



International Federation
for Human Rights

Fédération Internationale des
Ligues des Droits de l'Homme

Federación Internacional
de Derechos Humanos

Международная Федерация
за права человека

الفدرالية الدولية لحقوق الإنسان

Paris, 26 November 2013

Open letter to the members of the UN Security Council Calling for a UN Peacekeeping Mission in the Central African Republic

Dear Excellencies,

The report of 15 November 2013 of the UN Secretary General on the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR), as per your request in Resolution 2121 (2013) outlined several options to guarantee the safety of the population in the country. FIDH calls on the members of the Security Council, in cooperation with the African Union (AU), to promptly adopt a resolution offering immediate support to the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA), and authorizing its transformation into a UN-led Peacekeeping Operation (UNPKO).

The Secretary General's report describes "a major deterioration in the situation" in the CAR, echoing recent FIDH publications that describe crimes being committed by elements of the former Seleka including murder, rape, kidnapping, and destruction of property, as well as the escalation of inter-communal violence and a growing risk of instability in the sub-region.

Considering the lack of state authority or rule of law in most of the country, and the almost complete impunity for human rights violations resulting in even more abuses, FIDH had welcomed the decision of the AU Peace and Security Council to transform the Central African Mission that was already in place into MISCA in order to strengthen its capacity to respond to the crisis. Nevertheless, FIDH continues to note that MISCA does not have the necessary resources or expertise to guarantee the safety of the population.

Given the urgent dangers facing the population and the duty of the UN Security Council to ensure long-term peace and security in the country, FIDH calls on the United Nations to provide a comprehensive and decisive response to this crisis. With this in mind, and in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary General and the requests of the AU, FIDH calls on the Security Council to promptly adopt a resolution that authorizes the following:

- An **increase in the military contingent of MISCA**, particularly to allow for them to deploy to and patrol the larger population centres throughout the country;
- **Strengthening the mandate of MISCA**, in cooperation with the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the CAR (BINUCA), to include:
 - The specific protection of human rights defenders, journalists, and humanitarian workers;
 - Support for government authorities in establishing a process of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration and repatriation of foreign combatants;
 - The establishment of a thorough vetting process for all former rebels being integrated into the national military, police or gendarmerie;

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- Helping restore State authority throughout the country, and substantial support for security sector reform;
 - Assisting in the safe voluntary return of persons displaced by violence, in cooperation with humanitarian actors;
 - Support for national justice institutions, and if applicable, international justice mechanisms, in investigating serious human rights violations and bringing perpetrators to justice.
- **The deployment of additional French troops** to support MISCA's mandate;
 - **Targeted sanctions** against those most responsible for grave violations of human rights;
 - Preparations for **the rapid transformation of MISCA into a UN-led Peacekeeping Operation** under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter;
 - With regards to the immediate security crisis, the transformation of MISCA into a UN-PKO would allow for the efficient and effective training of military personnel, as well as the operational and technical resources needed in order to implement a strong protection of civilians mandate.
 - More broadly, the creation of a UNPKO would guarantee a comprehensive, coherent and multidimensional approach aimed at long-term stabilization, given the UN's expertise with regards to political transition and reconciliation, the establishment of pluralistic, free and transparent electoral processes, and the protection and promotion of human rights.
 - Support to the Central African authorities in **the development and implementation of road map for the protection of human rights and the fight against impunity**;
 - FIDH believes that the efforts of the international community to improve the situation in the CAR will not be effective nor sustainable unless they are accompanied by concrete actions by the Central African authorities to institutionalise respect for human rights.
 - The Council must therefore ensure strong support to the authorities in their efforts to develop a Human Rights road map including the ratification of international human rights conventions, the alignment of national legislation with CAR's obligations under international law, respect for fundamental freedoms, the protection of women's rights, the fight against corruption, and the assurance of a pluralistic and transparent electoral process.
 - The Council must also promote the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes including sexual crimes, through the strengthening of national judicial institutions.
 - The Security Council should also mandate MISCA and the eventual UNPKO to support and work with national institutions to arrest and bring to justice those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the country, including, where appropriate, in cooperation with the International Criminal Court.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these important issues, and I remain at your disposal should you wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



M. Karim LAHIDJI
President, FIDH