



## MAIN STORIES

**The Russians**

**A New Security  
Advisor**

**Agbetse's Report on  
Human Rights**

**Efforts to get  
Diamond Sanctions  
Lifted**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Hours after Russian mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin rebelled in Russia in June 2023, the Central African Republic (CAR) reportedly turned to the United States (US') Bancroft Global Development for assistance. Bancroft founder Michael Stock received a letter from the presidency within a day of Prigozhin's mutiny and he signed a deal with President Faustin-Archange Touadéra in September 2023. Fewer than 30 Bancroft personnel work in the CAR.
- Touadéra has appointed Wagner group commander, Dmitri Podolsky, as his special security adviser. Podolsky is the first Russian to hold this position since Valery Zakharov, one of Wagner's pioneers in Bangui, left in 2021.
- The report of the UN Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic, Yao Agbetse, for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, states that armed groups were responsible for 1,575 human rights violations resulting in 2,199 victims. State agents were responsible for 1,149 violations affecting 1,932 victims.
- Agbetse states that the "welcome contribution" of Russian so-called bilateral forces to improving the security situation contrasts with the "denunciation" of the human rights violations they commit.
- After former President François Bozizé dismissed the leader of the Union pour la paix en Centrafrique (UPC), Ali Darassa, for declaring that he was open to talks with the government, other rebel leaders of the Coalition des patriotes pour le changement (CPC) decided to oust Bozizé as coordinator. They also announced the creation of the CPC-Fondamentale (CPC-F), and Bozizé's replacement by Haroun Gueye.

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- The original CPC retains four armed groups, including the powerful Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation (3R) movement, while Bozizé issued a statement, confirming that he is the sole coordinator of the CPC. Bozizé appointed a new general coordination team.
- A Kimberley Process (KP) team, made up of several organisations, carried out a field visit from 9 to 14 September in the CAR. The experts aimed to assess the various measures put in place by the government and determine whether the conditions were met for lifting the suspension on Central African diamond exports. An evaluation report of the mission will be examined in November 2024 in Dubai.
- The government announced the arrest of the leader of the Party for the Rally of the Central African Nation (PRNC), Nourd Gregaza. He was extradited from France and is the subject of an investigation into serious human rights violations.
- The Special Criminal Court (SCC) on 4 September arrested Ajident Abakar Zakaria Hamid, former secretary general of the PK5 self-defence militia. A former warlord, he joined the ranks of the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) in 2020. Abakar was arrested for alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes linked to an attack 10 years ago on the Notre-Dame church and displacement camp in Bangui, in which 17 people were killed.
- In Zémio, Haut-Mbomou prefecture, attacks by ethnic Azandé militia are increasing against Fulani herders and young Muslims. The organisers of an anti-Muslim march on 20 September in Zémio published a memorandum demanding the “repatriation of infiltrated foreigners,” and the forced disarmament of the Muslim community. The Muslim community of Zémio sent an urgent request to the government to be moved to another locality.
- From January to August 2024, 97 incidents affected humanitarian workers. In August 2024, 12 incidents affected humanitarian actors, a decrease of 33% compared to July 2024 when 18 incidents were recorded. The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified 41 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in the CAR in 2023, compared to 32 in 2022.



# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- Prime Minister Félix Moloua finds himself at the heart of a corruption scandal, following revelations about a gift he allegedly received upon his appointment in February 2022. Lebanese traders allegedly financed and built a residence for Moloua in the Belle Vue district of Bangui.
- The Minister of Youth and Sports, Héritier Doneng, reportedly demands that 10 million FCFA from each international sport event is paid into his personal bank account.
- On 6 September 2024, Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Touadéra, who was in China for the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). The two heads of state announced the elevation of the relations between China and the CAR to a strategic partnership.
- A bilateral meeting between French President Emmanuel Macron and Touadéra is reportedly planned on the sidelines of the 19th Francophonie Summit, from 4 to 5 October 2024 in France.

