



Femmes Africa Solidarité

28th Session of the Human Rights Council
Individual Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on Central African Republic
Oral Statement
24 March 2015

Thank you Mr. President,

FAS commends the Independent Expert for her work and the support provided by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) to ensure peace in the RCA.

FAS notes with great concern that despite the 2014 Brazzaville agreements, the peace process in the CAR remains fragile. We are particularly concerned by the volatile security situation, and the perpetrated attacks against civilians the violations of basic human rights and the lack of protection for displaced populations.

We note that the violence in CAR has led to the death of thousands of civilians, and to more than 800,000 persons internally displaced or refugees in the neighbouring countries. We call for the continued and coordinated efforts of the international community and of the Central African authorities to ensure sustainable peace and inter religious unity in the country.

In this environment of impunity and violence, rape continues to destroy the lives and bodies of thousands of women and girls. The occurrence of rape, and other kinds of sexual violence against women, is particularly high in IDP camps, where women are at their most vulnerable state.

FAS urges for the end of impunity for all crimes and particularly rape, sexual violence, sexual intimidation, and strongly asks that the perpetrators be brought to justice.

We underline the importance of specific medical services and counselling for the victims of rape, and of measures to prevent stigmatisation.

FAS underlines that reinstating the rule of law and the judiciary system, in order to be able to ensure accountability for the crimes committed since 2012, is the main challenge for CAR. The country cannot find reconciliation in the absence of accountability. We underline that amnesty, particularly requested as a condition by some armed groups, is an impediment to reconciliation and to the end of the impunity cycle.

FAS salutes the initiative to organise the Bangui Forum on national reconciliation, and, in the name of UNSC Resolution 1325 which celebrates 15 years in 2015, we call for the full involvement and participation of women in the forum, as well as in the process of reconciliation. We would kindly ask the Independent Expert whether and how the women's organisations have been consulted during the preceding national consultations and how the civil society can be more involved in the process.

FAS supports the organisation of national elections in CAR. We call for free, fair and competitive elections and we strongly encourage the involvement of women and civil society in the electoral process. FAS's experience in Senegal in 2012 is a proof that local women, actively monitoring and participating in elections, contribute to guarantee free and transparent elections.

FAS calls for coordinated efforts from the international community, the African Union, and the UN, to ensure that the violence in CAR finally comes to an end, and that the judiciary, the rule of law, and the society as a whole, can be reconstructed.

I thank you, Mr. President.

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