



Timeline of the International Response to the Situation in the Central African Republic (CAR)

This timeline provides a chronological list of important news and actions from local, national, and international actors in response to the situation in the Central African Republic.

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Acronyms

AU – African Union
AU PSC – African Union Peace and Security Council
BINUCA – United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic
ECCAS – Economic Community of Central African States
EU – European Union
FOMAC – Multinational Force of Central Africa
HRW – Human Rights Watch
ICC – International Criminal Court
ICG-CAR – International Contact Group
ICRC – International Committee of the Red Cross
MICOPAX – Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic
MISCA – *Mission internationale de soutien à la Centrafrique* (International Support Mission in the Central African Republic)
MSF - Médecins Sans Frontières
UK – United Kingdom

UN – United Nations
UN DPA – United Nations Department of Political Affairs
UN DPKO – United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations
UN FAO – United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
UN HCHR – United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UN HRC – Human Rights Council
UN OCHA – United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN OHCHR – United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UN HCR – UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF – United Nations Children Emergency Fund
UNSC – United Nations Security Council
UNSG – United Nations Secretary-General
US – United States of America
USG – Under-Secretary-General
WFP – World Food Programme

2012:

December 2012

December 2012

- **Séléka** rebel alliance launches offensive and makes steady gains throughout the north and central provinces of CAR.

21 December 2012

- The **Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)** calls upon **Séléka** rebels to halt their advance on Bangui, CAR's capital city, and agree upon the need for a ceasefire and immediate negotiations between the Séléka and the government of former President, **François Bozizé**.

30 December 2012

- **France** sends 150 more troops to Bangui M'Poko Airport.

2013:

January 2013

1 January 2013

- **Cameroon, Gabon and Congo-Brazzaville** agree to send 120 troops to join 400 Chadian troops under the auspices of FOMAC to protect the town of Damara, a strategic checkpoint 75 kms north of Bangui. **ECCAS** warns Séléka forces not to advance on the "red line" of Damara.

3 January 2013

- **Séléka** rebels agree to halt their advance on Bangui and enter into negotiations with the government. **FOMAC** troops vow to protect Damara from attack.

6 January 2013

- **South Africa** [announces](#) it will deploy up to 400 troops in CAR to prevent a coup by Séléka rebels.

11 January 2013

- **Séléka** rebels and the government of President Bozizé reach a peace agreement in Libreville, Gabon, under the aegis of ECCAS.

19 January 2013

- The **African Union (AU)** [welcomes](#) the appointment of **Nicolas Tiangaye** as the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity as part of the fulfillment of the Libreville agreement.

24 January 2013

- The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** [unanimously adopts](#) Resolution 2088, extending the mandate of the **Integrated Peacebuilding Office in CAR (BINUCA)** until 24 January 2014 and calls for a report of the **UN Secretary-General (UNSG)** on the situation in CAR and the options of altering BINUCA's mandating.

February 2013

25 February 2013

- **Séléka** [threaten](#) to resume fighting, charging the Bozizé government has not lived up to 11 January peace agreement.

March 2013

20 March 2013

- **Séléka** rebels [reject peace offer](#) from President François Bozizé.

22 March 2013

- **Séléka** rebels push into Bangui, overwhelming FOMAC troops at Damara. **AU** Chairperson [condemns](#) the resurgence of violence in CAR and calls on Séléka to adhere to the Libreville Agreements.

23 March 2013

- The **African Union Peace and Security Council** (AU PSC) expresses deep concern at the situation in CAR and [strongly condemns](#) the resurgence of violence by the Séléka, as well as deciding to impose a travel ban and asset freeze against those involved.
- **French forces** [deploy](#) to protect Bangui airport as Séléka advance into capital.

24 March 2013

- **Séléka** rebels take control of Bangui. At least 13 South African soldiers are killed and more than 24 wounded in firefights in the capital.

25 March 2013

- The **AU PSC** adopts a [resolution](#) expressing concern for civilians in CAR and calling for the perpetrators of the violence to be held accountable. The resolution further suspends CAR from all AU activities and calls on member states to isolate Séléka rebels.
- The **UNSC** [issues](#) a press statement on CAR and strongly condemns the recent seizure of power on 24 March 2013 by the Séléka coalition.

April 2013

3 April 2013

- **ECCAS** calls for the establishment of a transitional government in CAR after the Séléka take power.

4 April 2013

- **South Africa** [announces](#) it is withdrawing its troops from CAR.

16 April 2013

- **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights** (UN HCHR) Navi Pillay [expresses alarm](#) at the deteriorating situation in CAR, noting grave violations of human rights and lawlessness.

- The **AU PSC** [expresses its concern](#) over the situation in CAR, calls for immediate and adequate humanitarian assistance.

18 April 2013

- **ECCAS** holds a high-level meeting in N'Dajema and declares an 18 month timeframe for the National Transitional Council (NTC), as well as a political roadmap. A [decision](#) to dispatch 2000 additional troops is also made.

22 April 2013

- **UN Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Political Affairs** Jeffrey Feltman [visits](#) CAR to appeal for urgent efforts to restore security and end abuses against civilians.

29 April 2013

- The **UNSC** [issues](#) a press statement expressing its “strong concern” at the deteriorating situation in CAR.

May 2013

3 May 2013

- The **International Contact Group-CAR** (ICG-CAR) holds its inaugural meeting in Brazzaville and [declares](#) its concern for civilians. Specifically, the contact group calls on ECCAS and AU member states to lend political, economic and financial support for CAR, urges the international community to work in collaboration to support the transition in CAR and to consider establishing a trust fund for public administration and services, as well as the preparation of elections.

June 2013

12 June 2013

- The **UNSG** names Lt. Gen. (Retired) Babacar Gaye as his Special Representative and Head of Office of BINUCA.

17 June 2013

- An **AU** [report](#) on the situation in CAR details that three months after the seizure of power by the Séléka the situation remains “alarming” and has resulted in “large-scale pillaging, summary executions, rape and other gross violations of human rights.”

20 June 2013

- The **UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights** (UNOHCHR) deploys a fact-finding mission to CAR.

July 2013

8 July 2013

- **ICG-CAR** meets for the second time and encourages AU and ECCAS to expedite the transition of the ECCAS-led peacekeeping force, MICOPAX, to the AU-led *Mission internationale de soutien à la Centrafrique* (MISCA).

19 July 2013

- The **AU PSC** [authorizes](#) MISCA, which will include 3,652 personnel (including 3500 uniformed and 152 civilian personnel). The force is tasked with the protection of civilians, stabilization and restoration of the authority of the central government, security sector reform and the creation of humanitarian space. Continued consultations with ECCAS are called for to finalize the transition from MICOPAX to MISCA.

29 July 2013 - 2 August 2013

- **UN Assistant-Secretary-General for Human Rights** Ivan Šimonović, [conducts](#) an official visit to CAR to assess the situation of human rights.

August 2013

1 August 2013

- The **AU** officially [announces](#) the launch of the transition from ECCAS-led MICOPAX to AU-led MISCA. 19 December will mark the assumption of authority by the AU.

5 August 2013

- **UN human rights experts** [express their serious concern](#) with the situation of human rights in CAR, reporting acts of killings, torture, arbitrary detention, gender-based violence, enforced disappearances, 'mob justice' and a pervasive climate of insecurity and the absence of the rule of law.
- The **UNSG** releases [report](#) on the situation in CAR and the activities of BINUCA from 3 May to 31 July.

14 August 2013

- **UNSC** [issues](#) a third press statement on the situation in CAR after hearing a briefing from the Head of BINUC, Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Babcar Gaye. Members of the UNSC expressed deep concern at the security situation and the deterioration of the human rights and humanitarian situation.

19 August 2013

- **Michel Djotodia**, former Séléka leader, is sworn in as interim President of CAR.

21-26 August 2013

- A UN multi-disciplinary mission led by the **Department of Political Affairs** (DPA) is dispatched to CAR to assess BINUCA and provide recommendations regarding the adjustment of its mandate.

28 August 2013

- **BINUCA** [expresses its grave concern](#) at the escalation of violence in Bohong, Paoua, Boda and the capital, Bangui.

30 August 2013

- The **AU** [issues](#) press release on the planning activities towards the deployment of MISCA, noting the efforts of the organization and international partners.

September 2013

12 September 2013

- The **UNHCHR** [releases](#) a report on the situation of human rights in CAR after a fact-finding mission was deployed between 20 June and 11 July. The High Commissioner expressed grave concern at the “gravity and intensity of human rights violations in the country and at the persistent and prevailing legal and security vacuum in which these crimes are committed.”

13 September 2013

- **CAR interim President** Michel Djotodia announces the Séléka have been dissolved.

16 September 2013

- **Congo-Brazzaville** sends 200 troops to bolster MICOPAX.
- The **UNSG** [exchanges a letter](#) with the **President of the UNSC** regarding the findings of a multi-disciplinary UN mission to CAR to assess the mandate of BINUCA.

18 September 2013

- **Human Rights Watch** (HRW) details widespread human rights abuses against civilians by the Séléka in a 79-page [report](#), stating that the forces that seized power in March 2013 have perpetrated the deliberate killing of civilians and wanton destruction of property.

24 September 2013

- The **UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs)** [calls upon](#) the transitional government to ensure the protection of IDPs throughout the country.

25 September 2013

- The **UN Human Rights Council** (UNHRC) [holds an interactive dialogue](#) on the situation of human rights in CAR after a UN OHCHR fact-finding mission presented a report of its findings to the body.
- High-Level Ministerial Meeting on the situation in CAR is convened by the **European Union** (EU), **France** and the **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs** (UNOCHA) on the sidelines of the opening of the 68th session of the UN General Assembly. ECCAS Secretary-General Ahmad Allam-mi makes a [declaration](#).

27 September 2013

- The **UNHRC** [decides](#) to appoint an Independent Expert to monitor human rights in CAR for a period of one year.

October 2013

8 October 2013

- The **AU PSC** and **UNSC** issue a [joint communique](#) after consultative meetings in Addis, expressing “deep concern” at the security and humanitarian situation in CAR and called for international support for the deployment of MISCA.

10 October 2013

- The **UNSC** [unanimously adopts](#) Resolution 2121, which strengthens the mandate of BINUCA and considers options for MISCA, including providing a UN logistics package or transitioning the force to a UN-led peacekeeping operation.

16 October 2013

- **Médecins Sans Frontières** (MSF) [says](#) fighting in CAR reaches “unprecedented levels of violence,” noting attacks are increasingly characterized by religious divisions and that tens of thousands were forced to flee in north-western provinces.

17-19 October 2013

- **UN** Emergency Directors and NGO partners [arrive](#) in CAR to assess the humanitarian situation.

21 October 2013

- **ECCAS** [holds](#) 5th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government on CAR.
- **Equatorial Guinea** sends 200 troops to bolster MICOPAX.

22 October 2013

- The **UNSG** [exchanges](#) a letter with the President of the **UNSC** and recommends the deployment of a UN Guard Force to protect UN staff and premises in CAR.

27 October 2013

- The **UN** dispatches a technical assistance mission to CAR to assess the situation and report on the planning of MISCA. The TAM led by UN Assistant-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, and was in CAR until 8 November.

29 October 2013

- The **UNSC** President exchanges a [letter](#) with the **UNSG** noting the recommendation of establishing a UN Guard Unit to protect UN staff and premises in CAR.
- **Amnesty International** states in a 48-page [report](#) that the human rights crisis in CAR is “spiraling out of control” as a result of the unprecedented scale of human rights violations by the Séléka against civilians.

30 October 2013

- **ECCAS** states [meet](#) and discuss the importance of quickly increasing FOMAC forces to 3,500 troops and supporting MISCA.

November 2013

1 November 2013

- **France** and **Rwanda** co-host an ari-formula meeting on the situation in CAR for UNSC members. **UN OCHA Emergency Director John Ging** warns that the “seeds of a pre-genocidal event” are being sown. **UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide Adama Dieng** [says](#) that he “will not exclude the possibility of a genocide occurring” in CAR.

5 November 2013

- The Secretary-General of **ECCAS** [meets](#) with the UN Assistant-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, to exchange their views on the political, social and humanitarian situation in CAR.

8 November 2013

- The **ICG-CAR** [meets](#) in Bangui. The meeting is attended by members of the transitional government, as well as by bilateral and multilateral partner states. The participants note their concern for the insecurity of the population, as well as the potential for regional instability if the conflict continues but also commend the various international efforts already undertaken.
- **UN HCHR** Navi Pillay [warns](#) that the cycle of violent attacks and reprisals in CAR threatens to plunge the country into a new conflict.

13 November 2013

- The **AU PSC** holds a meeting on the situation in CAR and expresses its concern with the deteriorating situation and rising intercommunal tensions. The [communiqué](#) reminds the transitional government of CAR of its responsibility to protect the civilian population and calls on member states to give all necessary support for the successful deployment of MISCA.

15 November 2013

- The **UNSG** releases a [report](#) on the situation in CAR. The report details options to support the AU-led MISCA force, including various iterations of increased financial and logistical support, as well as the possible transition of MISCA to a UN-led peacekeeping operation of 6,000 to 9,000 troops.

22 November 2013

- The **AU** Chairperson [appoints](#) Major General (Rtd) Jean Marie Michel Mokoko of the Republic of Congo as Special Representative in CAR and Head of MISCA. Brigadier General Martin Tumenta Chomu of the Republic of Cameroon is appointed Force Commander of MISCA.

24 November 2013

- **HRW** [says](#) war crimes were committed by ex-Séléka rebels led by Gen. Abdallah Hamat in an attack on Camp Bangui.

25 November 2013

- The **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** [warns](#) “tens of thousands” are seeking refuge in the bush of CAR because of insecurity throughout the country, and have little to no access to assistance.
- The Secretary-General of **ECCAS** gives a [speech](#) on the situation in CAR. Calling CAR a failed state, the Secretary-General calls on the state government to adhere to the Libreville Agreement. He also calls for measures to strengthen MISCA through funding and a UN Chapter VII mandate.
- The **UNSC** holds consultations on the situation in CAR. **UN Deputy-Secretary-General** Jan Eliasson [states](#) that CAR presents “a profoundly important test of international solidarity and of our responsibility to prevent atrocities.”

December 2013

1 December 2013

- 500 troops from **Congo-Brazzaville** arrive in CAR to bolster MICOPAX and bring the total number of African troops to 2800.

2 December 2013

- The **Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Central Africa** Mr. Abou Moussa [reaffirms](#) the United Nations' commitment to continue to work alongside ECCAS and the AU for a quick return to peace in CAR.

5 December 2013

- **Anti-balaka militias and armed elements loyal to former President François Bozizé** launch an attack against former Séléka forces in Bangui.
- The **UNSC** unanimously adopts Resolution 2127, which authorizes MISCA and French forces to take “all necessary measures” to protect civilians and restore security in CAR. Resolution 2127 also imposes an arms embargo and establishes a Commission of Inquiry. The resolution also directs the UN to begin planning for the transition of MISCA to a UN peacekeeping operation.
- **France** begins to deploy troops in CAR after receiving authorization from the **UNSC**, and patrols begin immediately in Bangui.
- The **EU** [announces](#) it will provide €50M to fund MISCA.
- The **United Kingdom** [announces](#) it will contribute a C-17 transport aircraft to bring French supplies to CAR.
- Proposal for the deployment of an **EU** ‘battlegroup’ – a rapid reaction force of up 1,500 troops deployable within 15 days – to CAR in support of French and African forces is tabled but does not move forward.

6 December 2013

- The **UNSG** issues a [statement](#) expressing his “profound alarm at reports of escalating inter-communal violence in the Central African Republic” and calls upon the “horrific cycle of violence and relation” to come to an immediate end. **UN Humanitarian Coordinator** Valeria Amos also [expresses her concern](#) at the violence in CAR and urges “all those involved in the violence to protect civilians and ensure their safety”.

7 December 2013

- **French President Francois Hollande** [says](#) at a Summit on Peace and Security in Africa hosted in Paris that the AU will boost MISCA to 6000 troops from 3500 once it assumes operational command.

8 December 2013

- **French forces** [reach](#) north-western town of Bossangoa, where an attack by anti-balaka militias plunged the town into sectarian fighting.

9 December 2013

- **France** [begins](#) disarmament operations against ex-Séléka and anti-balaka forces in Bangui and Bossangoa. Two French soldiers were killed on the night of 9 December in firefights with unidentified combatants.
- The **US Department of Defense** [states](#) it will transport Burundian troops to CAR after a request of assistance from the **French Minister of Defense**.
- **US President Barack Obama** sends an [audio message](#) addressed to the people of CAR.
- Chief Prosecutor of the **International Criminal Court (ICC)** Fatou Bensouda [calls](#) upon “all parties involved in the conflict, (including former Séléka elements and other militia groups, such as the anti-Balaka), to stop attacking civilians and committing

crimes or risk being investigated and prosecuted” by the Court.

10 December 2013

- The **EU** Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department [launches](#) humanitarian ‘air bridge’ to CAR to increase supply of humanitarian goods and personnel.
- The **US** [announces](#) \$60M in funding to allow the State Department to provide defense articles and services to French and African forces.

11 December 2013

- **Belgium** [announces](#) it will provide airlift support, including a C-130 Hercules aircraft, to assist the French and African forces in CAR.
- The **US** [announces](#) two C-17 Globemaster III heavy-lift aircraft and a small command and support team will bring Burundian troops and other supplies to Bangui.

12 December 2013

- The **US** [begins](#) flights between Burundi and Bangui to transport 850 Burundian troops to the AU MISCA operation.
- **MSF** releases an [open letter](#) to the UN humanitarian system, expressing its “deep concern about the unacceptable performance” of UN agencies in CAR.

13 December 2013

- The **AU PSC** meets on the situation in CAR and [decides](#) to authorize a temporary increase in MISCA’s strength up to 6,000 uniformed personnel.
- The **UN High Commissioner for Refugees** (UN HCR) [says](#) 159,000 people displaced in Bangui and at least 450 killings in the capital and 160 in other parts of the country since 5 December. “We appeal once again to all parties to let humanitarian help through, and to protect civilians,” a UNHCR spokesperson said.
- The **UNSG** [makes](#) a personal radio appeal to the people of CAR. “Too many people are scared and the country is on the brink of ruin. I appeal to everyone to follow the path of peace. The bloodshed must stop. Do not allow the voices of hatred to sow division where none existed before,” the appeal read.
- **Norway** [announces](#) NOK 20M in funding to UNICEF for work in CAR.

15 December 2013

- **Canada** [announces](#) it will pledge \$5M dollars to the UN Trust Fund in support of MISCA.
- A **UN OCHA** [flash update](#) states the number of IDPs in Bangui has climbed to 189,000 gathered in 40 sites and that more than 536 people were killed in sectarian fighting.

16 December 2013

- **UNICEF** [states](#) that unabated violence in CAR has led to “horrific killing, abuse and harm” inflicted upon children in the country. Executive Director Anthony Lake says, “This vicious conflict is now affecting 2.3 million children. Children are being killed because they are Christian or Muslim. Children are being forced to flee their homes and hide in terror to avoid the fighters. Children are witnessing horrific acts of violence. Children are being recruited into armed groups - possibly as many as 6,000. These brutal attacks on children are an affront to humanity.”
- The **UN HRC** [decides](#) to expedite the appointment of an Independent Expert on human rights in CAR in light of the deterioration of the situation.

- **UN Food and Agriculture Organization** (UN FAO) Emergency Director [warns](#) CAR is facing a looming food crisis, with crop production shrinking drastically as a result of armed conflict.
- The **EU** Council of Foreign Ministers releases a [statement](#) (FR) on the situation in CAR, committing to examine options to contribute to stabilization efforts in the country, including through the Common Security and Defense Policy of the EU.
- The **EU** [increases](#) humanitarian aid to CAR by €18M, bringing the total to €39M.
- **France** Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius says EU countries will soon dispatch troops to CAR, but no official decision taken.

17 December 2013

- **UN HCR** [announces](#) it will be sending additional staff to CAR to reach affected populations. 210,000 are now believed to be displaced in Bangui alone since the outbreak of violence on 5 December. 710,00 are internally displaced and over 75,000 have sought refuge in neighbouring countries.