

Informal translation of ‘Declaration of Civil Society Organisations on the Current Crisis in the Central African Republic’

Renewed instances of armed violence have occurred in the Central African Republic since 10 December 2012. The crisis, triggered by the “Seleka” coalition, aims to require the Government to implement the Libreville peace agreements, including the execution of the Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration program (DDR); the implementation of recommendations of the Inclusive Political Dialogue (DPI); the amendment of the Constitution; and the resignation of the President of the Republic. To date, several cities in the centre and north of the country have been conquered by rebels threatening to march on the capital.

Faced with this worrisome situation, several national and international initiatives have been undertaken to promote the cessation of hostilities.

Civil Society Organisations from CAR, who met on Sunday, 30 December 2012:

Condemn any attempt to seize power by force for whatever reason;

Deplore the abuses committed in cities occupied by the Seleka coalition, including the pillage of public and private property, the systematic disruption of means of communication in occupied cities, and cases of physical and sexual violence enacted on the civilian population; and

Note with astonishment the weak capacity of the national army to fulfill its mission to defend the territory and protect people and property, and regrets the dismissive discourse of some authorities, the erection of illegal barriers in some areas of the city of Bangui, the distribution of firearms and weapons in some neighbourhoods in Bangui, and the arbitrary arrest of individuals.

We remind the warring parties that certain acts listed above constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity, which are within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

We are worried about the position of the international community and its reductive approach to the resolution of the crisis by privileging armed groups, governments, and political parties, excluding civil society and victims. There is an unwillingness to mobilise financial resources for the CAR.

Given the foregoing, the civil society organisations of the Central African Republic demand:

- The immediate and unconditional signing of a ceasefire;
- That an inclusive dialogue on the national territory with the support of the international community be held immediately and without delay;
- The involvement of civil society organisations in the peaceful resolution of the crisis;
- The opening of humanitarian corridors;
- That urgent measures be taken to protect the civilian population.

Done in Bangui, 30 December 2012

For the Civil Society Organisations,

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