

Committee: African Union

Issue: Seeking to put an end to the Central African Republic war

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Position: Deputy Chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Andriani Konstantinidi and I will be serving as your deputy chair in the 1st ACGMUN. I am a student at Anavryta Model Lyceum and this is my last year of high school. I have participated in a total of 7 MUN conferences as a delegate and this will be my first time chairing. I'm looking forward working with you and I expect you to be prepared and informed on the policies of your countries. Also, I would like to remind you that this Study Guide's purpose is to provide basic information on our subject and thus I urge you all to conduct your own personal research.

I strongly urge you to contact me via email (ankon24@gmail.com) if in need of further guidance.

Looking forward to meeting you at the conference,

Best regards,

Andriani Konstantinidi

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

After gaining independence from France in 1960, the Central African Republic has experienced six authoritarian leaders and the continuous presence of foreign troops, followed by a series of coups, civil wars, and foreign interventions. The Central African Republic had its first multiparty elections in 1993.



1: A map of the Central African Republic

With instability growing, Army General François Bozizé rebelled and took power in 2003 with the help of the Chadian army. Bozizé brought relative stability to the country and was elected in 2011, but many began to view him as an autocratic leader. In 2012 rebel groups that were already active in the North formed a loose alliance known as Séléka. In March 2013 Séléka, backed by heavily armed mercenary fighters from Chad and Sudan, overthrew Bozizé. Their leader, Michel Djotodia, became the first Muslim leader of the mainly Christian country. Séléka led brutal attacks against civilians during the following months. In December 2013, after a U.N. resolution, 1,200 troops were deployed by France to the CAR to achieve stabilization in the capital, Bangui. Djotodia resigned and a transitional government took over, with thousands of Muslims fleeing the country out of fear of attacks by the Anti-Balaka, the Christian group opposing Djotodia. Catherine Samba-Panza takes over as interim leader. A referendum on constitutional changes was held in November 2015, followed by a first round of presidential elections. Faustin-Archange Touadera, a former prime minister, was declared the winner of a presidential election in February 2016. To this day there is still a big need for humanitarian aid, for over 2.3 million people, and security has to be restored.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Séléka

Séléka is an alliance of rebel militia factions that overthrew the Central African Republic (CAR) government on the 24th of March 2013. Séléka leader Michel Djotodia became the nation's president from March 2013 until his resignation in January 2014. Members of Séléka are almost entirely Muslim.¹

Anti-Balaka

The Anti-Balaka are a militia fighting in the Central African Republic composed primarily of Christians. They formed in the Central African Republic after the rise to

¹ A definition from Wikipedia

power of Michel Djotodia in 2013. There have been reports that some members of Anti-Balaka groups have forcibly converted Muslims to Christianity.¹

Internally Displaced Person

A person who has been forced to move within his or her own country as a result of conflict, natural disaster person (abbreviated IDP).²

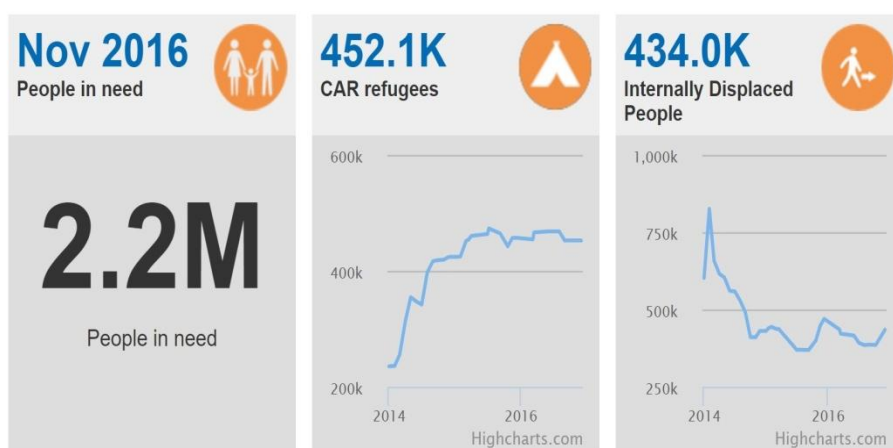
Refugee

A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster³

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Humanitarian Needs

The conflict caused a severe humanitarian, human rights, and protection crisis: 2.3 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance.⁴ The state has been unable to protect civilians or prevent human rights violations and abuses. Abuses such as extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, sexual violence against women and children, rape, recruitment and abuse of children and attacks against civilians⁵ were committed by all parties to the conflict, including peacekeepers. It is estimated that between 6,000 and 10,000 children, including girls, were forcefully recruited by armed groups.⁶ The state was unable to provide an adequate response to victims of abuse, in particular, medical and psychological care for women and girls subjected to sexual violence.



#2: Facts regarding the humanitarian aspect of the conflict

² A definition from Online Oxford Dictionary

³ A definition from Online Oxford Dictionary

⁴ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, August 2016.

⁵ UN Security Council Resolution 2121, October 10, 2013.

⁶ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates, 2014.

Facts in Numbers

1.2 million CHILDREN AFFECTED (2016 humanitarian needs overview)

2.3 million PEOPLE AFFECTED (2016 humanitarian response plan)

434,000 INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (CMP November 2016)

452,476 REFUGEES IN NEIGHBOURING countries (Chad, Cameroon, DRC, Congo)
(UNHCR November 2016)

Exploitation of the country's wealth

The Central African Republic is rich in natural resources such as diamonds, timber, uranium, and potential oil and gas deposits. Powerful rebel groups such as the Séléka and Anti-Balaka, and neighboring countries, including Chad, Sudan and South Africa along with France have attempted to gain control over these resources. Séléka rebels have been smuggling diamonds and ivory to pay for arms, fuel, food, and their soldiers' salaries. Despite the ban on selling diamonds, imposed on the CAR by the Kimberley Process, an international certification mechanism designed to prevent conflict diamonds from entering the international market, Séléka have been forcing local traders to mine and sell diamonds, while Anti-Balaka militias have taken control of diamond-rich areas in western Central African Republic.⁷

Food and agriculture

According to the FAO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, agriculture occupies more than 75% of the Central African Republic's working population, but due to the instability, economic growth, as well as crop and livestock production has been stifled. Many people in the Central African Republic are leaving their villages. The difficulties of earning an income in urban areas, in combination with the already existing pressure on already limited resources make for an even worse situation. Many people living on the outskirts of cities, particularly women, grow vegetables or raise small livestock. However, such activities are far from profitable since there is no financing, basic training or organization. On top of that malnutrition rates in the Central African Republic are high since 2 million people are severely food insecure.⁸

⁷ Enough project: Central African Republic

⁸ FAO's Central African Republic's situation report December 2016

Funding

According to the Financial Tracking Service there have been two main fund raisings for CAR:

- **Central African Republic Funds**

Those funds go to organizations with project requirements concerning humanitarian aid in CAR. In 2016 there have been requested in total US\$458.3m and only 43% (US\$197m) have been met. Major donors are the United States of America, the United Kingdom, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department, Germany, Japan, the Central Emergency Response Plan and the Central African Republic Humanitarian Fund. In 2017 the unmet requirements are US\$399.5m.

- **Regional Refugee Response Plan Funds**

Funds have been requested from Cameroon (US\$130.8m of which 33.2% has been funded), Chad (US\$89.8m of which 26.4% has been funded), Democratic Republic of Congo (US\$96.8m of which 21.1% has been funded) and Republic of Congo (US\$28.3m of which 60.5% has been funded).

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Chad

Bozizé's rebel group was equipped and trained in Chad and the group that overthrew President Patassé consisted of Bozizé's rebels and an extra 100 Chadian soldiers. Chad's president Idriss Déby is very interested in achieving tranquility in north-western CAR, due to the location of the Chad-Cameroon Petroleum Development and Pipeline Project. Chad's and CAR's borders have been unstable throughout the years, allowing smuggling which finances the rebels.

Sudan

During the Second Sudanese Civil War (1983–2005), soldiers from the Sudan People's Liberation Army crossed CAR's borders looking for safety during periods of attacks. At the same time, CAR was used by Sudan Armed Forces when launching attacks on the SPLA. In addition, thousands of Sudanese refugees lived in CAR, by the early 1990s there were 36,000 Sudanese refugees in south-east CAR. Half of the refugees were SPLA soldiers with more than 5000 weapons, who allegedly occupied towns as far as 200 km into the C.A.R. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was forced to close its refugee camp at Mboki in October 2002, due to the high prevalence of weapons. After the war, all refugees were repatriated to Sudan

which also was one of the contributors to the peacekeeping force of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) in Central African Republic in 2001-2002.⁹

France

Since the Central African Republic is a former colony of France it is natural that France still has an active role in CAR's issues. Operation Sangaris is a military intervention, consisting of 2.000 soldiers of the French military in the Central African Republic, which has been ongoing since the 5th of December 2013. Its goal was to restore the security and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic and to help the MISCA operation in the country. It has been the 7th French military intervention since the independence of the country in 1960. On the 30th of October 2016, France announced it would officially end Operation Sangaris.¹⁰



#3: Operation Sangaris soldier

African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA)

MISCA is a Mission set up by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union with the full support of the United Nation. It was established on 5th of December 2013 by a resolution of the United Nations Security Council (Resolution 2127) to stabilize conflict in the country following a coup d'état in March 2013.¹¹ The Mission was deployed on 19th of December 2013 and was later transformed into the MINUSCA operation in 2014.

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

MINUSCA started on the 10th of April 2014 and is the transformation of the MISCA operation into UN peacekeeping operations. MINUSCA became operational on the 15th of September 2014. The mission's priority tasks are the protection of civilians, the support for the implementation of the transition process, including efforts in favor of the extension of state authority and preservation of territorial integrity, to facilitate the immediate, full, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance, the protection of the United Nations, the promotion and protection of human rights, to support national and international justice and the rule of law and the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration (DDR) and repatriation

⁹ Wikipedia: Foreign Relations of CAR

¹⁰ Wikipedia: Operation Sangaris

¹¹ Wikipedia: MISCA

(DDRR).¹² The mission has 12.870 total uniformed personnel and the Security Council has extended its operation until 15th November 2017.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FAO's assistance in the Central African Republic is focused on four key priority areas: support to an improved production environment; rural development and improved food and nutrition security; prevention and management of food crises, natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies, including early warning, human disease control and disaster risk reduction; development of regional and subregional cooperation to ensure continual agricultural recover.¹³

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The UNHCR contributes with the formation of the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) in CAR. This program aims to outline the strategy for providing protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees and impacted host communities. The RRRP is envisioned as a regional partnership strategy and coordinated refugee response plan of UN agencies and NGO partners, and serves as a joint platform for advocacy and fundraising for all actors involved. The CAR 2016 RRRP contains country chapters for Cameroon, Chad, the Congo and the DRC with detailed information on achievements made and challenges faced in 2015. It presents planning figures on refugees and members of impacted host communities in all four countries and outlines their needs. Moreover, the country chapters include financial requirements of each country.¹⁴

TIMELINE OF EVENTS ¹⁵

Date	Description of event
1960	The Central African Republic is independent with David Dacko as president.
1965	Dacko ousted by Jean-Bedel Bokassa, who declares himself emperor of the "Central African Empire".
1979	Bokassa ousted in a coup backed by French troops.
1981	Army commander Andre Kolingba seizes power.
1993	Ange-Felix Patasse wins presidential elections, 12 years of military rule is over.
2003	Rebel leader and former army commander Francois

¹² United Nations: MINUSCA mandate

¹³ FAO: Situation Report December 2016

¹⁴ UNHCR: Central African Republic Regional Refugee Response Plan

¹⁵ BBC's Central African Republic country profile

	Bozizé seizes power.
2009	Clashes between government and rebels are ongoing. UN Security Council agrees to creation of UN peace building office for CAR to address ongoing insecurity.
2012	November - New Séléka rebel coalition rapidly overruns north and centre of country, and eventually the capital.
2013	August - Michel Djotodia is sworn in as president.
2013	Turmoil as rival Muslim and Christian fighters are accused of killing hundreds of people.
2014	Michel Djotodia - coup leader who headed the Séléka coalition - quits as president. Catherine Samba-Panza takes over as interim leader.
2015	Referendum on constitutional changes in November, followed by first round of presidential election.
2016	Tension ahead of second round of presidential election, which however, passes off peacefully. Constitutional court had earlier annulled parliamentary election results, citing irregularities. Faustin-Archange Touadera wins presidential election in the run-off.
2016	The Security Council extends the mandate of the United Nations peacekeeping operation in the Central African Republic until 15 November 2017.

RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS¹⁶

Security Council Resolutions:

- 26 July 2016 S/RES/2301
The mandate of MINUSCA was renewed until 15 November 2017.
- 26 April 2016 S/RES/2281:
MINUSCA’s mandate was extended until 31 July and it was requested from the Secretary-General to conduct a strategic review of its mandate by 22 June.
- 9 February 2016 S/RES/2264:
The number of corrections officers in MINUSCA was increased from 40 to 108.

¹⁶ Security Council Report: UN Documents

Security Council Presidential Statements

18 December 2014 S/PRST/2014/28: The Séléka and Anti-balaka were requested to disarm and engage in political dialogue and MINUSCA was urged to accelerate its deployments and intensify the implementation of its mandate.

Security Council Meeting Records

- 16 November 2016 S/PV.7812:
Meeting adopting a presidential statement on the CAR.
- 10 October 2016 S/PV.7787:
Meeting on the CAR.
- 8 July 2016 S/PV.7734:
Briefing on the situation in the CAR.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

There have been several attempts to solve the issue. Such attempts are Operation Sangaris, African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA), United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). For more information, see “Major Countries and Organizations Involved” (above)

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Battling the smuggling of CAR’S natural resources

The rebel groups active in the CAR have been smuggling diamonds, ivory and timber out of the country in order to strengthen their armory and pay their soldiers. With that being said smuggling should be banned, possibly via the creation of a legal framework, in order to weaken those groups and ensure that the country’s natural resources are safe from exploitation for political purpose.

Strengthening CAR’s borders

Border instability has been a major factor in worsening the situation. Also due to the existing oil resources the CAR should be able to defend its wealth. Considering that, stricter border control policies from CAR and the neighboring countries, could help combat the issue. In addition, Chad and the Central African Republic must reach an agreement on the issue, concerning border control, possibly through treaties.

Providing mediators, funds and advisors

In its current situation the CAR has an instable government. In this case, international advisors could be of great help to the government so as to rebuild the judicial system, the educational system, the country's health care and security. Also, since the current economy of the country cannot support such changes funds should be provided. In addition, since there is no official leader of any rebel group, experienced mediators should negotiate with local rebel groups.

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