



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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Central African Republic: Further action needed to consolidate human rights progress

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

Amnesty International commends the government of the Central African Republic for its efforts towards achieving lasting peace and ensuring that alleged human rights abuses are investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice.

Amnesty International is concerned, however, by the continued and serious human rights abuses committed by armed groups. In addition to killing and forcibly displacing civilians, armed groups are also responsible for looting, rape, hostage-taking, the recruitment of children, and attacks against humanitarian workers.

Amnesty International therefore welcomes the government's acceptance of recommendations to continue efforts to achieve the disarmament and demobilization of armed groups operating in the territory in order to restore security in the country.

Amnesty International also welcomes efforts by the Central African Republic to achieve justice for crimes under international law, notably the inauguration of the Special Criminal Court in October 2018 and the transfer of the warlord Rambo to the International Criminal Court in November. However, we remain concerned that progress in bringing perpetrators to justice is slow and impunity remains the norm in the vast majority of cases.

Amnesty International therefore welcomes Central African Republic's acceptance of recommendations to ensure accountability for human rights violations, including within the armed forces and all parties to the peace process.

Despite accepting recommendations in the 2013 review to abolish the death penalty, the government has yet to do so. The death penalty has not been used for many years in Central African Republic; however, the Criminal Code still prescribes it for several crimes.

Amnesty International welcomes, as we did in the previous reviews, the government's acceptance of recommendations to abolish the death penalty for all crimes in the Criminal Code and urge their prompt implementation.

Background

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Central African Republic on 14 March 2019 during its 40th session. Prior to the adoption of the report of the review Amnesty International delivered this oral statement.

Amnesty International also contributed to the information basis of the review through its submission on Central African Republic: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr19/8654/2018/en/>

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International Secretariat, Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW, UK www.amnesty.org
