



15.1.2013

B7-0043/2013

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 122 of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in the Central African Republic  
(2013/2514(RSP))

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on behalf of the PPE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in the Central African Republic (2013/2514(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Central African Republic,
  - having regard to the statements of 21 December 2012 , 1 and 11 January 2013 by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the situation in Central African Republic,
  - having regard to the statement of 21 December 2012 by the UE Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection on the new outbreak of conflict in the Central African Republic
  - having regard to the revised Cotonou Agreement,
  - having regard to the United Nations Security Council press statements of 27 December 2012 , 4 and 11 January 2013 on Central African Republic,
  - having regard to the Final Communiqué of the Extraordinary Summit of the Heads of State of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) held in N'Djamena on 21 December 2012,
  - having regard to the statement of the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon of 26 December 2012 condemning the rebel attacks and urging all parties to abide by the decisions taken by ECCAS on 21 December 2012 in N'Djamena,
  - having regard to the statements of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Mrs. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, of 12, 19 and 31 December 2012 on the situation in Central African Republic ,
  - having regard to Rule 122 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Central African Republic (CAR) has faced decades of instability and political unrest; whereas, despite the fact that it is a country rich of natural resources (timber, gold, diamond, uranium etc), CAR ranks only 179 out of 187 on the Human Development Index and, with around 70% of its population living below the poverty line, it remains one of the poorest countries in the world;
- B. whereas on 10 December 2012, the "Seleka" ("coalition" in Sango), an alliance of various rebel armed movements originating predominantly from the North-East of CAR, has launched an armed offensive advancing southward from near the frontier with Chad; whereas the recent offensive was motivated by the rebels' claims that President François Bozizé failed to honour the commitments of the 2008 Libreville Comprehensive Peace Agreement which provided for disarmament and funding for the reintegration of former rebels into society;

- C. whereas the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) held an extraordinary summit in N'Djamena on 21 December 2012 and agreed on a roadmap to solve the crisis, including a ceasefire and immediate negotiations in Libreville under the aegis of ECCAS; whereas the ECCAS summit also decided the dispatching of additional troops to reinforce the MICOPAX, the peacekeeping mission deployed in CAR in 2008, which would thus become an interposition force;
- D. whereas South Africa has begun sending some 400 troops to help stabilise CAR; and whereas Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville, Chad and Cameroon have troops there as part of the Central African Multinational Force (FOMAC);
- D. whereas, after holding talks with the President of the African Union, Thomas Boni Yayi, President Bozizé has pledged not to stand for office when his current mandate expires in 2016 and offered to form a government of national unity;
- E. whereas at the beginning of January, the Seleka announced a halt of its military operations, stopping before the town of Damara (75 kilometers north of Bangui), and accepted to participate in peace talks under the auspices of ECCAS;
- F. whereas on 11 January 2013 the three-way peace talks between the Central African government, the rebel coalition Seleka and the political opposition that took place in Libreville Gabon led to the signing of three agreements: a declaration of principles to resolve the political and security crisis, a ceasefire agreement and an agreement on the political-security situation defining the power-sharing arrangements and the period of political transition in CAR;
- G. whereas on 12 January 2013 President Bozizé dismissed his prime minister and dissolved the cabinet, clearing the way for the nomination of a national unity government in line with the peace accords signed in Libreville; whereas under the peace agreement legislative elections are to be organized within 12 months;
- H. whereas respect for human rights is a fundamental value of the European Union and represents an essential element of the Cotonou agreement;
- I. whereas according to local NGOs serious human rights violations have been committed both by the Seleka in the areas under its control, and in Bangui by the governmental forces against persons close to the rebellion;
- J. whereas the humanitarian situation remains dire, as according to *Médecins sans frontières*, the crisis has affected tens of thousands of persons; whereas hundreds of tons of food aid from the World Food Programme have been plundered in the areas in the north under rebel control; and whereas many humanitarian services have been suspended or reduced;
- K. whereas the European Commission contributed 8 million euro in 2012 to assist 445,000 people affected by conflict and displacement in CAR;
- L. whereas Cameroon has step up measures to accommodate refugees from CAR;

- M. whereas even before the recent outbreak of violence, 2500 children were already part of the armed groups active in CAR; whereas the UNICEF office in Bangui has announced having received credible information concerning the increasing recruitment and use of child soldiers by both rebel groups and pro-governmental militias;
- N. whereas the rebel forces have captured diamond rich areas like Bria, Sam Ouandja and Bamingui; whereas the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme has issued a warning to all its member countries regarding the possible leakage of rough diamonds from rebel controlled areas in CAR;
1. Expresses its concern over the situation prevailing in CAR since the launch of the Seleka offensive on 10 December 2012; deplores that the recent offensive, has put civilian lives at risk and threatened the security and stability of the CAR;
  2. Welcomes the peace agreements signed in Libreville after negotiations under the aegis of ECCAS; underlines the necessity for swift implementation of these agreements; calls on all parties to implement them in good faith and to commit to achieving lasting peace in CAR;
  3. Is convinced that in order to secure a peaceful resolution to the conflict and ensure lasting stability the composition of the government of national unity must represent all the country's political forces; welcomes in this respect signing by President Bozize a decree removing the country's prime minister, as one of the steps called for in a peace deal, in order to form a national unity government, which will be led by a prime minister chosen by the political opposition,
  4. Is deeply concerned by the serious human rights violations that have occurred in CAR during the offensive of Seleka; strongly condemns the attacks against civilian population from the areas occupied by the rebels, including cases of physical and sexual violence, looting and the systematic disruption of means of communication; expresses its deep concern regarding reports of targeting of ethnic minorities and intimidations and arbitrary arrests against political opponents in Bangui;
  5. Underlines that the authorities of CAR have the responsibility to ensure the safety and security of the civilian population; calls for the reform of the army as well as for modalities for the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration into society of former combatants;
  6. Is particularly worried by the reports indicating an increase in the recruitment and the use of child soldiers; recalls its strong opposition to these practices and calls on all parties to the conflict to end them;
  7. Calls on all parties to respect the ceasefire, to refrain from acts of violence against the civilians and to respect human rights; underlines that the failure of the previous peace agreements to ensure lasting stability in CAR was also motivated by an insufficient focus on human rights; stresses that there can be no impunity and that those responsible for human rights violations should be held accountable; calls for credible and independent investigations into the violations of human rights that have taken

place since the beginning of December; recalls, in this respect, that the International Criminal Court is still seized by the situation in CAR;

8. Welcomes the mediation efforts of the regional organizations, such as the African Union and the ECCAS, and especially the negotiations between the parties that took place in Libreville; stresses the importance of the new follow-up mechanism to be established in order to ensure full implementation of the agreements reached; calls, in this context, on the EU to support ECCAS in implementing the recent accords; calls on the international community to engage more with CAR in order to address the long-standing problems of the country and to achieve a long-lasting political solution ;
9. Calls on the European Commission to offer technical support to the authorities of CAR in view of the adoption of the relevant legislation for the organization of the upcoming elections; takes the view that, in order to contribute to credible, free and fair elections, the EU should consider sending an electoral observation mission in CAR;
10. Is concerned by the effects of the recent crisis on the humanitarian situation in the country; calls on all parties to respect international humanitarian law and allow safe and unhindered humanitarian access to affected populations; calls on the European Commission to step up its humanitarian aid efforts in CAR;
11. Underlines that the possible trafficking of rough diamonds from rebel controlled areas in CAR could reignite the conflict and further destabilize the country; calls for appropriate monitoring of the situation through the Kimberly Process;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, HR/VP Catherine Ashton, the UN Security Council, the UN Secretary General, the institutions of the African Union, ECCAS, the ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly and the EU Member States.