

Forum: Political Committee

Issue: The situation in the Central African Republic

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Introduction



Figure 1: Political Map of the Central African Republic

The Central African Republic (CAR) is a landlocked country located in Central Africa, which has suffered for decades from ongoing political unrest, conflict, and instability. The nation has been affected by weak governance, coups, and riots since gaining independence from France in 1960.

One of the biggest conflicts that formed the situation in the Central African Republic began in 2013, when the Séléka rebel group, mostly consisting of Muslims, overthrew president François Bozizé. This rebel led to deadly escalation of violence with Christian and animist militias known as “anti-Balaka” intervening. This conflict drove the country into chaos, displacing more than half a million Central Africans within their own country and forcing more than 750,000 to seek refuge abroad and drawing international peacekeeping forces.

Due to other problems throughout the country, the UN sent its own peacekeeping forces. But despite the involvement of UN peacekeepers and Russian military contractors in attempts to solve the issue, the situation is worsening day by day. As a result of the conflicts and problems, the lives of civilians throughout the country were also threatened. This chaos in the Central African Republic,

which not only poses a threat to life but also ruins the political statement, has not yet resulted in a definitive and permanent solution.

Definition of Key Terms

Coup: a sudden illegal, often violent, taking of government power, especially by part of an army (Cambridge Dictionary)

Militia: a military force whose members are trained soldiers but who often have other jobs (Cambridge Dictionary)

Corruption: dishonest or fraudulent conduct by those in power, typically involving bribery (Oxford Languages)

Political Instability: a state in which a government or political system is highly unstable, experiencing frequent disruptions, leadership changes, civil unrest, and ineffective governance

Ceasefire: a temporary suspension of fighting; a truce (Oxford Dictionary)

De Facto: in politics, a *de facto* leader of a country or region is someone who has taken control and exercises authority, regardless of whether their position is legally, constitutionally, or legitimately recognized

Paramilitary: a military that is not a part of a country's official or legitimate armed forces

Transitional Government: a temporary government formed to manage a period of transition, often following state collapse, revolution, civil war, or some combination thereof

Displacement: the situation in which people are forced to leave the place where they normally live

Sanction: an official order that is taken against a country in order to make it obey international law

Decentralization: the transfer of powers, responsibilities, and resources from the central government to elected authorities at the subnational level, with some degree of autonomy

General Overview

Background of the Issue

Even before gaining its independence, the Central African Republic has been battling political instability and corruption. Barthélemy Boganda, a Central African independence activist who was meant to become the first president of the Central African Republic, had died in a plane crash in 1959 under suspicious circumstances, a year before the country formally receiving independence. The country's rough start with political instability was not to improve. In the years that followed the country

faced bankruptcy and the threat of a nationwide strike during the rule of former president David Dacko, who was then ousted by the army commander Jean-Bedel Bokassa in 1965. The French continued to support Bokassa and the country's damaged economy in order to retain control of the diamond output of the county.

Bokassa's presidency took an unfavorable turn in the 1970s, with him declaring himself as a life-long president in 1972, then proclaiming himself the emperor in 1976, renaming the country as the "Central African Empire." The following year, Bokassa was crowned as Emperor Bokassa I with extravagant ceremonies, funded mostly by France. The government's debt grew even larger, and the profits of the country's diamond trade remained with Bokassa. Three years later in 1979, a coup led by Dacko, which was supported by French troops, ousted Bokassa. Dacko's return was unpopular, forcing him to rely on French paratroopers and former Bokassa officials. As opposition, strikes, and attacks grew, he increasingly depended on the army. In September 1981, General André Kolingba ousted Bokassa in a bloodless coup and established military rule.

The government remained almost fully under military rule for 12 years until the early 1990s, when people's dissatisfaction with Kolingba's authoritarian rule grew, fueled by democratic movements across Africa. Riots erupted in 1991 over unpaid wages, forcing Kolingba to allow open elections in 1993. Kolingba lost the elections in the first round, and Ange-Félix Patassé became the country's first democratically elected president since independence.

The 21st century was not that different from the past, the attempted overthrows still continued. In a 2003 coup led by General François Bozizé, Patassé was ousted from power. Two years later in 2005, Bozizé was elected president in democratic elections.

The Rise of Séléka and the 2013 Crisis

In late 2012, the Séléka rebel militia group, mostly consisting of Muslim men, launched an attack in the northern Central African Republic, accusing Bozizé of failing to implement prior peace agreements. Séléka demanded the ouster of Bozizé, and called upon him to stand trial at the International Criminal Court. As Séléka advanced south, the government entered into negotiations with them, reaching a cease-fire and a power-sharing agreement. The agreement allowed for Bozizé to finish his term, where new elections would be held in 2016. As a part of the agreement, Bozizé appointed Nicolas Tiangaye, who was a lawyer supported by both Séléka and the opposition, to become the new prime minister.

However, Séléka quickly grew disillusioned with Bozizé's compliance with the agreements. Séléka advanced toward the capital, Bangui, and took over the capital in March 2013. Bozizé fled to Cameroon. With Bozizé leaving, Séléka claimed control over the government, and Justin Kombo Moustapha, secretary-general of Seleka, called upon the citizens to welcome the "revolutionary forces of Séléka."

Séléka's policies and actions were condemned by the international community, and the African Union (AU) suspended the Central African Republic from the organization, imposing sanctions on rebel leaders. One of the rebel leaders, Michel Djotodia, claimed to be the *de facto* head of state, and promised to comply with the prior power-sharing agreement. He later announced that the constitution was suspended, and that the parliament was dissolved. Djotodia attempted to form a transitional government, which was rejected by the opposition and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). The ECCAS called for the creation of a transitional council to govern the country until the elections could take place. Djotodia agreed to ECCAS's proposal, leading to the formation of the council in April. Shortly thereafter, Djotodia was elected as the president of the interim body.

In September 2013, Djotodia attempted to disband the Séléka forces. However, most of the fighters did not abide by the decision. Instead, many former Séléka fighters continued to operate independently across the country, often in violent and extreme ways. Ex-Séléka members engaged in horrific acts of rape, kidnapping, looting, arson, and other forms of violence against civilians, primarily targeting Christian populations.

The Formation of Anti-Balaka against Séléka

With the government not effectively preventing the actions of former Séléka members, the Christian population responded with the formation of militias known as the "anti-balaka", meaning "invincible" in Sango. Reportedly, Bozizé had supported the creation of the anti-balaka forces before he fled the country on March 24, 2013. The aim of the militias was to protect themselves against the mostly-Muslim rebels and to carry out reprisal actions against Séléka. This led to the conflict taking on a new dimension as religious tensions fueled a cycle of violence and retaliation. In late 2013, anti-balaka forces began widespread operations for revenge, mostly against Muslim civilians, which displaced tens of thousands of civilians. Although they were officially disbanded, former Séléka members did not remain unresponsive and launched counter attacks. One of the most brutal encounters took place on November 10, 2013 in Camp Bangui, when former Séléka fighters assembled for an attack against anti-balaka members. Four days later, Camp Bangui was visited by the Human Rights Watch. The town was completely destroyed, with the vast majority of homes, sheltering 300 to 400 families, being burnt.

On December 5th 2013, the anti-balaka forces, supporters of ousted President Francois Bozize, attacked the capital, Bangui. The attacks targeted the Muslim population and the Séléka forces in an attempt to change the balance of power. The anti-balaka forces went door-to-door in some neighborhoods, killing approximately 60 Muslim men. Ex-Séléka forces responded in an extreme way, killing between 800 to 1,200 people in two days. On December 5th, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2127 authorizing an African-led International Support Mission (MISCA) and deploying French troops under Operation Sangaris to stabilize the situation. On January 10 2014, Djotodia officially resigned from the presidency at a regional summit aimed at putting an end to the

violence in the country. Djotodia's resignation was received with joy by the Christian population.

In an attempt to solve the issue, the United Nations Security Council established the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) peacekeeping operation in April 2014, and MISCA's authority was transferred to MINUSCA on September 15, 2014, in accordance with resolution 2149. However, unrest continued throughout the year, even after a cease-fire was signed in July 2014 by Séléka and the anti-balaka, creating a *de facto* territorial partition with the Séléka controlling the north and the anti-balaka controlling the south of the country.

Developments in the Last Decade

With the election of President Faustin Archange Touadera in spring 2016, people were initially optimistic. However, the crisis only intensified. Although the territorial partition had eased the Christian-Muslim fighting, issues between the factions of the ex-Séléka grew. In December 2015, one of the Séléka factions had declared the creation of the autonomous republic in the north, which was not recognized by the international community. In the following years, the faction battled other militias trying to control the area. Additionally, the government did not have control outside Bangui since most militias boycotted Toudera's attempts towards disarmament to ease the conflict.

In 2017, the fighting between the armed groups and their impact on the civilians had increased, and MINUSCA increased its troop numbers to deal with the issue. A peace deal was signed between the government and the major 13 rebel groups, promising an immediate cease-fire in exchange for political representations for the groups. However, the peace deal was ineffectual, and hundreds of localized groups kept operating openly and controlled much of the country's territory.

Since 2013, the Central African Republic (CAR) has been in a civil war that has severely impacted its civilian population. The conflict began when Seleka rebels seized power, leading to violent responses from mostly Christian anti-Balaka militias. This cycle of violence has resulted in thousands of deaths and widespread displacement. As of June 2024, over 1.2 million Central Africans were either refugees in neighboring countries or internally displaced, with many living in inadequate conditions within camps. The humanitarian response has been slowed down by attacks on aid workers and general insecurity, leaving approximately 2.8 million people in dire need of assistance.

In an effort to stabilize the country and combat rebel factions, the CAR government enlisted the support of Russian paramilitary groups, notably the Wagner Group, in late 2018. In exchange for their military assistance, these groups were granted access to the nation's natural resources, including gold and diamonds. However, the presence of Wagner mercenaries has been linked with allegations of human rights abuses, such as extrajudicial killings and torture. In January 2025, two CAR soldiers were reportedly kidnapped by Russian mercenaries, causing protests and raising concerns about the conduct of these foreign forces.

The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) has been actively involved in peacekeeping efforts since 2014. Despite their mandate to protect civilians, there have been disturbing reports of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeepers. In October 2024, multiple women in Bangui reported being coerced into sexual acts by peacekeepers, with inadequate support to report these incidents.

The situation has been further complicated by allegations of external interference. In February 2025, the United Kingdom accused Russia of planning to interfere in the upcoming CAR elections through disinformation campaigns and suppression of political opposition. The United States expressed similar worries, claiming that actors supported by the Kremlin want to take advantage of the natural resources in the CAR without helping to develop it. Russia has denied these accusations, reaffirming its commitment to supporting the CAR's stability and sovereignty.

Both Russian military contractors and UN peacekeepers have been involved, but the security situation in the CAR is still getting worse. In February 2025, at least five soldiers were killed in a rebel attack attributed to the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) in the northwest Ouham region. This incident underscores the persistent challenges faced by national forces and their allies in quelling insurgencies and ensuring civilian safety.

The ongoing conflict has not only led to loss of life but has also destabilized the political landscape of the CAR. There is currently no clear solution to the complicated crisis that has been brought about by the interaction of internal conflict, outside interventions, and claims of wrongdoing by peacekeeping forces. In order to restore peace and protect human rights in the Central African Republic, national authorities and the international community must work together to address these complex issues.

The Humanitarian Effect of Political Instability

The greatest humanitarian impact of political incompetence in the Central African Republic is internal displacement and the refugee crisis. The conflicts resulting from political incompetence have created major security problems within the country, which has caused the vast majority of civilians to be displaced from their homes. As of 2024, approximately 1.1 million people have left the Central African Republic and approximately 700,000 people have been displaced internally. What is worse is that the government has failed to give the necessary attention to this crisis due to its current problems.

Another humanitarian impact is the lack of health services in the region. Health institutions have been forced to close or damaged due to the conflicts caused by political incompetence within the country. As of 2023, 60% of hospitals in the Central African Republic have either closed or become inoperable due to the conflict. This has increased the number of deaths and epidemics, especially among the elderly and children in the country. In 2024, the child mortality rate was calculated at 110 per 1,000 births, which is approximately four times the world average.

Violence and human rights violations are other very important humanitarian impacts in the country. In 2022-2023, approximately 10,000 civilians lost their lives in the conflicts between Séléka and Anti-Balaka groups. During these conflicts, serious human rights violations were committed, including enforced disappearances, torture, mass killings, and sexual violence. Women and children were particularly targeted, and cases of rape and sexual violence increased. Many of these violations threatened the safety of local people and the integrity of society. Sexual violence cases are increasing every year; in 2023, more than 2,000 women were reported as victims of sexual violence.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

Central African Republic (CAR):

Throughout the years, the government of the Central African Republic has taken various measures to address the political instability, including power sharing agreements and peace agreements with rebel militias. However, with the government's ineffectual attempts at solving the issue with written agreements, the Central African Republic's trust shifted towards Russian paramilitary forces in the previous years. The CAR believes cooperation with the Russian Federation is critical to address its security problems and to avoid the disruption caused by rebel militias. Since 2018, the CAR has been working with the Wagner Group to stop the rebel militias from causing further disturbance to the country. The collaboration has been successful for the government; since January 2021, rebels have been on the retreat for the first time in years due to the actions of Russia's Wagner Group. However, in exchange for military support, Wagner has secured access to CAR's natural resources, such as gold and diamonds.

With one of the greatest issues being the government's lack of authority outside the capital, the government has been working on decentralization policies to restore state authority over more territory. According to Sylvie Valérie Baïpo-Temon, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central African Republic, as of 2023, "the State has restored its authority over 85 percent of the territory" thanks to decentralization efforts. The international community, including the United Nations, has been supporting these decentralization efforts by providing security assistance. However, despite progress, security remains a significant challenge, especially in border areas where there is limited to no State presence.

Although there has been improvement in security concerns of the country, the humanitarian needs remain significant in the CAR. The government acknowledges the long-standing need for humanitarian aid and assistance, and has been working with international partners like the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to find solutions for the displacement crisis. The government has also been collaborating with other UN agencies and international humanitarian organizations to provide vulnerable communities with access to food, healthcare, and protection. The government of the CAR is surely committed to addressing the humanitarian crisis, however, more

comprehensive and sustainable efforts are needed to ensure that the issue is tackled properly.

Séléka:

Séléka came together in the Central African Republic in 2012/2013. The Séléka coalition, which has attracted attention since it briefly came to power after overthrowing President François Bozizé in 2013, has now disintegrated due to violent clashes with Christian anti-Balaka militias and other factors, but small groups within it continue to oppose the government in the Central African Republic.

These groups, which emerged from the Séléka coalition, see the current government as ineffective and unsuccessful. They consider the Wagner group and the Russian government to be occupying forces like Western countries and believe that they are trying to suppress the Muslim population in particular. These rebel groups, who remained from the Séléka coalition, believe that the elections were manipulated by the Russian government. They also believe that former colonial powers, especially France, are trying to be present in the Central African Republic for the sake of conflicts of interest.

Séléka affiliated groups believe that the humanitarian crisis in the country is caused by the influence of France and Western countries as well as the bad governance in the country. The lack of any progress in Muslim rights in particular increases Séléka's rebelliousness towards the current government. While some Séléka groups continue to oppose the government through armed conflict, some Séléka groups are looking for peace solutions and believe that entering into necessary negotiations would be the best decision.

Anti-Balaka:

Anti-Balaka is a group founded in 2013 specifically against Séléka. This coalition, which is mostly composed of Christians, is a rebellion group against Séléka's policies of constantly defending Islam. Anti-Balaka, who see themselves as responsible for protecting national unity, do not defend Séléka's oppressive Muslim regime, but see a stronger government as necessary. According to Anti-Balaka, the government's failure to defend its country and manage internal unrest allows foreign peacekeepers to exploit their own country. For this reason, Anti-Balaka has always been suspicious of foreign aid. Anti-Balaka, who find France and the UN's support insufficient, complains about the passivity of international powers in their cause against Séléka. Although Anti-Balaka has a prejudiced approach towards the UN and France, they are quite willing to engage in peace talks and find middle ground solutions. However, despite these wishes, the violent policies they advocate pose major obstacles to peaceful solutions, especially due to human rights violations.

France:

France, like many other Western countries, is disturbed by Russia's influence, especially

Wagner's, in the Central African Republic. France, which defines these interventions by Russia as colonialism, argues that Wagner violates human rights and directly influences elections. France, which does not find the unlimited power of the current government right, clearly states that it is disturbed by the pro-Russian propaganda in the country. France supports the UN peacekeeping force and believes that the basis of the accusations made against these soldiers is Russia's efforts to undermine them. France, which states its support through the UN and the EU in terms of humanitarian aid, believes that this aid will only be successful with a new political order and argues that a new government system is necessary.

Russian Federation:

Russia is a country that has had great influence in the Central African Republic in recent years, especially through the Wagner Group. Russia argues that the Central African Republic is a strategic region, especially in terms of natural resources. For this reason, it constantly works to increase its military and political influence in the region. It compensates for the use of these resources by providing military aid and security to the Central African Republic government. Russia also aims to eliminate the old French colonial influence in the region and prevail in its competition with other powers in the region.

Russia provides visible military aid to the Central African Republic through the Wagner Group. This military aid is effective in many areas, from defending the government in conflicts within the country to military training. Another purpose of Russia's military aid in the Central African Republic is to replace the support of the UN and France in the region. However, the severe pressure and attacks that the Wagner groups applied to the people of the region contradict this purpose and cause Russia to be seen as a colonialist by other countries.

Russia aims to receive international support with the diplomatic aid it provides to the Central African Republic. However, the diplomatic assistance it provided was seen as "interference in internal affairs" by France and many UN countries and was not welcomed. Despite these comments, Russia defended independence in the country and carefully avoided the accusations of colonialism that were assumed worldwide.

The Russian government denied all the accusations made against them regarding Wagner and the human rights violations they committed. And Russia argued that Wagner acted independently of them in these matters.

Rwanda:

Rwanda's greatest support for the Central African Republic has been in the field of peacekeeping operations and military support. The Rwandan Defence Force (RDF) has been closely involved in security issues in the region under the UN's MINUSCA (United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in the Central African Republic) and has supported the government in internal conflicts.

Rwanda has provided both diplomatic and military support to the Central African Republic government to strengthen and create a more effective government structure.

Rwanda advocates peaceful solutions to ethnic conflicts in the region, especially in ethnic conflicts. Rwanda's history of genocide has shaped the role of sectarian conflicts and ethnic cleansing between Hutu and Tutsi in the country's peace process. Therefore, Rwanda has a special interest in developing solutions to prevent religious and ethnic violence in the Central African Republic.

Although Rwanda sees the support of international aid, such as the UN and France, as important and necessary, they do not support Russia due to its history of exploitation. Rwanda argues that the greatest help in this situation will come from intra-African solidarity.

Timeline of Events

13 August 1960	The Central African Republic (CAR) gains independence from France.
1 January 1966	Army commander Jean-Bédél Bokassa seizes power in a coup, ousting President David Dacko.
4 December 1976	Bokassa proclaims himself Emperor of the Central African Empire.
20 September 1979	Bokassa is overthrown in a French-backed coup, and David Dacko returns to power.
1 September 1981	General André Kolingba takes over in a bloodless coup, establishing military rule.
22 August 1993	Ange-Félix Patassé wins the first democratic elections in CAR.
15 March 2003	General François Bozizé leads a coup against Patassé and takes power.
10 May 2005	Bozizé wins the presidential elections and officially assumes office.
10 December 2012	The Séléka rebel coalition begins an offensive against Bozizé's government.
11 January 2013	Bozizé signs a ceasefire agreement with Séléka, agreeing to a power-sharing government.

24 March 2013	Séléka captures Bangui; Bozizé flees the country. Michel Djotodia declares himself president.
18 April 2013	The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) establishes a transitional government in CAR.
September 2013	Djotodia dissolves Séléka, leading to widespread violence by former members.
5 December 2013	Anti-balaka militias attack Bangui, sparking massacres. The UN Security Council authorizes an African-led intervention (MISCA).
10 January 2014	Djotodia resigns amid international pressure.
April 2014	The United Nations establishes MINUSCA peacekeeping mission in CAR.
14 December 2015	A constitutional referendum is held to restore stability.
30 March 2016	Faustin-Archange Touadéra is sworn in as president after democratic elections.
6 February 2019	The CAR government and 14 armed groups sign a peace agreement brokered by the African Union.
December 2020 – January 2021	Rebel groups attempt to overthrow Touadéra after disputed elections, but government forces push them back.
November 12, 2021	The UN Security Council extends MINUSCA's mandate until November 15, 2022, emphasizing electoral support, security sector reform, and civilian protection.
April 2022	The UN conducts an independent strategic review of MINUSCA, recommending an increase in peacekeeping forces due to rising violence by armed groups.
September 2022	Gabon's peacekeeping contingent is repatriated by the UN following multiple allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse.
July 30, 2023	The CAR government holds a constitutional referendum, which results in the removal of presidential term limits. The opposition and international observers criticize the process.

December 1, 2023	The UN Security Council renewed MINUSCA's mandate until December 2024, emphasizing concerns over continued instability and humanitarian needs.
January 15, 2024	Reports emerge of Wagner Group mercenaries increasing their presence in CAR despite the reported death of Wagner's leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin, in 2023. The US and EU impose further sanctions on CAR officials linked to Wagner.
February 2024	The UN expresses concern over potential election interference in CAR's upcoming 2025 presidential elections, with accusations that Russia is trying to influence the political landscape

UN Involvement

The United Nations has been actively involved in addressing the multifaceted crisis in the Central African Republic (CAR) through various initiatives and organizations.

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA)

The protection of civilians is the main objective of MINUSCA, which was created by the UN Security Council on April 10, 2014. In addition, the mission facilitates the transition process, offers a foundation for humanitarian relief, defends human rights, supports efforts to uphold the rule of law and justice, and oversees the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, and repatriation procedures. After operating since January 2010, the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) was replaced by MINUSCA (United Nations Peacekeeping, n.d.).

UN Country Team in the Central African Republic

The UN Country Team (UNCT) in the CAR is made up of many UN programs, funds, and organizations that cooperate to assist the country's humanitarian and development initiatives. Their projects include providing for the needs of Sudanese refugees, empowering young people economically, and guaranteeing children's basic rights like immunization and birth registration (United Nations Central African Republic, n.d.).

Challenges and Criticisms

Despite these efforts, the UN's involvement in CAR has faced many challenges. One of the most controversial issues around the UN's engagement in CAR has been the ongoing reports of

sexual exploitation and abuse by its peacekeepers. The first major scandal broke in 2015 when French peacekeeping troops working under Operation Sangaris were accused of sexually abusing children in exchange for food and supplies. Since then, additional allegations have emerged, including details of abuses committed by MINUSCA troops from Burundi, Gabon, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Le Monde, 2024). The violations have not gone unnoticed by the UN, which has acted in response. In 2021, the UN brought home Gabon's peacekeeping contingent after numerous allegations of sexual misconduct. The Conduct and Discipline Unit (CDU) has also been tasked with accountability. Since 2022, MINUSCA has worked on improving its reporting mechanisms. Yet for many victims, access to justice poses an insurmountable challenge: most don't have legal support where they live, and fear retaliation (Human Rights Watch, 2023). The continued occurrence of such abuses has caused the UN's credibility in CAR to be severely damaged and has included protests against peacekeepers in Bangui and Bambari.

Foreign intervention has also played a powerful role in CAR's conflict, adding complexity to even the UN's most well-designed efforts. Although MINUSCA officially missions as neutral, other international forces have had a substantial impact on the security landscape. Russia has taken an increasingly dominant role in CAR's security sector. Since 2018, Russian private military contractors, mainly the Wagner Group, have trained CAR's armed forces and actively fought rebel factions. Despite accusations of committing human rights violations in the country, including summary executions and deliberate targeting of civilians, the CAR government confirmed in July 2023 that a new agreement to allow Wagner mercenaries to operate in the country was in place (Associated Press 2024). Western countries, particularly France and the United States, have voiced worries about Russia's expanding reach. In September 2023, US sanctions were imposed on officials of the CAR government for their suspected participation in arms deals with Wagner, while the UK has alleged that Russia is planning to meddle in the CAR's 2025 elections (BBC, 2024). However, these broader geopolitical dynamics have complicated MINUSCA's ability to act independently; its peacekeeping operations are susceptible to being eclipsed by international power struggles.

Relevant UN Documents

United Nations Security Council resolution 2121,(2013) [on the situation in the Central African Republic] **(S/RES/2121)**

United Nations Security Council resolution 2127,(2013) [on the situation in the Central African Republic] **(S/RES/2127)**

Resolution 2134 (2014) on the situation in the Central African Republic **(S/RES/2134)**

Resolution 2149 (2014) on the situation in the Central African Republic **(S/RES/2149)**

Treaties and Events

Bangui Agreements(1997)

Despite the military and political rebellions that took place in 1996, the Bangui Agreements were signed in January 1997. The agreements aimed to propose reforms in the military sectors and measures to ensure the financial stability of the nation. The Bangui Agreements, which targeted to address the grievances of the rebel military groups and the opposition, were facilitated by regional leaders, encountered difficulties in implementation, and ended in failure.

Libreville Comprehensive Peace Agreement(2008)

The Central Arab Republic Bush War (2004-2007) has led to many rebel factions rising up against the government and taking up arms. In order to quell this internal violence and prevent the insurgency that was fueling instability, the Libreville Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed in Gabon on 21 June 2008. This peace agreement granted amnesty to government rebels, included them in the national army, and addressed the process of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration(DDR). While the agreement temporarily reduced hostilities and rebellions, some factions remained active, resulting in sporadic clashes.

Libreville Agreement(2013)

In response to the rapid territorial gains of the Séléka coalition in late 2012, peace talks were held in Libreville, Gabon. The Libreville Agreement, signed on 11 January 2013, provided for the establishment of a power-sharing government and appointed opposition leader Nicolas Tiangaye as Prime Minister while President François Bozizé remained in office. Despite this agreement, the agreement fell apart shortly after it was implemented, allowing Séléka to capture Bangui and leading to Bozizé's dismissal in March 2013.

Brazzaville Ceasefire Agreement(2014)

Amidst ongoing fighting between former Séléka factions and opposing Anti-balaka militias, a ceasefire was reached in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, on 24 July 2014. Representatives of both former Séléka factions and Anti-balaka militias agreed to cease hostilities. However, the ceasefire was fragile and some factions rejected the terms, leading to continued unrest, leading to the termination of the ceasefire agreement.

Khartoum Agreement(2019)

The most comprehensive effort among all treaties, the Khartoum Agreement, was signed on 6 February 2019 between the CAR government and 14 armed groups. The aim of the agreement was to address the main causes of the conflict by promoting inclusive governance,

integrating former combatants into society, and providing justice for victims. Despite the initial international support, the agreement's implementation has been inconsistent, with reports of continued violence and violations by the signatories.

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Although there have been multiple agreements between the armed groups and the government, the attempts to solve the issue were ineffectual. Multiple ceasefires have been reached between the armed groups, primarily Séléka and anti-balaka, neither side has respected or acted in accordance with the agreements. Fighting still continued after the ceasefires and the *de facto* territorial partition, harming thousands of civilians. Since the government possesses relatively less power in the region than the 14 rebel groups, the militias have disagreed on meeting at a common point with the government and decreased their power which is already oppressing the government. For example in the Libreville Agreement, both signatories initially agreed on establishing a power-sharing government to decrease the stability of the country but the agreement failed due to the risk of undermining authority possibilities.

On the other hand, several agreements have been made between the marginalized communities and the government to guarantee that the victimized communities are represented fairly. To meet these aims the most comprehensive effort among all agreements, the Khartoum Agreement has been made. Khartoum Agreement was supported by international organizations, particularly the United Nations, however, the support wasn't sustainable. The agreement failed because of the violations by the signatories and the lack of support in such an unstable country.

Since the desired effect couldn't be achieved in the peace agreement and negotiations, many external forces, especially the UN and the African Union, intervened in the region to ensure public order. But they also failed due to lack of safety precautions. Another attempt came from France and Russia but both countries were seen as colonialist and did not receive enough support for their help.

As a result, all interventions and solutions did not receive sufficient support, and they withdrew their help towards resolving the situation in CAR. Many of the ongoing solution proposals are not welcomed, especially by UN, and because they are inadequate, resolving ideas do not produce necessary solutions to the current situation.

Possible Solutions

One of the main causes of the CAR peace process is the presence of multiple armed and violent, authority-threatening groups, including the Séléka and anti-balaka groups, who continue to resort to violence and destabilize the country. Despite multiple peace agreements, these groups still control large areas of territory where violent conflict is common. The solution to the chaos created by these separating groups would be to implement disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration

(DDR) programs, along with a stronger peacekeeping force to protect civilians and stabilize the central government. With these implementations, the oppressive and anti-peace attitudes of the separatist groups could be overcome through an inclusive policy.

CAR is a rich region in natural resources such as diamonds, gold, and timber. However, these resources have often been exploited by insurgent, land-owning domestic actors and external actors, leading to conflict and corruption within the region. Over the years, the CAR government has lost its control over the utilization of these resources and failed to contribute to the country's economy. To tackle this, a new framework for transparent resource management must be created, ensuring that the wealth generated benefits all segments of society, not just a few dominions or private companies. These practices will prevent monopolization and ensure local participation in international oversight and decision-making.

The current CAR government's constitutional system has often faced accusations of corruption, lack of inclusiveness, and failure to provide core services to the population. These accusations of the public threaten the authenticity of the government and provide fuel to the insurgency of the separatist groups such as the Séléka and anti-balaka. One solution for this issue could be to establish a more inclusive government strategy that represents all groups, particularly marginalized ones, within the region and ensures a fair representation of the masses. This solution could include holding fair and free elections, making power-sharing agreements with former and active rebel groups, creating a reinforced political process.

There is ongoing violence in the CAR region that has victimized masses of people. Over the past decade, a significant humanitarian crisis has come up and displaced numerous people in the urgent need of food, healthcare, and shelter. To overcome this situation a coordinated and collaborative international humanitarian response that focuses not only on immediate assistance but also on long-term recovery and development is needed. Strengthening the functions of the local institutions and increasing the effectiveness of the peacekeeping forces will provide better protection for civilians and their legal rights.

The involvement of foreign military actors such as Russian soldiers connected with the Wagner Group, creates obstacles in the peace process. These external actors who target economic and political gain worsen the ongoing conflicts in the region and fuel the turmoil. To address this, the CAR government could work with international organizations and relevant UN commissions to control foreign involvement, focus on diplomatic solutions, and protect the CAR's sovereignty.

Throughout history, the CAR government's vague election system has historically led to fraud, low voter turnout, and disputes over results, increasing the country's instability. To prevent this instability and increase the citizens' participation in electoral processes, a transparent and comprehensive voting system is crucial to strengthen the government's legitimacy. In order to increase the credibility of the elections, the government could adopt stricter voting regulations, including biometric voter registration, and independent election monitoring. Reinforcing the structure

of democratic institutions and ensuring fair representation will help consolidate the government's authority and make it more immune to threats from external influences, particularly the 14 rebel groups.

Maintaining government authority in the presence of 14 major rebel groups is a fundamental challenge. To maintain government political power and sovereignty, the government should prioritize a multifaceted approach. This approach can pave the way for negotiating peace agreements while strengthening the army and law. International partnerships, especially with the United Nations and the African Union, can help stabilize volatile regions and secure government authority.

Multiple agreements and ceasefire efforts have been attempted to mitigate the internal violations and the government-public conflicts. Numerous agreements, such as the Khartoum agreement, weren't supported adequately by international and regional organizations and eventually failed. To mitigate these failures of peacekeeping efforts, a stronger and strictly monitored international assistance system could be established. With coordinated international support the implementation of the agreements would be strengthened.

Notes from the Chair

Delegates are reminded that the situation in the Central African Republic is multifaceted and as such should be dealt with in an eclectic manner.

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