



## **The situation of human rights in the Central African Republic: Amnesty International oral statement to the 20<sup>th</sup> special session of the UN Human Rights Council (20 January 2014)**

**AFR 19/003/2014**  
20 January 2014

### Oral statement

Mr. President,

Over the past year, the Central African Republic has become a humanitarian disaster, one that has at its root an urgent human rights crisis. Well over fourteen hundred persons have been killed since 5 December 2013. Hundreds of thousands of people have fled their homes in fear for their lives, and most are now taking shelter in dreadful conditions in ad hoc camps for displaced persons.

All parties to the conflict, including ex-Seleka and anti-balaka, have committed serious violations and abuses, including war crimes and crimes against humanity. The African Union's contingent of peacekeepers must be fully deployed and reinforced in order to offer adequate protection to a highly vulnerable population. Some 4,000 African troops and 1,600 French troops have not been able to stop the killings. In recent months ordinary civilians, driven by fear and hatred, have also carried out vicious killings along sectarian lines. Much more must be done to protect persons and communities.

In this context, Amnesty International urges the international community to support the efforts of religious and community leaders to bring an end to violations and abuses and to promote reconciliation across communities.

The Human Rights Council should call upon the international community to provide MISCA and other peacekeeping forces with sufficient resources, including additional personnel and materials. Amnesty International also calls for the rapid deployment of an adequate number of UN monitors to investigate and report publicly on abuses and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. The international commission of inquiry should be properly staffed and resourced and expeditiously deployed.

Amnesty International calls upon the Human Rights Council to request the Independent Expert on the Central African Republic to inform the Human Rights Council in March how the international community present in the Central African Republic could provide better protection against human rights violations and abuses.

We also urge the international community to establish a coordination mechanism for the various international and national human rights protection and enquiry mechanisms.

Thank you Mr. President.