



Quarterly Brief on the Human Rights Situation in the Central African Republic July to September 2021

Summary

During the period under review, the human rights situation in the CAR sharply deteriorated compared to the second quarter of 2021 with a marked increase of grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law (IHL), including extrajudicial killings, cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, conflict-related sexual violence and arbitrary arrests and detentions. The protection of civilians remained a major concern owing to clashes between armed groups, clashes between State forces and armed groups, as well as violence perpetrated by armed groups, State forces and other security personnel (OSP) against the civilian population.

General Trends

During the third quarter of 2021, the Human Rights Division (HRD), including the Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Section (CRSV) and the Child Protection Section (CPS), documented 397 incidents of human rights violations and breaches of IHL affecting 899 victims. This represents a sharp increase of 25.20 percent in the number of victims compared to the previous quarter (354 incidents with 718 victims), whereas there was only a slight increase in the number of incidents (12.14 percent). It is worth noting that, in September, the HRD was able to conduct a verification of the number of children associated with the UPC and FPRC, accounting for 14.68 percent of the total number of victims (132 children).

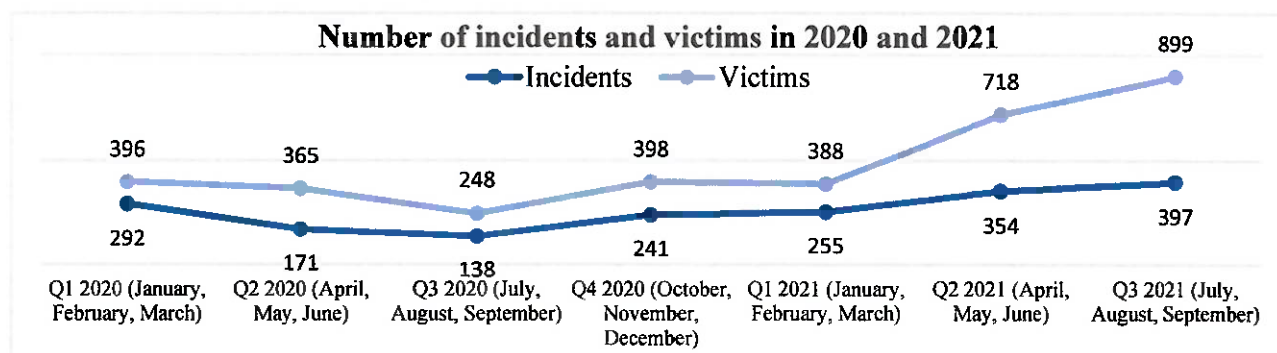
During this period, HRD observed an increase in attacks on members of the Muslim community by the FACA and OSP, including targeted killings and arrests disproportionately affecting already vulnerable communities, such as Muslims and Peuhl IDPs. Following their arrests, many members of Muslim and Peuhl communities were subject to torture and poor detention conditions.

The HRD verified and confirmed emblematic incidents attributable solely to OSP or FACA in the north and western parts of the country, such as summary execution of members of the Peuhl and Muslims community. Between August and September 2021, in Sanguere 3 village (Ouham-Pende), HRD confirmed the killing of at least 11 civilians by OSP. On 26 September in Bethel village in Ouham-Pende Prefecture, 14 Peuhls were killed by OSP. Besides incidents of killings and torture, HRD documented targeted arrests of Muslims and Peuhls by FACA/ISF and OSP for their alleged collaboration with armed groups. In August 2021, at least 17 members of the Muslim and Peuhl communities arrested by FACA/ISF and OSP were transferred from Haute-Kotto, Mambéré-Kadéï, Mbomou, Nana-Mambéré, and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures to Bangui. They were arbitrarily detained at the *Office central de répression du banditisme* (OCRB).

The information collected by the HRD revealed an increase in the number of incidents and victims attributed to all parties to the conflict. During the reporting period, armed groups signatories to the APPR-CAR were responsible for a majority of the incidents and victims, with 210 incidents affecting 499 victims documented (representing respectively 52.89 percent and 55.50 percent of the total). However, a large number of incidents and victims were attributed to State actors, i.e. 186 incidents affecting 399 victims (or, respectively, 46.85 percent and 44.38 percent of the total, respectively). This represents an increase of 20.68 percent and 42.16 percent of the number of incidents and victims, respectively, attributed to armed groups signatories to the APPR-CAR compared to the previous quarter (174 incidents with 351 victims). In comparison, the number of incidents and victims attributed to State actors rose by 8.13 percent and 15.31 percent respectively (172 incidents with 346 victims).

Various clashes occurred between States agents supported by OSP and the armed groups, especially in the western sector of the Central African Republic (CAR). This translated into a noticeable increase in the number of incidents and victims attributable to the FACA and/or OSP in the West and a decrease in the other sectors, although armed

groups remain the main perpetrators in West, with 119 incidents out of a total of 217 (or 54.83 percent) and 230 victims out of a total of 438 victims (52.51 percent).



Violations

Murders and extrajudicial executions represent 12.84 percent of the total number of incidents affecting 13.90 percent of the total number of victims (51 incidents for 125 victims). State actors were responsible for most of these incidents, with 29 incidents (56.86 percent) affecting 88 victims (70.39 percent) against 22 incidents (43.13 percent) affecting 37 victims (29.57 percent) by armed groups.

The main perpetrators of murders and extrajudicial executions are the other security personnel alone (13 incidents and 63 victims) and jointly with FACA (eight incidents, 12 victims), followed by the 3R (ten incidents, 24 victims) and FACA (six incidents, 11 victims). Other incidents were attributed to the anti-Balaka (four incidents, four victims), the UPC (four incidents, four victims), unidentified CPC members (two incidents, three victims), gendarmes (two incidents, two victims), the MPC/FPRC coalition (one incident, one victim), and the anti-Balaka/3R/MPC/FPRC coalition (one incident, one victim).

Violations of the right to physical integrity, including torture, threats to physical and mental integrity, maiming and injuries, excessive use of force, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment represent 22.92 percent of the total number of incidents and affected 15.57 percent of the total number of victims (91 incidents, 140 victims). Of these incidents, 62.63 percent were committed by State forces, affecting 52.14 percent of victims (57 incidents, 73 victims) and 37.36 percent of incidents, affecting 47.85 percent of victims, were perpetrated by armed groups (34 incidents, 67 victims).

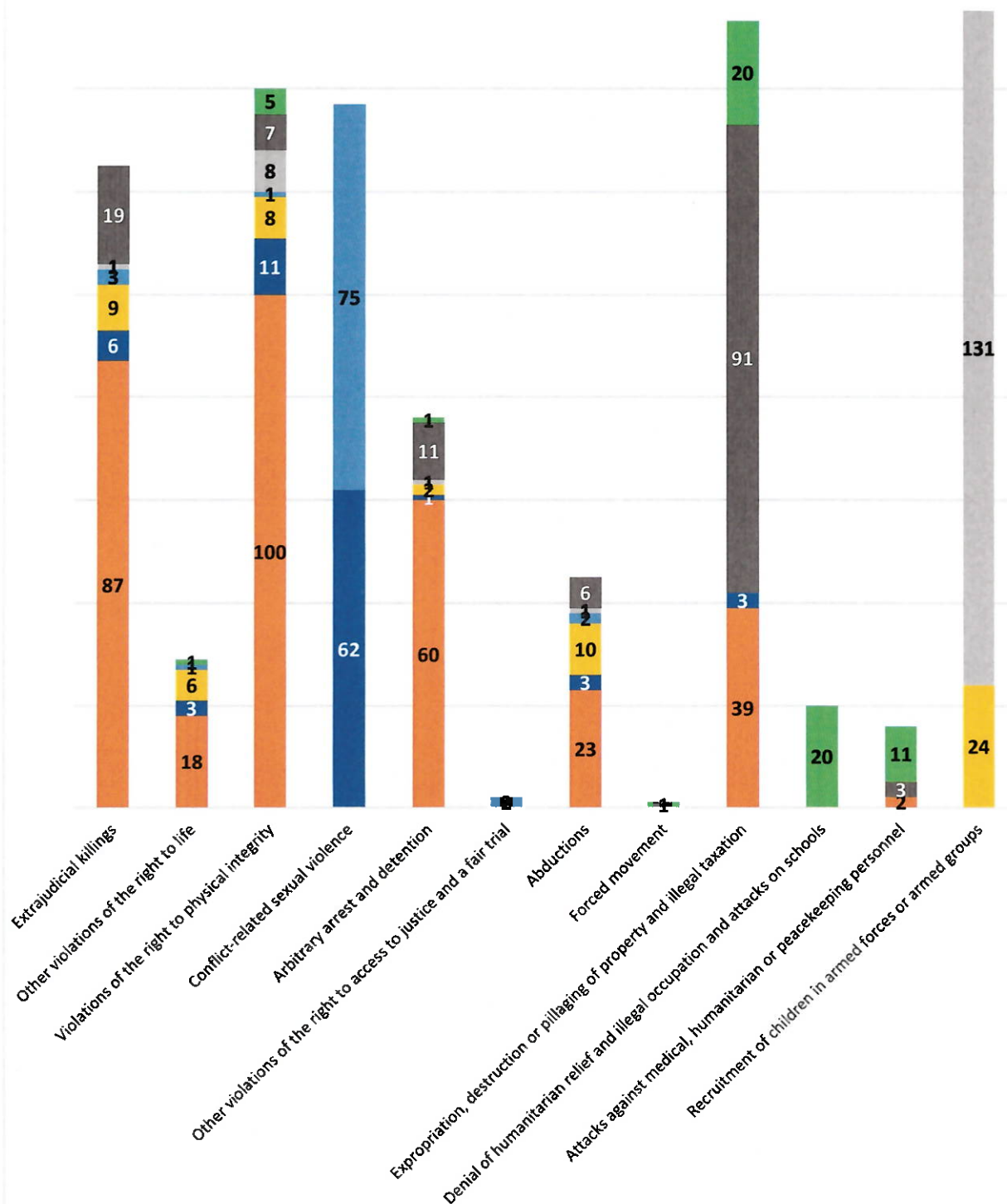
Conflict-related sexual violence accounted for 26.19 percent of the total number of incidents and affected 15.01 percent of the victims (104 incidents, 135 victims). Of these cases, the vast majority were rapes (96 incidents, 124 victims), followed by attempted rape (five incidents, five victims), and sexual slavery (three cases, six victims). 92.30 percent of these incidents and 93.33 percent of these victims were attributable to armed groups that signed the APPR-RCA (96 incidents, 126 victims). The remaining eight cases, affecting nine victims, were attributed to State forces.

The recruitment of children into armed groups or forces accounts for 2.77 percent of the total number of incidents (11 incidents) but for 17.24 percent of the total number of victims (155 victims). Most incidents were committed by armed groups that are signatories to the APPR-RCA (four incidents, 135 victims), i.e. 87.09 percent of the total of the victims although seven incidents were attributed to State forces, affecting 20 victims.

Incidents of expropriation, illegal taxation, destruction or pillaging of property account for 10.32 percent of the total number of incidents and 17.01 percent of the victims (41 incidents, 153 victims). Most of these incidents are perpetrated by armed groups (65.85 percent of the incidents, 54.24 percent of the victims), i.e. 27 incidents affecting 83 victims. In addition, attacks on medical, humanitarian, and peacekeeping personnel account for 3.52 percent of the total number of incidents and 1.77 percent of the casualties (14 incidents, 16 victims). The majority of these attacks were perpetrated by State forces and other security personnel, who perpetrated ten of the incidents.

Number of victims per type of violations

Men Women Boys Girls Children (gender unknown) Adults (gender unknown) Collective victims

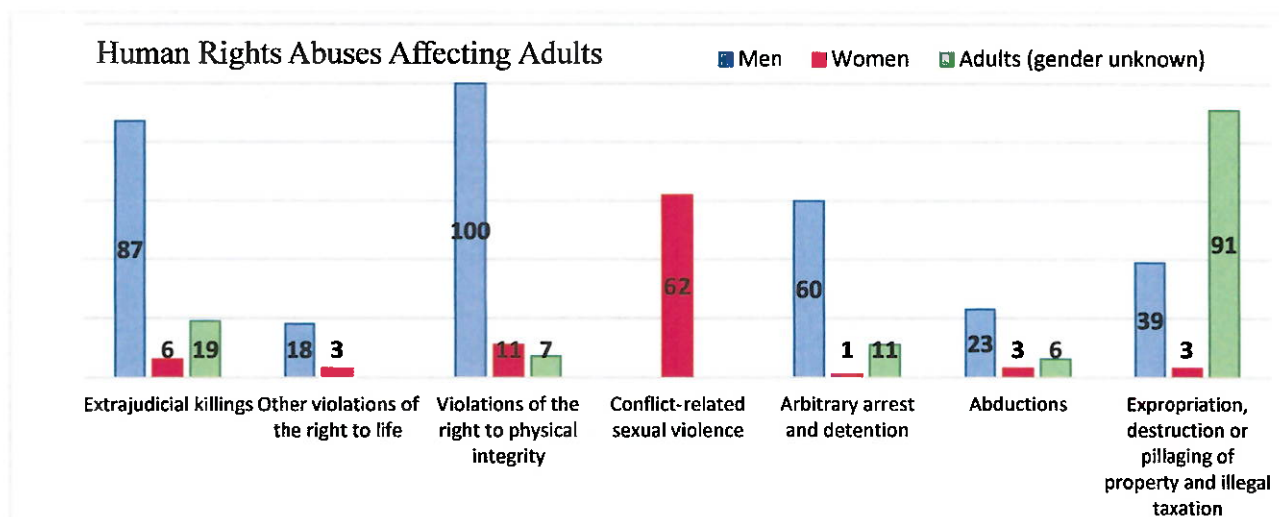
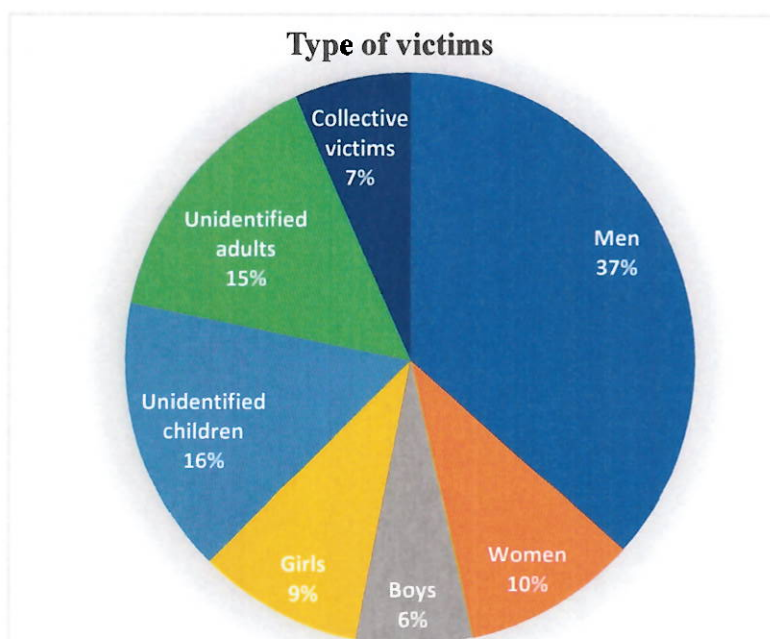


Victims

The HRD documented 397 incidents affecting 899 victims, of which 329 were men, 89 women, 59 boys, 84 girls, 142 unidentified children, 137 unidentified adults and 59 collective victims. In comparison, during the third quarter of the year 2020, the HRD had documented 138 incidents affecting 248 victims, which represents an increase of 187.68 percent of the number of incidents and of 262.50 percent of the number of victims.

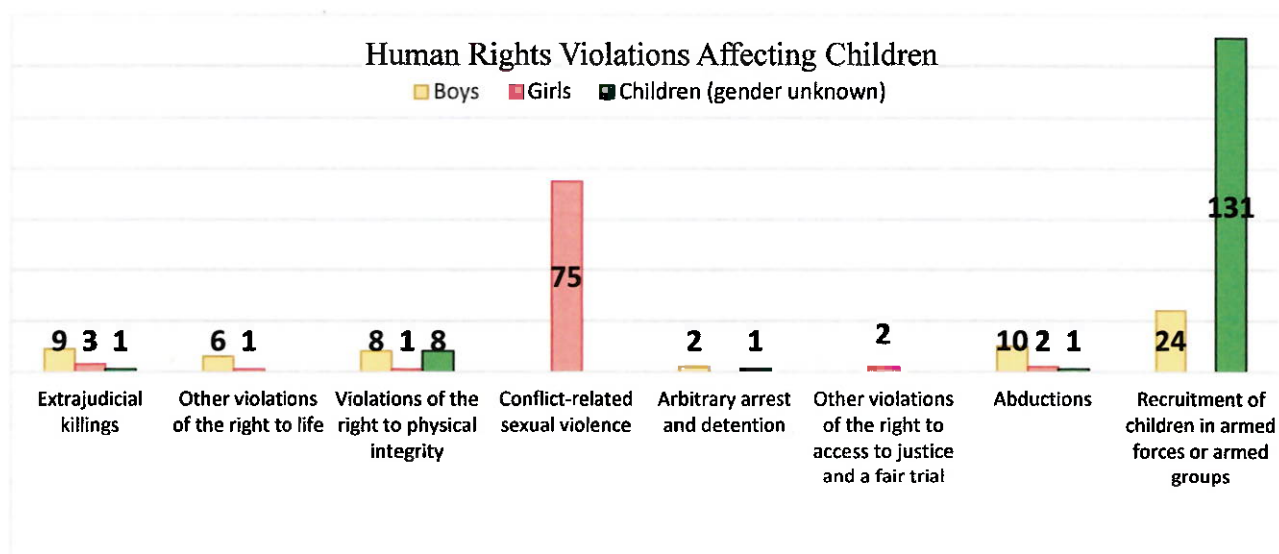
Men constituted the largest group of the victims (36.59 percent), although less so than in the previous quarter where they accounted for 57.52 percent of the total number of victims. In many cases, men are victims of extrajudicial killings (87 victims), cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment (71 victims), and arbitrary arrests and detentions (60 victims). They also were often targeted in cases of expropriation and confiscation of property (35 victims).

Women on the other hand represented only 9.89 percent of the total number of victims (89) but accounted for 45.92 percent of the total number of victims of conflict-related sexual violence (62 of the 135 victims). Women were victims of extrajudicial killings (six) and cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment (seven).



Girls (minors) represented 9.34 percent of the victims (84 victims) and were in 89.28 percent of the cases affected by conflict-related sexual violence (75 victims). Boys (minors) represented 6.56 percent of the victims (59 victims) and were victims of recruitment in armed forces or armed groups (24 victims), abductions (ten victims), extrajudicial killings (nine victims), violations to the right to physical integrity (eight victims) and other violations of the right to life (six victims). The 142 unidentified children represent 15.79 percent of the total number of victims. 131 of them were victims of recruitment in armed forces or armed groups.

In most of the cases of abduction and/or forced recruitment, the victims were most likely subjected to sexual violence as well.



The 59 groups of collective victims, which represent 6.56 percent of the total number of victims, were mostly the subject of denial of humanitarian relief and illegal occupation and attacks on schools (20 victims), expropriation, destruction, pillaging of property or illegal taxation (20 victims), and attacks against medical, humanitarian or peacekeeping personnel (11 victims).

Perpetrators

The armed groups that are signatories to the APPR-CAR are presumed to be the perpetrators of 52.89 percent of the total number of incidents of human rights abuses (210 incidents), affecting 55.50 percent of the total number of victims (499 victims). The increase in the absolute number of incidents and victims compared to the previous quarter (174 incidents, meaning an increase of 20.68 percent, and 351 victims, meaning an increase of 42.16 percent) translated into a noticeable increase of the proportion of incidents and victims attributed to these actors: between April and June 2021, they were responsible for 49.15 percent of the incidents and 48.88 percent of the victims (174 incidents with 351 victims).

Among the armed groups signatories of the APPR-CAR, the main perpetrators are the 3R, who committed 13.35 percent of the total number of incidents and 11.79 percent of the total number of victims (53 incidents, 106 victims). Meanwhile, the UPC is responsible for 5.28 percent of the incidents and 9.78 percent of the victims (21 incidents, 88 victims) and the FPRC for 1.51 percent of the incidents but 10.45 percent of the victims (6 incidents, 94 victims). 20.40 percent of the total number of incidents and 11.45 percent of the number of victims were attributed to unidentified CPC members (81 incidents, 103 victims). The rest of the incidents perpetrated by groups signatories to the APPR-CAR were committed by the anti-Balaka, MPC, RJ and various coalitions of armed groups.

The main human rights abuses and IHL breaches perpetrated by the signatory armed groups are extrajudicial killings (22 incidents, 37 victims), violations of the right to physical integrity (34 incidents, 67 victims), and conflict-related sexual violence (96 incidents, 126 victims). In addition, four incidents of recruitment of children in armed groups affected 135 victims.

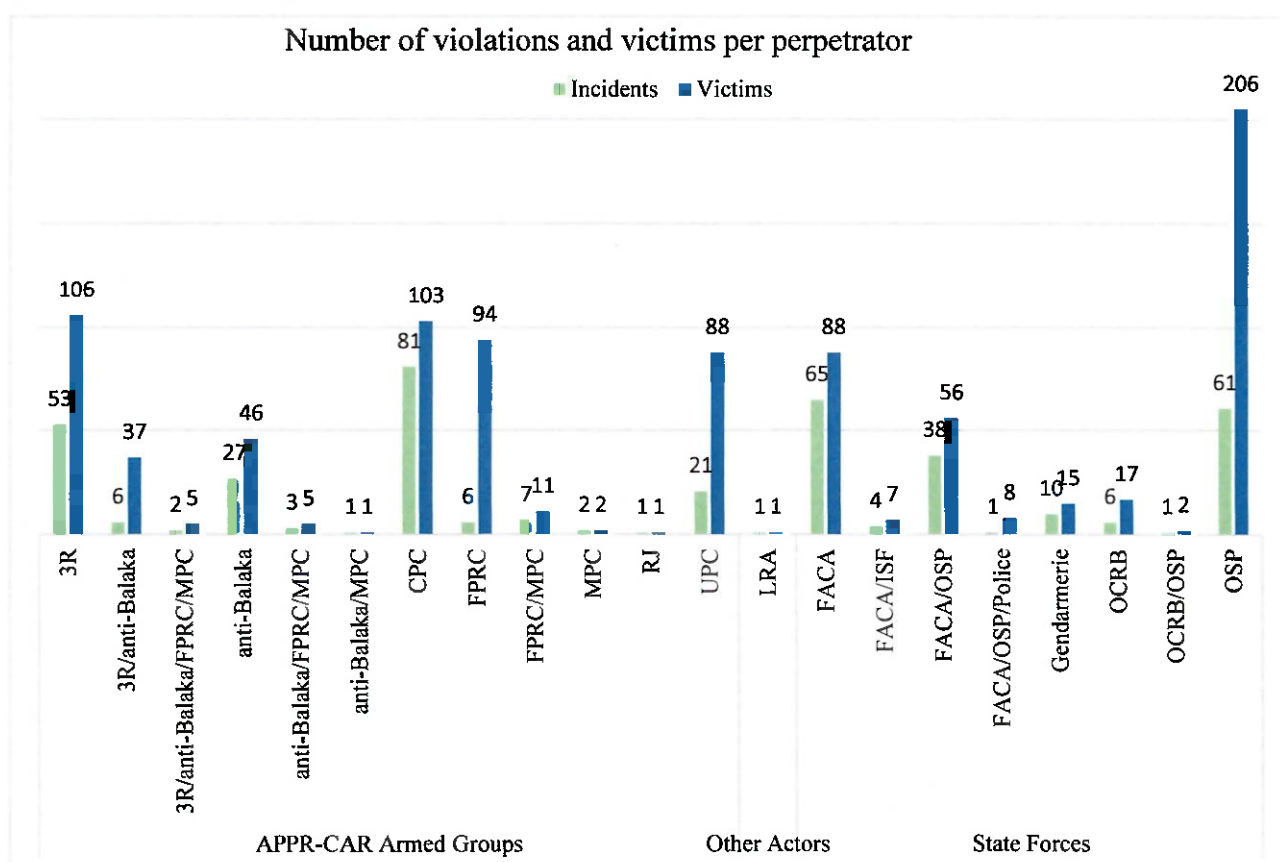
Concerning the remaining armed groups, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was responsible for one incident of abduction, affecting one victim.

State forces and their allies were allegedly responsible for 46.85 percent of the total number of incidents (186 incidents) and 44.38 percent of the victims (399 victims). The absolute number of incidents and number of victims attributed to State forces have also seen an increase compared to the previous quarter (respectively by 8.13 percent

and 15.31 percent), where they were responsible for 48.58 percent of the incidents and 48.18 percent of the victims (172 incidents, 346 victims).

FACA were responsible for 16.37 percent of the total number of incidents and 9.78 percent of the victims (65 incidents, 88 victims). Joint FACA and other security personnel operations caused 9.57 percent of the incidents and 6.22 percent of the victims (38 incidents, 56 victims). The other security personnel were solely responsible for 15.36 percent of the total number of incidents and 22.91 percent of the victims (61 incidents, 206 victims) – making them one of the categories of perpetrators with the most incidents attributed to them over the period and the one with the most victims. The rest of the incidents perpetrated by State forces were committed by ISF, alone or jointly with FACA and other security personnel.

The main human rights violations perpetrated by the States actors are extrajudicial killings (29 incidents, 88 victims), violations of the right to physical integrity (57 incidents, 73 victims), and arbitrary arrests and detention (34 incidents, 75 victims).



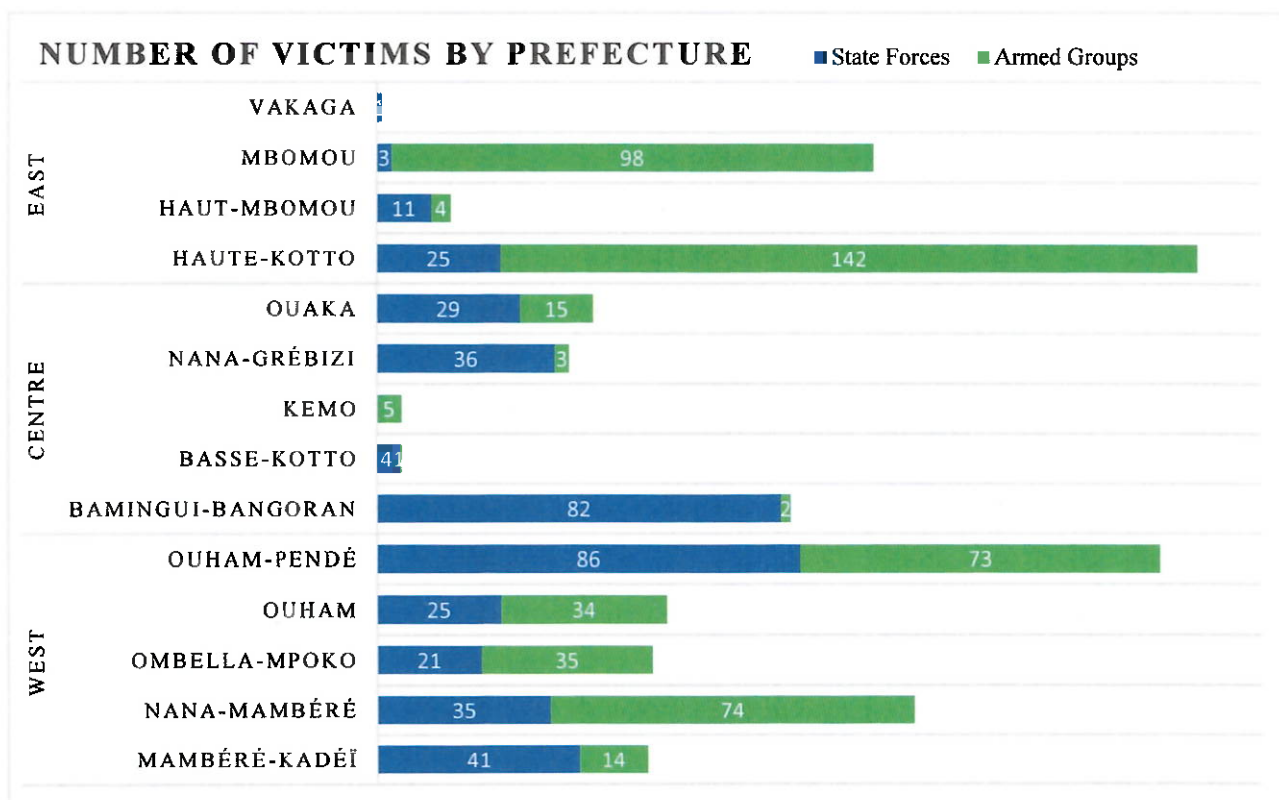
Geographic Trends

By sectors

The Western sector¹ was the most affected with 54.65 percent of the number of incidents and 48.72 percent of the number of victims (217 incidents, 438 victims). In this sector, both incidents and victims are evenly split between armed groups (119 incidents, 230 victims) and State forces (98 incidents, 208 victims). Most of these incidents were extrajudicial killings (33 incidents, 100 victims), violations of the right to physical integrity (48 incidents, 73 victims), conflict-related sexual violence (47 incidents, 74 victims), and arbitrary arrests and detentions (11 incidents, 25 victims).

The Central sector² accounted for 19.39 percent of the incidents and 19.68 percent of the victims (77 incidents, 177 victims). In this region, incidents were mostly committed by State forces, with 79.22 percent of the area's incidents (61 incidents) and 85.31 percent of its victims (151 victims) attributed to State forces. Most of these incidents were extrajudicial killings (15 incidents, 22 victims), violations of the right to physical integrity (20 incidents, 23 victims) and arbitrary arrests and detentions (12 incidents, 26 victims).

The Eastern Sector³ accounted for 25.94 percent of the incidents and 31.59 percent of the victims (103 incidents, 284 victims). In this area, most incidents and victims were attributed to armed groups, with 73.78 percent (76 incidents) and 85.91 percent (244 victims), respectively, being attributed to them. Most of these incidents involved conflict-related sexual violence (50 incidents, 53 victims), violations of the right to physical integrity (19 incidents, 40 victims) and arbitrary arrests and detentions (11 incidents, 22 victims). However, three incidents of recruitment of children in armed groups affected 132 children in this sector.



¹ The Western sector includes the Ombella Mpoko, the Mamberé-Kadéï, the Nana Mambere, the Lobaye, the Ouham-Pendé and the Ouham prefectures.

² The Center Sector includes the Nana-Grébizi, the Ouaka, the Bamingui-Bangoran and the Basse-Kotto prefectures.

³ The Eastern sector includes Vakaga, Haute-Kotto, Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou prefectures.

By prefecture

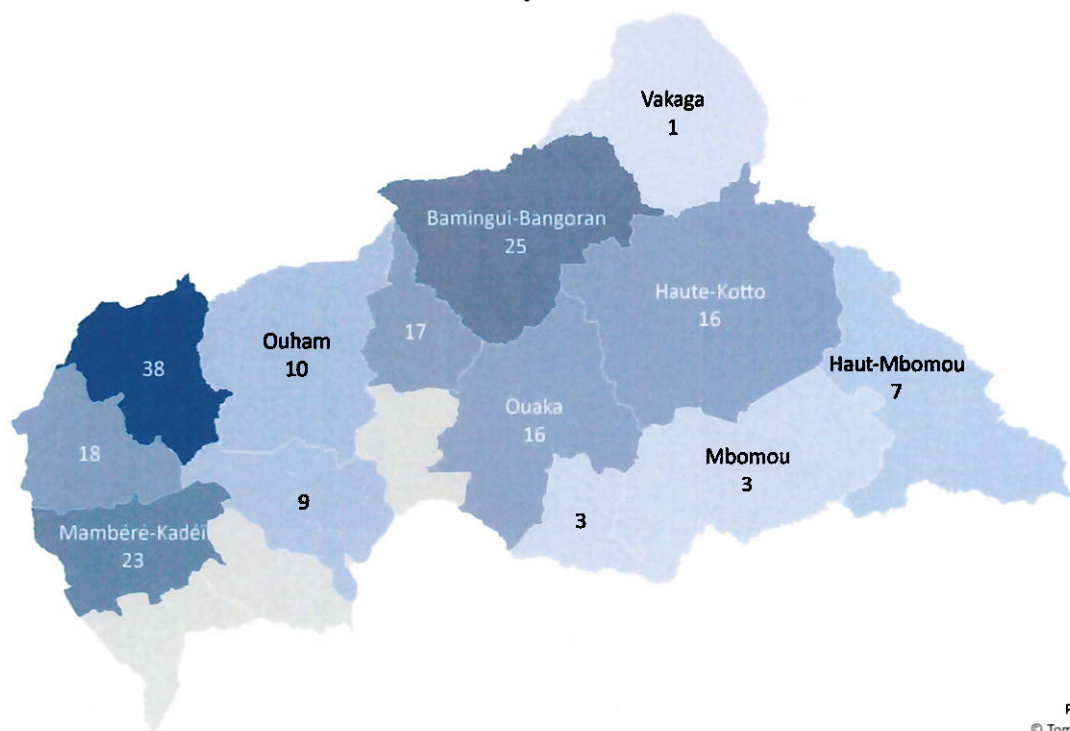
The most affected prefecture during the reporting period is the Haute-Kotto with 18.57 percent of the number of victims (25 incidents, 167 victims). However, 132 of these victims were the result of three incidents of recruitment of children in armed groups.

The Ouham-Pendé prefecture follows with 18.38 percent of the incidents and 17.68 percent of the victims (73 incidents, 159 victims), quite evenly split between armed groups (35 incidents, 73 victims) and State forces (38 incidents, 86 victims). Most of these incidents involved extrajudicial executions (10 incidents, 44 victims), conflict-related sexual violence (14 incidents, 31 victims), and cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatments (17 incidents, 29 victims).

Nana-Mambéré accounted for 11.33 percent of the incidents and 12.12 percent of the victims (45 incidents, 109 victims), committed mostly by armed groups (27 incidents, 74 victims). Most of these incidents were extrajudicial executions (10 incidents, 24 victims).

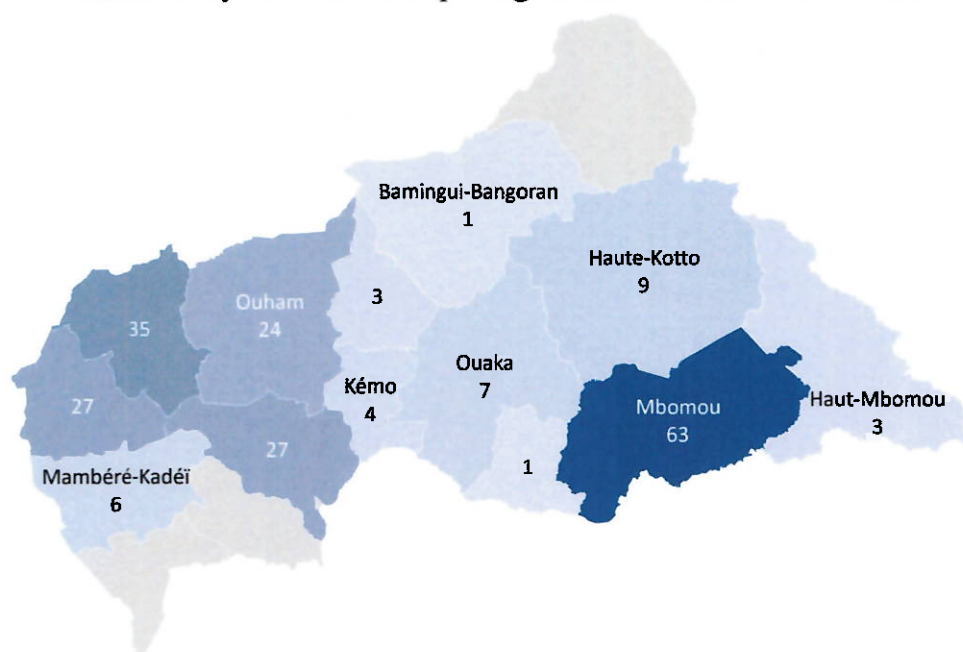
The Mbomou prefecture represented 16.62 percent of the incidents but 11.23 percent of the victims (66 incidents, 101 victims), the overwhelming majority of which committed by armed groups (63 incidents, 98 victims).

Incidents by State Actors



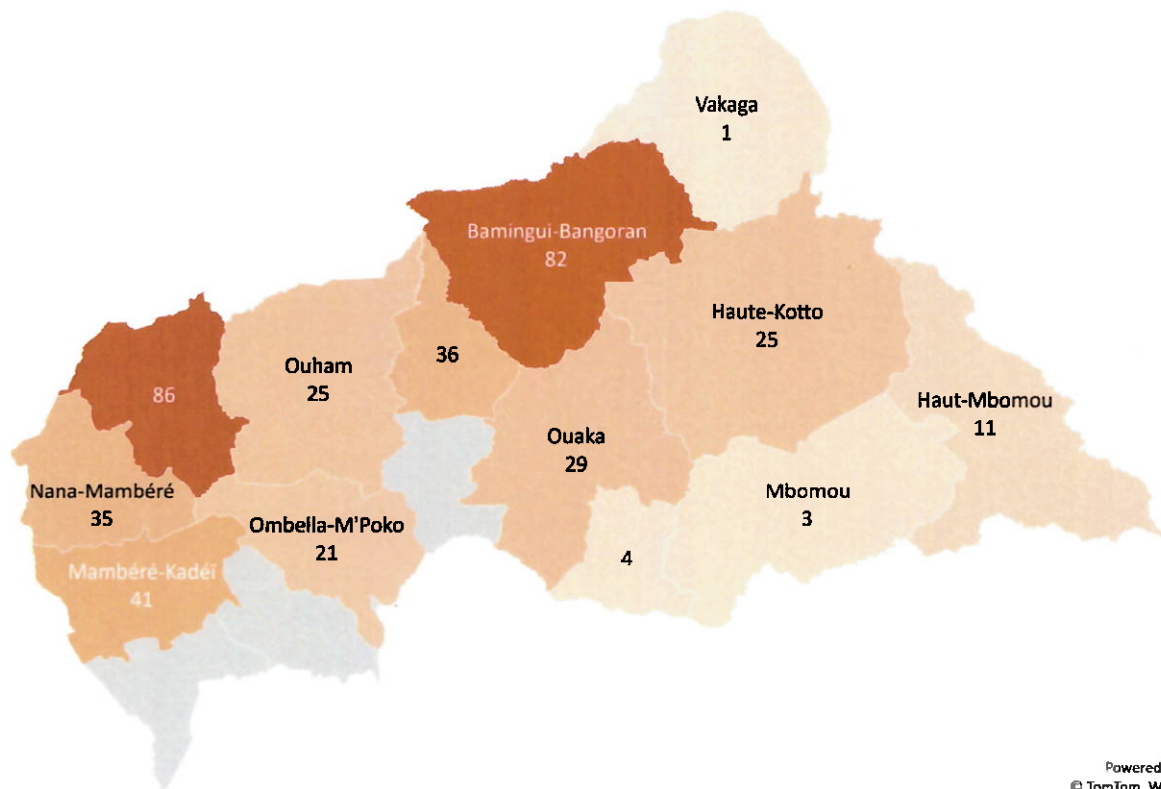
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Incidents by Armed Groups Signatories to the APPR-CAR



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Victims of State Actors



Victims by Armed Groups Signatories to the APPR-CAR

