

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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## **Amnesty International calls for an end to the gross violations and abuses of human rights amid humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic**

### ***Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on the Central African Republic***

Amnesty International welcomes the appearance of the delegation of the Central African Republic today for the adoption of its UPR and recognizes this sign of commitment to the international human rights system despite the ongoing crisis in the country.

Serious human rights violations, including war crimes and crimes against humanity, continue to take place in many parts of the Central African Republic despite the presence in the country of the African Union and French forces. Extra-judicial executions, torture, looting and other atrocities are committed on a daily basis. Ethnic cleansing of the Muslim population has also taken place forcing thousands of Muslims to flee to neighbouring countries. Meanwhile, thousands of people forced to flee the violence in the Central African Republic, mostly the Muslims, are now facing another humanitarian crisis in neighbouring Chad. The rainy season is due to start shortly and unless shelter, food and medical facilities are urgently provided their already desperate situation will quickly further deteriorate.

Despite a new government in place since January 2014, a greater humanitarian and human rights crisis still looms if nothing is done to tackle the ongoing serious human rights abuses committed by all sides to the conflict in the country. Amnesty International is encouraged by the acceptance of recommendations aimed at restoring peace and stability in the Central African Republic<sup>1</sup> and welcomes the commitment to facilitate and provide humanitarian assistance to all those in need, in particular internally displaced persons.<sup>2</sup>

Furthermore, Amnesty International welcomes the Central African Republic's acceptance of recommendations to strengthen the rule of law and build capacity of the police and security forces.<sup>3</sup>

Amnesty International welcomes the commitment by the Central African Republic to cooperate and work actively within the international community to end this humanitarian and human rights crisis.<sup>4</sup>

Finally, Amnesty International believes that bringing peace to the Central African Republic will involve ensuring the proposed United Nations peacekeeping forces to be deployed in the Central African Republic later this year have strong human rights mandates, are fully resourced and utilized in the most effective and robust manner, in particular, that they are positioned in areas where civilians are most in need of physical protection. In the meantime,

<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/25/11, Recommendations 104.68 (Sierra Leone), 104.69 (Austria), 105.47 (Morocco)

<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/25/11, Recommendations 104.77 (Republic of Moldova), 104.93 (Ecuador), 105.59 (United States of America), 105.60 (Australia), 105.61 (Comoros), 105.62 (Rwanda)

<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/25/11, Recommendations 104.31 (Austria), 104.59 (Djibouti), 104.60 (Germany), 104.43 (Belgium), 104.44 (Czech Republic), 104.45 (Romania), 104.46 (Sudan), 104.47 (Republic of Korea), 104.48 (Netherlands), 104.72 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), 105.18 (South Sudan), 105.48 (Angola)

<sup>4</sup> A/HRC/25/11, Recommendations 105.69 (Japan), 105.70 (Sudan), 105.78 (Singapore)

the African Union forces (MISCA) and the French forces (Sangaris) currently present in CAR must ensure there is an effective protection of civilians in the country and that protection of human rights is at the heart of their activities.

## **Background**

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Jordan on 20 March 2014 during its 25<sup>th</sup> session. Prior to the adoption of the review outcome, Amnesty International delivered an oral statement.

## **Links to Amnesty International's publications:**

- Story map, *"Life in the Midst of Horror": An interactive story map documenting the human rights crisis in the Central African Republic*, 07 March 2014, <https://campaigns.amnesty.org/campaigns/conflict-in-car>
- Press Release, *Refugees fleeing violence in the Central African Republic face new conflict in Chad*, 05 March 2014, <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/chad-refugees-fleeing-violence-central-african-republic-face-new-conflict-chad>
- Press release, *CAR: Urgent action needed by the UN Security Council to address crisis*, 28 February 2014, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/car-urgent-action-needed-un-security-council-address-crisis-2014-02-28>
- Report, *Ethnic cleansing and sectarian killings in the Central African Republic*, 12 February 2014, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AFR19/004/2014/en/5d24015d-fb4e-4bdb-85f8-687e7751872b/afr190042014en.pdf>
- Public statement, *"None of us are safe": war crimes and crimes against humanity in CAR*, 19 December 2013, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AFR19/013/2013/en/1d345c37-09f9-4c31-9abf-e66c87929ac2/afr190132013en.pdf>
- Report, *Human rights spiralling out of control in the Central African Republic*, 29 October 2013, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR19/003/2013/en>

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