

Research Report

Security Council

The Situation in Central African Republic (CAR)



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Introduction

The situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) is truly volatile and ever changing, with a history before current events including: military coups; rebellions; war. As of the time this report was written, many major events have happened throughout the country this year, including the resignation of President Djotodia on 10th January, and his acting successor Catherine Samba-Panza being named ten days later. Furthermore, there have been multiple reports by NGO's such as Amnesty International on massacres that have been inflicted upon both sides of the conflict, with some media claiming the attacks are similar to an ethnic cleansing or genocide.

Noting that the United Nations has now stated that they have found ample evidence of war crimes committed by both sides of the conflict and that multiple bordering countries have been accused of contributing to the slaughter, delegates must think of ways to protect the civilians of the Central African Republic in order to ensure a stop to the mass murder.

Definition of Key Terms

Genocide

According to the Oxford Dictionary, the term genocide is defined as "The deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular nation or ethnic group." In the case of the situation in the Central African Republic, the latter is the case. Even though the United Nations has since tried to lessen their claims of ethno-religious cleansing, it is still important to make light of the fact that both the Seleka Forces Anti-Balaka Militias have committed acts of slaughter against both Christians and Muslims, forcing civilians of both religion to flee the country. It is worth noting that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has reached out to the transitional government in



CAR, warning them that if the events in the country continue this will be the equivalent of a repeat of the Rwandan Genocide of 1994. At this time it is expected that MINUSCA will replace the African Union with regard to the matter at hand and deploy peacekeepers by 15th September 2014.

MINUSCA

MINUSCA, or the United Nations multidimensional integrated stabilization mission in the Central African Republic, is a UN peacekeeping mission authorized by the UN Security Council on 10th April 2014, with a predominant aim to protect the citizens of CAR. Other initial tasks for the mission include: supporting the transitional process to the new government; disarmament; demobilization; the protection of human rights within the region. Other additional measures include overseeing the implementation of paragraph 54 and 57 of Security Council resolution 2127 (2013) and coordinating international assistance where appropriate. MINUSCA will replace the African Union led mission MISCA on the 15th September 2014, when 10,000 military personnel and 1,820 police units will be deployed in the country; the mandate will expire on 30th April 2015.

Refugee

According to the Oxford dictionary, a refugee is “a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.” Due to the horrific events occurring in the Central African Republic, thousands of civilians have fled the country. Initially, these refugees were Christians fleeing from Seleka forces, however, due to the recent rising of the Anti Balaka militia; thousands of Muslims have been forced to escape to the neighboring country of Cameroon, who already has an influx of refugees from Nigeria. As refugees from CAR cross the border, they have been described as malnourished, bruised and broken.

General Overview

With the conflict of the Central African Republic lasting over two years, this general overview will provide some geographical information of the nation, along with basic knowledge and figures needed to understand the tension between the factions.



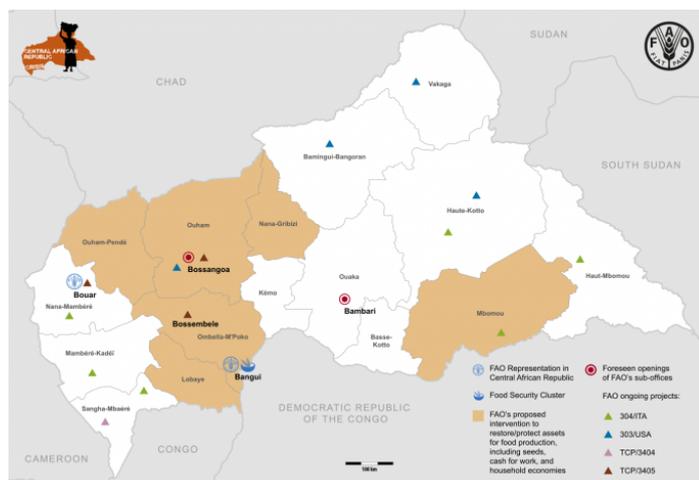
Conflict Origins

Conflict in the Central African Republic has not been rare. With four of the five Presidents of the nation being removed from power by unconstitutional means since it gained independence in 1960, it could be said that conflict, even though never welcomed, has been present in the country for over fifty years. For the past year, major conflict in the country has been caused by anti-ethnic groups, which particularly show distaste to either Muslims or Christians. In January of last year, a ceasefire was signed between the CAR government and Seleka forces. However there have been multiple sources that indicate that this ceasefire was not kept to, along with the new ethnic slaughter. This conflict has led to widespread political instability in the country and the death of over 650,000 people (as of 26th March 2014)

Geographical Information

The Central African Republic, as the name suggests, is a landlocked country situated in Central Africa. The Central African Republic is bordered by six countries: Chad; Sudan; South Sudan; the Democratic Republic of Congo; Cameroon. Between the late 19th century and 1960, CAR was a French colony. Since its independence from France in 1960, CAR has been under constant turmoil and changes. Initially, the country was led by a series of autocratic leaders, until the first democratic elections were held in 1993. Since then, multiple occurrences of war have broken out, such as the 2003 coup, the Central African Republic bush war in 2004 and the current situation that has arisen now.

The Central African Republic is well known to have a multitude of natural resource deposits of crude oil, gold and even diamonds. However, despite this it is still recognized as one of the 10 poorest nations in the world.



Map outlining CAR conflict areas as of Jan. 2014 "Central African Republic." *ReliefWeb*. N.p., n.d. Web. 20 July 2014.
<<http://reliefweb.int/country/car>>.



Human Rights in the Central African Republic

Human Rights have constantly been an issue in the Central African Republic. Even before the current situation, the United States Department of State has noted the poor upkeep of human rights in CAR. Since January 2013, the International Federation of Human Rights has called upon CAR to put an end to the multiple violations to human rights. However, this has seemed to make no impact. Furthermore, the United States State Department has accused CAR of acts such as rape, torture, human trafficking and child labor. Women's rights are practically non-existent, with 68% of women married before the age of 18. The United Nations has placed CAR 179 out of the 187 countries on the Human Development Index.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

Séléka and Anti-Balaka

The Seleka and Anti-Balaka are two opposing militias who are responsible for most of the bloodshed in the Central African Republic. Firstly, Seleka is a coalition of multiple rebel militia factions of CAR, who initially intended to overthrow the government. They succeeded in this, with their leader, Michel Djotodia, claiming power as the unrecognized interim-president from 24th March 2013 until 10th January 2014. Seleka originally emerged on 15th September under the name CPSK-CPJP, since then they have grown in size and power. In September 2013, Djotodia announced the dissolution of Seleka, however most refused to disband. Most recently, Seleka forces have been accused of the mass murder of CAR's Christian community, and on May 28th 2014, members of the militia threw grenades and shot at the Church of Fatima in Bangui.

Anti-Balaka (Literal translation: Anti Machete/Sword) is a term used to describe the militias of Christians that have formed in CAR since 2013, primarily after the leader of Seleka was named the president, and the first Muslim president of CAR. Since the announced dissolution of the Seleka, many Anti-Balaka and Seleka forces have clashed. In 2014, the massacres on the Muslim community caused by Anti-Balaka has been compared to or even described as worse than the acts performed by Seleka, with Amnesty International reporting several massacres on the Muslim civilians.

European Union

The High Representative for Foreign Affairs in the European Union Catherine Ashton has expressed her concern for the events of CAR multiple times. Firstly, on the 21st December 2013 she urged the armed rebels to “cease all hostilities” in the country, furthermore, on 1st January once again stated her concern, asking all parties involved to “take all necessary measures to end” the conflict. On 10th February 2014, the EU announced the military operation EUFOR RCA, and deployed a further 1,000 troops to aid the French and African Union troops already situated in the country.

France

During the beginning of the conflict in CAR on 27th December 2012, France rejected a plea from then president Francois Bozizé for international assistance by the nation. Since then France has become more involved in the conflict, and since November has deployed over 2,000 troops in order to try and reduce the violence. More recently, on May 13th 2014, a French reporter was found dead; this was the first death of a Western reporter since troops were deployed in December.

Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo and Chad

Since the events of the situation in the Central African Republic have occurred, refugee intake by neighbouring countries has increased dramatically. It is estimated that between December 2013 and May 2014 there was an intake of 100,000 refugees to neighbouring countries, with 350,000 refugees fleeing to neighbouring countries overall. Out of this, 70,000 have fled to Cameroon, 12,000 to Congo DRC and 8,000 to Chad. With these countries being 97th, 108th and 131st in world GDP rankings according to the United Nations, they are in no condition to house the influx of thousands of refugees. The European Union is already trying to solve the matter for Chad and Cameroon, sending 4 million euros in aid in order to support the refugees, however this is only a temporary solution.

United States of America

Relations between the USA and CAR have always been tenuous, with the United States embassy in the Central African Republic most recently being closed since December 27th 2012 due to the ever-rising tensions and rebellion in the country.



Timeline of Events

With the events in the Central African Republic continuing, it is to be expected that new key events in the conflict will occur between the writing of this research report and the conference. Therefore it is suggested that delegates update themselves on the situation regularly in order to maintain their knowledge of current events.

Date	Description of event
11 th January 2013	Ceasefire signed between CAR government and Seleka Rebels.
13 th January 2013	President Bozizé signs a presidential decree to remove Prime Minister Faustin-Archange Touadéra from power.
17 th January 2013	Nicolas Tiangaye is appointed the new Prime Minister of the Central African Republic.
18 th March 2013	Rebels keep their 5 ministers from returning to Bangui, and threaten to take up arms if their political prisoners are not released, and if the South African troops are not removed from the country. A deadline of 72 hours is given.
24 th March 2013	President Bozizé is ousted by the Seleka militia and flees to the Democratic Republic of Congo.
25 th March 2013	Michel Djotodia declares himself the new President of the Central African Republic, declaring a three-year transitional period.
31 st March 2013	A new government, headed by Tiangaye along with a further 34 members, is appointed. The government is made up of 9 Seleka members, 8 representatives of other anti-Bozizé parties, 1 member of Bozizé's former government and 16 positions to representatives of civil society.
3 rd April 2013	Meeting in Chad between African leaders concludes that Djotodia is not recognized as a legitimate president of the Central African Republic.
15 th April 2013	Fighting breaks out in Bangui between Seleka forces and citizens.
21 st -22 nd April 2013	Reports of 12 civilians being killed by Seleka rebels in Ouango.
10 th January 2014	Michel Djotodia and Prime Minister Nicolas Tiangaye resign from their positions.
23 rd January 2014	Catherine Samba-Panza, the mayor of Bangui, is elected as the new interim president of CAR in the second round of voting. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon welcomed this election.



24 th January 2014	Former Health Minister Dr. Joseph Kalite is lynched outside the Central Mosque in Bangui. At least nine others were killed in a mob containing Christian self-defense groups.
3 rd February 2014	Local priest states that 75 people were killed in the town of Boda.
6 th February 2014	Minutes after a speech from Catherine Samba-Panza, members of the crowd erupt to stoning, stabbing and pelting a man, only for his body to be dragged through the streets and be burned, as children stood to attention to watch the horror unfold. Peacekeepers withdrew, without even firing warning shots.
9 th February 2014	Fighting breaks out between Christian and Muslim rebels.
15 th February 2014	France announces it will send 400 additional troops to CAR.
29 th March 2014	European Union announces it will send troops to CAR for the first time in six years, pledging up to 1,000 troops to be deployed along with the African Union peacekeepers and French Troops.
3 rd April 2014	Chad announces its withdrawal of its contribution to the MISCA forces in CAR.
10 th April 2014	Security Council Resolution 2149 passed by unanimous decision. This enforces the creation of MINUCA and the deploying of 10,000 troops by 15 th September 2014.
12 th April 2014	MISCA troops escort over 1,000 Muslims fleeing to Chad.
14 th April 2014	Former Seleka rebels shoot and kill a Christian priest in Paoua
May 2014	Reports of over 600,000 citizens of CAR being internally displaced arise.
29 th May 2014	Seleka rebels storm a Catholic Church, killing at least 30.
5 th June 2014	CAR government ban text messaging, deeming it a cause of civil disobedience. If a mobile phone user sends a text, they will receive the reply "SMS not allowed."
25 th July 2014	Seleka chief Joseph Zoundeiko rejects a ceasefire deal between Seleka and anti-Balaka militias that was signed earlier this year in Brazzaville.

UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

During the initial conflict of the Central African Republic there was very little involvement from the UN, with the African Union tending more towards the matter. However, due to the recent events, involvement from the UN has increased, with multiple resolutions being declared in order to resolve the situation at hand. These include:

- Resolution 2088, adopted by the Security Council on 24th January 2013 (**S/RES/2088 (2013)**)



- Multiple Press Statements regarding the situation dating from 19th December 2012 to August 14th 2013
- Resolution 2121, adopted by the Security Council on 10th October 2013 (**S/RES/2121 (2013)**)
- Resolution 2127, adopted by the Security Council on 5th December 2013 (**S/RES/2127 (2013)**)
- Resolution 2134, adopted by the Security Council on 28th January 2014 (**S/RES/2134 (2014)**)
- Resolution 2149, adopted by the Security Council on 10th April 2014 (**S/RES/2149 (2014)**)

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

With United Nations involvement increasing drastically between January 2013 and April 2014, a resolution to the conflict looks hopeful. The upcoming MINUSCA mission laid out in Resolution 2149 of the Security Council especially reaffirms this, and it is to be noted that the Council will further discuss the matter if necessary. However, it is to be noted that many issues still need to be resolved, and that they cannot be addressed until the majority of the conflict is over. It is also worth noting that this conflict could be seen as the offspring of the previous conflict in the Central African Republic between Seleka and the government. Even though this conflict seemed to have been resolved after an arranged ceasefire, it has spawned the issues that afflict the Central African Republic as of present.

Furthermore, it can also be seen that even though the Security Council have urged on multiple occasions for the disarmament, demobilization and overall peace between opposing forces (for example Resolution 2088 and 2121), there has never been any sanctions or restrictions placed on the nation if demands are not met. Even though harsh sanctions can damage a country if they do not abide by the set resolution, it can also be the fear tactic that steers the country in the right direction. Further missing terms from attempts to resolve the issue, exemplified by the recent ceasefire deal rejected by Seleka, is the need to bring those majorly responsible for the outbreaks of violence. Even though President Catherine Samba-Panza has formally requested a full investigation of the situation by the International Criminal Court, as of the writing of this report the ICC has not opened a full investigation.



Possible Solutions

There are multiple problems afflicting the Central African Republic. Because of this, multiple factors need to be resolved. Many basic human rights are being violated on a daily basis throughout the country, along with mass acts of horrific murder by both Seleka and Anti-Balaka forces. Furthermore, due to the transitional period the country is in, with elections scheduled to proceed in 2015, political tensions are extremely high. Adding to this, currently the Central African Republic is 165th in the world's GDP rankings, making it one of the poorest countries in Africa.

Possible solutions that may be addressed include foreign intervention. Delegates should be aware that in certain circumstances this could worsen the situation, such as NATO's forced ceasefire in the Kosovo conflict in 1998, and that these measures should be thought out and discussed carefully. Some may see the urgent need to deliver aid and rebuild the broken nation. This idea may be beneficial in the long term, however if certain aid and renovation is given in a time of conflict there is a tendency for it to have no use.

As stated in the evaluation of previous attempts to resolve the issue, two major points that were lacking in resolutions or proposed truces were sanctions to be placed on the nation if demands were not met and the fact that those responsible for the outbreak that has persisted since 2012 have not been brought to justice. With that in mind delegates may want to consider ways to reprimand those that have caused many of the issues affecting the Central African Republic.

On that note, delegates should also be aware of the current climate, and upcoming attempts to resolve the situation, in order to be able to provide both short term and long lasting solutions to the many problems this nation faces.

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