

SECURITY SUMMARY – CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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All readers are therefore advised to act according to capacity and the latest information.

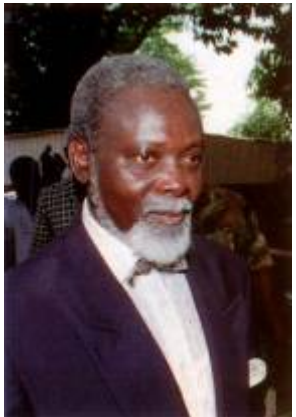
GUIDE TO INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS IN CAR

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- ✓ **UFDR** Union of Democratic Forces for Unity, an umbrella group for the GAPLC, MLCJ and FDC
- ✓ **GAPLC** “*Groupe d'action patriotique pour la liberation de Centrafrique*”
- ✓ **MLCJ** “*Mouvement des libérateurs Centrafricains pour la justice*”
- ✓ **FDC** “*Front démocratique Centrafricain*”



• **Francois Bozizé** – Current President of CAR. Seized power in a coup in 2003, and was then democratically elected in 2005. Originally a supporter of Patassé, they split in 2003.



• **Ange-Félix Patassé** – Former President of CAR, elected in 1993 and 1999, and finally ousted in a coup in 2003.

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

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Nov/Dec 06: An alliance of the three main rebel groups (GAPLC, MLCJ, FDC) calling itself the UFDR launched an offensive together with Chadian rebels and seized the town of Birao.

Chadian and Central African troops (FACA) with the support of France repelled the offensive.

Comment:

Several incidents were reported throughout 2006 but this was the most significant offensive conducted by the rebels.

Chadian rebels hoped to reach N'Djamena from the south avoiding Chadian forces massed at the eastern border.

The aim Bozizé's opponents was to destabilize the country and thus, overthrow the government.

Several reports and eye witnesses indicated the presence of Patassé supporters amongst the rebels, likely with the approval of the Sudanese government in S. Darfur.

Jan 07: Rebels attacked Paoua, a town used as a hub by Western aid agencies.

Comment:

Armed groups have carried out attacks in the north-western region since late 2005.



High risk
Medium risk

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BORDERS

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Northern border: refugee movements from CAR into Chad.

Comment:

Acts of banditry and the lack of a functioning state are the main reasons that have led to this movement of the population. The governments of Chad and CAR have a mutual assistance agreement. In early 2006, Chadian troops conducted several operations in the northern part of CAR.

Access to this area remains difficult because of:

- *Difficult Terrain*
- *Lack of infrastructure*
- *No air assets available*

Western border: Cross border banditry and a presence of rebels. Criminal road blocks are common in the area.

Comment:

The rebel group in the west is mainly composed of former presidential guard elements loyal to Patassé.

Bandit groups can be up to 50 people strong.

Attacks are not only conducted on the main roads but also on villages.



- High risk
- Medium risk

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Southern border: Smuggling and cross border banditry. Additionally, following a LRA attack in March 06 at Yambio (S Sudan), operations to return refugees to the area were stopped.

Comment:

S Sudanese refugees have mostly settled down in CAR and are reluctant to go back. On the other hand local communities would like to see them leave, and the CAR government is taking advantage of the situation to demand money.

Eastern border: Chadian and CAR rebel presence.

Comment: *The CAR rebel group in this area is mainly composed of former presidential guard elements loyal to Patassé.*



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BANGUI

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Bangui:

The usual recommendations in this kind of environment apply:

✓ Avoid walking. Vehicle doors locked and windows closed.

MUGGERS DON'T HESITATE TO JUMP INTO THE VEHICLE THROUGH THE WINDOW!!

✓ Ensure you always have some means of communications.

✓ Never leave your vehicle unattended.

✓ Drive slowly and stop whenever requested by security forces.

Check points are common on the main roads. Good negotiations skills are required...

✓ In the event of a RTA, **DON'T STOP!!** Go to the nearest post of the Gendarmerie.

✓ Don't take pictures of official buildings, especially the Presidential Palace or in the vicinity of the presidential residence (**SEC FORCES WILL SHOOT WITHOUT WARNING!!**). Generally, it is not recommended to take pictures in town at all, unless you want to lose your camera...

✓ No movements after dark.

✓ Shortages of fuel are common and therefore it is advisable to keep a private supply available.

✓ Carry photocopies of your ID

✓ Always carry the phone number of your embassy and the French Embassy



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REFUGEES/IDP

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1 Darfur refugees fleeing the country

2 About 50.000 CAR refugees have so far fled into S Chad.

As a result of banditry and rebel actions, IDP figures have severely increased.

Dec 06: S. Sudanese refugees who are mostly concentrated at Mboki, have begun returning home on repatriation flights following a two-year wait.



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