



MINUSCA

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **MINUSCA INITIATES AN INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE ON ALLEGED SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE BY PEACEKEEPERS**

**Bangui, 24th June 2015** - The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) initiated an investigation procedure following the allegations of sexual abuse perpetrated against street children in Bangui by members of a contingent of the UN Force.

The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in the Central African Republic and Head of MINUSCA, Babacar Gaye, is outraged at the idea that peacekeepers may be the perpetrators of such acts against children. He expressed his determination to shed light on these allegations and to recommend if proven accurate exemplary sanctions against the perpetrators.

If substantiated, such allegations would constitute a serious case of misconduct and a grave violation of the conduct and discipline expected of the military personnel of the United Nations, the Special Representative indicated.

The Head of MINUSCA wishes to reiterate unequivocally that the zero tolerance policy will be applied in all its diligence against any United Nations staff members that would be found guilty of exploitation and sexual abuse in Central Africa.

