



Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Forty-fifth session
22 January–2 February 2024

Summary of stakeholders' submissions on Central African Republic*

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review and the outcome of the previous review.¹ It is a summary of 12 stakeholders' submissions² for the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Information provided by stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations³ and cooperation with human rights mechanisms

2. The Centre for Global Non Killing (CGNK) recommended the ratification of the Genocide Convention.⁴ Broken-Chalk recommended the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communication procedure.⁵

3. Joint Submission 2 (JS2) recommended accepting inter-State communications under the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.⁶

4. International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons recommended ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.⁷

B. National human rights framework

1. Constitutional and legislative framework

5. According to Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), calling for the removal of two-term presidential limit from the constitution may fatally undermine efforts to stabilise the country. It recommended that the country maintain the two-term presidential limit and guarantee judicial independence in line with the UN Basic Principles on the Independence of

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



the Judiciary, and the resolution of African Commission on Human and People's Rights on the Respect and Strengthening of the Independence of the Judiciary.⁸

2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

6. Alternatives pour le développement en Centrafrique (Central Africa Development Alternatives) (ADC) welcomed the reinstatement of the National Commission on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms⁹ and recommended harmonizing its mandate with the Paris Principles in order to secure A status as granted by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.¹⁰

7. Joint Submission 1 (JS1) observed that the resources allocated to the National Commission on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms are grossly inadequate and that its current headquarters are not easily accessible for victims who are to be heard by the Commission. JS1 and ADC recommended strengthening its independence in line with the Paris Principles and affording it the necessary financial resources to undertake its activities.¹¹

C. Promotion and protection of human rights

1. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

Equality and non-discrimination

8. While welcoming the adoption in 2018 of the National Plan to Prevent Incitement to Hatred and Violence, JS1 noted persistent challenges in its implementation, including the lack of adequate monitoring mechanisms and the low number of victims who lodge complaints with the courts.¹²

9. JS2 recommended strengthening the national response to racial hatred and discrimination by granting the High Council for Communication sufficient resources to address those issues, consolidating its decision-making power and facilitating the prosecution of persons suspected of spreading messages of hatred or inciting others to violence. JS2 also encouraged action to improve social cohesion and raise awareness in the community by involving civil society organizations in the implementation of the National Plan to Prevent Incitement to Hatred and Violence.¹³

10. La Coordination des Organisations Musulmanes en Centrafrique (COMUC) was concerned at obstacles encountered by Muslims to obtain birth certificates and recommended ensuring compliance with existing national laws for issuing all government identity documents and take steps to ensure that civil servants do not request bribes or additional documents for Muslims.¹⁴

Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture

11. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), JS1 and JS2 welcomed the National Assembly's adoption in 2022 of a law abolishing the death penalty, which has been promulgated and is now in force.¹⁵ JS1 and JS2 recommended harmonizing the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure with that law. JS1, JS2 and CGNK recommended ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.¹⁶

12. COMUC, CADHP, CSW and AFJC expressed concern at grave human rights violations against numerous civilians, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, torture, arbitrary detentions, sexual assault, displacement, and socio-economic harms committed by non-state armed groups and state forces.¹⁷

13. COMUC recommended putting an end to arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings committed by state security forces.¹⁸ Several contributions recommended ensuring that allegations of serious human rights violations are investigated thoroughly and independently and that all perpetrators are properly prosecuted and punished in accordance with the seriousness of their acts.¹⁹

14. JS1 and JS2 noted the persistence of cases of torture in places of detention and that the practice goes unpunished. JS1 recommended amending the Criminal Code to include a definition of torture that aligns with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to ensure that the crime of torture is not subject to any statute of limitations, investigating all allegations of torture impartially and thoroughly, prosecuting perpetrators and convicted persons in accordance with the seriousness of their acts and strengthening human rights training for law enforcement officers.²⁰

15. JS1 and JS2 recommended setting up a national preventive mechanism in line with the provisions of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and granting non-governmental organizations access to places of detention.²¹

16. AFJC recommended to restore, with the support of the international community, peace into the entire country, including through acceleration of Demobilization, Disarmament, and Reintegration efforts.²²

17. CSW recommended that the country engage in meaningful dialogues with political opposition and armed groups, ensuring the peace process is revitalised, and the safety of vulnerable citizens is prioritised. It also recommended that the country work towards disarming and demobilising armed groups operating within the country in order to ensure the right to life and security of all citizens.²³ AFJC recommended doing so with the support of the international community.²⁴

18. JS1 noted that conditions of detention in police custody facilities are deplorable at every level. Indeed, detainees often have no access to water, and there are insufficient toilets and bedding, as well as a lack of light in the cells.²⁵ JS1 and JS2 noted that accused and convicted persons are held in the same cells, food is insufficient and the detainee health services line has been closed.²⁶ JS1 and JS2 recommended improving detention conditions in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), in particular by separating accused and convicted persons and providing sufficient good-quality food and adequate access to health care. They also recommended accelerating the project to refurbish 32 prisons²⁷ and affording the Ministry of Justice sufficient budgetary resources to build prison infrastructure and care for detainees, with priority being given to constructing specialized detention centres for women and minors throughout the country.²⁸ JS1 recommended improving material conditions in police custody cells.²⁹

International humanitarian law

19. According to AFJC, over half of the population, remained in need of humanitarian assistance and protection.³⁰ It recommended ensuring that humanitarian actors are able to access the entire country, by protecting humanitarian corridors and the safety of humanitarian workers.³¹

Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

20. AFJC noted that the government has made efforts to rehabilitate the judicial infrastructure. However, equal and adequate access to justice for all is not guaranteed yet, for example, victims of HR violations face expensive costs, difficulties in accessing legal services or legal aid services; victims also wait for long periods before their cases are judicially processed, and judges are not sufficiently trained to deal with issues as gender violence.³²

21. AFJC also noted that access to justice in rural areas continued to be a serious challenge, and the absence of police stations or courts prevent victims from reporting crimes.³³ It also regretted the limited action made towards prosecuting leaders of armed groups, especially in relation to cases arising from the armed conflict.³⁴

22. JS1 noted with concern the insufficient number of judges, interference by the executive in some judgments and suspected corruption with regard to some court decisions. JS1 recommended continuing to train new judges to ensure the proper administration of

justice, as well as taking steps to guarantee the presence of judges and functioning courts throughout the country and to combat corruption and interference by the executive in the administration of justice.³⁵

23. AFJC recommended facilitating access to justice in all parts of the country with the restoration of regular court hearings in the provinces; providing gender-sensitivity and de-biasing training to police and judicial officers; providing additional resources to the Special Criminal Court to advance accountability for serious human rights violations, including sexual gender-based violence;³⁶ and developing robust legal aid services, in particular to victims of sexual gender-based violence.³⁷

24. COMUC recommended improving anti-corruption training within the *Forces Armées Centrafricaines* (FACA) and sanction members of the FACA found to be soliciting bribes.³⁸

25. CSW expressed concern at impunity currently enjoyed by foreign mercenaries, who allegedly committed serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law, including summary executions and torture.³⁹ CSW recommended ensuring a thorough investigation of and accountability for violations highlighted by the UN Working Group on Mercenaries; and ensuring that individuals who committed gross human rights violations, are held accountable, and are not appointed to political or military positions.⁴⁰

26. JS1 noted that most persons brought before the prosecutor have been in police custody for longer than the legal limits. JS1 recommended ensuring compliance in practice with legal provisions governing police custody, particularly with regard to time limits on police custody and detainees' rights.⁴¹ JS1 also recommended ensuring compliance with pretrial detention limits in practice.⁴² JS2 recommended improving the operation of the criminal justice system to promote compliance with the legal time limits for police custody and pretrial detention.⁴³

27. JS1 recommended ensuring compliance with the peace agreement signed in 2019, in particular by calling on all parties to cease all forms of violence, combating impunity and affording the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission the resources and means necessary to fulfil its mandate with total independence.⁴⁴

28. JS1 observed that the Special Criminal Court continues to be criticized for the slowness of its operations. JS1 recommended stepping up the efforts made by the Special Criminal Court to combat impunity by ensuring the full cooperation of the country's courts, accelerating the implementation of its activities and affording the National Commission of Inquiry the financial resources it requires to function properly.⁴⁵

29. JS2 recommended adopting and implementing frameworks for cooperation between ordinary and transitional justice mechanisms, decentralizing court administration throughout the country, holding regular criminal hearings in all three appeal courts and supporting the implementation of the recommendations of institutions tasked with combating economic crimes.⁴⁶

Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life

30. AFJC indicated that human rights defenders continued to be frequently targeted for attack by state and non-state armed forces as reprisal, and space for civil society and peaceful protest was limited.⁴⁷ JS1 recommended expediting the adoption of a law to protect human rights defenders based on the proposal put forward by civil society.⁴⁸

31. JS2 noted that the freedom of expression of journalists and members of the opposition has been eroded since the 2020–2021 elections. JS2 recommended ensuring greater openness in the media and political spheres, decriminalizing press offences and adopting specific provisions on freedom of information.⁴⁹

32. JS2 expressed regret at the difficulties encountered in registering associations located outside Bangui as a result of the highly centralized nature of those procedures and at the abuse, in some cases, of the system for granting prior administrative authorization for demonstrations to prevent some gatherings by political and civil society organizations. JS2 recommended simplifying and decentralizing the administrative procedure for authorizing the establishment of associations while taking appropriate measures to supervise and facilitate the freedom of peaceful protest of all citizens of the Central African Republic.⁵⁰

33. According to CSW, the parliamentary and presidential elections, in 2020, brought with them a further deterioration in the security situation, and ultimately marked the breakdown of the 2019 peace agreement.⁵¹ AFJC was also concerned that violence erupted across the country during the election period. Some would-be candidates were intimidated by armed groups and many polling stations were closed due to the violence.⁵²

34. According to ECLJ, some Christians had been killed, displaced from their homes, and their properties have been destroyed. Additionally, Christians leaders who speak out against the violence faced threats and violence. It recommended that the government take measures to end violence and protect Christians from death and destruction.⁵³ CSW also reported aggressions against Christians, including the attack of a convoy of approximately 300 Christians, on 4 June 2021, near Nzéléfé village in Basse-Kotto, by armed individuals.⁵⁴

35. CSW recommended supporting peace and reconciliation initiatives that aim to rebuild trust between religious communities and ensure protection for religious leaders who lead them.⁵⁵

Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons

36. AFJC expressed concern that women and children had been forced by armed groups or armed forces to be “fighters’ wives” in a practice of sex slavery, and that underreporting remained extremely high.⁵⁶

Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

37. ADC noted that persons living with HIV are subject to stigmatization in the workplace, blackmail, harassment and unfair dismissal. ADC also regretted the fact that no programmes have been set up to raise awareness of violence and discrimination against sexual and gender minorities in the workplace or at the recruitment stage.⁵⁷ ADC highlighted that those acts remain unpunished. ADC recommended promoting a dialogue among trade unions, employers’ associations and civil society organizations working with sexual and gender minorities to eliminate violence and discrimination in the workplace.⁵⁸

Right to an adequate standard of living

38. AFJC noted that a high percentage of the population experience extreme poverty, particularly affecting women and girls, vulnerable groups, and those living in the provinces. AFJC expressed concern at malnutrition experienced by a high percentage of the population, an inability for many people to access essential goods. AFCJ stressed that the country was one of the highest proportions of critically food-insecure people in the world.⁵⁹ AFJC recommended improving the standard of living for the entire population, by developing initiatives to support economic growth.⁶⁰

39. COMUC indicated that during the ongoing conflict, around half of the population needed assistance to access basic services and goods essential for survival.⁶¹

Right to health

40. JS2 noted the considerable efforts made by the country in the field of health, including the implementation of a national plan to build and refurbish health facilities for in 2017–2027. JS2 regretted, however, the inadequacy of health-care infrastructure and equipment, the high cost of health care and the lack of qualified staff, particularly in remote areas. JS2 recommended protecting humanitarian convoys and strengthening existing public health initiatives, including by increasing the staffing of qualified personnel in health facilities, subsidizing access to health care for vulnerable persons and redeploying health-care staff to areas not currently covered.⁶²

41. COMUC regretted that the majority of the population had very little access to basic health services; and that during the ongoing conflict, health centres were attacked by parties to the conflict and health services interrupted. It further indicated that very few public hospitals were functioning, there was shortage of hospital beds, and the healthcare spending was inadequate.⁶³ COMUC recommended increasing the annual healthcare budget to fifteen

percent in line with the African Union Abuja Declaration and ensuring access to healthcare services for the whole population.⁶⁴

42. According to COMUC, Muslim women, especially pregnant women, are often discriminated in healthcare services.⁶⁵ COMUC recommended improving healthcare services for the Muslim population, by taking steps to prevent discrimination,⁶⁶ including for Muslim women, by training more nurses and Obstetrician-gynaecologists and increasing the number of maternal care clinics.⁶⁷

Right to education

43. Broken Chalk was concerned that approximately two-thirds of children in the country do not attend school regularly or are deprived of educational opportunities and noted insufficient funding, inadequate infrastructure, and ongoing security concerns posed obstacles to the effective implementation of inclusive education policies.⁶⁸ It also noted that armed groups had destroyed or occupied schools.⁶⁹ COMUC expressed similar concerns and recommended rehabilitating the infrastructure of schools destroyed in the conflict, and adequately train teachers.⁷⁰

44. Among other challenges related to the right to education, JS2 regretted the shortage of qualified teachers in remote areas, the lack of teaching materials and appropriate libraries for students and the inadequate budget of the education sector.⁷¹

45. JS2 recommended that the Government should ensure the protection of school and health-care infrastructure in conflict zones by implementing the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic.⁷²

46. COMUC recommended ensuring free universal primary school for all children.⁷³ Broken Chalk recommended abolishing primary school fees; increasing funding allocation to education; improving the school infrastructure, including by seeking the assistance of international partners; tackling the root causes of school dropout; and implementing a social transfer scheme for the poorest households to ensure equitable access to education.⁷⁴

47. Broken-Chalk also recommended making the restoration of the education system a priority in the peace and reconciliation initiatives, taking practical and adequate measures to prevent the parties to the conflict from requisitioning schools, and ensuring that demobilised child soldiers have access to education; adopting an inclusive education policy, particularly for girls, children with disabilities and indigenous children, and sustainably restoring access to education.⁷⁵

48. Broken-Chalk stressed that the lack of adequate sanitation facilities, including separate toilets for boys and girls, poses a significant challenge to the retention and enrolment of girls in schools. It encouraged the enrolment and retention of girls in schools by addressing this challenge.⁷⁶

49. COMUC recommended providing anti-discrimination training to teachers, to ensure that all students are treated with respect and dignity at all levels of education.⁷⁷

50. ADC recommended introducing inclusive sex education that promotes sexual and gender diversity into the school system and devising a plan to combat all forms of violence and discrimination targeting students.⁷⁸

Cultural rights

51. ACHPR noted that the country has achieved positive results in terms of the African cultural renaissance.⁷⁹

52. Broken-Chalk recommended making efforts to recognise and preserve indigenous languages and cultures within the education system; and adopt bilingual education programmes that integrate indigenous languages into the curriculum to help maintain cultural identity.⁸⁰

Development, the environment, and business and human rights

53. ACHPR highlighted that the Central African Republic is expected to undertake steps towards the achievement of inclusive and sustainable development, including the modernization of agriculture and the establishment of environmentally sustainable and climate change-resistant economies and communities.⁸¹

54. ACHPR reported that in 2020 it had sent a joint urgent letter of appeal to the President of the Central African Republic concerning the activities of four gold mining companies near the town of Bozoum and reports of pollution, environmental degradation and various human rights violations resulting from their operations. The State has yet to respond.⁸²

55. AFJC recommended addressing the economic crisis, to allow the population to meet their essential needs.⁸³

2. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women

56. While welcoming some positive measures, AFJC and JS2 expressed concern that women and children had been victims of serious crimes, including sexual and gender-based violence, which continue to be used as a weapon of war.⁸⁴

57. JS2 recommended that the Government should continue its efforts to combat impunity for sexual and other forms of gender-based violence by strengthening the criminal justice system and should further promote initiatives to encourage victims of gender-based sexual violence to report the perpetrators and take their cases to the competent authorities.⁸⁵

58. AFJC recommended taking steps to implement the 2016 circular affirming the criminalization of rape and other relevant laws in the country to prevent and prosecute cases of sexual gender-based violence; and train relevant police, security, and judicial officers in the proper investigation and management of sexual gender-based violence cases.⁸⁶

59. JS1 recommended adopting all necessary measures to combat acts of torture and executions of persons accused of witchcraft, in particular by conducting awareness-raising activities.⁸⁷

60. According to ACLJ, despite being illegal, approximately 21.6% of women between 15- and 49-year-old had undergone female genital mutilation (FGM). ACLJ recommended ending the practice of FGM by enforcing the laws that are already in place and allocating resources toward the enforcement of the ban of FGM; and carrying out educational awareness campaigns on the dangers of FGM in order to protect young girls and women from this harmful practice.⁸⁸

61. AFJC regretted the weak participation of women within the national assembly and in elected positions. It further noted that women faced significant challenges in running for local, provisional, and national elections, including security threats, intimidation, a lack of financial means, and discrimination. AFJC added that the country ranked 188th out of 191 countries in terms of gender equality.⁸⁹

62. JS2 expressed regret that the implementing measures for legislation on parity have yet to be adopted.⁹⁰ JS2 recommended that the Government should adopt measures to achieve the application of that legislation in order to promote women's meaningful involvement in decision-making bodies.⁹¹

63. AFJC recommended promoting women's access to and participation in decision-making spheres of political and public life, including the electoral system, and strengthen their leadership roles in order to allow women to be heard and to participate in the recovery and consolidation processes in the country, while promoting a new generation of empowered girls.⁹² AFJC also recommended maintaining gender quotas in key executive and judicial positions in any legislative change including constitutional changes,⁹³ and creating an environment that enables women to participate in the political and public spheres of life.⁹⁴

64. AFJC also recommended advocating for increased participation of women in Parliament, government, local administration and political parties, and the National Elections Authority.⁹⁵

Children

65. Broken Chalk and JS2 noted with concern that children continue to be recruited and used by some parties to the conflict and to be exposed to the worst forms of child labour, including in areas where natural resources are mined and in agriculture. JS2 urged the Government to take the necessary steps to prevent the recruitment and use of children by all parties to the conflict, in accordance with the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic.⁹⁶

66. Broken-Chalk stressed that extreme poverty, lack of access to education and the breakdown of social structures led children to engage in labour and being recruited by the armed forces. Broken-Chalk recommended the demobilisation and reintegration of child soldiers; ensure their rehabilitation and reintegration into society; and developing and applying strategies to end the impunity of those responsible for committing grave violations against children in conflict.⁹⁷

67. The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children hoped the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review will be concerned at the legality of corporal punishment of children in the country and make a specific recommendation that the Central African Republic accelerates its efforts to clearly prohibit all corporal punishment of children in every setting of their lives and repeal any legal defence allowing its use.⁹⁸

68. According to COMUC, many Muslim children face discrimination in obtaining birth certificates, and therefore cannot register to attend school.⁹⁹

Persons with disabilities

69. Broken-Chalk indicated that persons with disabilities in the country had historically encountered significant obstacles in accessing education due to inadequate infrastructure, lack of specialised educational services, limited awareness and understanding of disability rights, and societal stigma and discrimination. It also noted that those barriers resulted in disproportionately low enrolment and high dropout rates among children and youth with disabilities.¹⁰⁰

70. Broken-Chalk recommended removing the inequalities faced by the person with disabilities, including by ensuring an inclusive education, and providing supporting services in schools to persons with disabilities; and mobilising the student community to create a more inclusive space for the person with disabilities.¹⁰¹

71. According to JS2, concerns persist regarding the situation of persons with disabilities in the areas of health, information, vocational training and employment. JS2 expressed concern at the insufficient presence of persons with disabilities in decision-making bodies, the lack of respect for the quota system and the fact that some legal provisions are not in conformity with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. JS2 recommended harmonizing existing legislative provisions that do not comply with international law to further protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities; finalizing the process of ratifying the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa; setting up a database of statistical information that is disaggregated by disability and ensuring that it is kept up to date; putting the Education Sector Plan into practice, particularly with regard to the educational needs of children with disabilities; disseminating plain-language versions of all legal texts on the rights of persons with disabilities and establishing a national mechanism to monitor their implementation.¹⁰²

Indigenous peoples and minorities

72. JS2 expressed continued concern at the lack of a specific legal framework on the rights of minorities and Indigenous Peoples that consolidates their protection against all forms of discrimination at the national level.¹⁰³

73. COMUC stated that restrictions on freedom of movement were especially acute for members of the Muslim Peuhl community, and discrimination against Peuhl citizens at checkpoints were reported, because they were wrongly assimilated to armed groups.¹⁰⁴

74. COMUC also indicated that security forces unlawfully subject Muslims to ethnic and religious profiling,¹⁰⁵ and detainees were not always presented before a judge, and some were held for extended periods without trial and experienced experience abuses, ill treatment, and torture.¹⁰⁶

75. Broken-Chalk noted that ethnic minorities in the country also encountered obstacles in accessing quality education; and discrimination, poverty, geographic isolation, and language barriers contribute to perpetuate marginalisation. It recommended raising awareness among the general population about the rights of indigenous peoples to combat discrimination and promote their inclusion in the education system.¹⁰⁷

76. JS2 recommended drafting, promulgating and disseminating readily accessible information on a law on the status and protection of minorities and Indigenous Peoples, establishing a national observatory to monitor discrimination and consolidating achievements with the aim of promoting reconciliation and ensuring inter-community cohesion and peaceful coexistence in the Central African Republic.¹⁰⁸

77. JS1 also recommended protecting all minorities through the effective implementation of the National Plan to Prevent Incitement to Hatred and Violence, in line with the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation.¹⁰⁹

78. COMUC recommended that Muslims are formally recognized as a minority group, and their representation in the government and public service be increased.¹¹⁰

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons

79. ADC regretted the lack of legislation to protect LGBTQI+ persons from discrimination and noted that sexual and gender minorities in the Central African Republic suffer violence, including arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement officials.¹¹¹ ADC also noted persistent discrimination against LGBTQI+ persons in access to health-care services, employment, work, justice and education.¹¹²

80. ADC recommended revising article 294 of the Criminal Code to include full protection for sexual and gender minorities against discrimination.¹¹³

81. ADC recommended setting up facilities offering reception and guidance services and psychosociological and legal assistance to members of sexual and gender minorities who are victims of violence.¹¹⁴

Internally displaced persons

82. Broken-Chalk stressed that the number of internally displaced persons remained high due to fighting, and conditions for IDPs and refugees, many of whom stay in camps, remained harsh.¹¹⁵ ECLJ indicated that, the armed conflict had also resulted in the displacement of more than 50,000 Christians. It recommended providing aid and resources to those who have been internally displaced and enable them to safely return to their homes.¹¹⁶

83. CSW was concerned that attacks of armed groups resulted in the destruction of two camps for internally displaced persons. Consequently, about 650 families sought refuge in a nearby hospital and approximately 2000 people were displaced.¹¹⁷

84. While appreciating the establishment of temporary learning spaces in camps for internally displaced persons,¹¹⁸ Broken Chalk was concerned that they faced significant educational challenges. Broken-Chalk recommended implementing non-formal education programmes for internally displaced children.¹¹⁹

Stateless persons

85. COMUC recommended ensuring that nationality and citizenship laws do not unduly burden or discriminate against ethnic minorities.¹²⁰

Notes

¹ [A/HRC/40/4](#) and the addendum [A/HRC/40/4/Add.1](#), and [A/HRC/40/2](#).

² The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org (one asterisk denotes a national human rights institution with A status).

AFJC	Association des Femmes Juristes de Centrafrique, Bangui (Central African Republic);
Alter	Alternatives-Centrafrique, Bangui (Central African Republic);
Broken Chalk	The Stichting Broken Chalk, Amsterdam (Netherlands);
CGNK	Center for Global Nonkilling, 1218 Grand-Saconnex (Switzerland);
COMUC	Coordination des Organisations Musulmanes de Centrafrique, Bangui (Central African Republic);
CSW	Christian Solidarity Worldwide, New Malden (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
ECLJ	European Centre for Law and Justice, The, Strasbourg (France);
ECP	End Corporal Punishment, Geneva (Switzerland);
ICAN	International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Geneva (Switzerland).

Joint submissions:

JS1	Joint submission 1 submitted by: Fédération Internationale de l'Action des Chrétiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture, Paris (France); ACAT RCA;
JS2	Joint submission 2 submitted by: Collectif des OSC centrafricain de defense des droits de l'homme, Bangui (Central African Republic); Association des Femmes Juristes de Centrafrique; African Women Leaders Network; Action pour le Développement des Peuls, Pygmées Aka et Bayaka; Action des Universitaires pour les Droits de l'Homme; Action des Chrétiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture et de la Peine de Mort; Collectif National des Associations des Victimes de Centrafrique; Cercle de la jeunesse islamique centrafricain pour le développement; Femmes Actives et Entreprenantes pour le Développement Durable; Femmes Vaillantes de Centrafrique; Groupe de Travail de la Société Civile sur la Justice Transitionnelle; Organisation pour la Promotion du Genre, la Protection des Droits Humains et le Développement; Organisation des Mamans Centrafricaines pour le Développement; Observatoire Centrafricain de Justice Transitionnelle; Organisation Nationale des Associations des Personnes Handicapées; ONG URU; ONG TAMBOULA; Plateforme de la Société Civile pour l'Appui aux Réformes du Système Pénitentiaire; Réseau des ONG de Promotion et Défense des Droits de l'Homme; Réseau des Journalistes Sensibles au Conflit et de la Prévention des Messages de Haine; Réseau des Journalistes pour les Droits de l'Homme; Surveillances et Documentations Sans Frontières; Plateforme Société Civile de la République Centrafricaine; Réseau des Volontaires de la Paix; Réseau des Organisations des Jeunes Africains Leaders des Nations Unies pour l'atteinte des Objectifs du Développement Durable; Women Act for Living Together.

Regional intergovernmental organization:

AU-ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Western Region P.O. Box 673 Banjul (Gambia).
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³ *The following abbreviations are used in UPR documents:*

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

⁴ CGNK, pp. 2 and 3.

⁵ Broken-Chalk, para. 65.

⁶ JS2, p. 4.

⁷ ICAN, p. 1.

⁸ CSW, p. 6.

⁹ ADC, p. 8, p. 4.

¹⁰ ADC, p. 8.

¹¹ JS1, p. 8, ADC, p. 4.

¹² JS1, p. 5. para. 14.

¹³ JS2, p. 5.

¹⁴ COMUC; p. 17.

¹⁵ CADHP, p. 4; JS1, p. 2 et JS2, p. 6.

¹⁶ JS1, pp. 2 and 5, et JS2, p. 6.

¹⁷ COMUC, p. 2; CSW, para. 8; CADHP, p. 4, AFJC, p. 5.

¹⁸ COMUC, p. 17, para. 11.

¹⁹ JS1, p. 2, AFJC, p. 8, Broken Chalk; COMUC, p. 17 and 18.

²⁰ JS1, p. 2 et JS2, p. 7.

²¹ JS1, p. 5; JS2, p. 9.

²² AFJC, p. 8.

²³ CSW, p. 3.

²⁴ AFJC, p. 8.

²⁵ JS1, p. 4.

²⁶ JS1, p. 4; S2, pp. 6 and 7.

²⁷ JS1, p. 4.

²⁸ JS2, pp. 6 and 7.

²⁹ JS1, p. 4.

³⁰ AFJC, p. 4.

³¹ AFJC, para. 16.

³² AFJC, pp. 2 and 3.

³³ AFJC, p. 3.

³⁴ AFJC, p. 3.

³⁵ JS1, p. 6.

- 36 AFJC, p. 7.
- 37 AFJC, para. 3.
- 38 COMUC, p. 17, para. 10.
- 39 CSW, pp. 4 and 5.
- 40 CMW, p. 5.
- 41 JS1, p. 4.
- 42 JS1, p. 4.
- 43 JS2, pp. 6 and 7.
- 44 JS1 p. 6.
- 45 JS1, p. 7.
- 46 JS2, p. 7.
- 47 AFJC, p. 6.
- 48 JS1, p. 9.
- 49 JS2, p. 6.
- 50 JS2, p. 6.
- 51 CSW, p. 2.
- 52 AFJC, p. 4.
- 53 ECLJ, pp. 2 and 4.
- 54 SWC, p. 3.
- 55 SWC, p. 3.
- 56 AFJC, p. 1.
- 57 ADC, pp. 6 and 7.
- 58 ADC, p. 7.
- 59 AFJC, p. 6.
- 60 AFJC, para. 15.
- 61 COMUC, pp. 7 and 8.
- 62 JS2, p. 8.
- 63 COMUC, pp. 7 and 8.
- 64 COMUC, p. 17.
- 65 COMUC, p. 4, para. 4.4.
- 66 COMUC, p. 17, para. 7.
- 67 COMUC, p. 17, para. 8.
- 68 Broken-Chalk, para. 3.
- 69 Broken-Chalk, paras. 24 and 25.
- 70 COMUC, p. 17, para. 3.
- 71 JS2, p. 8.
- 72 JS2, p. 9.
- 73 COMUC, p. 17, para. 4.
- 74 Broken Chalk, paras. 8, 27.
- 75 Broken Chalk, paras. 9 and 10.
- 76 Broken-Chalk, paras. 37, 38 and 52.
- 77 COMUC, p. 17, para. 5.
- 78 ADC, p. 8, para. 4.
- 79 CADHP, p. 1.
- 80 Broken-Chalk, para. 60.
- 81 CADHP, p. 1.
- 82 CADHP, p. 4.
- 83 AFJC, para. 15.
- 84 AFJC, pp. 1 and 2, JS2, p. 9.
- 85 JS2, p. 9.
- 86 AFJC, p. 7.
- 87 JS1, p. 3.
- 88 ACLJ, p. 4.
- 89 AFJC, paras. 4–4.
- 90 JS2, p. 9.
- 91 JS2, p. 9.
- 92 AFJC, para. 7.
- 93 AFJC, para. 8.
- 94 AFJC, para. 9.
- 95 AFJC, para. 11.
- 96 JS2, p. 9.
- 97 Broken-Chalk, paras. 25–29.
- 98 GPEVAC, p. 1.

- ⁹⁹ COMUC, p. 3, para. 3.4.
¹⁰⁰ Broken-Chalk, para. 23.
¹⁰¹ Broken-Chalk, para. 50.
¹⁰² JS2, pp. 9 and 10.
¹⁰³ JS2, para. 44.
¹⁰⁴ COMUC, p. 11.
¹⁰⁵ COMUC, pp. 12–14.
¹⁰⁶ COMUC, p. 15.
¹⁰⁷ Broken-Chalk, paras. 13, 27, and 31.
¹⁰⁸ JS2, p. 10.
¹⁰⁹ JSTMP 1, p. 5, para. 43.
¹¹⁰ COMUC, p. 16.
¹¹¹ ADC, pp. 3, 4 et 6.
¹¹² ADC, pp. 5–8.
¹¹³ ADC, p. 8, para. 1.
¹¹⁴ ADC, p. 8, para. 3.
¹¹⁵ Broken-Chalk, p. 4.
¹¹⁶ ECLJ, pp. 2 and 4.
¹¹⁷ CSW, p. 2.
¹¹⁸ Broken-Chalk, para. 45.
¹¹⁹ Broken Chalk, para.10.
¹²⁰ COMUC, p. 17, para. 2.
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