



MAIN STORIES

**Controversy Over the
Massacre of Chinese
Miners Continue**

Closing Civic Space

**Discussion on Human
Rights**

**Humanitarian
Situation**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tensions have been mounting in Bangui since the murder of nine Chinese nationals on 19 March. With the killers still unidentified, blame has been placed on the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) by the government. However, some ministers say that the involvement of the CPC is not clear and instead suggest that the responsibility for the killings lies with the Russian mercenaries of the Wagner group.
- To avoid alienating Beijing, the government established a commission of inquiry to investigate the events. On 19 April, Justice Minister Arnaud Djoubaye Abazene said the killers were "indisputably elements from the CPC," quoting the final report compiled by the commission of inquiry.
- The Chinese government hired Chinese economic intelligence firm Guofu Consulting to investigate the incident.
- President Faustin Archange Touadéra, during a speech on the anniversary of his second year in office during his second term, focused on attacking Western countries and rebels, accusing them of actively working to destroy the country.
- The President of the National Authority of Elections (ANE), Morouba Mathias Barthélemy, published a communiqué announcing the suspension of the swearing in of persons elected as members of the branches of the ANE.
- Human Rights Watch (HRW) in a report published on 4 April said that the government is cracking down on civil society, media, and opposition political parties ahead of local and national elections in 2023. In reaction the government denounced the report for its "untruths" and a "purely political position."

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, said he feared an increase in violence against civilians. According to the evidence available to the High Commission, the defence and security forces and their allies committed 58% of human rights violations
- The World Food Programme (WFP) said in April 2023 that the security situation severely hinders humanitarian access especially in the west, north-west and east, where violence by armed groups against civilians increased in 2023.
- A new study by public health researchers presents evidence that the Central African Republic (CAR) is experiencing a severe health and humanitarian emergency, with what is likely the highest measured nationwide mortality rate in the world.
- The US Department of State's 2022 report on Human Right Practices, released in March 2023, states that significant human rights issues included credible reports of amongst others, unlawful or arbitrary killings including extrajudicial killings; and torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment by the government.
- According to the 2023 Global Terrorism Index (GTI), produced by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), CAR is ranked 55 out of 163 countries (1=worst; 163=best).
- Around 34 mercenaries have been killed since the start of 2023 in multiple attacks by the CPC against their positions. As a result, Wagner is now reportedly relocating their bases closer to that of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).
- It is alleged that the Chief of Staff, General Zéphirin Mamadou and his wife, Patricia Mamadou "personally manage the military budget." Officers accuse the couple of embezzling more than 50% of the army's annual budget in just three years.
- The World Bank's April 2023 Macro Poverty Outlook states that after two consecutive years of virtual stagnation, economic activity is estimated to have reached a complete standstill in 2022. Real GDP growth is projected at 3.0% in 2023, before reaching 3.8% on average over the period 2024-25.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in its April 2023 World Economic Outlook (WEO), published on 11 April that the economy will grow by 2.5% in 2023.
- Due to the abuses of Wagner's mercenaries against Cameroonian drivers in Central African territory, the union of Cameroonian transporters on the Bangui-Douala corridor is threatening to stop supplies from Cameroon to the CAR.
- At least 17 people were killed in southern Chad on 18 April when an armed group based in CAR attacked the civilians in Chad's Logone Oriental province.
- A delegation of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) arrived in the CAR on April 11. At the end of meetings, the BRICS committed to the implementation of mining, transport, energy, currency and digital infrastructure projects and the creation of a new city, as well as the construction of mini-nuclear power stations by Russia.
- The United States (US) agreed to fund a \$10 million support programme for the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) to build mobile military camps in the country's interior.
- TotalEnergies announced on 6 April that it sold its subsidiary to a company of Libyan origin, based in Europe, called Tamoil, after negotiations that have taken place in recent months in the greatest secrecy.

