



## MAIN STORIES

Wagner

The 3R

Humanitarian  
Developments

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The Blood Gold Report research programme, launched in September 2023 to investigate the links between western mining companies, authoritarian African governments and Russian mercenaries, on 15 December published a report, titled, "Blood Gold," in which it stated that the Kremlin had laundered \$2.5 billion from illegal gold mining in the Central African Republic (CAR), Sudan and Mali since the start of the war in Ukraine. Wagner's operations in CAR are believed to produce \$290 million in gold a year.
- Since the death of Wagner founder Yevhen Prigozhin, Russia's new man in Bangui is Denis Vladimirovich Pavlov, an intelligence officer from Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR), replacing Vitaly Perfilev. President Faustin-Archange Touadéra initially wanted to maintain the team formed by Perfilev and Dimitri Sityii. However, as part of the takeover of Wagner's activities, the Kremlin decided to replace Perfilev with Pavlov.
- The United States (US) government has reportedly offered security assistance in exchange for easing Wagner out. Representatives of the American private security firm Bancroft met with Central African officials. Although present on the ground, Bancroft is not yet operational. Touadéra's security adviser, Fidèle Gouandjika, said that his administration had until December to tell US officials whether it was willing to partner with them.
- Henri-Marie Dondra, who served as prime minister from 15 June 2021 to 7 February 2022, made a return to the political scene by officially launching his own political party, l'Unité Républicaine (UNIR).

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- Another militia to support Touadéra, called “Touadéra Encore,” was established. The organisation has created a platform on the social messaging service WhatsApp, where it spreads ‘genocidal’ messages.
- On 10 December, at least five drones were involved in an attack on the Wagner base in the town of Kaga-Bandoro, capital of the Nana-Gribizi prefecture, which left three dead and five injured.
- The Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Mame Mandiaye Niang, on a working visit to the CAR, announced the signing of two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) to strengthen cooperation with the Minister of State for Justice and the Special Criminal Court (SCC) in the prosecution of international crimes in the country.

