The documents reveal how Wagner's mercenaries looted and tortured, their drinking sprees and kidnappings.
- Wagner is using a network of well-established Lebanese diamond smugglers in Bangui to sell its diamonds in Dubai and Belgium.
- The AU on 13 June 2023 expressed concern about the deterioration of the security situation in the CAR, exacerbated by the spillover of conflict from neighbouring countries, particularly Sudan, leading to the proliferation of illegal weapons and exploitation of the country's mineral resources.
- The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for the CAR and Head of MINUSCA, Valentine Rugwabiza, on 20 June, during a meeting of the Security Council, sounded the alarm over the "extremely concerning security situation," particularly at its border with Chad, Sudan and South Sudan.
- The humanitarian situation in the CAR remains critical, with more than half the population, 3.4 million people, requiring assistance and protection, Mohamed Ag Ayoya, UN Humanitarian Coordinator in the CAR said.
- The former Transitional President, Ferdinand Alexandre Nguendet, on the run after an attempt to arrest him, alleged that Central African Armed Forces (FACA) officers asked him to lead a national liberation movement. He called for a "real popular insurrection" against Touadéra "to restore peace."
- The Special Criminal Court (SCC) on June 16 handed down a first reparations decision in its first and only trial. This decision does not fully meet the expectations of the victims, who were calling for more individual compensation.



## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- The UN will send home a unit of 60 Tanzanian peacekeepers over allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse.
- On 23 May, Touadéra travelled to Dehradun, the capital of Uttarakhand state in northern India to visit the prestigious Doon Scholars school. Among the members of his delegation was the eldest of the Gupta brothers, Rajesh "Tony" Gupta. They reportedly met with Atul and Ajay Gupta.
- The current vice president of the Central African National Assembly, Evariste Ngamana was elected on 26 May 2023 as President of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC).

