

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ADVISORY

AI Index; AFR 19/004/2013
19 November 2013

UN peacekeeping force in Central African Republic must deploy immediately

The UN has backed the establishment of a UN peacekeeping force in the Central African Republic amid escalating violence, but Amnesty International says there is no time to wait and this must happen now.

“The conflict has been going on for almost a year now and the human rights violations inflicted upon the CAR population have reached unprecedented levels,” says Jean-Eric Nkurikiye, Amnesty International’s Central Africa campaigner.

“UN peacekeeping forces are often notoriously slow to deploy, but there is no time to wait in the CAR. The security forces don’t seem to have the will or the capacity to maintain law and order in the country.

“The African Union, leading the deployment of African troops in CAR, declared in July 2013 that it would deploy some 3,500 soldiers to protect civilians but less than half of these are in the country.”

“To stop these horrific killings and violence, UN troops need to be deployed immediately.”

Amnesty International documented the escalating violence in a recent report entitled [CAR: Human rights crisis spiralling out of control](#). The organisation also recently released [satellite images](#) revealing the shocking aftermath of recent human rights abuses, including evidence of 485 homes being torched in Bouca as well as internally displaced persons (IDPs) massing near the town of Bossangoa after fleeing ongoing violence.

Jean-Eric Nkurikiye, Amnesty International’s expert on CAR, is available for media interviews.

Please call Louise Orton, Amnesty International’s Africa Press Officer to arrange an interview on: + 44 (0) 207 413 5729 or + 44 (0) 7961 421583 (mobile) or email louise.orton@amnesty.org