



MAIN STORIES

Touadéra New Year's
Address

Cabinet Reshuffle

Wagner versus
Bancroft

Humanitarian
Situation

HIGHLIGHTS

- President Faustin-Archange Touadéra in his New Year's Address on 31 December 2023 welcomed the improvement in the security situation in the country and announced that local elections are scheduled for 24 October 2024. He condemned sanctions and accused the West of pillaging the country and fuelling instability in complicity with some Central African citizens.
- Touadéra reshuffled his cabinet in early January 2024, retaining Prime Minister Félix Moloua and appointing ten new ministers.
- The United States (US) private security company Bancroft Global Development says it is in talks with the government over future activities, in a possible bid to muscle Russia's Wagner mercenary group out of the country. Bancroft denied having deployed in Bangui.
- On 18 January, the Russian envoy to the CAR, Aleksandr Bikantov, said that Moscow is negotiating "the deployment of a military base" in CAR.
- On 25 January 2024, about 1 000 people marched to the American embassy in Bangui, handing over a petition demanding Bancroft's immediate withdrawal.
- According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 2.8 million people – or 46% of the population – will be extremely vulnerable in 2024, down from 3.4 million in 2023. According to OCHA, the humanitarian situation is improving, a first in more than 10 years.
- 23 civilians were killed on 21 December in a massacre attributed to the Return, Reclamation and Rehabilitation (3R) rebel group.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- On 8 January 2024, 17 people were killed during an attack by rebels of the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) on an army base in Kabo, Ouham-Fafa prefecture.
- The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the CAR (MINUSCA) said that on 15 January 2024, a Cameroonian member was killed by an explosive device.
- The members of the Security Council expressed concern about reports of illicit transnational trafficking networks which continue to fund and supply armed groups in the CAR.
- Following numerous complaints from residents of Cantonnier and Béloko about Cameroon's occupation of part of the national territory, the government has promised to resolve the dispute.
- The CAR government signed a framework agreement with the BRICS alliance for the construction of a new international airport in the country. The UAE will provide US\$200 million in funding for the project.

