



MAIN STORIES

United Nations on the
Situation In CAR

Wagner and
Bancroft

Humanitarian
Situation

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 21 February, the Special Representative of the Secretary General and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), Valentine Rugwabiza, reported on the latest developments in that country. Rugwabiza said as of mid-January 2024, 86% of local administrative authority employees were present at their duty stations in the country's prefectures and sub-prefectures, while expressing concern about Explosive Ordnance Devices (EODs) and light weapons flowing into the Central African Republic (CAR).
- France and the United States (US) used the opportunity of the Security Council meeting to take aim at Russia and Wagner. Russia complained about lethal weapons in the hands of the CAR government's opponents, including unmanned aerial vehicles.
- On 2 February, an employee of the private US security company Bancroft was briefly arrested and interrogated by the police, with the involvement of Wagner. Bancroft's staff, including an unnamed former French Foreign Legion officer of Russian origin, were apprehended at the Quatre Saisons hotel alongside Prince Borel Yaounga Yiko, minister-advisor to Touadéra.
- On 14 February 2024, the Initiative Committee to Investigate the Actions of the United States in the CAR held a roundtable, where speakers discussed the harmful influence of the US on domestic political processes in African countries.
- Asked about the presence of Bancroft in February, Patricia Mahoney, the US ambassador in Bangui, denied the existence of a direct relationship between her country and Bancroft.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 2023 saw a relative improvement of the humanitarian context in the CAR compared to the past five years. Nevertheless, people continue to face insecurity and threats to their well-being, with the resurgence of new hotspots particularly in the South-East.
- About 10,000 children are still fighting alongside armed groups in CAR more than a decade after civil war broke out, the Minister for Family and Gender, Marthe Kirima, said on 12 February.
- The National Assembly amended and adopted the bill establishing the Electoral Code. This makes it possible to begin the process of preparing for local elections on 24 October 2024.
- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU's) 2023 Democracy Index ranks CAR 164 out of 165 countries (1=best; 165=worst) with a score of 1.18 (1=worst; 10=best), down from 1.35 in 2022, putting it in the category of a "Authoritarian Regime."
- Rebel groups, in reaction to a call to disarm by the Central African Armed Forces (FACA's) chief of staff General Zéphirin Mamadou, said it was a declaration of war.
- MINUSCA announced the presence of several armed groups in the northeast of the country, which seems to be regrouping under the leadership of the Movement for the Emergence of the CAR (MECA), led by Nouradine Ramat Achgar. The rebels are specifically present in N'Daha, Masmagnan, Tiri, Ngondouga, Sarajevo, and Sam Ouandja.
- CAR is ranked 149 out of 180 countries in Transparency International's 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI: 1=clean; 180=highly corrupt). CAR was ranked 150 out of 180 countries in Transparency International's 2022 CPI.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- President Faustin Archange Touadéra participated in a forum on “modern neocolonialism” in Moscow, Russia organised by the United Russia party, led by former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. The neocolonial practices of the West were one of the main causes of instability and economic underdevelopment in African countries, Touadéra said. President Vladimir Putin reportedly did not hold a meeting with Touadéra.
- On the sidelines of the meeting, the Moscow State Technical University of Automobiles and Highways (MADI) awarded the title of honorary professor to Touadéra for his efforts in science and the development of cooperation between the CAR and Russia.
- Touadéra took part in the Italy-Africa Summit from January 29 to 30 in Rome and presented investment opportunities in the agricultural and energy fields.
- Touadéra met with Pope Francis during his visit to the Vatican. The meeting focused on the social, political, and humanitarian situation in the country, with an emphasis on enhancing international cooperation.
- The government clarified changes to its visa policy on 8 February. Effective immediately, anyone entering CAR to work for any embassy or international organisation must first request permission from the CAR Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).

